Eddie Gumbula, a highly respected senior elder from the Gumatj Dance Troupe displays the magnificent body paint associated with the bunggul.

Image: © Yothu Yindi Foundation, Photographer David Sproule.
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INTRODUCTION

The Yothu Yindi Foundation is pleased to present this report to share with our stakeholders the substance of the Garma Festival, Australias Leading Indigenous Cultural Exchange Event.

The Garma Festival plays a vital role in promoting the living Yolngu culture that is the lifeblood of north east Arnhem Land. Garma showcases this living culture whilst providing a platform for Yolngu and non-Yolngu people to explore their shared histories and futures.

The end result is an experience that is unique and rewarding both to individual participants but also to the nation which continues to struggle with historical injustices and future challenges.

The key components of the Garma Festival are:

- The Key Forum
- The Cultural Tourism Stream
- Gong Wapitja Womens Program
- The Youth Forum
- Bunggul (ancient dance), accompanied by Manikay (song), Bilma (clap stick) and the Yidaki, the oldest instrument in the world.
- The Gapan Gallery
- Musical performances
- Message Stick Film Festival

These components merge to produce an overall experience that Garma is renowned for. Through this mix the Festival has gained the attention of a national and international audience. Participants from across the globe make an enormous commitment in travelling to this unique and remote location whereupon they camp atop the Gulkula escarpment overlooking the Gulf of Carpentaria. The cultural displays on hand over the Festival period is unique and authentic and this produces the essence of Garma.
The 2011 annual Garma Festival was staged from Friday 5 August and the closing ceremony concluded the afternoon of Monday 8th August. The Key Forum theme was Academic Excellence & Cultural Integrity, a topic that flowed on from the 2010 Key Theme of Indigenous Education & Training.

The Board of the Yothu Yindi Foundation were committed to reinforcing the educational component at this years Festival, based upon the priorities of the Foundation being to improve the state of education for the Arnhem region as a priority; to establish a Garma Cultural Studies Institute and re-establish a Dhupuma College on the Gulkula site where it previously operated decades ago.
CORPORATE SPONSORSHIP ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Foundation would like to extend their appreciation to our many valued corporate sponsors.

The Australian Government. The Federal Government is a committed supporter of the Garma Festival. FAHCSIA, the Indigenous Coordination Centre, the Department of Prime Minister & Cabinet and the Aboriginal Benefits Account have all contributed to the staging of each Garma Festival. These contributions range from supporting Indigenous women, to assisting with volunteers or for maintenance of Indigenous language, the combination of these funding grants bind the Festival package together solidly. The commonwealth funding is a great source of assistance particularly when applying a cost escalation appropriate to a vastly remote location.

**Rio Tinto Alcan**

**Rio Tinto Alcan (RTA)** has been a vital sponsor for many years, and without the assistance of Graham Dewar, Stephanie Stonier, and Darryl Isberg, the roll out of each Festival would be difficult to engineer. **RTA** also provides the Festival with in-kind support, which may come in the form of heavy machinery, further infrastructural support or assistance with water delivery to the Gulkula site. We hope **RTA** will continue to work in conjunction
with the YYF Board and management to continue to further progress local community involvement.

Sodexo continues to be a solid corporate sponsor and supporter of the Garma Festival. Our official caterers have an enormous task ahead of them each year to ensure that all Garma attendees are catered to in a vastly remote setting. Sodexo provide an excellent menu and service our amenities with the highest quality of health and safety standards. Gary Mickler, Wendy Dawson, David Parr, many thanks for your ongoing commitment. It is pleasing to note the development of the recent Sodexo Reconciliation Action Plan. The Foundation was honoured to attend the 2011 April launch of Sodexo’s RAP.

The Board of the Foundation would like to extend their appreciation to the Indigenous Land Corporation (ILC) for their continued support to ensure the Foundation can involve local community organisations on the ground in the Arnhem region relating to land management, training, education and the sharing of knowledge. The ILC has been a loyal supporter of the work of the Foundation and it is with delight that we are able to have you join us once again onsite at Gulkula. Outgoing Chairperson Shirley McPherson has fashioned a strong and respectful relationship with Yolngu of the north east Arnhem region through the Garma Festival. We welcome the incoming Chairperson Dawn Casey and it’s new Board members.
Qantas’ support of the Yothu Yindi Foundation and the Garma Festival made a major positive impact on the Festival this year. Further to the Qantas advertisement located in the May edition of The Australian Way, a highly aggressive promotional campaign was executed in the months of June and July through the Inflight Entertainment cabin screens. The YYF Chairman and Board would like to state their gratitude for Qantas’ promotional input into the 2011 Garma Festival and acknowledge the valued support provided by Chairman Mr Leigh Clifford, Ms Laura Berry, Manager Community Partnerships & Reconciliation, and Julian Barry Regional NT General Manager.

