


Media release

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Popular sculpture 'ANZAC Spirit' to stay in Albany



A striking copper sculpture which captured the imagination of the community during the Anzac Albany commemorations will stay in Albany, thanks to the generosity of a single benefactor.

Brad Lucas' work 'ANZAC Spirit', which depicts an ANZAC soldier kneeling next to his war horse, was on display at Vancouver Arts Centre during the Anzac Albany commemorations and was met with universal acclaim.

Among the sculpture's admirers was His Excellency General the Honourable Sir Peter Cosgrove, Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia, who was so impressed with the work he expressed a wish for it to be displayed in Canberra permanently. However, the sculpture will remain in Albany after it was purchased and donated to the City of Albany.

Businesswoman Rhonda Peplow decided to purchase the work as a tribute to her family, who have a long history in Albany. Mrs Peplow's grandmother Mary Isabella Selby arrived in Albany in 1910 and managed to singlehandedly raise four children during difficult times.

Mrs Peplow dedicated the purchase of the sculpture to her grandmother, her mother Dorothy, and the entire Selby family.

"I was born in Albany, and I felt that I wanted to give something back to the City of Albany as a tribute to my grandmother and all the other women who had to struggle hard," she said.

"I'm also very proud to have been able to do something to allow such a magnificent work of art to stay in its rightful place. When I went to look at the horse sculpture during the Anzac Centenary commemorations, I thought to myself 'that horse should stay in Albany'."

Albany Mayor Dennis Wellington said the City was indebted to Mrs Peplow for her remarkable and unexpected generosity. "On behalf of the community of Albany, I sincerely thank Mrs Peplow for making it possible for 'ANZAC Spirit' to stay right where it belongs," he said.

Mr Lucas said he was thrilled that his sculpture would remain in Albany.

'ANZAC Spirit' will remain on display at Vancouver Arts Centre while the City investigates options for a permanent display location.

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Rhonda Peplow is available for interview. Contact details available on request. Media contact: Keir Tunbridge 9841 9344 / 0429 409 501