



Chapman Valley Menshed members converting the Shinema Bus

## 'Drive-in' cinema unveiled in Mullewa

18 November 2019

**A travelling cinema bus will cruise into Mullewa on Saturday 23 November to run a free community movie night, bringing the community together in a bid to reduce social isolation.**

The [Shinema \(shed plus cinema\) bus project](#) has been a year in the making, with Chapman Valley Menshed members spending their Saturdays converting a rusty Toyota Coaster into a funky 'drive-in' cinema, painted with Australian film art.

The 23 November event at Lesser Hall Lawn, Mullewa, will be Shinema's 'premiere', with live music, food, and a screening of the Aussie classic *Jedda*. The organisers hope to continue touring the Midwest in 2020 following the Mullewa debut.

"We want it to be like the circus coming into town, a gathering that brings in the community," Chapman Valley Menshed representative, Ralf E. Mulks said.

"In our town, you can't just pop over the road and see a show. We wanted to build communities up by converting this old bus into a spectacle that people can enjoy, together.

"The screen pulls directly off the roof rack, all equipment fits in the bus and the whole show runs off a generator. It doesn't get more portable than that!"

Shinema is supported by WA Primary Health Alliance as part of the Midwest Suicide Prevention Trial, to combat social isolation in rural towns.

"People are often time poor, living and working on farms or stations on the outskirts of town, or they are FIFO workers or fishermen with lifestyles that make it hard to put down roots and make real connections," Midwest Suicide Prevention Trial Project Coordinator, Ms Jacki Ward said.

"This means people may not have a community to help them through difficult times and to share their problems with, which is why events like Shinema are so important."

It is not just the movie night bringing the community together, with the bus conversion itself uniting the Chapman Valley Menshed members as they flexed their craftsmanship.

The Men's Shed movement originated from the idea that men are less likely to ask for help when needed, which can lead to isolation and mental health disorders. Men's Sheds provide an environment where men can connect with friends new and old, and feel valuable in the community through work on projects like Shinema.

"This has been an incredible program for the Chapman Valley men working on it. We have discovered many hidden talents in our community and everyone is proud to be involved," Mr Mulks said.

The support of Chapman Valley Men's Shed is an example of the Midwest Suicide Prevention Trial's strategy to upskill local people to create a sustainable foundation for suicide prevention in the region.

"When the Trial ends, the only way it will continue to have an impact is by enabling the community to run their own initiatives and grassroots programs," Ms Ward said.

"Often, there are very few organisations and services to step in, compared to the metropolitan area, which is why it is important that community support is driven by local people and organisations like the Chapman Valley Menshed."

To learn more about the Midwest Suicide Prevention Trial, visit our [website](#).

*The Shinema project is supported by Chapman Valley Menshed, WA Primary Health Alliance and the Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal, with additional support for the Mullewa event from the Shire of Mullewa.*

## ENDS

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**About WA Primary Health Alliance:** WA Primary Health Alliance oversees the strategic commissioning functions of the Perth North, Perth South and Country WA Primary Health Networks (PHNs). The WA PHNs are three of 31 PHNs established by the Australian Government nationally to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of medical services for the community. We work across the WA healthcare system with doctors, allied health professionals, hospitals and service providers to improve the coordination of care for people who are at risk of poor health outcomes. For more information, visit [www.wapha.org.au](http://www.wapha.org.au)

**About the National Suicide Prevention Trial:** The Midwest region is one of 12 sites across Australia selected by the Australian Government to participate in The National Suicide Prevention Trial.

The 12 locations chosen for the Trial have a higher than average suicide rate and this major trial aims to find the most effective approaches to suicide prevention for at-risk populations and share this knowledge across Australia.

The Midwest Suicide Prevention Trial is focussing on the Aboriginal community and men aged 25 to 54, specifically farmers, fishers and fly in, fly out (FIFO) workers.

The communities involved are: Geraldton, Carnarvon, Gascoyne Junction, Coral Bay, Shark Bay, Meekatharra, Yalgoo, Mt Magnet, Mullewa, Dongara, Morawa, Mingenew, Perenjori,

Three Springs, Carnamah and Coorow.

Preventing suicide is a complex problem and a one-size-fits-all strategy for dealing with the challenge may not be the best approach. This is exactly what this prevention trial is all about.