

2023

# Expression of Interest for Aboriginal artwork

Mildura Visitor Information Centre



## Aboriginal Culture

Living in the Region

### The Story of Gajelwark and Chief

The story of Gajelwark and Chief... (text continues)

### Essentials for Living

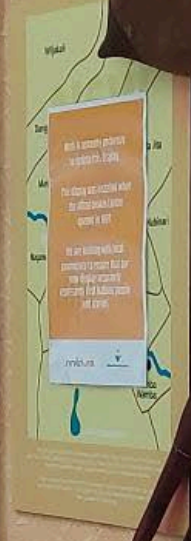
What you need to know... (text continues)

### The last Aboriginals of the district?

The Woolongs also known as Chief Woolrong, was born in Easton, New South Wales in 1837, and lived much of his life in Mildura. He was a well-known figure in Mildura and the surrounding district, among people with his extraordinary skills. At the age of 15 Woolrong was taken to England and presented to Queen Victoria at Buckingham Palace by the McCulloch family of Yango Station. He fascinated and entertained Queen Victoria and other royalty with exhibitions of boomerang throwing, a skill he had learnt as a boy from his Aboriginal teachers. Woolrong died in Bendigo, aged 80 years.

### Mary Woolrong

Woolrong had a daughter named Mary. She was also born in Easton. When she was very young she went to work for Mrs Robertson, wife of the manager of Kullerine Station. Mary worked as a housemaid and children's nurse for many families during her life. She was highly respected by all who knew her and the children she cared for adored her. One of her favourite recreational activities was to gather bush foods.



### Celebrating Culture

The Murray-Darling Junction was an important ceremonial place for Aboriginal people. Groups of people have been recorded traveling from as far as Adelaide to participate in a gathering there.

All the gatherings Aboriginal Elders and initiated persons would organize future proceedings, trade and marriages. No single person had ultimate say at these ceremonies. Decisions were made after Elders and those initiated had all voiced their opinion. However, at various times, the seers or doctors would have particular influence.

The young people relied on the teachings of their Elders and believed that their lives greatly depended on their knowledge.

### The Aboriginal flag

The Aboriginal flag was designed by Harold Thomas. He was born in Alice Springs, Northern Territory, in 1948 and is a member of the Luritja tribe. Harold graduated from the South Australian School of Art in 1969. The flag was first flown at Victoria Square in Adelaide, South Australia, on 12 July 1991. Harold is honoured that the Aboriginal people of Australia identify with the flag.

### Meaning of the flag colours

Red signifies the earth and ochre.  
Yellow signifies the sun and renewal of life.  
Black signifies the Aboriginal people of Australia.

### National Aboriginal Day Of Commemoration (NADOC)

NADOC celebrates and promotes Aboriginal cultural heritage and increases the awareness of this heritage for all people at the regional, national and international level. It is celebrated in the first week of July each year. Aboriginal activities are held all over Australia by the various Aboriginal communities. Non-Aboriginal people are most welcome to participate and celebrate with the Aboriginal people of Australia during this special week.

### Impact of European Settlement

The indigenous people of the region had their lands and way of life cultural traditions broken at the moment they landed by European explorers. The new world brought with them disease, different ways. All of them were Aboriginal people.

The settlement of the Aboriginal people had a profound impact on the region. The new language and cultural practices of the new settlers had a profound impact on the region. The new language and cultural practices of the new settlers had a profound impact on the region.

### What to See and Do

- Enjoy a variety of Aboriginal galleries.
- Take a guided tour of the Aboriginal cultural heritage of the region.
- Visit Mary Woolrong's grave at Mildura Cemetery.

Enquire at the information desk for further details.



Mildura Rural City Council

## Contents

Contents .....	2
Introduction.....	2
Location of the initial artwork .....	3
What we are looking for .....	3
Dimensions.....	4
Expressions of interest .....	5
Submissions .....	5

## Introduction

The Mildura Visitor Information Centre is inviting Expressions of Interest to create local Aboriginal artwork to incorporate into the interpretive displays at the centre. This will be a paid commission.

The Mildura Visitor Information Centre welcomes 69,000 visitors from all over the world through its doors each year. For people travelling to the region, it is often one of the first stops for sourcing local information.

The Mildura Visitor Information Centre is in a staged process of renewal. The current “Aboriginal Culture” information wall (picture below), installed in 1997, requires a significant refresh.



Mildura Visitor Information Centre and Council staff, together with Ngiwa Yarna [Aboriginal Action] Committee members, are working together with First People of the Millewa Mallee to update the information content of the wall.



## Location of the artwork

The artwork will be located throughout the Visitor Information Centre. The artwork will be woven into the design of the updated interpretive display walls in the Visitor Information centre and may also provide a backdrop to a wall display which talks to Aboriginal Culture in the region.

