



NAIDOC Week Art Exhibition Opening Night - Stockyard Gallery

Last night the Bass Coast South Gippsland Reconciliation Group Annual NAIDOC Week Indigenous Art Exhibition opened at the Stockyard Gallery in Foster.

While Ned Dennis was MC for the night, and Acting CEO Bryan Sword did the first acknowledgement, it was the shared welcome by the two local Registered Aboriginal Parties that set the tone for the night. The theme for NAIDOC in 2019 is *Voice. Treaty. Truth. Let's work together for a shared future*, which was perfectly captured by the welcome by Uncle Lloyd Hood from Gunaikurnai and Uncle Shane Clarke and Eric Edwards from Bunurong.

Barbara Look, Council's Community Strengthening Officer was rapt at how the opening night went.

"The gallery looked great, thanks to Stockyard Gallery volunteers," said Ms Look. "The artists who contributed to the show – including Ronald, Patrice, Eileen, Safina, Lisa, Melissa, Casey, and Peter who were there for the opening – have done an amazing job on the works they have submitted.

"Kudos to Roger Fenwick, the CEO of the Gunai Kurnai Lands and Waters Aboriginal Corporation (GLaWAC), who bought Auntie Eileen's *Kangaroos* – the first sale of the show, on behalf of GLaWAC.

"I'd like to acknowledge the great work of Sue, Tess and Wally of the Stockyard Gallery Section 86 Committee. I'd also like to thank the South Gippsland Hospital Auxiliary for their efforts with the catering.

"The Arts Officers at both South Gippsland Shire Council and Bass Coast Shire Council have worked with me to support the Reconciliation Group to bring these exhibitions together. It was a joint effort of which I think we can all be proud."

NAIDOC originally stood for 'National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee'. This committee was once responsible for organising national activities during NAIDOC Week and its acronym has since become the name of the week itself.

The exhibition will be presented at two venues and will be open to the public seven days a week from 5 July to 28 July, 10.00am to 4.00pm. The venues are Inverloch Community Hub and Stockyard Gallery at Foster.

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For media enquiries, please contact the Communications team on 5662 9200
South Gippsland Shire Council, 9 Smith St. (Private Bag 4), Leongatha 3953
communications@southgippsland.vic.gov.au
www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au