The Charles Darwin University (CDU) provides the Festival with assistance with the Key Forum and the structure of it’s programming. The Foundation would like to thank Vice Chancellor Professor Barney Glover & Professor Steve Larkin for the University resources. The Foundation recognises CDU’s commitment to Indigenous education and is pleased to continue to work with CDU in relation to the development of the Garma Cultural Studies Institute.
The National Australia Bank have always been one of the Foundations major sponsors. We would to thank them for their triennial funding which assists with the Key Forum, more specifically the Economic Development streams each year. The Board would like to highlight the importance of the attendance of major banking institutions contributing and attending each Garma year. Financial Counsellors and money management workers attending Garma make themselves available for the purpose of improving financial literacy, money management and for advice regarding the machinations of the banking system.

Health Workforce Australia was an active supporter of the Garma Festival as they chose to sponsor the event to generate an exchange of knowledge and new ideas around health and education among indigenous communities. With an interest in strengthening the delivery of better care and services to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, the Foundation welcomed their programs and insights and thank them for their important contributions.

Generation One was welcomed as a corporate sponsor this year. Their Key Forum session outlined Generation One’s movement to discuss their draft policy that advocates improving pre-employment, training and post-placement support for Indigenous job seekers. Andrew Forrest & his wife Nicola spent 3 days onsite camping at Gulkula and were welcome contributors to the Festival. They attended the opening of the Gapan Gallery, and enjoyed the visual enchantment of each evening bunggul, being special guests of the elders who control the cultural performance.
The Australia Bureau of Statistics worked collaboratively with the Yothu Yindi Foundation regarding the National 2011 Census of Population and Housing. The Garma Festival is a remote capturing point upon which to obtain such vitally important statistical information needed for the future of Australia’s progress and development.

LOCAL COMMUNITY SPONSORS

It would be remiss of YYF not to mention the ongoing local support that we draw upon throughout the year. The Gulkula site requires maintenance throughout the year, we’re constantly calling on assistance to keep on top of land management issues, for example white ant infestation throughout the year. Fire management is pertinent to ensure our infrastructure is not damaged by rogue scrub fires. To the many Yolngu caretakers that have an affiliation with the Gulkula traditional meeting ground, the Foundation is thankful of the many road trips to and from Gulkula throughout the year. Thanks to those community members that assist and our gratitude is extended to the partnerships that YYF enjoy throughout the year with Miwatj Health Aboriginal Corporation, to Marngarr Resource Centre, the Gumatj Corporation & Dhimirru Aboriginal Land Corporation. Thanks to the Lirrwi Tourism, Yirralka Rangers, Buku Larrngay Art Centre & The Mulka Project.
Marngarr Resources working hard to place the eucalypt leaves on the roof of the forum bough shelters. The Garma Festival employs roughly 250 local people on the ground each year.

Brand new bough shelter
Hands up those who want to pitch 3000 tents? Anyone…..?

The bunggul ground being prepared. The sand is sourced from Gumatj land and delivered onsite by the truck load.
Old ablutions block, damaged by fire just weeks prior to staging the event. YYF had to locate funds to purchase a new block and have it transported ex-Darwin.

The contents of over 15 sea containers gets assembled in preparation for the Festival.
One of the many Garma team meetings being conducted onsite. Everyone's looking a little tired and the Festival hasn't even begun.

Breakfast sustenance to feed a hungry crew.
FESTIVAL ACTIVITIES

A balmy evening greeted the first intake of Garma attendees. The heavens threatened to open on a 2500-strong crowd as Garma was officially opened.

The opening ceremony was launched officially by Minister Jenny Macklin. Minister Macklin has attended four of the last five Festivals and has shared the Yothu Yindi Foundation commitment to education and wellbeing. Again, she spoke passionately of her support for the task of improving Yolngu education so each child can have an equal chance at life.

The Minister had earlier attended the official opening of the Dhimurru Aboriginal Corporation building in the Nhulunbuy township and spoke of her delight to once again return to the region.

Minister Macklin was joined with Federal Minister for Resources, Energy & Tourism Martin Ferguson. Mr Ferguson has worked with Yolngu people since the 1970's and had recently worked with all parties to the Gove Mining Agreement.

YYF Chairman Galarrwuy Yunupingu, in a sign of deep respect for Mr Ferguson presented him with a galpu (a woomera) painted in ceremonial colours. The galpu can only be held by a man, a true man, who has earned the right and in recognition of his status Mr Ferguson was gifted officially.

Also present were Federal Minister for Indigenous Health, Warren Snowdon, Federal Senator Trish Crossin, NT Minister for Indigenous Development & Women’s Policy Malarndirri McCarthy & NT Minister for Education Chris Burns.
Minister Snowdon mentioned Garma as being an important economic stream for the region and “is a not to be missed event for so many people”.

Senator Crossin reiterated this:

"Garma is one of the Northern Territory's key events that provides an opportunity to drive Indigenous policy and research which attracts people from near and far."

