

Nyinkka Nyunyu: rolling out the welcome mat

The Nyinkka Nyunyu Art and Cultural Centre in Tennant Creek has been polished up ready for the start of a busy tourist season.

The centre boasts an outstanding permanent exhibition, which has five major sections.

They include:

Puntu (family), a collection of screenprinted self portraits by Warumungu artists providing a contemporary expression of skin groups or relationships;

Nyinta manungku (living in the land), a comprehensive display of bush tucker and other bush resources;

Wanijal payinti manu (yesterday and today) is a series of dioramas made by Warumungu artists, which outlines the history of the region including Aboriginal involvement in the cattle industry and gold mining;

Wurrmulalkki mukka (returned

histories) highlights the return of traditional objects from collections of the South Australia and Victoria museums; and

Pina parinyi manu purtakijji (getting the land back) traces the history of the Warumungu land claim and celebrates the Aboriginal relationship with the land.

The Nyinkka Nyunyu centre also has a shop selling artworks and crafts to the public and a café with refreshments and meals.

Local men make artefacts in the centre's grounds, demonstrating the skills to tour groups and local students while the gardens feature a range of bush tucker that Aboriginal people across the Barkly have gathered for generations.



Right: Top from left, Kelvin Morrison, Derek Ricky, Danny Frank, Lex Foster, Mark Graham, Leon Jones and Sammy Dickenson

Right left: Danny Frank works on a coolamon at the Nyinkka Nyunyu cultural centre in Tennant Creek.

Above left: Workers inside the Nyinkka Nyunyu cultural centre in Tennant Creek. From left, Desley Parlow, Merisha Hayes, Rose Graham and Tina Ricky.

Apart from making artefacts to be sold at the centre, Danny and his colleagues also teach young people and tourists how to make them.

'From Stonecountry to Saltwater' Walk

Senior and junior members of the Numamudirrdi clan and Yugul Mangi Rangers recently completed a five day walk from the old mission at Ngukurr all the way to Wuyagibar on the coast on the Gulf of Carpentaria.

This walk was along a path traditionally used for generations under the direction of senior elders and was used to teach younger people about important knowledge of country and culture.

Starting at the old mission site near Ngukurr on October 6, people walked to Mangajarra, then on to Awumbunji and through to Wuyagiba finishing the walk.

Roger Numamudirrdi and his sons Clarry and Walter Rogers have really wanted to do this walk for a several years and with the help of Don Duggan and Joe Morrison started to plan.

Funding from NAILSMA's 'Talking Culture on Country' grants program and from the Indigenous Heritage Program made

it possible this year. As a young man Roger Numamudirrdi used to make this walk often with his family

The main reason for the walk was to teach traditional knowledge to younger generations that will help them care for the country properly, now and into the future.

Story telling by Roger Numamudirrdi, Clarry Rogers and Walter Rogers to the younger people and rangers to teach this knowledge took place all the way along the walk.

Young people were told about ancestral creation stories, about the significance of the places they went to, how to care for country, how to burn country the proper way and how look after



Stone Country: Freshwater spring on Wuyagibar Beach

art sites and significant areas like tool making sites, waterholes and spring-water places.

Along the way the rangers took plenty of video footage and photographs to make a DVD and photo books that will document the knowledge and help share it with the wider community in the Ngukurr area.

Clarry Rogers said about the project "Other Aboriginal people will want to do similar projects on their country; it's the start of something bigger."

'Talking Culture on Country'

grants for Indigenous ecological knowledge are available until late 2009.

If you would more information or would like to apply for a grant, get in touch with David Wise at NAILSMA ph 89467674 fax 89467677, email david.wise@cdu.edu.au or go to the NAILSMA IEK website at www.nailsma.org.au/projects/iek

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