



**media release**

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## **EGACC'S 10<sup>TH</sup> YEAR MARKED AT CIVIC RECEPTION**

*For immediate release – Thursday 31 May 2007*

The 10<sup>th</sup> year of the East Gippsland Aboriginal Arts Corporation (EGAAC) was marked at a Civic Reception in Bairnsdale this week.

Attendees include EGAAC representatives Gina Bundle, Debbie Leon, Kathleen Pepper, Lindy Pickalla and Charlie Campbell and Gallery Coordinator Joanne Hood.

Manager Strategic Policy-Koori Business Network Brian Stevens and State Manager Dept Communications, Information, Technology & Arts, Sharon Clarke also attended.

Mayor Cr Mendy Urie said that over ten years East Gippsland Aboriginal Arts Corporation had earned a great deal of respect in the community for the support and the resources it provides to its members and the indigenous communities.

‘It is the only organisation of its kind in Victoria and through the promotion and support of the arts provides opportunities for artists to reclaim their culture,’ she said.

Cr Urie said that EGAAC strives to encourage local Aboriginal artists to exhibit their work, to place them in the hands of reputable galleries, to help them earn the recognition of their talents and to further develop their appreciation of their own culture and themselves as people.

‘This work is highly important and is being competently carried out by the organisation as the result of which community perceptions are changing and improving,’ she said.

‘I was also delighted to see the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary exhibition at EGAAC where indigenous and non-indigenous artists have combined to exhibit in a spirit of reconciliation, friendship and mutual respect.

“It was pleasing to see the works of some of our Councillors and council staff members on display and also to see them catalogued as ‘friends’.

“I can confidently say that all of us are proud to be so classified and we are thrilled to be sharing space with such a talented group of Aboriginal artists.

“Interestingly the exhibition includes the work of 10 indigenous and 17 non-indigenous artists; there is a total of 55 works on display of which 34 are the work of indigenous artists and 27 non-indigenous artists.

“This is a wonderful example of mutual respect and friendship and something this Reconciliation Week was created to encourage.”

**Photo captions:**

EGAAC1: EGAAC Foundation Member Leann Edwards with Cr Dale Fisher at the Civic Reception

EGAAC 2: Local Elder and Program Coordinator at EGAAC Flo Hood Finn with Executive Officer -EGAAC Robyn Evans.

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