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Locals “15 minutes of fame” available on Council website

Nine local short films made last year by the Australian Centre for the Moving Image are now available to be viewed online at the new Indigo Shire Council website www.indigoshire.vic.gov.au.

The mini-documentaries were made as part of ACMI’s project *In the Regions*. They were shot locally to capture and record stories about passionate locals, community spirit and what life is like for residents of Indigo Shire. *In the Regions* is supported by Arts Victoria Major Touring Initiative and designed to celebrate local stories and capture oral history.

Indigo Shire Council’s Arts and Culture Development officer Susan Reid said the World Premiere screenings of all nine films were shown in each town last year, and watched by more than 650 people in Beechworth, Rutherglen and Yackandandah. “The screenings were thoroughly enjoyed by everyone who attended and the communities were able to finally share their stories after months of waiting. The audiences loved seeing the films from neighbouring towns and being able to share their sense of achievement. It has been an exciting project to be involved with and a wonderful opportunity for the whole community and now the results are out for everyone to see and celebrate the hard work of everybody involved. Beechworth Arts Council, Arts Rutherglen and Arts Yackandandah were behind the productions and did an outstanding job representing the sense of community and spirit that residents feel for their towns,” Ms Reid said.

Film-making Workshops were held in Beechworth, Rutherglen and Yackandandah, where people interested in the project were invited to develop ideas and stories that gave unique insights into the things that only a local would know about their town. Twenty two film ideas were presented in total, and from these, three stories were chosen from each town. The films chosen focused on the people and diversity of the area.

The movies range from seven minutes in length to 12 minutes.

Yackandandah films

- *YCDco - A Story of Community Support*: A community save their local petrol station and thrive as a result.
- *Yackandandah Music*: The future stars of the Australian music industry are alive and well and living in Yackandandah.
- *Crafts in Yackandandah*: Inspired by the landscape, the raw materials and a sense of community, various talented internationally and locally known crafts practitioners call Yackandandah home.

Rutherglen films

- *Loving our Bottle*: A landmark by which the locals find their way home, the *Bottle* of Rutherglen is an icon that everyone in town has a connection to.
- *Brendan Smith: Making a Difference in Rutherglen* - A self proclaimed average Joe, Brendan Smith offers his insatiable enthusiasm and passion for all things audio visual, installing professional standard lighting and sound equipment in the local hall, making it possible for everyone in the community to connect with the arts.

- *Only in Rutherglen*: From classic cars to Parker pies, from crafty ladies to clocks and watches, with a cooper from the Keg Factory thrown in, only in Rutherglen would you find businesses like these side by side in the main street.

Beechworth films

- *The Niklaus family of Beechworth* - Three generations of bee farmers. A profile of three men working together, doing what they love the most.
- *From Latvia to Beechworth: Personal Journeys*: Beate, Marta and Inga reflect on their lives and the traditions they brought with them.
- *Below Beechworth*: A short history of what lies below Beechworth, the parts you rarely see.

*****ENDS*****

Caption: Brendan Smith, subject of the film ‘Brendan Smith: Making a Difference in Rutherglen’ with his daughter Claire Smith.