Clifford Possum Tjapaltjarri Mural Restored

Arts Minister Marion Scrymgour today announced that restoration work was complete on an important mural dedicated to the legacy of Clifford Possum Tjapaltjarri at the Araluen Arts Centre in Alice Springs.

Ms Scrymgour said in the spirit of NAIDOC week, the launch was more a re-dedication of the work.

“A re-dedication to important Papunya artist, Clifford Possum Tjapaltjarri, who has an original painting commissioned in 1984 on permanent display at the Araluen Arts Centre,” Ms Scrymgour said.

“It’s also a re-dedication of the mural, which is a reproduction of the painting, and its artists – Bob and Kaye Kessing and the students of Yirara College. Bob and Kaye were joined in re-painting the mural by Pauline Clack, Henry Schreiner, Julie Birdis and Geoffrey Robinson.

“The visual heritage of our Indigenous artists is one of the most unique and valuable assets we have and it’s important we preserve and protect it.”

The Northern Territory Government provided funding of $40,000 towards the restoration and the friends of Araluen contributed a further $5000.

The restoration was carried out under the supervision of Tjapaltjarri’s son, Lionel Possum Tjungarrayi.

Ms Scrymgour congratulated all those who worked on and supported the project.

“The restored work adds a great deal to the Araluen Centre and is an astonishing piece of art in its own right,” she said.

Ms Scrymgour also unveiled a new interpretive sign that explains the stories in the work of Clifford Possum Tjapaltjarri.

“I am sure the many visitors to the Araluen Centre will enjoy and learn from this work of Clifford Possum Tjapaltjarri.”

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