

# BUILDING STRONG **ARTS** BUSINESS

NEWSLETTER #4 - FEBRUARY 2006

The Arts Grants Program offers artists, organisations and communities access to support for initiatives that explore, express and showcase Northern Territory identity through arts and culture. The Arts Grants March round closes at 5pm on 15 March. 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 Arts NT on: T: 1800 678 237

## Quick Response Scheme

The Quick Response Scheme offers small grants to support arts activity in any funding category outside standard funding rounds. Applications are accepted for projects and professional development projects. Quick Response Scheme grant recipients are required to acquit their grant within 4 weeks of the completion of the funded activity.

## Recent successes

Australian Government funds distributed through the Regional Arts Fund as part of the October Round included several outstanding Indigenous Projects.

### Baru Kadal

The Darwin based Indigenous dance company, Baru Kadal Dance Theatre were successful in their Arts Development application and will receive \$15,000 to assist the company create a new work called Goose Lagoon. The Goose Lagoon story will be told through contemporary and traditional Indigenous dance styles and puppetry with a view to staging it as part of the Darwin Festival 2006. Goose Lagoon mirrors the story of Swan Lake, with a localised Territory flavour that reveals the nature of the annual goose shooting season.

### Tiwi Island carvers

The Tiwi Island carvers, Katherine Regional Arts and Yilila Band were successful applicants for Presentation and Promotion funds. Six Tiwi Island carvers will be travelling to Melbourne to participate in the Helen Lempriere National Sculpture Award in March 2006. The Jilamara Arts and Craft Association have been selected as finalists with a group entry in this prestigious Award. Jilamara Arts and Craft Association will receive \$13,000 to send the artists to the Award to install the works and attend the opening.



### Music Without Humbug

Since its inception in 2003, Music Without Humbug has provided performance opportunities for established, emerging and new bands in a family-oriented, alcohol free environment. In 2006 Katherine Regional Arts will receive \$10,000 to continue its commitment to Music Without Humbug Goes East taking it to the remote communities of Borroloola and Ngukurr.

above: Sandridge Band - Music Without Humbug  
below: Helen Lempriere Sculpture Award entrants, known as the *Jilamara Carvers* (l-r) : Patrick Freddy Puruntatameri, Tracy Puruntatameri, Romolo Tipiloura, Matthew Freddy Puruntatameri, Pius Tipungwuti (seated)



## Yilila & the Red Flag Dancers

Two Northern Territory leading acts, the band Yilila and the traditional dance group Red Flag Dancers, will be going to the 2006 Port Fairy Folk Festival in Victoria to promote themselves and the new CD Manilamanila with funding support of \$11,000.

## New Arts Communities

A successful applicant under the New Arts Community category is the Traditional Arts Workshops project. The Groote Eylandt and Bickerton Island Enterprises Aboriginal Corporation will be receiving \$4,800 for community workshops aimed at engaging people in traditional arts and crafts practices. This project will be led by respected local artists. The workshops will teach participants how to make traditional items such as spears, didgeridoos, pandanus baskets and woomeras. Workshops will also include the making of ochres to paint the items.

With the "Creating Futures in Performing Arts Program", Nyinkka Nyunyu works in partnership with the peak national performing arts organisations, NIDA, NAISDA Dance College and the Australian Theatre for Young People. They will deliver dance and drama projects and performances with a focus on skills development, potential tertiary opportunities, study and work readiness, career advice and career planning within the arts industry for youth in the Barkly Region.

right: members of Drum Atweme at the Bush Bands Bash 2005  
(photo: Keiran Sandersen)

below: Fire twirlers at Nyinkka Nyunyu Performance, 2005

## Bush Bands Bash

Following on from its presentation by Music NT at the Alice Springs Velodrome in 2005, and its original launch at the Gap Youth Centre in 2003, the Bush Bands Bash will again be presented in 2006, with support from Arts NT. The event will present a showcase of musical talent from remote bush communities surrounding Alice Springs, with bands coming from communities such as Papunya, Santa Teresa, and Docker River. The Bush Bands Bash is a family, alcohol free event, aiming to develop partnerships between arts industry organisations and Indigenous community associations. The event allows bands and band members to gain experience performing at a professional level in front of a large audience outside their own communities, which may then lead to participation at other music events.



## Indigenous Arts Development Unit

The Indigenous Arts Development Unit comprises:

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Tim Rollason has recently joined the unit as the Indigenous Arts Development Project Officer in Alice Springs. Tim has lived in Central Australia since 1996, arriving to take up the position of Art Co-ordinator for Keringke Arts at Santa Teresa. Prior to this Tim had worked as a Visual Arts Curator and a Community and Cultural Development Consultant in Victoria and Queensland. From Santa Teresa, Tim moved out to the Ikuntji Art Centre at Haast's Bluff before taking up the position of Development Officer with Desart. Tim has worked for the Northern Territory Government since 2001, first in the position of Arts Marketing Project Officer with Arts NT and more recently in the position of Curator for the Araluen Galleries, Alice Springs Cultural Precinct. On a more personal note Tim is an artist, making wire sculptures, and has been past Chair and Treasurer of the Alice Springs Festival.



Tim Rollason, Project Officer -Alice Springs



*Mitjalany (place East of Docker River) LindyLou Bennett 2005, acrylic on canvas, 60x55 cm*

## Tangentyere Artists

Tangentyere Artists is a recent new arts initiative, established in April 2005 by Tangentyere Council in Alice Springs. The need for a permanent art support program for people living in the 18 Town Camps in Alice Springs has long been recognised. While Tangentyere Council has organised arts activities and training for Town Camp residents for many years, there has not been a designated, permanent service providing ongoing arts development support.

Tangentyere Artists will deliver a series of one-week workshops in which experienced arts workers will work together with emerging artists in Town Camps in related language and family groups to develop arts skills and gain professional development.



## Wenten Rubuntja Indigenous Artists Fellowship

A unique arts fellowship worth \$56,000 has been named after a great Territorian, Mr Rubuntja.

Mr Rubuntja was an Arrernte artist and activist born in Burt Creek north of Alice Springs in the 1920s. A key figure in the land rights campaign and he played a leading role in establishing many Aboriginal organisations.

The Wenten Rubuntja Indigenous Artists Fellowship is a pilot joint venture between Advance Global Australian Professionals, Woodside and the Northern Territory Government.

The pilot project provides an opportunity for a Northern Territory Indigenous artist to travel to New York and engage in a structured program of learning about the New York art market and gallery scene.

The successful applicant was Ms Karen Mills.

Karen began her visual art career in 1997 when she completed an Associate Diploma of Fine Art

at the Northern Territory University, later studying in the Bachelor of Visual Art course. Karen's art-work has twice been selected for exhibition as part of the Telstra National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Awards, a painting in 1998 and a work on paper in 2004. In 2002 Karen was included in the Five Darwin Painters exhibition at 24HR Art, Northern Territory Centre for Contemporary Art. In 2003 Karen participated in Communion and Other Conversations, an international thematic residency for Indigenous artists at the Banff Centre in Canada.

Alongside her own visual art practice Karen has also been engaged in community development and arts administration through her role as a member of the Australia Council's Visual Arts Board and involvement with Association of the Northern Kimberley and Arnhem Aboriginal Artists (ANKAAA).

The experiences gained through the Wenten Rubuntja Indigenous Artists Fellowship will enable Karen to broaden her professional experiences and bring her understanding and familiarity back for the benefit of the wider Indigenous arts community.

above: Fellowship recipient Karen Mills

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*To obtain a copy of the Indigenous Arts 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 (Toll free) 1800 678 237*

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*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