

ANKAAA

Association of Northern, Kimberley
and Arnhem Aboriginal Artists

ARTS BACKBONE

Volume 5 Issue 4: December 2005



“Ubarr Ceremony” Kalariya ‘Jimmy’ Namanyilk 2005 (detail)

©Injalak Arts & Craft

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On Behalf of the ANKAAA Executive
Committee and staff I would like to
thank our members, government
agencies and key industry
stakeholders who have supported

us to make us strong in many ways.
More Yolngu (Indigenous) and
Balanda (non – Indigenous) are
working side by side and making
ANKAAA and Indigenous arts
stronger for more people to see
and make our future stronger
for the next generation to come.

There are two peoples living in
Australia - Balanda and Yolngu,
the work at ANKAAA and in the
member Art Centres show how
these two peoples work side by
side and together for the same
goal.

Bilina nhumalunggu - That's the
end of the year.

Djutdjutnha marrkapmirri mala -
Goodbye and best wishes to all.

Message from the ANKAAA Manager Stephanie Hawkins

2005 has been extremely busy
year for ANKAAA, Art Centres and
all industry stakeholders. This year
ANKAAA has successfully been
represented at two major Indigenous
festivals – GARMA and Majarrka
Festival celebrating 21 years of
KALACC (Kimberley Aboriginal Law
and Culture Centre) see pages 6
and 7 for the full story.

ANKAAA recruited for the 2 inaugural
regional Industry Positions which
unfortunately did not work out, a
new recruitment round will begin in
January 2005.

ANKAAA has recently recruited
Vokili Shiell to the new Business
Development Officer position to
commence January 2006. This
position will focus on three projects
involving business development
training and business plan roll
outs to the majority of ANKAAA Art
Centre members and the further
development of an Indigenous
Artsworker training pilot thanks
to the sponsorship of DEWR (the
Department of Business and
Workplace Relations).

ANKAAA has undertaken many
Visual and Crafts Strategy (VACS)
funded workshops, and support
across the membership including
Merrepen Arts, Buku-Larrngay
Mulka, Bula'bula Arts, Maningrida

Arts & Culture, Milingimbi Art
Centre, Mardbalk Arts & Crafts,
Munupi Arts & Crafts, Jilamara Arts
& Crafts, Tiwi Design, Injalak Arts &
Crafts, Mimi Arts & Crafts, Ngukurr
Arts, Waringarri Arts, Warmun Arts,
Yarliyil Arts & Crafts, Warlayirti
Arts, Mangkaja Arts, Mowanjum Art
Centre, Yuriny Arts & Culture.

I would like to take this opportunity
to thank all the ANKAAA staff (Erica,
Michelle and Stephen) for their
dedication and service delivery to
all, and the ANKAAA members for
utilising the funding for the building
of sustainability and skills within
the Art Centres, supported by Arts
NT, ATSIA Australia Council for the
Arts, DEWR, Country Arts WA and
DCITA.

ANKAAA is currently gearing up
for the Annual General Meeting
(AGM) to be held on the 7th and
8th December directly after the
third year of the Annual Indigenous
Artsworkers' Conference 5th and
6th December thanks to the support
of Arts NT, Australia Council VACS
funding and the Charles Darwin
University, Darwin. On behalf of
the ANKAAA staff I would like to
wish all the ANKAAA members,
funding agencies, stakeholders
and supporters a safe and merry
Christmas and look forward to
working with you all in 2006!

Mardbalk Arts & Crafts - Warruwi Community, Goulburn Island

Brenda Westley

Marion Scrymgour-MLA with Ralph Gumurdul officially opening the Art Centre © ANKAAA



Interior of Mardbalk Arts & Crafts © ANKAAA

Arnhem Land's newest community owned art and cultural centre has opened at Warruwi Community, on Goulburn Island. Residents and artists have worked towards having their own art centre for many years, and except for a small grant for some office furniture from Community Benefit Funding (CBF) and Networking the Nation funding (through ANKAAA) for the computer and accessories, this community has continued to march forward on their own.

