



BERNDT NEWS

Berndt Museum of Anthropology
URL: www.berndt.uwa.edu.au



THE UNIVERSITY OF
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Number 7

November 2005

G'day Everybody!

THIS is the seventh Newsletter from the Berndt Museum of Anthropology, produced by staff for Aboriginal communities throughout Australia. Apologies for the long wait for the seventh issue of the newsletter to come out, we have been very busy putting together two exhibitions, *On Track* and the *Allawah Grove photographic exhibition* which both are currently travelling around the State.

ANOTHER UNIDENTIFIED PHOTO

Thank you for all your support over the many years in helping us to identify people within the photographic collection. The Museum currently has over 700 unidentified photographs in the collection and with your help we hope to reduce this number significantly. Throughout the years, the Berndt Museum has repatriated photo albums back to regional centres around the State. These photo albums play an important part in helping us to identify many of these unidentified photos. Please help us once more to identify the young boys in this Allawah Grove photo?



[WU/P 32136]

QUICK NEWS

- The *Allawah Grove Photographic Exhibition*. is currently at the Bank Gallery, Midland until the 23rd November.
- The *On Track Exhibition*. is currently at the Courthouse Arts Centre and Gallery until the 29th November. The exhibition showcases artworks from the Berndt Museum of Anthropology's collection
- *John went to conference in Marseille, France*. He gave a paper on spirituality in the Kimberley culture, in particular looking at the Wandjina figures and their representation.
- *Robyn Smith Walley and Tracie Pushman* to curate *The Carrolup Paintings exhibition* for the Perth Festival 2006. The festival's focus this year is on Nyungar culture.
- *Smadar Gabreli*, who is an objects conservator worked at the Berndt Museum for 6 weeks to access the Museums bark painting collection.
- *We recently acquired a donation* of artworks, artefacts and ceramics from Dr Patricia Kailis., who were given these items many years ago with her late husband. They helped many countries and peoples from Australia, South East Asia and China.

UNIDENTIFIED PHOTO FROM THE LAST NEWSLETTER



[WU/P 19684]

Miss Cargo's girls, 1963.

L – R: Jennifer Michael, Ellie Parfitt, Janet Ryden, Gwen Krakouer, Elsa Berach, Elaine Wallam. The baby is Karen Ugle (daughter of Kath Ugle)

This photo was identified back in 2003 by Mr Ezzard Flowers from the Southern Aboriginal Corporation, who was in touch with one of the former nurses from Marribank. We've had quite a lot of enquiries about this photo and others from the Marribank/Carrolup times.

If you would like to come to the Museum and look through our photo collections. Please give us call on (08) 6488 2854.

Editor: Brett Nannup Layout: John Stanton

Contributors: John Stanton, Brett Nannup, Robyn Smith Walley, Nell Ustundag, Rita Bennett, Siobhan Hicks.

Warburton Repatriation Photographic Project



Mr Livingston West, Chairman, Ngaanyatjarra Council, inspects the photo albums. [WU/P31826]

The *Bringing the Photographs Home* project (originally funded by ATSIC) allowed photographs held within the Berndt Museum of Anthropology to be repatriated to communities throughout the State.

The Warburton repatriation project, currently in its last stages of completion, consists largely of images photographed by Professor Ronald Berndt and Dr Catherine Berndt, during a trip to Warburton in 1957 and 1959, to investigate allegations made by Mr Bill Grayden MLA. These allegations were to be later referred to as the 'Warburton Controversy'.

The Berndts' photographs hold great importance in showing the living conditions of Aboriginal people at the Warburton Range Mission and surrounding areas.

