

MEDIA RELEASE

MURRAY PHN COMMISSIONS WORK FROM LOCAL INDIGENOUS ARTIST

6 July 2017

A painting by an Indigenous artist, commissioned by Murray PHN, will be displayed for the first time on Friday at the Murray PHN Mildura office, to mark NAIDOC Week.

Artist Corey Payne – a proud descendant of the Paakantyi and Wilyakali tribes of the far west of New South Wales – has created the painting depicting four platypuses meeting at a watering hole. It harks back to the era where platypus roamed the waters of the Sunraysia.

The painting is a mixed media work featuring dot work, fine line work and cross hatching work and was created on a 1x1 metre square stretch canvas board, using acrylic paint.

It's one of two paintings Murray PHN has commissioned from Mr Payne. The second piece, a 2-metre by 1.5-metre long painting, is still in production and will depict the story of the Murray PHN region and the work that it does in the community.

Murray PHN North West Regional Manager, Helen Hickson, said the organisation had been looking for new art for its offices, and wanted to support a local artist.

“Corey Payne is an accomplished artist whose murals, beautification works and other commissioned pieces really impressed us, so we were pleased to ask him to create artwork for Murray PHN,” she said.

Mr Payne moved to Mildura as a teenager to complete his secondary education. He is a self-taught artist who produces indigenous woodwork, canvas paintings, didgeridoos, and clap sticks, and now operates Miiki Puuri Mandi Aboriginal Art in Mildura, which means “for the eyes and spirit” in the Paakantyi language.

He has worked in a number of different occupations, but says he has always been drawn back to art, especially to help him with grief and loss.

Members of the media are invited to attend a celebration to unveil the painting tomorrow, Friday 7 July 2017 at 10am at the Murray PHN office, 125 Pine Avenue, Mildura.

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