

# For Our Elders

## NAIDOC Exhibition 2023



This exhibition was created and supported by:



*Bush Blossom  
Gallery*

Cover image: Amelia, 'Nostalgia' (detail), Clontarf Aboriginal College

Victoria Park Centre for the Arts | Kent Street Gallery  
12 Kent Street, East Victoria Park | [www.vicparkarts.org.au](http://www.vicparkarts.org.au)

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## NAIDOC Exhibition 2023

Victoria Park Centre for the Arts' Kent Street Gallery is proud to host our fourth dedicated NAIDOC exhibition for this year's theme of For Our Elders. We are most grateful to local Wadandi/Minang/Koreng Bibbulmun artist Lea Taylor for suggesting the inclusion of weaving work from years 9 to 12 students of Clontarf Aboriginal College. Lea introduced traditional weaving techniques in a series of workshops facilitated by Clontarf College's Art Teacher, Kellee Seden in May and June of 2023. The woven objects and paintings express the students' engagement with traditional stories, cultural practice and techniques.

Monika Dvorak's Bush Blossom Gallery, Kalgoorlie, are showcasing works from the Dimer family, who they have represented for three generations. Jason Dimer and his daughters Vera and Beige have created a wonderful series of paintings focusing on their traditional stories. The works include detailed descriptions of their stories on the back of each canvas.

Student artist/designer Jenae Evans from Laverton is represented with her design work. Jenae's designs were awarded and printed as the cycling and team support jerseys for the annual Laverton



Classic cycle ride, between Perth and Laverton.

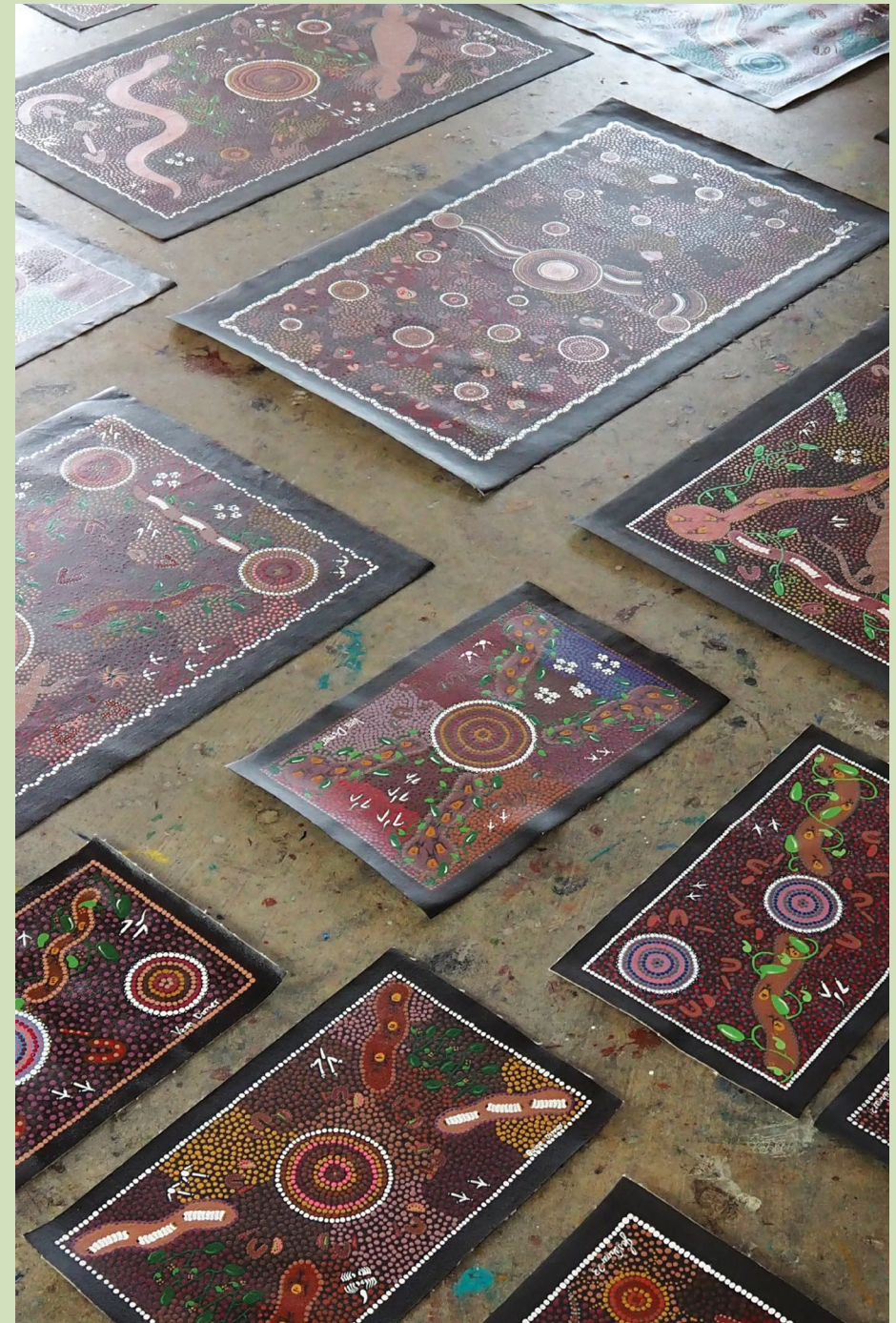
Jenae's designs are included in this year's exhibition. Greg Hall, Maree Laffan and Sabine Bird have promoted the Laverton community's art over the last three years. Their work in raising awareness of the community's artists, designers and cultural makers has promoted established and young producers. Jenae's inclusion in the exhibition is supported by The Cycling Development Foundation, Shire of Laverton, Great Boulder Resources and Gold Roads.

