



*UMI Arts Development Officers, Guy and Renee working with Hope Vale artist, Harry Bowen*

PHOTO: KATHI GIBSON

## Exhibition Ready in Community Program

Exhibition Ready in Community is an extension of UMI Arts' Exhibition Ready Program, a program that supports Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists who want to gain skills and experience in preparing their art works for exhibition and sale.

The Exhibition Ready in Community Program has been made possible through a grant from the Regional Arts Fund. This pilot Program aims to make the face-to-face support of Exhibition Ready available to artists working in communities in Far North Queensland.

Artists and Art Centres participating in the Program work with UMI Arts development officers to learn how to organise an exhibition while actually preparing for their own exhibition at UMI Arts. The two communities participating in the program this year are Wujal Wujal and Hope Vale.

From 15-19th March, UMI Arts Development Officers, Renee Harris and Guy Hancock, worked with three artists in Hope Vale in preparation for their exhibition at the Cairns Indigenous Art Fair in August.

The three main participants in the Hope Vale chapter of the Program are Evelyn McGreen, Kathi Gibson and Harry Bowen. Evelyn is a printmaker who works in etchings and linocuts, Kathi is a photographer, and Harry is currently producing large acrylic works on canvas. Over five intensive days, the trio worked on the first components of the skills-development program which involved creating and updating their Artist Profiles and CVs, exploring themes and stories reflected in their exhibition pieces, and other aspects of exhibition pre-planning and organisation.

"The Exhibition Ready in Community Program brings professional artist support to Hope Vale. These services are usually only available in major cities and regional centres", says Hope Vale Arts and Cultural Centre Manager, Troy Dennis.

"As an Art Centre Manager, I feel it's my responsibility to take advantage of all the professional artist training programs I can, so that our artists living here in the Community have direct access to a wide range of experiences and skills development." ...CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

### IN THIS ISSUE

- 1 EXHIBITION READY IN COMMUNITY PROGRAM
- 2 UMI ARTS CHAIRPERSON'S WORD
- 3 UMI ARTS EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S WORD
- 7 EXHIBITION READY PROGRAM
- 8 CALENDAR OF EVENTS AND MEMBERSHIP FORM

### UMI ARTS NEWS

- 4 CALL FOR UMI ARTS VOLUNTEERS
- 4 CAIRNS INDIGENOUS ARTS AND CULTURE HUB
- 4 BIG TALK ONE FIRE 2010
- 5 MARKET READY PROGRAM
- 5 BUSINESS READY PROGRAM

### NEWS & EVENTS AROUND THE REGION

- 6 YARRABAH YOUTH WEEK
- 6 IAACCC
- 6 COOKTOWN DISCOVERY FESTIVAL
- 6 JOEY LAIFOO PRINTING PRESS
- 6 'BI-CORNUAL ARTISTRY' EXHIBITION, SA.

## The UMI Arts Board of Directors

One of the greatest strengths of UMI Arts is its all-Indigenous Board of Directors. Each of the Directors has participated in an intensive governance training program in 2007/08 and each actively participates in their respective communities, whether as a cultural practitioner, in the social justice system, local government, or as a Traditional Owner.

### Lisa Michl - Chairperson

Lisa Michl is a Kokoberin woman, from Inkerman country, Cape York Peninsula, and descendent from a strong line of Aboriginal women. Lisa's bush name Komanggén was passed on to her by her great grandfather, a senior Kokoberin man. Lisa is Chairperson of UMI Arts and is a professional artist who exhibits nationally and internationally.

### Alberta Hornsby - Deputy Chairperson

Alberta Hornsby was born in Hope Vale, and is a Bulgun Warra, Angamuthi and Ganggalida Woman. Alberta now lives in Cooktown and is one of the founders of the Hope Vale Arts and Cultural Centre.

### Roy Mclvor - Director

Roy Mclvor is from the Guugu Yimithirr tribe, and was born at Cape Bedford Mission. He grew up in Woorabinda after his family was forcibly removed from the mission. Roy moved back to Hope Vale in 1950 and has been an active artist in his community ever since.

