



Media release

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## Exhibition unearths Good Heart in the mid-west

Works from a new group of exciting mid-west Indigenous artists will take centre stage in Perth next week as part of the **Bundi Gurdurdu** (Good Heart) mid-west Aboriginal Art Exhibition.

Project manager Nan Rickards said the exhibition included works from new artists who had not previously exhibited.

“There is a wealth of talent in the mid-west that is crying out to be shown to the world,” Ms Rickards said.

“For years the mid-west has been in the background but there is an enthusiastic group of artists in the region in need of support and the quality of their work is fantastic.”

Ms Rickards, who has spent the past two decades working with Indigenous artists in the Pilbara, said while there was an established gallery in the region, many of the local artists lacked a network of support.

“It may be that until now, the communities haven’t had sufficient opportunity to enable this work to be fostered,” she said.

“Many of the artists haven’t had ready access to paints and equipment and the State Government, local governments and private industry all have a role to play in nurturing these artists and helping to transform lives through art.

“I have every confidence that there is great artistic wealth in this region. I’m now seeing in Geraldton what was happening in the Pilbara several years ago and it’s very exciting.”

Oakajee Port and Rail Chief Executive Officer Christopher Eves echoed Ms Rickards remarks.

“We need to work together in a strategic partnership for the long term to ensure that the development of mid-west arts becomes both sustainable and fulfilling,” Mr Eves said.

“Our partnership with the Naaguja Warangkarri Aboriginal Corporation and Mrs Yvonne Radcliffe, who has lead the campaign into the mid-west, demonstrates our approach to working with community.

“We hope to be able to build on this in the future, should we be awarded the tender to build the new port at Oakajee.”

More than 40 Indigenous artists will be featured in the **Bundi Gurdurdu** mid-west Aboriginal Art Exhibition which is a joint initiative of Oakajee Port and Rail and the Naaguja Warangkarri Aboriginal Corporation.

The artists are from mid-west communities including Geraldton, Yalgoo, Cue, Mt Magnet, Meekatharra, Morawa, Mullewa and Yulga Jinna near Meekatharra.

Among the 80 plus pieces, will be works by well established mid-west artists 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.

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

The exhibition will showcase a mix of contemporary and traditional Indigenous art and will be a rare opportunity for people to see and buy the works of new Indigenous artists and to support a new artistic community.

The exhibition at the QV1 building, 250 St George Terrace, runs from June 9-13 and the sales desk will be staffed between 10am-4pm.

#### *Partners*

The Bundi Gurdurdu mid-west Aboriginal Art Exhibition is a partnership project of the Naaguja Warangkarri Aboriginal Corporation and Oakajee Port and Rail.

Bundi Gurdurdu is supported by members of the mid-west and Western Australian business community demonstrating their commitment to the development of community and economic benefits for the mid-west.

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