

GARMA 2009



Yolngu honours at Garma

The Northern Territory's Administrator, Mr Tom Pauling, attended Sunday's sunset bunggul at this year's Garma Festival to confer Australia Day honours on two outstanding Yolngu people.

One was renowned educator and linguist Dr Marika who died from a heart attack at the age of 49 in May last year. Her Member of the Order of Australia medal was accepted by her daughter Wanggawuy Mununggurritj.

Dr Marika was a Director of Reconciliation Australia, a Director of the AIATSIS and a former Territorian of the Year. Her honour was for: "Service to indigenous communities in rural and remote areas as an educator, linguist and scholar, through the preservation of

indigenous languages and the promotion of reconciliation and cross-cultural understanding".

Yolngu women then performed a rainbow flag dance in her memory.

"Having known Marika's father very well and several members of the family, that's a great personal thing for me to be presenting this award here today," Mr Pauling said.

"I hope people get a lot of happiness."

Mr Waninya Gary Marika received the Medal of the Order of Australia for service to the community of Yirrkala through cultural liaison.

He has worked with Yirrkala Health Centre since 2001 as an interpreter and educator.



Top left : red flag dancers,
Top right: Big Franks Missus,
Above left: Galiwinku dancers;
above right: the Chookie dancers ,
Right: There are always plenty of children dancing at Garma
Below right: Freddie timms the founder of Jirrawun Arts



Above top: TEABBA mob
Above: CLC delegates with NLC deputy Chairman Samuel Bush Blanas
Left Garrangali Band
All photos courtesy Francine Chinn Fran-gipani Freelance

