


<b>Name of Library</b>	Isaac Regional Council	
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<b>Title of project/innovation/initiative</b>	'Welcoming Place'
<b>Date initiated</b>	November 4 <sup>th</sup> 2012
<b>Date completed</b>	August 31 <sup>st</sup> 2013

**The issue/challenge**

Establish a visual art collection outcome designed for a 'Welcoming Place' for each Isaac Regional community library, which will depict local heritage, enrich our region's identity and encourage community participation with indigenous experiences in arts and culture. From this art exhibition Isaac Library Service will create a welcoming environment, provide information and develop services for Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples in their communities.

**Project details**

The 'Welcoming Place' exhibition is an indigenous-inspired collection of paintings created by local school students and community members. The exhibition emerged from a series of workshops led by Indigenous artist, 'Deadly' Arthur Conlon who toured the Isaac region as part of 2012 NAIDOC week reconciliation activities.

The 'Welcoming Place' consists of twenty-seven paintings and seven pastel pictures which utilise traditional indigenous colours and symbols to represent wildlife in the Isaac region.

The most symbolic painting in the exhibition is titled 'Isaac'. It comprises four panels which depict the Isaac River running through each of the seven towns through the region, converging into a common meeting place.

The 'Welcoming Place' is the first art project initiated by the Isaac Regional Council Library Services. It is envisaged the collection will tour the region with the ambition of one day touring Queensland. The 'Welcoming Place' exhibition is a whole of Isaac community project and is proudly owned by Isaac Regional Council.



## About the Project

The 'Welcoming Place' is a project by the Isaac Regional Council Library Service and formed part of 2012 NAIDOC week reconciliation activities. The artwork emphasises the importance of reconciliation and the cultural significance of indigenous art.

Inspired by the State Library of Queensland's 'Welcoming Place' program, Isaac Regional Council submitted a successful grant application to the Regional Arts Development Fund. The grant provided seed funding for the project which has delivered an eye-catching collection of regional artworks.

Indigenous artist 'Deadly' Arthur Conlon to led a series of ten art workshops for NAIDOC week with school students and community members in the Isaac region.

Consultation with indigenous Middlemount primary school teacher Lesley Scorgie says without opportunities to work with indigenous community leaders like Mr Conlon, the art form would be lost. "Today, we need things like this to develop the art in the younger students because you have so much digital artwork." "It's great to have experience with hands on canvas art. And we're not the original custodians of the area. We've all come from different places so I thought it was a good way of getting all of our indigenous students working together."

'Deadly' Arthur injected his enthusiasm and knowledge into the artworks. Participants commented on the intense concentration needed and importance of understanding the meaning behind traditional colours and techniques.

The individual paintings of the 'Welcoming Place' exhibition will be dispersed to each of the eight Isaac libraries in support of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander resources and services in each of the Isaac libraries 'Welcoming Place'.

