

Media Release

For immediate release: 22 June 2016

BORN ON COUNTRY

Personal stories about the last generation of Noongar Elders born on country is at the heart of a new exhibition being presented by Community Arts Network (CAN).

BORN ON COUNTRY features original paintings, handcrafted dolls, portrait photography and oral history recordings from the final phases of CAN's Bush Babies project in Midland, Moora, Busselton and Mandurah.

This exhibition marks the end of an era for CAN, which is wrapping up its Bush Babies program after six years working across Noongar country.

Bush Babies highlights includes the repatriation of long lost family photos to the Noongar community; a touring exhibition of portrait paintings called *Honouring our Elders*; and the discovery of a photographic collection capturing life on the Goomalling reserve which has been described as having international significance.

“Bush Babies has taken many shapes and forms over the years, but at the heart of this project is the stories of the Noongar babies who were born in the bush and the unsung midwives who delivered them.”

“These simple and poignant stories, and the artworks they’ve inspired, shed light on a moment in time which is sometimes not acknowledged in our history,” said CAN Chief Executive Officer, Jo Metcalf.

BORN ON COUNTRY is being held at the Midland Junction Art Centre during NAIDOC week in partnership with DADAA, which will also be displaying artworks from their workshop programs.

The exhibition will be officially opened on Tuesday 5 July by the Minister for Arts and Culture John Day and Badjaling Elder Winnie Mc Henry, who inspired the Bush Babies program.

Visitors to the exhibition will also have the chance to try their hand at eco dye, doll making and basket weaving as CAN is offering free workshops on Tuesday 5, Wednesday 6 and Thursday 7 July from 10.am – 2.00pm.

More information, interviews and 300 dpi images available on request.

COMMUNITY ARTS NETWORK PRESENTS

BORN ON COUNTRY

EXHIBITION ◇◇◇◇◇◇ 4 - 8 JULY 2016

FREE Workshops
Doll making, eco-dyeing, basket weaving on Tue 5, Wed 6 and Thurs 7 July from 10am – 2pm

INFO & BOOKING
(08) 9226 2422

VENUE
Midland Junction Arts Centre
276 Great Eastern Hwy
Midland WA

OPENING HOURS
Mon to Fri 10am-3pm

CAN SANDALFORD

About Community Arts Network (CAN)

CAN is a dynamic organisation working towards positive social change through community arts and cultural development practice.

Since 1985 CAN has been inspiring and mobilising communities to express their unique stories through creativity and the arts.

ENDS

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CAN

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