### Priscilla Major - Director

Ma Cheltrulalie Priscilla Major is a Traditional woman from the Kokoberra peoples on the west coast of Cape York Peninsula. The Kokoberra are the Traditional Owners for the Mitchell River area including the Aboriginal community of Kowanyama.

### Leo B Akee - Director

Leo is currently the District Manager of Education Queensland/DETA, and has been a Councillor of the Torres Shire Council (1997-2000) and Deputy Mayor of the Torres Strait (2000-2004). Leo has sat on many national committees and Boards, including the Australia Council National Indigenous Advisory Reference Group, Australian Indigenous Training Advisory Council, Regional Employment Taskforce, Torres Strait Regional Managers Forum and TAFE College. Leo is a composer and entertainer, cultural dancer, musician, artist and wood carver with 30 years experience in the arts.

### Desmond Tayley - Director

Desmond is a Kuku Yalanji/Kuku Nyungkul man from the Bloomfield River area, with family ties going back for many generations. Desmond was elected to the Wujal Wujal Aboriginal Shire Council in 2000 and was voted in as Mayor by the Council in 2004. He is a member of the governing body of the Bana Mindilji Aboriginal Corporation, which looks to hold title to land on behalf of the members, and to provide economic, social and cultural benefit to the members.

### Shaun Edwards - Director

Shaun Edwards Kalkr descends from the Kokoberin people of the Staaten River area. He is an established visual artist and is an active advocate for Indigenous people, especially of the Central Western Cape York Region. As well as holding many professional positions, Shaun has worked as the Director of Opposition Research of the Give us a Go Campaign and was a co-founder of the Kowanyama Baby Festival. Shaun holds a Masters of Philosophy in Public Health.

## A Word from the Chairperson



Welcome to the 10th Edition of the UMI Arts Newsletter!

UMI Arts is the peak Indigenous arts and cultural organisation for Far North Queensland, an area that extends north to include the Torres Strait Islands, south to Cardwell, west to Camooweal and includes the Gulf and Mt Isa regions.

UMI Arts is a not-for-profit company managed by an all Indigenous Board of Directors and is based in Cairns. UMI Arts was established in 2005 and its mission is to operate an Indigenous organisation that assists Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to participate in the maintenance, preservation and protection of cultural identity

At the broadest level, UMI Arts' goal is to strengthen Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural practices, including visual arts and crafts, dance, ceremony, story telling and music. UMI is a Creole word that means You and Me - for UMI Arts this is significant, as we believe that we need to work together to keep our culture strong.

All UMI Arts projects and programs aim to:

- preserve, strengthen, maintain and celebrate all aspects of Indigenous arts and culture,
- train and skill Indigenous people for future employment and economic independence in the creative industries
- create pathways for success for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists, cultural practitioners, arts centres and communities in Far North Queensland.

UMI Arts believes in creating pathways for success for our mob and we are pleased that Arts Queensland, as part of the Backing Indigenous Art Strategy, has nominated UMI Arts as the lead agency to identify the options for establishing an Indigenous arts and culture Hub in Cairns.

We have commissioned Fieldworx to undertake a Feasibility Report to explore options for the Hub. Over the past three months, Fieldworx has undertaken extensive consultations with individual Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists and cultural organisations in and around Cairns, to identify the "how, what and why" of such a facility. This is an exciting new development and we anticipate that the final report will be submitted by the end of March. We look forward to keeping you informed about progress on the Hub over the coming months.

Lisa Michl  
Chairperson

**UMI ARTS ONLINE - [WWW.UMIARTS.COM.AU](http://WWW.UMIARTS.COM.AU)**

Have you missed previous issues of our Newsletter?

Not a problem, you can contact us to have printed copies posted to you, or you can access them online at our web site.

Also available online are our Indigenous Markets and Exhibition Ready brochures, the UMI Arts Membership form, as well as various other resources.

