

## Barangaroo Delivery Authority Media Release



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## NAIDOC WEEK HIGHLIGHT: Barangaroo Unveils New Event Sharing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cooking, Crafts and Stories Across Generations

**Sydney, Australia: Reflecting the strength and leadership of its namesake Barangaroo, Barangaroo Delivery Authority's inaugural NAIDOC event specifically celebrates Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and their distinctive role in knowledge sharing, teaching and community life. Taking place Sunday 8 July at Barangaroo Reserve, *Women of Craft: NAIDOC at Barangaroo* is a one-day showcase of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander skills and traditions from cooking demonstrations and food tastings to workshops for basket weaving and shadow puppetry, plus plenty of interactive workshops for the kids.**

In a contemporary interpretation of traditional skills and crafts, the one-day showcase will include a diverse range of opportunities for Sydney-siders to learn traditional skills from some of the country's leading experts in Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander craft and cooking. The day-long event will be split into a variety of workshops based around three key themes: **craft and knowledge sharing** which include fibre weaving and shell jewellery-making techniques; **food demonstrations** which allows visitors to sample Indigenous inspired home-style food through cooking demonstrations and tasting opportunities; as well as a dedicated interactive **space for kids** where little people can experience storytelling, cooking demonstrations, and try arts and craft activities.

**Women of Craft: NAIDOC at Barangaroo Producer, Jade Christian said:** the inaugural event is designed to honour the influence and importance of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and their vital role at the heart of community. 'Women are the centre of the community and have a leading role in ensuring that knowledge is shared from one generation to the next. This is a unique chance for Sydney-siders to learn from this extraordinary line-up of knowledge keepers, who are generously sharing traditional techniques and include some of the country's most talented artists and experienced mentors.'

The one-day event will start at 10am with a special **Welcome to Country:** a cleansing ceremony featuring water, fire and smoking of gum leaves. The welcome will be followed by a traditional dance demonstration by **Buuja Buuja Butterfly Dance Group** performing on the sand circle. The workshops program will then begin with a full day of activities suitable for all ages, including food demonstrations featuring native ingredients sourced from across Australia.

The **curated weaving workshops** are a highlight of the program and will provide the chance to learn traditional weaving techniques from experts who will focus on sustainability, influenced by the natural surroundings at Barangaroo. The workshops include a range of fibre weaving including sun mat weaving and lomandra weaving, as well as coconut frond weaving and banana leaf weaving by Torres Strait Island artists. The events will be led by nationally-renowned artists including **Mimi Aboriginal Arts, Sylvia Nakachi, Hannah Gutchen, Narmi Maymuru and Gary Lang**. There will also be a variety of jewellery-making workshops showcasing traditional shell work techniques by mother and son duo **Julie Freeman and her son Clive Freeman**. The artists have links to La Perouse and South Coast NSW, and both are making a mark as artists working with shells. All of the workshops will demonstrate how these traditional techniques are used in contemporary culture.

Another highlight on the agenda will be a mouth-watering food program celebrating female cooks, focusing on home-style dishes that can be recreated in your own kitchen. Just as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women take on the role of passing knowledge to the next generation, these cooks share their knowledge, using Indigenous ingredients and flavours. Leading the workshops will be **Samantha Martin, who is best known as the author of the *Bush Tukka Guide***, and expert in foraging and native ingredients **Jody Orcher**.

Finally, the one-day event will include a dedicated space for little people. A **Kids' Space** for children up to 12 years of age makes this event a perfect family day out. This will be a rare chance for the next generation to learn about Indigenous ingredients, arts and crafts and to experience traditional storytelling and theatre-making. These hands-on workshops include **dampier cooking, playing Indigenous games and making and performing with shadow puppetry from Mowanjumb Aboriginal Art & Culture Centre**. Kids can make a shadow puppet with these talented West Australian artists and help bring to life a magical adventure story and shadow puppet performance with artists who will teach them a beautiful story from the songlines of the West Kimberley.