Warruwi Community CEO, Jim Gorey, couldn't hold his excitement when asked about the new art centre "I am so amazed, look at what we have managed to do on our own, just imagine what we could do if the funding bodies come on board!" Jim fully supported the community and Council on their mission to have their own art and cultural centre: "I personally believe this is one of the most effective and inspirational projects this community has ever taken on, from both an economic and cultural point of view. Having their own art centre has really inspired the artists, and when you

see the community pride, you just know this place belongs to them."

Mardbalk Art & Culture's Cultural Manager, Ralph Gumurdul, was so emotional when he officially opened the centre with Minister for Arts and Museums, Marion Scrymgour, he couldn't speak for a moment when he become choked up with emotion.

"I am so happy to see this day; I want to thank everyone who helped me to get here.... I really wanted this art centre for this place, the children, for their future..... I was thinking it wasn't going to happen before I go, I am just so happy for this place....for all of us".

Resident artists produce traditional and contemporary pieces usually based from their homelands, or their parent's land, so the gallery offers a fascinating and diverse range of works.

Dot paintings with stories from the Central Desert and Alice Springs, as well as Kunwinjku artists producing Western Arnhem Land styles.

North-east Arnhem creation and ceremonial designs are represented through a group of Yolngu artists, while naturally traditional owners and Maung artists are producing local creation stories from North-western Arnhem region, as well as exceptional dugong sculptures and hollow log coffins (created by Ralph himself,) pandanus baskets and mats.

Mardbalk Arts & Culture Opening will was a true 'gala extravaganza', ending with fireworks lighting up the small island community.

So many people helped make the opening celebrations possible; the donation of toys and prizes from Super Toyworld Darwin, the face masks for the kids to decorate were from Jacksons Drawing Supplies and the huge community BBQ and drinks before the disco were provided by Arnhem Land Progress Association, Marion Scrymgour and Warruwi Community Inc.

Thank-you all!



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Ten Canoes

Bula'bula Arts, Ramingining

© Vertigo Productions, reproduced with kind permission



© Vertigo Productions, reproduced with kind permission

The community highlight in Ramingining this “dry” season was the making of the movie, *Ten Canoes*.

Director, Rolf de Heer has been visiting Ramingining for the past two years to conceive and develop the film in consultation with local Yolngu with whom he developed the script.

Local “old men” grew their hair and beards before filming commenced which actively demonstrated their commitment to the project.

Most of the cast made their acting debut in the film, which introduces Jamie Gulpilil, son of David Gulpilil,

to the screen. Another key player is Crusoe Kurddal a renowned dancer from the Maningrida community while Richard Birrinbirrin shines as the “Honey Man”. David Gulpilil is the story-teller who takes the viewer on a timeless journey through the lives of the goose-egg hunters of the Arafura Swamp in Central Arnhem Land.

The first Australian film to be co-written and co-directed by Aboriginal people, *Ten Canoes*, was shot entirely in Indigenous languages from Central Arnhem Land.

It premieres in Ramingining on December 3rd. Its’ season premiere is at the Adelaide Festival on 19th

March 2006 where many of the cast will travel to the Festival to “walk on the red carpet”.

An exhibition, *13 Canoes*, will be on at the South Australian Museum (24 Feb – 19 March 2006), which features a number of “props” from the film, historical works from ascendants of the cast, as well as contemporary pieces.

Black and white photographs by Donald Thomson (1937) will hang along side recreations of those images shot in full colour. The exhibition is part of the Adelaide Fringe Festival whose theme is “Regeneration.”

Osmond Kantilla

Tiwi Design, Nguiu - Tiwi Islands

Alan Kerinauia & Osmond Kantilla

© ANKAAA & the artists



Osmond Kantilla has been working at Tiwi Design at Nguiu, Bathurst Island for over 20 years. He is a master screenprinter and recipient of numerous accolades, including most recently a Memento Award for a sarong design.

In a meeting held recently at Tiwi Design, Osmond was elected as the new ANKAAA Executive representative for the Tiwi Islands region, joining Regis Pangirriminni

from Munupi Arts & Crafts and John Martin Tipungwuti from Jilamara Arts & Crafts.

