

MEDIA RELEASE: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Punkaliyarra Yuin Exchange

Punkaliyarra: Sister-in-Law Dreaming Story Ngarluma, Yindjibarndi and Yuin women exchange

Over the next two weeks, Big hART is bringing the Punkaliyarra project from Roebourne WA to the NSW South Coast, for a program of artistic and cultural exchange between Ngarluma and Yindjibarndi women of the Pilbara region (WA), and women from Yuin country (South Coast, NSW). This period of exchange will be held on the NSW South Coast between the 4th and the 20th of November, including one public showing of the performance work at the Giiyong Festival, 9 November at Jigamy.

Punkaliyarra is a long-term creative project generated in Roebourne WA, which aims to raise the visibility of Aboriginal matriarchal leadership. After 2 years in development, this will be Punkaliyarra's first exchange with women from other nations.

This national storytelling project highlights the significance of Aboriginal women's power.

Former Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Justice Commissioner, June Oscar says:

"As we seek to strengthen the political voice of First Nations Women...Punkaliyarra shares stories that we all need to hear."

5 women aged 16-55 will be travelling from the Pilbara region in Western Australia to the South Coast of NSW. There they will build on established connections with two key women's groups practicing cultural dance and song on Yuin Country – Djaardjawan Dancers & Mudgingaal Yangamba Choir, as well as with women in Wallaga Lake, Koori Village.

They will be participating in cultural exchange and sharing their artistic work which was performed at the Perth Festival in 2023 and at the opening of Wiyi yani UThangani Institute for Gender Justice earlier this year at ANU, ACT. The product of some of this cultural and artistic work from Punkaliyarra was commissioned by WA Museum and is currently on exhibition at the West Australian Museum Boola Bardip. In addition to the cultural exchange workshops along the coast, the women from Roebourne will share their artistic work at the Giiyong Festival in Eden on 8th November



Photos by Tamali Smith, Punkaliyarra at the opening of Wiyi Yani U Thangani First Nations Gender Justice Institute, ANU, ACT 2024

While Ngarluma and Yindjibarndi country is on the opposite side of the continent to Yuin country, these nations are bound by similarity in women's cultural strength, story & practice, where the lands meet sea.

The significance of women's sites and story from Ngarluma and Yindjibarndi country, (the Seven Sisters songline and thalu site Punkaliyarra), and the power of the Yuin Black Duck songline and Gulaga (Mother Mountain) from Yuin country - establish rich narratives for connection.

Punkaliyarra supports senior women to be honoured, visible & valued for cultural knowledge & leadership, and for young women to be empowered to feel strong in their cultural identity, learning new digital & creative skills as they learn to interview and document story.

Transmission of women's knowledge & story facilitated in this project responds to an urgent need to embed women's practice & leadership in all aspects of community life, to redress extreme inequality that Aboriginal women face.

Punkaliyarra delivers cultural exchange, storytelling, dance, song and portraiture workshops between senior and young woman from each nation, surfacing ancient and contemporary narratives of strength, leadership and power from Aboriginal matriarchal culture.

***Punkaliyarra: Ancient Matriachs, New Leadership* will be performing at the Giiyong Festival**

Date: Saturday 9 November 2024

Time: 12:50pm

Location: Jigamy Farm, 4381 Princes Highway, Broadwater via Pambula NSW 2549

For more information on Punkaliyarra visit:

<https://www.bighart.org/projects/new-roebourne-project/>

Big hART is Australia's leading arts and social change organisation.

For more information on Big hART please visit: <https://www.bighart.org/>

For more information on the Giiyong Festival visit:

<https://www.giiyong.com.au/>

***Images and interviews will be available upon request.*



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All Media Enquiries to Big hART Media & Communications Manager, Christina Donoghue

E: chris@christinadonoghue.com M: 0405013357

W: [bighart.org](https://www.bighart.org)