



PEACE PLACE FOR THE PAT FAMILY OPENS IN ROEBOURNE

Today, **Thursday 28 September**, a very special garden, “**John Pat Peace Place**” will open with an intimate family and community gathering in Roebourne in the Pilbara.

The process of designing and building the John Pat Peace Place has been guided by John’s mother and his sister Maisie, in conversation with members of the Pat family and facilitated by Big hART. It celebrates the memory of young Yindjibarndi man **John Pat**. In 1983, aged 16, John died in a police cell in Roebourne, his death sparking the 1987 Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody. Accommodated by NYFL in the grounds of the **Ngurin Pilbara Cultural Centre** overlooking the river, the Peace Place will be a serene and reflective setting for healing where family and community can gather in peace, sit by a fire and participate in the ongoing cultural life of Roebourne.

The John Pat Peace Place flows in a circular pattern based on the sign for infinity and includes a fire pit, an inlaid brass feather, as well as words from the family, and is set in beautiful native gardens overlooking the river. The Peace Place came about as an exchange with the Pat family after they shared John’s story in Big hART’s theatre piece – Hipbone Sticking Out – which toured the country in 2014. The opening event today will be an intimate gathering for family and community and will include words from Masie Pat, music from community elders, a peace dance created for the Pat family by young women from Roebourne and afternoon tea.

Elders invited Big hART to Roebourne 6 years ago, and since then they have worked with 80% of the young people aged 7-17. Working with all language groups, the project is practical, non-welfare and task-focused and aims to strengthen skills in the community, support inter-generational cultural work, and foster pride and respect.

The Peace Place has been proudly sponsored by Coins Foundation, Woodside, Deep Green Landscaping, Lucas Construction Perth and Hanson Concreting.

Event Details:

Opening of the John Pat Peace Place
Thursday 28th September
4PM ARRIVE
5:30pm CLOSE
Ngurin Pilbara Cultural Centre, Roebourne

Media RSVP Essential to Bettina Richter.



All Media Enquiries to Big hART Media and Communications Manager Bettina Richter
E: bettina@bighart.org M: 0414 441 860
W: bighart.org

NEW
ROEBOURNE
ROEBOURNE