The five stages surrounding the *Warburton Controversy* included:

- * The setting up of Parties to investigate the allegations. They included (a) journalist, lead by Mr Rupert Murdoch, (b) Professor Berndt's UWA Anthropological expedition and (c) a combined Ministerial and Health Department party who were accompanied by journalist from the West Australian.
- * Second, to look into the allegations made by Mr Grayden of 'malnutrition' and 'bad health' and 'living condition,' of the Aboriginal people in the Warburton area.
- * Thirdly, the building up to the *Warburton Controversy* through the popular interest by the media into Aboriginal issues and the differential treatment of Aboriginal people by fellow Australians. For example, many Australians at this time held a popular interest into the financial status of Tudawali who starred in the film *Jedda* together with issues concerning the citizenship rights for Albert Namitjira.
- * Fourth, an accumulation of these issues were promoted in many publications; books, journals, film, radio and newspapers. These, together with personal observations, brought about a climate congenial to the emergence of such a controversy.
- * The final stage were charges by the Anti-Slavery Society concerning the treatment of Aboriginal people, with the suggestion that these matters should be taken before the United Nations Commission on Human Rights.

The progression of this debate was a concern to all in the 1957 period which lead to the Berndts photographing over 500 photographs relating to the *Warburton Controversy*. With the establishment of the Tjulyuru Cultural and Civic centre we hope that, with repatriation of these photographs back to the Warburton area, that these will make an important contribution to the history of Aboriginal people and the Warburton area.

ON TRACK EXHIBITION



[WU 9849]

The artwork shown above is one of the thirty-two artworks currently travelling around the state within the *On Track* exhibition. This artwork, titled *Water and Earth* was created by Ms Naomi Danischewsky using acrylic paint on artist's board in Geraldton 2002. [WU9849]

ON TRACK EXHIBITION

There was all that confusion about culture, trying to come into one culture from another culture ... we had to juggle it around a bit. Now we're back on track. (Interview with Nyungar artist Valerie Takao Binder, Perth, 11.12.2000)

The idea for the *On Track* exhibition originated with the Premier of Western Australia, whose appreciative comments on our previous travelling exhibition, *Aboriginal artists of the South-West: Past and present*, and his enthusiastic support for some sort of broader overview, led him to request the Museum to mount these works, and to tour them throughout the State and beyond. The *On Track* exhibition was sponsored by the Department of Premier and Cabinet, through the 175th Anniversary Committee, the Berndt Museum of Anthropology has been presented with a great opportunity of bringing to a State wide audience a selection of 32 artworks purchased by the Museum primarily from the past decade.

Talking to students in Albany

WU/P 31841}



This exhibition draws exclusively from the collections at the Berndt Museum of Anthropology; these range across the western half of the continent, due to an historical presence in these regions, but more recently it has concentrated (though not exclusively) on Western Australian art both settled and remote areas. Metropolitan art has been a strong focus since the early 1980s, inspiring two of the Museum's national travelling exhibitions and encouraging state institutions to follow suit.



Ms Glenda Williams

WU/P 31847

It was the Museum's principle of purchasing works only within a year of their creation, which was established early in the Museum's history, and which followed on from the collecting policy of Professor Ronald M. Berndt developed early in his career, from the mid-1940s, that has so dramatically shaped the Berndt Museum's own collection policy.



Opening night in Albany

WU/P 31843

This exhibition is an opportunity for the state to showcase a vital element of both its heritage and its contemporary artistic expression. It is also a valued opportunity for the Berndt Museum to display a selection of its marvellous collection of contemporary Aboriginal art, as well as to bring these pieces to regional Western Australia. The *On Track* exhibition is currently touring regional centres throughout Western Australia. The *On Track* exhibition was officially opened at the Western Australian Museum on the 8th June 2004 by the Hon. Dr Geoff Gallop MLA.

ALLAWAH GROVE PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBITION



Mrs Lizzie Anderson

WU/P31967

The Allawah Grove Photographic Project began with a box of photographs and accompanying documentation kindly donated to the Berndt Museum of Anthropology, upon the passing of Mrs Elsie Gare. Mrs Gare worked closely with Aboriginal people from the Allawah Grove Settlement and, over time, collected a lot of photographs relevant to it.



