

KAIELA ARTS NEWSLETTER / JUNE- DECEMBER 2019

# KAIELA ARTS



# Managers Note

We realise that the year has raced away from us as we launch our very belated second half year newsletter. So that you don't miss out on anything we will report on the events and moments of note for July, August and September and then provide some tantalising hints about what lies ahead for the beginning of 2020.

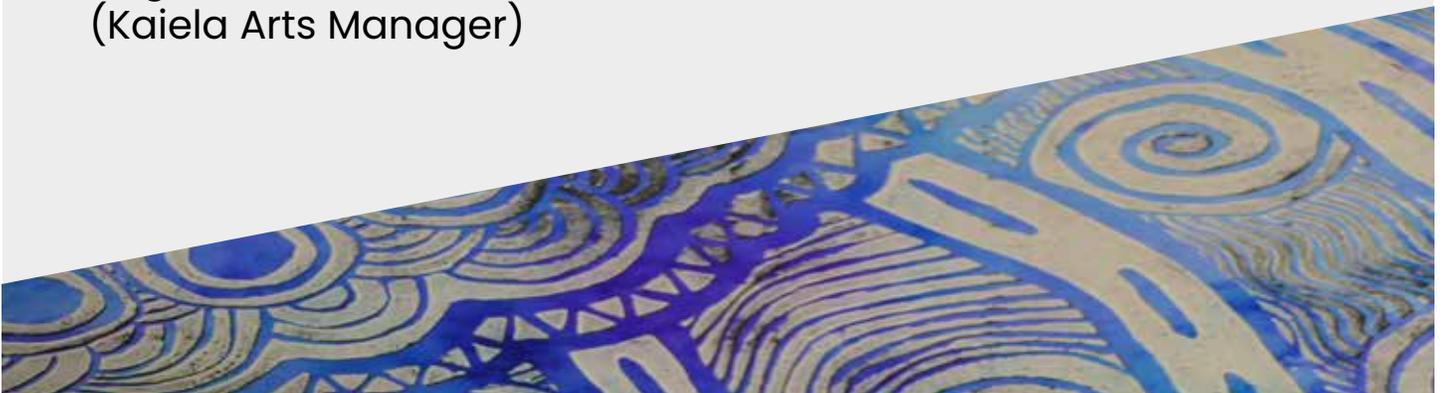
Kaiela Arts has two exhibitions coming up before the end of the year – some new and exciting works to be shown in October by three Male Artists;

Norm Stewart, Brett Wilson and Dylan Charles and then we have our Christmas exhibition with all our artists responding to the idea of 'Along the River'. It's the place to be during the hot days to come and also particularly beautiful in Spring with the wattle lining the banks of the beautiful Kaiela.

We are celebrating our young artists' achievements and journey as we feature Melissa Cowan and Dylan Charles in this newsletter. It warms our hearts to see all generations coming together at Kaiela Arts to learn, create, grow and thrive as they express themselves through the arts.

So! Hold on for the ride as we have lots in store and some fantastic new artwork to inspire you all.

Angie Russi  
(Kaiela Arts Manager)



# Feature Artist

## Melissa Cowan

Melissa is a proud Yorta Yorta Woman. She was Born in Shepparton and grew up in Mooroopna. Her mother is of Scottish and Greek origins while her father is Aboriginal. As a child Melissa loved art at school and always had a sketch book and pencils where ever she went and loved drawing horses. Melissa says that she felt different to her peers, she was good at arts and riding, but she was never seen outside playing, playing sports or socializing with people.



In 2010 Melissa celebrated the birth of her son; Colt and in 2015 a Daughter; Montannah who together are her best masterpieces so far!

