

Tuesday 23 June 2009

Good Heart Exhibition ends with record sales

The 2009 Good Heart Mid-West Aboriginal Art Exhibition, proudly supported by Oakajee Port and Rail, has now concluded with record sales and attendance ensuring this year's instalment was another success.

In a huge indication of the quality of the artworks, 93 per cent of the paintings were sold over the week-long exhibition, which showcased both contemporary and traditional styles from mid-west indigenous artists.

Good Heart Project Manger Nan Rickards said the sales generated in excess of \$60,000, which was returned to the artists.

"All of our artists have simply been overwhelmed by the response to their works," she said.

"The support of the community has been phenomenal, helping us to more than double the number of works sold compared with last year.

"Seventy-five of the paintings were sold on the opening night and the steady flow of visitors throughout the week ensured the works continued to sell."

In addition to the 200 guests who attended the opening by Premier Colin Barnett, more than 4000 people viewed the exhibition, which was held at the QV1 building in Perth.

Nan Rickards said that the artists took great confidence from showing their works to a wider audience and it gave them further inspiration as well as an opportunity to derive some income from their works.

The exhibition even generated significant interest from interstate and overseas, with two of Morawa artist Dawn Hamlett's paintings shipped to buyers in Kuala Lumpur, one of which was for the Malaysian Minister for Finance.

Murchison Metals executive chairman Paul Kopejtka purchased Weld Range by Meekatharra artist James Brockman, who had six works in the exhibition.

Exhibition partner Crosslands Resources purchased works by Meekatharra artists, Lorraine Simpson and James Brockman and Mullewa artists Verallynn Jackamarra and Barbara Comeagain.

OPR Manager Community and Public Relations Kim Pervan said Oakajee Port and Rail congratulated the artists and said the Company was delighted with the success of this year's exhibition.



For more information contact **Kim Pervan**
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MEDIA STATEMENT

“OPR is proud to play a part in developing the mid-west Indigenous arts community through the Good Heart Exhibition and we look forward to continuing to support the region to reach its full potential,” Ms Pervan said.

“This exhibition would not have been possible without the enormous creative talent of our mid-west artists, the strong support of our many sponsors and partners, as well as the local galleries and shires.”

Exhibition Partners:

Crosslands Resources Ltd
ANZ
Calibre Engenium
JFA Consultants
DLA Phillips Fox
ARG
AECOM
Geraldton Port Authority

Exhibition Sponsors:

P&O, Synergies Economic Consulting, Mid West Development Commission

OPR acknowledges the assistance of:

Yamaji Art, Tjukurba Gallery – Wiluna, Shire of Mullewa, Shire of Morawa, City of Geraldton-Greenough, FD Third Person, Gryphon Management, Fremantle Football Club, Geraldton Newspapers, Jacksons Drawing Suppliers, ABC Radio, Outback Business Networks, Mid West Chamber of Commerce & Industry and Project Manager Nan Rickards.

About OPR

Oakajee Port and Rail was established in September 2007, to pursue a joint venture between Murchison Metals Ltd (Murchison), Mitsubishi Development Pty Ltd (MDP) and Crosslands Resources Ltd (Crosslands).

OPR seeks to maximise value for the community, government, its shareholders and customers from the development and coordinated operation of an iron ore supply chain comprising rail and port infrastructure for iron ore sourced from the mid-west region of Western Australia.

OPR is developing a new modern mid-west rail network and a deepwater port at Oakajee, 25km north of Geraldton, to support the expansion of regional iron ore export operations. A State Development Agreement was signed with the Government of Western Australia on 20 March 2009 for the project's development. Major environmental and engineering assessments have been undertaken for the Oakajee project.



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