

# merrepen arts & sports festival



September 2 – 4, 2011

naiyu community daly river

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



## program

### friday 2 september

**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 3 september

**8.00am Sporting Carnival** continues throughout the day

Morning **Cultural dancing**

**10.00am Merrepen Art Centre Exhibition** of Paintings by Grace Kunbi and Kieren McTaggart

**10.00am Art sale** paintings available for viewing only all day

**1.00pm Fi Weaving Workshops** run by the local ladies

**2.00pm Cultural dancing**

**3.00pm Fi Weaving Workshops** run by the local ladies

**6.00pm Mass** in St Francis Xavier Church

**Sunset: Concert** in the community with **Tom E Lewis, the BLACK Arm band** and local bands.

### sunday 4 september

**8.00am Sporting Carnival** continues throughout the day

**10.00am The Official Opening** of the Art Festival, Art Sale begins

**12noon Art Auction of selected works, auctioneer Tony Pickering**

**Afternoon Cultural dancing, traditional dancing and the Sporting Grand Finals**

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

**7pm Mass and the Sacrament of Confirmation** with Bishop Eugene at St Francis Xavier Church



## about naiyu and merrepen arts the community

The community of Naiyu 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 Ngen'gikurrungurr and Ngen'giwumirri. There are another 10 minority language groups still in use in the area including Marrithiel, Marrigarr, Marrimananyi, Malak Malak (who are the traditional owners of the community), and Matngala.

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 three years later. In the 1930's peanuts and tobacco as well as other crops were grown in an attempt to create a food bowl on the Daly River. This was thwarted by the flooding of the river during the wet season. The community of Naiyu 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 local bush tucker, barramundi and the Merrepen Arts Centre.



## merrepen art centre

The art centre opened in 1986 and today is a well established art centre with around 20 artists working regularly in a variety of traditional and contemporary mediums in an attractive purpose built art centre. A number of the most established artists from the region are now recognised on a national level and have work in private and public collections.

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

In 2011 flooding caused the community to be evacuated, and this year's Merrepen Arts festival to be postponed from its customary early June date to September.



## art sale and auction

The Art Sale will take place at 10.00am on Sunday September 4th and will be followed by the Art Auction which will start at 12 mid day.

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.

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 auction and the art sale. As well there will be an auction of some younger artists works.



## merrepen arts & sports festival



Photos: Maria Øien and Stian Thoresen, Todd Condie, courtesy of the NLC and Anne Brandt.

## about the merrepen arts and sports festival

**Merrepen Arts and Sports Festival** is one of the Australia's best established Aboriginal cultural festivals. Visitors travel from all over Australia to visit this friendly community in an extraordinarily beautiful region of the Top End and its fine art works and culture.

### things to remember

- No alcohol is permitted to be brought into the Nauiyu Community
- No permits are required to enter the Community
- Food and drink will be available, but you should bring a picnic basket if you are attending the Saturday night concert
- Bring a chair, blanket or bean bag and some mozzie spray for the Saturday night concert
- Bring warm clothing for the concert
- Very limited facilities for EFTPOS 'cash out' please come prepared
- Art works can be purchased with cash, visa, bankcard, mastercard or EFTPOS
- Tickets for the concert will be available at the door \$20 adults, \$15 concession

### contact details

**Merrepen Arts Aboriginal Corporation**

Ph 08 8978 2533

Fax 08 8978 2766

Merrepen@bigpond.com



### how to get there

Merrepen arts is located in the Nauiyu Aboriginal Community on the banks of the Magnificent Daly River, famous for its billabongs, barramundi, and abundant supply of bush tucker. It's only 240kms south west of Darwin on sealed roads. Drive south from Darwin on the Stuart Highway to Adelaide River. On the south side of town just after the bridge turn right onto Dorat Road. Follow Dorat Road for approx. 90 kms, then turn right on to the Daly River Road (signposted). Follow this road to Daly River and just before the river crossing you will see the sign on the right for the road in to Nauiyu and Merrepen Arts.



### where to stay

Camping is not available in the community but there are a number of tourist parks throughout the area offering a full range of accommodation options.

Banyan Farm Tourist Park	(08) 8978 2461
Mango Farm Tourist Park	(08) 8978 2464
Perry's on the Daly Tourist Park	(08) 8978 2452
Daly River Roadhouse	(08) 8978 2418
Woolianna on the Daly Tourist Park	(08) 8978 2478
Sinclair's Fisherman's Retreat	(08) 8978 2267
Nancar Hideout	0427 014 714



### 'fi' weaving tours and workshops

Come along and learn the techniques of dilly bag weaving from the local ladies at Nauiyu.

The tours feature the women sharing their culture and knowledge of materials and techniques.

