

# BUILDING STRONG *ARTS* BUSINESS

## NEWSLETTER #3 - NOVEMBER 2005

The Northern Territory Indigenous Arts Strategy (IAS), *Building Strong Arts Business* was launched at the Garma Festival on 8 August 2003, fulfilling a commitment in Labor's Plan 2001 'Bringing out the Best: Arts in the Territory'.

*Building Strong Arts Business* includes \$3.21million in new Northern Territory Government funding over three years. 2005/2006 is the third year of the Strategy.

To obtain a copy of the Strategy visit the web site at <http://www.arts.nt.gov.au> and click on the *Building Strong Arts Business* link or contact Arts NT on (08) 8999 8981 or 1800 678 237 (toll free).

### Indigenous Arts Development Unit (IADU)

The Indigenous Arts Development Unit comprises a team of four people. Recruitment for an Indigenous Arts Development Project Officer for the Alice Springs region is currently underway.

**Bilawara Lee** (Manager) can be contacted on T: (08) 8999 5532.

**Beth Corkery** (Administrative Assistant) can be contacted on T: (08)8999 7073.

**Cynthia Coyne** BA (BFA Hons.) has joined the unit as the Indigenous Arts Development Project Officer – Darwin.

Cynthia, of Djukun-Yawuru Indigenous heritage is a Territorian with research experience in Indigenous land, art and health. Cynthia has published works about Yolngu printmaking and the art of Indigenous people from the West Kimberley. Cynthia can be contacted on:  
T: (08) 8999 5524  
E: [cynthia.coyne@nt.gov.au](mailto:cynthia.coyne@nt.gov.au)

### Indigenous Arts Strategy Review

The Indigenous Arts Strategy Review is currently underway and will be completed by December 2005. The review marks the completion of the third year of the Strategy. It will assess and evaluate the achievements and impact of the current Strategy and inform future directions for 2006/07, 2007/08 and 2008/09.

The successful consultant is Cathy Hunt from Positive Solutions.



L-R: Bilawara Lee, Beth Corkery and Cynthia Coyne from the IADU

### Baru Kadal

The 2006 Darwin Festival hosted the world premiere season of the new work, *Entrapment*, by Larrakia dancer and choreographer Gary Lang. Audiences from Darwin and across the region flocked to support the newly established Dance / Theatre Company Baru Kadal. Gary Lang is working with Juliette Hubbard to tell Indigenous stories from the Top End through dance, theatre and performance. The success of the initial season has led to invitations for Baru Kadal to perform in Cairo, Egypt in January 2006, New Mexico in April 2006 and Israel in June 2006.

'Baru Kadal' is derived from the Yolngu and Kala Lagawa Ya Languages. 'Baru' is Yolgnu, from Arnhem Land in the Northern Territory and 'Kadal' is Kala Lagawa Ya, from the Torres Strait Islands. Both mean 'crocodile'. The crocodile is the matrilineal totem of both Directors, Gary Lang and Juliette Hubbard.



### 2005 Telstra National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Award

The 22nd Telstra National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Award opened on Friday 12 August 2005 on the lawns in the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory grounds at Bullocky Point Darwin. The IAS provided \$25,000 to the NATSIAA event which assisted with event performances and a bus tour to galleries featuring Indigenous artists to complement NATSIAA. The exhibition ran until the 23rd October 2005. Prizes were awarded in the following five categories: The Telstra First Prize, the Telstra General Painting Award, the Telstra Bark Painting Award, the Telstra Work on Paper Award and the Wandjuk Marika 3D Memorial Award (sponsored by Telstra).