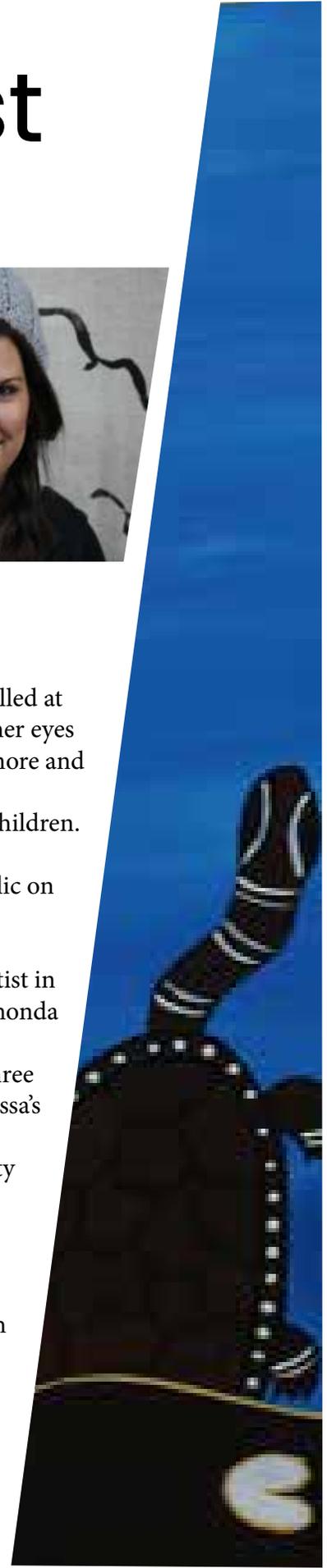
In 2018 she decided she wanted to learn more about her culture and she enrolled at GOTAFE Certificate II in Aboriginal Cultural Arts. This experience opened her eyes to her culture, which she knew little about before, helping her to discover it more and more. Thanks to this experience she is a valued member Artist at Kaiela Arts. Melissa enjoys painting and weaving and loves to share these skills with her children.

Melissa produces different types of works and with different techniques, acrylic on canvas (linen), acrylic on wood, woven works, and paints emu eggs.

In addition to Melissa's art making she has recently started working as an Artist in Schools with the Education program for Kaiela Arts which is facilitated by Rhonda Chrisanthou.

Melissa has worked with Rhonda through Kaiela Arts Galnyatj Program in three primary schools over the last month. When asked about her experience, Melissa's eyes light up, she said 'I enjoy seeing their eager faces, being so willing and excited to learn because I never got to do that as a child. I enjoy their creativity also particularly their stories. This encourages me to keep focussing on my culture and passing it on to young people.'

Melissa will be exhibiting some of her new works in Kaiela Arts Christmas exhibition 'Along the River'. You may like to come along and have a chat with her?



# Feature Artist

## Dylan Charles



Dylan is a Proud Yorta Yorta Man with direct bloodlines to Ulupna Island and its people and is a direct descendant from Truganini (Grand Mother 4 generations ago). Dylan grew up in Shepparton and spent many years with family at Cummeragunja (Barmah). He learnt how to get Bardi Grubs with his Grand Dad who passed away when Dylan was four years old. Dylan learned the majority of what he knows about his culture from his Uncle (Mum's Brother) and Dylan maintains this learning relationship now. Dylan says 'When I was younger, I spent a lot of time at the Charles/Walker bend of Dungala (Murry River) second on the left hand side! - going to the ochre mines

was areally spiritual experence for me and also going to the sandhills where our law and initiation took place over time.' My Great Grandmother Violet Briggs was also a well known landscape painter – she liked to paint the gum tress and the bush.

Dylan's journey in making art started when he was in grade 5 after his teacher entered his artwork of a Man's face which referenced Picasso's cubist style into an art show where he won first prize. Dylan proudly remembers 'I won a \$1,000. Voucher and a huge set of professional pencils which allowed me to create more art and I still have most of the pencil sets'. When Dylan was in year 7, he learned how to make traditional clap sticks and learned how to burn designs onto them – His Uncle taught him the traditional markings, signs and symbols. Dylan has been privileged to learn about his ancestors and their traditional country; 'My Uncle showed me the possum skin cloak and the clan symbols, explaining the boundaries and the different markings. He then took me to a place where a tree had been altered by using a twine to combine two branches to create a hollow circle as a boundary marker.'

Currently Dylan is completing a Certificate 111 in Visual Arts and has been a member artist at Kaiela Arts for a few years. He now paints and creates on a daily basis, driven by the need to express his culture and his passion for the arts in a lively a contemporary way. Dylan is hungry for learning about other artists and has always loved book, particularly Picasso and Van Gogh who he refers to often. 'They inspire me greatly. My biggest inspiration is Albert Namatjirra and the works of his family.'

