**Lajamanu** people can feel justly proud of the spectacular show they put on with the Darwin-based Tracks dance company in October.

The entire community, young and old, was involved in a dynamic performance which culminated in hot air paper balloons floating off high into the night sky.

The show, a mix of Warlpiri and contemporary dance, celebrated a Warlpiri concept called Pulyaranyi, which talks about being stuck in one place by opposing forces.

Pulyaranyi is a call to action, says Milpirri’s Tracks Dance Company which produces the event: we have talked, we have listened, now we need to act, to stir things up.

The story of Pulyaranyi is about two hunters who lit a fire to flush out a kangaroo. But the fire wouldn’t move: it remained burning straight in the air.

They asked the east wind to help, but it wasn’t strong enough so they asked the others – north, west and south.

None could do it alone, but when they combined forces they were able to send it in the right direction.

The point of the story was perfectly illustrated with this celebration of the strength of Warlpiri society acting together in dance and performance.

Everybody, including a large number of visitors, turned out to watch their young people dance their way through a complex series of dances to celebrate land and law, ceremony and kinship.

The older men shouted instructions from the sidelines and the women, led by Lajamanu’s indefatigable grandmothers, formed the continuous background of song and dance that bound the show together.

There was an unprecedented number of school kids involved this year.

The backdrop to the performance was a series of banners in four primary colours, representing the Warlpiri kinship system and painted by Lajamanu’s famed painters. More than 300 people attended the event. The next Milpirri will be in 2014.

**All photos by Peter Eve**