

Media Release:

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***Yarning Up* filming moves on to Tiwi Islands**

Filming is underway on the fourth documentary 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 filming over the past month has gone very well and the crew have moved on from Katherine to film Jemma Puruntatameri's documentary *One Tree One Man* in the Tiwi Islands this week.

Jemma's documentary is about Macassan trading, the story is told through the eyes of her 90 year old father Justin Warnikinnimeri, who is the last living link the community has to its century's long history of trading goods, culture and even love with the seafaring Macassans.

Mr Warnikinnimeri is the only one left on the Tiwi Islands who speaks Indonesian, and this is his story of the one remaining Tamarind tree and the link it provides to the Macassan trade.

"When I was at school, the teacher told us how Captain Cook had discovered Australia, I was the only one who said no, the Macassans were the first visitors, the teacher looked back at me with frustration, I had caught them off guard, but I had a point to prove," Ms Puruntatameri said.

"When my father Justin was a young boy, he learned to speak Indonesian from the Macassans that we let camp on our community beach, and now he is the only one left to tell the story of the time of the Macassans and the Tamarind trees that they left behind.

"Our Tiwi culture still contains influences from this time - words, ideas, even dancing, as well as the use of different clan flags in red, yellow and white."

Jemma Puruntatameri is a well known leader and teacher in her community and has been working in broadcasting for the last 14 years - *One Tree One Man* is her first documentary for television.

Ms McDonald said the initiative has provided employment opportunities for Territorians and particularly Indigenous cast and crew from remote communities, with the series producer Penny Smallacombe returning to her hometown of Darwin to produce the series.

"It's such an exciting opportunity both for Indigenous filmmakers from the Territory and the public to see these stories," Ms McDonald said.

"Territorians all love a good yarn and the rest of Australia will enjoy seeing these finished documentaries on television."

The other short films being made for *Yarning Up* are:

From the Spirit of the Crow – Wak Wak – Mr Tom E Lewis (filmed in Katherine and Beswick), 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.

Yolgnu Guya Djamamirr – Mr Frank Djirrimbilwuy (Filmed on Elcho Island).

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 on Elcho Island)

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.

Other collaborating partners in the initiative include the Australian Film Commission (AFC) and Department of Education, Employment and Training (DEET).

Ends

Media Note – for more information contact Penelope McDonald on 0410 695 272 or Penny Smallacombe and Jedda Puruntatameri on 0488 943 388

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