

On the Lands

A newsletter for APY communities

MAY— JUNE 2008
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Ernabella artists to share ideas

For some time now, Ngunytjima Carroll and Michael Evans have been making pots for the women artists at Ernabella Arts to decorate. In May they will start on a new adventure and spend two weeks working with and exchanging ceramic ideas with the master pot makers of the Tiwi Islands off the coast of Darwin.

This trip is part of an ongoing program to develop a remote Indigenous ceramic network with three Indigenous centres (Ernabella, Hermannsberg and the Tiwi Islands). They plan to all spend some time together, making pots and sharing ideas in Ernabella in early 2009.



Ceramics recognised nationally



The three pots in this photo, made by Ngunytjima, Michael and Hudson Alison have recently been bought by Parliament House in Canberra to be displayed in their Australian art collection. The artwork on the pots was produced by Nura Rupert, Irpintiri (Malpiya) Davey and Carol Williams—all from Ernabella Arts.

Carol Anilyuru Williams also won 3rd prize in the national 2007 Indigenous Ceramic Art Awards last year. She took five days to produce the ceramic artwork she calls 'Wanampi' which tells the story of two water snakes and how they trick two women. The women become the wives of the snakes and live with them at Piltardi. Piltardi is Carol's grandmother's place near Kanpi. Carol enjoys making art. It keeps her culture strong as she can tell stories through her art and have fun doing it!



Artwork for Pipalyatjara School



The Pipalyatjara Community have come together to paint 40 huge panels for five new buildings for their local school grounds. Men, women, Elders, young and older school children have all been keen to be involved. Many families are represented and will have their stories told through their art.

Jude Crabtree, who is co-ordinating this project at Pipalyatjara school, said watching the artists and working with them has been the highlight of her long teaching career. She is thrilled to see so many tjitji learning directly from the artists and being involved in the painting.

Though the buildings aren't due to arrive until September, the panels are well on the way to being finished. When they do arrive, the Department of Education and Children's Services will also offer training in skills such as landscaping and carpentry.

A Good Day Out by Danny Curtis



I am Danny Curtis and work for the Department for Families and Communities (DFC) on the APY Lands. I work with people who have a disability and challenging behaviours. Over the Christmas break, I got some of my clients involved with the youth program that was run by DFC and NPY Women's Council.

In Pukatja, the holiday program was provided by Micah Wenitong. If young people wanted to learn how to play band equipment they could. There were also day programs some of which involved trips away from the community.

I asked Micah if some of my guys with a disability could get involved with some of the activities. One day we went out to look for water so we all could go for a swim but to our disappointment all was dry. So we ended up down the creek near Umuwa and I asked my clients to help prepare the lunches for the younger ones.

They were more than happy to do this and to get in there and cut up tomatoes and salads and the meat

to put on the sandwiches. I felt good about this as I asked the men to do this and not one of them needed my help to do it. This shows that people both with or without a disability can work together.

These men will now be asked by the family centre support worker to arrange their own meals and try to do some cooking. Prior to this the meals were provided to the men by the family centre.

I would like to say thank you to Micah and all the young fellows that were out that day. It was a good day out.

Danny Curtis, Intensive Support Officer, DFC



Need help filling in forms?



Nobody likes filling in forms or paying bills. If you live in Amata there is now help at hand at the new PY Ku Centre.

Cindy Matsen, the Centre supervisor, or her assistant, Brenda Armstrong, can help you fill in forms and fax them off to the right department, including Centrelink.

In time other services will be introduced such as:

- Birth, marriage or death certificate requests
- Motor Vehicle registration
- Driver's licences
- Gun licences
- Register to vote

The Centre has phones for you to talk to Centrelink and you can collect your Centrelink mail from there. Cindy or Brenda can also help if you need to transfer your money to pay a bill or a fine. Soon they will have phones that you can use when you buy a phone card.

You can also book a room at the PY Ku for a meeting or come in and use the public computers with internet access. Tjitji can use the computers too but must be watched by an adult.

**The Centre is open Monday to Friday
9am to 12.30pm and 2pm to 4.30pm.**

Amata PY Ku is the first centre to open on the Lands. Centres in Iwantja, Mimili, Kaltjiti, Pipalyatjara and Watarru are also due to open within the next few months.

Mullighan Inquiry Update

The Children on the APY Lands Commission of Inquiry report by Ted Mullighan was presented to Parliament on 6 May 2008. It makes 46 recommendations that cover governance, child protection, health, mental health, education and justice. In response, the Premier has announced a joint State and Federal package of measures to address these issues. Those who contributed to the report can get a free copy from Aboriginal Services, Department of Families and Communities on (08) 8413 8136.

Footy and Softball Sports Program 2008

<u>ROUND 1 RESULTS</u>			
<i>Football</i>		<i>Softball</i>	
Indulkana 12-6 76	def Fregon	9-12 66	Indulkana 11 def Fregon 6
Amata 8-9 57	def Mimili	8-7 55	Amata 10 def Mimili 9
Murputja 11-10 76	def Wintjalangu	5-1 31	Wintjalangu 21 def Murputja 5
Pukatja 10-2 62	def Pipalyatjara	4-1 25	Pukatja 15 def Pipalyatjara 2
<u>ROUND 2 RESULTS</u>			
<i>Football</i>		<i>Softball</i>	
Pukatja 8-2 50	def Murputja	7-5 47	Murputja 10 def Pukatja 0 (forfeit)
Wintjalangu 11-4 70	def Fregon	9-11 65	Wintjalangu 10 def Fregon 0 (forfeit)
Amata 15-5 95	def Indulkana	10-6 66	Amata 31 def Indulkana 19
Mimili 9-5 59	def Pipalyatjara	5-7 37	Mimili 10 def Pipalyatjara 0 (forfeit)

PLEASE NOTE:
 There is a one hour forfeit rule in place. If a team cannot field a side within one hour after the game start time, that team will record a forfeit.

