

Southern Gazette

 **Community**

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BELMONT

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BUSINESS

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Leanne Manado with a piece of her artwork and Victoria Park MLA Ben Wyatt, who is co-patron of Belmont BEC-Small Business Centre.

Get the Edge for business success

SOUTH Perth designer Leanne Manado launched the online store for her new label Lila Dara at the opening of the Designedge Innovation Festival 2009 in Belmont.

Ms Manado (45) was guest speaker at the launch of the small business forum, which runs until the end of May and features more than 50 workshops and events.

Originally from Dampier, Ms Manado's designs combine the indigenous and Christian worlds through the image of flowers, particularly the water lily, which she believes contains a religious and spiritual motif.

Hosted by Belmont BEC-Small Business Centre, the Designedge Innovation Festival brings together

designers, small business owners, investors and inventors for business and networking.

There are workshops on topics like starting and growing your own business, finding investors, finance, media and marketing, e-commerce, importing and exporting and climate change.

This week, Joe Iovine from Inventors Assistance Australia, will host a Meet the Inventors forum featuring new water saving, household, safety, health and medical developments from 9am daily at Belmont Forum. There is a networking forum for the fashion and textile industry on May 20 and networking dinner for professional women on May 25.