## What we are looking for

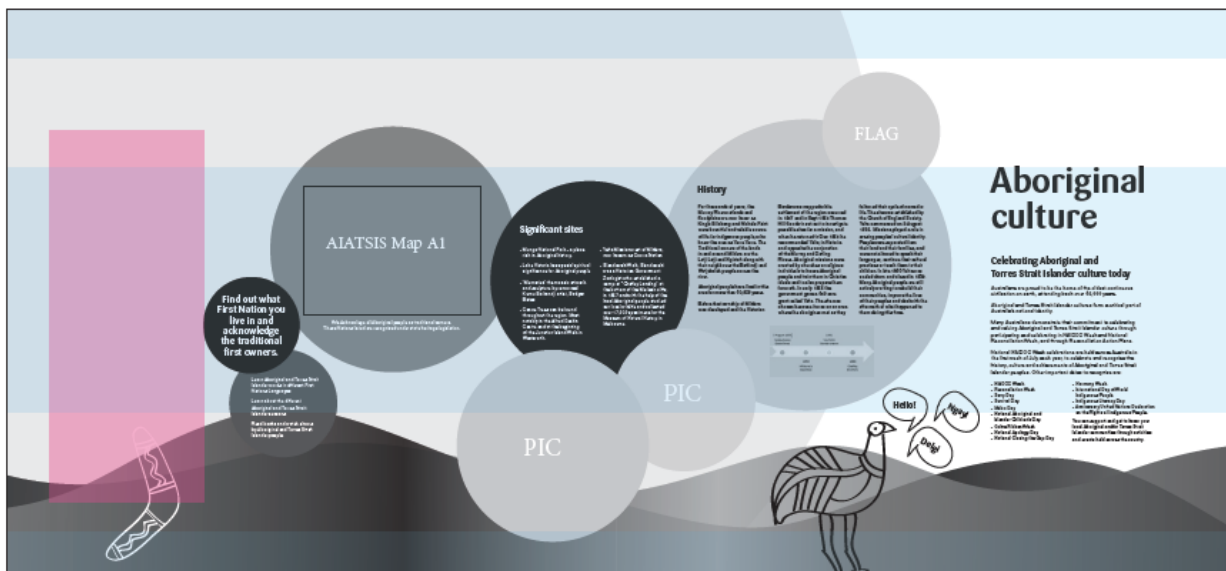
The Mildura Visitor Information Centre is committed to commissioning Australian contemporary artwork from Aboriginal artists who reside in or come from local Aboriginal communities and will:

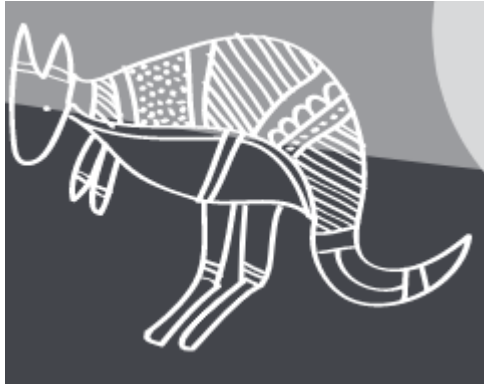
- Complement the Visitor Information Centre
- Is reflective of Mildura's identity.
- Depicts local flora, fauna, geographical features (rivers, landscapes) and/or sites of significance.
- Celebrates Aboriginal heritage and history.
- Will produce and design works of Aboriginal artistic excellence within a cost effective budget.

## Theme

A graphic designer has been commissioned for the Mildura Visitor Information Centre refurbishment and has designed a "wireframe" concept of what the new information wall layout will look like (picture below).

The individual design elements (e.g. individual graphics such as the stylised emu, boomerang, kangaroo, platypus below or patterns and designs) are to be designed by local Aboriginal artists. In addition to these smaller graphic artworks, there is the possibility of a larger mural design to be created as a backdrop piece on the below wall design. Final Artwork can be approved by the artist/s.





## Dimensions

Graphics supplied should be between 30cm<sup>2</sup> and up to 60cm<sup>2</sup>.

Dimension of the wall for mural are below.



## Expressions of interest

Applicants must address each of the following criteria:

- A response to demonstrate how their proposal will reflect Mildura's Identity and depict local flora, fauna, geographical features (rivers, landscapes) and/or sites of significance.
- A response to demonstrate how their approach will ensure artistic excellence within a cost-effective budget.
- Any other documentation or examples that can support your expression of interest.
- Supply a quote for artwork with tender.
- Complete and return the submission form.

## Submissions

Original artwork from successful applicants will need to be supplied in a 2-Dimensional format that will be photographed and digitised. However, for your Expression of Interest, you can photograph your designs.

Submissions should include a concept with examples of the following:

- between 8 - 15 black on white graphics (each one as a separate JPEG or PNP file) to be considered for inclusion on the wall that can be provided digitally to allow for digital colouring to fit the proposed design.
- a design (coloured) for the background of the Aboriginal Culture interpretive display wall that takes into consideration the foreground elements and that can be provided digitally to allow for digital alteration to fit the proposed design.

Submissions should be received by no later than Friday 1st September 2023 and addressed to:  
[Johanna.Lucas@mildura.vic.gov.au](mailto:Johanna.Lucas@mildura.vic.gov.au)

Expressions of interest will be reviewed by a selection panel comprised of members of the working group for this project.

We welcome on site visits should you wish to inspect the wall space available for this project. Please contact 03 5018 8380.