The Telstra First Prize of \$40,000 was awarded to the *Tjanpi Grass Toyota* woven piece produced by Blackstone (WA) Tjanpi weavers Kantjupayi Benson, Nuniwa Donegan (dec'd), Angaliya Mitchell, Margaret Donegan, Melissa Donegan, Mary Smith, Freda Lane, Diedre Lane, Elaine Lane, Wendy Lane, Janet Lane, Janet Forbes, Shirley Bennet, Gail, Angela Lyon, Sarkaway Lyon, Ruby Forbes and Jean Lane. For more information about this event contact: The Award Coordinator, Christine Colton on: T: (08) 8999 8203  
E: [natsiaa@nt.gov.au](mailto:natsiaa@nt.gov.au)  
W: [www.magnt.nt.gov.au](http://www.magnt.nt.gov.au)

Image above: Blackstone Tjanpi Weavers, *Tjanpi Grass Toyota* - raffia, grass, jute string, chicken wire and steel. 190 x 120 x 420 cms  
Purchased 2005 - Telstra Collection, Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory. Winner Telstra First Prize, 22nd Telstra National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Art Award.

Image courtesy of the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory.

Photographer: Gilbert Herrada

### 2005 Northern Territory Indigenous Music Awards

The second Northern Territory Indigenous Music Awards were presented in Darwin at the Marrara Stadium on Saturday 27 August 2005. The Awards recognise excellence, dedication, professionalism and innovation in the Northern Territory music industry. The Northern Territory Indigenous Music Awards are supported by the Indigenous Arts Strategy.

Awards for Song of the Year and the Best Music Release were won by the Yilila band from Numbulwar community in Arnhem Land. The Nabarlek Band won the Band of the Year Award. Nabarlek is from the outstation of Manmoyi in North West Arnhem Land. The Award for Male Musician of the Year was won by Geoffrey Gurrumul Yunupingu from Galiwin'ku in Arnhem Land. Shellie Morris was awarded Female Musician of the Year, for the second time.

Further information on this project can be obtained from Music NT on

T: (08) 8981 1995

E: [manager@musicnt.com.au](mailto:manager@musicnt.com.au)



L-R: Mandy Garling, Ali Mills, Terrence Wilson from Letterstick and Geoffrey Gurrumul Yunupingu at the 2005 Northern Territory Indigenous Music Awards  
Photographer - Kara Burns

## The NT Arts Grants Program

The Arts Grants Program has specific funds dedicated to support Indigenous arts projects and artists. Applications are accepted across all funding categories. This includes Presentation and Promotion, Arts Development, Regional Arts Fund, Professional Development, the Quick Response Scheme, Arts Scholarship Scheme and the Remote Festivals Fund. All categories offer opportunities for Indigenous arts support. A special category for Indigenous Performing Arts Touring was offered with a closing date of 15 October 2005.

During the March 2005 Round 81 applications were received, including 21 Indigenous project applications to the value of \$217,961 (30% of the total funds requested). 13 applications were funded to the value of \$108,437. The remaining 23 non-Indigenous specific grants that were funded received \$182,977. Funding was awarded to dance, film, television & new media, literature, multi arts, music, theatre and visual arts projects.

A special initiative was developed to support Indigenous Music Touring in April 2005. 12 applications were received and 6 music touring projects were funded, totalling \$40,000.

In 2004/2005, in addition to the March 2005 Round and the Indigenous Music Touring, 35 Indigenous projects received one-off quick response grants totalling \$30,599. In the 2005/2006 financial year seven projects or professional development applications have been funded through the Quick Response Scheme, to date totalling \$7,750.

To obtain a copy of the Arts Grants Guidelines booklet, application form(s) or to speak with a staff member about your project ideas contact us on:  
T: 1800 678 237 (toll-free)



above: Edmund Nundhirribala from Yilila : image courtesy 'www.yilila.com'

## Desert Mob / Marketplace / DanceSite

Record sales have accompanied the launch of the 15th Annual Desert Mob art exhibition at the Araluen Galleries in Alice Springs. Over 600 people attended with approximately 115 works valued at over \$210,000 sold at the launch.

The Alice Springs Cultural Precinct has acquired a number of works for the Araluen Collection.