Many thanks to the Board, staff and volunteers of Victoria Park Centre for the Arts, whose commitment and work support the Centre in developing this initiative.

This NAIDOC program is supported by local business Monadelphous Group, who are headquartered in Victoria Park.

*-Jeremy Blank*

Pictured right: Paintings by Jason, Vera and Beige Dimer, Bush Blossom Gallery



# Ngalang Karbali Moyran Kora-Kora For Our Elders

In 2022 I received a call from Kellee Seden, the Art Teacher at Clontarf Aboriginal College, enquiring about me working with a group of female Aboriginal students to teach them weaving. Kellee was successful with a grant application and details were finalised for two workshops in 2023. Around the same time, I received a call from Kent Street Gallery Director, Jeremy Blank looking for a recommendation of an Aboriginal Artist for their annual NAIDOC Exhibition. I instantly thought about the girls from Clontarf and the project I was facilitating with them. In a matter of minutes, an idea grew in my mind and blurted out of my mouth, “why don’t you show the work I’ll be teaching the girls. Given the theme for the exhibition, ‘For Our Elders’ it would be a perfect fit. I, the Elder teaching the younger generation an ancient craft in a way it would traditionally be done”. The next step was to get Clontarf on board. The rest, as they say, is history.

The work you see in this exhibition is by a small group of young women from Aboriginal communities across Western Australia and the Northern Territory. They are aged between 14 and 17, and none had never woven using these materials

or techniques prior to this project. After a shaky start the girls’ confidence grew and I convinced them that they could do it. The idea of an exhibition was becoming exciting. For me, the project was an opportunity to share a cultural practice in a way that had been done for many centuries. I have been able to introduce these girls to something they may not have had the opportunity to do. Who knows, one day one of them may be presenting their own work in an exhibition somewhere in the world or sharing what they learned over the 3 weeks I worked with them with another generation, or their own children.

We worked through the process of dying raffia using natural dye and making clay forms, which would then become the base for their creations. I then taught them how to attach the coiling to make their baskets. Our final week together was when the girls truly shone, they were confident in their work and the process. They stretched themselves. Some tried to make a full basket from a provided starter and made sculptural works. As you view their work, keep in mind, they have not done this before. I am so proud of the work these deadly young women have presented for your viewing, as should they.

Yinang murduin yorgah, yeeramanugaween  
walyadi wer be wumbudin.

Young strong women, stand tall and be proud.

– Lea Taylor





Pictured: Year 10 Clontarf College Weaving





Pictured: Top: Amelia (Year 12) | Bottom: Desrae (Year 11)



Pictured: Top: Year 9 Clontarf weaving | Bottom: Charlotte (Year 12)

# Janae Evans

Janae is a 16 year-old proud Wongatha girl, who has lived in the remote town of Laverton all her life. As one of 9 children, she is an incredibly talented, calm and intelligent girl that represents a beautiful human character.

The entire community associates her name with her talent for the arts. She is an avid painter and full of ideas, which she expresses in drawings and paintings at school, at home, or wherever she finds an occasion. Starting off with pencil and paper, she has found the digital arts, where she can express colours much more elegantly.

Janae has a great eye for detail and colour schemes. Her connection to country and knowledge of the stories of her ancestors derived from the local elders that influenced the town with regular excursions to country and associated storytelling while growing up.

Her geographic isolation has prevented her work from being seen much more broadly, and this initiative is the chance to do so. It is also her chance to convey stories of her culture to the wider public in Western Australia.

– Sabine Bird



Pictured: Top: Year 9-12 Clontarf weaving | Bottom: Year 10 Clontarf weaving

Pictured following page:  
Winning jersey design for Laveron Emerging Artist Prize 2021, Janae Evans







# Bush Blossom Gallery

I remember the special visits by talented artist Neil Dimer (deceased) to Desert Art Gallery from around 1995. He used to walk into the shop (top end of Hannan Street, Kalgoorlie) often with a large rolled canvas either on his shoulder or under his arm. It was as if he had been hunting for the day. I called him the philosopher and no matter how busy I was... it was focus time when Mr Dimer walked in with one of his masterpieces.

Mr Dimer was a descendant of the original people of Kalgoorlie and he generously shared the stories of the local area. The creation stories related to the Rainbow Serpent back in the Dreamtime and the features of the local flora and fauna, beautiful waterholes and creeks was of the finest dot work.

Jason Dimer is a Wongutha, Ngadju & Mirning man and has been a long time artist working with Desert Art since the 1990's and with Bush Blossom Gallery since 2014.

Just like his father Jason has taken the Dimer style to the next level and his beautiful artwork is now seen on many Kalgoorlie-Boulder buildings and in public art spaces including two Heartwalk murals.

Pictured right: Vera, Jason and Beige Dimer at Kalgoorlie Fashion Week, 2019 (photo courtesy of Jason Dimer)

Pictured following pages in order: Beige Dimer 'Waterhole Stories', Jason Dimer 'Karnpi Kapi Yuwa', Vera Dimer, 'Collecting Karlkurlas and Wildflowers'

Jason's artwork has been exhibited throughout Australia and is in International collections.

Jason has passed down the family stories and skills to his own children Beige Vera Jasely and Neil-J.

Beige and Vera's paintings use traditional earthy colours like their grandfather however have extended their colour palette to include contemporary tones to reflect the country where the stories take place. They are now the third generation of Dimer family artists I have worked with and commend the family's art traditions to honor the local stories and our elders...

*Monika Dvorak – Curator*

















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