## Contact UMI Arts

UMI Arts Ltd. PO Box 1100, North Cairns, Qld 4870  
Office: 335 Sheridan Street, North Cairns, Qld 4870

Phone: (07) 4041 6152 Fax: (07) 4041 6542

Email: [admin@umiarts.com.au](mailto:admin@umiarts.com.au) Website: [www.umiarts.com.au](http://www.umiarts.com.au)

UMI Arts gratefully acknowledges the support of:



## Exhibition Ready in Community Program - Hope Vale ...CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

"I think it's important that my approach to things is not seen as the only approach and that it's important for artists to have outside professionals come and visit us, as they bring new perspectives and new ways of doing things", says Troy Dennis.

As an additional component of the Exhibition Ready in Community Hope Vale visit, UMI Arts commissioned professional photographer Michael Marzik to provide skills-development support to photographic artist, Kathi Gibson.

"Kathi has a beautiful way of seeing the world", explains Michael. "She can clearly describe past experiences and 'scenes' in ways that evoke striking photographic images well before she has physically taken them. We worked together on various skills and techniques she needed in order to further-develop as a photographer".



Part of Kathi's work with Michael included an artistic brief to produce photographs documenting the activities at the Hope Vale Arts and Cultural Centre, as well as the Exhibition Ready in Community visit for use in this Newsletter.

This recent visit to Hope Vale was the first in a series of visits planned under the Exhibition Ready in Community Program. Renee, Guy and Michael would like to extend their thanks to the Hope Vale community for their warmth, hospitality and enthusiasm. Congratulations also to Kathi on winning the recent Cook Shire Council photographic competition to promote tourism in Cooktown.



## Cairns Indigenous Art Fair bigger and better in 2010

Cairns Indigenous Art Fair (CIAF) returns from 20-22 August 2010 to sell and showcase the art work of Queensland's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists to an international audience.

In 2009 more than 10,000 visitors attended Cairns Indigenous Art Fair at Tanks Arts Centre, experiencing a unique celebration of visual art, dance, music and culture. The contemporary and traditional art work of more than 150 Indigenous artists was on show, while dance troupes from Aurukun, Saibai Island and Cairns and surrounds wowed crowds, and Christine Anu headlined the Art Fair concert Bipperra-Kymel.

In 2010, CIAF will build on last year's success. The event will feature an art fair at Tanks Arts Centre, where Indigenous Art Centres and commercial galleries will sell the work of the state's artists to visitors, alongside other exhibitors including art publications and artist collectives.

The CIAF exhibition moves to Cairns Regional Gallery this year, with CIAF Artistic Director Michael Snelling working with respected Torres Strait Islander curator Brian Robinson to create an exhibition that reveals the best new work from the state's internationally renowned artists and its most exciting new talent.

## A Word from the Executive Officer



In 2010, the UMI Arts Program of activities includes our popular Exhibition Ready Program which is a skills-based program for independent Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists. This year, and with the support of Regional Arts Fund, we are taking this program into two communities, Hope Vale and Wujal Wujal. Over the next six months, UMI Arts Development Officers will work with artists and

their Art Centres, culminating in an exhibition of their works both in their community and in Cairns.

In 2010, we are delivering a new skills development program called Market Ready. This program supports musicians, dancers, performers and visual artists to develop marketing tools that will help them further their careers.

Over the past 12 months we have been developing a program that supports employment and training of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. We are delighted that the Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts has recently awarded UMI Arts a grant to deliver an "Art Centre Workers Training Project". Over the coming months, this pilot scheme will provide participants from

Hope Vale and Mossman Gorge with the opportunity to work with UMI Arts and to gain an introduction into the Indigenous arts and cultural industry before possibly taking up more formalised training at TAFE or elsewhere.

This year, UMI Arts is pleased to be working collaboratively with Arts Queensland on programs that strengthen showcasing opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait artists and cultural practitioners at the time of the 2010 Cairns Indigenous Art fair (CIAF). At the time of CIAF, UMI Arts is presenting a five day Indigenous festival in Cairns - the Big Talk One Fire Indigenous Cultural Festival. This is an ambitious and exciting event and we look forward to working with our members and communities to present a festival that celebrates the breadth and diversity of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders arts, crafts, music, song, dance and performance.

