

10 July 2017

PUBLIC ART A CONVERSATION STARTER

The community's first adventure into public art via the Kick Start Public Art Project has sparked the possibility of working with local schools to create future works in the public space.

A recent work which features a march of local bird species located on the Narrandera Bakery wall has inspired a great deal of discussion and interest. The project was identified through Future Towns community workshops held in March, as a beginning to inspire further "story walls" in the town. The Future Towns Program was funded by the NSW government and supports communities to undertake projects to create interest in chosen spaces. The workshops focused on the East Street precinct, with particular attention to Bolton Street due to its function as a conduit from the highway for visitors to the town.

Narrandera Shire Council Mayor Neville Kschenka said that public art is a way of using outdoor spaces differently. "It's a way of experiencing our environment in a way that is not just about a place or a building's function. "

"It challenges us with the ideas of others," said Cr Kschenka.

Owner of the building John Foster said that he and Kathleen are excited by Narrandera's first foray into "wall stories". "We would like to use the wall at 108 East Street as an evolving arts space and we've been liaising with the artist to possibly extend the artwork in future," Mr Foster said.

"We suggested the theme be inspired by the Superb Parrot and agreed that a paste up be the format as it is both innovative and ephemeral, which means temporary in nature, giving us the opportunity to refresh the wall with new work when the current work fades and is removed.

"We met the Artist Matt Chun and are very pleased with his approach to the artwork," said Mr Foster.

Mr Chun was chosen after he responded to a widespread call for expressions of interest went out to the arts community.

Mr Chun provided the following rationale for the work.

"My response to the brief was to depict the Superb Parrot within a multitude of species found specifically in Narrandera and the Western Riverina. In the weeks leading up to my time in Narrandera, I created a unique sketch of each bird, in consultation with local birdwatchers. While faithful to the form the species represented, I have tried to emphasise each as an individual, with an engaging character.

"The Bolton Street site presented several challenges. Firstly, the existing colour of the wall does not lend itself to a complimentary chromatic range. In response, I have created graphic renderings in black and white, with an emphasis on linear elements. The result is a large scale 'drawing' on the wall, which is also the best expression of the paste-up medium. I hope that this will be both attractive and entertaining, while gently challenging assumptions about what a

MEDIA RELEASE

public mural can be. The width of Bolton Street also provides viewers both at close range and at distance. I have considered this, rendering the block of birds in bold strokes, while adding enough detail to reward a closer inspection.

“Finally, dark blues and greens were added to the eyes, emphasising the gaze of the birds and enhancing their engagement with passers-by.

Council will explore partnerships with local schools to create further public art in Narrandera.



The Superb Parrot is depicted amongst a “march” of local bird species.

END

Precis or Summary: Public Art a conversation starter with further opportunities to work with schools to create art in public spaces.			
Attachments	Nil	Embargoed: N/A	
Authorised By: Interim General Manager; Judy Charlton		Media Contact: Personal Assistant to GM & Mayor; Vicki Maher T (02) 6959 5500	
Distribution To: Council Website, Facebook, Media – Local			Number of Pages 1
			Number: 17/18- 2