

Wednesday, 5 February 2025

MEDIA RELEASE



Youth Art Project Unveiled

On Friday, 24 January 2025, Bland Shire Council unveiled a vibrant new addition to the exterior of the Bland Shire Youth Centre — a stunning collection of nine colourful art panels created by local youth.

Under the guidance of renowned artist Emily Shannon, the artworks celebrate the creativity and passion of Bland Shire's young people.

The Youth Art Project has been a year-long effort, initiated in January 2024 with financial support from Evolution Mining. Through this partnership, the Bland Shire Youth Centre was able to run a series of workshops where young participants could learn new artistic techniques and contribute to the development of the artwork. Once completed, the artwork was digitalised and printed by West Wyalong Signs, ensuring the final pieces would withstand the elements while continuing to inspire.

“This project is a true reflection of youth ownership, with the young people involved taking full creative control over the designs,” said Emily Shannon, the project’s lead artist. “The artwork represents not only their artistic talent but also their connection to the building and the community.”

The panels, unveiled during a special ceremony on Friday 24 January, were individually revealed by Emily Shannon, Bland Shire Council's Youth Services Officer Macey Cowen, Renee Pettit from Evolution Mining, and the youth who contributed to the artwork. Their combined effort has transformed the building’s exterior into a celebration of young talent, creating a brighter, more welcoming environment for future generations.

Located directly next to Council’s main office on Shire Street, the new artwork provides a vibrant and energetic atmosphere that encourages youth to feel a sense of pride and ownership of the space. It is hoped that the project will inspire continued engagement and positive participation at the Youth Centre.

“Through this project, we aim to foster a sense of pride in the youth for their space and encourage them to continue using the facility for personal growth and community connection,” said Macey Cowen, Youth Services Officer at Bland Shire Council.

Bland Shire Council extends a special thank you to Evolution Mining for their generous support, and to all the young artists involved in this inspiring project. Their creativity has truly brightened up the Youth Centre, making it a place where the young people of Bland Shire can feel proud to gather.

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