Finally, we are delighted to welcome our first Indigenous trainee, Rebekah Sellwood. Over the next 12 months, Rebekah will undertake Certificate III in Business Administration whilst being employed at UMI Arts as an Administrative Trainee - welcome Rebekah!

**Janet Parfenovics**  
Executive Officer

## Welcome to Rebekah Sellwood

UMI Arts welcomes Rebekah Sellwood, our first Indigenous trainee. Rebekah commenced in March as UMI Arts Administrative Assistant. Over the next twelve months Rebekah will be completing her Certificate III in Business Administration and will also receive hands-on experience at UMI Arts in the areas of front of house, customer enquiries and administration.



For the past five years, Rebekah has lived on Badu Island and worked at the Badu Island State School. Whilst her main language is English, Rebekah speaks Creole and understands Kala Lagaw Ya, which is the language spoken in the Western Island groups of the Torres Strait.

Please join with us in wishing Rebekah a very warm welcome!

## Big Talk One Fire Indigenous Cultural Festival, Cairns, August 2010

UMI Arts' Big Talk One Fire Indigenous Cultural Festival will be staged in Cairns from Friday 20th to Tuesday 24th August 2010. The free event has been timed to coincide with the 2010 Cairns Indigenous Art Fair and will also form part of Festival Cairns.

The Big Talk One Fire Festival will include the UMI Arts Indigenous Markets on the Cairns Esplanade as well as two days of performances, celebrations and talks at the Cairns Civic Theatre on Monday 23rd and Tuesday 24th August.

Big Talk One Fire Festival will be presented by UMI Arts and provides a unique opportunity for Cairns locals and visitors to Cairns to experience the best of Indigenous music, dance, crafts and culture from across Cape York and the Torres Strait Islands. UMI Arts gratefully acknowledges the support of the Aboriginal Torres Strait Islander Arts Board of the Australia Council, Arts Queensland Backing Indigenous Art, Festivals Australia and the Department of Multicultural Affairs.

## Call for UMI Arts Volunteers

In 2010, the UMI Arts program has been expanded to include a number of new programs and activities, including the Big Talk One Fire Cultural Festival and other events that will bring artists and cultural workers from communities into Cairns. This includes the recently announced Art Centre Workers Training Project which will run in Cairns over the first half of the year.

Also, with the advent of new and much larger premises for the organisation, there will be lots of new opportunities that we can develop and deliver over the coming year, including more exhibitions, a retail shop, workshops and other community programs.

We are a small but passionate staff and we need your help! We would like to hear from anyone who might be interested in working alongside our staff as a UMI Arts Volunteer, whether in our new home, at the monthly UMI Arts Indigenous Markets, at our monthly Exhibition Ready gallery openings, or as part of the team that will bring Big Talk One Fire Cultural Festival to Cairns in August this year.

Please ring us, we would love to talk with you about volunteering opportunities and the ways in which we would like to support and work with our volunteers.

## New funding Partners on Board for UMI Arts Markets, 2010

UMI Arts gratefully acknowledges a new funding partner for the 2010 UMI Arts Indigenous Markets.

UMI Arts successfully applied to the Cairns Regional Council's Community Partnership Grant to support showcasing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander musicians and dancers at the 2010 UMI Arts Indigenous Markets.

To all our Market supporters, including Arts Queensland BIA Building Skills and Opportunities Program - a huge thank you from all the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander performers, dancers, musicians and stall holders who come together on the Cairns Esplanade on the last Friday of each month. The 2010 UMI Arts Indigenous Markets kick off for the year on Friday 28th May, 4-9pm. See you all there!

## Cairns Indigenous Arts and culture Hub (working title)

Brisbane based consultants, Fieldworx have undertaken a 4-month research and consultation process in order to develop a Feasibility Report for the proposed Cairns Indigenous Arts and Culture Hub. This is an Arts Queensland Backing Indigenous Arts initiative. As the lead agency for this exciting project, UMI Arts has participated in a Steering Committee to oversee the feasibility stage of the project.

In January and February, a number of group consultation sessions were held in Cairns. These brought together cultural organisations as well as Indigenous artists, cultural practitioners and other organisations in and around Cairns.

