

Media Release



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Successful Point Nepean arts mentoring exhibition extended

A pilot mentoring program engaging young and emerging artists of the peninsula has been received with enthusiastic accolades in recent weeks. iConnect – Young Artists in the Park is a pilot program delivered in partnership with Parks Victoria, the People and Parks Foundation and the Mornington Peninsula Shire to inspire creative expression and well-being through connection with nature. It culminated in an exhibition of the students' works at Point Nepean National Park which will soon be relocated to Mornington Library for extended viewing.

Undertaken at Point Nepean, the program worked with students from Rosebud Secondary College and two local professional artists through interactive sessions in a natural environment. Over 10 weeks the program fostered the growth and development of high quality arts in the fields of painting and photography by providing a mentoring base of collaboration, support, guidance and expertise.

Mentoring is one of the areas that the Victorian Government sees as vital to young people staying engaged in education and training.

"While the program provided local youth with access to resources and one-on-one skills development through the mentorship process, the concluding exhibition of their works at Point Nepean was a fitting way to recognise their journey," Victor Teoh Ranger in Charge said.

"Working in partnership with the People and Parks Foundation and the Mornington Peninsula Shire Youth Services, and two established local artists, painter Miodrag Jankovic and photographer Matthew MacKay, helped us connect these kids to nature, and helps the community to connect with the amazing emerging talent we have here on our doorstep , " said Mr Teoh.

Mornington Peninsula Shire Mayor Councillor Lynn Bowden acknowledges that the response from the community towards the program has been heartening. "This grass roots exhibition has provided a perfect platform to nurture emerging artists and connect them with someone who has already been on that journey. We are very excited to be able to extend this journey for the participants by moving the iConnect exhibition from Point Nepean National Park to the Mornington Library Foyer in October," Cr Bowden said.

The program also provided inspiration and skill nurturing though gallery sessions and concluded in an exhibition held at Point Nepean throughout July in which both artists, partner staff and mentors exhibit their works. The students and mentors works will move to the Mornington Library for 5 – 31 October, open daily from Monday to Saturday, and entry is free.

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