

Media Release:

17.4.08

Yarning Up Filming Commences in Remote Communities

Filming throughout the Territory is underway for the ABC Television documentary series *Yarning Up*, an initiative developed by the Northern Territory Film Office (NTFO) in partnership with Top End Aboriginal Bush Broadcasting Association (TEABBA).

NTFO Director Penelope McDonald said one of the exciting five minute documentaries being filmed in Beswick and Katherine this week is Tom E Lewis's film ***From the Spirit of the Crow – Wak Wak***, a story about Arnhemland lawman Roy Moyngumbi who receives a message from the Crow Spirit to stop the destruction and drainage of the river system.

"In late 2007 NTFO and TEABBA hosted a documentary development workshop from which four documentaries were chosen to be made, which will air on ABC TV in July 2008," Ms McDonald said.

"It's such an exciting opportunity both for Indigenous filmmakers from the Territory and the public to see these stories, Territorians all love a good yarn and the rest of Australia will enjoy seeing these stories air on ABC TV's *Message Stick*."

"The initiative has provided employment opportunities for Territorians and particularly Indigenous cast and crew from remote communities. The series is being produced by Penny Smallacombe, who recently returned to her hometown of Darwin to produce the series. Other crew include Darwin based sound recordist Ian Redfearn and cameraman Colin Richards, who is also making a documentary about the making of *Yarning Up*."

Other projects include:

Yolgnu Guya Djamamirr – Mr Frank Djirrimbilpilwuy (Filmed in Elcho Island 7-13 April 2008). Priscilla has had to leave my home to be cared for in Darwin. Lillian is Greek and embraces Priscilla into the Greek Community in Darwin. My son gives a gift of thanks to Lillian – Zorba the Greek Yolgnu style.

Yothu Marnda – Ms Eilish Markuniny (Filmed in Elcho Island 7-13 April 2008) In the 1960's, six year old twin boys from Elcho Island got lost for three days and nights after they went hunting on the mainland with their mother and father.

One Tree One Man - Ms. Jedda Puruntatameri (To be filmed on Tiwi Islands 22-25 April 2008). *One Tree One Man* tells the story of the only remaining Tamarind Tree left standing on the Tiwi Islands and the one man left to tell its story.

"Other collaborating partners in the initiative include ABC Television and the Australian Film Commission (AFC)"

Ends

Media Note – for more information contact Penelope McDonald on 0410 695 272 or Penny Smallacombe on 0406 285 798.

Issued: 4.50pm Thursday, 17 April 2008.