Showcasing Culture through Art

The unique culture of North East Arnhem Land has been captured in an exhibition of student artwork at the Darwin Entertainment Centre.

The Education Minister Paul Henderson attended the official opening of the Miny’tji 2009 exhibition, which features artwork by senior secondary students from Shepherdson College on Elcho Island.

“The exhibition has allowed students to develop creative skills in traditional painting and engaged them in literacy and numeracy,” he said.

“Students not only produced strong art pieces but they wrote about themselves and their artworks and calculated the cost of materials, giving them some basic business skills.

“The exhibition also provides a pathway to future employment in the arts industry.”

Miny’tji is a Yolgnu word for colour and the paintings depict the students’ totems in ochre, red, black and white.

Mr Henderson said the exhibition contains 35 artworks from 25 Year 11 and 12 students as a result of workshops with traditional artists Peter Datjing and David Lakarriny.

“The exhibition is a great example of collaboration between the school and the community,” he said.

“It connects learning with culture, and all the students should be very proud of their work.”

The exhibition counts towards the students’ NT Certificates of Education and all the work is on sale.

The exhibition will run until October 3.

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