



RioTinto

MEDIA RELEASE

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FIVE Paraburdoo to view outdoor digital artwork about ‘belonging’

Paraburdoo will be treated to a community celebration and large-scale outdoor screening of the digital artwork created by artist Craig Walsh in collaboration with the community of Paraburdoo. The event will take place on Saturday 7 June in Paraburdoo.

Walsh’s digital works are becoming increasingly well known around the country as they illuminate large-scale textured surfaces of either the urban or natural environment. They have been seen in venues such as Hyde Park in Sydney and the rocky outcrops of the Burrup Peninsula.

For the past month, Walsh has been resident in Paraburdoo and has captured a series of digital portraits from the town’s residents and FIFO employees talking about what living and working in Paraburdoo means to them. All portraits have been woven together with footage of different locations referred to in the portraits, to create a single collective work.

The work – titled ‘BELONGINGS Paraburdoo’ – has been created in response to a range of subjects, which explore multiple forms of engagement with place. It draws upon personal reflections from a cross-section of the community who share their thoughts on how they gain a sense of belonging in this unique environment.

“I was struck by how people find the personal resilience to face the challenges of living in a remote setting such as Paraburdoo, or of working a FIFO roster that takes them away from family, friends and a large metropolitan area for extended periods of time,” said Mr Walsh.

“The work really tries to showcase the personal philosophies of how to live in the face of what is often a challenging work-life arrangement. I’ve tried to bring to the fore the many inspiring personal experiences in relation to living and working in Paraburdoo through teasing out what people care about.”

Scott Wilkinson, General Manager Rio Tinto Paraburdoo Region, said that the digital portraits have provided an avenue for people to come together and share stories about their ties to Paraburdoo, about mining, about the landscape and about family and friends.

“We have been fortunate to have a community artist of the calibre of Craig Walsh visit Paraburdoo to facilitate this unique project,” said Mr Wilkinson.

“Craig’s work complements the sculpture project being led by Alex Mickle. Together the two projects provide residents and employees with the opportunity to tell their own story and to leave something behind for others and for the town of Paraburdoo.”

Saturday night’s event will involve a screening of the new ‘BELONGINGS Paraburdoo’ video artwork and a single-channel video projection projected onto the towering tree on the edge of the grassed area outside Rocklea Palms in Paraburdoo. The artist will be at the event, and all are invited to come along and meet him.

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

Through many and varied local artistic and cultural initiatives, the project aims to build community resilience and wellbeing through participatory arts activities that take place at various sites in each participating town.

The FIVE Paraburdoo celebration will take place on the grassed area outside Rocklea Palms from 6pm – 8pm with formal proceedings and the projection starting at 6pm. Food and refreshments will be served to all guests. The event is open to the public and there is no cost to attend.

Additional Information on FIVE (www.five.org.au)



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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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