Desert Mob is the most comprehensive national exhibition documenting and presenting the current activities of Central Australian Aboriginal art centres.



above: Desert Mob Market Place 2005

Image courtesy Alice Desert Festival. Photographer Mick Vovers

In association with Desert and the Alice Desert Festival, the Alice Springs Cultural Precinct also presented Desert Mob Market Place. An estimated 1000 people attended with in excess of \$78,000 worth of works sold. Sales through Desert Mob Marketplace have increased by \$37,000 from last year.

Desert Mob Market Place and Desert DanceSite are supported through the Indigenous Arts Strategy. The key initiatives of the Strategy are strongly connected to the community by providing showcasing opportunities, building partnerships, working on continued improvements and increased marketing for Indigenous arts, with the benefits of national prominence accruing to artists and the Territory.

## **Mardbalk Arts and Cultural Centre**

Ms Marion Scrymgour MLA, Minister for Arts and Museums, officially opened the Mardbalk Arts and Cultural Centre, on 23 September 2005.

For many years now members of the Warruwi Community on Goulburn Island have dreamt of having their own Art Centre. Through the support of the community and the sheer determination of councillors and residents alike, this has now become a reality!

After receiving some help from the Royal Australian Navy to repair the building, today, the community has an Art Centre to call its own. The opening of this Art Centre has brought a new wave of creativity into the community, and the cultural life of the island has been reinvigorated.

The unique artworks have already caught the eye of gallery owners in Darwin and even as far away as Sydney. It just goes to show how vital art centres are to the community.

*Building Strong Arts Business*, the Northern Territory Government's Indigenous Arts Strategy, recognises the importance of arts centres and is committed to brokering stronger and more strategic policy and funding partnerships with all key Commonwealth and Territory Government sector stakeholders.

*Building Strong Arts Business* also provides support to ANKAAA to assist in the provision of advice, support and skills development to art centres such as Mardbalk.



Ms. Marion Scrymgour, MLA, Minister for Arts and Museums opening the Mardbalk Arts and Cultural Centre.

## **Indigenous Arts Export Action Plan**

The first stage of the Action Plan was carried out in July 2005 when a delegation was brought to the Northern Territory to visit art centres. The delegation consisted of six collectors and a representative of Austrade from Germany. The collectors were made up of commercial gallery owners, private collectors and buyers (who were sourcing artwork on behalf of third parties). It is worth noting that one of the collectors was also sourcing art for the establishment of a museum in the Canary Islands, South-west of Spain.

In September 2005 a second delegation of five collectors from Europe travelled to art centres in the Top End, the Alice Springs region and to four art centres in Western Australia. The visit also allowed the opportunity for participants to attend Desert Mob, Desert Mob Marketplace, Desert Song, Desert DanceSite and the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Award.

## **Northern Territory Government and the Australian Government - Bilateral Agreement on Indigenous Affairs**

The IADU is working with Department of Communications, Information Technology and the Arts (DCITA) and the Northern Territory Indigenous Coordination Centres (ICC) to progress the bilateral schedules under the Bilateral Agreement. The first arts schedule being implemented is Arts and Culture – Art Centre Sustainability, with further discussions planned in the near future for broadcasting and culture and language.

A Steering Committee is identifying areas for co-operation to develop a joint strategy to build the social, cultural and economic sustainability of art centres.

Progress on the bilateral discussions will be reported through this newsletter.

### **Arts NT - Darwin**

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GPO BOX 1774 Darwin NT 0801  
T: 08-8999 8981

### **Arts NT - Alice Springs**

Alice Springs Cultural Precinct  
Larapinta Drive Alice Springs NT 0870  
PO Box 3521 Alice Springs NT 0871  
T: 08-8951 1190

E: [arts.office@nt.gov.au](mailto:arts.office@nt.gov.au)

T: 1800 678 237 (toll free)

W: [www.arts.nt.gov.au](http://www.arts.nt.gov.au)

*Building Strong Arts Business* is a Northern Territory Government initiative managed by Arts NT



**Northern Territory Government**

Department of Natural Resources, Environment and the Arts