ANKAAA would like to thank Tiwi Design Chairperson Alan Kerinauia for his assistance in 2005 as interim Executive member and B.J Timetoua, who has left Tiwi Design to take on a new role in the Nguiu community, for his work as ANKAAA Vice-Chairperson.

South 2: The Journey, Wellington

Karen Mills, Darwin Based Artist, Curator & ANKAAA Public Officer

The South Project brings together artists from the countries of the southern hemisphere to engage in dialogue, share cultures and create a stronger network of connections and exchange between each other, as an alternative to the dominant north-south model. The first key event of the South Project, South 1: The Gathering, began in Melbourne in July 2004, hosted by Craft Victoria. This year, South 2: The Journey, between sky and earth, was held from, 20 – 21 October, in Wellington, New Zealand.

It was my privilege to attend the Wellington gathering and meet other artists and hear about some of the wonderful projects and art practices that are happening in different countries of the south, as well as having the opportunity to share the ANKAAA story about Aboriginal Art Centres across northern Australia.

Day One was spent at the Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa, starting with a magnificent Maori powhiri welcome ceremony, followed by a busy program of presentations by speakers from New Zealand, South Africa, South America, Australia and the Pacific.

Most memorable for me was the story about the art of waka (canoe) building and navigating sea journeys



Karen Mills (right) with Lonnie Hutchison Wellington 2005

© South Project, Craft Victoria 2005

by knowledge of the stars and waves, from senior Maori artist, Hekenukumai Puhipi (Hector Busby) and gallery director, Luis Alarcon's talk about Galeria Metropolitana, a non commercial art space that operates from a warehouse in a working class area on the outskirts of Santiago, Chile.

Day Two involved a range of practical workshops on weaving,

digital story telling and collective art making that were held at different locations around the city and a forum on sustainable craft practices.

The next South Project Gathering is planned to be held in Santiago, Chile, 2006. For further information see <http://www.southproject.org>

<<Rarrk>> John Mawurndjul at the Musee Jean Tinguely, Switzerland

Apolline Kohen, Maningrida Arts & Culture

<<Rarrk>>, John Mawurndjul's retrospective opened at the Musee Jean Tinguely on the 20th of September 2005 in the presence of John Mawurndjul and his wife Kay Lindjuwanga.

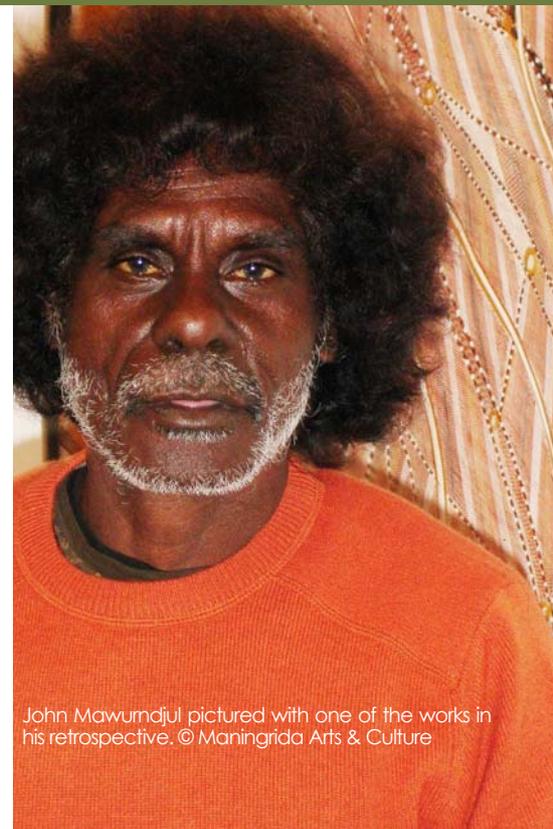
The opening was a great success as more than 1000 people came to fete John and his work. It is the first retrospective dedicated to a living Australian Aboriginal artist in Europe. Maningrida Arts & Culture and John Mawurndjul worked for 2 years on this project with the curatorial team from Switzerland (Bernhard Luthi and Christian Kaufmann.)

