



Garma 2016

Prepared by the Yothu Yindi Foundation
in consultation with staff, providers, guests
and the general public

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The 18th annual Garma Festival was again a spectacular and colourful display of the very best of Australia's Indigenous culture. The Yothu Yindi Foundation and Garma have both come a long way since our first event, which started as little more than a small barbecue in 1998.

To give you an idea of just how much we've grown in that time, the Garma kitchen this year served between 30 - 40 litres of porridge, 10 - 15 kilograms of assorted cereals, 60 kilograms worth of bacon and sausages, 50 kilograms of eggs, 30 kilograms of baked beans, 120 loaves of bread, 45 kilograms of assorted fresh fruit, and approximately 120 litres of milk at breakfast each and every day. This is a huge undertaking for our team, and to provide a balanced and nutritious diet at such a remote site is a great accomplishment.

We were delighted to host about 2650 people onsite at Gulkula this year, the largest audience to ever attend our prestigious event. That Garma continues to grow and flourish in an ever-changing landscape is a credit to the vision, direction and inspiration of our hard-working Board of Directors, without whose drive and passion Garma would not be possible.

Undoubtedly one of the real success stories of Garma 2016 was the introduction of the day-long Education Fair which kicked off this year's event. Education is at the heart of all we do at YYF so this new addition to the program aligned perfectly with our broader goals and vision. The day was judged to be a resounding success by

all involved, and we thank the local educators and support staff for their assistance, which gave about 280 school students the opportunity to participate in a classroom with a difference. To have so many young minds attuned to a day of learning from a Yolngu perspective was a highlight of the event and something of which the YYF Board was immensely proud.

As always, we measure the success of the event in terms of outcomes achieved and this year's Garma made some important progress on a number of issues which go to the heart of Indigenous well-being. With the focus on the 40th anniversary of the Aboriginal Land Rights Act our Key Forum panel on land rights demonstrated there is still much to be done in that space to ensure that Indigenous people benefit economically from land ownership. We were reminded yet again that communities were best placed to decide what takes place on their land, under an initial communal endorsement model. The Education Fair underlined the importance of life-learning and the benefits of a well-rounded education. We advanced the debate on Constitutional recognition with calls for a lasting settlement from YYF chairman Galarrwuy Yunupingu and other Indigenous leaders.

The hundreds of students who participated in the Youth Forum learned a lot over the course of the four days, much of which they shared with us in a moving closing ceremony that saw Garma finish with a high level of optimism from the next generation of leaders. The popularity of the music stage each night continues to show the incredible talent of performers both from local and surrounding areas, and I'd like to thank all artists who graced us with their presence.

My own personal highlight of Garma each and every year is witnessing the celebration of Yolngu cultural traditions and the beautiful ceremony of the bunggul each evening. I am enormously grateful to the Arnhem Land clans who provide the Garma dance and believe

we are all privileged to take part in such a heart-felt expression of Yolngu culture.

I would like to extend my personal thanks to the many generous Yolngu men and women who come together each year to help deliver different components of our event. I'd also like to thank the township of Nhulunbuy and the locals who contributed to Garma in so many different ways.

My thanks also to those organisations who deliver services at Garma which make staging of the event in such a remote location possible. An incredible amount of work goes on behind-the-scenes to ensure workshops and cultural activities for our guests run to schedule. We leave no stone unturned as we seek to provide Garma guests with a thought-provoking and - sometimes - life-changing experience at Gulkula, and we will continue to modify and enhance our program to ensure we showcase the very best of what Arnhem Land has to offer, while still remaining true to the vision and direction of the Yolngu clans themselves.

Finally, I'd like to thank our crew, who not only build the Gulkula site, but repair and maintain it as Garma takes place. To all those who worked and volunteered their time, whether it be in merchandise, maintaining the tents, rigging the lighting, or providing catering, first aid, and transport, I offer my utmost appreciation. Your hard work, relentless energy and willingness to go the extra mile helps make this event a success, and ensures that Garma maintains its reputation as the nation's leading Indigenous cultural gathering.

I am sincerely looking forward to another wonderful event come 4 - 7 August 2017, and hope to see you onsite.

Denise Bowden
Director of Garma
+ CEO, Yothu Yindi Foundation



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF SPONSORS

The Yothu Yindi Foundation Board & CEO would like to sincerely thank all 2016 sponsors and partners for their generous support of the Foundation and Garma.

Your contributions, whether financially or through in-kind assistance is vital to our continued success, and it is only with your assistance, advice and general guidance that we are able to make progress on our mission to promote

Indigenous culture, preserve our stories & songlines, and maintain the rich and unique cultural traditions of the Yolngu world.

As we continue to work towards affecting meaningful change in the lives of those we represent, we look forward to continuing our journey with you in the future.

The Garma Festival has become Australia's largest credible Indigenous-led, Indigenous directed event, and the Yothu Yindi Foundation is pleased to have worked collaboratively and in partnership with the following sponsors of Garma 2016:

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ATTENDANCE SNAPSHOT

REGISTERED TICKET COUNT		
Corporate Groups	450	
Schools	56	
Community Pass	11	
Media Outlets	10	
Performers	29	
Volunteer	27	
Exhibition Stalls	25	
Individual ticket	188	
Complimentary	40	
TOTAL	836	

NORTHERN TERRITORY		
Darwin (northern)	0800	279
Darwin (rural)	0801	89
Casuarina	0810	29
CDU	0815	19
Casuarina	0811	10
Maningrida	0822	10
Berrimah	0828	8
Parap	0804	4
Katherine	0850	4
Nightcliff	0810	3
Batchelor	0845	2
Parap	0820	1
Yarrowonga	0830	1
Tennant Creek	0861	11
Alice Springs	0871	2
Yulara	0872	2
Alice Springs	0870	1
Sub Totals: Localities(17)		475
Grand Totals: Localities(17)		475

