

MEDIA RELEASE

EMBARGO: 22 APRIL 2008



MACQUARIE

presents

DESERT ART IN THE HEART OF NOOSA WITH THE 2008 NOOSA LONGWEEKEND FESTIVAL

Featuring the works of some of Australia's most outstanding Aboriginal artists, The 2008 Noosa Longweekend festival proudly celebrates the continuing traditions of knowledge, culture and enduring connection to country reflected in Indigenous art.



Now in its seventh year, The Noosa Longweekend festival runs during school holidays from 4 to 13 July, with tickets available from 28 April. It will offer up ten fantastic fun-filled days and nights with more than 220 performances and activities across theatre, literature, music, dance, forum, film, art and cuisine in the breathtaking setting that is Noosa.

"The Noosa Longweekend Festival is proud to once again partner with the Noosa Regional Gallery, and this year we have the Noosa Indigenous Art Trail and inspiring art workshops as part of the festival," said Gail Hewton, Festival General Manager.

"The Noosa Indigenous Art Trail is a very special opportunity to celebrate and appreciate Indigenous art by following a trail to six amazing exhibitions on a beautiful day trip that will lead art lovers from beachside galleries to hilltop studios in Noosa's picturesque hinterland."

"*Travelling the Culture* is an exhibition of two and three-dimensional paper-based art, including photography and ceramics that will be on display at the Noosa Regional Gallery, with a feast of other related events including Pulp Painting, a curator's talk, a children's art day and art market," said Gail

The *Travelling the Culture* exhibition will explore the role of place in determining culture. It will feature local artists Judy Barrass (curator), Jo-Anne Duggan, Liz Cels and Elizabeth Poole as well as the works of Indigenous women from Mount Isa.

"*My Country Two* encompasses two linked exhibitions at Noosa Blue Resort and Cooroy's 'The Studio' of outstanding works by Aboriginal artists. It's a truly unique opportunity to see vibrant and bold designs by Emily Kngwarreye, Tommy Watson, Mabel Juli, Sally Gabori, Netta Loogatha, Rammey Ramsey, Djirrirra Wunungmurra and Patrick Mung Mung," she said.

"These works have come from the private collections of local residents which means many of the paintings have never been on public display."

There will be three other galleries taking part in the festival art program. Desert Rain Gallery in Tewantin will be holding a special exhibition called *Living Culture – A Way Forward* which will celebrate the creativity of artists from the Central Desert. It will feature textiles, jewellery and paintings, and will include a curator's talk and a presentation and film.

THE NOOSA LONGWEEKEND Suite 13, 10 Arcadia Walk, Noosa Junction P.O. Box 2200, Noosa Heads 4567
Phone: 61-7 5474 9941 Fax: 61-7 5474 9940 Email: info@noosalongweekend.com www.noosalongweekend.com



MACQUARIE



Regional Development Program



holiday noosa style



THE NOOSA JOURNAL
weekender



Honey Ant Gallery in Yandina will take you on a trip across this vast continent with its exhibition *My Desert Homeland*, featuring artists from the Western Desert regions of Balgo, Kintore, Mt Liebig and Warburton, and will include an opportunity for discussion.

It's believed Australia's contemporary Indigenous art movement began in the remote far north-west of South Australia. Noosa Junction's Putipula Gallery will showcase vivid acrylics on canvas and limited edition prints from the art centres of the remote Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Lands as part of the *Darlings of the Desert* exhibition, with a free talk by the Art Centre teacher.

"There'll be opportunities for the public to chat with some of these artists and collectors about the history of Aboriginal art in Australia and the concepts behind these unique designs," Gail said.

Also part of The Noosa Longweekend festival art program, and again presented with Noosa Regional Gallery, there is *Making Marks*. Prolific and celebrated artist John Wolseley will explore the fascinating bush environment of Noosa's hinterland in a drawing workshop; and artist and writer Kim Mahood will present a walking, writing and drawing workshop.

In addition to the inspiring art program at the Noosa Longweekend festival, headline acts include political satirist Max Gillies, leading theatre actress Amanda Muggleton; journalists and social commentators Barrie Cassidy, Paul Kelly, Geraldine Doogue, Hugh Mackay and David Marr; authors Christopher Koch, Blanche d'Alpuget, Alice Pung, Robyn Davidson, Stephanie Dowrick, John Buchanan, Kaz Cooke and Venero Armanno; the physical theatre of Circa; actress Kate Fitzpatrick; food-guru Maggie Beer; lots of free community events and much more including Noosa's award winning restaurants.

To request a program visit www.noosalongweekend.com email info@noosalongweekend.com or phone 07 5474 9941. For bookings please call The J box office on 07 5455 4455, or visit at 60 Noosa Drive, Noosa Junction or check out www.noosalongweekend.com from 28 April.

For media inquiries, including photos and footage, further press releases and interviews with artists contact:

- Cathy Reade, Festival Media Manager, 07 54483095 / 0413 575 934
creade@squirrel.com.au
- Sunshine Coast media can contact local media managers Casey McNeil, 07 5446 6945 / 0402 993 688 casey@macneilmarketing.com.au or Angela Takats on 0422 933 198 / angela@macneilmarketing.com.au

THE NOOSA LONGWEEKEND Suite 13, 10 Arcadia Walk, Noosa Junction P.O. Box 2200, Noosa Heads 4567
Phone: 61-7 5474 9941 Fax: 61-7 5474 9940 Email: info@noosalongweekend.com www.noosalongweekend.com

