

MEDIA RELEASE
Monday 29 February 2016

Local art exhibition at new Parkes hospital

Exhibition: 28 February - 6 June Where: Parkes Hospital

Paintings, photographs and other artworks by Parkes locals will be exhibited in the brand new Parkes Hospital as part of an exciting culture and arts program integrated in the hospital's redevelopment.

"The exhibition focuses on work that is colourful, restful and/or uplifting," said Arts OutWest Arts and Health Coordinator Christine McMillan. "Art work in a hospital introduces a distraction, brightens the corridors and creates a welcoming environment."

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

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

The 40 artworks on display include mixed media collage, photography, watercolours and pastels, pen and ink works, and paintings in oils and acrylics. Many of the images depict local landscapes, local identities, favourite holiday destinations of the artists, flowers and wildlife.

Photographs by Marilyn Nash capture her visits to villages in Ghana, West Africa; whilst Helen Huntly's pastel work 'Moon over Home' captures a favourite scene near her home in Parkes. Helen Huntley says of her work: "My home town is very special... My daily walk sometimes takes me from the Brolgan Road towards Middleton Street and 'there it is'. This great view of the sun behind me and the full moon reflecting a wonderful light over my home. The amazing horizon and gentle valley, why not paint it?"

Nine year old Jesse Woods has three artworks in the exhibition and is the youngest artist represented. Other Parkes artists involved are Margaret Lewis, Kim Chambers, Josh Cornelissen-Birch, Elsie Mahon, Karen Ritchie, Robyn Morrissey, Bronwyn Riley, Heather Moss, Brett Preisig, Mel Flyte, Joseph Bondare, Margaret Marshall, Jac Clark and Joanne Strom.

The artworks are on display until June 6 and can be seen by anyone who visits the hospital during this time. A similar exhibition will open shortly at Forbes Hospital.

This exhibition is 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.



Health
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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.