

Media Release



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Mural tells the story of town's First People

Visitors and residents of Gumeracha are now welcomed to the centre of town by a unique, 170m long mural that tells the story of the area's First People.

The artwork, by award-winning Aboriginal artist Paul Herzich, was chosen by a selection panel from a total of 15 applications, and features precision sandblasting and hand-painted elements that reflect various local Aboriginal stories and associations.

"We are delighted with the final result of this project," said Acting Mayor Nathan Daniell.

"The work opens a conversation about the Aboriginal history of the area, whilst maintaining a synergy with the surrounding landscape, and subtleness in line with the dignity of the Soldiers War Memorial Hospital, situated above."

Elements to be found on the mural include the Karrawirra Pari (River Torrens) and Ngankipari (Onkaparinga River), wound across the landscape like serpents, and shields representing both the Peramangk and Kaurna peoples.

Coolamons and weaving plants can be found along the river lines, and the stars of the Seven Sisters Dreamtime Story are found reflected in the river surface.

The art project, totalling \$25,000, was a collaboration between Adelaide Hills Council and Gumeracha Main Street Project Inc., and was funded through a Federal Government Building Better Regions grant.

Challenges faced by the artist included the size of the canvas, the visual safety guidelines of the Department of Infrastructure and Transport, and the requirement of traffic management permits in order to complete the roadside work.

The final mural, *First People*, can be seen at the northern end of Torrens Valley Road, on the wall beneath the Gumeracha Soldiers Memorial Hospital.

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