OVERVIEW
Selling Yarns 3 was held in association with the Centenary of Canberra and explored the place of Indigenous textile practices in the story of national building in Australia. It’s primary focus was to demonstrate that through cultural practices a dialogue can be had that draws all interested parties together for the benefit of a rich and sustainable Indigenous culture, and to promote and share contemporary Indigenous textile practice.

Selling Yarns 3 was a significant component of the Centenary of Canberra Indigenous Programming - their focus being:

Bringing the Nation Together
“Canberra has been a meeting place for thousands of years. In 2013, First Australians from across the country will converge on the nation’s capital to celebrate one hundred years of Canberra and thousands of years of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture.”

“Aboriginal people lived and met here for age-old ceremonies, trade and to exchange knowledge and maintain spiritual, social and environmental connectivity between traditional custodians.” Acknowledgement Centenary of Canberra Creating First Australian

Indigenous artists and elders, and art administrators, came together and participated as speakers, workshop facilitators and market stall holders to share their stories, exchange their knowledge and skills, and to trade. They opened their hearts to each other and to other conference delegates and visitors. As Tim Growcott so eloquently states, (ATTACHMENT 1)

“An authentic spirit of reconciliation coursed strongly throughout the four days, with so many stories and examples of practical collaborations and life-changing projects. The conference was a recognition of the important and sensitive work being accomplished by like-minded creators, forging links with the living past and forming models for healing into the future.”

Thirty Indigenous communities and art centres and 134 artists from every state and territory in Australia converged on Canberra to participate in Selling Yarns 3: Weaving the nation’s story. There was also great participation from government departments and agencies (federal and state), significant cultural institutions and educational institutions, networks and arts organisations.

ACTIVITY
Selling Yarns 3: Weaving the nation’s story was a 4 day event that presented a conference, a market day, workshops, an exhibition and associated activities program, and launch of the inaugural Indigenous Art Film program.

It was the premier national forum for Indigenous textile and fibre in the country and was supported by the Centenary of Canberra. Selling Yarns 3 was presented in partnership with the National Museum of Australia and the Australian National University and was hosted at the Museum. The event ran from 28 February to 3 March 2013 and attracted audiences from across the nation as well as international visitors. Indigenous elders, artists, arts administrations and representatives along with members of the general public participated in all the events.

The associated activities highlighted a number of exhibitions, talks and demonstrations and included the exhibition Women with Clever Hands and floor talk by Curator, Dr Louise Hamby and
co-Curator, Lucy Wanapuyngu, demonstration of fibre techniques by women from Gapuwiyak (Lake Evella) in Arnhem Land and the Murumbung Yurung Murra Cultural Tour at Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve with the ACT Parks and Conservation Service Aboriginal Rangers.

The inaugural film program showcased a variety of genres including documentaries, animation, and experimental video will be screened covering four countries Australia, New Zealand, East Timor and USA. The films provided insights into Indigenous fibre art and its makers and set in scene some of the artistic practices discussed and demonstrated during the four-day event.

The series of creative workshops were available for the delegates and the general public and covered traditional and contemporary techniques and artistic professional development in fibre and textile practice.

The market attracted Indigenous artists from across Australia who sold their work with all proceeds going directly to them. The market day was complemented by a series of free demonstrations.

The wider community engaged in Selling Yarns 3 through:

- Workshops and demonstrations – the workshops where open to the general public as well as conference delegates. The workshops were booked out with people flying as far away as Brisbane to participate.
- Indigenous Art Film Festival program – the program was open to the general public, visitors to the National Museum of Australia and to the Selling Yarns 3 delegates. Although the inaugural film program was included in the later stages of planning, there were 14 films presented to over 50 visitors.
- Market day at the National Museum of Australia with over 2,500 visitors on the day.
- The Project presented an associated activities program which was available to delegates and the general public. This included:
  - 8 associated exhibitions across Canberra showcasing Indigenous artists
  - Hot shop demonstrations at the Canberra Glassworks by Indigenous artist Jenni Kemarrre Martiniello
  - Floor talk by curator Louise Hamby and co-curator Lucy Wanapuyngu at the exhibition Women with Clever Hand, 130 visitors
  - Demonstrations of fibre techniques by Lucy Wanapuyngu, Walinyinauy Guyula and Kathy Nyinyipua Guyula at the exhibition Women with Clever Hand, 130 visitors
  - Murumbung Yurung Murra Cultural Tour at Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve with the ACT Parks and Conservation Service Aboriginal Rangers, fully booked 25
- Volunteer program, 32 volunteers supported the event over 4 days.

