

MEDIA RELEASE

Friday, December 17, 2021

Big hART's 'The Watershed' set to run from new Multi-Purpose Building

Waratah-Wynyard Council is pleased to announce a partnership with Big hART, who will run 'The Watershed' program from the new Wynyard Multi-Purpose Building, in partnership with the Wynyard Yacht Club, when it opens to the public in 2022.

Big hART has been part of the North West landscape since it was founded in 1992 and is a key driver of innovation and community development in the region.

'The Watershed' will develop confidence and new skills in vulnerable young people of the municipality, opening up new education, training and event opportunities for the community, including with the local hospitality industry.

The program will provide education, training and events from the new building, partnering with local cafes, chefs, businesses and community organisations to cater for a program of special events.

"This is a great opportunity for the community to come together and collaborate in a wonderful new space that will benefit our youth and surrounding businesses," Waratah-Wynyard Mayor Robby Walsh said.

Scott Rankin, Creative Director and CEO of Big hART, is excited to bring The Watershed to Wynyard.

"Big hART will work in partnership with the Wynyard Yacht Club to curate a program which brings the community together and has a wide range of inclusive activities which are fun, fresh and contemporary."

The decision to provide Big hART with a fixed term lease for the café space at the Multi-Purpose building was made by Council as an interim COVID-19 recovery measure.

"With the uncertainty of COVID-19 and its potential to negatively impact existing cafes and restaurants, Council's objective is to activate the space without competing with local businesses at this time."

"Big hART's residence at the Wynyard Yacht Club is beneficial to our municipality by not only training vulnerable people, but also by helping our local community organisations, businesses and hospitality industry thrive during these difficult times," the Mayor said.

Authorised for general media distribution by Shane Crawford, General Manager, Waratah-Wynyard Council on Friday, December 17, 2021.

Waratah Wynyard Council

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WATERSHED OPENS UP NEW EDUCATION, TRAINING & EVENTS FOR COMMUNITY

Big hART is delighted to announce **The Watershed**, a vibrant program at the new Wynyard Yacht Club Multi Use Facility which will celebrate the incredible assets of North West Tasmania and open up new education, training and events for the whole community, in partnership with the Wynyard Yacht Club and Waratah-Wynyard Council.

The Watershed will provide a hub and co-community space for Wynyard and the North West, focused on intergenerational activity, education, training and creative events.

“The Watershed is a dynamic, inclusive and accessible program for all the community”, said Scott Rankin Big hART’s Creative Director. “Working alongside the Wynyard Yacht Club to activate the space we’re looking forward to collaborating with local community groups and businesses, chefs, creatives, professionals and young people to curate a seasonal calendar of events and programs.”

“We hope to foster entrepreneurship, local leadership and create a range of unique workforce and training opportunities” said Big hART’s Rachel Small, who’ll be curating the program. “The Watershed is about celebrating the incredible part of the world we live in here in North West Tasmania.”

“We’ll be linking with Tasmanian industries such as agriculture, tourism, creative industries and STEM and looking to support a place-based community program which combines creativity, physical programs, the environment, Bass Strait, learning and training, events, digital tech, sciences and ecology.”

The Watershed will run out of the new waterfront infrastructure at the Wynyard Yacht Club. Facilities include a commercial kitchen, event and function areas, workshop space for community groups and river frontage. The space will also be available to rent out by community groups and organisations during the year. Big hART will collaborate with the award-winning Wynyard Yacht Club to deliver an inclusive program in the new facility. Wynyard Yacht Club will take the lead with on-water activities, whilst Big hART will curate other programs and projects side by side with the community. Wynyard Yacht Club, Volunteer Marine Rescue and Paddle Tasmania will have venue priority during their normal programmed times or unplanned incidents.

Big hART will work in partnership with the Wynyard Yacht Club to curate a program which brings the community together and has a wide range of inclusive activities which are fun, fresh and contemporary. The Watershed hopes to strengthen resilience, improve community connection, wellbeing, mental health and build positive futures for young people and their community. The program will be designed to connect young people and community members into sailing and on-water sport, physical well-being activities, events, music, film, art and lifelong learning.

Founded in 1992 in Burnie, Big hART is a not-for-profit organisation which has worked in over 50 communities in remote, rural, regional and urban Australia. Big hART works with communities to make content, build community and drive positive change.

WYC was formed in 1961 (Sixty Years). It has a strong tradition of community engagement culminating in winning Yacht Club of the Year from 330 clubs across Australia in 2014. Winning the Australian Institute of Sports Community Club of the Year in 2015 confirmed WYC as a fully inclusive club. Chris Symonds as Commodore states: “As a fully volunteer based club which provide a wide range of community water based programs, training, racing, marine safety, and events, there is no doubt that the future of clubs and facilities need to be multi use. The partnership with Big hART will allow this to continue utilizing the amazing asset WYC and the community have received from the Federal Government.”

If you would like to organise an event at The Watershed or have any enquiries about the initiative contact Holly Rankin-Smith on email holly@bighart.org. Find out more at: <http://thewatershed.bighart.org/>



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