

BARKLY REGIONAL COUNCIL



MEDIA RELEASE

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Painted planters brighten up council chambers

Six terracotta planters painted by local Indigenous artists are a proud new addition to the council chambers.

In a special ceremony at the Barkly Regional Council chambers President Barb Shaw welcomed the six Tartukula artists and thanked them for their beautiful designs.

“I wanted to include imagery, such as the painted terracotta planters, so the chambers could reflect the diversity in the community and its people, and not only government,” she said.

“Tennant Creek is very much a multi-cultural town with a high percentage of Aboriginal people living and working here. In managing our business council shows acceptance of all cultures in the Barkly region and practices, and this includes how we physically portray the organisation.”

President Shaw approached the artists, who work for Barkly Regional Arts (BRA), late last year about painting the pots.

“I invited the ladies over to the council chambers for morning tea and to get a feel for the place, and from the beautiful work produced it shows they were truly inspired,” she said. “The pots have really brightened the place up.”

One of the artists Mary Napangardi/Napanangka James, a Warlpiri woman, said her painting represented the colours of the desert in the Barkly region, while Susannah Nelson and Gladys Anderson focused on bush tucker.

Lindy Brodie painted scenes of her grandfather and grandmother cooking damper, collecting wood and drinking tea on country with Warumungu woman Rosemary Plummer depicting scenes from Tennant Creek and Ruth Dawson painting Karlu Karlu (Devil’s Marbles).

Barkly Arts Artistic Director Kathy Burns said the project enabled the artists to experiment with a different medium.

“It’s given the ladies thoughts and ideas which they can continue working on and hopefully this might inspire other organisations in town to start putting Indigenous art in their establishments,” she said.

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