



KYOGLLE COUNCIL

M E D I A R E L E A S E

Date: Thursday 16 March 2017

Bonalbo's working cattle dog statue will be officially unveiled on Saturday 8 April 2017.

The bronze statue, to be erected in Patrick McNamee Anzac Memorial Park, commemorates Bonalbo as the birthplace of working cattle dog trials and pays tribute to the role played by working dogs in rural Australia.

The sport of cattle dog trialling -- think of sheep dog trials but with cattle -- began at the Bonalbo Show in 1950 and was the brainchild of local cattle producers who wanted a means to showcase the skills of their working dogs.

Cattle dog trials have been held at the show ever since and the sport has spread nationally and now boasts an Australian Working Cattle Dog Trial Association.

The ceremony to unveil the statue will start at 10.30am and will feature a performance by local musician Dave Tucker of his original song about a working dog and a special guest appearance by country singer Jeff Gibson.

One of the project's strongest supporters, Fraser Ramsey of Casino, will also be a special guest.

Mr Ramsey is an original committee member from the 1950 show. He has competed at every show since then and still regularly trials his dogs across the Northern Rivers.

Mr Ramsey has followed the project from start to finish, travelling to Brisbane with two other dog triallers to make sure the final statue was true to form before it moved to the foundry to be cast in bronze.

Project co-ordinator Sharon Tucker said she hoped the statue would become a heritage icon and attract tourists to Bonalbo, who would discover the beauty of the Upper Clarence as they travelled through the area.

The bronze sculpture was created by Cathy Anderson of CJ Bronzes in Boonah QLD and is being cast at Chalkos Foundry in Brisbane.

The statue was funded by a Federal Government Stronger Communities Grant, donations from the Northern Cooperative Meat Company, Lions Australia and members of the Bonalbo and district community, and with the support of Kyogle Council.

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Caption: An early photo of preliminary work by artist Cathy Anderson on the working statue.

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