# Exhibitions

## Artist Profile Exhibition An Exhibition of New Works By Norman Stewart, Brett Wilson, Dylan Charles

Opening Date: - Thursday 24 October 2019  
Time:- 6.00pm to 8.00pm  
Exhibition Continues until:- Tuesday 22 November 2019  
Cost: - Free Admission  
RSVP for Catering: - Kaiela Arts 03 58219842 or info@kaielaarts.org.au

Kaiela Arts is proud to present significant new works by three local artists as they present visual representations of Country and Community from their personal view point. Different views and stories come together as epic works on canvas and a vibration of colour and form. We have great pleasure in Inviting you and your friends to this exciting exhibition.



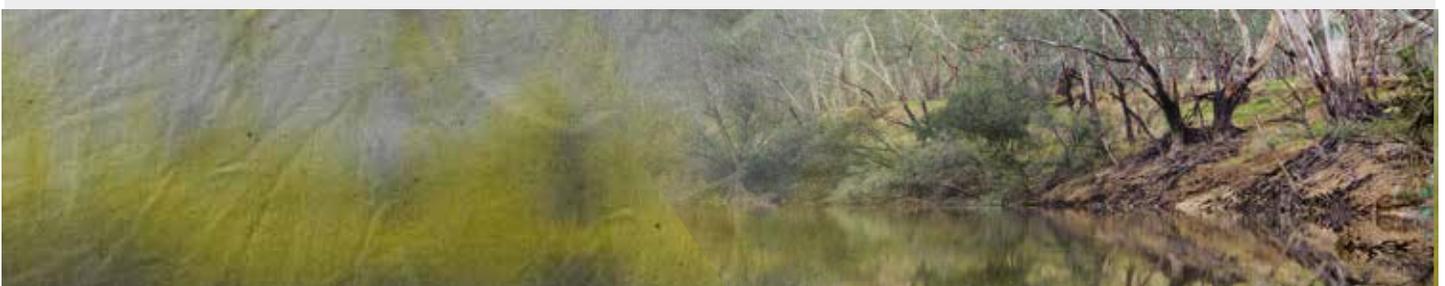
## Along the River Christmas Exhibition Works By all Kaiela Arts Member Artists

Opening Date: - Thursday 28 November 2019  
Time:- 6.00pm to 8.00pm  
Exhibition Continues until:- Tuesday 20 December 2019  
Cost: - Free Admission  
RSVP for Catering: - Kaiela Arts 03 58219842 or info@kaielaarts.org.au

Its time to celebrate to achievements of 2019 by showing new works by all of our Artists at Kaiela Arts. Throughout 2019 we have acknowledged our place in this Fresh Water Country that provides the life blood for us all and a strong connection to ancestral lands, culture, family and the continuum of life and community in this place.

We decided to complete the year with an invitation to all of our artists to express what is important and special to them Along the River.

We invite you to come an celebrate with us as we look back and also look forward to 2020 and what it holds for Kaiela Arts and its community.



# Workshops

## Artists Mean Business

### 4 Day Introduction to Arts Business

Dates: - Thursdays 17, 24, & Fridays 24, 25 October 2019

Time: - 9.30am to 4.00pm each day

Venue:-Kaiela Arts 137-139 High Street Shepparton

Age: Suitable for Women aged 18 upwards

Tutors: Melissa Silaga, Eva Ponting, Robyn Thompson,  
Angie Russi and surprise guest speakers

Cost: No Cost

Bookings: Contact Kaiela Arts and/or  
Centre for Koorie Education GOTAFE

Passionate about being an active artist or arts worker and working in your local community? Take part in the first step of the journey into Visual Arts training. Explore the world of employment in art centres & galleries, artist run studio workshops and a host of other employment possibilities within the Arts Industry. This four day workshop will introduce you to this world of art whilst gaining some basic arts business skills. 4 days of training are being funded by Greater Shepparton Women's Charter Alliance Greater Shepparton City Council. Includes all course and art materials, GOTAFE 'show bag', lunch, morning & afternoon tea.

Completing this introductory workshop also provides you 1 year artist membership at Kaiela Arts and with unit credits and enrolment to study the GOTAFE Koorie Education Certificate II Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Arts CUA20415, which contributes towards Certificate III Visual Arts CUA31115 in 2020.

Gain 2 units of accredited study BSBWOR203 Work effectively with others and CUAPPR202 Participate in planning process for proposed artwork sites.