Plus, a special highlight will no doubt be meeting dingoes from **Bargo Dingo Sanctuary**. This will provide a chance for kids of all ages to meet these fascinating wild creatures who were once the protectors of community. Completing the village atmosphere of the day will also be a communal fire pit which will be the centrepiece of the event and a welcoming place for all.

## BARANGAROO AND NAIDOC 2018 EVENT DETAILS:

**Date:** Sunday 8 July

**Time:** 10am - 5pm

**Workshops:** Please note each workshop is scheduled to start on the hour and run for 45 minutes. Spaces are limited with some workshops limited to 30 people per session.

**Location:** Barangaroo Reserve

**Cost:** Free. No bookings are required and all welcome on the day

**Information:** <http://www.barangaroo.com/see-and-do/whats-on>

## ARTIST BIOGRAPHIES:

**Samantha Martin** is a descendant of the Kija and Jaru people in the East Kimberley Region of Western Australia. Her skin name is Nywarru and Aboriginal Name Nyadbi. She is Director of Tribal Voice Connection, an initiative developed to reflect the passion of her Indigenous heritage. She works closely on building relationships between media, private and government businesses, education departments, tourism and remote Aboriginal schools and communities across Australia. As an Aboriginal Ambassador, Sam has represented and shared her culture to bring cross-cultural awareness by presenting and lecturing for the Australian Embassies throughout England, America and Europe. Sam has worked in television for 15 years and she has produced documentaries for Discovery Channel, SBS, ABC, NITV and National Geographic. She was the face and host of the lifestyle program '*Bush Tukka Adventure*' with *Samantha Martin* and published a book titled *Bush Tukka Guide* featuring relevant Aboriginal edible and medicinal produce from the Australian landscape. Sam will bring these inspirational flavours and easy to replicate recipes to the workshops.

**Jody Orcher** is a Ularai Barkandji women from Brewarrina north west NSW. Jody is Partner of Shared Knowledge, previously employed as the Education Coordinator for Aboriginal Programs with the Sydney Royal Botanic Gardens and employed with the Office of Environment and Heritage for the last 10 years. Her pathway into Aboriginal Education comes from a rich diversity of working in many arenas of being an Aboriginal Studies teacher to developing teaching programs that encompass traditional education into contemporary for meaningful lifelong learning. Her identity and deep connection for her Aboriginal culture and heritage instils a journey for protecting cultural knowledge advocating our cultural protocols of respect and understanding towards ensuring access to country and culture is renewed and recognised. She has always enjoyed cooking and would help her parents in the kitchen. Jody says: 'We didn't have much growing up but we always had the best dinners and food on the table, if we had no money to buy it then you want and caught it or hunted it, there was always a job for everyone, I love those times. Being the eldest in my family, I had to look after the younger ones and so I learnt to cook early. My passion for bushfood is instilled in me as a connection to home, as food is always an event in our communities which everyone can share. My blends of Wariku Bushfood Infusions come from my own tastes and understanding the systems of flavours. Our unique bushfoods possess their own concentrated aromas, textures and taste, which I love to explore and infuse with everyday ingredients. I look forward to sharing with you our beautiful native ingredients from around Australia.'

**Hannah Gutchen** is an Indigenous woman, traditional weaver and artist currently based in Brisbane. Originally hailing from Mareeba in far north Queensland, Gutchen's ancestral lineage runs through the deep waters in the eastern islands of the Torres Strait, Erub (Darnley) Island. She is also proud of her matriarchal Jewish heritage which also influences her practice. With a background in conventional health and wellbeing, and as a qualified Exercise Physiologist, Gutchen has a holistic approach to life, which is evident in her artwork, workshop facilitation methods and her dedication to sharing her culture through economic ventures that support her family and community. In her short arts career, Gutchen has already exhibited at Redlands Art Gallery as a part of Gathering Strands exhibition (2017), City of Melbourne Gallery for Yirramboi First Nations Festival (2017), Brisbane's Gallery of Modern Art, as part of the Time and Tides exhibition (2018) & Weaving Water Stories outdoor instalment at the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games. Her most recent workshops have been delivered at The Institute for Modern Art & The Museum of Brisbane. Dedicated to the evolution of her work, she is currently exploring new mediums; merging ancient with modern practices. Her current works includes fashion, recycled contemporary pieces, film and photography documentation of her powerful ancestry.

