

NEWSLETTER | JULY - DECEMBER 2021

KAIELA ARTS

Connecting & Inspiring Aboriginal Stories

‘An important space for artists and the 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.

www.kaielaarts.org.au



Photo on cover, above and right taken at Turtle Muster on the lake by Kayla Frizzell



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Connecting & Inspiring
Aboriginal Stories



CREATIVE VICTORIA

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

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Kaiela Arts space is now located in the new Shepparton Art Museum. We remain the same strong and independent art centre.

Letter from the Manager

After years of planning Kaiela Arts moved into our new space in the SAM building overlooking Victoria Park Lake in March this year and opened to the public just before Easter to an eager and excited audience. We are so grateful for the ongoing support of the Shepparton community and it has been a delight to introduce artists and patrons alike to our spacious new gallery and shop with its gorgeous outlook on the lake and the plant and birdlife who inhabit it. Likewise we have enjoyed seeing artists and community become acquainted with and using the new studio space again with elegant views of the lake and also a comfortable lounge/kitchen in which to have a cuppa and a yarn or have some quiet time.

After all the planning for our smooth transition and considering contingencies, who could ever have planned for the year we are experiencing in 2020/21? It has certainly been challenging us in both personal and collective ways but Kaiela Arts has risen to the challenge to keep the doors open as much as possible and to help our community remain engaged with what we have to offer.

We have been blessed to have been able to run two weeks of outdoor community workshops and activities at Kaiela Arts in June/July for our annual Turtle Muster on the

lake and then NAIDOC Week. Even though the weather was cold, participants put on their warmest gear and joined together to paint, weave, dance, investigate the flora and fauna of the lake, meet turtles with Turtles Australia, practice yoga, hear a story, sing and have a yarn by the camp fire. We would love to share with you a short video that captures the smiles, community happiness in being together through art and culture during Kaiela Arts' Turtle Muster on the Lake. <https://vimeo.com/583688033>

Leading into NAIDOC Week young and inspired young people took part in evening workshops to create works on canvas which responded to the theme 'Healing Country'. The exhibition of these works alongside Kaiela Arts mature artists were exhibited in our new Gallery space and simultaneously at The Grain Store Gallery in Nathalia. The exhibition opening was well attended by community members and proud families keen to celebrate all the artists achievements and to acknowledge Country.

August usually sees Kaiela Arts pack up lots of artwork and traveling to Darwin to present Kaiela Arts' artists works and products at the Darwin Aboriginal Arts Fair alongside almost 200 other Aboriginal Art Centers from across Australia. Sadly due to travel restrictions this was impossible and the DAAF was presented

online for a week. Although the arduous physical packing and unpacking of works and the long plane journey to and from Darwin was not required this year but instead a painstaking 3 week effort by all Kaiela Arts staff to prepare works, upload images, descriptions, prices etc to the online Darwin Arts Fair was undertaken. Our intrepid Staff presented Kaiela Arts and its artists as the professional and exciting art centre that it is and only 1 of 3 Aboriginal Art centres from 'down south'. It was with great pride that we watched and celebrated the opening of DAAF online on August 5 and then settled in to respond to buyers through the online portal for the next week. It has been amazing to be part of DAAF for the fifth year and join in solidarity with other Aboriginal art centres across Australia, to present high quality artworks for sale to support Aboriginal artists and communities.

Looking towards the remainder of 2021 we are excited to bring you a major exhibition of works for the grand opening of the entire SAM building. The exhibition; Identity by five well known Kaiela Arts artists – Auntie Cynthia Hardie, Jack Anselmi, Eric Brown, Lyn Thorpe and Tiarne Hall, focusses on images developed, designed and presented within the architecture of the new SAM building – images that speak of Place, Belonging, Connection. We will be announcing an exciting program of workshops, activities and education programs that intersect with the Identity exhibition.

Of course no year would be complete without finishing up with our annual Christmas Exhibition and celebration. Stay tuned for more information on our Facebook, Instagram and webpage or if you would like information delivered directly to your inbox, please join as a member of Kaiela Arts.

We all look forward to welcoming you back into Kaiela Arts on the lake for the second part of 2021.

