

26th May, 2011

Council to celebrate Reconciliation Week with the Pallingjang – saltwater exhibition

Council will be hosting a weeklong art exhibition in its foyer as part of Reconciliation Week celebrations.

The exhibition to be launched on Thurs the 26th of May which coincides with Sorry Day, includes works from six artists from the immediate Shoalhaven area: Julie Freeman, Loretta Parsley, Steven Russell, Mally Smart, Jodie Stewart and Phyllis Stewart.

This year's theme for Reconciliation Week is *Recognition* and the collection of works to be shown from local indigenous artists draws heavily on the theme.

The exhibition recognises traditional knowledge, often translated orally, that now has migrated into something visual. The topics within these works are those of the Illawarra and South Coast cultures of coastal lifestyles.

Over countless generations, the South Coast community developed its renowned fishing skills. Every year people would read their country: the flowering blackwattle signalled when the blackfish were running; when the sea turned rough with the north-east wind it was time to harvest mullet.

These works tell the stories of those generations and aim to share the knowledge so their importance will never be forgotten. The exhibition is free and will be shown on the first floor of the council building.

Shoalhaven City Mayor, Cllr Paul Green sees the exhibition as a great tool for learning more about the indigenous traditions of the South Coast. "I'm so pleased that we can exhibit this wonderful collection of art. I encourage everyone to come into the administration building and spend some time taking in these beautiful pieces of art." Cllr Green said.

What: Pallingjang Saltwater Exhibition
Where: Shoalhaven City Council Bridge Road Nowra
When: Thursday 26th May to Friday 3rd June 2011

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