

Proud family history on show



By ANELIA BLACKIE

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ELAINE Kropinyera made no secret of how proud she was to be related to the smiling man on the \$50 note when she this week prepared a display of her family's history in Mount Gambier.

The 53-year-old Mount Gambier woman remembered how softly spoken her great uncle David Unaipon was before he died in 1967 when she was 12 years old.

"He was a small man, but a big inspiration to me," Ms Kropinyera said.

She proudly displayed her family's history along with photos of other Aborigines such as boxing hero Anthony Mundine and musician Manawuy Yunupingu at an exhibition at Anglican Community Care on White Road.

The exhibition coincides with NAIDOC Week and today foster carers who have taken Aboriginal children in their care will get to learn more about these people who inspired Ms Kropinyera.

"Too many negative things are said about Aboriginal people in the media and I want to share a few success stories with the public," Ms Kropinyera said.

David Unaipon's life story was one of them and his list of achievements before his death in 1967 was long.

A Ngarrindjeri man, Mr Unaipon gained a reputation of being Australia's Leonardo for his promotion of scientific ideas and 10 inventions including a centrifugal motor, a multi-radial wheel and a mechanical propulsion device.

For 50 years he travelled the south eastern parts of Australia as a preacher, but was also a respected poet and made contributions to improve the conditions of Aboriginal people.



Elaine Kropinyera with a \$50 note showing the face of her great uncle David Unaipon. Picture: ANELIA BLACKIE.

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