The retrospective comprises more 65 paintings produced between 1979 and 2005, showing the different styles and innovations in John's work as well as his prints and some examples of his sculptures.

John was very moved to see some of his major works exhibited together and made numerous comments about the changes in subject matter and styles of rarrk (cross-hatching) that have occurred in his work over the last 25 years.

A comprehensive catalogue and documentary film accompany the exhibition and put in context John's work. A series of floor talks and a symposium took place after the opening to promote the exhibition and educate the European public. Australian speakers at the symposium and contributors to the catalogue included Prof Jon Altman, Apolline Kohen, Judith Ryan, Paul Tacon and Luke Taylor.

Contact Maningrida Arts & Culture info@maningrida.com for a copy of the <<Rarrk>> catalogue.



John Mawurndjul pictured with one of the works in his retrospective. © Maningrida Arts & Culture

Majarrka 2005, held from 29 August – 2 September 2005, saw the Kimberley Aboriginal Law & Culture Centre, KALACC, celebrate the 21st anniversary of the organisation. ANKAAA members from the Northern Territory were invited by KALACC and Mangkaja Arts to share in this major festival event and be part of the arts and artefact making cultural workshops.

Two buses, all three ANKAAA vehicles and two days traveling time each way were needed to transport the large group of forty five ANKAAA artists, staff and equipment to the camping site at Ngumpan Community, near Fitzroy Crossing in Western Australia.

Over two thousand people attended the five day festival that strongly promotes Aboriginal culture and provides an extraordinary opportunity and experience to listen and learn from elders and witness a nightly showcase of language, dancing and singing given by representative groups from many different Aboriginal communities in the Kimberley region.

A special highlight of the festival for the ANKAAA visitors was the enthusiastic reception given to the dancers from the Tiwi Islands and Ramingining who combined together for a unique performance to share their dancing style with the Kimberley audience. The group of women from Injalak Arts, in Western Arnhemland, were also very popular for demonstrating their pandanus basket weaving and use of natural bush dyes. The interest in weaving techniques resulted in an exchange of skills with women from the Kimberley region who showed how they use wool in their weaving.

Many thanks to KALACC and Mangkaja Arts for inviting ANKAAA to be part of Majarrka 2005, especially to Mr Tommy May and Mr Joe Brown for their warm welcome to country and assistance to ANKAAA.



James Patlas (O.J) Regis Pangirriminni, Peter Minyngululu & Declan Apuatimi



Richard Birrinbirrin from Tipungwuti from Jilamara Bula'bula Arts



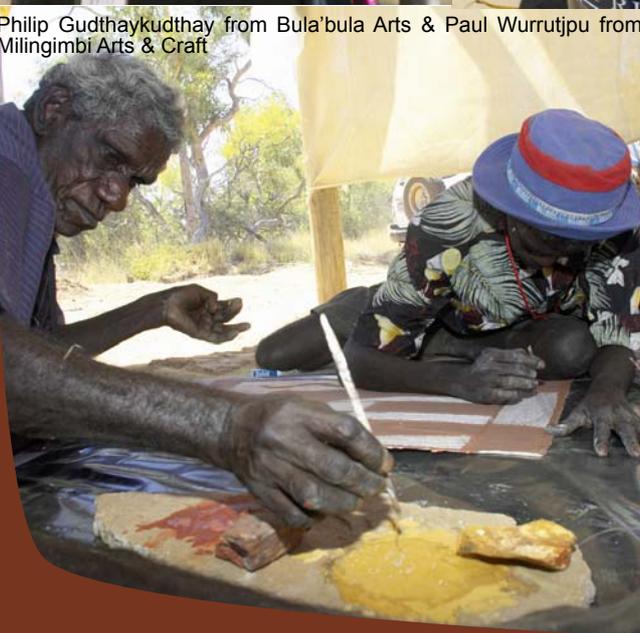
Garnbaladj Nabegeyo from Injalak Arts & Craft