PROGRAM REACH
Statistical report on attendances and participation in Selling Yarns 3

(i) Special guests speakers

- Mr Andrew Sayers, Director, National Museum of Australia
- Aunty Agnus Shea, Welcome to Ngunnawal Country
- Professor Howard Morphy, Director, Research School of Humanities and the Arts, The Australian National University
- Ms Robyn Archer AO, Creative Director, Centenary of Canberra
- Mr Shane Rattenbury MLA, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs
• Margo Neal, Principal Indigenous Advisor and Senior Curator, Centre for Historical Research, National Museum of Australia

(ii) International guest speakers:
• Khadija von Zinnenburg Carroll, Humboldt Fellow University Berlin
• Lois Connor, artist, United States of America
• Awhina Tamarapa, Curator, Te Papa Tongarewa, Museum of New Zealand

(iii) Total number of people participating as:
• Conference speakers and convenors, 57
• Workshops facilitators and participants, 147
• Market day stall holders, 19

(iv) Individual artists participating in conference, market day and workshops, 137
(Note: that can be identified as artists)

(v) Total number of people attending:
• Conference (fully booked), 175
• Workshops (fully booked), 134
• Market day, 3,500
• Inaugural Indigenous Art Film Program, 50

(vi) Indigenous communities from across Australia participating in Selling Yarns 3: Weaving the nation’s story, 30
• Alice Springs Beanie Festival
• Aussie Nomad
• Boolarng Nangamai Studio
• Elcho Arts
• Erub Erwer Meta
• Euraba Artists and Papermakers
• Eurub Arts
• Footscray Community Arts Centre
• Gaawaa Miyay Designs
• Gapuwiyak
• Ghost Nets
• Girringun Aboriginal Corporation
• Gurranyin Arts
• Hands On Weavers
• Hopevale Arts Centre
• Injalak Arts and Crafts Association
• Kemarre Arts
• Koskela
• Lockheart River
• Malingappa, Paakantji/Barkantji (Darling River)
• Merrepen Arts & Babarra Design
• Miwi-inyeri Pelepi-ambi Aboriginal Corporation
• Ngarigu
• Ti Tree Northern Territory
• Tjanpi Desert Weavers
• Top End Textiles
• Wamba Wamba Women's Weaving Group
- Wurundjeri Story
- Yarrenyty Arltere Artists
- Yurana Centre

(vii) Number of government agencies, arts organisations and services, 36
- ACT Government
- NSW Government Catchment Management Authorities
- NSW Government Education and Communities
- Department Families, Housing, Community Services & Indigenous Affairs
- Department Foreign Affairs and Trade
- Department Premier and Cabinet Victoria
- Australia Council for the Arts
- Marlborough District Health Services
- Sunrasia Community Health Services
- Women’s Centre for Health Matters
- Art Gallery of South Australia
- Australian Museum
- Museum Victoria
- National Film and Sound Archive
- National Gallery of Australia
- National Museum of Australia
- Koorie Heritage Trust, Melbourne
- Wagga Wagga Art Gallery
- Object Gallery
- Craft ACT: Craft and Design Centre
- Charles Sturt University
- The Kirby Institute, University of New South Wales
- University of Melbourne
- University of New South Wales
- ANU College of Law
- Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies
- Australian National University
- Canberra Institute of Technology
- Community Arts Network Western Australia
- International Development Indigenous Art (IDAIA)
- Kick Arts
- Nomad Art
- Rokoco
- The Australian Forum for Textile Arts (TAFTA)
- Weave Parramatta
- Independent Cultural Planning Consultant

