



## Our small brothers and sisters keeping culture strong

THE PARRAMATTA PARK STATE SCHOOL ABORIGINAL DANCERS ON STAGE AT THE CAIRNS CIVIC THEATRE FOR THE THIRD ANNUAL UMI ARTS SMALL BROTHER SMALL SISTER SHOWCASING EVENT. PERFORMANCES BY OVER 120 ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER STUDENTS FROM THE CAIRNS REGION WERE ENJOYED BY AN AUDIENCE NUMBERING 600 PLUS!

LOVIGREEN PHOTOGRAPHY

On 19th September 2012, over six hundred students from schools around Cairns packed the Cairns Civic Theatre to watch over one hundred and twenty primary and secondary school students take part in UMI Arts' annual Small Brother Small Sister showcasing event.

In another busy year for UMI Arts staff and members, the Small Brother Small Sister event highlighted the strength and diversity of Far North Queensland's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural practices. Children as young as five took to the stage with fellow school mates to share traditional and contemporary dance, music and song, and to keep their culture strong. Similarly, their big brothers and sisters, mums and dads, aunts and uncles, and grandparents did the same throughout the year, participating in and supporting one or more of UMI Arts' skills based programs or showcasing events for its Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander member artists and cultural practitioners. UMI Arts now has over six hundred individual members who have cultural connection to Far North Queensland.

All UMI Arts programs and activities are freely provided to our members, including Exhibition Ready and Exhibition Ready In-community programs, which this year featured nineteen artists in six exhibitions at the UMI Arts Galleries in Cairns. Selected works from the artists also featured in UMI Arts' annual Pathways exhibition which is timed to coincide with the Cairns Indigenous Art Fair (CIAF) in August each year.

In a significant development for 2012, UMI Arts was recognised for the role it fills as an Indigenous Art Centre for Cairns based Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists. For the first time ever, UMI Arts was invited to have a booth at CIAF and to showcase works by its member artists who live and work in Cairns. We were also thrilled that five of UMI Arts former "Exhibition Ready artists" were selected for inclusion in the curated CIAF exhibition at the Cairns Regional Gallery.

We hope you will enjoy reading about these and many more activities and programs we delivered over the past year. We thank all of you for your support and guidance that continues to keep our cultures strong in Far North Queensland.

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