



## NEWSLETTER #36, November 2008

### Mythology & Reality: Contemporary Aboriginal Art from The Gabrielle Pizzi Collection

23 November 2008 - 15 March 2009

TarraWarra Museum of Art, Yarra Glen-Healesville Road:  
Melways Reference 277 B2

Gabrielle Pizzi began collecting contemporary Australian Aboriginal art in 1978. The year Gabrielle began travelling in Northern Australia was only seven years after the contemporary painting movement began in Papunya in 1971, when Geoffrey Bardon introduced several Indigenous artists to a variety of new materials with which to record and preserve the meaning of their Dreaming, Mythology and Country. Initially, Gabrielle focused on acquiring sculpture from Bathurst Island in the Tiwi Islands, as well as Maningrida, Yirrkala and Ramingining in North East Arnhem Land. From 1981, she included paintings from Papunya and later from Haasts Bluff, Lajamanu, Yuendumu and Utopia.

In 2005 Gabrielle's collection of paintings was exhibited at Heide Museum of Modern Art in the show Mythology & Reality - Contemporary Aboriginal Desert Art From The Gabrielle Pizzi Collection. This exhibition was one from a series of exhibitions from her collection of sculptures and paintings - shown in Italy, Germany, India, Israel, Japan, Korea, Russia, Spain and Switzerland. Sadly, Gabrielle passed away just after Mythology & Reality opened at Heide. This exhibition at TWMA, mounted with the assistance of Gabrielle's daughter Samantha, is a tribute to Gabrielle's dedication to expanding the knowledge and understanding of contemporary Aboriginal art, by seeking out and acquiring the finest possible works. Mythology & Reality includes paintings and sculpture by artists Jimmy An.gunguna, England Bangala, Emily Kame Kngwarreye, Boxer Milner, Narputta Nangala, Makinti Napanangka, Yala Yala Gibbs Tjungurrayi and many others.

<http://www.twma.com.au/>



### WORLD MATTERS:

#### RIGHTS, RESPONSIBILITIES AND RISKS - an Eltham Bookshop event in partnership with Diamond Valley Oxfam, October 25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup>

Another wonderful event that we hope will be repeated next year - although at the end of the weekend an exhausted Meera was probably thinking "never again"! Those who missed the readings and discussions can, of course, still buy the books at Eltham Bookshop.



*Kungan Ngarrindjeri Miminar Yunnan - Listen to Ngarrindjeri Women Speaking.* At the World Matters event are Meera Govil, Diane Bell, Aunty Alice Abdulla. Front: Aunty Rita Lindsay and Aunty Ellen Trevorrow. (Pic: Don Brown)

An addition to the World Matters weekend: on Sunday November 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1.30-4.30pm, at the Gathering Space, 4 Henry Street, Eltham - a discussion with the authors of the books *Blind Conscience* and *Human Rights Overboard*.

### International Children's Day

Through an initiative of the Nillumbik Women's Network, led by Mandy Press and Susan Forbes, this day was celebrated with the theme of Reconciliation running through the many expos/displays of children's services within the Shire of Nillumbik.

Nillumbik Reconciliation Group assisted by facilitating Shire finance for the children to work with an Indigenous artist - Mandy Nicholson - and to meet an Indigenous author - Betty Pike (*A River Dreaming*).

NRG member Ann Curry assisted with face painting based on traditional Indigenous designs, and a stall run by Don Brown and Joan Pickard sold food based on native plants. The Lilly Pilly and Davidson Plum jams were also used on the scones that were offered to all who attended. >> to page 2

NRG correspondence to: PO Box 1017, Research VIC 3095 Website: [www.vicnet.net.au/~nrgp](http://www.vicnet.net.au/~nrgp)

Newsletter contributions to: [trikojus@optusnet.com.au](mailto:trikojus@optusnet.com.au)

Note: Some articles, excerpts of articles or images in this Newsletter may be provided to the individual members of this group without permission from the copyright owner for purposes of criticism, comment, scholarship and research under the "fair use" provisions of the Federal copyright laws and they may not be distributed further without permission of the copyright owner, except for "fair use"



Joan Pickard on the NRG bush foods stall. (Pic: Diana Warrell)

>> continued from page 1

We were treated to songs by Kutcha Edwards; a traditional welcome by Murrindindi – wearing his impressive possum skin cloak – who also showed the children traditional musical instruments and told them stories on Indigenous culture; Uncle Herbie Patten played the gum leaf, and Eva Joe taught the children Indigenous dance moves.

The day was opened by Mayor Warwick Leeson, and Councillor Helen Coleman spoke on the "Early Years Plan". The children were given "Best Start" calico showbags and a free native plant compliments of Edendale Farm – they all went home happy!

Diana Warrell

## YIBIYUNG

By Dallas Winmar

Beckett Theatre at the Malthouse. until 16<sup>th</sup> November

*"To have mixed blood we fitted neither here nor there. Life was decided for you."*

Western Australia in the 1920s: eight-year-old Yibiyung is taken from her home and sent to a mission where her "education" soon extends far beyond the English lessons she is subjected to. The secrets passed on from her mother and uncle prove as vital to life as anything she learns in the classroom, but when she is bought as a domestic servant by a wealthy white family she must garner all of her life's resources to survive.

Still a child now facing adult struggles beyond her years, Yibiyung's tale turns on language – the language which connects her with her family, the cold words of bureaucratic crimes, and the songs and poems that carry her beyond her afflictions. At the same time she finds hope in small gestures of compassion and friendship, given and received.

Dallas Winmar's arresting tale for a large cast of Indigenous and non-Indigenous performers speaks for a generation stolen and silenced. It is a story inspired by her grandmother - torn from her family along with countless girls like her. Yibiyung's story is simultaneously a gripping reminder of a still-living history of horror and a joyous celebration of the spirit of life overcoming adversity. A wholly original piece of storytelling, it marks the emergence of a striking new voice and a vision for a future of theatre as a shared space for memory, dream and wonder.

## The Moor-rul Grasslands Project

The Friends of Moor-rul Reconciliation Grasslands has been formed to care for the small section of land next to the new viewing platform at the Kangaroo Ground Tower. The group is supported by the Environmental Works Unit of Nillumbik Shire.

The grasslands are surrounded by a rabbit proof fence, and will be regenerated with plants indigenous to the area as part of this historic memorial. Originally it would be covered by grasses such as Weeping, Kangaroo and Wallaby grass species.

Some remnants of the original grass cover remain, and work has commenced on a major weeding program to rid the area of Capeweed, Plantain, Oxalis, Briza and other weeds. This will allow the plants already there to seed and hopefully germinate in the cleared areas. There has also been an experimental area of cool burn of some annual grasses before seeding to see if this process will be successful.

A plan has been drawn up by a local expert and an area will be planted next autumn – plants are already being propagated in the Edendale Farm nursery.

Volunteers are welcome to join the group – please ring Jann Darvill on 9439 7342 for further information.

# Koorie Night Market



Celebrating and promoting Indigenous arts, culture and business

Locally made crafts, boomerangs, traditional artefacts, T-shirts and bags, CD's, traditional food, home-wares and gifts, hand-woven baskets, coffee, photography, paintings, massive variety of arts, crafts and clothing and MUCH, MUCH MORE!

PERFORMANCES BY DEADLY KOORIE MUSICIANS!

**Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> November**

**Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> December**

Northcote Town Hall  
189 High Street, Northcote

6pm – 9.30pm

## NRG

### END-OF-YEAR GATHERING

Please join us at the Moor-rul Viewing Platform  
(Kangaroo Ground Tower)  
from 5pm on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December  
- bring drinks and nibbles

