

Globally Proven  
Construction Solutions

# WOORABINDA COMMUNITY MURAL

Project Spotlight



**CUSTOMER:**  
Woorabinda Aboriginal Shire Council  
Queensland, Australia

**PROJECT DESIGNER:**  
Sandy Robertson  
Studio OzMosaics



## Situation

In early 2014, famed mosaic artist Sandy Robertson from Studio OzMosaics, Brisbane, came to LATICRETE Australia with a very special project.

She had been commissioned by the Woorabinda Aboriginal Shire Council, Queensland, to create a large-scale mosaic mural commemorating and depicting the resettlement of the indigenous community and their forced walk from Taroom to Woorabinda in late 1927. Woorabinda is an aboriginal community 700 kilometers (435 miles) northwest of Brisbane and approximately 170 kilometers (106 miles)

southwest of Rockhampton, Queensland. Ms. Robertson has a large international following and focuses almost exclusively on large-scale high-end commissions such as the Australia Zoo and Arts & Culture Christmas Island mosaic projects.

She is an avid LATICRETE supporter and relies on LATICRETE® products for every mosaic installation she creates. In addition, OzMosaics workshops educate mosaic enthusiasts on the advantages of LATICRETE products.



“When I first considered this project, I knew that I would need to use LATICRETE® products. It is the only company I trust to deliver the high level of quality this project demanded.”

~ Sandy Robertson  
Studio OzMosaics

## Challenge

The Woorabinda Aboriginal Shire Council Community Mural project faced two major challenges:

**The Location:** Woorabinda is located in Outback Queensland, and restocking materials in this remote locale is challenging.

When she accepted the commission, which included a 20-day onsite residency in this remote location, Ms. Robertson needed to bring the right products for a professional installation and knew LATICRETE products were the right choice.

Ordering and shipping new supplies half way through the commission was not an option.

**The Weather:** Woorabinda experiences extreme weather conditions.

During winter the temperature can drop to 0°C (32°F), and during summer it is regularly over 35°C–40°C (95°F–104°F). Tile placement and adhesion in these trying conditions requires the most advanced products.



# A LATICRETE Solution

With challenging projects such as the Woorabinda mosaic mural, a designer typically works with the LATICRETE Technical Services team to select the right mix of products and design correct procedures.

Ms. Robertson is a huge fan of LATICRETE and long-time user of LATICRETE® products, and knew exactly which products she needed for the Woorabinda Aboriginal Shire Council Community Mural. These included:

**HYDRO BAN®**, which was applied over the mosaic's cement board to provide waterproofing and deal with the location's wet conditions.

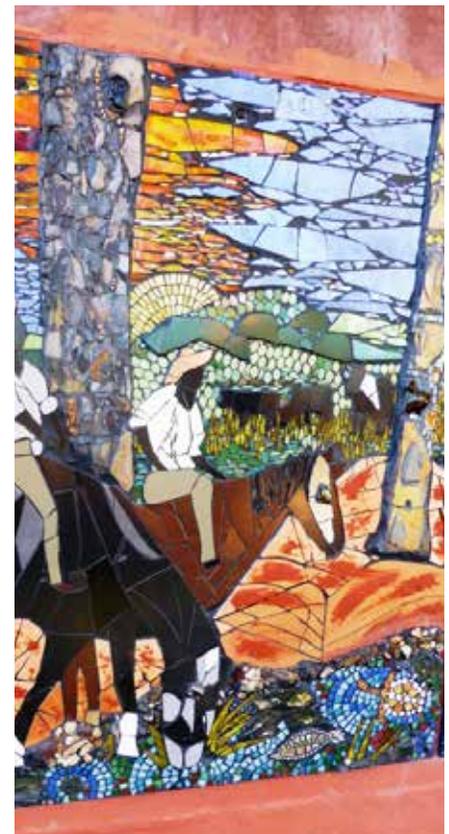
HYDRO BAN is a thin, load-bearing, waterproofing/crack isolation membrane that does not require the use of fabric in the field, coves or corners. HYDRO BAN is a single-component, self-curing liquid rubber polymer that forms a flexible, seamless waterproofing membrane. HYDRO BAN bonds directly to a wide variety of substrates.

**335 Premium Flexible Adhesive** was selected to adhere tiles to the mosaic. 335 provided two benefits to the project. First, it comes in a one-part formulation that only needs to be mixed with water. This was much more conducive to the remote location, where a two-part product would have presented a challenge.

Second, weather has a huge bearing on any adhesive's open time. 335 has one of the longest open times on the market, which was necessary in Woorabinda's hot climate.

335 Premium Flexible Adhesive is a high-performance, thin-bed adhesive for installing a wide range of tiles and stone, including low-absorption ceramic tile, porcelain tile, and natural and manufactured stone using the thin-set method of installation.

**PERMACOLOR® Grout**, a high-performance ANSI A118.7-compliant polymer-fortified cementitious grout, was used to grout the tiles. The grout's colour consistency was especially important given the wide range of colours seen throughout the mural.



“I am proud to be a part of a project that honours the indigenous population and commemorates their strength.”

~ Nick Collette,  
LATICRETE Technical Sales Representative

## Outcome

Without exception, everyone is happy with the project.

Sandy Robertson is happy with a mosaic that will stand in Woorabinda for decades to come. Many community residents, including children, adults, council members and grandparents,

participated in the design and installation of the mural and see it as an asset to their community.

LATICRETE is proud to have been involved in such an important project.



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