Angie Russi
Arts Business Manager Kaiela Arts

Photos: pages 4 & 5 were taken at Turtle Muster on the lake by Kayla Frizzell



TURTLE MUSTER ON THE LAKE

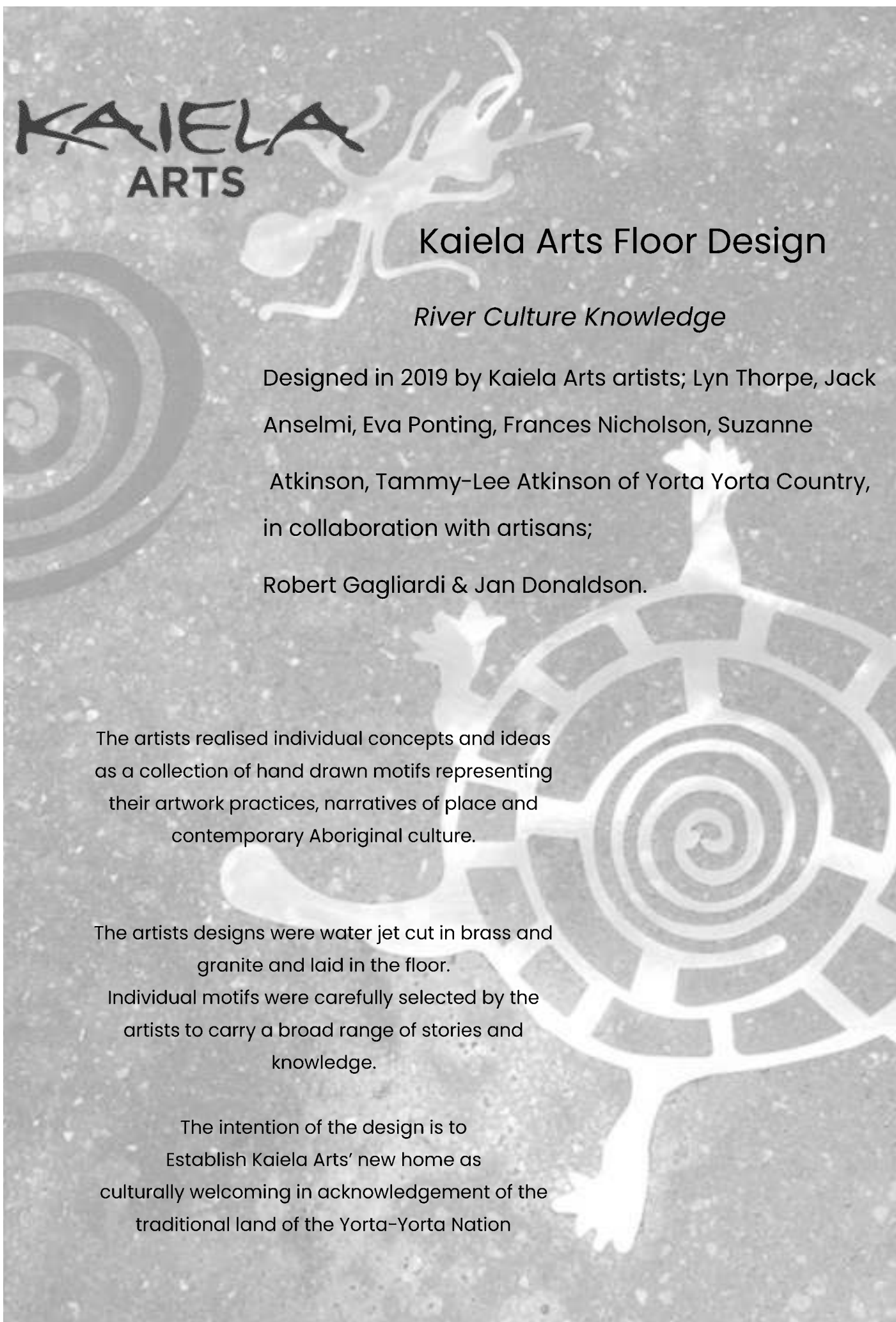


The grand finale of three months of mad Turtle Tile making by numerous children and adults alike usually culminates in the mustering of all the turtles into the Kaiela Arts gallery to form the shape of a giant turtle. This year with funding from Aboriginal Victoria we were able to offer Turtle Muster on the Lake – 10 days of free community artmaking and environmental activities. Coming together has never been as important as this year with all of us experiencing long periods of lockdown and unable to attend our favorite group activities, the offer of being together in the environs of Victoria Park lake and Kaiela Arts new space in the SAM building was too good to pass up. Over the ten days of painting, turtle making, weaving, dancing, singing, story telling, touring the lake

