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Mangrove Mountain Community News Editorial

Australian Spirit Employment Initiative

Expressions of interest are being sought from Central Coast farming enterprises, rural-based businesses and contemporary veterans to participate in a newly-formed initiative designed to assist veterans gain new skills and employment within primary industries.

The Australian Spirit Employment Initiative (ASEI) requires prospective employers to recruit a veteran, who will then be assisted by the NSW Department of Primary Industries to undergo skills training, related to agriculture. A winning combination for all concerned.

A collaboration between Australian Spirit, Department of Primary Industries, Central Coast veteran associations, Jack Pike (Stuff Happens), Glen Marr (D&G Rural) and Darren Marr (Red Hill Rural), the initiative intends to appeal to veterans who are understandably ready for a change from highly stressful, frontline occupations. It's not widely known that veterans are sought after by many government agencies because of their strong skills and attributes related to leadership, time management, focus and professionalism. A good catch, indeed.

This innovative concept is a direct result of the Australian Spirit project instigated by local artist, Art Studios Cooperative co-founder and Australia Day award recipient Leasha Craig. The engaging four-year project honours the WW1 and ANZAC centenaries, veterans and their families through compelling works of visual art and poetry which have been successfully exhibited throughout the Central Coast, regional NSW and the ACT.

The complete collection (2015-2018) of art, poetry and biographies has been skilfully captured in the Australian Spirit commemorative book. Proceeds from book sales will help fund the action-packed Australian Spirit Family Day grand finale event slated for 10 November 2018 at the Entertainment Grounds, Gosford.

To purchase an Australian Spirit book or gain further event information including sponsorship opportunities, please visit: www.australian-spirit.com.

Veterans and prospective employers are invited to register their interest in the ASEI by directly contacting any of the following people:

Leasha Craig, Australian Spirit - (M) 0406539407
Jack Pike, Stuff Happens - (M) 0455681238
Glen Marr, D&G Rural - (M) 0428351258
Darren Marr, Red Hill Rural - (M) 0417689212