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### **Great success at Australian Indigenous art exhibition**

*Port-of-Spain, Trinidad – 21 August 2019* – Art lovers from across Trinidad and Tobago, including community members and local dignitaries, poured into Medulla Art Gallery in Woodbrook to take in the impressive works of Indigenous Australia on show last week.

More than 100 people attended the Opening Night reception on Thursday, August 8, with hundreds more coming through over the next six days.

The exhibition entitled “Indigenous Reflections – From our islands to yours,” coincided with the thirty-seventh International Day of the World’s Indigenous Peoples; a day to recognise and celebrate the important contributions Indigenous peoples, cultures, languages and art make to society. The exhibition also forms part of the Forty-Fifth Anniversary celebrations of Australia’s diplomatic relations with Trinidad and Tobago.

At the exhibition’s opening reception, Australian High Commissioner John Pilbeam said that the exhibition brings out “the spiritual link between the people, the country and the ancestral beings of Australia’s Indigenous people – both Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Island people...Indigenous civilisations which have stood the tests of time and events for over 60, 000 years.”

The audience at the exhibition launch included Chief Ricardo Hernandez-Bharath of the Santa Rosa First People’s Community, Ms Reita Toussaint, Acting Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs, Mr Vincent Pereira, President of BHP Billiton Trinidad and Tobago, members of the Diplomatic Corps and other prominent members of the local art community.

The Australian High Commission wishes to thank everyone who attended the exhibition and those who helped to make this event a success.



Australian High Commissioner John Pilbeam and his wife Ms Yvonne Webber with members of the Santa Rosa First People's Community at the exhibition launch



High Commissioner Pilbeam delivers opening remarks at the exhibition launch



Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs Ms Reita Toussaint at last Thursday's exhibition launch