



Koori Mail
05/07/2006
Page: 32
Section: General News
Region: National Circulation: 8158
Type: Magazines Lifestyle
Size: 186.23 sq.cms.
Published: Bi-Monthly

A deal that's up to par



You might think it's unusual to blend Indigenous art and culture with golf, but native title claimants and resort owners in central Victoria have done just this – and will reap benefits as a result.

A unique Indigenous land use agreement (ILUA) has been reached by the Dja Dja Wurrung people and owners of Forest Resort in the former gold mining township of Creswick, 100 km north-west of Melbourne.

Indigenous art and culture will be promoted to tourists and golfers worldwide as part of plans finalised through the agreement for a \$50-million international hotel and golf course development.

The Dja Dja Wurrung people have agreed the resort owners can access 20 hectares of land under their native title claim to expand and

develop the resort's golf course to an international standard, and proceed with plans to construct an international hotel.

The resort owners have agreed to provide the traditional owners with employment and training opportunities, and to display and sell the Dja Dja Wurrung's artwork at the resort. Interpretive signs will be placed around the golf course to explain the group's cultural heritage to the resort guests who are expected to arrive from overseas and across Australia.

One of the key factors that formed the basis for this agreement is the mutual appreciation of family values. The Forest Resort is a family business and, like the Dja Dja Wurrung people, the owners have a strong appreciation of family. This gave the groups some common ground when they came together for negotiations.

This common ground has set the foundation for the development of their working relationship, so essential for the effective implementation of the agreement. The sense of family and goodwill between the groups was apparent at an event they held in Creswick on June 25 to celebrate the sealing of the agreement.

The Dja Dja Wurrung people and the Forest Resort owners have clearly shown that by finding common ground and being a bit creative, you can reach outcomes that all parties can benefit from.