The photographs depict the lifestyle of Nyungar people of the South-West region living at the Allawah Grove Settlement, near Guildford, Perth, during the late 1950s, as part of the post-War assimilation policies of the then Native Welfare Department. These evocative images of people and place, photographed by Cyril and Elsie Gare (volunteers and missionaries of the Quaker Service Council of Australia) document a journey of rapid change and transition for Nyungar people.

National Aborigines Day - Land Right Protest

WU/P31941

The Allawah Grove Settlement was administered by the Native Welfare Department until the responsibility was handed over to the Coolabaroo Leage. This organisation was established by a group of innovative people, who played a vital role towards improving the social and economic conditions for Nyungar families. Within a decade, the people of Allawah Grove had made vast improvements towards civic developments, establishing their own Administration, Women's Committee, Progress Committee and Advancement Council.

Allawah Grove's many achievements included establishing a Kindergarten for Aboriginal children and a Friends' Centre. Mothers from the community helped to set up and run a clothing store at the Centre, with the profits from sales going towards funding many projects and activities at the settlement. Beautiful bark paintings that were inspired at the Centre created an industry for Allawah Grove and were given world-wide acknowledgement. The Settlement was closed in 1969. Research documentation and oral histories collected from former Allawah

Children standing near the school bus

WU/P32141



Grove residents and their families provided the basis for a publication and photographs from the collection, which became part of the exhibition titled *On the Outskirts*. This travelled throughout the South-West of Western Australia during 2005, to the following venues:-

- Vancouver Arts Centre, Albany: May 23 to June 12
- Bunbury Regional Art Galleries, Bunbury: June 17 to July 24
- Mandurah Performing Arts Centre, Mandurah: July 29 to August 28
- Narrogin Art Gallery, Narrogin: September 8 to 25
- Avon Valley Art Centre, Northam: October 3 to 24
- The Bank Gallery, Midland: November 2 to 23

This exhibition showcases 50 images that speak about family relationships, inter-racial relationships and the strength of the community. These give us an insight into the amazing spirit of Aboriginal people.

It has been a great pleasure to develop this project, by further documenting this timepiece in the window of Nyungar history, and to share this time with the wonderful people of Allawah Grove.



Our special thanks to the following individuals and organisations who made this project possible: the Department of Environment and Heritage, Mrs Janet Holmes à Court, Mr John Ranford, Art on the Move and The University of Western Australia.

Robyn Smith Walley and Tracie Pushman

L – R: Matthew Ranford, Janet Holmes à Court, Robyn Smith Walley, John Ranford and Tracie Pushman. [WU/P32051]

WHO'S WHO AT THE MUSEUM.



[WU/32337]

The Berndt Museum staff...

L – R: John Stanton (Director/Curator), Tracie Pushman (Curatorial Assistant), Brett Nannup (Assistant Curator), Rita Bennett (Personal Assistant to the Director), Robyn Smith Walley (Curatorial Assistant). Seated: Nell Ustundag (Curatorial Assistant) and Siobhan Hicks (Archives Assistant).

CONTACT DETAILS AND MUSEUM OPEN TIMES

Everybody is welcome to visit the Museum; we especially encourage school groups. If you want to see what we have on display then the Museum is open on Mondays and Wednesdays 2:00 – 4:30pm, and on Fridays 10:00am – 2:00pm. However, if you need something more specific from the Museum (like looking at the Photographic Collection) than you need to ring and arrange a time to visit. This will help Museum staff to prepare for your visit.

The Museum has Disabled Access. Please contact staff before the visit if Disabled Access is needed.

To find the Museum you must go to:

Social Sciences Building
Entrance No.1, Hackett Drive
The University of Western Australia
CRAWLEY WA 6009

Our phone numbers are:-

John Stanton	08 6488 3854
Other Museum Staff	08 6488 2854
	08 6488 1165

Fax.:	08 6488 1062
E-mail:	bmuseum@cyllene.uwa.edu.au
Website:	http://www.berndt.uwa.edu.au