



Media release

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Premier backs mid-west artists

Premier Alan Carpenter was among the buyers who helped make the inaugural Bundi Gurdurdu (Good Heart) mid-west Aboriginal Art Exhibition a success.

Mr Carpenter visited the exhibition last week and purchased a painting by Geraldton artist Sonya Edney.

The Premier said the painting would take pride of place in his home.

“The entire exhibition was stunning and there were numerous artworks I would love to have bought,” Mr Carpenter said.

The exhibition, a partnership project of Oakajee Port and Rail (OPR) and the Naaguja Warangkarri Aboriginal Corporation was hailed as an important initiative to showcase the works of emerging artists.

Oakajee Port and Rail Chief Executive Officer Christopher Eves said OPR was keen to help build a sustainable arts community in the mid-west.

“OPR is ready to deliver real results for the people of the mid-west. We want to continue to build strong partnerships with a range of groups throughout the community,” Mr Eves said.

“We are very excited about the potential of the artists in the mid-west region and hope this exhibition will become an annual event.”

Exhibition co-ordinator Nan Rickards said the Premier spent almost an hour viewing the 81 works on display and discussing the emergence of new Indigenous artists in the mid-west region.

“The artists were thrilled that the Premier viewed the exhibition and purchased a painting,” Ms Rickards said.

“We were always very confident about the high quality of the work on display but there is no better endorsement than a sale. Half of the works were sold and that is an incredible result for a five day exhibition.”

Commission fees from the sale of the artworks were waived and a total of more than \$50,000 has been paid directly to the participating artists.

The works of Indigenous artists from mid-west communities including Geraldton, Yalgoo, Cue, Mt Magnet, Meekatharra, Morawa, Mullewa and Yulga Jinna near Meekatharra were featured in the exhibition.

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