There was a mix of other distinguished men and women at the opening:

Mandawuy & Yalmay Yunupingu, His Excellency Dr Jose Ramos Horta, East Timors Ambassador Abel Guterres with a Timorese media crew, Andrew & Nicola Forrest, Professor Marcia Langton, Professor Patrick Dodson, Co-Chair of the Expert Panel on Constitutional Recognition of Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Australians.

Other special guests included:

Tim Gartrell from Generation One, Warren Mundine from Native Title Services NSW, Glen Brennan from NAB’s Melbourne headquarters, Commonwealth Bank senior executives, Laura Berry and Julian Barry from Qantas, Rob Lehrer & Melissa Castan from the Castan Centre for Human Rights from Monash University along with a dozen law students. Peter Seidel from Arnold Bloch Leibler Lawyers, Reconciliation Australia CEO Leah Armstrong actively engaged a large Corporate Group as part of their national program. Gilbert & Tobin delegates, Karyn Bayliss from Jawun Indigenous Partnerships, Co-Chairs Jody Broun & Les Malezer from the National Congress of Australia’s First People attended Garma. Norforce hosted an exchange of Canadian Rangers. NT Corrections was represented as part of their Elders Visiting Program in Arnhem Land worked collaboratively with Festival organisers by providing a Community Support Work Party.
This list is indicative of the participants that arrived at Garma this year. Not in the least exhaustive, this picture portrays an audience of national leaders, of executives all prepared to travel and camp in a remote setting for the purpose of better progressing Australia as a nation, together with Yolngu people.

The bunggul performances each evening were as ever richly and emotively charged, awarding this years gathering a visual range of dance from regions such as:

The Gumatj estate, Mularra group from Bulman, Milingimbi dance troupe, Tiwi Islands, Dhartiwuy ga Ngaymil, Galpu, Umbakumba, Gundalmirri, Blue Mud Bay, and Ramingining.

Each year, the young children win the hearts of the audience as they prove their skills on the bunggul ground – some too small they struggle to keep up with the stride of their mentors. The handing down of the dance, the songs and stories that accompany them is vitally important to ensure the continuity of culture and shows the rest of the world how strong and determined Yolngu
people are abouting maintaining their cultural integrity. Education at it’s most purest form, taught by Yolngu people, is at the heart of this event and the most vibrant educative experience is through the bunggul performance. Yolngu culture is a unique Australian treasure. Garma is something that should be experienced once in a lifetime by those fortunate enough to have the opportunity to attend.

L to R: Jack Thompson, Minister Jenny Macklin, Chairman Galarrwuy Yunupingu and Minister Martin Ferguson officially open the 2011 Festival.

**KEY FORUM**

Saturday morning the 6th August welcomed the opening of the Key Forum on education. The Foundation would like to acknowledge the commitment from Professor Marcia Langton as our Minister of Ceremonies who continues to honour and uphold the direction of the Yothu Yindi Foundation.

The Key Forum participants arrived at the conclusion that in order for academic excellence to be reached without compromising cultural integrity, then it must be community driven and owned from the grass roots upward. Thereafter, it
must be conveyed to the Federal and state governments for policy integration.

The Key Forum program began with Yolngu delivery. Dhanggal Gurriwiwi, Djapirri Munugurritj, Dhalalu Stubbs, Banbapuy Ganambarr, Yunanymul Munungurr, Yingiya Guyula, Lalambarri Yunupingu, Jackie Nguluwidi, Roslyn Malngumba, Yirrkala Community Education Centre, Yirrkala CEC, Gapuwiyak School, Shepherdson College from Elcho Island, Nhulunbuy Primary School, Nhulunbuy High School, Wadeye’s Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, Nauiyi Daly River, Santa Teresa, Bathurst Island, Ngukurr……..This Yolngu representation was successfully implemented by the Yothu Yindi Foundation Board. An increase in Yolngu educators sharing their positive educational stories on country provided a healthy topical forum for urban based educators.

His Excellency Dr Jose Ramos Horta thrilled participants with his Key Note speech during the Key Forum. The most important gesture and moment of President Ramos Hortas visit was the Signing of the Memorandum of Understanding of Friendship between the Republic of Timor Leste and the Gumatj Corporation Limited, directly after the President’s address. The transcript of H.E.’s speech is attached for further reference. H.E. mingled with members of the Youth Forum, he made himself available to the press and he posed for photo’s with participants of the Festival. Chairman Galarrwuy Yunupingu stated: You’ve just witnessed history here, you know”. A standing ovation was held to acknowledge this grand statement of peace and reconciliation.
YYF lifetime members Mandawuy & Yalmay Yunupingu were present to hear Ramos Horta’s speech.