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY		
Kingston	2604	70
Canberra Bc	2610	37
Phillip	2606	33
Deakin	2600	31
Canberra	2601	20
Canberra	2600	14
Ainslie	2602	11
Woden	2606	7
Symonston	2609	7
O'Connor	2602	4
Barton	2600	3
Forrest	2603	3
Acton	2601	2
Curtin	2605	2
Greenway	2900	2
Kambah	2902	2
Gundaroo	2620	2
Deakin West	2600	1
Stirling	2611	1
Melba	2615	1
Sub Totals: Localities(20)		253
Grand Totals: Localities(20)		253

SOUTH AUSTRALIA		
Adelaide	5000	48
Glenelg	5045	26
Welland	5007	3
Athelstone	5076	3
Queenstown	5014	2
Torrens Park	5062	2
Port Pirie South	5540	1
Adelaide	5001	1
Oaklands Park	5046	1
Sub Totals: Localities(9)		87
Grand Totals: Localities(9)		87

NEW SOUTH WALES		
Ultimo	2007	59
Sydney	2000	57
Surry Hills	2010	55
Haymarket	2000	39
Millers Point	2000	25
Mascot	2020	20
Eveleigh	2015	15
Sydney	2001	9
Long Point	2564	7
The University Of Sydney	2006	6
Strawberry Hills	2012	5
Bellevue Hill	2023	5
Waverley	2024	5
Glebe	2037	5
Mount White	2250	5
Pymont	2009	4
Balmain	2041	4
Artarmon	2064	4
Epping	2121	4
Concord	2137	4
Queens Park	2022	3
Woollahra	2025	3
Bondi Beach	2026	3
Bayview	2104	3
Tuggerah	2259	3
Toukley	2263	3
Quakers Hill	2763	3
Milsons Point	1565	2
Broadway	2007	2
Alexandria	2015	2
Redfern	2016	2
Vaucluse	2030	2
Clovelly	2031	2
Enmore	2042	2
North Sydney	2060	2
Willoughby	2068	2
Roseville	2069	2
Macquarie University	2109	2
Croydon Park	2133	2
Carlton	2218	2
Bundeena	2230	2
Erina	2250	2
Yattalunga	2251	2
Darlinghurst	1300	1
Kensington	1465	1
Ryde	1680	1
The Rocks	2000	1
Darlington	2008	1
Bondi	2026	1
Tamarama	2026	1
Darling Point	2027	1
Edgecliff	2027	1
Lavender Bay	2060	1
Northbridge	2063	1
Greenwich	2065	1
Manly Vale	2093	1
West Ryde	2114	1
Croydon	2132	1
Lidcombe	2141	1
Revesby	2212	1
Hurstville	2220	1
Loftus	2232	1
Newcastle East	2300	1
Sub Totals: Localities(64)		411
Grand Totals: Localities(64)		411

VICTORIA MARKET		
Melbourne	3000	87
Docklands	3008	37
Parkville	3052	27
Glen Waverley	3150	20
Carlton	3053	11
South Yarra	3141	10
Fitzroy North	3068	9
Mansfield	3722	9
Kew	3101	7
Hawthorn	3122	4
Abbotsford	3067	3

QUEENSLAND		
Caboolture	4510	98
Brisbane	4001	14
Crestmead	4132	13
Cleveland	4163	10
Toowong	4066	6
Conondale	4552	4
Paddington	4064	2
Yeronga	4104	2
Coorparoo	4151	2
Bongaree	4507	2
Maleny	4552	2
Noosaville	4566	2
Brisbane	4000	1
Ashgrove	4060	1
Highgate Hill	4101	1
Annerley	4103	1
Algester	4115	1
Morayfield	4506	1
Toorbul	4510	1
Sub Totals: Localities(19)		164
Grand Totals: Localities(19)		164

WESTERN AUSTRALIA		
Perth	6000	7
Broadway Nedlands	6009	3
Claremont	6010	3
Northbridge	6003	2
East Perth	6004	2
Forrestfield	6058	2
Bicton	6157	2
Eagle Bay	6281	2
North Beach	6920	2
Subiaco	6008	1
Crawley	6009	1
Nedlands	6009	1
Sub Totals: Localities(12)		28
Grand Totals: Localities(12)		28

VICTORIA		
Balwyn	3103	3
Richmond	3121	3
Toorak	3142	3
Ashwood	3147	2
Brighton	3186	2
Carlton South	3053	2
East Geelong	3219	2
Frankston	3199	2
Hawthorn East	3123	2
Heidelberg Heights	3081	2
Law Courts	8010	2
Malvern East	3145	2
Montmorency	3094	2
Moonee Ponds	3039	2
Newtown	3220	2
Preston	3072	2
Rosebud	3939	2
San Remo	3925	2
University Of Melbourne	3010	2
Warranwood	3134	2
Armadale	3143	1
Ballarat	3350	1
Buninyong	3357	1
Camberwell	3124	1
East Melbourne	3002	1
Kooyong	3144	1
Mount Eliza	3930	1
North Melbourne	3051	1
Prahran	3181	1
St Kilda West	3182	1
Surrey Hills	3127	1
Sub Totals: Localities(42)		278
Grand Totals: Localities(42)		278

KEY FORUM

THEME:THE LAND IS OUR BACKBONE - 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ABORIGINAL LAND RIGHTS ACT

It was fitting that we should acknowledge and celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Aboriginal Land Rights Act - the high watermark in Australian social justice legislation - in Arnhem Land, the birthplace of modern land rights.

In December 1968, in a bid to stop bauxite mining on their land, Yolngu leaders, which included YYF chairman Galarwuy Yunupingu and others involved in the Bark Petitions earlier that decade, took the Commonwealth Government and the Nabalco Mining Company to the NT Supreme Court.

The case was the first in Australia on Native Title, and while the clans lost, it led to the establishment of the Woodward Royal Commission and, ultimately, the introduction of the Aboriginal Land Rights Act in 1976.

Forty years on from that landmark law, the Yolngu remain immensely proud of the pioneering role they played in the birth of the land rights movement, and Australia continues to look to the region for leadership on issues of economic development linked to land ownership.

