

10 October 2017

Mayor: Councillor John Medcalf

General Manager: Robert Hunt



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

# MEDIA RELEASE

## Utes in the Paddock Relaunch Picking up Speed

Council is pleased the relaunch of the Utes in the Paddock outdoor gallery is fast tracking. Already several artists have completed restoration with more artists arriving soon.

Council relocated the Utes in the Paddock outdoor gallery from the original location at Ootha, to a secure storage site in Condobolin in August, with the aim to relaunch the gallery in early 2018 to drive visitation to the Lachlan Shire and the Central West region.

Since August several ute works have been repaired including 'Circle Work' by John Murray, 'Clancy Stops the Overflow' by Peter Mortimore and 'Dame Edna's LooUte' by local Condobolin artist Karen Tooth.

While visiting Condobolin to repair his ute work, artist John Murray commented on the importance of tourism as a useful strategy for rural communities to stimulate the local economy. John Murray was confident the pending relaunch will be a continued asset to the central west with multiple benefits for the town of Condobolin.

"Utes in the Paddock is a proven success at its previous location having maintained popularity since the project began and even since the gallery has been in storage. It will be satisfying to see Lachlan Shire Council develop the attraction over the coming year," said John Murray.

Further to this artist Peter Mortimore commented on the gallery as a regional benefit having regularly experienced members of the public stop and ask questions about his own Ute work 'Clancy Stops the Overflow'.

"The Utes in the Paddock gallery is a constant talking point with people wherever I am, with people always intrigued to know how my Bundaberg Rum ute was created and positioned on a permanent lean. Many people also mention about how many times they have stopped to see the gallery over the years with the appeal of the gallery being as popular as ever," said Peter Mortimore.

Local artist Karen Tooth is looking forward to the opportunities that the outdoor gallery will present for the local communities of Lachlan.

"The gallery has an enormous amount of potential and a breadth of opportunity for all stakeholders in our community. Lachlan is already known for its fantastic events and could

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position itself as an artistic hub with the possibility of developing an event around this unique attraction” said Karen Tooth.

Council is currently sourcing Holden utes to be incorporated in the Utes in the Paddock outdoor gallery with two new artists to donate their time and talent to the outdoor gallery. More details to come in the following weeks.

## RELEASE ENDS

**Media Contact:** Please contact Lachlan Shire Council Mayor, Councillor John Medcalf on 0429 937 248.

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**Caption:** Utes in the Paddock artist John Murray with his ute work 'Circle Work'.

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**Caption:** Utes in the Paddock artist Peter Mortimore with his ute work 'Clancy Stops the Overflow'.

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**Caption:** Utes in the Paddock artist Karen Tooth with her ute work 'Dame Edna's LooUte'.

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