



Aboriginal art centre draws enthusiasm

AUSTRALIA's newest Indigenous art centre was officially opened in Mount Magnet this month by the Minister for Regional Development Brendon Grylls.

Mr Grylls was joined by Vince Catania MLA, and MLCs Wendy Duncan and Brian Ellis.

He said he was impressed with the Centre, and the number and enthusiasm of the people attending the opening.

"Similar art centres throughout Australia have been extremely successful, providing significant economic, social and cultural benefits for Indigenous people as well as providing flow-on benefits for the broader community," Mr Grylls said.

"With the number of talented and potential artists in the Murchison,

and the skilled people running the Centre, Wirnda Barna clearly has enormous potential."

Wirnda Barna services artists in the communities of Yalgoo, Mount Magnet, Sandstone, Cue, Meekatharra and Yulga Jinna.

The Centre was established with funding from the Mid West Development Commission through the Royalties for Regions Regional Grants Scheme, the Departments of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts and the Shire of Mount Magnet.

Mid West Development Commission's Wayne McDonald said the Centre was created because they identified the need and potential

for it in the upper Murchison area.

"Wirnda Barna will encourage young and emerging artists in the area to explore cultural expression and creativity through the arts, as well as achieving economic independence," he said.

"Wirnda Barna recently recruited Matthew Leonard as manager, who with the team at Wirnda Barna, has done a terrific job getting the Centre up and running."

Federal Minister for Arts Simon Crean said regional and remote art centres are vital in the opportunities they provide to both emerging and established artists.

"They bring real money to their communities and underpin improved outcomes for Indigenous people," he said.



Vince Catania MLA for the North West proudly displays his new painting with its creator Beryl Walsh from Wirnda Barna



Mid-West Times
Thursday 14/10/2010
Page: 7
Section: General News
Region: Geraldton WA Circulation: 19,730
Type: Regional
Size: 326.13 sq.cms.
Frequency: --W----

Brief: PARLWA-WA
Page 2 of 2



Wirnda Barna Chairman James Brockman (centre) addressing the crowd at the art centre opening, with Vince Catania MLA, Brendon Grylls MLA and Brian Ellis MLC (right)