



## **One Tree Art Prize**

**Artist:** Erin Sullivan

**Title:** Blaze of Bloom

**GPS:** -33.6766666, 115.1211111

Western Australian Christmas Tree (Nuytsia Floribunda, Moodja/Mungee)

As a child, a large old Nuytsia Floribunda or Christmas Tree as we called it then, stood on our family farm near the farmhouse. I knew it was special and to never pick the flowers. Known as Moodja and Mungee, this species

holds deep spiritual significance to the Noongar People of the Southwest region of WA.

More recently, each summer, I would glance at another amazing tree as I drove along Hayes Road, Quindalup. There upon the dry straw-coloured grass, against the clear and intense blue of our Australian



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sky, stood the most beautiful Nuytsia I had ever seen. Wide, tall and expansive with fiery blooms!

Last summer I took a closer look at the spectacle, its clusters of vivid yellow and orange flowers at their stunning best. I wondered at its ability to produce such beauty in this dry sandy land. Despite its rough bark and cactus like stems this

giant parasite, known as the world's largest and oldest surviving mistletoe plant, became my artistic inspiration.

I have placed the tree against a cloudless blue sky with strong shadows on the dry and sun-bleached grass. Golden flowers dress the tree like luminous decorations, filling the canvas with the feeling of a hot Southwest summer in Western Australia. Its ancient beauty takes centre stage.