

# Media release

## Toyota Motor Corporation Australia

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Wednesday, 7 July 2010

### LOCAL ARTIST SELECTED FOR TOYOTA COMMUNITY SPIRIT GALLERY

Werribee artist Will Carter has been selected from more than 70 emerging and established Indigenous artists to exhibit at the 23<sup>rd</sup> Toyota Community Spirit Gallery exhibition titled *PaRing Gallery*, opening Wednesday 7 July 2010 in Melbourne.

Mr Carter's acrylic painting titled *Waterhole Sand Goannas* explores his Indigenous heritage and strong connection with the land.

"For a few years when I was a teenager, I spent most of my time out the bush hunting, fishing and gathering didgeridoos and other artefacts with my uncles," said Mr Carter.

"I can remember throwing my first boomerang, going on my first camp and learning to find traditional bush tucker before eating it. This connection with the land and my culture is what inspires my art today, and to know that I am able to pass my knowledge on to my son is a great feeling."

Curator for the Toyota Community Spirit Gallery Ken Wong said exhibiting at Toyota Australia's corporate headquarters provides a unique opportunity and exposure to Melbourne's corporate community for Mr Carter.

"The Toyota Community Spirit Gallery opened in 2004 and since then more than 550 local, interstate and international artists have showcased their art to hundreds of visitors and potential art buyers," Mr Wong said.

"The gallery is a well established Melbourne arts space and Mr Carter along with 20 other hand-picked Indigenous artists will exhibit as part of a collection of 45 contemporary works of art including paintings, digital prints, photography and sculpture."

The *PaRing Gallery* is partnership between Victoria's Koorie Heritage Trust and the Melbourne Committee's Future Focus Group. The roving gallery aims to create pathways between the Melbourne business community and Aboriginal culture.

Mr Wong said the *PaRing Gallery* was the first Indigenous art exhibition to be staged at the Toyota Community Spirit Gallery.

"We are very excited about staging an exhibition that highlights the brilliant work of Indigenous artists, particular Victorian artists," he said.

"The Toyota Community Spirit Gallery is all about helping talented artists develop themselves and their work, and we're looking forward to seeing Will benefit."

Since 2004 the gallery has opened doors for more than 530 artists by providing a free space to exhibit, promoting emerging artists and providing a \$10,000 grant for promising artists to further their careers.

The *PaRing Gallery* exhibition runs from 7 July to 15 October 2010 at the Toyota Community Spirit Gallery, 155 Bertie St, Port Melbourne. During this time the exhibition is open from 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday or by appointment.

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