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MEDIA RELEASE

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FIVE Busselton Celebrates with the Opening of its Exhibition of Works

The six-week long community arts and cultural development project, FIVE Busselton, will host a community celebration and open its exhibition of works on 22 November 2013 at the ArtGeo Gallery in Busselton.

Led by arts organisation DADAA, the project has aimed to build community resilience and wellbeing through participatory arts activities that have taken place at various sites in and around Busselton. Artists have visited schools and community organisations in the region, and have welcomed individual, families and visitors to the project's vibrant workshop space at the ArtGeo Gallery.

"We have been very fortunate to have well-known community artists Craig Walsh and Hiromi Tango working with us on this unique project," said Jacquie Happ, Community Development Officer for the City of Busselton.

"Hiromi's workshops have enabled hundreds of people from all walks of life to come together to make art, and to share their stories about family and life in Busselton. The process has been heartfelt and has brought a lot of joy to all participants.

"It's something to be very proud of and it's great to see that this will be carried through to other towns."

Artists Hiromi Tango and Craig Walsh have used the concept of 'belonging' to generate personal reflections and creative expression. Their work has used the symbol of the suitcase to build an architectural installation that captures these stories.

Digital artist Craig Walsh, who will work across all five of the FIVE project's communities, captured digital stories from participants, which will be screened at the celebration event.

"We will screen a multi-channel video projection on the exterior of the historical courthouse," said Walsh. "The work has been created using video portraits and statements extracted from interviews with more than 50 people from this area.

"All who contributed to the interviews are combined to form a community portrait defined through personal views and interpretations of 'belonging'.

"We hope the work generates a sense of pride and celebration while also raising important questions relative to environment, compassion, empathy, tolerance and participation in a town that has now become a city."

Other works in the exhibition will include photographic representations of FIVE Busselton's Ephemeral Arts Project, which has used Ludlow Tuart Forest as its main site.

Well-respected public artist Nicole Mickle worked with fly-in-fly-out wives and partners creating the outdoor work.

"During project planning, we talked about 'transition' between work and family, which led to thoughts of the 'doorway'," said Mickle. "The work is symbolic of a meeting point between two spaces, an interface between home and the outside world, between one environment and another."

The Ludlow Forest Ephemeral Work is on display to the public at the Layman Road picnic area.

FIVE Busselton is part of a larger statewide project, called FIVE. It is a two-year partnership between DADAA and Rio Tinto, taking place in Busselton, Paraburdoo, Geraldton, Derby and Esperance.

The FIVE Busselton celebration and exhibition opening will be held at ArtGeo Gallery on 22 November 2013 from 6.30–8.30pm. The event is free and open to the public. RSVPs are essential to Busselton@five.org.au by 20 November 2013. The exhibition will run until 29 November 2013.



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Additional Information on FIVE

The initiative supports the Mental Health Commission's Mental Health 2020 strategy, one component of which is to build peer-to-peer connection as a means of facilitating dialogue around mental health.

FIVE addresses findings from recent research noting lack of communication and social isolation as contributing factors to poor mental health – particularly amongst the State's regional communities.

A significant evaluation of FIVE will be conducted throughout the two-year pilot period. DADAA will work in partnership with researchers from Murdoch University to develop a framework for evaluation and then measure the impacts of the community arts and cultural development models used on participants, organisations and communities.

About DADAA

DADAA is a not-for-profit community arts and cultural development (CACD) organisation, focusing on creating significant positive social change and opportunities for people with a disability or a mental illness. Based in Fremantle, DADAA offers targeted arts and cultural programs that include a broad range of traditional and new media projects in almost 50 Western Australian communities.

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