**BOLD - ALAN PARSONS**

**TRANSCRIPT**

Interviewer (off camera) - When you're ready.

Alan - Ready. This is the workshop area in my shed where all kinds of things get created. It's interesting that when you get to a certain age, and you've made the journey, of exploring, trying this, trying that making a whole bunch of mistakes along the way, but are they really mistakes, no they're not, they become your learning curve. And the only thing that's part of this package is height, height restrictions.

Alan - However, there's ways around that too. So this is me truck that was created in me shed. I've done a hundred thousand kilometres in this truck, turbo diesel, Ford ranger. My legs are not as long as other people's legs. So, all you do to drive a motor vehicle is make longer pedals. All rigged up so I can reach. I mean, what's the issue. Got the grinders and things out, built the frame and put all electrics in it. And these are the steps I built. Fridge, stove, first aid kit, bed, and underneath the bed is all storage. Totally, totally set up. And this is the truck.

- [Interviewer] When you look at the world, it seems like you don't look at it and see the challenges.

Alan - They are all challenges, but then you create an opportunity from that. You see this, that's my mantra. And out of the opportunities then you manifest and create a reality. I've been a non-conformist for quite awhile. The original concept was that there were these three blocks. When I first saw them, they needed tidying up and cleaning up. And then I saw a blank canvas.

CEO of Glasshouse Neighbourhood House Natasha Odgers - What makes this area and this community what is it, it's really... So we're at the Glass House Mountains Neighbourhood Centre. It's a wonderful little Neighbourhood Centre that brings about so much life in, in this town and attracts people from all around the local community. So here we are with the entries.

Alan - People responded so amazingly well, look at, this is a gorgeous colour. That's just amazing.

Natasha - The first block being focused on the past, the middle block about the present and then the future or the now ideas.

Alan - What could actually work is to get some hand prints done to create a time capsule of 2020. In difficult times, we were able to do this.

Natasha - So Uncle Alan is a very special character. He has this vibrance about him, and when he has an idea, it's, it's full of excitement and it's full of really goodwill to do something with the whole community in mind. He's a wonderful person to have around, brings a smile to everyone's faces his care for people and belief in including everyone and making everyone feel valued and special is a wonderful trait of Uncle Alan's. And we're very fortunate to have him part of our community.

Alan - Good to see you here. And you put your hand print on the top.

Participant - Yes.

Alan - Took a bit of effort, but good on you. And dads can do it too, you know. Because I've lived in this area for as long as I have, I can go anywhere in this community, and it's absolutely fine because everyone's, ah there goes Al, or there's Al. And I think that's really beautiful to be able to feel comfortable with your community and to be accepted in your community. And then that creates amazing spaces for all manner of things to be done until you no longer have to wear the label. You can be who you are.

Interviewer - Did you know many Elders when you were younger?

Alan - None. It was only in my thirties that I discovered that I was of Indigenous descent. And so that journey then opened up lots of avenues. It's a very energising thing to have a family connection and a cultural connection and a spiritual connection. So whenever I come in here, it's kind of like almost coming home. And art for Indigenous people is about storytelling. Are you catching that?

Alan - It's called 'Journey across Country'. The footprints come up. And then this symbol here means a yarning circle. And the more we share these kind of things, the greater it is expansion of understanding and how we all work together. Being born with a disability, creates an opportunity to be positive about everything. What choice is there? When you accept it creates this wonderful opportunity to be able to navigate into an unknown. It's like an adventure. And even, when you get older, it continues. What legacy can you leave behind?