This year, a Youth Forum contingent was invited to contribute to the main key forum to ensure students views were recorded into the main attraction. The Youth spoke of why they attend the Garma Festival, how it impacts them, their families, their schools, and how the process of reconciliation is so fundamental to their priorities. The youth spoke of the Festival as being a catalyst in celebrating Indigenous culture and of the Festival being able to diminish a negative stereotype of Aboriginal Australia. Many a tear was shed during this session, as the students spoke of being highly influenced and inspired by the Garma interaction. Refer to the Scotch College testimonial attached.

Attached, please find further detail relating to the contents of the Education and Economic Development Forum programs.
PERFORMANCES:

Garma continues to provide a platform upon which to showcase new developments filtering through from grass roots, remote communities. The Foundation would like to thank those musical performers who are able to articulate those stories through song this year. Emma Donovan, Frank Yamma – from Alice Springs, East Journey – from Yirrkala, Sunset Liverpool – from Maningrida, Blek Bala Mujik – from Bulman, Wirriynga Band – from Milingimbi, David Dingala – from Umbakumba, My Boys are Good Boys – from Galiwinku and West Arnhem Boss – from Gunbalunya or Oenpelli, Robbie Mills & the Collective representing the Larrakia & finally The Emu Sisters singing in Murringarr & the Nangu Red Sunset vocalising in Murrinpatha both groups from the Wadeye Community, previously known as Port Keats.

Frank Yamma’s exceptional voice resonates across the Gulkula escarpment
Those that had a chance to witness the Gapuwiyak School assert their abilities during the songwriting contest of the Youth Forum were able to witness some creative concepts emerge within the group of 150 registered participants this year.
ACROSS THE GULKULA GROUNDS

The Gapan Gallery, coordinated by the Buku Larrnggay Art Centre featured the many beautiful works of art from the Arnhem region. The opening of the gallery continues to attract a large following. Women crying ceremony begins this artistic representation and you are taken on a journey of sorts, building to a crescendo which culminates into a jaw dropping and explosive exposé. Art collectors visit from across the nation with the hope of securing some of the most visually appealing, spiritually authentic and dynamic portrayal of artistic expression from the Arnhem region. Artists works that graced the open air gallery were as follows: Dhuwarrwarr Marika, Nyapanyapa Yunupingu, Banduk Marika, Mulkun#1 Wirrpanda, Liyawaday Wirrpanda, Barrupu Yunupingu, Gulumbu Yunupingu, Wukun Wanambi, Djalinda Yunupingu, Baluka Maymuru, Malaluba Gumana, Ranydjupi Yunupingu, Gunybi Ganambarr, Barrata Marika, Bulmirri Yunupingu, Dhapanbal Yunupingu, Ruby Alderton, Bawaka Yunupingu, Dhurrumuwuy Marika, Djirrirra Wunungmurra.

Like moths to a flame, the Gapan Gallery official opening ceremony
The Garma Festival’s Youth Forum, was sponsored by the Miwatj Health Aboriginal Corporation this year. Miwatj run a dynamic Yaka Ngarli (no smoking) program that attempts to educate the next generation on the impact of smoking on one's health, given that 75 – 85% of Yolngu adults smoke. The message was received well by the 150 youth from across the nation. Special thanks to Eddie Mulholland, Ric Brown, Bonula Yunupingu, Burrkitj Ngurruwutthun, Tora, Djalinda Yunupingu, Yurraynga Yunupingu and Fiona Djerrkura.

An improved structure to this year’s program created for a stronger and more receptive audience. The Foundation was able to provide mentors such as Emma Donovan (singer/performer), Josh Pyke (musician) and Andy Griffiths (author). The Indigenous Literacy Foundation, Morganics & The NT Music School were dynamic in their interactions with eager students, keen to soak up the activities. The assistance from Yolngu involvement has been exceptional this year – thank you Tora & Choco. Special thanks to Djapirri Mununguritj who worked with the youth to paint their own cotton canvas displaying the most favoured or important object in their lives. Collectively, the canvas pieces will be sewn together to form a friendship banner that will be displayed during further youth activities. The running of the Youth Forum draws on the assistance of local community, volunteers and teachers that attend Garma, all pitching in for the benefit of the next generation. The 6 Yolngu seasons were incorporated into the Youth Forum as an educational tool. The 6 seasons were the essence of each of our Youth Forum activities, for example, the songwriting contest developed songs about what occurred in each period of the 6 seasons. Yolngu youth were proud to explain and educate those that weren’t aware of this subject. The Foundation would like to thank the Yolngu educators that made themselves available to talk with each of the Youth groups. The Mulka Project provided screening aids to compliment the components of the Youth Forum.
The National Aboriginal and Islander School of Dance (NAISDA) were able to run dance workshops in the heat of the Arnhem land sun. Hip Hop songs were written, recorded and placed on students’ ipods to be taken back into their homes for replaying & sharing with families. The students also participated in Ghost Net Weaving workshops which entailed learning of the ocean environment and the devastating effect that ghost nets have on the flora and fauna. When collected and recycled, a story of indigenous culture and community is developed to better educate our youth.

