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Media Release:

Blackwater Art Society gets a much-needed makeover

Renovations are complete and the paint is dry on the spacious new Art hall and refurbished back annex at The Blackwater Art Society building thanks to a \$5,000 donation from Yancoal's Yarrabee Coal Mine.

The newly renovated building was unveiled at a Grand opening event on Friday 23 October with Mayor Kerry Hayes, Councilors from the Central Highlands Regional Council (CHRC), Yarrabee Coal representatives and key members of the Blackwater community in attendance to celebrate.

President of The Art Society, Leonie Geary is delighted with the new and improved building.

"This has been four years in the making and we are thrilled with the result. We all use this space regularly as a meeting area, art workspace and a place to learn from each other.

"Art really connects and brings people together in a remarkable way. Our members enjoy painting together, sharing ideas and many long-lasting friendships have been made over the years.

"We currently have around 26 members and with this renovation, we expect numbers to keep growing, which is fantastic," Leonie said.

The Blackwater Art Society currently meets every Tuesday at 10am (and sometimes on Friday nights and weekend days) at 6 Evans Street, Blackwater. The group encourages new members, no matter their age or art skill level.

Yarrabee Coal Operations Manager, Cris Shadbolt was happy to fund the revamp of the Art Hall annex.

"We recognise the importance of art in enabling creative expression and building a connected community.

"We are pleased we can have a positive impact on the Art Society, making it a more attractive place for the current and future members within our community," said Cris.

The donation was part of the Yancoal Yarrabee Community Support Program, which aims to make a positive difference in the local community and to the lives of the people who work and live in the areas it operates in.

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