**The Mowanjum Aboriginal Art and Cultural Centre** is a creative hub for the Worrorra, Ngarinyin and Wunumbal tribes, who make up the Mowanjum community outside Derby, Western Australia. These three language groups are united by their belief in the Wandjina as a sacred spiritual force and the creators of the land. They are the custodians of Wandjina law and iconography. The centre hosts exhibitions, workshops and community projects, as well as the annual Mowanjum Festival, one of Australia's longest running indigenous cultural festivals dedicated to Junba, or traditional storytelling through song and dance. Mowanjum Arts is 100% indigenous owned.

**Mimi Arts and Crafts** began in 1978 as part of an Aboriginal initiative to service outlying and remote communities in the Katherine Region. The name 'Mimi' was given by the original founders of the centre and derives from the 'Mimi' or 'Mimih' creatures of Aboriginal culture. Mimi Arts & Crafts can lay claim to having the widest range of art and craft of any Aboriginal art centre in Australia. The communities, towns and outstations from which the product is drawn include all of those in the huge 380,000-kilometre Katherine region. The diversity of country and language groups is reflected in the expansive variety of arts and crafts that Mimi Arts stock, works in the following styles and media are available. Bark paintings, works on paper, mimi figures and other carvings, unique Minyerri and Wardaman styles, Arnhem land rarrk works and the distinctive styles of the desert and western Wandjina style. Crafts include beautiful baskets and dilly bags, spectacular woven mats, beadwork and seed necklaces from people on the coast and in the desert. Their weaving workshops consist of guests sitting with talented Lirr-ppun weavers (Pandanus weaving) to learn the art of traditional Lirr-ppun from the Central Arnhem Region of the Northern Territory. Their knowledgeable artists explain the traditional procedure of harvesting fresh water pandanus and the collection of natural colours and dyes; detailing the process of preparing the all-natural fibres. Whilst weaving, artists explain the traditional and cultural significance weaving has in regards to their kinship (family and community) systems. They invite participants to undertake a weaving journey with the artists to experience the art of traditional Central Arnhem Region style of Lirr-ppun. It is their aim to have participants to walk away with a self-made creation and an experience that will last them a life time.

## ABOUT BARANGAROO DELIVERY AUTHORITY:

Barangaroo Delivery Authority is responsible for the development of Barangaroo on behalf of the NSW Government, and for the delivery of high quality urban design and public spaces. As part of this remit, the Authority oversees the delivery of public art, cultural activities and public programs within the precinct. Responses to the form, geography, rich history and future of the Barangaroo site are integral to the design and delivery of the program. The **Barangaroo Public Art and Cultural Plan** covers 11 hectares of public domain and represents one of Australia's largest suites of public art and cultural activity. The Plan outlines nine priority public art and cultural programs for delivery by 2020, including a series of cultural activities and civic events. In recent years, this has included: **Barangaroo Ngangamay**, an immersive multimedia artwork by Amanda Jane Reynolds and Genevieve Grieves; **Aurora Eora**, a beautiful collaboration with the Gondwana Choirs and acclaimed contemporary artists, which brought Barangaroo to life through song and art; **Four Thousand Fish**, a free Sydney Festival installation curated by Emily McDaniel that invited visitors to return frozen fish-shaped sculptures to the water surrounding Barangaroo Reserve; and **Papillon**, a large-scale temporary artwork by leading Australian artist, Nike Savvas, that suspended dramatic coloured ribbons above Exchange Place. For more information, please visit [www.barangaroo.com](http://www.barangaroo.com)