

MEDIA RELEASE

September 2016

THE ART OF FOOTBALL IS COMING TO THE RIVERLAND

Long before his grandson Patrick Dangerfield became an AFL star, Mildura man Bob Utber was a football tragic.

He has now put together two of his passions, football and art, in one of the largest collections of football art seen in Australia outside of Melbourne. "The Art of Football" has just been launched in Mildura and will travel to Berri's River Lands Gallery later in the month.

Utber has sourced work from 20 artists from across Australia and the AFL has lent him pieces including a guernsey from an Australian Rules Football exhibition match at the 1956 Melbourne Olympics.

The Berri exhibition will include paintings, cartoons, caricatures, a maquette of Mark Ricciuto, Indigenous artwork, etchings and abstract works.

A limestone football from local artist Tim Baulderstone will be on display alongside three paintings by former Collingwood player Rupert Betheras and works from Archibald finalists Megan Roodenrys and Geoff Dyer. The exhibition will also feature paintings of 2015 Brownlow medallist Nat Fyffe, West Coast ruckman Nic Naitanui, AFL games record-holder Brent Harvey, Indigenous ambassador Adam Goodes, Essendon coach James Hird, Collingwood's Nathan Buckley, St Kilda's Robert Harvey, Lenny Hayes, Nick Reiwoldt and Nicky Winmar, and Fitzroy "super-boot" Bernie Quinlan. The oldest painting in the exhibition *Up there Cazaly*, also on loan from the AFL, features Roy Cazaly in action.

Sports historian and curator of the exhibition Bob Utber says the public will be delighted with what's on display.

"We have been fortunate to obtain some of the best works of football art from a variety of sources throughout the country and visitors will be astounded by what they see. Private individuals have loaned some of their works while the AFL have also sent some works from their archives," said Utber.

"Thanks to the generous support of John Harms, who was responsible for putting me in touch with some of the Almanac artists for which I am truly grateful, and thanks of course to The Footy Almanac for making this happen."

Country Arts SA Arts and Cultural Facilitator, Rebecca Farrant said the exhibition would bring a new appreciation of art to the community.

"It will be great to see sport and art come together and bring more people into the River Lands Gallery," she said.

"We're encouraging people to wear their footy colours to the launch, whether its local, SANFL or AFL."

Utber will also be present at the launch and will be on hand to chat about how he brought together this great collection of work, including a chance meeting in Russia.

The Art of Football will be launched at the River Lands Gallery on Thursday September 22 at 6:30pm. Rsvps encouraged 8582 2288 or RiverlandsGallery@countryarts.org.au.

Have your photograph featured! The general public is invited to submit images from the Riverland Mallee 2016 football season via [Facebook event](#). Submissions will be shown on a screen at the exhibition depicting football life in the Riverland. Work can be submitted until Tuesday 20 September.

Schools

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All schools in the region are invited to make papier-mâché footballs to be exhibited at the gallery. Footballs can feature any design that students come up with. Open to primary and high schools. Work can be submitted from now until Wednesday 21 September.