The final report is due at the end of March and we look forward to keeping everyone informed about progress and directions of the proposed new facility over the coming months.



## UMI Arts Public Fund

UMI Arts is a not-for-profit company and is recognised by the Australian Taxation Office as a registered Gift Deductible Recipient organisation. This allows UMI Arts to offer tax deductibility for all donations received in excess of \$2.

The support of private and corporate philanthropists is an important aspect of UMI Arts' long-term financial stability strategy. We encourage you to contact us to discuss ways in which your support can further strengthen the role and vision of our organisation and the programs that UMI Arts offers Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural practitioners in Far North Queensland.

## New home for UMI Arts

For some time, UMI Arts has been looking for a larger premises in Cairns so that we can expand the range of services and programs that we are able to offer.

We are pleased to announce that we have taken a lease on new premises located at 335 Sheridan Street, Cairns North.

Our new home has a street frontage and provides gallery and retail spaces, a large flexible workshop area as well as meeting areas and offices. Apart from our street address, all other contact details for UMI Arts will remain unchanged. Please see our web site for more details.



*The new UMI Arts premises - Artist's impression of the signage*

## UMI Arts Market Ready Program

Market Ready is a new skills-based program designed to provide Indigenous cultural practitioners of Far North Queensland with promotional and marketing tools and strategies.

Like many of the support services UMI Arts provides, this program has been developed in response to needs, experiences and stories of individual Members, groups, and Art Centres in the region who identify a problematic gap between the 'creators' and the 'consumers' of Indigenous arts and performance.

The Market Ready Program includes a series of core components to help bridge this gap. The components cover aspects of branding, promotion, and entry-level business skills tailored to the needs of:

1. cultural practitioners such as performers, musicians, dancers and artists who require general marketing and promotional tools to help them further their careers
2. cultural practitioners who are planning to do business directly with potential customers, such as at the UMI Arts Indigenous Markets
3. participants continuing on from the Exhibition Ready Program.

The Market Ready Program is available to all UMI Arts Members. If you would like further information, or wish to enquire about participating in the Program, please contact Guy at UMI Arts on 07 4041 6152.

## Business Ready Program

The Department of Water, Environment, Heritage and the Arts has recently awarded a grant to UMI Arts to deliver a pilot Art Centre Workers Training Project.

This is a toe-in-the-water program that aims to introduce participants to the basic set of skills and knowledge required of an arts worker in Indigenous Arts Centres in Far North Queensland.

The project will bring four or five participants to Cairns over two, five-day blocks and will include a number of workshops and orientation sessions.

## 2010 UMI Arts Indigenous Markets

The UMI Arts Indigenous Markets will kick off this year on Friday 28th May, 2010. The Indigenous Markets provide a platform for emerging artists of all forms to showcase, exhibit and perform on a monthly basis throughout the year at an easily accessible venue.

The Markets are located on the Cairns Esplanade near the lagoon and are a celebration of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander arts, crafts, performance, music, dance and food. The focus is on authentic, 'traditional-as-we-can-get' arts, crafts and performances.

The Markets are an important platform for employment and career opportunities, and have the potential for many stall-holders to develop their own small businesses. There is a ready and sustainable market for the arts, crafts and other authentic products here in Cairns.

The UMI Arts Markets were launched in 2009 and for a number of musicians the Markets have provided a stepping stone to recording opportunities. We would like to congratulate both Bayjah and Fade to Black on cutting their first commercial CD's for release into the Australian music market. In addition, the 2009 Markets provided contract employment for over 80 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander musicians, dancers, event co-ordinators, lighting and sound technicians.

In 2010, the Markets will be held from May to October. We would like to thank our funding partners for their support of this year's Markets - Arts Queensland (Building Skills and Opportunities) and the Cairns Regional Council (Community Partnerships).

The UMI Arts Indigenous Markets have the potential to become a 'must see, must do' event in the annual Cairns cultural tourism calendar as well as providing a platform for increased employment and skills development for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in Cairns and Far North Queensland.

