



ROEBOURNE YOUNG PEOPLE SKILL UP IN DIGITAL ILLUSTRATION

This term the young people of Roebourne's Big hART program have been learning digital illustration skills with talented Melbourne illustrator and animator Maeve Baker at the new digital lab at the Ngarluma Yindjibarndi Foundation's Ngunin Cultural Centre.

Every afternoon after school young people of Roebourne aged 8-16 years have flocked into workshops at the centre, learning about illustration, animation and exploring digital technology working on WACOM tablets and iPads. They have learnt about the artistry of animation and illustration, got inspired by lead artists in the field and then created their own illustrations and digital artworks.

Elders and senior community members were inspired and enthusiastic about the young people learning new skills in digital media. Nanna Pansy and Nanna Tootsie Daniels did drawing on iPads, creating artwork and exploring different textures. Cultural advisor Michelle Adams spoke of the importance of inter-cultural, inter-generational learning, "The potential for what we have in Roebourne is a wonderful opportunity to use the digital media platform as a tool", said Michelle Adams.

"You have an Elder using an iPad and using colour and animation. Young people are learning, I am learning."

"Putting Indigenous stories in that global platform helps Australia have a conversation with itself too, about what was here, and what is still here. It's engagement, it's learning in action, it's socialisation too. Keeping Yindjibarndi Stories alive, keeping Ngarluma stories alive" said Michelle Adams.

Animator Maeve Baker said "We did workshops every afternoon after school. After 20 minutes every single person was head down, totally engaged in drawing. I love the fact that the digital lab has everything you need and young people can access it every day. Everyone is involved and supportive of the kids learning."

Workshops will continue regularly at the digital lab throughout the year, with talented visiting and local artists coming to Roebourne to give workshops, masterclasses and to mentor young people. The work builds on Big hART's nine years of programs with the Roebourne community delivering strong digital outcomes. These programs focus on digital inclusion and backing strong creative and community leadership out of the Cultural Centre and address barriers around digital access for regional communities. According to the Australian Digital Inclusion Index, in WA Indigenous Australians have the lowest access to technology and programs, despite statistics showing that aptitude and interest from Indigenous Australians in digital tech is high.

Roebourne's digital programs are generously supported by LotteryWest, Fortescue Metals Group, Telstra Foundation, Ngarluma Yindjibarndi Foundation, Building Better Regions, Coins Foundation, Restore Hope Foundation, the Blacket family and Pilbara Development Commission.

Big hART was founded 25 years ago and has since grown into Australia's leading arts and social change company of national renown. Big hART's work focuses on what is strong, working with communities to tell their stories and reimagine their future, and gain the skills – the gift of their story can help drive generational change. To date Big hART has worked in over 50 communities, alongside over 8000 individuals in urban, rural, regional and remote Australia and won over 45 awards.



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