

CREATING THE EXHIBITION

For four years, emerging and established Aboriginal artists from 15 language groups, traditional custodians, and a cross-cultural team of curators and multimedia crew have worked together to produce the Canning Stock Route collection and *Yiwarra Kuju* exhibition. A series of return-to-Country professional development workshops were held, including a six-week trek along the stock route.

This groundbreaking exhibition reveals the richness of desert life today. It is a story of contact, conflict and survival, of exodus and return, seen through Aboriginal eyes, and interpreted through their voices, art and new media.

When they see the exhibition they'll find out what the stock route is really. This project gonna open lotta people's eyes, to find the true history through Aboriginal people.

Putuparri Tom Lawford
Palm Springs, 2009



(1) Young boys dancing at the end-of-bush-trip celebration (2) The late Mr Friday Jones sitting on Forrest's Fort, Well 9, Canning Stock Route (3) Martu photographer, Morika Biljabu, at work at Kilykily, Well 36 on the Canning Stock Route (4) Patrick Tjungurrayi, from Papunya Tula Artists. Photos by Tim Acker, 2007

Admission

Admission to *Yiwarra Kuju: The Canning Stock Route* exhibition and general admission to the National Museum is free.

The National Museum Shop

The Museum Shop has an exciting range of gifts and mementos representative of all nine art centres featured in the *Yiwarra Kuju* exhibition. Pop in and browse our stunning baskets, jewellery, prints and stationery, and don't forget to pick up a copy of the exhibition catalogue, which features beautiful images of the complete Canning Stock Route collection.

Visiting from interstate or overseas?

Canberra is just a short flight from Sydney and Melbourne. Or you can travel by train, coach or road. It's an easy three-hour drive from Sydney. For details on Canberra accommodation or information about other things to see and do while you are in town, call the Canberra and Region Visitors Centre on 1300 554 114 or visit www.visitcanberra.com.au.



Free general admission
Open 9 am – 5 pm daily (closed Christmas Day)
Lawson Crescent Acton Peninsula Canberra
Freecall 1800 026 132 www.nma.gov.au

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YIWARRA KUJU THE CANNING STOCK ROUTE

30 July 2010 to 26 January 2011
National Museum of Australia

form.
building a state of creativity

NATIONAL
MUSEUM OF
AUSTRALIA
CANBERRA

YIWARRA KUJU THE CANNING STOCK ROUTE

THE STORY

The Canning Stock Route runs nearly half the length of Western Australia through some of the remotest landscapes on earth.

First surveyed in 1906 by Alfred Canning, it began as a means to drive cattle from the stations of the Kimberley to the markets of the south. Though ultimately unsuccessful, the stock route irrevocably affected the lives of the Aboriginal people in the region and led to dispersal and displacement of families.

*That road been put by that Canning mob ...
lately ... Before, used to be blackfella Country.*

Ngarralja Tommy May
Nyarna (Lake Stretch), 2007



(1) The Canning Stock Route, near Well 51, photo by Tim Acker, 2007 (2) Desert landscape near Jilakurru (Durba Springs), photo by Tim Acker, 2007 (3) Nora Wompi, Bugai Whylouter, Kumpaya Girgaba and Nora Nangapa, from Martumili Artists, on a visit to Kunkun, photo by Morika Biljabu, 2008 (4) *Basket*, 2009, by Nancy Taylor, Martumili Artists, National Museum of Australia (5) Kids at Ngumpan workshop, near Fitzroy Crossing, photo by Tim Acker, 2008 (6) Martu kids near Well 33, with the painting *Kunkun*, photo by Morika Biljabu, 2008 (7) *Tika Tika*, 2008, by Nola Campbell, Kayili Artists, National Museum of Australia

STEP BY STEP ALONG THE TRACK

Yiwarra Kujju, 'one road', brings together works of senior and emerging artists, oral histories and new media to understand the Aboriginal perspective of Western Australia's most famous outback road.

Themes of Country, Jukurrpa (Dreaming), History and Family are explored through a vibrant and rich collection of over 90 contemporary paintings, cultural objects, films and photography.

The dynamic 'One road' multimedia installation featuring multi-touch technology allows visitors to explore the connections between the works of art, the people and the Country. It's the first of its kind on this scale, with over 40 sets of hands able to access it at once.



THE CANNING STOCK ROUTE PROJECT

The *Yiwarra Kujju* exhibition grew as a result of *Ngurra Kujju Walyja: (One Country One People)* The Canning Stock Route Project — an initiative of FORM, a cultural organisation based in Perth, dedicated to advocating for and developing creativity in Western Australia.

From 2006 to 2010 the project brought together the vision, energy and talent of more than 110 Aboriginal artists and contributors from nine remote area community art centres and enterprises — Birriliburu Artists, Martumili Artists, Kayili Artists, Papunya Tula Artists, Mangkaja Arts, Paruku Indigenous Protected Area, Warlayirti Artists, Yulparija Artists and Ngurra Artists.

In late 2008, the National Museum of Australia acquired a significant collection of artworks created as part of the project, and joined with FORM to develop and produce this exhibition.