Astrological workshops incorporate a Yolngu flavour and tell cultural stories that keep alive that intergenerational transfer of important traditional oral dialect. An acrobatic extravaganza was conducted through graduates of different youth circuses nationwide. The Australian Circus & Physical Theatre Association (ACAPTA) exists to support the on-going development of the Australian contemporary circus & physical theatre sector. 150 youth skipping, spinning, dancing mini-tramping was a sight to behold. The flexibility of the youth were really quite fascinating.
For some adults that had gather to view this spectacle, some managed to pull muscles just watching the routines – ouch! School groups were allocated an exclusive school camping area this year and the days events culminated in an evening fire circle to share the fun stories of the day.

GONG WAPITJA WOMENS PROGRAM

The involvement of Yolngu women in leadership roles from the Arnhem region gives an example of how instrumental and vital the female contribution is within Yolngu society and to the broader national audience. Not only in the arts field, but also for the purpose of building camaraderie, behind the strength of Yolngu families and additionally the wealth of knowledge and experience of Yolngu culture from a Yolngu perspective is reflected in the Gong Wapitja Women’s Program. Some of the women that are our continuous educators should be acknowledged here:

Yolngu women again this year were able to display the process behind preparation of weaving. Weaving is an intense artform that requires a magnitude of patience, intricacy and precision. From the initial gathering of the pandanus material, to stripping the leaves of the thorn, this work is highly laborious and is usually conducted in the more cooler periods of the day. To locate the plant that dyes the pandanus leaf is left to the responsibility of the senior Yolngu ladies, and this also involves the digging of the plant tuber in order to ensure the availability of vibrant colors woven together produce the final spectacular product. The baskets on display are sold within the Garma shop as an income stream for the women that are able to produce their baskets or mats in time for each Garma Festival.
The Yothu Yindi Foundation would like to take the opportunity to thank The Christensen Fund, (based in San Francisco) for the assistance in establishing the Dilthan Yolungha Healing Place ablutions block this year. Internationally recognised artist Gulumbu Yunupingu leads this group of Yolngu women. What eventuated during the off season Garma Festival period was the construction of a 3 toilet, 3 shower facility for the needs of the senior Yolngu women. As you can see, the improvements are phenomenally important to those ladies not otherwise capable of easily accessing the public facilities with the rest of the Garma attendees. Beth Woolbright from The Christensen Fund was able to work with the Foundation on this project, and we’d like to thank TCF for this development that is now a permanent infrastructure for the ladies to access throughout the year.

TRANSFORMATION FROM THIS........
INDIGENOUS CULTURAL TOURISM

The Indigenous Cultural Tourism Stream, hosted by Djawa Burarrwanga and his family has demonstrated yet again that small business operations can deliver a positive and substantial impact across the nation. For example, registrations from the Cultural Tourism Stream came from University of Canberra, from Rumbalara Aboriginal Group in Victoria, from the Living Kaurna Cultural Centre in South Australia, from the Royal Botanic Gardens in Melbourne, from large banking institutions across Australia, from the National Museum of Australia, Unilinc in Sydney.......the list continues. The Burarrwanga family committed physically to delivering a large dose of Yolngu culture again this year - and did so in style. It is always a pleasure working with the Cultural Tourism team. They are renowned for churning out some hard work, being organised and digging their toes in when required.
Lirrwi Tourism hostess’ greet the cultural tourism participants.
For a taste of the Cultural Tourism stream this year refer to this link: http://www.lirrwitourism.com.au/

This year the Foundation was pleased to collaborate with Rachel Perkins and the Message Sticks Indigenous Film Festival to showcase the diverse range of short films produced by Indigenous people from not only Arnhem land, but across Australia and the world. Message Sticks Indigenous Film Festival has joined forces with the Mulka Project at Yirrkala, the Yothu Yindi Foundation and Blackscreen to present a program that included new work from emerging Yolngu film makers as well as archival film from the region, reinterpreted with contemporary Yolngu content. Indigenous movies fresh from Sundance and Berlin Festivals, as well as a mix of short films and documentaries was hosted by Indigenous film maker Rachel Perkins. The cinematic preview of The Diplomat was accompanied by a special appearance by His Excellency Dr Jose Ramos Horta who explained the detail behind the production of the movie prior to its screening.
Here’s a diverse group! NAILSMA, I-Tracker, The Saltwater People Network, Dhimurru and Yirralka Ranger Groups striking a happy pose.