### 'fi' weaving tours

Saturday afternoon September 2 at 1.00pm and 3.00pm, Sunday afternoon at 2.00pm

Duration approximately 1 hour and 15 minutes

Cost \$20 per person, maximum of 20 people for each tour

Please book at the reception desk at the Art Centre



"We chose to call this tour Fi because this word fits the weaving process. Translated directly it means endless nothingness or emptiness, and the word can also describe how you can create something out of this nothing. . . . The idea of the weaving pattern was given to the old people by the Golden Orb spider's big web. In my language **Ngen giwumirri** we call it **awurrsyi**. It makes big strong nets that catch lots of insects.

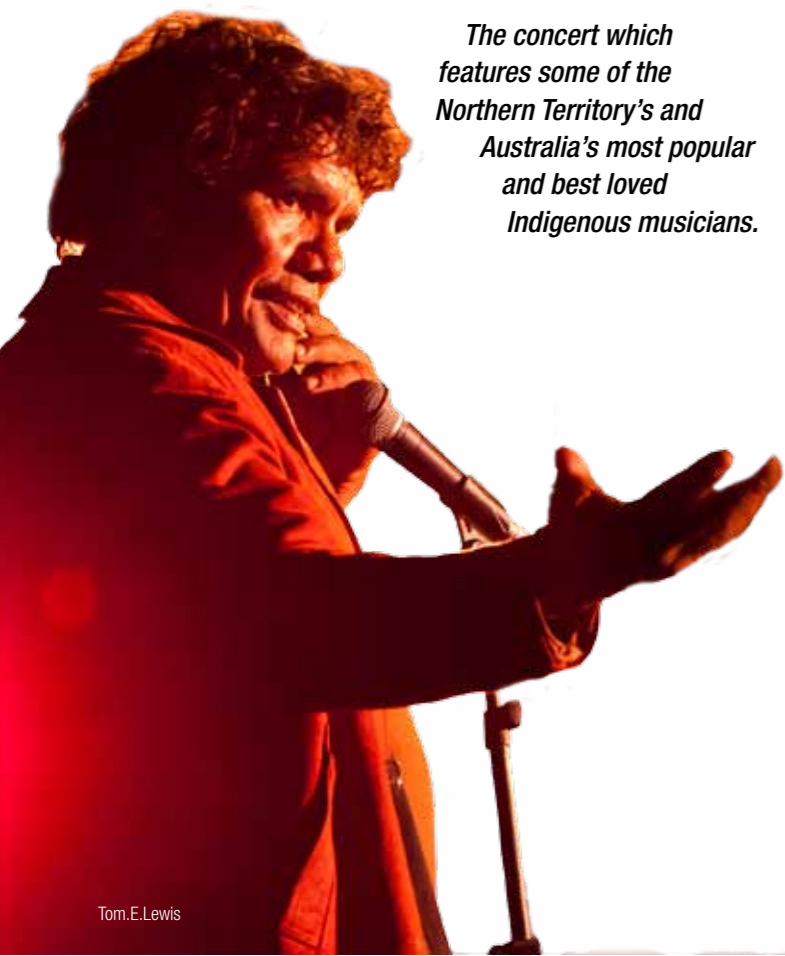
In the olden days people would see the spider and wonder how he could make this net without hands. Back in the Dreamtime mother earth gave humans their totems, land and language, but also their hands so they could make spears and dilly bags. So people believed the creation of the spider web was done in a spiritual way. Without hands the spider made the web from a force in its mind. The spider could think his web from nothing into something. In the same way we start weaving with our empty hands and collect from nature to create something out of nothing. That is why we call this weaving presentation Fi."

Patricia 'Marfurra' McTaggart AM

## ENTERTAINMENT

### Concert Saturday 3 September

*The concert which features some of the Northern Territory's and Australia's most popular and best loved Indigenous musicians.*



### Tom E Lewis

Born in Ngukurr, Tom E Lewis is one of the Northern Territory's best known and best loved Indigenous actors and musicians. Since 2001 he has combined his individual stage and screen career with his work in the community of Beswick where he is Artistic Director of Djilpin Arts and their Walking With Spirits Festival.

Best known for his Australian film roles, Tom E. Lewis also has a distinguished career in music. Most recently he performed at this year's huge UK Glastonbury Festival. Tom's \$2 song won Port Fairy's best original song in 2001 and went on to feature on his debut CD **Sunshine After Rain** which won Music Release of the Year in the NT Indigenous Music Awards 2006.

### murundak - The Black Arm Band

Featuring: Lou Bennett, Emma Donovan, Stephen Pigram, Djolpa MacKenzie, Bart Willoughby with a 6 PIECE BAND

Murundak from the Black Armband group celebrates 30 years of contemporary Indigenous music. The Black Arm Band is comprised of the pioneers of contemporary Aboriginal music and some of the emerging greats who have inherited their legacy. Together, these artists form a collective of voices that has been touching hearts and minds across the country and abroad.

Featuring songs such as **We Have Survived, Took The Children Away, Treaty and From Little Things Big Things Grow**, 'murundak celebrates the anthems of Aboriginal Australia that are etched deep into the history of this country.

Concert tickets \$20, \$15 conc on sale at the Merrepen Festival.



Emma Donovan and Djolpa MacKenzie



Tom.E.Lewis