environment, yarning by the fire and eating lots of sausages at lunch time, we estimate that at least 1000 adults and children braved the cold Winter conditions to celebrate, community, life and art. Even though it was an incredibly challenging undertaking, the artists, staff and community totally exhausted the collective experience and immersion in local Aboriginal cultural arts 'on Country' was a healing and validating experience.

We know that there were many new and old friends who made contact and enjoyed the ambience of the winter environment and we hope they will join us for some more free art making activities in the summer months.... Watch this space.





Kaiela Arts Floor Design

River Culture Knowledge

Designed in 2019 by Kaiela Arts artists; Lyn Thorpe, Jack Anselmi, Eva Ponting, Frances Nicholson, Suzanne Atkinson, Tammy-Lee Atkinson of Yorta Yorta Country, in collaboration with artisans; Robert Gagliardi & Jan Donaldson.

The artists realised individual concepts and ideas as a collection of hand drawn motifs representing their artwork practices, narratives of place and contemporary Aboriginal culture.

The artists designs were water jet cut in brass and granite and laid in the floor.

Individual motifs were carefully selected by the artists to carry a broad range of stories and knowledge.

The intention of the design is to Establish Kaiela Arts' new home as culturally welcoming in acknowledgement of the traditional land of the Yorta-Yorta Nation



Artists Eric Brown and Jack Anselmi screenprinting at Spacecraft Studios, Melbourne in 2020.
Photo: Danica Miller

Identity

Place, Belonging, Connection

14 October to 1 December 2021*

Placing oneself in the world of space and time is intrinsic to a Human sense of **Identity**. A sense of **Belonging** seems connected to Human **Identity** and understanding ones' **Connection** to that which seems outside oneself creates a solidity in being. This collection of artworks have been created using pigments from earths, minerals and dyes derived from this **Place**. Artists, Auntie Cynthia Hardie, Jack Anselmi, Eric Brown, Lyn Thorpe and Tiarne Hall explore their sense of Identity through **Connection** to **Place**, Self and Materiality.

Opening: Thursday 14 October, 6.00pm
Kaiela Arts Gallery, West SAM building
RSVP: 0358219842 / info@kaielaarts.org.au

*Dates may be adjusted due to COVID, notifications will be posted via social media.



Above: DETAIL
Eric Brown
Initiation #2, 2021
Charcoal on canvas
122 x 152cm

The story of this painting is about Men's Business, when the adult males take the young boys, who are turning of age to become adults. They are taken away from camp, to a place of males only, a sacred place and they perform a ceremony.

The squares represent Men's business, painted with charcoal pigments, from the camp fire, where they perform ceremony, and the background colour represents the white ochre paint, which is used to paint their bodies.



Education Programs

Photos taken at Kyabram P-12 workshop

Galnyatj! Inspire Learn Create Art

Up until Lockdown 5, Kaiela Arts had been busy delivering Galnyatj to both local primary and secondary schools during 2021. Nevertheless, the demand for First Nations content has been encouraging and we've been able to adapt the program to suit the needs of schools. In one primary school we took part in Cultural Day activities for all year levels over two days and several schools participated in this year's Turtle Muster. This is the first year that we have worked directly with secondary schools to deliver Galnyatj and we look forward to future opportunities, this year and beyond.

We now have a few more resources to share with schools and we are better prepared to deliver online resources and materials should lockdowns persist in regional Victoria. Galnyatj is an artmaking activity involving signs, symbols, language and storylines derived from artworks

and picture books created by Kaiela Arts artists. Our most recent publication, Count With Me, is very well suited to Early Years literacy and numeracy.

