

WARMUN ART – DOWN BUT NOT OUT!!

"WARMUN ART, WE WILL BE STRONG AGAIN"

QUOTE FROM WARMUN ELDER, PATRICK MUNG MUNG

THE WARMUN ART STORY KEEPS ON GOING

After experiencing considerable flood damage and property losses from the 'Big Wet' of 13 March 2011 – the recovery effort has begun in Warmun and everyone is looking forward to the Warmun Art Centre getting back on its feet.

Although the gallery and studio premises are currently in disarray – Warmun Art Centre, its exhibition program and on-line gallery are still operating and we are working hard to rebuild. Miraculously, a significant number of our beautiful ochre paintings survived the floods, so you can help the artists to rebuild by buying these paintings that are now more precious than ever before.



For many weeks the whole of the Kimberley endured trying times; roads cut and essential services disrupted or destroyed as week after week of heavy rain inundated the whole region. Warmun has been worst hit with most of the community inundated or washed away. 60 houses, the school, the clinic, the administration buildings and the Art Centre were severely damaged. 290 Warmun residents were evacuated to Kununurra (200 km away) where they will stay until new facilities and homes can be rebuilt. The Gija mob are resilient and longing to return to their country. This is the best fishing time; and they're missing out! Although this is a trying period for this community, they are coming to realise it's a great time to be together and start afresh. Artists continue to paint and use this time to carry on cultural projects, recording their stories and passing on Gija language and culture.

THE GOOD NEWS – Warmun Art Centre has remained operating throughout this natural disaster. Art materials have been donated and Gija ochres brought up from Warmun to the evacuation camp so artists can produce new artworks.

The Warmun Gallery is temporarily closed, but we hope to reopen in May ready for visitors who travel to the Kimberley during the dry season.

In the meantime, we encourage supporters of Warmun Art to make use of our online gallery. Just visit the website to look for news and follow the link 'purchase art'. www.warmunart.com



From left to right: Madigan Thomas, Mabel Juli, Beerbee Mungnari, Mick Jawalji, Betty Carrington, Patrick Mung Mung, Phyllis Thomas, Nancy Nodea