

Brothers' forward vision

These indigenous artists' works reflect the importance of family

Art | Louise Clifton-Evans

AFTER more than three generations of family tragedy, Rye artist Bob Kelly is determined the sad times will end with him.

His work reflects the theme of family — and the separate tragedies of his grandmother's life as part of the Stolen Generation and losing three of his siblings to alcohol, drugs and a road accident.

Work by Kelly and his only surviving brother, Dan, will be featured in an exhibition by Baluk Arts at Frankston Arts Centre's Cube 37 starting this week.

It will include work by more than 30 indigenous artists who are members of Baluk Arts.

The exhibition, called *Waimi* (Baluk 2011, is being held as part of NAIDOC week between July 3 and 30.

"We are the only surviving brothers, so looking after each other is pretty important," Kelly said.

"My work reflects the importance of family — my love for my brother — with one of the works called *Brothers in Arms*.

"It is important that the tragedy of the past ends with my generation and doesn't continue — we want better things for our children."

Kelly, a single father of two, said after one of his brothers was adopted out he didn't see him.

It is important that the tragedy of the past ends with my generation and doesn't continue any more, we want better things for our children

BOB KELLY

until 10 years ago, but he died from an overdose two years later. "He had been in jail five times and had a rough life," he said.

"Sam is holding on to the brother I have left."

Both men went to the Geamplains late last year as part of a Baluk Arts workshop.

They learnt to use a variety of yellow ochres in traditional and non-traditional ways.

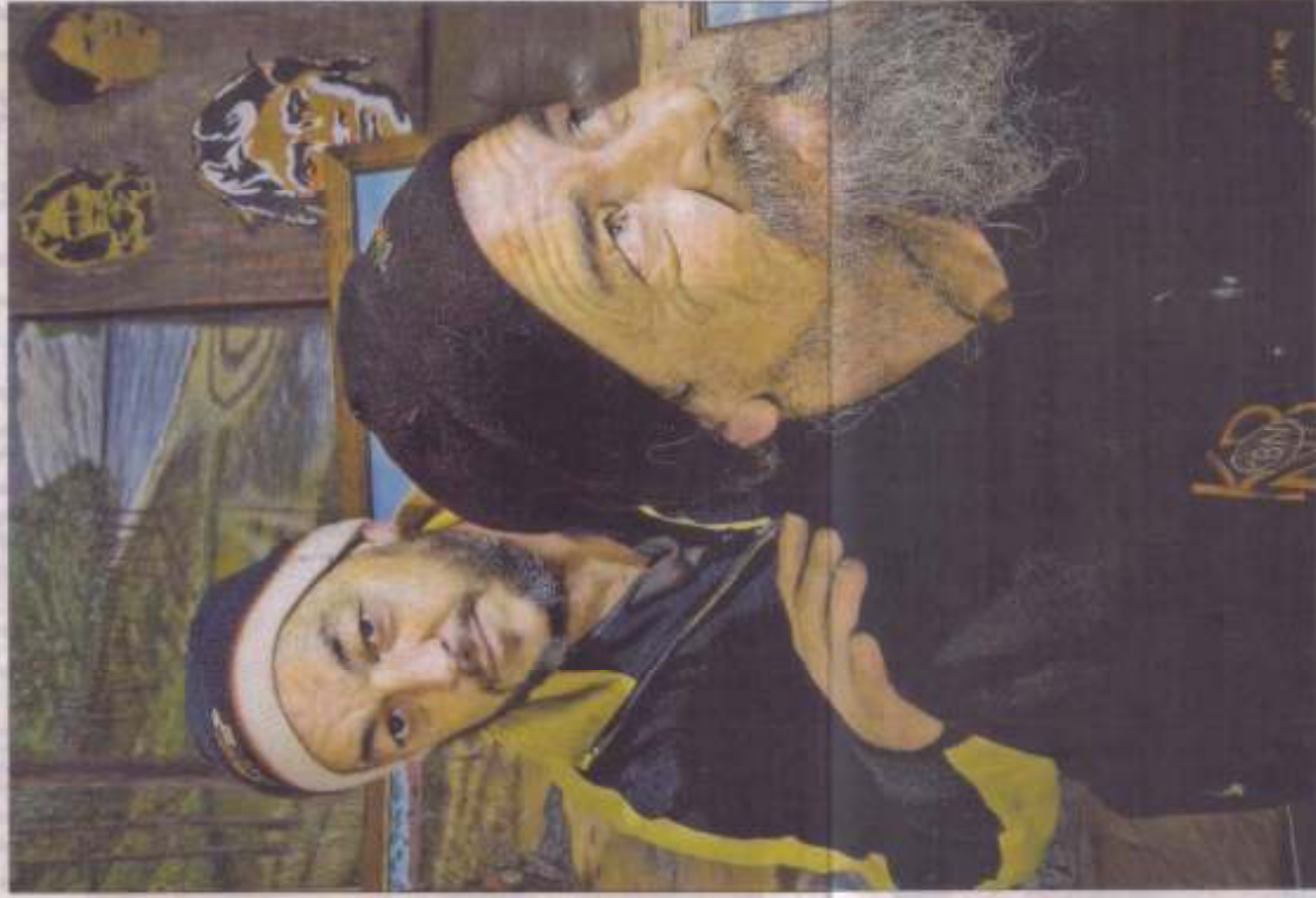
They collected ochres in various colours from the Geamplains, which were combined with media from and around Mornington Peninsula.

The ochre has been used in their current stencil work on exhibition. Kelly also paints landscapes in oil.

Maren Baluk 2017 runs June 29-July 29 at Frankston Arts Centre.

Indigenous artists Bob (hood) and Dan Kelly, from Rye, are providing work at the Frankston Arts Centre for NAIDOC week.

PHOTOS: REKTOX/STONE MARCH



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