Beyond the significance of the anniversary, the relationship with the land and the sea is one of the cornerstones of Yolngu culture.

As YYF deputy chairman Djawa Yunupingu told the Garma audience:

“To Yolngu the land is everything. It’s our life, it gives us everything we need, it is our past, our present and our future.”

“We rely very heavily on our land as it provides everything for us – all the resources that we need. It is everything to us. It must never be threatened or taken from us.

“This is really what our Elders were saying when they sent the Bark Petition to Canberra – they were afraid of their land and their life being destroyed by the mining company and the township of Nhulunbuy.

“And many of our elders were badly hurt and many of them died of broken hearts for their land because of what they saw happening to the future generation, thinking that their lives and their traditions would be lost.”

The land and the sea continue to sustain Yolngu, and for this reason, Garma 2016 centred on the theme *The Land is Our Backbone*.

And while there has been much progress in land rights over the past four decades, as Dr Yunupingu told the Key Forum audience on the second day of Garma, there is still a lot of unfinished business.

Land rights in Australia was “fast asleep,” he said.

“The truth of land ownership is not in the land rights act, that is the failure.

“I would now ask every leadership that is in this crowd today to come to me to help. Help in this big organisation, this big struggle that the Aboriginal people have.

“This is a real big struggle. It is not a land rights act that is ours, it’s a land rights act that is shared by everybody and with very little that is given back to the land owners.

“Every five years, that same mining company came back to the same mob to talk about mining development on their land, whether they said yes or no. No was the word, but they’d go back again. Then it was 10 years additional waiting ... and so it went on and on.

“What rights did the mining company have for it to come back in five years and hassle them to say no over and over again?... You think of it, if you were landowners you wouldn’t like it.

“The Aborigines felt land rights were theirs, were mine and mine only. The second and third person had to be chosen to be half-sharing of that land. But most of the land was mine and that’s what [the government] forgot.”

Speaking after Dr Yunupingu’s address, the CEO of the Northern Land Council, Joe Morrison, said any changes to the Act had to be made in consultation with Indigenous people.

“We do lament the lack of protection for the Aboriginal Land Rights Act, and the changes being made over and over to the Act – which I believe to be one of the most reviewed pieces of legislation in Australia - has got to stop. Any discussions about the shortfalls and future changes of the Land Rights Act must be made by Aboriginal people.”

Tony Wurramarrba, chair of the Anindilyakwa Land Council, said the struggle for land rights is ongoing.

“We’re here to stay, in the mainstream world. We have adapted, but we have to be adaptable, even more than the white people. And it is a very big task and it won’t happen in one day.

“We are here fighting for the betterment of our people every day and every day is a struggle. Even though we have our land back, that doesn’t mean a mining company won’t come in and start mining and development.

“You’ve got to come in and negotiate with us, on our terms. If you want to mine on our land you’ve got to think the way I think.”



CONSTITUTIONAL RECOGNITION

The continuing debate over constitutional recognition of Indigenous Australians has been one of the flashpoints of discussion at Garma in recent years, and was again a major focal point at this year’s event.

Gumatj leader and YYF chairman Dr Galarwuy Yunupingu set the tone for the discussion, calling for a “final settlement” between black and white Australia.

Although media outlets later interpreted Dr Yunupingu’s message as calling for a Treaty, he had deliberately avoided using that term, instead likening the process to a ‘makarrata’, the peace settlement that follows a dispute between Yolngu clans. Phrases such as “constitution”, “reconciliation”, and “recognition” were foreign words, he told The Australian, and said the makarrata - the closest English equivalent word is settlement - was the necessary next step.

“If you have a leg spear, after you have been guilty of killing someone, the forgiveness is called makarrata.”

Speaking at the Key Forum, Cape York leader Noel Pearson explained how a Treaty, or a series of treaties or agreements between Governments and Indigenous clans, could follow on from constitutional recognition.

“If we think they are somehow separate agendas, this whole agenda will fail,” he said.

“My synthesis is simply that constitutional recognition provides the hook that enables agreements to be made, and a makarratta, a national settlement, to be made.

“A constitution can only be an enabler of something that sits outside it.

“This idea of agreement has had lots of different terminology – document of reconciliation, treaty, compact, makarrata, settlement – all these words have been used over the last four or five decades. What I’m hearing from Galarwuy here at Garma is the appropriate word is makarrata.



“There’s got to be an aspect of atonement. An acknowledgment of the suffering ... and a kind of solemn undertaking that we won’t return to that past.

“The crucial questions is will Australia allow the Yolngu to develop – to take part in the country to be part of the economic life of the country – while being assured they are entitled to keep their culture, keep their heritage, keep their language.

“My approach as a leader from Cape York is if we can get it work for the Yolngu, we can get it to work for all of us.”

Labor Senator Pat Dodson picked up on a narrative promoted previously by Pearson, that the nation needed to reconcile the three pillars upon which modern Australia is built - its Indigenous birthright, its British heritage and its multicultural history.

“It’s not some concession to the natives,” he said.

“It is about this nation coming to terms with its dark, desperate and miserable history and yet being able to celebrate ... the British tradition, the multiculturalism and the Indigenous heritage, and to intertwine that in a way that gives this civil state we call Australia a new identity, a new capacity to do things differently.”

Human Rights Commissioner Mick Gooda, one of the members of the Referendum Council consulting Indigenous people on the Constitutional recognition process, warned against rushing toward a Referendum on the issue.

“I’m the one who was out there saying we’ve got to push. Our first round of consultations tells us we’ve got to ease up a bit,” he said.

“I don’t think we’re going to get anywhere near the 27th of May next year as the date for the Referendum, although there was some symmetry, being 50 years after the 1967 referendum.

“We’ve got to get it right, we can’t focus on getting it right now.”

Former Recognise campaign head Tanya Hosch said the debate shouldn’t be tempered by low expectations.

“We’ve had so many reasons to lack faith, to lose hope, to feel defeated, to be pushed and pulled and try to protect some basic rights, and yet we’re asking people to come together in a magnanimous way to work with every side of politics in the country, because that’s what’s required, to find something we all agree on,” she said.