<u>Round 3: SAT 31 MAY 2008</u>	<u>VENUE</u>
12.00pm Amata v Pukatja	Amata
2.00pm Wintjalangu v Pip	Amata
12.00pm Mimili v Fregon	Mimili
2.00pm Murputja v Indulkana	Mimili



<u>Round 4: SAT 14 JUNE 2008</u>	<u>VENUE</u>
12.00pm Pipalyatjara v Amata	Pipalyatjara
2.00pm Fregon v Murputja	Pipalyatjara
12.00pm Indulkana v Pukatja	Indulkana
2.00pm Mimili v Wintjalangu	Indulkana



APY Thunder play at AFL Curtain Raiser

The Rio Tinto Maralinga v APY Lands Challenge Cup was played on **Saturday 24 May 2008** as a curtain raiser to the Port Adelaide v Sydney match. The SANFL chose players from the Sports League to represent APY Thunder in Adelaide. This selection process gives all players the chance to make the trip to Adelaide and have an even representation of all communities in the team.

All the highlights will feature in the next edition of *On The Lands*.

Meet Myra Kumantjara



Myra works at Indulkana Anangu School as an Aboriginal Education Worker (AEW).

Myra spends her day until lunchtime working alongside the Lower Primary Teacher. She helps the piranpa teacher and the Anangu kids understand each other. She often leads the lessons on Pitjantjatjara/Yankunytjatjara, as she is able to read and write in these languages. In the afternoon Myra does her studies so she can become a teacher herself. She is already very good at leading the whole class.

Myra created the dance steps and directed the school performance at Ernabella Dance in 2007. She spent hours working with individuals, small groups and then the whole student body in presenting a top-quality dance routine.

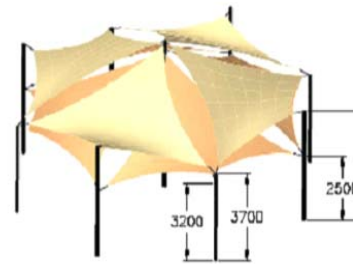
She was chosen to attend the Young Leaders' Conference in Sydney last year. Myra also took two primary students, Winsome Derose and Marissa Kenny, to Adelaide last November to be presented with school awards for the Premier's Reading Challenge. The Principal of Indulkana, Ross Coleman, thinks she will take on more leadership roles over the next few years.

Myra has a great sense of humour and a great laugh. One of the other student teachers used to mumble quietly to the tutor each day: "Hey Ken, what we doin'?" Myra now repeats this to Ken, with a cheeky grin on her face, whenever she enters the classroom...or anytime of the day really.

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Shady days coming soon

Bungala CDEP is working with Anangu on sail shade projects in four communities that will offer some hands-on practical training in construction, landscaping and horticulture.



Bungala has spoken with Kaltjiti Community about building a community meeting place in the centre of town between the store and the community office.

There will be a paved BBQ area, planter boxes with roses and seating covered by a spectacular group of shade sails. The sails are currently being made and work should start soon, depending on planning approval through APY. This will create a very large area of shade.

A 9 post shade sail similar to that being made for Kaltjiti.

Kanpi, Mimili and Pipalyatjara will also get a sail shelter each.

This CDEP project will provide a great place to have a barbeque and enjoy the shade.

DATES

- **Mon 2 June**
Amata Court
- **Tues 3 June**
Ernabella Court
- **Wed 4 June**
Fregon court
- **Thurs 5 June**
Fregon court (if required)

- **Fri 6 June to Mon 9 June**
Finke Desert Race

- **Mon 9 June**
Public Holiday—Queen's birthday

- **Tues 17— Wed 18 June**
NPY Women's Council Executive Meeting

- **Sat 28 June**
Round 5 Football and Softball at Pukatja and Fregon

Wati and Horses

In September, 2007 five students (Sam Ken, Sammy Ken, Shannon Ken, Clive Ken, Shane Brown) travelled with Hudson Lennon, Aaron Shannon and Ned Nelson from Fregon to Katherine,



NT for training in horsemanship and farm maintenance. Those chosen showed a real interest in learning. The trip meant two weeks of hard work a long way from home but all students were very keen to go.

Toby and Terrence, the Aboriginal trainers, taught them all about horsemanship at Mataranka Station, 90km South of Katherine and farm maintenance at Charles Darwin University Rural Campus, Katherine. At the University, they worked in a mechanics workshop and rode, maintained and serviced quad motorbikes and Toyota Landcruisers. At Mataranka station it was more hard work, learning the art of mustering and how to care for horses and work as a team.

The men had fun too. They teased Mark Smerdon about his 'foxy lady' (because his horse's name was Foxy). And they thought it very funny when Geoff Deans, the Gateways Program organiser, fell from his horse when he hit a low branch. The afternoons were spent with the men composing songs using guitars under a northern sunset, laughing and joking about the day's activities and events.

Knowing how to work with livestock and on machinery develops skills that are an important part of being a good worker. One of the men said "**I am happy that I learned things the right way. Palya.**" There are four more trips planned for the rest of this year as part of the Gateways Program with the Charles Darwin University.

Working with Horses

An intensive 3 week program to train 20 Anangu from 8 different communities in pastoral work is being run by Charles Darwin University from 12 May at Double Tank near Fregon. The course will focus on horse breaking, horse riding, horse care and safe work practices.

You will hear more about how the participants went in a future edition of this Newsletter.

Contact Numbers:

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