

PRESS RELEASE



Singleton Neighbourhood Centre and Kintsugi Heroes partner to publish Hunter Valley flood resilience stories

03 MARCH 2024, Sydney, NSW:

The Singleton Neighbourhood Centre, working with the charity Kintsugi Heroes are collecting stories highlighting the Hunter Valley community's resilience following the 2022 floods. Kintsugi Heroes is a not-for-profit group that captures, records and publishes these stories that highlight the experience of people from the local community and offer them back to the community, while also bringing these local stories to the world at large.

Ian Westmoreland, the founder of Kintsugi Heroes explains "Our mission is to help people reframe the way they view adversity in their own lives by documenting and sharing real-life, relatable stories from everyday heroes, just like the people in the Hunter Valley"

Under the partnership, Kintsugi Heroes will produce 12 'Kintsugi Heroes' episodes suitable for video and audio publishing as well as radio broadcasting across the Vision Australia national radio network. The stories will also be included in a book that will be freely distributed in the Hunter Valley region. These episodes will feature a range of locals sharing their real-life experiences of overcoming adversity, serving the community in challenging times and offering encouragement and motivation to others who may be going through similar difficulties.

Ian said "We shed light on the impact that natural disasters like floods can have on a community, impacts that are often avoided or not talked about after the event. These stories can help people recognise their own hidden value in whatever they may have been, or are currently, going through."

"We are thrilled that this collaboration will help shine light on the community resilience demonstrated during and after the floods. We also feel encouraged that it will help people who are still experiencing trauma from the flood event. Having these stories published as a podcast and as a book will provide an important and permanent resource to our community," says Sue George, Singleton Neighbourhood Centre Manager.

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About the episodes

The stories will cover Hunter Valley people with different flood experiences including:

- people and businesses who were directly impacted by the floods.
- people and organisations who provided material support.
- people who provided mental health support.
- community organisations who played a supporting role.
- Government representatives who assisted with recovery.

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About Kintsugi Heroes

Kintsugi Heroes is a community where people share their real-life stories about overcoming adversity to provide hope and inspiration to people who may be experiencing or at risk of experiencing similar challenges. Our Kintsugi Heroes have a wide variety of backgrounds across genders, cultures, languages and ages. The hero stories are available through audio and video podcasts and in E-books and printed books.

The philosophy of Kintsugi honours life experiences both good and difficult. By highlighting the repair of cracks or breaks in a ceramic piece, the events of the past become part of its beauty. There is no attempt to conceal the damage. Kintsugi Heroes globally launched on 14 December with four conversations published covering grief, addiction, suicide ideation, health, abuse and more.

About Singleton Neighbourhood Centre

Singleton Neighbourhood Centre Inc. (SNC) is a not-for-profit, incorporated community organisation formed in 1974 to provide a variety of community welfare services to people in the locality of the Singleton Local Government Area. On a day-to-day basis the SNC supports, advocates, refers and informs a wide cross-section of local people including teenagers, individual adults, families and aged pensioners. Through the provision of a wide range of services the Centre helps our clients, residents of Singleton, to maintain and build their own resources and independence, to help them manage their lives in a more positive and empowering way and to help them overcome disadvantage.

Kintsugi Heroes Ltd is an Australian registered Charity.

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The centre is continually developing and implementing a wide range of programs and social support initiatives in the community.