



**Latrobe Valley
Mine Rehabilitation
Commissioner**



MEDIA RELEASE

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Community arts project Coal Hole to create conversations on mine rehabilitation

Mine rehabilitation planning for all three Latrobe Valley coal mines is currently underway. Rehabilitation will take many decades to complete and will transform our community's future. 'Coal Hole' has been developed to establish a local community-led arts collective who can lead a forward-focused and positive rehabilitation conversation within the community through art-making processes and narratives.

The project is a community engagement and education activity launched in partnership with local not-for-profit organisation The Big Picture Space, Inc.

"It's about bringing on exciting collectives, artmakers and community groups, as well as actively reaching out to our less represented groups and giving them the space and time to understand what's happening in a non-traditional way," said PollyannaR, Project Arts Director.

A specialist in community-led arts installations, PollyannaR saw a great opportunity with potential worldwide attention.

"Being a leader in the creative arts world, knowing this massive thing was happening and having no way to engage with it was terrifying. But I am excited at the opportunity to have a crack at this really ambitious arts project, and I am excited that the Latrobe Valley Mine Rehabilitation Commissioner is supporting a radical engagement process to make a real and lasting impact in the community," she said.

Latrobe Valley Mine Rehabilitation Commissioner Professor Rae Mackay said that the project aims to provide a unique opportunity for local community members to connect, understand and explore the mine rehabilitation process through arts engagement.

"We want to bring the community along the journey of mine rehabilitation, particularly attracting those in the community who haven't joined the conversation yet," Professor Mackay said.

"Doing this through art will allow community members to not only foster new skills, but to also learn about and develop their awareness of the issue in a meaningful way," Professor Mackay concluded.

The project will involve monthly themed workshops until December that will explore different aspects of the rehabilitation process, as well as showcase different mediums of art. July will focus on zine making, underground publishing and wearable fashion in the form of 'Hi-Viz'.



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Anyone over the age of 13 is welcome to attend the workshops, which will begin on 3 July and will be held on Wednesdays and Sundays from 11.00am to 1.00pm at the ReActivate Latrobe Valley Hub in Morwell. Larger monthly community events are also planned.

Those interested in participating can follow [@coalholeproject](#) on Facebook or visit www.thebigpicturespaceinc.org for more details about dates, topics and activities they can register for.

ENDS

For more information, please contact:

PollyannaR at coalhole@thebigpicturespaceinc.org (preferred) or call 0421 542 099.