



**NGURRA
KUJU CANNING
WALYJA STOCK
ONE COUNTRY ONE PEOPLE ROUTE
PROJECT**



The Canning Stock Route Project is a multi-faceted contemporary arts and cultural initiative, celebrating the lives and stories of Western Desert Aboriginal peoples from Country surrounding the Canning Stock Route.

West Australian cultural organisation FORM instigated the Project in mid 2006. FORM brokered unique partnerships among the nine art centres and communities with direct connections to the stock route region including Birriliburu Artists, Martumili Artists, Yulparija Artists, Mangkaja Arts, Ngurra Artists, Paruku IPA, Warlayirti Artists, Papunya Tula and Kayili Artists.

Art connects people and communities, binds the spiritual with the physical, and establishes shared communication between maker and audience. As such, art is the nucleus of the Canning Stock Route Project. The Project brought to the artists and art centres the possibilities of collaboration; new roads and new approaches are created by combining talents and blending energy.

From its inception, the Project's cardinal points have remained the same: to record and share the vibrancy of desert life today, connect Aboriginal creativity and history with new audiences, research artists' intertwined histories, enhance the skills of Aboriginal professionals and create new, interdisciplinary channels for collaboration between remote and urban, Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal creatives.

2009

Ongoing: Emerging Curators and Multimedia Practitioners Program.

Supported by Western Australia's Department of Culture and the Arts (DCA), the Program continued in-Country and in Perth. The final round of community visits to all partner art centres was facilitated across the Pilbara, Kimberley and Mid-West. Artists and curators came together to refine the content for Ngurra Kuju Walyja Canning Stock Route Project and final design of the Yiwarra Kuju exhibition. Cultural information has been updated and edited with the advice of all stakeholders and exhaustive content approvals were completed with participants.

The co-curators and media crew will be on deck in July 2010 at the NMA working to install the CSR Collection with the NMA's Exhibitions Team and Freeman Ryan Design [FRD].

2010

The countdown is on! Exhibition launch at the National Museum of Australia *Yiwarra Kuju – The Canning Stock Route*

The development of a travelling exhibition was one of the Project's key goals. In late 2008, the National Museum of Australia (NMA) acquired the Canning Stock Route Collection, comprising more than 100 works of art and a wealth of associated cultural material. The NMA also generously committed to assist FORM in developing the exhibition.

This partnership has generated a collaborative and innovative show entitled, Yiwarra Kuju (One Road) – The Canning Stock Route. The NMA and the Project team's energy is now focused on creating the finest possible exhibition, publications, new media platforms, educational material and public programs.





Yiwarra Kuju - The Canning Stock Route officially launches on Thursday 29th July and opens to the public on Friday 30th July 2010. Audiences can view the Exhibition until late January 2011.

New Media: One Road Interactive

The Department of Culture and the Arts' Major Production Fund is enabling the development of one of Yiwarra Kuju's centrepieces; the 'One Road Interactive'. A dynamic multimedia installation; it is the first of its kind on this scale, the interactive uses new multi-touch technology.

This fusion of this technology, with the Project's rich content resource - will give audiences greater understanding and access to the complex themes and extraordinary stories shared by artists and contributors. By touching various icons on the screens (up to 40 pairs of hands can access information at one time) viewers are able to explore for themselves the connections between the works of art, the people and the Country.

2010/2011

Return of Content to Communities

Another vital element of DCA's support is the Looking Forward Fund. This Fund will enable the Project team to meet one of its foundation goals: the return of all artists' and contributors' content (biographies, stories, films, photographs) via the Project's art centre partners. In addition to the public information stored at the National Museum, this extraordinary cultural repository will be accessible to the families of all those involved, creating a genuine legacy for the Project stakeholders in the remote areas.

Film - 'Behind the Scenes'

Proposed for release during 2011 is a documentary film - 'The Canning Stock Route Project, Behind the Scenes 2007-2010'. This 'making of' film will be a survey of the Project, from its first bush trips through to the launch at the NMA, seen through the eyes and narrated from the perspective of the professional participants who contributed

to the production of both Ngurra Kuju Walyja and Yiwarra Kuju. This film will be non-commercial, with its primary audience being remote Aboriginal communities and the national Aboriginal media network.

Academic Publication

The Canning Stock Route Project book is a distillation of five years research, spanning one hundred years and the width and breadth of Australia's Western Desert. It contains essays, oral histories, artworks and photos from a widespread group of contributors. Designed by award winning Kleimeyer Industries, this unique book is a scholarly, personal, innovative and interdisciplinary overview of the diverse individuals and complex social structures crossed by the Canning Stock Route. Proposed release in mid 2011.

IMAGES: 01. Nola Campbell, from Kayili Artists, with her painting, 'Tlka Tlka'. 02. Emerging curator Hayley Atkins discussing exhibition design with fellow Martumili Artists at Parrngurr. 03. Men painted up and ready to dance Majarrka at the Ngumpun workshop, near Fitzroy Crossing. 04. Kids painted up and ready to dance Majarrka at the Ngumpun workshop, near Fitzroy Crossing. 05. The Canning Stock Route, north of Well 51. 06. Wakartu Cory Surprise Wayampajirti, 2007, acrylic on canvas, 120 x 120cm, Mangkajaja Arts. National Museum of Australia Collection. 07. Kumpaya Gargaba, Kaminjaku, 2008, 300 x 125cm acrylic on canvas, Martumili Artists. All photos by Tim Acker.

FORM would like to thank the collective energies of the nine partner art centres, their artists, family members and communities. The realisation of the Project and exhibition has been designed and built by the collaborative forces of an Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Project team, arts and cultural workers, curators, multimedia crew, cultural advisors, anthropologists, cartographers, fundraisers and administrators.

FORM would like to thank staff at the National Museum of Australia, especially Dr. Michael Pickering, Director of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Program. We also wish to thank our Principal Partner BHP Billiton Iron Ore and Major Partner Department of Culture and the Arts for their support.

Ngurra Kuju Walyja
The Canning Stock Route Project

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FORM is a not-for-profit cultural organisation based in Perth, Western Australia. The Canning Stock Route Project is an initiative of FORM's Aboriginal Creative Development Program, which is founded on the belief that Western Australia's Aboriginal creative industries have massive potential as an economic and cultural resource. This Program is focused on the Pilbara and western desert communities surrounding the Canning Stock Route.

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building a state of creativity