



Media Release

Banana Shire Council

26 March 2018

New Artworks to Brighten Banana Shire Communities

Banana Shire Council is proud to collaborate with the Queensland based creative initiative *First Coat* to deliver two major public artworks in the Banana Shire.

The project aims to strengthen local pride in our towns and bring energy and colour to our landscapes. The artworks aim to capture the character of our people, places and the stories that are unique to our communities, resulting in cultural tourism assets for our community and visitors to enjoy.

The project has been developed with local community groups and will include public events and opportunities for the local community to engage in.

Project Curator: Grace Dewar *First Coat*

First Coat is a Queensland-based creative initiative, driven by making arts and culture accessible through the transformation of public space. Beginning as an annual art festival held in the city of Toowoomba, *First Coat* now collaborates with communities across Australia, in celebration of contemporary public art. To date, *First Coat* has facilitated mural projects and regional activations in Stanthorpe, Brisbane, Oakey, Lockyer Valley, Ipswich City, Western Downs and Far North Queensland.

Grace Dewar is the Director of *First Coat Studios*, leading a multi-disciplinary arts studio and exhibition space and team of resident artists. Grace brings her curatorial, project management and expertise in public art to the Banana Shire.

www.firstcoat.com.au

Site 1: Lawgi Hall



Artist: George Rose

Melbourne-based artist George Rose spends most of her time climbing up ladders and painting murals. Since abandoning her formal design training several years ago, she has opted to pursue a multidisciplinary art practice to use colour, gradients and type to spread her uplifting messages.

George has spent the last several years travelling from one project to another, rarely in one city for longer than a few months completing art commissions for a diverse range of clients. She has recently worked with Instagram, Jansport, Mastercard, Melbourne Central and Star Wars to name a few. If she's not completing work for commercial projects, she's on the global street art festival circuit including Colour Tumbly, First Coat, Perfect Match, Roskilde, Street Prints, Tropica, Wall to Wall and Wonderwalls.

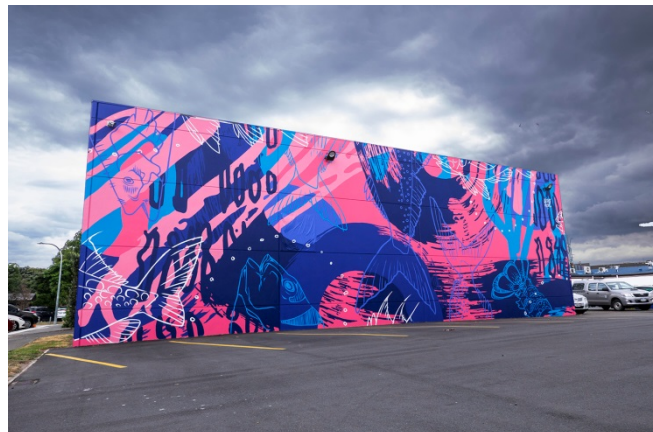
George has also been the recipient of some award-winning work including the Borrowed Wall Art Prize for Liverpool City (2016) and the Skate Park in Canberra (2017). You can't stop someone who knows where they're going.

www.facebook.com/GeorgeRosellustration

Artist at Work: 14 – 18 May*



#KindComments for Instagram, Melbourne



Street Prints Mural Festival, New Zealand

Site 2: Water Tank, Dawson Highway Moura



Artist: Leans

Leans is a Brisbane based artist influenced by his daily intake of the internet, people that surround him, the past, the future and everything in between. Through his work he strives to fabricate a surreal vision that can be seen by the viewer on numerous occasions and enjoyed in alternative ways on each visit.

The way in which Leans creates his artwork is much like an ecosystem. There is no plan. There are only reactions and evolutions to what came before Starting with one element, the piece adapts and unfolds. Colour and form must interact with each other until there is harmony between everything.

Leans has created artworks across Australia, recently participating in *Water Walls* a Commonwealth Games and Gold Coast Urban Art Project as well as completing works internationally in Japan and America.

www.artbyleans.com

Artist at Work: 14 - 21 May*



Water Walls Commonwealth Games Gold Coast Urban Art Project



Mother Earth, Townsville

Events

The local community and visitors are welcome to watch the artists at work during completion of the murals. A series of public programming and events such as artist talks and community celebrations will be developed.

For event details please check the Banana Shire Council website, details will be added as they are confirmed: www.banana.qld.gov.au/projects

Additionally, events and project updates will be shared on the *Banana Shire Regional Art Gallery* Facebook and Instagram platforms.

*Project dates are subject to weather any updates will be advertised on the link listed above.

Funding

This project has been generously supported by:

Regional Arts Development Fund

The Regional Arts Development Fund is a partnership between the Queensland Government and Banana Shire Council to support local arts and culture in regional Queensland.

The Queensland Government through Arts Queensland, is contributing \$2.08 million to the 2017-18 RADF partnership across 59 councils statewide.

Works for Queensland

The Moura Water Tank Public Artwork has been funded by the Queensland Government's Works for Queensland program.



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MEDIA NOTE: For further information or media comment, contact Shanna Muston, Arts and Cultural Officer, on (07) 4992 9500.