

WOMEN'S SHED PROVIDING FESTIVAL COMFORT

15 September 2016

Members of the Port Macquarie Women's Shed have been hard at work, building creative and comfortable seating for this year's Tastings on Hastings Festival.

Proudly presented by Port Macquarie-Hastings Council, this year's 3 day culinary celebration will come to life between Friday 28 and Sunday 30 October.

The benches and tables being created will feature vertical gardens and beautiful mosaics that showcase the Tastings on Hastings theme... 'Fire Water Harvest'. Festival-goers will be provided with a place to sit back and relax while sampling some of our region's tastiest produce.

Chair of the Women's Shed, Claire Welsh said the project had provided the groups 80 active members with an opportunity to work collaboratively on something worthwhile for the community, while learning new skills such as woodworking and mosaics.

"The street furniture has all the beauty of an art installation, and is made from recycled materials including repurposed pallets, and seating mats made from crocheted plastic bags, plus old t-shirts," Ms Welsh said.

"We're pleased that visitors to this community event will be able to enjoy their day knowing that we have given these recycled materials a new life, and can't wait to see the furniture in place in the festival's breakout space."

The pieces were designed by local architect, Simone Lake from Lake Studios. Jeff Appleby, a teacher with Hastings Secondary College provided the space and larger tools for their production, while Meg Kennedy and Louise McArdle originally introduced the group to pallet recycling during one of their first workshops.

Council Director Tricia Bulic said "Tastings on Hastings celebrates the region's producers, farmers, provedores, chefs, cafes and restaurants, and attracts thousands of locals and visitors alike each year."

"It is wonderful that we have such a creative and generous community group assisting us with this year's festival, and we are keen to see the furniture they are creating take pride of place whilst being enjoyed by our community," said Ms Bulic.

To get involved or find out more about the Port Macquarie Women's Shed check out womensshed.wixsite.com/portmacwomensshed.

For more information on Tastings on Hastings 2016 visit tastingsonhastings.com.au.

***Image attached: Port Macquarie Women's Shed Members*

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