Catholic Education joined us this year......welcome!
MEDIA:

The work of David Vadiveloo and his Community Prophets team lead to major media coverage this year, sparking intense media interest in the daily events of the 2011 Garma Festival. The Yothu Yindi Foundation brokered an agreement with the National Indigenous Television (NITV) as our key media partner. We would like to acknowledge the hard work of NITV and hope to continue to work alongside them in future Garma Festival projects. The media interest derived from Garma this year can be attributed to engaging a Director of Media in the early stages of preparation and planning prior to the event. There are logistical hurdles to be overcome prior to sending out the Garma messages given the remote location of the Festival. Nonetheless, contact was made with major news outlets such as ABCTV News 24, ABC TV 7pm, SBSTV News, Ten News, Ten 6:30 with George Negus, Channel 7 News, Channel 9 News, The Australian Newspaper, Sydney Morning Herald, The Age, BBC TV, Al Jazeera, Euters TV, SBS Radio, ‘Awaye’ Radio National, The Koori Mail, National Indigenous Times, Radio National Breakfast, ABC Radio Current Affairs, ABC TV’s Midday News, and SBS News website.

A sample of the 2011 media coverage:

**YYF Garma 2011 Media Management Report**

“**The education intervention**” - “**AM**” ABC Radio Current Affairs, by Michael Coggan.

Quote: “This is the sound of a bungul ceremonial dancing on a purpose-built sand dance floor celebrating the opening of the annual Garma Festival last night at Gulkula near Nhulunbuy on the Arnhem Land coast.”

[http://www.abc.net.au/am/content/2011/s3287107.htm](http://www.abc.net.au/am/content/2011/s3287107.htm)

”**Clans come together for Indigenous festival**” – **ABC Radio and ABC website**

Quote: “Australia's largest Indigenous cultural festival has kicked off in northeast Arnhem Land. The **Garma** Festival is known for
bringing together Aboriginal clans from across Arnhem Land and the rest of the country."


“Jenny Macklin to defend her 'dismal' results” – The Australian by Christian Kerr and Matthew Franklin, 9/8/11
Quote: “She (Prime Minister Julia Gillard) backed Aboriginal leader Galarrwuy Yunupingu's demand for an end to welfare and "real education".”


“Call from the heartland and the heart - welfare is deadly” – The Australian 8/8/11 by Nicolas Rothwell (+ David Sproule photo)
Quote: “WITH his heartfelt plea for an end to welfare handouts in the remote indigenous domain, Galarrwuy Yunupingu has thrown down the gauntlet. The northeast Arnhem Land clan leader is insisting that the entire political and bureaucratic class confront the failure of the passive welfare paradigm in remote Australia. He wants no more tinkering around the fringes of the vast network of social support projects now in place but instead the abolition of welfare payments to his people - and for the simplest of reasons: "It’s a killer.”


“Dance to the musings of time” – The Australian 9/8/11 by Nicholas Rothwell(+ David Sproule photo)

“Clarion call to common sense” – The Australian (editorial) 8/8/11Quote:”Mr Yunupingu, who commands widespread respect, has long been an articulate, independent-minded
advocate for his people's land rights and interests..... As Mr Yunupingu said, education is the key to progress.” and “In urging his people to shun welfare dependence, Mr Yunupingu has aligned himself with Cape York leader Noel Pearson, who has led a passionate, farsighted reform campaign against welfare "poison" for more than a decade. It is beyond doubt that both men are right - intergenerational reliance on welfare, be it among Aborigines in remote Australia or white people in outer suburbs, saps the human spirit of the will to learn, strive and build better lives." 


Yunupingu calls for 'real education', no handouts – The Australian, Matthew Franklin 8/8/11

Quote : “ABORIGINAL leader Galarrwuy Yunupingu has called on his people to reject welfare dependence as a killer. But he also demanded more government action to improve the quality of schools. Aligning himself squarely with Cape York counterpart Noel Pearson's long-running campaign against welfare dependence, Mr Yunupingu, a former Australian of the Year, said: "Please, no more, please no more welfare handouts. It's a killer to the Yolngu society"." 


"No more handouts for Aboriginals, says ex-Australian of the Year Galarrwuy Yunupingu“ – AAP andwww.news.com.au 


"In the Yolngu world, the future is in print” – The Australian, 25/7/11
Quote: “The finished set of prints can be seen at the Nomad Art galleries in Darwin and Canberra, and will be on display at Garma this August.”

'Stop taking handouts', Aboriginals told – Brisbane Courier Mail 6/8/11
Quote: “FORMER Australian of the Year and Aboriginal leader Galarrwuy Yunupingu has called on his people to stop accepting welfare handouts, saying it is killing them. Mr Yunupingu was speaking at this year’s Garma Festival, held on a remote region of Yolngu land on the edge of the Gulf of Carpentaria in the Northern Territory.”