Working with artists and elders, online live, or, in person, workshops can be delivered in one or two hour sessions. We supply all materials and resources. To learn more about Galnyatj, teachers can visit our website to view artist's profile video's here [News – Kaiela Arts](#). Enquiries or bookings can be made from our Galnyatj page. [Galnyatj – Kaiela Arts Shepparton School Program](#)

To discuss your curriculum needs or areas of interest for term 4 and 2022, teachers can contact Rhonda Chrisanthou directly at education@kaielaarts.org.au



DARWIN ABORIGINAL ART FAIR 2021

The 2021 Darwin Aboriginal Art Fair (DAAF), like many other events this year, transitioned to a virtual space and went live on Friday 6th August 2021. Kaiela Arts participated in DAAF for the 5th time this year and is one of only a few Aboriginal Art Centres from Southern Australia that is featured at DAAF.

Eric Brown, Kaiela Arts Curator, selected a variety of work from the collection including paintings, jewellery, textile, ceramic and woven pieces that were virtually exhibited in the Kaiela Arts online booth. The selection comprised a broad range of talent from

over 20 local Aboriginal artists that are represented by Kaiela Arts.

We were delighted that Kaiela Arts sold a number of artworks through the online fair that were purchased by customers from all over Australia. Some of the sold pieces are pictured above. Whilst last year paintings were our biggest seller, this year customers bought smaller pieces such as jewellery, ceramic bowls, woven pieces and textiles.

Fingers crossed we will be back up in Darwin, in person, next year!

Top left: Living along the river by Cynthia Hardie. Top right: Woven baskets by Irene Golden Hamlyn. Bottom left: Girriwa by Tammy-Lee Atkinson. Bottom right: Gumnuts Brass bangle by Jack Anselmi.

September Workshops

Our school holiday workshops will be run with RiverConnect and bookings can be made at <https://www.localtickets.com.au/host/5252>

Please reach out via social media or contact riverconnect@shepparton.vic.gov.au



Signs and Symbols

TUESDAY 21ST SEPTEMBER

Outdoors on the grass at Kaiela Arts, limited numbers, all ages. **10am & 12.30pm**

Participants will be welcomed into the gallery space for a talk and tour to explore the work of local Indigenous artists and discuss the signs and symbols used in the works and how they help tell the story. After the talk and tour the group will be welcomed into our beautiful outdoor space by the lake to tell their own stories using signs and symbols.

Nature Tracing

TUESDAY 28TH SEPTEMBER

Outdoors on the grass at Kaiela Arts, limited numbers, all ages. **10am & 12.30pm**

At this workshop we will discuss the significance of indigenous plant life and what certain plants were used for and look at the art of plant pressing we will ask participants to do this at home and come back to us for part two of this workshop in November. Part two will be held in our outdoor space with an artist to create works with the pressed plants while connecting with country.

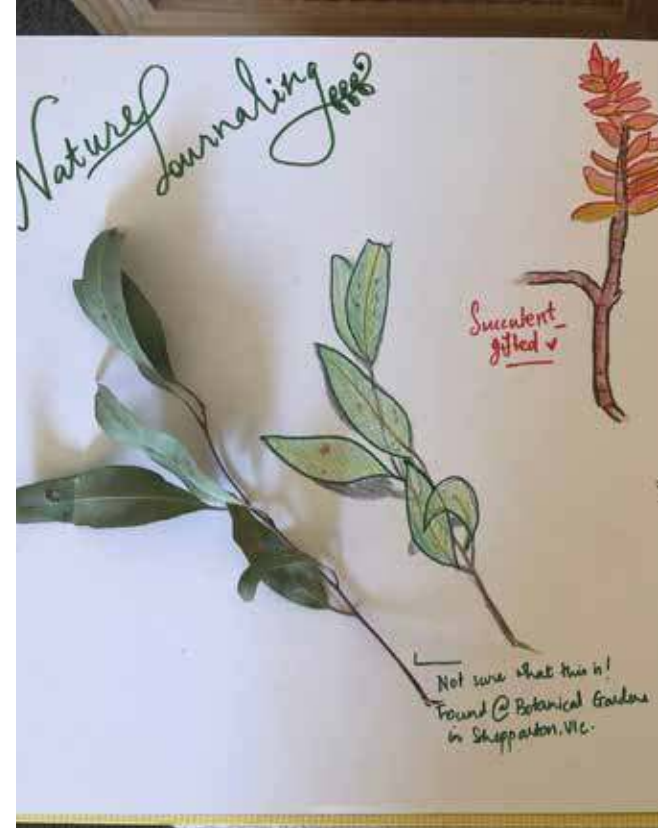
Charcoal Drawing /Painting

THURSDAY 30TH SEPTEMBER

Outdoors on the grass at Kaiela Arts, limited numbers, all ages. **10am & 12.30pm**

Participants will be welcomed into the space to create some unique artworks using charcoal. We will focus on monochromatic works using charcoal that was created in the fire during Turtle Muster.

