

Kokatha Art On Display At Carrapateena

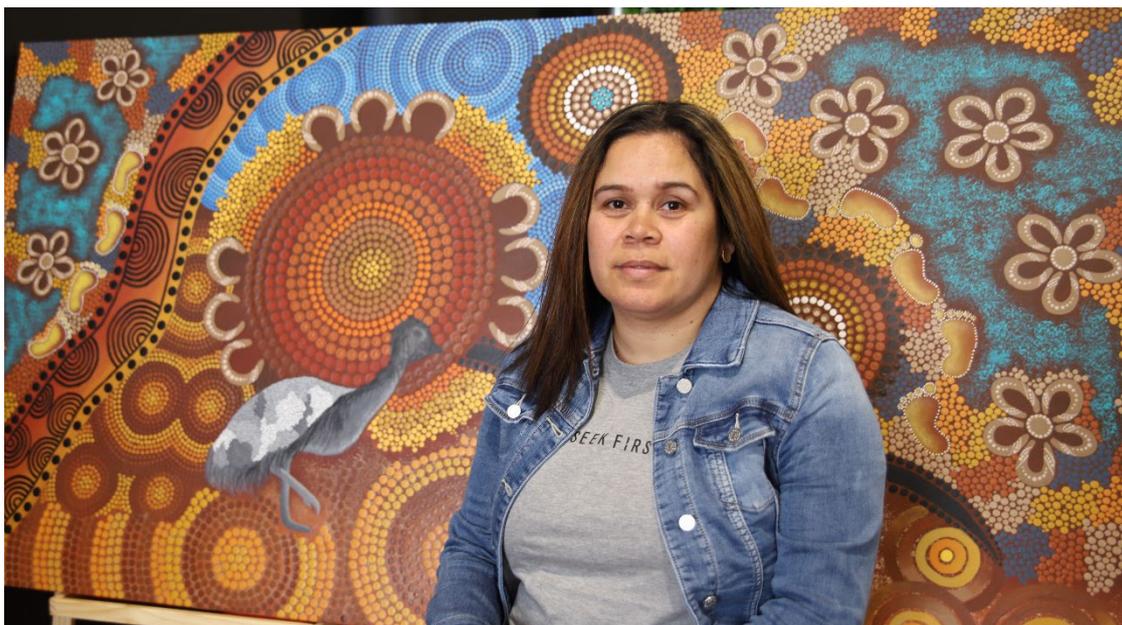
Stunning artwork created by Kokatha artists will soon be brightening up the walls of the OZ Minerals Carrapateena Mine.

The pieces were commissioned as a celebration of the partnership between OZ Minerals and Kokatha Aboriginal Corporation (KAC).

OZ Minerals Carrapateena and KAC have a history of collaboration and have spent many years working together to promote health, education, employment, training, cultural and economic opportunities for Kokatha people.

For the competition, local artists were encouraged to design pieces that were inspired by the lands around Carrapateena while also incorporating elements of Kokatha culture. Employees at Carrapateena were then invited to vote on the entries to select the winning designs.

One of the successful artists, Shirley Williams, chose to enter her design as a way to share her artwork with a wide audience.



Above: Artist Shirley Williams in front of her artwork

"My piece is about OZ Minerals and KAC working together to create value and a better future for all of us," said Shirley. "I chose to use bright colours to convey success, while the footsteps show that we're walking this journey together."

Like Shirley, Port Augusta artist Tamika Reid predominately paints as a hobby with skills learned from her Nan and Mum.

"I started learning colours and techniques from my family and now I paint as a stress reliever," said Tamika.

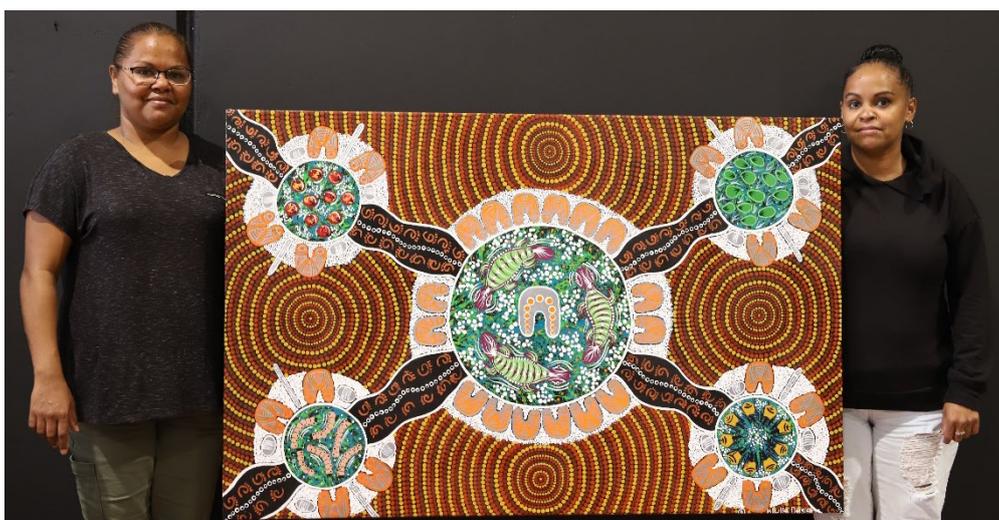
Tamika's artwork is particularly impressive in person, measuring at more than three metres wide and two metres high.



Above: Artist Tamika Reid standing beside her painting

"It was pretty hard to find a canvas that big to start off with," said Tamika. "And then when I was painting, I had to do a lot of it outside because it didn't really fit in the house."

Leah and Jasmine Brown, founders of the local art company Wulla Designs, were successful in the third category which called for a medicinal theme.



Above: Leah Brown (L) and Jasmine Brown (R) beside their artwork

“We chose to weave in a few different elements of traditional bush medicine,” said Jasmine. “If you look at the painting you can see the quandong, honey ant, witchetty grub, wild bananas and the sleepy lizard. These all have specific meaning in our culture and we’re proud to include them in our design.”

Leah and Jasmine come from a long line of artists, learning their craft from their parents and grandparents.

“We named our business Wulla Designs after our grandfather because we wanted to recognise the members of our families who came before us while also leaving something that our kids can carry on after we’re gone,” said Jasmine.

Given the success of these initial commissions, the team at Carrapateena is looking forward to similar programs in the future.

“We are so pleased to have Kokatha people sharing Kokatha culture with us at Carrapateena,” said Matthew Kidner, Communities Superintendent at OZ Minerals Carrapateena.

“By acknowledging the history of Kokatha people and the significance of the land we work on, we can work together to provide a range of opportunities for everyone involved.”

As well as the canvasses, the competition also received entries for a statue or sculpture to be displayed at the mine site.

Kerry Moosha, Director of the Flinders Children’s Centre and Tji Tji Wiltja Preschool created the winning design, in collaboration with families who attend the preschool and artist Craig Ellis.



Above: The statue at Carrapateena



Above: Children setting handprints into the statue

The design features a large boomerang partially encased by copper, representing the mining process and the richness of the minerals in the surrounding land.

The base of the sculpture is covered in the handprints of the children at the preschool and their involvement was a very important part of the process.

“In our Culture we include children in activities in the richness of real time learning being in the moment,” said Kerry Moosha.

“This builds capacity, connectedness and creativity. This is the way our children learn and stay connected by doing and learning together from their peers, being inclusive. In our Culture children and their participation are highly valued, as they are our future.”