The Markets this year will be on the last Friday of each month starting in May through to October. Dates are as follows:

### 2010 UMI ARTS INDIGENOUS MARKETS DATES

- Friday 28th May
- Friday 25th June
- Friday 30th July
- Fri-Tues 20-24th August
- Friday 24th September
- Friday 29th October



*There will be 5 days of Markets in August during the Big Talk One Fire Indigenous Cultural Festival in Cairns!*

If you would like to be part of this exciting event either as an artist, stall holder, performer or volunteer, or if you would like more information, please contact Renee at UMI Arts on 07 4041 6152.



*Stall holder, Shirley Collins, at the 2009 Indigenous Markets*

# News & Events Around the Region

## Yarrabah Youth Week

The Yarrabah community, a 30 minute drive south of Cairns, is putting on a program of activities for the Yarrabah Youth week as part of National Youth Week 2010. This year's Youth week Festival will run from 10th - 18th April. Its theme is 'Live It Now'.

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Services of the Cairns Department of Communities is working with the Yarrabah community to develop an exciting program of events and activities for young people aged between 12 and 25 years.

UMI Arts is pleased to support the Yarrabah Youth Week Program through a music workshop that will be delivered by three member of the Culture Beat group. Les Drahm and other members of Culture Beat will run two music workshops on the afternoons of Tuesday 13th and Wednesday 14th April. We are delighted that our recent grant from the Reef Casino Community Benefit Fund has allowed UMI Arts to purchase much needed musical equipment to support this and other musical programs for communities in Cairns and Far North Queensland.

For more information about National Youth Week visit [www.youthweek.com/2010](http://www.youthweek.com/2010)

## Indigenous Australian Art Commercial Code of Conduct (IAACCC)

Registration is now open for art dealers, including agents, galleries and art centres to register their interest in becoming signatories to the Indigenous Australian Art Commercial Code of Conduct.

Arts Minister, Peter Garrett said that the Code will, for the first time provide a national set of standards for transactions between agents, artists and dealers in the Indigenous visual arts industry.

"The Code will ultimately help Indigenous artists negotiate fair deals for their work and give buyers greater certainty of an artwork's origin and the way in which it was purchased", said Minister Peter Garrett.

The recently formed Code Administration Committee is a voluntary, independent industry body that will administer the Code, deal with complaints against signatories and promote the benefits of the Code to the broader industry.

Implementation of a Code of Conduct was a key recommendation of a 2007 Senate Inquiry report into the Indigenous visual arts and craft sector. The Code has been developed in consultation with the sector and has received widespread support. Whilst not initially mandatory, the Code is a major step forward for ensuring fair and equitable dealings for Indigenous artists in Australia.

For more information visit [www.indigenousartcode.org](http://www.indigenousartcode.org)

## Cooktown Discovery Festival – Two Cultures one People

The Cooktown Discovery Festival is an annual event held in Cooktown, Far North Queensland to celebrate the landing of Captain Cook and the local Guugu Yimithirr and Kuku Yalanji people in 1770.

In 2010, the Cooktown festivities are set to redefine the Discovery Festival to create a balance between the Indigenous arts, culture and history and those of the Europeans, so as to reflect the diplomatic relationship between the cultures both in 1770 and today.

The Discovery Festival will be held over the Queens Birthday long weekend, from 12th - 14th June.

Organisers of this year's event encourage everyone to visit beautiful Cooktown on the long weekend to enjoy a unique historical event that will showcase 18th Century European and Indigenous cultures as never seen before! And come and say hello to the UMI Arts staff who will be participating in the Festival.

For more information visit [www.cooktowndiscoveryfestival.com.au](http://www.cooktowndiscoveryfestival.com.au) or call Loretta Sullivan on 0427 194820

## Joey Laifoo - Printing Press

Artist, print-maker, and UMI Arts Member, Joey Laifoo has set up a fully-functioning printing studio in Cairns. His studio includes a personally designed 2m x 1m printing press, a large drying rack, and a storage cabinet for large prints. He offers lino printing and screen printing services.

