



High school kids' short films premiere

Short films created by Armidale's young people for Beyond Empathy's 'Just One Less' project will have their premiere screening at The Armidale School's Hoskins Centre on Wednesday, June 15 at 7pm.

Six local filmmakers have been working with high school students, under the direction of Sydney-based documentary filmmaker Anna Cater, to create works that explore the culture of alcohol in the Armidale community.

The filmmakers, Nick Duhigg, Jonathon Larsen, Isaac Miller, Trish Stephen, Shayne Teece-Johnson and Sarah Watson, have also gathered 250 personal stories in a mobile video booth that was converted from a horse float.

The Just One Less project aims to facilitate a community conversation that raises awareness about alcohol and its place in our community, risk-taking behaviour in young people, why some young people fare better than others and what inspires parents and elders to

become positive role models.

"The premiere screening is an opportunity for young people to share their views with the rest of the community on the challenging and personal issue of alcohol consumption," said Kim McConville, Beyond Empathy's executive director.

The evening will feature clay animation films by Year 10 students from O'Connor Catholic College, a short documentary film by Year 10 students from Armidale High School, mash-up films by Year 10 students from Duval High School, and the film 'Smashed' by Year 11 students from The Armidale School, Presbyterian Ladies' College and New England Girls' School.

There will be music by local young people, and a presentation by artists Craig Walsh and Hiromi Tango about the collaborative works they are making with the local filmmakers and young people in Armidale, in partnership with Digital Odyssey, a Museum of

Contemporary Art touring project,

Craig Walsh will draw inspiration from the film content gathered during the 'Just One Less' project and create giant outdoor projections in Armidale from July 1-3.

Hiromi Tango will conduct workshops in a Dangar Street shopfront to create a collaborative screen from articles donated by the Armidale community.

Beyond Empathy initiated the 'Just One Less' project last year to address issues around binge-drinking across the Armidale Dumaresq Local Government Area. Youth services, schools and justice organisations have consistently identified binge-drinking (considered to be five drinks in a row) as a growing and significant problem, particularly among school-aged youth.

The event on Wednesday, June 15 at 7pm at The Armidale School's Hoskins Centre is free, and the public is welcome to attend.



The Just One Less video booth gathers stories at Armidale's skate park.