I refuse to think we can’t have constitutional change, that we can’t have settlements and agreements.”

It was a theme picked up by Opposition Leader Bill Shorten, who echoed his earlier comments during the Federal Election campaign that Australia had the capacity to accommodate both Constitutional Recognition and a Treaty.

“It shouldn’t be beyond the wit and wisdom of our nation to be able to recognise our first Australians in the nation’s official birth certificate, but that is not in and of itself going to resolve every issue of the last 200 years,” he said.

As news of Mr Shorten’s comments were relayed to the national capital, Aboriginal Coalition MP Ken Wyatt chided the Opposition Leader for over-omplicating the issue and putting a successful Referendum at risk.

“I’m surprised the Leader of the Opposition has done this,” Mr Wyatt said. “It is a step away and is a step into a new direction.



CONSTITUTION RECOGNITION cont..

“I’m not opposing those who want a debate around Treaty, but we live within a country that is extremely conservative when it comes to referendum reform.

“We need to take little steps in order to achieve the change that was committed by four Prime Ministers.

“(There would be) people then saying the momentum that is being gained in the debate may become something that falls off and then the majority of states, the majority of people don’t support it.

“We’re going to have to make a choice: that Constitutional recognition is still on the table and we await the outcome of the Referendum Council deliberations and look at their re-port, or alternatively, say: “Let’s put this on hold for a period of time and let’s have discus-sions that go into the future around the more complex issues that Noel Pearson describes as the ‘hook’.”

Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull later issued a similar warning.

“Changing the Constitution is not for the faint-hearted.

“If you want to change the Constitution you have got to be very careful that you don’t over-complicate it or create an environment where you chip away at that very high level of consensus you need.”

EDUCATION FAIR

Garma 2016 began with a day-long Education Fair to highlight the importance of life-long learning in what was the most significant new innovation to the Garma program in recent years.

Approximately 280 students participated in the Open Learning classrooms held on the Gulkula grounds, with five separate stations, teaching different aspects of a Yolngu curriculum.

The five learning stations curriculum were: Yolngu maths, Land Rights, clan languages, Yolngu Gurutu, and Natha Walngamirri.



Students from local schools - the Yirrkala School, the Yirrkala Homeland School, Nhulunbuy Primary, and Nhulunbuy Secondary school - all played a part, as did the Yothu Yindi Foundation in collaboration with the Northern Territory Department of Education.

Students from regional schools such as the Laynhapuy Homelands School, Ramingining School, Gapuwiyak School, Maningrida School, and schools participating in the Garma Youth Forum also participated, along with students from interstate schools including St Columbans, St Francis College, Melbourne Grammar, and Xavier College.

EDUCATION FORUM

Running parralel with the day of school at Garma, and in the Garrtjambal Auditorium, Indigenous leaders stressed the importance of a well-rounded education.

Senator Pat Dodson said when he was growing up in Katherine, the most that Indigenous children were expected to achieve was to get their driver’s license and a job with the Works and Housing Department.

“As I looked around growing up and saw Aboriginal people more senior than me and who I respected carrying water on a yoke after a full day of snipping weeds or grass around someone’s house and walking back to the bush because there was no water reticulation ,and I wondered why was this the case.

“Why people had to live like that and why was it after a long hard day battling in the sun, these senior people still had the burden of carrying water back to the little humpy they had in the bush behind where I lived?”

He said as a 12-year-old he was paid the same rate to move cattle from Katherine to Darwin as the senior men, and had thought it unfair.

“So education for me has always been about looking at things, analysing them and asking yourself: ‘Why is this the case? Can it be improved? And can I improve in the process of helping others to improve?”

Director of Garma Denise Bowden was thrilled that the day focused on education highlighted how far this region had progressed in terms of leading with the strength of an innovative cultural curriculum. “I would like to thank all the educators and support staff that have been involved in delivering such a valuable component of todays activities. Thank you to Ken Davies, CEO of the Department of Education, Sue Beynon Regional Coordinator for this region. It is important that I acknowledge the value of educators from the Yirrkala

School - Merrkiwuy Stubbs and Yalmay Yunupingu. I’d like to thank Djalinda Yunupingu for the Learning On Country components and of course the tireless Rarriwuy Marika, one of the Yolngu heroes of 2015. The bush pharmacy learning units have been particularly popular with our youth, engaging and important. Also wish to acknowledge Sabina Smith from the Nhulunbuy Secondary School who has been leading the project behind the construction of the Boarding School facility here in the township of Gove. Additional thanks to Tony Considine, Jodie Maymuru, Nathan Djerrkura, Kate Axten, Leon White, Greg Wearne and Haidee Dentith and Jonno Wearne.



YOUTH DETENTION

The issue of youth detention was one of the hot-button topics at this year’s event after a report by Four Corners in the week leading up to Garma highlighted the mistreatment of young offenders in the NT justice system.

Although the issue of youth detention wasn’t on the formal agenda for Garma discussion, the event showed its flexibility - as it did last year during the debate over the booing of Indigenous footballer Adam Goodes - to adapt to, and accommodate, the demands of the 24-hour news cycle.

As NITV later commented: “The shadow of the abuses in the NT justice system hung heavy over Garma. It didn’t dominate every discussion but it permeated almost all of them. It lingered on the edges of debate, sometimes crashing through in an outburst of anger, sorrow or regret.”

Ultimately, the discussion at Garma played a big part in the eventual make-up of the Royal Commission established to investigate the issue, with former Northern Territory Chief Justice Brian Martin deciding to resign his commission in favour of Margaret White and Mick Gooda.

Martin’s resignation came on the back of vigorous calls from Indigenous and political leaders at Garma that the Royal Commission needed input from Indigenous voices.

The voice of Garma had filtered effectively, resonating on this matter.



As NITV observed: “In a week when Aboriginal people felt they were being ignored when they proposed solutions to prevent another Don Dale, Garma was a fertile breeding ground of dialogue.

“In a week of hurt, anger and painful surprises for Aboriginal people, the Garma festival defined itself as a beacon of unity.”

