

MEDIA RELEASE

Monday 28 November 2016

Local artists run initiative hold their first exhibition

A group of local artists, with and without a disability, will hold their first group exhibition, *Natural Spaces and Faces*, at Bathurst Memorial Entertainment Centre (BMEC) from Friday 2 December – Friday 16 December.

The group call themselves “Artshed, a ‘collective of artists under one roof’ living in the Central West”. They have come together to create an exciting new Artist Run Initiative (ARI), with help from Arts OutWest.

“When I saw the call for artists to join an Artist Run Initiative I thought it would be a great opportunity for me as a young artist at the start of my career. I am looking forward to the exhibition and the chance for lots of people to see my work,” said the youngest member of the group, 15-year-old Will Hazzard.

Will joined Artshed with the support of his parents, Ian and Kelly Hazzard, who have both also joined the group.

“I have always enjoyed creating my artworks and the opportunity to be in a group with my husband and son has been a wonderful experience. I love that the art we all produce is very different and I am looking forward to the upcoming exhibition,” Kelly Hazzard said.

Funded by Accessible Arts and coordinated by Arts OutWest, the development of the ARI has been shaped by the participants, growing organically through individual artist preferences. The artists are involved in a 12-month program of professional development, including workshops, training and day trips to arts organisations or exhibitions.

Many visual arts mediums are represented within the group, including photography, painting, weaving and cartooning. The artists live in the Bathurst, Blayney and Orange areas.

Penny May from Arts OutWest is working with the group to facilitate the first 12 months, with the hope that this results in a sustainable venture.

“We really hope the artists continue to work together once the first year is complete. The aim is to give the group the tools to evolve as a collective, using the connections they make through the project to take it forward in whatever way they like,” Penny said.

Artists involved are: Heather Burdette; Nicole Cullen; Alesha Elbourne; Stefan Elbourne; Ian Hazzard; Kelly Hazzard; William Hazzard; John Jones; Lanny Mackenzie; Allegra Salter, Claire Woolmington and Peter Wolsely.

The exhibition *Natural Spaces and Faces* will be officially opened by Bathurst Region Mayor Gary Rush at 6pm on Friday 2 December 2016. December 3 is International Day of People with Disability. The exhibition will run until December 16.

More about Arts OutWest: www.artsoutwest.org.au

More about Artshed: www.centralwestartshed.com

Image 1: Artshed members took part in a workshop with National Association for the Visual Arts (NAVA) earlier this year. Photo: Penny May

Image 2: Some of the members of ‘Artshed’: (L to R) Alesha Elbourne, Kelly Hazzard, William Hazzard (at front), Penny May from Arts OutWest, Ian Hazzard, Stefan Elbourne, Allegra Salter and Claire Woolmington. Photo: Zenio Lapka.