

NEWS

An intimate telling of Cowra's peace history

SIX design students from Tokai University's Sapporo campus spent the weekend exploring Cowra and learning about its history of peace and reconciliation.

The students were here to begin work on the Cowra Voices project, a geo-location smartphone app designed to tell Cowra's unique peace history.

Project facilitator, Mayu Kanamori, said the project was important to move Cowra's history forward.

"We've heard a lot about the Breakout itself," she said.

"Now it's time that the world found out about what the people of Cowra have been doing since then.

"The people of Cowra have been instrumental in creating the current friendship we enjoy between Japan, Italy and Indonesia.

"Japan has places like Hiroshima and Nagasaki, where people visit from all over the world to learn about peace. We believe that Cowra is similar, it is the peace capital of Australia, and it is the only peace tourism destination in Australia," she said.

Ms Kanamori said the project was an intimate way of telling history and Cowra's message of peace was an im-



The students along with project facilitators toured Cowra recording atmospherics. They will return later in the year to record interviews.

portant story to tell.

"We (the project facilitators) thought we could connect place, people and memory and we thought that it would be a good idea to do that through the intimacy of voice," she said.

"Although all of these places have an interpretive board, reading it is one thing, hearing the voices of people who were instrumental in opening the Japanese Garden, of bringing the Peace

Bell here, or the students who planted the cherry blossoms is another.

"We want to hear their stories and we want visitors to Cowra to hear them through their smartphone," she said.

Cowra Council General Manager, Paul Devery, said the Cowra voices project was a significant piece of Cowra's every evolving story.

"It should be an interesting project and we are certainly going to try and

identify people in the community that have some personal connection and stories to tell about the ten sites that they've identified," he said.

"But if anybody thinks they have an important story to tell, please get in touch with us.

"We hope we can build upon the app in conjunction with the virtual museum we are looking at, the possibilities are limitless," he said.

The ten sites identified

for the project are; the Cowra Peace Bell, Bellevue Hill Lookout, the Japanese Garden and Cultural Centre, Sakura Avenue, Saburo Nagakura Park, the POW campsite, the cemetery entrance, the Cowra Australian War cemetery, the Japanese cemetery and the Indonesian cemetery.

Those with stories of these sites can contact the Cowra Voices team at cowravoces.wordpress.com/contact/

Off the road for three months

COURT

A WOMAN from Eugowra who was caught driving with methamphetamine and cannabis in her system has been disqualified from driving for three months and fined \$200.

Melissa Ann Brown, 27, was convicted in her absence at Cowra Local Court on Wednesday, February 21 after being charged with driving with under the influence of an illicit substance.

Police facts tendered at court reveal she was driving a green Kia Rio along Redfern Street about 10.30am on September 7 when she was stopped by police for the purpose of a random breath test and drug test.

The test returned a positive detection to methamphetamine.

According to a police statement Brown said "I haven't had any".

She was arrested and taken to Cowra Police Station for the purpose of a second test.

It returned a positive detection to methamphetamine.

A sample was sent to the NSW Forensic Analytical Science Service in Lidcombe which registered a positive detection to methamphetamine and cannabis.

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WEATHER

TODAY
 Mostly sunny
 Min: 12°C Max: 29°C

TOMORROW
 Sunny
 Min: 12°C Max: 32°C

THURSDAY
 Sunny
 Min: 16°C Max: 31°C

FRIDAY
 Partly cloudy
 Min: 15°C Max: 32°C

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Cowra Guardian

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Cowra

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