MEDIA REPORT
Features and articles:
- Art Monthly, to be published June 2013
- The Canberra Times, Capital Life - Julianne Strachen
- The Canberra Times, Out and About – Lyn Mills
- Craft ACT: Craft and Design Centre – E-Box November Issue
Media Release
• Shane Rattenbury MLA, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs
• Craft ACT: Craft and Design Centre

Major advertising and promotion
• The Canberra Times, Panorama, full back page advertisements (NMA)
• The Canberra Times, Panorama, 2 x one-third page advertisements (NMA)

Publications
• Canberra 100, Celebrating First Australians
• Canberra 100, One Very Big Year, Volume 1

Radio
• 666 ABC with Louise Maher
• 2XX FM with Sylvie Stern

Websites, blogs and electronic media
• Selling Yarns 3: Weaving the nation’s story
  www.sellingyarns3.com
• Facebook
  www.facebook.com/SellingYarns3
• National Museum of Australia
  www.nma.gov.au/whats-on/events/selling_yarns
• Canberra 100
• ANU School of Art
• ANU Research School of Humanities and the Arts
• Koori Mail
• Community Arts Network, Western Australia
• Canberra Institute of Technology
• National Association for Visual Arts
• Net Works Australia
• River Nest Blog
• Art guide Australia
• ACTEW AGL
• Liveguide
• Australian Government -Indigenous culture on show
  www.indigenous.gov.au

TESTIMONIALS
Awhina Tamarapa, Curator, Te Papa Tongarewa, Museum of New Zealand
“I just wanted to email you ... to say how much I enjoyed the conference. It was such a privilege. I am so happy to have been a participant. The organising, venue and programme was superb. So much to listen to, to see and to do. I met so many wonderful people and will remember this conference as one of the best that I’ve been to.

I have really been deeply affected by the Aboriginal people and culture. I can still hear the chanting from the Seven Sisters Songline in my head. I've been inspired by Nalda to encouraged me to take the recycling, reliving philosophy to Aotearoa. I'm going to organise workshops with our local children to make dolls, string necklaces from fabric and recycled art from refuse on our beach (we live in a Maori community right on the beach, north of Wellington). I purchased a DVD video by one of the art communities called "Little Dingi", for children, an animated story that I'll
show our children as part of the workshop. I also brought a ghost net bag from the man from Rotuma that attended the conference that I can show as an example of what they can make. Nalda said there were no rules with recycled material! That everything can be imbued with our stories.

So-another idea that I was to seed at Te Papa is to celebrate the Seven Sisters Songline, Maori Matariki and a Pacific story all relating to Matariki (Pleiades). I've also asked Bronwyn who has woven those amazing eel traps to send me information as her work would be of interest to our museum collection, even though I'm not the curator responsible, I can still recommend her work, particularly as the material that she uses is NZ flax, harakeke! Another connection.

And finally it was great to spend time with Keren, the Possum skin cloak makers ... Thank you for all your hard work organising the film screening material. The films looked amazing on the huge screen, simply glorious.

Nga mihi (greetings and much respect)

Khadija von Zinnenburg Carroll, Humboldt Fellow University Berlin, Director of LOOK and artist “I’m just writing to say, what I've been telling everyone, and also what I heard from absolutely everyone during SY3 - it was a particularly good conference, program, group of people - congratulations and thank-you so much for the invitation. Lots of lasting connections were made and I look forward to staying in touch with them.

Warm best wishes and gratitude”

Astrid Reinke, Selling Yarns 3 participant and artist “I just wanted to say "Thank You" to you all for organising this excellent conference. I have been to many conferences - as a delegate, speaker and organiser- both overseas and in Australia, but this has all together been the best one. It was not only very interesting but also inspiring, refreshing, fun and the atmosphere was fantastic.”

Tim Growcott – ATTACHMENT 1