“Census counts on everyone to find form” – The Australian 8/8/11
Quote: “The ABS has made a concerted effort in recent census years to collect more accurate information on the indigenous population, and took advantage of the annual Garma Festival in northeast Arnhem Land to hand out forms to people such as traditional dancer Peter Gurruwiwi.” + David Sproule pic

National Indigenous Radio Service – “Galarrwuy Yunupingu wants end to welfare” 8/8/11
**Garma Festival kicks off**
5 August 2011
MORE than 2500 people have descended on the 2011 **Garma** Festival in North East Arnhem Land for a four-day celebration of Yolngu culture, which will include workshops, music, a daily Bunggul (dancing) and a key forum with the theme, Academic Excellence and Cultural Integrity.

**Koori Mail 5/8/11**
**“Reconciliation is all about people” The Daily Telegraph**
10/8/11 Editorial
Quote : “In this, Ms Macklin is adopting the long-argued views of Aboriginal visionaries such as Noel Pearson and Galarrwuy Yunupingu who rightly reject the blanket welfare approach that for generations has smothered indigenous ambitions and abilities.... News Limited, publisher of The Daily Telegraph, is proud to play a role in this process. Our Reconciliation Action Plan, launched yesterday, holds true to the philosophies of Mr Pearson and Mr Yunupingu.”

“It's a blow, but all that positivity's a policy killer” – Sydney Morning Herald, OpEd piece by Rowan Dean 10/8/11
This week, the Aboriginal leader Galarrwuy Yunupingu said: "Please, no more welfare handouts. It's a killer to the Yolngu society." Like Noel Pearson before him, Yunupingu recognises that the feel-good, poorly-thought-through policies that created indigenous welfare dependency have backfired.

Sydney Morning Herald – 9/8/11 Quote: “Which is exactly what Galarrwuy Yunupingu is telling us. And not a moment too soon, either. Rowan Dean is a Gruen Transfer panellist and a former advertising creative director. Rowan’s hit the nail on the head…”

It’s a blow, but all that positivity’s a policy killer – BRIMBANK WEEKLY
Quote: This week, the Aboriginal leader Galarrwuy Yunupingu said:
"Please, no more welfare handouts. It’s a killer to the Yolngu society." Like Noel Pearson before him, Yunupingu recognises that the feel-good, poorly thought-through policies that created indigenous welfare dependency have backfired.


Aboriginal leader says stop handouts – Michael Harvey, Herald Sun 8/8/11
Quote: ""ABORIGINAL leader Galarrwuy Yunupingu has pleaded for education - not handouts - to lift his people out of poverty, disease and despair. The 1978 Australian of the Year and member of the Northern Territory Yolngu rejected welfare dependency, saying: "Please, no more welfare handouts. It’s a killer to Yolngu society."

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ABORIGINAL leader Galarrwuy Yunupingu has called on his people to reject welfare dependence as a killer – NT News 8/8/11
“FORMER Australian of the Year and Aboriginal leader Galarrwuy Yunupingu has called on his people to stop accepting welfare handouts.

“No more Aborigines handouts, Yunupingu” – SkyNews Sunday August 7, 2011

“My father, my grandfather, and my children all tell me: ‘Stop taking welfare handouts’” – SkyNews Sunday August 7, 2011

“FORMER Australian of the Year and Aboriginal leader Galarrwuy Yunupingu has called on his people to stop accepting welfare handouts, saying it is killing...


Garma: Australia’s shining cultural jewel”– National Indigenous Times 18/8/11
It is said that the town of Nhulunbuy in the Northern Territory wouldn’t exist if not for the massive bauxite mine that is its economic lifeblood. But once every year, a small area on the Gove Peninsula becomes a meeting place that attracts high-powered politicians, civic leaders, musicians and just about anyone who likes a party. The Garma Festival is held on an ancient meeting ground of the Yolngu people in Arnhem Land called Gulkula, where, for many generations, Indigenous people have gathered to dance, sing and tell stories. Hundreds of tents dotted around the festival give some indication of the size of the crowd that makes the annual pilgrimage to Gulkula for the celebration. More of this story can be read in the Print Edition. For the full story in Indigenous Affairs: National Indigenous Times.

Health Workforce Australia website

“Talking Education at the Garma Festival” – Minister Macklin website Quote : “The Minister for Indigenous Affairs,
Jenny Macklin, today officially opened the 2011 Garma festival at Gulkula in North East Arnhem Land. The annual event celebrates traditional Aboriginal culture and brings together Aboriginal people, performers, government, business, professionals and academics from around the country and the world. "It is an honour to be at Garma again and to see old friends, meet new ones and continue important discussions on a shared, stronger future that continues to address challenging issues in the Northern Territory and beyond," Ms Macklin said.”

etc
also:

festival&catid=54:australia-indigenous-peoples&Itemid=76
also:
http://www.warrensnowdon.com/media/talking-education-at-the-garma/festival/

Arafura Times
“Fly-in, fly-out album” — *The West Australian* or www.thewest.com.au
Quote: “He (Josh Pyke) explains that he was hospitalised with a virus during a visit last weekend to East Arnhem Land for some songwriting workshops as part of the Yothu Yindi Foundation's Garma Festival. Besides the short stay in Gove District Hospital, he says "it was amazing, one of the most gratifying things I've done as a musician".”

