

Fremantle Markets Create Cultural Displays To Celebrate Noongar Six Seasons

Fremantle Markets

August 18, 2017

Fremantle, Western Australia – Locals and tourists will immerse themselves within Indigenous culture when the Fremantle Markets showcase their interactive Art Trail and spectacular suspended wildflower displays to celebrate the Noongar six seasons.

Thousands of customers will wander amongst the retail stalls in the main Hall from Friday 1st September, 2017, through until September, 2018, where they will be greeted by the vivid Art Trail hand-painted on the walkway by local Indigenous artist, Deborah Newenham-Coertse.

Eventually highlighting all six seasons over the coming year, the current Djilba season – which is the 'First Spring' in the Noongar six seasons calendar, will be the first visually vibrant display and will draw inspiration from the yellow, cream and striking blue coloured flowers that are beginning to bloom during August and September in Western Australia's southwest region.

Natasha Atkinson, Chief Executive Officer at Fremantle Markets said, "We wish to celebrate the traditional Noongar practices of the six seasons and what better way to promote this to our visitors than through the Art Trail."

"The traditional owners of the land upon which Fremantle Markets now stands are the Whadjuk Noongar people. The indigenous Australians called the area Walyalup (the place of walyo). To the local Whadjuk people, Fremantle is a place of ceremonies, significant cultural practices and trading," said Natasha.

All six Noongar seasons, being: *Birak* ('First Summer', December-January), *Bunuru* ('Second Summer', February-March), *Djeran* ('Autumn', April-May), *Makuru* ('Winter', June-July), *Djilba* ('First Spring', August-September) and *Kambarang* ('Second Spring', October-November), will showcase amid the walkways. As informative banners will also hang throughout the area, along with Iconography Charts (that will be available to collect from True Blue in the Yard), so that customers can interpret their own artistic versions with each seasonal transition throughout the highly anticipated walkway display.

Furthermore, customers will be equally as mesmerised by the suspended wildflower installations adjoining in the fresh produce 'Yard' area. Designed by Floral Army in collaboration with Fremantle Markets, the spectacular displays will hang stylishly from the rooftop to create a visual and olfactory delight.

Aptly accompanying the cultural displays will be a giveaway to win the correlating exclusive hand-painted Indigenous Australian art piece designed by local artist, Deborah Newenham-Coertse.

Deborah said, "I will be replicating the painting on the pathway in the Fremantle Market's Hall. The painting represents the Noongar six seasons and will also be hanging on display during this time. I have also designed a postcard to coincide that will be informative and educational for children and families."

"The painting took a couple of weeks to paint and I hope that it brings the winner lots of happiness and education, as not everyone knows about the Noongar six seasons," she further said.

The Indigenous Art Trail will run from Friday 1st September, 2017, through until September, 2018. And the suspended Wildflower installations will hang from Friday 1st September, 2017, through until Sunday 26 November, 2017. Both installations are set to draw thousands of people to the Fremantle Markets.

Competition details: The giveaway will run from Friday 1st September, 2017, through until Sunday 26th November, 2017. More details will be revealed on the Fremantle Markets Facebook page soon.

About Fremantle Markets

Established in 1897, the Fremantle Markets are much more than a must see destination. They are an icon; an enticing collection of all that makes Fremantle so fantastic. Watch the eclectic mix of locals and tourists. Smell the unique aromas of fresh produce and exotic flavours. See the fascinating fusion of music, art and culture. Experience over 100 years of remarkable heritage, and sense the atmosphere that is distinctly Fremantle.

Images: Annette Kent (6 seasons painting) & Jed Lyall (Artwork in progress images)

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