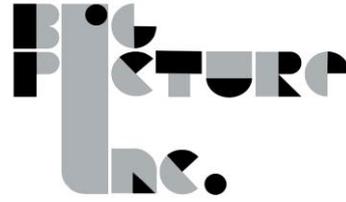




**Latrobe Valley
Mine Rehabilitation
Commissioner**



MEDIA RELEASE

19 September 2019

Sculpture building to reflect mine rehab learnings

The mechanics of mine rehabilitation captured in the form of a life-size sculpture will be the next artistic installation of the Coal Hole project – and community members are invited to help create it.

Local artist Paddy McKenzie, a blacksmith extraordinaire by trade with an engineering background, will headline the hands-on prototype-building two-day workshop to be held next week, giving community members the opportunity to work with Paddy and the Coal Hole team to come up with a working sculpture that replicates mine rehabilitation.

“This free workshop will explore design ideas and teach basic skills in joining metal together for those that don’t already know how to, with the aim to learn about mine rehabilitation, as well as develop something unique and meaningful to the Latrobe Valley,” Paddy said.

With recycled materials such as industrial scrap metal to be used as part of the hands-on learning, participants are welcome to bring other materials to work with.

“The idea is to use materials we already have or that we can source locally in an innovative way in an attempt to build a working model to show the basic mechanics of mine rehabilitation,” Paddy continued.

Coal Hole Project Director PollyannaR said the workshop is the third key event of the six-month-long community-led arts and education initiative, which was launched in partnership with the Latrobe Valley Mine Rehabilitation Commissioner and local not-for-profit organisation The Big Picture Space, Inc. in June.

“It’s a fantastic opportunity for the Coal Hole to have a local renowned artist like Paddy – among others we’ve had so far get on board – to showcase and share his work at the grassroots level on a piece that will be created collectively and that could end up as something really meaningful for our community,” PollyannaR said.

“While places are limited, we encourage people to come along and get hands-on and contribute to this unique project, and we are very excited to see what gets built,” she concluded.

The final product is planned to be the centrepiece of an interactive display at the Traralgon and District Agricultural Society’s annual show on 29 November.

The free workshop will be held on Saturday 28 and Sunday 29 September from 10am to 4pm at Paddy's workshop, 2 Elizabeth Terrace, Morwell and is open to anyone over the age of 13. Lunch is also provided.

The Coal Hole continues to run weekly workshops on Sundays from 11am at the Earthworker Cooperative, 22 Swan Road, Morwell.

The collective has since created mine rehab zines distributed locally and in Melbourne, held a hi-vis fashion parade and a live experimental and interactive sound and video works performance, captured coal using artistic photography, and more recently, developed digital narratives using the mediums of video, photography, sound, and writing.

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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