



Young filmmakers rise to the challenge

SHORT films about alcohol created by Armidale's young people will have their premiere screening at the TAS Hoskins Centre tonight at 7 o'clock.

As part of the Just One Less project, community arts organisation Beyond Empathy arranged for Sydney-based documentary filmmaker Anna Cater and local filmmakers Nick Duhigg, Jonathon Larsen, Isaac Miller, Trish Stephen, Shayne Teece-Johnson and Sarah Watson to work with high school students to explore the culture of alcohol in Armidale.

"The premiere screening

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

The evening will feature the film *Smashed* by Year 11 students from The Armidale School, Presbyterian Ladies' College and New England Girls' School; 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; music by local young people, and a presentation by artists Craig Walsh and Hiromi Tango.

Walsh will draw inspiration from the local film material, including the 250 personal stories gathered by the mobile video booth, to create giant outdoor projections in Armidale from July 1-3.

Tango will conduct workshops in an empty shopfront on Dangar St, to build a collaborative screen from articles donated by the Armidale community

focusing on the topics of 'alcohol and home'.

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.

This evening's event at The Armidale School's Hoskins Centre is free, and all are welcome to attend.



Camera person Liam Meatheringham (obscured) filming a scene between actors Jason Wright (Johnno), Anneliese O'Sullivan (Anna), and Emily Strachan (Josie) for 'Smashed'



'Smashed' editor Alex Reeves, producer Bronte Thomson-Sparrow, and director Georgia Thompson