

Media Release



4 April 2017

Bush Babies cradled in Cockburn

Bush Babies – Honouring our Elders Born in the Bush is a unique touring exhibition that will stop in at Cockburn Seniors Centre until May 13.

The collection of paintings of 16 Elders born in the bush, reserves, missions or fringes of town is a preservation of unique stories from a sorry time in our history.

The Elders featured in the exhibition lived under harsh government policies that denied them basic human rights, including the privilege of being born at the local hospital.

Many were born in tents, makeshift shelters or under the stars, with senior women in their families serving as midwives.

The exhibition is an outlet to share this story with audiences and create awareness of these issues among communities.

Cockburn Mayor Logan Howlett said the exhibition enabled the City to continue to recognise and celebrate the significance of indigenous cultural, social and built heritage as part of its Reconciliation Action Plan.

The exhibition was inspired by a photograph taken by celebrated photographer Jarrad Seng during one of Community Arts Network's digital media workshops.

He captured an image of Ballardong Elder Hazel Winmar on her 98th birthday, inspiring Wheatbelt artist Graham Smith to paint her portrait, in turn inspiring other professional and student artists to volunteer to honour an elder on canvas.

Hazel, affectionately known as 'Nana Purple', passed away shortly after her 100th birthday and the official opening of the *Bush Babies* exhibition in Perth. Her family wanted the exhibition to continue as a tribute to her memory.

Mr Smith said he hoped the exhibition continued to open doors towards reconciliation and to honour Elders all around Australia.

The exhibition was enjoyed by more than 70,000 people during its stint at WA Museum. It has been made possible by ART ON THE MOVE and the Community Arts Network.

THE ESSENTIALS

WHAT: *Bush Babies* Elders portrait exhibition

WHERE: Cockburn Seniors Centre, 9 Coleville Crescent, Spearwood

WHEN: Open to the public 9.30am-3pm 13, 19 & 20 April and 4 May

INFO: Call 9411 3877

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For more information about Community Arts Network or *Bush Babies* visit www.canwa.com.au.

Bush Babies is presented by Community Arts Network in partnership with ART ON THE MOVE.

The tour of this exhibition is managed by ART ON THE MOVE.

*This exhibition has been assisted by ART ON THE MOVE through the Exhibition Touring Program.
ART ON THE MOVE is supported by the State Government through the Department of Culture and the Arts.*

ART ON THE MOVE's Education Program 2017 is proudly sponsored by Healthway promoting the Smarter than Smoking message.



Government of **Western Australia**
Department of **Culture and the Arts**



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