Senator Dodson said the mistreatment stemmed from a lack of respect and tolerance.

“You can see what horrified us the other day was that there was no relationship between those young kids and those prison officers,” Senator Dodson said.

“They were treated as if they were just straw, or something in a bag to be thrown around.

“How do we create a respect for diversity and difference in our society?

“If we can’t inculcate it in a school environment, it’s far more difficult to inculcate into a society that is distracted by many other challenges.

“Unless those seedbeds, in a schooling context, enables those young people to understand diversity and difference and respect and they are able to live in a way that gives recognition to that, then we are not building the kind of citizens we require in a complicated modern democracy.

“Because what we will see are the prejudices, the extreme right wing attitudes towards things like same-sex marriage or many other factors, the intolerance in our society.”

He said it was important to make an effort to understand different people’s experiences.

“To really enter into the space they live if they don’t get sleep at night, if there’s arguments, if there’s rows, if there’s insufficient accommodation, all of those things we’ve got to be able to understand that and then use those factors also as part of the reform for the learning context,” he said.

“It’s not just the school. It’s not just the teacher. Those kids are coming out of some kind of learned environment. The systems the royal commission is going to inquire into, it’s not going to look into that, unfortunately.

“It’s going to look at the system that prevails according to law when it comes to the running of institutions that incarcerate and hold kids and subject them to the sorts of discipline it believes are appropriate.”

Later, Senator Dodson, speaking on the Insiders program from Gulkula, said it was important that Indigenous voices contributed to the Royal Commission.

“Unfortunately, if it’s just left to one commissioner without any knowledge of the culture and the social norms or the backgrounds of these families, then it’s going to be very difficult for him to do justice to them.”



Opposition Leader Bill Shorten was even stronger in his condemnation.

“How can any young Aboriginal teenager watching those images not feel in some fashion unwelcome in their own country?

“Tragically, unforgivably, there was nothing terribly new in those terrible images that people bore witness to.

“For a lot of Aboriginal people, this Royal Commission will be a far less credible venture if they’re not being consulted with, listened to, if we don’t have an (Indigenous) man and a woman as co-commissioners,” he told a press conference at Garma.

“There must be Aboriginal co-commissioners, a man and a woman, to make sure that it’s not just Aboriginal Australians telling their story, but to have Aboriginal Australians in a position to rectify the problems.

“It’s been 25 years since the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody, but the incarceration rate in that time has more than doubled, and there are more women being jailed.

“It’s 20 years after a parliamentary inquiry into Aboriginal children being placed in out-of-home care, but the number of children growing up away from their families and communities has increased by 440 per cent — this is about 15,000 children.”

Moments such as these remind us of why Garma has become an Indigenous version of Switzerlands Davos and many guests of Garma commented on its importance on contemporary dialogue and policy development.



YOUTH DETENTIONcont

Former Labor Minister Fred Chaney said the footage seen on Four Corners was the “tip of the iceberg.”

NT Labor leader Michael Gunner apologised for the part Labor NT Governments had played in the scandal.

“Grief, anger, shame has dominated the conversation of the nation in the days since and I feel compelled to address it here today,” he said.

“Repeated Northern Territory governments have failed in their duty towards the children in our care. For that I say sorry to you all. Sorry.

“When children are in a government’s care we are their parents. As parents there is a clear relationship of love, of trust.”

“No matter what these kids have done, nobody deserves to be teated like this. This does not break the cycle of incarceration, this breaks kids.”

Commonwealth Indigenous Affairs Minister Nigel Scullion, who had been criticised during the week after admitting that the Don Dale issue hadn’t initially piqued his interest, also used his address at Garma to apologise.

“I’m sorry I wasn’t aware of the full circumstances that were exposed this week,” he said.



FUNDING & FINANCE

As in previous years, Garma again hosted a discussion on the funding and finance of Indigenous Affairs, with a focus on money allocated by the Commonwealth Grants Commission.

Figures compiled by former NT Council of Social Services head Barry Hansen purported to show the Northern Territory Government underspent on Aboriginal issues by 15 per cent, or about \$500 million, in the 2015-16 financial year.

He presented similar data from 2006-07, arguing the underspending is entrenched in government and not unique to either major party.

He came up with the figures by comparing the Territory’s share of GST revenue doled out by the Commonwealth Grants Commission — calculated for each state and territory based on complex estimations of need — to actual government spending on that need.

He said his research suggested the Territory Government should have put 68 per cent of its \$3.4 billion GST revenue last financial year towards Indigenous disadvantage, but instead allocated 53 per cent.

“Whichever way you cut and slice it, it doesn’t equate,” Mr Hansen said. “It’s horrific, what can you do about it? My view is the situation is so dire there needs to be an independent body to monitor all this sort of stuff and to report independently.”

His analysis was questioned by veteran bureaucrat Bob Beadman, who said the Grants Commission did not break down the money passed on to the states by category, and concluded that Mr Hansen’s methodology was flawed.

He questioned the accuracy of Mr Hansen’s figures as there was no way to accurately determine what percentage of each departmental budget was needed, or spent, specifically on Aboriginal issues.

Former federal Labor Minister Fred Chaney said the difference in living standards between Darwin and the rest of the NT was stark.

“The thing I find painful is the discrepancy between the opulence of Darwin, this modern, wonderful city, and the squalor I see elsewhere,” he said. I see significant imbalance.”



DELEGATION OF TSLEIL-WAUTUTH NATION, VANCOUVER

The board of the Yothu Yindi Foundation was delighted to host at this year’s Garma a delegation from the Tsleil-Waututh nation from Vancouver, Canada.

The Tsleil-Waututh are the “People of the Inlet,” a community of about 500 people whose ancestral lands include large parts of British Columbia.

The delegation included a mix of Elders and young people, with the students taking part in the Garma Youth Forum.

Chief Maureen Thomson and Reuben George led a demonstration of Tsleil-Waututh ceremonial dancing on the bunggul grounds which delighted onlookers and formed a bond between hosts and guests, with Mr George later saying he now considered the Yolngu his brothers and sisters.

