

**CAAMA Music**

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## **CAAMA MUSIC Extends Regional Music Development Program to Yirrkala**

Yirrkala, in East Arnhem Land, has been the third community so far this year to benefit from the **Regional Music Development Program** launched by Alice Springs-based indigenous record label, CAAMA MUSIC. The program aims to further develop the skills of regional communities to record music, organise local community concerts and maintain musical equipment. With the help of funders such as The Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs ([FaHCSIA](#)) and the Tim Fairfax Family Foundation ([TFFE](#)), as well as the collaboration of many different stakeholders, such as Charles Darwin University and local shires, the communities are offered accredited music training and non-accredited industry training for selected arts workers and promising musicians or sound engineers.

The month of musical training concluded last week, with twenty-two participants from the community of Yirrkala having taken part in the Certificate II course offered by Charles Darwin University. During that month CAAMA MUSIC sound producer, Mark McCormack, and trainee sound engineer Rohan Carmody, provided practical training to three different community groups within Yirrkala. Both CAAMA trainers brought their technical skills and years of experience performing in bands to benefit those from Yirrkala who took part in their industry training. A local girl-band made up of high school students were coached in stage presence and the setting up of small PA systems, as well as the participants of the Strong Fathers Project, some of whom are members of the successful indigenous rock band East Journey. Even staff and members of Yirrkala's multimedia production house, The Mulga Project, took advantage of the opportunity to advance their editing skills with the help of Mark McCormack's extensive experience using ProTools software.

At the beginning of this year sixteen 'Music Industry Rangers' were chosen from around Central Australia to be trained as sound engineers and mentors, able to mentor others in their own communities in the art of music recording, production and running gigs. After visiting Yirrkala CAAMA MUSIC sound producer Mark McCormack believes that there is the potential to include Arnhem Land in the 'Music Industry Ranger' training, saying "*There's so much talent in Yirrkala, and I've met quite a few people who I'd love to be able to train as Music Industry Rangers so this community can build its music industry up*".

The community of Papunya, within the MacDonnell Shire in Central Australia, will be the fourth and final community for 2013 to participate in the Regional Music Development Program when the month long training starts there on 21 October.

### **INTERVIEWS AND PHOTOS AVAILABLE**

For interview requests or more information please contact

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CAAMA MUSIC is an Alice Springs-based company, owned and operated by indigenous Australians, that has been recording, supporting and promoting indigenous Australian music for more than 30 years. It is part of the **Central Australian Aboriginal Media Association**, Australia's leading Aboriginal owned and controlled media organisation delivering culturally relevant content that helps preserve and maintain Indigenous culture.