

merrepen arts festival

may 29 – 31 2009
nauiyu community daly river



program

friday 29 may

8.00am: Sporting Carnival begins with teams from around the region competing in Football, Softball and Basketball matches running all through the day

7.30pm: Youth Disco in the Community Hall

saturday 30 may

8.00am: Sporting Carnival continues throughout the day

The **Art Centre will be open** for viewing only

1.00pm: 'Fi' Weaving Workshops run by the local ladies

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6.00pm: Mass in St Francis Xavier Church

Sunset: Concert on the banks of the Daly River with the **Nicky Bomba, B2M and Nauiyu Boys**

sunday 31 may

8.00am: Sporting Carnival continues throughout the day

10.00am: The Official Opening of the **Art Festival and Centre**

10.00am: Art Sale begins

12noon: Art Auction – Tony Pickering

Afternoon

On Sunday afternoon there will be traditional dancing and the sporting Grand finals

2.00pm: 'Fi' Weaving Workshops run by the local ladies



about nauiyu and merrepen arts the community

The community of Nauiyu Nambiyu or Daly River has around 450 residents and is the home of the Merrepen Arts and Crafts Centre. Pidgin is spoken throughout the region, but the two major traditional language groups are **Ngan'gikurrungurr** and **Ngen'giwumirri**. There are another 10 minority language groups still in use in the area **Marrithiel, Marrigarr, Marrimananyi, Malak Malak**, (who are the traditional owners of the community) **Matngala, Ngan gikurungurr,** and **Ngen giwumirri**.

The community was originally formed in the mid 1950's as a Catholic Mission although the Jesuits arrived as early as 1886 but poor soil, sickness and failing crops saw them abandon their post in 1889. In the 1930s, peanuts and tobacco as well as other crops were grown in an attempt to create a food bowl on the Daly River but this was thwarted by the rising of the river during the wet season. The community of Nauiyu sits in the valley next to the mighty Daly River surrounded by hills and billabongs. Today the area is famous for its abundant supply of bush tucker, barramundi and the Merrepen Art Centre.



www.merrepentfestival.com.au
merrepen arts festival is an alcohol free event



merrepen art centre

The Art Centre opened in 1986 and today Merrepen Arts is a well established arts centre with around 20 artists working in a variety of traditional and contemporary mediums painting regularly in an attractive custom designed art centre. A number of the most established artists from the region are now recognised on a national level.

In 1998 huge floods swept through the region and the art centre which was on ground level lost all its stock of artworks and materials. A new purpose built elevated art centre was constructed and opened in 2003 keeping the art works safe from the seasonal flooding that frequently threatens the community.



art sale and auction

The Art Sale will take place at 10.00am on Sunday May 31 followed by the art auction at 12 midday.

The famous art auction on Sunday Morning is a once a year opportunity to buy a great work of art at a great price. The work of local artists Gracie Kumbi, Phillip Wilson, Marita Sambono, Patricia McTaggart AM and Geraldine Ungunmerr will be available in the art auction and art sale, as well as works by younger artists.

Each painting has a price tag attached. To purchase a painting you just tear off the the bottom part of the tag and give it to the cashier. Once you have torn the tag the painting is considered sold to you, so choose carefully. If you accidentally tear off a tag just let the cashier know straight away.



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Photos: Maria Øien and Stian Thoresen and Anne Brandt.