“This feels so comfortable it’s like home,” he told the Key Forum.

“When we look closely at each other’s culture there’s more similarities than differences. All the ceremonies we’ve seen, there’s always earth, fire, water and sky.”

Mr George told the audience of his nation’s struggle to protect their abundant waterways from the ravages of oil exploration, which he likened to the struggle against mining which Traditional Owners had fought in Arnhem Land.

“Things that we’ve been living by for thousands of years, that’s the laws of our lands and waters, and the laws of our culture and our spirituality. And we follow those laws to protect and enhance what we have.”



YOLNGU HEROES

The presentation of the Yothu Yindi Foundation’s annual Yolngu Heroes awards continues to be a major drawcard of Garma. This session is always a very emotional platform for the Yolngu themselves, as most awardee’s can always find a connection in some form to other clan groups, songlines or moiety.

CEO of the Yothu Yindi Foundation Denise Bowden explained that the Yolngu heroes process began with a call to the Yolngu community to submit nominations in March of every year. Nominations closed at the end of May. Nominations this year for Garma have been a very difficult task for the selection committee. The purpose of the Yolngu Heroes is to acknowledge our home grown leaders for the often thankless and often unchosen roles that they undertake day in day out in their communities. This platform of the key forum is a positive and happy session as you can see from the images to the right.

From the top to the bottom of the images is the 2016 Yolngu Hero Mr Barayuwa Mununggurr. Ms Binmila Yunupingu, Ms Yananymul Mununggurr and Mr Gutjapin Gumana.

The announcement that Djapu clan leader Barayuwa Mununggurr had been named the official Garma 2016 Yolngu Hero was an electrifying moment for all those who witnessed it.

Mr Mununggurr, a softly-spoken man with cultural and family ties across northeast Arnhem Land, is a respected leader in the community and a passionate advocate for his people.

Mr Mununggurr is the chairman of Miwatj Employment and Participation, a director of Laynhapuy Homelands and a member of the Northeast Arnhem Council.

Mr Mununggurr is a fierce advocate for Homelands living and has a vision for a united community that is safe, strong and active.

He has served the community all his life and is as busy today as he was 50 years ago.

His outstanding service over such a long time made him a worthy recipient of this coveted award.

Mrs Mununggurr is widely recognised for her commitment to the Homelands and out-stations, while Ms Yunupingu has become a strong role model in the Gumatj community.



Mr Gumana has succeeded in a challenging job in which he manages a team of 15 people overseeing Federal Government programs.

YYF looks forward to receiving nominations for next year’s Yolngu Heroes awards as we continue to acknowledge the unsung heroes of the communities of northeast Arnhem Land.

GAPAN GALLERY

The open aired art gallery this year provided a different look to Garma’s creative space. The Yothu Yindi Foundation extended an invitation to four art centres in the Arnhem region to showcase the diverse nature of Arnhem land’s artwork Bula Bula Arts Aboriginal Corporation, Buku Larrnggay, Ngukurr Art Centre and Injalak Arts together attempted to present a collaborative look at the region’s significant Indigenous art. Three extra bough shelters were built onsite to accommodate the art centres.

Friday evening saw the official opening of the Gapan Gallery, and guests had spoken of their delight to see an extended component of Garma programming take place. YYF’s vision is to include other art centres that have not been exposed to Garma and our guests. Guests are also introduced to alternate art centres, different and diverse art forms from different artists from across the Arnhem region.

YYF would like to thank each of the art centres that attended Garma this year, and we look forward to strengthening our collaborative project in the new year.

Many thanks to the Datjala Community Working Party, NT Correctional Services, Delatareef, Jacob Francisco, Mayatili Marika and Klaus Helms for overseeing this component of Garma programming.

Gapan will be an interesting space in the future as the community itself introduces a new artistic flair for guests enjoyment.

BUNGGUL (DANCE)

The Garma bunggul is the responsibility of Mr Balupalu Yunupingu. He is a senior clansman, and his varied roles on the ground within his Gumatj clan mean that he will oversee and coordinate four evenings of traditional bunggul - no easy feat.

Balupalu is tasked with inviting surrounding clans to dance each sunset. He will organise the gapan (paint), the nunga’s (traditional dress), the designs on the bodies of the Gumatj clan. Balupalu will work with the Director and the Transport

BUNGGUL cont.....

Coordinator to scheduled flights to and from the homelands, and other regions from which dancers are chosen. In general this component of Garma is difficult, given the local Laynhapuy Aviation will run over 35 flights into and out of the homelands.

The Yothu Yindi Foundation air lifted 228 passengers to Garma from across various Indigenous communities and we would like to thank the following Yolngu groups for providing such an exceptional artistic contribution:

- Djambarrunga clan
- Dhalwangu clan
- Guyamirilil clan
- Murinpatha clan
- Dhabi clan
- Wangurri clan
- Galpu clan Mangalili clan
- Amagula clan
- Djapu clan
- Dhatiwuy clan

The Yolngu people have been determined to preserve and maintain their Yolngu heritage, and the strength of this preservation of cultural knowledge is on display on the bunggul grounds each evening from 4pm.

The bunggul is also an opportunity for guests of Garma to trial their own dance moves as we invite guests onto the ceremonial grounds to dance their own bunggul version. Often, this time is light and fun for guests, and the bringing together of Indigneous and non-Indigenous, men and women, the young and the old is priceless. The echoes of laughter fill the Gulkula site, and this generous spirit of the Yolngu is a valuable commodity that Australia is immensley proud of.

The Tseil-Waututh group from Vancouver were invited to bunggul and their dance was not disimilar to the Yolngu clans. The link to flora and fauna, the water, fire and earth became a common link and Garma’s global stretch across the continent was a rejoicing feature of this years Garma.

We should also like to acknowledge the songmen, the yidaki masters, and the clap stick players who, when combined, emit an simply superb deep musical rhythm that carries across the Dhupuma escarpment. This very noise brings all guests to the bunggul grounds, where the majority will breath in the elite ctultral stories from 50,000 years back.

