

One Creative, Innovative Workplace

Yallourn Mine Alliance recently took advantage of local art students talents when amalgamating their Mine Administration office space.

YMA's Annual Business Plan Workshop identified the need for the technical and administrative departments working within the Mine, to centralise to ensure effective communication and planning. It was seen as an integral driver of their 'One Team' behaviour and supports the major theme of the business plan, 'innovation and creativity'.

Hugh Cassidy, Mine Manager, felt that to promote this theme he needed to create a more stimulating environment for the workers. Hugh decided to commission a group of local artists from the local TAFE Cobalt group, Grant Hilton, Lisa McNamara and Leonie Ryan, to provide an artists impression of the Mine's operation that would create an environment to inspire creativity and innovation.

Grant's oil painting titled 'Meeting of 3 faces' was inspired by his visits to the Yallourn Site and his past employment within the power/mining industry and described the piece as the 'labours of our hands'. Grant was extremely appreciative to have the opportunity to capture a picture he 'has had in his head for many years'.

Using water based colours, Lisa McNamara saw the Mine's Open Cut as having 'beauty of it's own' and was able to use vibrant colours to create a 'shiny, luminous' image to inspire creativity and brighten the work place.

Leonie Ryan produced two sets of photos. The first was her interpretation of 'industry and environment being one'. This included images of 'the regeneration area' and the plant and structures specific to the power industry and the Yallourn Site. They were connected by a centre photo montage of the environment and industry through the artist's eyes.



As recognition and appreciation of the fantastic work and 'inspirational accuracy' produced by the Day Crew on the Wetland's Regeneration Project, Hugh wanted a second set of photo's produced by Leonie for the group's meeting room. These photos capture the serenity of the regrowth and the re-inhabitancies of the area by bird and wildlife.

Along with the artists and YMA Staff, the student's teacher, Peter Biriam attended the afternoon tea where each artist took the opportunity to discuss their paintings. Peter was extremely proud of this group and expressed the difficulties for students 'taking their first steps' as recognised artists and was very grateful to the business for their support of the students. He found this inspiring for himself as a teacher and other students that are trying to establish themselves as artists. He also commented that this was a fantastic exhibition of how art can be recognised and beneficial in the work place.

The artists are available for commission work by contacting Lisa McNamara on (03) 5174 3190 or 0408 586 216.

