



With one of the batiks by Alison Carroll are Pitjantjatjara artists Tjunkaya Tapaya (left) and Tjangali George and Alison Carroll (third and fourth from left) with, from left, Southern Peninsula artists Patrice Mahoney, Jan Chapman-Davis, Rhoda Green, Pam Anderson, Patsy Smith and Ada Hume. *Newspix photo*

# The art of batik



ANANGU Pitjantjatjara artists from central Australia have featured at a well-attended batik workshop in suburban

Melbourne. Alison Carroll and Tjunkaya Tapaya, from Ernabella, and Tjangali George, of Fregon, demonstrated their talent for batik at Cube 37 in the Frankston Arts Centre as part of the Stepping Stones Indigenous Art Project.

Under Stepping Stones, Indigenous artists are hired to share skills in a wide range of art mediums. The project, held in partnership with Peninsula Health, uses the arts to connect Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in Frankston and the Mornington Peninsula region of southern Victoria.

## Anangu Pitjantjatjara women share skills

The three Anangu artists were in Melbourne for the opening of the 'Across The Desert' batik exhibition at the National Gallery of Victoria in Federation Square, which continues until next month. The exhibition is one of many events celebrating the 60th anniversary of the Ernabella Art Centre.

Indigenous people from across

Frankston and the Mornington Peninsula joined in the four-day Stepping Stones batik workshop. Some of their works will be exhibited and offered for sale at Cube 37 during NAIDOC Week this July.

Stepping Stones Advisory Group Chair and local Taungurong woman Patsy Smith was pleased with the outcome of the workshop.

"It was really wonderful that these women could come and show us how to do batik, share their company and celebrate urban and traditional culture," she said.

Peninsula Health's Peta Hudson said local Indigenous people had enjoyed being taught batik and working with the Anangu women.

Stepping Stones art workshops already held have featured traditional basket-weaving, digital photography workshops and emu egg carving. Planned workshops include creating a regional Indigenous community art blanket, stencil art and traditional dance.

For more information on the Stepping Stones Indigenous Art Project, contact Tracey-Lea Smith on 0411 171 818.