For further information contact Robyn Thompson at [rothompson@gotafe.vic.edu.au](mailto:rothompson@gotafe.vic.edu.au)

Gotafe

OR

Angie Russi, Kaiela Arts Shepparton [manager@kaielaarts.org.au](mailto:manager@kaielaarts.org.au) ph 03 58219842

OR

Drop in and have a chat with Angie or Mandy at Kaiela Arts 137-139 High St Shepparton



# EDUCATION

## Galnyatj: Inspire, Learn, Create Art

Picking up pace mid year, our education offerings have greatly increased participation in our annual Turtle Tile Muster and a variety of artist-led workshops for groups, families and schools including our outreach program for primary schools Galnyatj: Inspire Learn Create Art.

The Turtle Muster season began with an informative visit from Turtles Australia. Families marvelled at the sight of a number of Broad-shelled, Murray and Long-necked turtles and efforts made to address their decline throughout the eastern states of Australia. Many organisations including kindergartens and primary schools, Rumbalara Co-op, and various government departments brought in groups of 15 to 25 participants throughout the winter months to make bespoke turtle tiles, some being stained a reptilian blackish grey. Large numbers of children attended free workshops with Eric Brown at Aquamoves during the July holidays and many attended 'on country' workshops with our artists supported Allison Luscombe and Meg Pethybridge from RiverConnect.

Along with Eric Brown, several other Kaiela Arts artists lead or delivered workshops, including Tammy-Lee Atkinson, Jack Anselmi and newcomers to education Makia Mc Laughlin, Melissa Cowan and Victoria Webbe. It's been a pleasure to work with various VCAL education providers in Shepparton who always comment as to how welcoming their students feel in our workshop space. Although Troy Firebrace moved on mid year to take on an education position in Bendigo with Sandhurst Diocese, our Grade 3 and 4 programs have been very well supported by the Catholic school sector, in particular St Joseph's Numurkah, St Mary's Mooroopna, St Anne's Kialla, Our Lady's Wangaratta and St Augustine's Kyabram. Together with Jack Anselmi and Melissa Cowan as lead and supporting artists the delivery of the Galnyatj! Inspire Learn Create Art program has seen Grades prep through to Grade 6 state school students participate in performance and art making activities. We'd like to thank Guthrie Street and Nathalia primary schools for inviting us back this year and for the wonderful opportunity to deliver Galnyatj classes to all students at Ardmona, Girgarre, Mooroopna Park and Tatura primary schools.

For Galnyatj: Inspire, Learn, Create Art enquiries please contact Rhonda Chrisanthou - Education and Engagement Coordinator  
Phone: 03 5821 9842