Over the past four years, Joey has turned his attention to teaching workshops in lino printing at schools in Cairns and Townsville's southern areas. He enjoys teaching young and old about his passion for lino printing.

Visit Joey's web site at [www.joeylaifoo.com.au](http://www.joeylaifoo.com.au), or contact him on 0431 447 261, email: [contact@joeylaifoo.com.au](mailto:contact@joeylaifoo.com.au)



## "Bi-cornual Artistry" exhibition at the Tineriba Gallery, Hahndorf, South Australia

A unique exhibition of works by master weaver and Girramay Traditional Owner, Abe Muriata of Tully, Far North Queensland opened on 10th March at the new Hahndorf Gallery in South Australia.

Opened by Doreen Mellor, of the National Library of Australia, the exhibition features a number of very finely woven traditional Aboriginal jawun unique to the rainforest Aboriginal people.

Abe Muriata says that, as a child he would watch his grandmother making these elegant baskets. Jawun were often ceremonial baskets

painted with ochres and they also had an everyday use.

Abe Muriata strives for perfection in creating jawun, which are made using traditional materials and techniques.

Abe Muriata is represented by the Giringun Aboriginal Art Centre of Cardwell in Far North Queensland. For more information contact [arts@giringun.com.au](mailto:arts@giringun.com.au)

# Exhibition Ready Program 2010

EACH MONTH UMI ARTS SHOWCASES THE WORK OF OUR MEMBER ARTISTS, THROUGH THE "EXHIBITION READY" PROGRAM. THIS IS A SKILLS BASED PROGRAM DESIGNED FOR ARTISTS PREPARING WORKS FOR EXHIBITION AND SALE. THE UMI ARTS "EXHIBITION READY" PROGRAM SUPPORTS ARTISTS THROUGH EACH STEP OF GALLERY EXHIBITION PREPARATION, PRESENTATION AND PROMOTION, CULMINATING IN A 4-WEEK EXHIBITION AT UMI ARTS GALLERY SPACE IN CAIRNS.

## 2 SPIRITS EXHIBITION

2 Spirits is an Indigenous program at the Qld Association for Healthy Communities (QAHC). The program aims to improve the health of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander gay men and sisters through health promotion, community development and referral and support activities. An important component of the program is its social support group, Yupla Mipla Ahfla (You, Me and Us).

In July 2009, 2 Spirits partnered with local Cairns artist Arone Meeks to conduct art workshops with members of Yupla Mipla Ahfla. Participants learnt about drawing techniques and composition while formulating ideas and images around issues faced by the Indigenous gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community.

As a group, members of Yupla Mipla Ahfla participated in the UMI Arts Exhibition Ready Program to learn the ropes on preparing for an exhibition of works. UMI Arts Development Officers worked with the group at the UMI Arts office, as well as externally at one of the group's workshops, to support them on their pathway of being "exhibition ready".

The 2 Spirits exhibition was launched at the UMI Arts Gallery Space on Friday 5th March. It included an ultra-slick live performance by 'Jamilla iLash'. While Jamilla's performance was highly entertaining, it had a deeper purpose of reinforcing some of the important messages present in the art works on display.

For more information on the 2 Spirits program, visit [www.qahc.org.au](http://www.qahc.org.au) or phone 1800 177 434.



*Exhibition Ready group workshop at a Yupla Mipla Ahfla meeting*



*Some of the works on display as part of the 2 Spirits exhibition*

## UMI ARTS INDIGENOUS MARKETS SHOWCASE

The UMI Arts Indigenous Markets showcase exhibition was launched at the UMI Arts gallery space on Friday 22nd January.

The exhibition celebrated the success of the 2009 Indigenous Markets by presenting a collection of photographs that captured highlights of the season's events. Due to popular demand, a 'mini' version of the Markets was set up as part of the exhibition, with an exciting range of authentic, locally produced items for sale, including jewellery, paintings, prints and Indigenous artefacts.

The UMI Arts Indigenous Markets are a celebration of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander arts, crafts, performance, dance and music. They are held at the Cairns Esplanade during the dry season months, between May-October. See related article on page 5 of this newsletter for specific dates.



