

Rirratjingu clan celebrate Yalangbara

A new publication featuring images of more than 80 Indigenous artworks celebrates the significance of the Rirratjingu clan in northeast Arnhem Land.

'Yalangbara: Art of the Djang'kawu' is the result of a three year collaboration between the Marika family, and the Museum and Art Gallery of the NT (MAG-NT).

The book is the first Indigenous art publication to focus on one significant ancestral site, Yalangbara, a creation site at Port Bradshaw in north east Arnhem Land.

Clan member and artist Banduk Marika said she considered the publication of her family's artwork and related stories as the next step following the listing of Yalangbara

on the Commonwealth Government's Register of the National Estate in 2003.

"This publication is like entering into our parliament – the Rirratjingu parliament – we are giving the public access to information that has been forbidden for thousands of years because its time to show everyone that Yalangbara is important," Ms Marika said.

MAGNT is developing an exhibition of the Rirratjingu clan in partnership with the National Museum of Australia scheduled for late 2010.



Above: Banduk Marika and below: members of the Marika family with the new book

Red Cross Breakfast Club: free breakfast for bush kids

Aboriginal children in a number of remote communities will be eating a guaranteed 200 pieces of fruit a year as the result of a new agreement between Red Cross and Outback Stores.

The fruit will be added to Red Cross' Good Start Breakfast Club menu in any community in which an Outback Store is located.

"Over a child's primary school years we've estimated that's around 1200 pieces of fruit they probably wouldn't have eaten," Outback Stores Wellbeing Manager Julie Croft said.

"Inadequate fruit and vegetable consumption accounts for a six per cent mortality rate among Indigenous Australians according to a study quoted in the Australian Bureau of Statistics report 'The Health and Welfare of Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples (2008)'.

"Having one piece of fruit a day will provide half of a child's necessary daily fruit intake."

Red Cross has been operating breakfast programs in remote areas of the Northern Territory since 2006 and is now working with 33 communities and 13 homeland centres to achieve improved nutrition for children.

More than 102,150 nutritious breakfasts were provided in remote communities in the NT last year alone.

"The breakfasts include fruit when available but not all communities have a reliable source of good quality items and the supply can be inconsistent.

"By working with Outback Stores, which has as part of its business charter a commitment to maintain a reliable supply of fresh fruit and vegetables for communities, Red Cross can access a guaranteed supply of seasonal fruit every single day," Red Cross Executive Director, Northern Territory, Sharon Mulholland said.

"For some children this will mean tasting certain fruits for the first time, such as Central Desert

youngsters trying tropical fruit varieties they have never seen before."

The breakfast program partnership springs from the signing of a memorandum of understanding between the two organisations in January.

"Both organisations are focused on health outcomes in Indigenous communities and this partnership will see the development of joint policies based on the provision of healthy food and the promotion of healthy eating patterns," Ms Mulholland said.

Outback Stores says it is committed to improving health outcomes in remote Indigenous communities and has set targets

"Fresh fruit and vegetable sales have increased from between 2 to 4 per cent on entry to a store to a company average now of 7 per cent. We are aiming for 10 per cent" OUTBACK STORES

to help increase sales of fruit and vegetables.

"It will also encourage commu-

nity participation in co-operative initiatives that will improve the availability, accessibility and affordability of healthy food."

"We look at the amount of fruit and vegetables being sold as a percentage of total food and tobacco sales at a store," Ms Croft said.

"Fresh fruit and vegetable sales have increased from between 2 to 4 per cent on entry to a store to a company average now of 7 per cent.

"We are aiming for 10 per cent by December this year.

"It is important for children to be introduced to a wide range of fruits early to enhance their taste profile and increase the likelihood of eating a good variety throughout their lives," she said.

The first communities to benefit from the partnership will be Yuendumu, Imanpa, Ali Curung and Bagot.