

Media Release



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Monday, 17 May 2021

Lobethal community reflects, celebrates, and creates ahead of DreamBIG Festival 2021

Generations of Lobethal locals have been working behind the scenes since January to complete an interactive exhibition selected to feature in the DreamBIG Festival this month.

Working with guidance from Fringe award winning* artist Claire Wildish, as well as regional and local artists Sue Garrad and Deb Twining, students, seniors, and the wider community have collaborated to explore the local things and places they treasure most.

“This project was created as part of Fabrik’s Creative Recovery Program, helping our community recover from the Cudlee Creek Fire through artistic expression and social inclusion,” said Adelaide Hills Council Mayor, Jan-Claire Wisdom.

“The sheer amount of work that community members have put into the exhibition over the past five months is a wonderful demonstration of their resilience and community spirit.”

“I encourage everyone to visit the exhibition, not only to see what the locals of Lobethal treasure, but to participate in the interactive elements and share what they treasure about their own communities.”

At the centre of the project is the creative process known as ‘art mapping’, a visual representation of information presented as hand-drawn locations, physical tags on a textile map of the region, projections, geo-mapping, and more.

“The vast scope of treasured memories, places and hopes for the future uncovered in this project are a delight to explore,” said Fabrik Director, Melinda Rankin.


“The wellbeing practise of looking for good things and positive memories is a valuable tool in recovery and building resilience, and the result is something that we can all enjoy.”

The exhibition will invite all attendees to share what they love about their own home towns, growing the project in real time across the festival.

“The project doesn’t stop when we open the doors to the public, and that’s really exciting,” said Melinda.

At the conclusion of the exhibition, the Lobethal contributions will be shared with the

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Lobethal Community Association, who are keen to use learnings and ideas to inform future projects for the region.

“To watch the project come full circle and potentially see locals’ visions for the future realised by the community association is a really valuable outcome,” said Mayor Wisdom.

“We know that recovery can be a very long process and this project has been a wonderful contribution to that for Lobethal.”

Hidden Treasures was made possible through the support of a Wellbeing SA’s Strengthening Community Wellbeing After Bushfires Grant, and the DreamBIG Festival, as well as the enthusiastic participation of Lobethal Primary School, Lobethal Lutheran School, the Lobethal Senior Citizens Group, and the Valley of Praise Retirement Village.

Hidden Treasures
19-29 May 2021
Open daily 10am-4pm
The Blanket Room
Fabrik Arts + Heritage
1 Lobethal Road, Lobethal
Free entry

Special Lobethal community sneak peek: Tuesday 18 May, 6pm-8pm.

More information about the exhibition is available at fabrik.org.

*Claire Wildish was awarded a Best Visual Art & Design Weekly Award during Adelaide Fringe 2021 for her *Papyrophilia Project* at the Hahndorf Academy. She is currently the Artist in Residence at U City (Uniting Communities).

Images provided:

1- Lobethal Primary School Students participating in a ‘mega mapping session’ with artist Claire Wildish.

2- Claire Wildish helping Lobethal Lutheran School student Leon Hartas.

Media contact

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