*Goods for sale at the Indigenous Markets Showcase exhibition*

## '3-PLA'

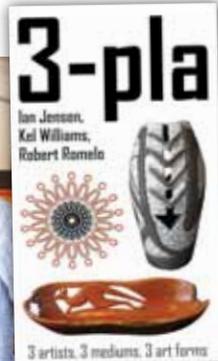
The April-May exhibition in the Exhibition Ready Program was launched on 9th April. Titled '3-pla', it is a collaborative exhibition of three Indigenous artists using three different mediums across three different art forms: wood carving, digital imagery and ceramics.

Kel Williams, Ian Jensen and Robert Romelo first met in 2009 at the Cairns TAFE while enrolled in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Visual Arts course. Together, they have expanded and developed their artistic skills and knowledge via a collaboration which they believe complements each other's creative abilities. Working in this way has enabled the group to build on their artistic knowledge and experiences acquired personally and collectively over the years.

In addition to the group's three key art forms, a selection of other artworks including paintings, Murri artefacts, lino-cut and digital prints are also on display.



*Ian Jensen, Robert Romelo, Kel Williams*



## UPCOMING EXHIBITIONS

- May-June: Billy Missi - a selected collection of original paintings and new limited edition lino-cut prints.
- June-July: Shirley Collins - acrylics on canvas, prints, works in fused and slump glass.
- July-August: Gary Santo - recent works on paper and canvas



Cr Di Forsyth speaking at '2 Spirits' exhibition launch



Renee with Cameron Costello



Traditional Owner, Seth Fourmile and dancers - Markets Showcase exhibition



'3-pla' exhibition launch



Evelyn McGreen and Michael Marzik



Cameron Costello (General Manager), Wanda Weatherall (Administration Officer), Karen Ballantine (Project Officer), Marion Ganja (Sponsorship and Business Development Officer), Michael Smelling (Artistic Director) and Colleen Turner (Senior Communications Officer). Missing: Jill Martin (Marketing Manager).



Cairns Indigenous Arts & Culture Hub meeting



David Naylor and Guy-Hope Vale

PHOTO: KATH GIBSON

**TUNE YOUR RADIO TO:**  
UMI ARTS HOUR: Fridays 12-1pm  
Bumma Bipperra, 98.7FM Cairns



## Calendar of Events

- Every Friday, from 12noon-1pm, the UMI Arts Hour on Bumma Bipperra 98.7FM, Cairns.
- April 9th - May 4th, Ian Jensen, Kel Williams, Robert Romelo = '3-pla' exhibition at UMI Arts.
- May 7th - June 8th, Billy Missi exhibition at UMI Arts.
- June 10th - July 6th, Shirley Collins exhibition at UMI Arts.
- July 9th - August 3rd, Gary Santo exhibition at UMI Arts.

## UMI Arts Membership Application form

UMI Arts is an Indigenous not-for-profit public company. Memberships are welcomed from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and organisations who have a connection to Far North Queensland.



Artist's Name: .....

Clan/Language Group/Country: .....

How are you connected to the area? (EG. MY MOTHER IS A COEN WOMAN) .....

Organisations Name (IF JOINING AS AN ORGANISATION AND NOT AN INDIVIDUAL) .....

Postal Address: .....

Residential Address: .....

Home Phone: ..... Work Phone: .....

Mobile Phone: ..... Email: .....

### ARTFORM / OCCUPATION (PLEASE TICK ✓)

- Arts & Crafts  Musician  Performer  Photographer  Choreographer  Art Centre co-ordinator  Arts consultant  
 Writer  Web designer  Graphic designer  Stage manager  Sound Tech  MC  Artistic Director  Arts worker

### MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY (PLEASE TICK ONE ✓)

- A. Indigenous Artist  B. Indigenous Arts Centre or Organisation Application date: .....

Please complete and return memberships applications to:

UMI Arts, PO Box 1100, North Cairns Qld 4870 : Fax: (07) 4041 6542 : Email: admin@umiarts.com.au  
Or you can visit the UMI Arts office: 2/151 Martyn Street, Parramatta Park, Cairns Qld 4870.