



Media Release:

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Youth Literature takes on a Festive Vibe

Internationally recognised songwriter, author and former Midnight Oil drummer Rob Hirst will help the Northern Territory Library encourage a love of literature amongst Territory youths, as part of the literary program for the Darwin Festival.

Northern Territory Library Director Jo McGill said they are currently visiting the community of Milingimbi, Arnhem Land where Rob will be hosting song-writing workshops and telling stories from his writing career aimed at inspiring the Indigenous youths to engage with the written word.

“Rob will be working with the local youths, showing them how to use their own stories and interest in music to produce a song for their community, which will be followed by a community event allowing local bands to join him on stage,” Ms McGill said.

“The material from these workshops will then be available at the Milingimbi Community Library as part of their local collection.

“This visit is an important part of the literary program in providing positive role models for Indigenous youth through engagement with writers, their stories and their work as authors.”

Ms McGill said the literary program for the Darwin Festival, which also features appearances by author Phillip Gwynne and local Darwin author Barry Jonsberg, is aimed at inspiring young people to keep books and reading in their lives.

“We’ve identified that 12 -17 year-olds are at a critical age to develop solid outcomes in life-long learning, and the use of contemporary literature and relevant presenters will enable our program to better engage with youths,” Ms McGill said.

The following events will be held at the Northern Territory Library commencing this evening:

- Tuesday 25 August 2008 6.30-7.30 pm
Book Launch “The Build Up” (Adult literature) by Phillip Gwynne
- Wednesday 26 August 2008 11am -12pm
Book Launch “The Dog That Dumped on my Doona” (youth literature) by Barry Jonsberg
- Friday 28 August 2008 6.30pm – 7.30pm
Evening of music and conversation with Rob Hirst, Phillip Gwynne and Barry Jonsberg

The Northern Territory Government has provided \$6,000 in funding and in-kind support to the program, in addition to assistance from the Australian Government’s arts funding and advisory body, the Australia Council for Arts.

Ends

Media Note – for more information contact Jo McGill on 8999 5562

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