Garnbaladj Nabegeyo from Injalak Arts & Craft working on a pandanus bag



Dorothy Dullman from Injalak Arts & Crafts dipping pandanus



Philip Gudthaykudthay from Bula'bula Arts & Paul Wurrutjpu from Milingimbi Arts & Craft



Kimberely Aboriginal Festival - Majarrka



Bula'bula Arts, John Martin Arts & Peter Minyngululu from

Josephine Burak, Fiona Puruntatameri, Janine Puruntatameri, Roslyn Orston & Ita Tipungwuti from Tiwi Islands



rafts
ing

Mr Tommy May, Mangkaja Arts Fitzroy Crossing



Gary Lee, Freddie Timms, Chris Lee, Roque Lee & Jan Lee



Josephine Burak from Munupi Arts & Craft with feathered eaddress



Photographs by Peter Eve © ANKAAA

ginal Law & Culture Centre ka 2005 Ngumpun , WA

Every year ANKAAA holds 4 regional meetings as per the ANKAAA constitution under the Commonwealth act of the Office of the Register of Aboriginal Corporations.

I would like to thank this years hosts Waralungku Arts in Borroloola for the Darwin Katherine region , Injalak Arts and Crafts in Gunbalanya for the Arnhem Land region, Munupi Arts and Crafts at Pirlangimpi for the Tiwi Region and Waringarri Arts in Kununurra. These meetings are not possible without the hospitality and support of our host Art Centres, Executive committees and artists.

This year our meetings have been held throughout late October and early November with a total of nineteen Art Centres and two Darwin Individual members attending. The NT Regional meetings also had representatives from their regional ICC DCITA officers and state Manager and Country Arts WA and the Kimberley Development Commission attending the WA meeting.

All four regions also had representatives from the Sydney based Arts Law Centre. Robyn Ayres, Samantha Joseph, Katherine Giles and Blanch Lake, presented the much needed "Artist in the Black" programme and workshops on Aboriginal Intellectual Property (IP) rights which were extremely popular with the attending artists and arts workers.

Story by Stephanie Hawkins



Norman Kingsley, Robyn Ayres from Arts Law, Peter Callinan, Thelma Dixon, Minam Charlie, and Stuart Hoosan from Waralungku Arts



Barbara Ambjerg Pedersen from Mimi Arts & Chris Miezis from Ngukurr Arts



Norman Kingsley & Gary Lee

ANKAAA REGIONAL MEETINGS 2005



Sydney McDinny &



Jonathan Roy from Milingimbi Arts & Craft, Derek Carter from Maningrida Arts & Culture Raymond Gonydjulu & Mathew from Milingimbi Arts & Craft



Mark Norval, Denise Kelly, Peter Kroll & Sarah Binhattam from Mowanjum



Marika Patrick & Marissa Kingsley from Warmum Art Centre with their brother



Mary Anne Sturt, Ronnie Yundun, Anita Churchill from Waringarri with ANKAAA Chairperson, Terry Marawili

Artists in the Black, Arts Law presenting at Waringarri Arts Kununurra



**Katherine Regional Meeting - Borroloola
Arnhem Regional Meeting - Gunbalanya
Tiwi Regional Meeting - Pirlangimpi
Kimberley Regional Meeting - Kununurra**

'Twined' Odyssey

Injalak Arts & Crafts, Gunbalanya Arnhem Land



Below & above, left to right: Margaret Nabalwad, Marlene Burrunali, Jill Nganmirra, Doreen Nabalwad & Janice Naloriman

'Twined Together - Kunmadj Njalehnjaleken' which translates roughly as "all things about fibre" – a project three years in the making, culminated in May this year. 16 Indigenous artists and 3 senior schoolgirls from western Arnhem Land journeyed to Melbourne for the event.

'Twined' consists of two complimentary elements; a touring exhibition and a book of the same name. Both were launched at Museum Victoria on 12 May 2005.

The exhibition is a collaboration between Injalak Arts & Crafts and Museum Victoria. It provides an insight into the complexity and artistry of fibre forms utilised by Kunwinjku

people and is the first major showcase of work from the women artists of western Arnhem Land, Gunbalanya (formerly Oenpelli.)

