



Media Release

Bethesda Art Exhibition a Star for Palliative Care

Tuesday 16 November 2010 – embargoed until 6:30pm

An exclusive art cocktail function was hosted by Bethesda Hospital Chairman, Dr Neale Fong together with Rhonda Wyllie at the Claremont hospital tonight. The crowd was made up of some of Perth's Medical, Arts and Fashion fraternities, as well as internationally renowned photographer Russell James, who worked with indigenous artists to create the artwork, and NYC fashion icon Donna Karan.

The event showcased a small selection of art pieces from the *Nomad Two Worlds Collection*, including some originals and limited edition reproductions. More than 200 guests were treated to words and music performances by James and the indigenous artist, Clifton Bieundurry, supported by Paul Boon and Danny Swayne, in a stunning setting overlooking Freshwater Bay.

The works featured are collaborations between James and Nomad Two Worlds key indigenous artist Clifton Bieundurry (WA) and the up and coming artist Nathan Mundraby (QLD). The collaborative concept of merging contemporary photography with ancient artistic styles of indigenous culture created an amazing visual backdrop for the evening.

Guests also heard Karan speak about her support of the Nomad Two Worlds and its global example of true collaboration across deep divides. Karan herself has set up her own foundation, Urban Zen – which aims to create, connect and collaborate to raise awareness and inspire change in the areas of well-being, preserving cultures and empowering children.

James, through Nomad Two Worlds, was the facilitator of a special collaboration between Donna Karan's Urban Zen Foundation and Bethesda Hospital – in particular the Urban Zen Integrated Therapist Program. Karan and the hospital board have met to discuss the program concepts and its suitability for use throughout the hospital's extensive and well reputed Palliative Care services.

Bethesda Board Chairman, Dr Neale Fong, paid special thanks to the generosity of Rhonda Wyllie, whose recent donation of \$100,000 led to the refurbishment and redesign of the patient day room in the Palliative Care Unit, incorporating Urban Zen components to create a beautiful sanctuary for dying patients.

All funds from the night's ticket sales went towards the Palliative Care Unit, and CEO of Bethesda Hospital, Ms Yasmin Naglazas was delighted with the event, and was excited about the future services and facilities that the hospital would be able to provide, thanks to the generosity of the crowd.

Bethesda Hospital is an independent 88-bed hospital which has been providing outstanding care and service to the Western Australian community for nearly seventy years. The hospital has an outstanding reputation in the provision of palliative care, through their 20 bed in-patient Palliative Care Unit, as well as an ambulatory care program.

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