



**Latrobe Valley
Mine Rehabilitation
Commissioner**



MEDIA RELEASE

24 July 2019

Coal Hole to catwalk mine rehab message in hi-vis wearable art

Wearable fashion in the form of hi-vis is set to transform Morwell's Commercial Road into a catwalk this Sunday 28 July for an inaugural fashion parade run by the Coal Hole project, an initiative which aims to enable the community to express their ideas and feelings on mine rehabilitation through art.

Facilitated by Project Arts Director PollyannaR from The Big Picture Space Inc., the community-led arts collective has so far given local community members the opportunity to produce self-published zines and convert old hi-vis gear into wearable art during twice-weekly workshops in July.

"It's been an exciting few weeks with community members engaging in the Coal Hole workshops run by local artists and attended by the Latrobe Valley Mine Rehabilitation Commissioner and team, which has seen plenty of creativity as well as engaging discussion about mine rehabilitation and understanding what that means for the Latrobe Valley's three coal mines," PollyannaR said.

Federation University fine arts student Grace Ware of The Warehouse Art is the latest of local artists leading the workshops, who says using hi-vis is a great way to communicate something and make a statement.

"When you wear something, it's the first thing someone sees about you and they see who you are," Grace explains.

"It's all about exploring the identity that comes along with hi-vis locally, and the use of hi-vis not only in the 'Coal Hole' but around town, and playing with the idea of 'what now?'," Grace said.

"The Coal Hole project is a good way for the local community to develop their own understanding about what's going on with mine rehabilitation and they can make up their own statements and speak out about things," she concluded.

PollyannaR said, "We're very excited to showcase the work that has come out of the workshops so far and look forward to sharing this with the rest of the community in the form of a fashion parade."

The fashion parade will start at the ReActivate Latrobe Valley Hub in Morwell before heading down Commercial Road from 12.30-1.00pm on Sunday 28 July, in what will be a colourful display combined with music from local drum and percussion band Big Boom Bang!, playing original sounds described as funky dance tunes, atmospheric soundscapes and rocking groove beats.

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LATROBE VALLEY MINE REHABILITATION COMMISSIONER

The Coal Hole project is a community engagement and education activity launched in partnership with the Latrobe Valley Mine Rehabilitation Commissioner and local not-for-profit organisation The Big Picture Space, Inc.

Workshops will continue to be held at ReActivate Latrobe Valley Hub on Wednesdays and Sundays from 11.00am to 1.00pm. Anyone over the age of 13 is welcome to attend (no skills required) or to join in the discussion.

Follow **@coalholeproject** on Facebook or visit **www.thebigpicturespaceinc.org** for more details.

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For more information, please contact:

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