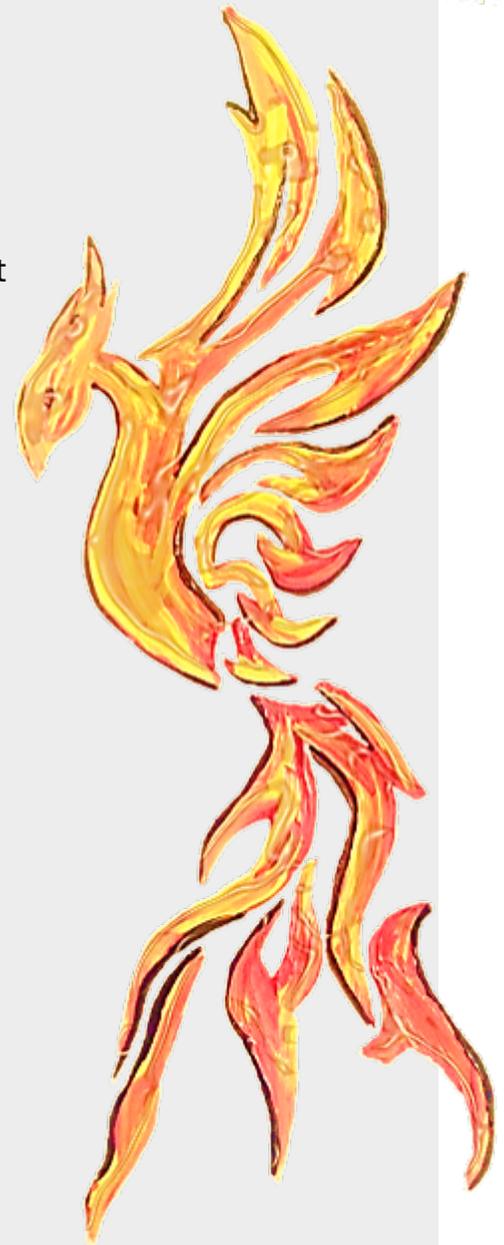


# Empowering the Phoenix

Women's Empowerment through Art Program  
Facilitated by Tammy-Lee Atkinson this weekly program provides a safe and secure environment for Women to come together to learn new skills, support each other and in some cases rebuild their life through a combination of art making and life skills building. Empowering the Phoenix contributes to the prevention of violence in the Indigenous community by allowing Women to feel protected and nurtured during their session time - encourage them to express their fears, hopes and empower them to stand on their own feet in a safe place amongst peers and facilitators.

This program is kindly funded through the Victorian Indigenous Family Violence Strategy

If you would like to enquire about joining this group please contact Tammy- Lee Atkinson at Kaiela Arts ph. 03 58219842



# What Have We Been Up To at Kaiela Arts Since June 2019

## TURTLE MUSTER 2019



The Biggest Ever! 2019 has seen Kaiela arts annual Turtle Muster run off the scale with schools, community groups, organisations, businesses and corporate groups getting in on the action to make Turtle Tiles for 2019. Turtle stories, turtle drawings, turtle ecology and turtle symbolism have all been thoroughly explored while delight, laughter, joking around and learning has engaged all who have taken part in this year's muster.

We thank all who have been involved for their willing and light hearted participation in our annual signature event.



# NAIDOC Week 2019 – Voice Treaty Truth Footprints in the Sand Exhibition & Public Program.

Commemorating 80 years since the Cummeragunja Walk-off, the exhibition Footprints in the Sand provided the platform to celebrate NAIDOC Week with many Yanha Friends and local communities. With the support of CommBank funding, Kaiela Arts presented a host of programs;

- Drawn Together, art workshops for families activities attracted fifty participants and consisted of hands on workshops where families learnt Aboriginal signs, symbols and stories, made sand-painted and scratch animals, and crayon leaf drawings.
- artists' floor talk with Aunties Cynthia Hardie, Amy Briggs and Laurel Robinson. Yanha members and others enjoyed a delicious lunch prior to our artist's talk. It was an intimate gathering that encouraged conversation as to what the Cummeragunja walk-off experience meant on a personal level. Recalling significant historical events as well as happy childhood memories through artworks such as Walk-Off, Back to Cummera' Sports Day and Arrival at the Flats, we all reflected upon the indelible collective memories and spirit of community that they all share.
- Community gathering presentation by Robynne Nelson, author, consultant and business director of Healing the Spirit. Robynne provided considerable insight into the social and political back story that lead to the Cummeragunga Walk-off in 1939. With a large gathering of over forty people, Robynne elaborated upon her own personal story in writing and publishing Dharmalan Dana with her father, Uncle George Nelson about Robynne's great-grandfather, the indomitable Thomas Shadrack James. Revealing a much broader picture than that of paternalism and mismanagement behind the reasons why Aboriginal people walked off the mission in 1939.

Special Note – Shepparton Art Museum has purchased three works from Footprints in the Sand Exhibition for the SAM Permanent Collection.



Amy Briggs- Arrival at the flats



Cynthia Hardie- Walk Off



Amy Briggs - The meeting at the Cummeragunja School

Our final event was a yarn presented by Robynne Nelson, author, consultant and business director of Healing the Spirit. Robynne provided considerable insight into the social and political back story that lead to the Cummeragunga Walk-off in 1939. With a large gathering of over forty people, Robynne elaborated upon her own personal story in writing and publishing Dharmalan Dana with her father, Uncle George Nelson about Robynne's great-grandfather, the indomitable Thomas Shadrack James. Revealing a much broader picture than that of paternalism and mismanagement behind the reasons why Aboriginal people walked off the mission in 1939.



# CAMPFIRE

## CAMPFIRE collaboration with Spacecraft Studio

Spacecraft Studio and Kaiela Arts have collaborated together over the past four years on projects to introduce emerging Aboriginal artists from Kaiela Arts to screen printing technologies and professional art practices. A number of artists have benefitted from this partnership and have been mentored through the design and printing process, resulting in their original designs printed on meters of linen fabric, made into high end merchandise and most recently commissioned to design for interiors for MUMA and SAM.