Indigenous Garma Festival 'a cultural jewel' – *SBS News website*
08 Aug 2011

Regarded as Australia's most significant Indigenous cultural exchange event, the **GARMA** Festival attracts clan groups from north east Arnhem Land, as well as representatives from clan groups and neighbouring Indigenous peoples throughout Arnhem Land. **View Gallery** (includes photo gallery slideshow of David Sproule pics)

"Welfare creates a poverty of values"- **Sunday Telegraph** by Piers Akerman 14/8/11
Quote: “Cape York Aboriginal Australian leader Noel Pearson has long claimed that welfare is a poison to Aboriginal Australians. He has been joined in the past week by Northern Territory elder **Galarwuy Yunupingu** who has asked that welfare payments be stopped because "it’s a killer".”

“Jack Thompson drops into The Guestroom” – **ABC 105.7 Darwin** website “You might have even seen him around the Territory. He's a regular visitor to our parts, wearing his trademark hat at the **Garma** Festival, or getting involved in housing projects in Central Australia.”

Indigenous Garma Festival 'a cultural jewel' – **SBS News website** 8/8/11 Quote: “The **Garma** Festival is held on an ancient meeting ground of the Yolngu people in Arnhem Land called Gulkula, where, for many generations, indigenous people have gathered to dance, sing and tell stories.” Etc

“Yolngu inspire us to pursue all our ambitions” – **The Australian**, OpEd piece by Noel Pearson 13/8/11
Quote : “The **Garma Festival** hosted by the Yolngu of northeast Arnhem Land is the country's premier indigenous cultural festival. Indigenous and non-indigenous Australians from all corners of the country make the annual pilgrimage to the Gulkula
site outside of Nhulunbuy hosted by Galarrwuy Yunupingu... Garma also hosts an indigenous policy dialogue. Galarrwuy Yunupingu told the gathering something that I first heard him say 20 years ago, 10 years before we began our reform agenda in Cape York: "Welfare is a killer." etc


"Garma Festival — a kaleidoscope of culture" - Parks Australia website 23/9/11


“Project fosters best practice for Indigenous educators” - Asian Correspondent 24/9/11
Quote: “A project that aims to improve the learning experiences and outcomes of Indigenous students at all levels of education will be unveiled at the upcoming GARMA Festival.” etc


“Students write winning tune at Garma” – NT News by Damien McCartney 23/8/11
Quote: “Students from a remote Top End school are rocking out after they won the song writing competition at the Garma Festival earlier this month.” etc


Author Andy Griffiths’s website
“After crossing three crocodile infested rivers along the way it was – to put it mildly – somewhat of a relief to arrive at the
**Garma** festival site. The **Garma** Festival is one of the largest indigenous gatherings in Australia and features three days of business and educational forums, dancing, music and—a personal highlight—even has its own nightly indigenous film festival. There was also a youth forum featuring music, print-making, circus skills, dancing and writing workshops for youth aged 12-18. And if that all became too much—you could wander away and simply enjoy the silence and drink in the amazing view of the plains below stretching right across to the Arafura sea.”

etc


Parks Australia website 19/8/11
Quote: “A seagull warily passes a saltie on the beach at Laynhapuy Indigenous Protected Area. I snapped them while taking part in an excellent tour run by Bawaka Cultural Experiences. The tour was part of the **Garma** Festival.”


We also had national broadcast media coverage eg. SBS TV News; ABC TV News; ABC Radio News and Current Affairs; Fairfax Radio 2UE News; ABC Darwin Radio News etc.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

2012 GARMA FESTIVAL FORECAST

Due to the urgent need to upgrade infrastructure at the Festival site, the Board of the Yothu Yindi Foundation has decided not to hold a full Festival in 2012. Therefore, the Garma Festival program will be differently structured next year, before returning to its usual format in 2013.

The nightly bungul, the musical performances, the Youth Forum and other cultural activities have been omitted, however YYF will continue to host the Key Forum, which has been the core of Garma programing in previous years. The Key Forum theme will be announced by February 2012. Please continue to check the official website at www.yyf.com.au for further information as it becomes available.

The Foundation will be better able to focus its efforts on our core objectives which are:

- The establishment of a new secondary college in North East Arnhem Land – Dhupuma College;
- The establishment of a new higher education college - the Garma Cultural Studies Institute;
- The YYF Wellbeing Project.

The Board and Members have made an enterprising decision to change the format for 2012. More importantly, this will enable them to consolidate the important day-to-day work of YYF, whilst at the same time improving the facilities on site at Gulkula in readiness for the 14th Garma Festival.

The Board and Members are very grateful for your ongoing support of our work and look forward to continuing the exciting journey ahead with your continued cooperation.

Chairman

Galarrwuy Yunupingu AM