The bunggul is one of Garma’s most popular aspects of programing, and it provides all guests with the ability to relax, to unwind, to contemplate a day often filled with a combination of serious forums, interviews and politics.

MUSIC

Musical programing this year has been YYF’s finest yet. In terms of musical talent, we have been blessed with some of Australia’s finest artists attending Garma. Big names such as Archie Roach journeyed to Garma to show unified support for Indigenous Affairs. Mainstream artist Clare Bowditch brought her amazing voice to Gulkula, so too she brought her family. Radical Son’s souflful social statements on stage were moving, alongwith his big presence and gravelly deep voice.

Gawurra was an inviting local talent, who has been a great success, finding new admiration from interstate audiences. As always it is a pleasure too, to watch East Journey on stage, and very popular with the local crowd was Barra, and piloting her singing career was Dhapanbul Yunupingu, daughter of the late Mr Yunupingu. Garrangali, KK Band and Ezy 5 hit all the right notes to the excitement of their audience.



Garma musicians will also lend their time during the festival to wander over to the youth forum where they will provide musical workshops, or assist with song writing. Often they will share with the youth their stories of success, and their challenges to rise within the music industry.

Thanks to Ava Dub for managing a busy Garma stage. Appreciation to Johanna Ward and Gaia Osborne at Yolngu Radio and the team at the Aboriginal Resource and Development Services. It was wonderful to have APRA represented again at Garma. We should like to thank Amy Chapman, Jeb, Baniyala Garrangali Aboriginal Corporation, CAAMA, Amy Chapman at Wantok Music, Scott McKenzie at Premier Artists, Nathan Carlini at the Sphere Organisation, Jed Zarb at Muso Promotions, Chryss Carr at AUM PR & Creative, Phillip Eaton, Jill Shelton.



Garma Main Stage Musical Performances in 2016

Friday evening

8:15pm Warren H Williams and Dani Young
8:45pm Ezy5
9:15pm Barra – West Wind
10:30pmNext Generation – Yurrwi Yawirrin

Saturday Lunch Live Performance

12:30pm Matjala Band
1:00pm Jessie Lloyd’s Mission Songs Project
feat. Archie Roach

Saturday Evening

8:00pm Clare Bowditch
8:50pm Gawurra
9:40pm East Journey
10:40pm Radical Son

Sunday Lunch Live Performance

12:30pm Barra – Gospel Gawurr – Yothu Yindi

Sunday Evening Performance

8:00pm Noke
8:10pm Archie Roach
9:00pm Garrangali
9:50pm Wildwater
10:40pmSol Nation

Monday Lunch Live Performance

12:30pm One Generation
1:00pm Dhapanbul Yunupingu

Monday Evening Performance

6:30pm Youth Forum
7:00pm KK Band
7:30pm Saltlake Band



Warren H. Williams



Gawurra



Clare Bowditch



Dani Young

YOUTH FORUM

The 2016 Garma Youth Forum entertained over 260+ school attending students. Our largest contingent travelled from St Columbans where Principal Anne Rebgetz gathers a delegation of over 55 youth.

The Youth Forum program is primarily developed by the Director of Garma Denise Bowden. She follows a model developed by the Yothu Yindi Foundation as little as 6 years ago, after the youth forum was reviewed in order to increase student participation in Garma, and to draw further afield from across the nation.

This years Garma Youth Forum was sponsored by the University of Melbourne, we’d like to thank the Vice Chancellor Professor Glynn Davis, and Professor Ian Anderson of the Marrup Baruk – Melbourne Institute for Indigenous Development. Again, we send our thanks to Professor Marcia Langton who has been a tireless advocate of Garma over the years.

The Youth Forum is the busiest part of GARma, it held over 50 activities over the course of Garma, beginning on Friday 29th as YYF held its first ever Education Fair onsite on the bunggul grounds. From many of the bough shelters Yolngu educators led a day of open – aired classroom teaching activities.

Five subjects were taught by Merrkiwuy Ganambarr-Stubbs, Yalmay Yunupingu, Leon White, Rarriwuy Marika, and many other Yolngu teachers. Subjects:

1. Yolngu Gurrutu (kinship & moiety)
2. Clan languages
3. Natha walngamirri (diet and nutrition)
4. Land Rights
5. Garma Maths

The 280 children that attended this day of learning came from registered school student guests of Garma, and importantly the local schools were based onsite at Garma for their school day. The federal government have been great supporters of Garma, considering their priorities of getting kids to school – this year YYF was able to display the importance of tying in cultural curriculum in conjunction with the Department of Education and with the Minister for Indigenous Affairs onsite to witness this important and unique component of Garma 2016.

The Foundation for Young Australians collaborated with YYF to prepare the time scheduling components of the youth forum program, additionally they worked with YYF to introduce ice breakers and educational activities. Extraordinary programming of Yolngu cultural activities were paramount and central components of the Youth Forum. Also we were able to introduce exciting aspects of the youth forum that began at 9am and finished late into the evening. Thank you to Djapirri Munungurritj and Merrki for the smoking ceremonies, including the Miwatj Aboriginal Health team, Learning On Country, Astronomy with Nungki Yunupingu and Ian Maclean, NT School of Music, the No More Campaign to end domestic violence, music artists that assisted with the song writing sessions, and the essential NIYLA and Impact programing workshops led by the youth alone. We’d like to thank Regan – for his art build onsite within the Youth Forum.

