

MEDIA RELEASE

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Local artists exhibit at new Forbes hospital

Exhibition: Forbes First Exhibition

Where: Forbes Hospital

Dates: March 16-June 15

The Forbes First Exhibition has been installed in the corridors of the Forbes Hospital. This exhibition is part of the Culture and Arts Program which has been integrated into the hospital's redevelopment.



"We published a call out to local artists and 14 artists replied," said Arts OutWest Arts and Health Coordinator Christine McMillan. "I would like to thank all of the artists who have contributed to the exhibition, which will make a big difference to the corridors of the hospital. The walls are transformed by bright and cheerful works."

Lachlan Health Service Manager, Liz Mitchell, is also looking forward to seeing the facility brought to life with the artwork from locals.

"It's fabulous to have new equipment and facilities, but the Forbes Hospital redevelopment is also about making it a more vibrant and friendly place for all our communities. Integrating the arts is a great way of achieving this," said Ms Mitchell.

"Staff members Sue Dingwell and Michelle Horton have work hanging in the Forbes First exhibition," Ms Mitchell said.

Both Sue and Michelle's works are based on animals - Sue's work 'Horse' adds colour to the corridor and the detail draws you into the painting. Michelle's work 'Shine Bright' is the first mirror background mosaic she has made, after 5 years of mosaic making, with a splash of colour in the body of an elephant.

A Forbes community health worker commented: "So wonderful to see all the vibrant colours in the corridors, it makes the hospital feel more settled, more normal. I came around the corner and saw a beautiful big canvas and then new works are revealed when you walk in a different direction down the corridor."

Thirty artworks will be on display. A broad range of mediums are used in the works, including pastels, water colour, acrylic, mixed media, oils and wax and ink. Many of the images are inspired by the Forbes landscape, from historical buildings to the rural Forbes canola season. Wattle flowers to deciduous leaves represent the broad species range of plants in the area.

Karen Ritchie, who has three pieces in the exhibition, said Forbes wetlands provides a perfect backdrop to explore, in colour and line, the movement and fleetingness of water. “No two views are the same as colour and shape and shadows are reliant on landform and objects surrounding the body of water. Acrylics and ink provide a fluid consistency to try and replicate the nature of water, while the trees provide an illusion of solidity,” she said.

The artworks are on display until June 15 and can be seen by anyone who visits the hospital during this time. A similar exhibition is currently also running at the new Parkes Hospital.

These exhibitions are just one part of the culture and arts program at the Forbes and Parkes hospitals, with plans for sculptures, music performances and heritage displays also underway. There will also be activities for children and a host of hands-on art making workshops for both locals and health staff. Work created in some of these workshops will then also be exhibited in the hospitals.

The Lachlan Health Services Project engaged regional arts development organisation Arts OutWest to integrate culture and arts into the Forbes and Parkes Hospital redevelopments. The Culture and Arts Working Group includes representation from the Lachlan Health Service Project team, Arts OutWest, the Lachlan Health Council, health staff and the Aboriginal community and is responsible for implementing a flexible and sustainable program that promotes well-being and creates a welcoming, vibrant place for the Forbes and Parkes communities.

The Lachlan Health Service Project includes the \$72.5M redevelopment of a new Parkes Hospital and the \$40.9M refurbishment of Forbes Hospital. Construction on the new Parkes Hospital and the new building at Forbes Hospital is now complete and work is currently focused on the refurbishment of Renal and Ambulatory Care units at Forbes Hospital.

For enquiries contact Arts OutWest Arts and Health Coordinator: Christine McMillan 0447 832 043.

Image: Rosalie Burns and Christine McMillan hanging Karen Ritchie’s Forbes Wetlands in the corridor at Forbes hospital.

{image attached to email as jpg}

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