'Twined' the book, is an accompaniment to the exhibition and will be a longstanding testament to the art and culture of the Kunwinjku people. The book provides a comparative analysis between the contemporary art and works held in old collections, taken from the region up to 100 years ago.

While in Melbourne, our artists conducted fibre art workshops as part of a cultural exchange with Indigenous Victorian women. This is the third time this has happened and strong relationships have been

forged. Visitors to Museum Victoria also participated in the workshops.

From the outset, we aimed to achieve the highest quality outcomes for the exhibition, the book and most importantly, the artists. With modesty, we believe we have exceeded even our own expectations. This project has educated the wider community about fibre art while bringing pride and recognition to artists who have toiled long and hard, often for little reward.

Injalak committee member and artist Hannah Nawirridj "We did this. We knew it would take longest time. But we had to do this for everyone. Our kids, balanda (whites), binninj (Aboriginal people) and for the future. So they'll all know".

Injalak Arts & Craft owes a great debt to Louise Hamby who believed in 'Twined' and worked tirelessly in her role as curator. Jill Nganjmirra acted as our consultant, which required extra trips down south and extensive consultation. Funding was received through Visions Australia, The Gordon Darling Foundation, Gunbalanya Nominees and ANKAAA.

- Story by Anthony Murphy



A Brief History of Art at Mowanjum

Mark Norval, Arts Manager

1956 The mission of Mowanjum is founded 10kms south east of Derby near the airport.

The mission is made up of people from the Worrorra, Ngarinyin and Wunumbal people. These are the three Wandjina tribes and originally come from the North West Kimberley coastal area stretching from north of Derby to a point near Wyndham.

1960 to 1978 Production of artwork at the mission flourishes. Wandjina spirits are portrayed on barks, coolamons, boab nuts and slate. Some artists begin work on paper and canvas.

The main artists from this period are Jack Wheera, Sam Woolagoodja, Albert Barunga, Wattie Karawarra, Alan Mungulu, Wattie Ngerdu, Charlie Numbelmoore, Paddy Morlumbun, David Mowaljarlai, David Mowaljarlai, Daisy Uttemorrah, Alec Mingelamarra, Manila Kuttwit and Spider Burgu.

1978 the mission moves to a new site 95kms east of Derby on the Gibb River Road because a better water supply was needed. The Presbyterian Mission changes to an Aboriginal community.

1980 to 1997 Art production goes into general decline. Unemployment and alcohol abuse become major problems. Emphasis within the community moves to focus on these issues & art production takes a back seat.

1997 Mark Norval, an artist and Peter Croll, a sculptor

are employed at Mowanjum as TAFE lecturers and along with Community Administrator Maxime Clarke these 2 lecturers identified the need for art & cultural work to be used to lift the self-esteem of the community.

A new wave of Wandjina artists at Mowanjum quickly emerges.

The artists form their own corporation called MASWAC – Mowanjum Artists Spirit of the Wandjina Aboriginal Corporation. The first Chairman of the organisation is Donny Woolagoodja.

1999 Sell-out exhibitions of Mowanjum artworks are held in Perth, Melbourne, Sydney and Slovenia.

2000 Donnie Woolagoodja designs a 35 metre high Wandjina which is used as the highlight for the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games opening ceremony.

2001 A feasibility study is undertaken for the construction of an Arts and Tourism centre at Mowanjum.

2002 to 2005 Federal and State government funding is secured by the community for its new Art Centre.

October 2005 construction commences on the 4 million dollar Arts & Tourism centre. From the centre will appear as a giant Wandjina.

This exciting development will feature a gallery, studio space, a museum, a 50 seat theatre and outdoor display areas.

