

MEDIA STATEMENT



Wednesday, 6 February 2019

Community invited to celebrate iconic indigenous sculpture

Wardandi Boodja, the latest public artwork to be installed in Bunbury, will be officially unveiled on Friday 15 February at Koombana Foreshore.

Premier Mark McGowan and Minister for Regional Development Alannah MacTiernan will join the afternoon celebrations as well as Bunbury Mayor Gary Brennan and Elected Members.

The artwork was funded by the State Government through Royalties for Regions.

The whole community has also been invited to attend the event.

The City will acknowledge sculpture artists Nicole and Alex Mickle of Safehaven Studios as well as the local indigenous community who played a significant role in helping to create the artwork.

The Mickles will be on hand to tell the story of this iconic sculpture.

Included in the celebration will be a traditional smoking ceremony and Welcome to Country.

Mayor Brennan encouraged the community to visit the sculpture if they hadn't already.

"This public artwork has been 12 months in the making and the final piece is visually stunning and pays homage to the traditional landowners," Mayor Brennan said.

"It is a wonderful addition to the Koombana Foreshore precinct which is the gateway to the CBD and where visitors and tourists get to enjoy their first glimpse of Bunbury."

Wardandi Boodja is a five and a half metre corten steel bust located on the foreshore. The sculpture represents a Noongar face and seeks to merge traditional sculpture and advanced fabrication technology to create a striking contemporary artwork that pays deep respect to the Noongar people.

It has been designed in such a way to recognise all the families of the region while representing not one person but all people.

The official unveiling of the Wardandi Boodja art work will begin at 4.30pm at Koombana Foreshore on Friday 15 February.

ENDS

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