

## INDIGENOUS ART SHOWS HOPE FOR FUTURE

“We all have a story to tell and we all tell that story in different ways: for some they will write a book, for others they may make a video, others paint - and so the list could go on. Whichever way a person chooses much reflection precedes the finished product.” Recently Sr Geraldine Mugavin rsm attended the Exhibition opening of Deanne Gilson's 'Body of My Ancestors' at the Art Gallery of Ballarat. Deanne was a parent at St Francis Xavier Primary School. Sr Geraldine says that from her perspective, she believes much reflection has gone into Deanne's work and imagines there is much more there still to be shared with the world in her chosen art form. Deanne, congratulations on this accomplishment.

*The Ballarat Courier (Jan 11) also published a story about Deanne's work.*

The Brolga birds are finally returning to Ballarat since the days of the goldrush – and with them, the spirit of the Wadawurrung people.

That is the opinion of Ballarat Indigenous artist Deanne Gilson, who is currently exhibiting a series of works and installations at the Art Gallery of Ballarat entitled *Spirit of My Ancestors*.

Ms Gilson has spent the past two years researching her Aboriginal heritage and the traditional owners of Ballarat – the Wadawurrung or Wathaurung people.

“I’ve especially explored my nan’s heritage and her life and the issues she faced. She was removed from country. I’ve looked at the issues that Aboriginal women from this area have dealt with, as well as my lived experience.”



The result of Ms Gilson’s work is an impressive body of contemporary Indigenous art, which celebrates the rejuvenation of local Aboriginal culture and its hopes for the future.

Photo: Rejuvenation: Local Indigenous artist Deanne Gilson with her installation 'Baskets of Knowledge'. The central baskets represent Ms Gilson's grandmother and display the Wadawurrung language word for 'mother'

By Amber Wilson