The Wandjina Artists of Mowanjum are;

Donny Woolagoodja Roger Burgu Jeffry Burgu Alison Burgu Kirsty Burgu Gudu Mungulu Sandra Mungulu Mildred Mungulu Marjorie Mungulu Margaret Mungulu Robyn Mungulu Pudja Barunga Gordon Barunga Mabel King Gordon Smith Janet Oobagooma Mavis Oobagooma Jessica Nenowatt Brett Oobagooma Radki Park Gabrielle Dolby Denise Kelly Teresa Arinda Ashley Oobagooma Penny Bidd Keith Nenowatt Philinka Dolby Sarah Binhittam Evonne Burgu Warren Barunga Gloria Walmundu Paddy Neowarra

'Namarali' (detail) Etching by Warren Barunga, 2004

© Warren Barunga



Rachelle Burke has departed **Milingimbi Arts & Craft** & is now the Coordinator at Titjikala Art Centre

Chris Durkin is the new Manager at **Milingimbi Arts & Craft**.
Milingimbi Art and Craft
[art@milingimbi.nt.gov.au]

Cait Waite is the new Manager at **Elcho Island Arts & Craft**.
Elcho Arts
[elchoarts@bigpond.com]

Tim & Angela Hill are the new Manager & Assistant Manager at **Tiwi Design**, Nguiu Tiwi Islands.
Tiwi Design
[tiwidesign@tiwiart.com]

Kellie Austin leaves her position as Marketing Manager of **Tiwi Art Network** to take up a position with Palya Art / Didgeri Air Art Tours as Operations Assistant. The network members wish her all the best for the future.

Pwanga is new organisation housing the old Bima Wear operations & a new shop at Nguiu, Tiwi Islands.
annie.grivell@tilg.nt.gov.au

Warnayaka Renaissance
After a break of five years the Warnayaka Arts Centre in Lajamanu has re-opened.

Mimi Arts in Katherine has been working with the artists at Warnayaka since the last coordinator passed away in the art centre. Last week, artists

had a meeting and decided to go ahead and re-open for work. Mimi Arts is assisting with materials and marketing in the interim. Warnayaka artists are internationally renowned and Mimi are elated at the re-opening of the Centre.
Mimi Art
[mimi-arts@bigpond.com]

Claire Summers has taken on the role of Administrator at **Maningrida Arts & Culture**.
csummers@maningrida.com

Injalak Arts & Crafts Andrew Sinclair has successfully completed his first printmaking stint & we look forward to him returning in May 2006.
Injalak Arts & Crafts
[injalak@austarnet.com.au]

ANKAAA is pleased to announce the appointment of Vokili Shiell to the position of Business Development Officer supported through the Department of Employment & Workplace Relations.

Vokili will be commencing in early February 2006, based at the Darwin office.

ANKAAA Executive - Osmond Kantilla is the new Tiwi Design, Tiwi Islands Region member on the ANKAAA Executive.



Chairperson **Djambawa Marawili** Buku-Larrnggay Mulka *Arnhem Land Region*

Vice Chairperson **John Martin Tipungwuti** Jilamara Arts & Craft *Tiwi Islands Region*

Secretary **Peggy Griffith** Waringarri Aboriginal Arts *Kimberley Region*

Treasurer **Alice Snape** Coomalie Cultural Centre *Katherine Region*

Gary Lee Darwin based artist & curator

Freddie Timms Jirrawun Arts *Kimberley Region*

Tommy May Mangkaja Arts *Kimberley Region*

Richard Birrinbirrin Bula'bula Arts *Arnhem Land Region*

John Mawurndjul Maningrida Arts & Culture *Arnhem Land Region*

Jeannie Herbert Mimi Arts & Crafts *Katherine Region*

Regis Pangiraminni Munupi Arts & Crafts *Tiwi Islands Region*

Osmond Kantilla Tiwi Design, *Tiwi Islands Region*

Karen Mills Darwin Based Artist Public Officer

ANKAAA Staff

2005



Stephanie Hawkins Manager

Michelle Culpitt Industry Development Officer

Stephen Hutchison I.T Development Officer

Erica Luchich Office Manager & Bookkeeper

ANKAAA will be recruiting for the following positions in the near future;

Industry Development Officer Kimberley Region

Industry Development Officer Katherine Region

Please email steph@ankaaa.org.au for further details on these positions