The charcoal can be used for drawing or is ground down and participants will be shown how to use this as a medium for painting.



Nature Journaling

In August, Kaiela Arts in partnership with RiverConnect, Headspace and the Royal Botanical Gardens Melbourne delivered an online workshop for young people aged 12-25. It was the first in a series of workshops aimed at youth who may be currently feeling disconnected. The activity was a simple yet fun way to practice mindfulness and really slow down while taking a close look at the beauty of nature. Participants were asked to find something from nature to bring along, to describe and draw it in a special journal. They were encouraged to keep this so they can continue recording more of their experiences in nature.

We hope to do another nature journaling workshop soon, please contact us if you are interested in future workshops!



Weaving Circle & Men's Group



WEAVING CIRCLE

Every Wednesday Kaiela Arts provides a space for Aboriginal Women to come together to connect and share through weaving.

All materials are provided and all skill levels are welcome - booking is a must due to covid limitations.

For more information or to book your spot please contact us on 58219842 or public.programs@kaielaarts.org.au

MEN'S GROUP

Every Monday Kaiela Arts provides a space for Aboriginal Men to come together to connect and share through art.

All materials are provided and all skill levels are welcome - booking is a must due to covid limitations.

For more information or to book your spot please contact us on 58219842 or public.programs@kaielaarts.org.au



Fresh Water Country

Fresh Water Country Merchandise is a collection of limited edition homewares, jewellery, clothing, ceramics, cards and books. The items feature reproductions of original designs by artists from Kaiela Arts with each artist's design responding to Country, Culture or Story.

During 2020 with the impacts of the pandemic and long lockdowns in regional Victoria Kaiela Arts sought out a new avenue to showcase the talent of their artists. Assisted by Creative Victoria's Strategic Investment Stimulus Fresh Water Country Merchandise was born.



Photos: Serana Hunt-Hughes



Meet our artists

From left to right: Auntie Cynthia Hardie, Auntie Amy Briggs, Auntie Kella Robinson and Auntie Laurel Robinson.
Photo: Serana Hunt-Hughes

Cynthia Hardie was born and raised in Mooroopna and over the years has filled her home with her beautiful creations. Reluctant to part with anything, she says her home is almost full to the rafters. Her paintings adorn canvas, rocks, emu eggs, timber, papier-mâché bowls, clap sticks, boomerangs, anything she can get her hands on and often more than one thing at a time. Her love of art and craft began as a child and has continued throughout her life. Mostly self-taught, she enjoys teaching her granddaughters how to paint, sharing her art supplies and painting small canvases and boomerangs.

Amy Briggs was born in Mooroopna and is a proud Yorta-Yorta woman. She is proud mother and grandmother and grew up on the Dungala at Cummeragunja and now lives most in Shepparton. Amy says 'As an artist, I love the amazing and inspiring journey with our group of elders, coming together and working on our art and telling our stories. The gallery is a place of learning, healing and hope.'

Kella Robinson was born in a small town called Hilston, Western NSW. She moved to Victoria after her retirement and became interested in art. Today she is an active member of the Dungala-Kaiela art program, where she enjoys the treasure with other like minded women.

Laurel Briggs Robinson was born in Mooroopna, and is a proud Yorta Yorta - Wurunjeri woman. She grew up in Shepparton, where she attended school up until her teen years. She went to Melbourne and worked as a telephonist, then went to Sydney and worked for the Aboriginal medical service for 40 years then returned home to Shepparton. Laurel joined Kaiela Arts gallery and then realized the hidden feelings she had in art and the memories of her childhood. She loves working with the other elders and exchanging stories and thinks it is important that they pass on their stories to the younger generations.

Below left to right: Old Man Gumtree at Sunset by Cynthia Hardie, Crossing the Dungala by the Punt by Amy Briggs, Turtles at play by Kella Robinson and Harmony by Laurel Robinson.