Thanks to Madge Fletcher for coordinating the delivery of the 4 days, and to keeping us on track.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Foundation for Young Australians**

The FYA involvement this year was wonderful and the partnership was welcomed by all and 100% effective. FYA really embraced the “leadership” of the running of the day’s program; particularly the icebreaker games, movement between workshops and the end of the day evaluation exercises. Also totally engaging around the camp site.
- NT Music School**

Were a great addition to youth forum programing and the youth themselves naturally were attracted to this element of activities.. Positive to see equipment, technical expertise, thoughtful planning, engaging workshop delivery and constant critical thinking and dialogue for all of us about workshops delivery for youth across a broad demographic. Having a mix of genders with leaders/ teachers was important this year. NT Music school’s long standing connection with local schools meant more engagement of Yolngu youth who had come to Garma with their parents and not part of a school group. They were very happy to join in with NT music school workshops as the leaders were familiar. This then lead to participation in other workshops. NT music workshops areas -Building instruments, creating a string orchestra. Sharing beats and rhythms across communities, song writing and singing.
- Apple team**

Worked hard, and delivered exciting teachings. Lots of preparation and lesson planning meant smooth operation. Very engaging and young folk enjoyed the three different styles of workshops and the creative use of technology. The robotics workshops was a fresh and contemporary activity, very unique aspect for the bush.
- Stencil Workshops and Wall**

Excellent art build addition and the young folk were totally engaged in the process. Youth were able to see the wall become an art piece that they had developed themselves. Relationships between artist and youth folk was joyful and understanding.
- Miwatj Health men and women’s workshops**

Engaging and very positively managed by the Yolngu health workers themselves.
- Youth Forum presentation at the Key Forum**

This was loud, strong, and delivered from the perspective of the youth. A positive component where adult attendees were able to listen to their voices in amongst a festival that has so many strong adult leaders. The youth parade procession certainly attracted everyones attention, and the rest of the Garma site was well aware that the youth had some points of view.

Thanks to Djaparri Mununggurritj again and the Raypirri Rom team who have a watchful eye over the Youth Forum. Many thanks to the Yolngu leaders and the rest of Garma elders that dropped in to the Youth Forum this year, generously sharing of their time and wisdom.



RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT

- Requirement for night patrol
- Improved lighting around youth camping area.
- Earlier registration from schools and other youth forum attendees.

The Youth Forum is a special and unique gathering place; particularly in what opportunities it can deliver for Yolngu youth and other young Australians and the development of long term relationships between Youth.

INDIGENOUS LEADERSHIP

The Garma Festival is now perceived as being Indigenous Australia’s Davos for policy development amongst some of the nations Indigenous leaders, up and coming and a rich talent pool to source our next leaders. The Yothu Yindi Foundation has displayed that an Indigenous lead event, totally directed and programed by Indigenous people themselves is achievable, and the general community have warmly received the direction of Indigenous leaders such as those found now at Garma.

The nations most respected Indigenous leaders attend Garma to share their stories, explain the hard work that goes into their projects, they highlight and identify the challenges that they have experienced first hand. This is vitally important for Australia’s future progress, and there are vital learning moments that government, philanthropy, academia, and organisations in general have utilised in terms of generating outcomes and learning from mistakes made.

Example – Selena Uiibo a teacher from remote Arnhem land spoke at the 2015 Garma Festival. In 2016 Territory Labor fielded Selena as a candidate for the electorate of Arnhem where she was elected into Northern Territory Parliament. Selena’s background from the remote bush, and her willingness to lead have made her a exciting Indigenous leader. The platform of Garma was essential in the promotion of her profile.

Garma youth communicating together and forming friendships has forged many opportunities through other schools attending Garma, purely via word of mouth. The networking components of Garma are an essential leadership developing tool, and strong friendships have been made as mentors are made organically from within the Garma space.. This indigenous leadership strength is evident at Garma, post Garma and will continue to forge further afiel as youth grow older and search for education or employment opportunities into their adult ages.

Stan Grant in 2014 attended Garma via the collaboration of the Sky News/Yothu Yindi Foundation Media sponsorship. Stan’s media profile was already substantial prior to his attending Garma, however, he did not have the vital bush and remote connections that elevated him post-Garma 2014. Since then Stan capitalized on the Garma market and his profile has gained further traction.

Leadership is also measured in terms of building artists profiles, such as our musicians, our artists from within the Gapan Gallery, and other leaders such as Deon Wamut, and Wesley Dhurrkay as they contribute to the actual hosting and running of Garma.

Other leaders such as Denise Bowden of YYF, Melanie Herdman of Miwatj Health, and Mayatili Marika as the Coordinator of Garma have been strong advocates of a new generation of young women leaders who are gaining credibility every year they contribute to Garma programng. Yolngu educators such as Yananymul Mununggurr, Binmila Yunupingu, Merrkiwuy Stubbs and Yalmay Yunupingu are strong advocates for education, and their presence as teachers displays outstanding community success.

YYF will continue to develop new leaders, and provide the platform of Garma to show that from this remote pocket of Arnhem Land here we can produce some of the strongest Indigenous leaders of Australia’s future.

MEDIA EXPOSURE

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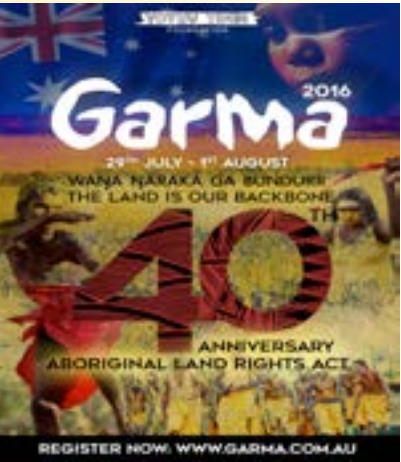
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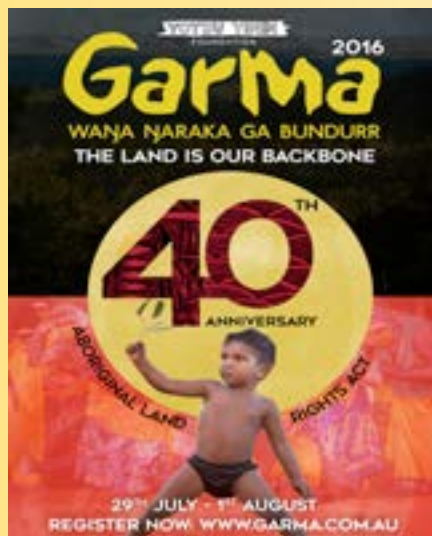
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