



Media release

16 May 2008

## **OPR Partnership brings Good Heart to Perth**

A group of Indigenous artists from the mid-west are currently crafting their works of art in preparation for next month's Bundi Gurdurdu (Good Heart) mid-west Aboriginal Art Exhibition.

The exhibit will showcase a mix of contemporary and traditional Indigenous art.

Among the 40 pieces that will make up the exhibition, will be works by well established mid-west artist Olive Boddington, Loretta Egan, who is known for her fine, neat dot work and colourful, rhythmic designs and Charmaine Green, who won the NAIDOC poster competition in 2006.

With artists contributing from Geraldton, Yalgoo, Cue, Mt Magnet, Meekatharra, Morawa, Mullewa and the Yulga Jinna Community near Meekatharra, a variety of different Indigenous art styles and techniques are being used to produce this quality exhibit.

Naaguja Elder Mrs Yvonne Radcliffe and the Naaguja Warangkarri Aboriginal Corporation worked in partnership with Oakajee Port and Rail and the City of Geraldton-Greenough to establish a database of indigenous artists working in the mid-west.

Mrs Radcliffe, who spearheaded the involvement of the community based artists, said they were very excited to be taking part in this fantastic exhibition.

"We have been able to provide paints, canvas and lots of encouragement for many to become involved in their first exhibition," Mrs Radcliffe said.

"This project provides practical and meaningful support for local Aboriginal communities and is a very important step toward a sustainable Indigenous art enterprise in the mid-west."

Project Manager Nan Rickards said that she is very confident that all the works of art will be sold.

“I’m hoping that this exhibit could be the big break for some of the budding artists, that would see them go on to make a name for themselves in the art world.” Mrs Rickards said.

The Bundi Gurdurdu (Good Heart) Mid West Aboriginal Art Exhibition is sponsored by Oakajee Port and Rail as part of its commitment to develop the community in the mid-west.

Commission fees from the sale of the artworks have been waived so all of the money raised goes directly to the artists.

“We see next month’s exhibition as a great opportunity to not only promote and sell Indigenous art, but also to contribute to the sustainable development of mid-west Indigenous art and provide support for Indigenous communities,” Mrs Rickards said.

Nan, who has previously coordinated the Rio Tinto “Colours of Our Country” exhibition and managed the Cossack Art Awards in the Shire of Roebourne says putting together this exhibition has been a wonderful experience for everyone involved.

“It’s been fantastic to see all of the artists support and encourage each other. Being an artist is often a solitary experience but this has been a great team building event and it would be great to see it happen more often.”

The exhibition, which is at the QV1 building, 250 St George Terrace, runs from June 9-13 and the sales desk will be staffed between 10am-4pm. Enquiries outside of these hours can be directed to Nan Rickards on 0417 184 290.

-ends-

For more information contact

Kim Pervan, Manager Public Relations Oakajee Port and Rail 0407 083 832

Nan Rickards Bundi Gurdurdu (Good Heart) Aboriginal Art Exhibition 0417 184 290.