

D18/5293

From General Manager, Orange City Council

Date 6 February 2018

Lake Mungo's desert skies inspire artists for new gallery exhibition

The stark beauty of the night sky over the dry, desert lake bed of Lake Mungo in far western NSW and the rolling hills of Cowra were the inspiration for the first new exhibition for the year at the Orange Regional Gallery.

Titled *StarPicket*, the exhibition brings together the work of 14 Indigenous and non-Indigenous artists in a cross-cultural collaborative project that explores the wonder of our night skies.



Funded by the Regional Arts Fund NSW, the *StarPicket* project came together with a series of field trips and workshops carried out in central western NSW and Lake Mungo, south of Broken Hill. During the trip, indigenous traditional owners and elders shared their knowledge and oral histories. The group of artists then responded to these opportunities as they connected to the landscape through their work.

Orange Mayor Reg Kidd said he's expecting the gallery's first exhibition for the year to attract a lot of local interest.

"Anyone who's ever gazed at the wonder of the night sky in an isolated location will connect with this exhibition," Cr Reg Kidd said. "On top of the visit to Lake Mungo this group of artists have had the opportunity to meet with local elders and hear their stories. It's going to be interesting to see where this inspiration has taken them."

Curators of the *StarPicket* project, Aleisha Lonsdale (*Arts Out West*) and Phoebe Cowdery (*The Corridor Project*) invited the artists to investigate ideas around indigenous star navigation and the relationship of traditional indigenous culture to seasonal land management, physical pathways and our flora and fauna.

The *StarPicket* exhibition was the final result of this creative exploration and the further development of these concepts in the artists' studios.

ORANGE CITY COUNCIL

135 - 137 Byng Street, Orange NSW, 2800

Office Hours: 9am-5pm

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MEDIA RELEASE

Orange City Council Services Committee Chair Cr Kevin Duffy said that as well as the new exhibition, the gallery will also be running a series of artist-led workshops and demonstrations.

“These artists take a range of different approaches that includes painting, drawing, ceramics, photography, sculpture and assembling objects,” Cr Kevin Duffy said. “It’s good that locals will be able to attend these workshops with the artists with sessions for children, young people and adults.”

People should contact the gallery for more information about the workshops.

Participating artists included:

Genevieve Carroll, Phoebe Cowdery, John Daley, Jac Davies, Rebecca Dowling, Virginia Hilyard, Ken Hutchinson, Alesha Lonsdale, Bill Moseley, Irene Ridgeway, Vicki Skarratt, Heather Vallance, Lee Wynyard, Richard Swansborough, Nyree Reynolds.

The exhibition opens on Friday 9 February at 6 for 6:30pm with a Floor Talk by curators, Aleisha Lonsdale and Phoebe Cowdery prior to the opening at 5:30pm.

StarPicket on on-show at the Orange Regional Gallery - 9 February 2018 to 1 April 2018

Opening 6 for 6:30PM, Friday 9 February, 2018

Curatorial Floor Talk at 5:30 pm prior to the opening

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