

Giant pumpkin festival is building on success

THE 7th annual Giant Pumpkin Competition, Creative Arts and Harvest Festival at Bowmans-Murmungee on Saturday, April 13 is shaping up as even bigger and better than last year.

This popular festival, which won the Rural City of Wangaratta Australia Day Community Event for 2018, also incorporates the annual art show and a farm gate display.

The art show opening will be held on Friday, April 12 from 6pm - 8pm with special guest Wooragee artist Catherine Stewart and music by the Widows of the Parish Quartet.

The Farm Gate Art Display in the Murmungee Basin Drive allows visitors to cycle around following a map to see the local farmers' creations.

For more information on the display contact John Bradford on 0437 271 480.

The festival activities also include pumpkin competitions (from prettiest to the biggest), a pumpkin pie baking competition, a market with 'Make it; bake it; grow it' stalls (enquiries



HEARTS AS BIG AS A PUMPKIN: The Murmungee-Bowman's pumpkin festival committee, which includes Lorna and James Neary (left), festival co-ordinator Cecily Fletcher, Jenny Reed and Greg Clydsdale (three on right), has donated \$1000 to the Wangaratta Carevan (pictured treasurer Ross Johnston and vice president John Houghton) to show their support for the community organisation. Cecily said the committee felt the work the carevan has been doing is something they value and wanted to acknowledge it. "It's about people contributing to where they live," she said. Wangaratta Carevan marketing and media officer Trudy Cornish thanked the committee for the support. "A donation of this size always helps with the big running costs of the Carevan," she said. "It shows us the community is helping others." The festival committee also donated \$1000 to Parkinson's Victoria. The donations came from money raised at last year's Giant Pumpkin Competition and Harvest Festival at Murmungee.

PHOTO: Leah Anderson-Byrne

Deb Tully 0417 101 773), a silent auction, smoked meat and floral art design demonstrations, coffee, lunch and classic Devonshire tea.

During the day visitors will be able to enjoy the gorgeous voices of a new vocal quartet The Widows of the Parish and the sounds of

Ron Dawson and Friends.

There will also be free children's activities.

For more information on the Giant Pumpkin

Competition, Creative Arts and Harvest Festival contact Kathy Dobson on 0419 591 721 or Cecily Fletcher on 5727 1340.