Campfire is a curatorial concept connecting artists, experts and clients through campfire events held on the banks of the Kaiela (Goulburn River). Conversations around the fire, pertinent to any design concept allow the artists and client/s to engage collaboratively in ideas that are important at the beginning of a design process. Campfire conversations are also an opportunity to create the charcoal that the printing pigment will carry onto the fabric. Trees supplying the wood for the campfires are carefully chosen and pigments created from the residual charcoal are later used to create the finished artworks.

The process infuses the artwork with a distinctive voice emerging from the artists personal experiences of country, research, collaboration and learning.

### CAMPFIRE at National Gallery Victoria

Design Store (Insert pics from Design Store and Space craft)

NAIDOC Week saw CAMPFIRE product from Kaiela Arts/Spacecraft featured in the National Gallery Victoria Design Store at Federation Square Melbourne.

It was a proud moment for Kaiela Arts artists, Eric Brown, Tiarne Hall, Suzanne Atkinson and Tammy-Lee Atkinson to see their designs in this prestigious venue. We thank Stewart, Danica and Clara from Spacecraft for their dedication, generosity and attention to detail that allowed Kaiela Arts to be seen at the NGV.

Alongside the product, our CAMPFIRE film by Cecelia, showing the process of making charcoal by the river, and then the processing and printing of fabric was screened with the installation. The CAMPFIRE film can be viewed on Kaiela arts Vimeo site link - <https://vimeo.com/user96770206>

We still have a small selection of CAMPFIRE product for sale at Kaiela Arts but hurry as stock is limited!



# Darwin Country To Couture Fashion Show

After our successful appearance at the 2018 DAAF Fashion show, Kaiela artists and designers Wendy Crow and Karin Berg were encouraged to create a new collection for 2019 that reflected local Aboriginal culture and the changing seasons in the fresh water country of the Southern States. Artists Eva Ponting, Lyn Thorpe, Suzanne Atkinson, Tammy- Lee Atkinson, Belinda Briggs and Kaiela Arts staff worked with Wendy and Karin all year to develop new designs that incorporated screen printed line, wool, leather and silk in collaboration with Spacecraft Studio. Designs also included nano felting techniques bringing wool and silk together with hand painted designs. This process was facilitated by felt maker Gillian Schoenborn. All the garments were professionally sewn by sewers at Wear Repair Shepparton and our stunning wedding dress sewn by Karin Berg. Hats were a big feature again this year with Eva and Suzanne teaming up to produce some stunning headwear indicative of this country.

Like all fashion collections, sewing and finishing continued right up to the deadline with garments being freighted off the Darwin by early July – then all of us catching up with them in Darwin on the day of the show. Our collection again stood out from the crowd with its strong reference to the Possum skin cloak, the fresh water and the hand woven fish and bird nets of the Kaiela and Dungala. Campfire charcoal printed designs featured on many of the outfits, carrying the warm black of the Red Gum charcoal up to Darwin while the soft greens of eco dyed and hand painted silk dress brought the Summer breeze by the river to life.

The 2019 Fashion collection will be shown locally in 2020 – watch this space!

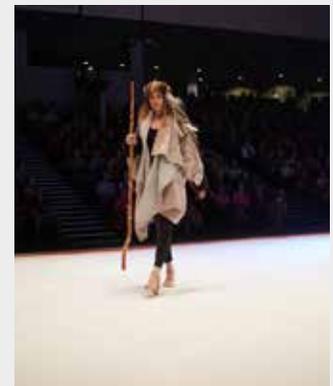
Darwin Aboriginal Arts Fair -Friday 9 to 11 August

Kaiela Arts' third year at DAAF was an enormous undertaking after a huge 2019 first half year. However our display booth looked excellent and we enjoyed good sales and brink discussions, questions about our Art Centre and the artwork that we produce. It was just as well that we took more people with us to look after both the main booth and the fashion collection as record numbers of visitors flocked to the Darwin Aboriginal Art Fair this year.

Well done everyone who went! It is an exhausting week – certainly no holiday.



Photo - Dylan Buckee



Photographer- Dylan Buckee

# YAHNA KAIELA ARTS

## Events October to December 2019

"We want to walk with you -We don't want to walk alone." Pastor Sir Doug Nicholls

With the final quarter of the year fast approaching we look forward to seeing our Yanha friends at upcoming members events.

The first two gatherings invite you to enjoy

- 
- Thursday October 24, 5pm pre- Artists Profile Exhibition drinks with exhibiting artists, Dylan Charles, Norm Stewart and Brett Wilson. Join the artists in an exclusive viewing of their stunning new work.
  - Thursday December 5, 6.00pm - Kaiela Arts' Grand Design. New Kaiela Arts Gallery & Studio in the New SAM Building. Kaiela arts invites Yanha members to view design plans for Kaiela Arts at the new Victoria Park Lake site. Members are welcome to bring along a friend to share in our new shows and plans for 2020.
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### MEMBERSHIP

YANHA KAIELA ARTS Membership Benefits include:

- Notifications and invitations to exhibitions and events including special YANHA KAIELA ARTS morning tea & dinners with artists.
- 10% discount off shop stock or KAIELA ARTS branded merchandise and workshops (does not include consigned artworks).
- Opportunities to enjoy and share in cultural understanding through art networks and nature based experiences.

Information on this form will be used by KAIELA ARTS solely for maintenance of the membership data base and promotion of KAIELA ARTS activities and events.

Please contact us at Kaiela Arts about becoming an Associate member or visit our website [kaielaarts.org.au](http://kaielaarts.org.au)

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An important space for artists and community to connect with art and culture' Kaiela Arts Shepparton is a not for profit enterprise; community owned and run Aboriginal Art Centre. It provides an important space for artists and the community to connect with art and culture. Our work drives towards important outcomes for both our artists and the broader Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal community.



## BECOME A MEMBER

Membership of Kaiela Arts is available to Aboriginal Artists, Aboriginals and non-Aboriginal community members who live in the Kaiela Dungula (Goulburn Murray) region. Kaiela Arts welcomes Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Artists from other areas of Australia who are residents of the local area and part of the local Aboriginal community

### ANNUAL ARTISTS MEMBERSHIP \$48 (concession \$30)

Open to Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander, over 15 years of age who live and/or work in the Kaiela Dungula Region

#### BENEFITS INCLUDE

- Access to and use of the studio facilities during Gallery hours
- Free use of basic art materials in the studio – finished works must be sold in the Gallery or for personal use. Art materials cannot be taken for use at home.
- Your work can be sold in the Gallery space.
- Invitations to all Gallery Kaiela events, exhibitions and previews
- Voting rights at the Annual General Meeting
- Free access to Artist Skills Building workshops
- Free listing, image and profile on the Gallery website
- Free promotion through all Gallery marketing
- Opportunity to exhibit as our profile artist
- Free advocacy; promotion and exposure through Galyan Manu and other Gallery events.
- Opportunity to be listed in our artists booking system to deliver workshops in schools and community

### GENERAL MEMBERS

\$25 per annum (Concession \$15)

Open to Aboriginal or non-Aboriginal community members, who don't necessarily need to be artists but are interested and supportive of Aboriginal Cultural Arts

#### BENEFITS INCLUDE

- Invitations to all Gallery Kaiela events, exhibitions and previews
- Voting rights at the Annual General Meeting
- 10% discount on workshops in the Gallery
- Gallery newsletter twice a year
- Access to the studio social area for a yarn and a cuppa
- Member discount for all workshops at Gallery Kaiela

#### KAIELA ARTS SHEPPARTON

03 582 198 42

info@kaielaarts.org.au 137-139 High Street  
Shepparton VIC 3630

#### TRADING HOURS

Tuesday to Friday 10am – 5pm

other days and times by appointment

#### TO BOOK

for workshops or to RSVP for events

Please contact the Kaiela Arts

Phone 03 5821 9842

Email info@kaielaarts.org.au

In Person 137-139 High St, Shepparton.



Watch our Facebook page and our local media for our Launch of Friends Of Kaiela Arts  
Visit [kaielaarts.org.au/membership/](http://kaielaarts.org.au/membership/) to download a membership form

[www.kaielaarts.org.au](http://www.kaielaarts.org.au)

Kaiela Arts is a Tax Deductible Gift Recipient and welcomes donations and sponsorship to assist us in our mission.