

RESEARCH STATEMENT

Original Creative Work

Citation: CroftWarcon, Pamela 2013. Bark Petition Dharumbal Elders - Welcome to Country 2013. *Capricornia Arts Mob (CAM) NAIDOC Exhibition We value the vision: Yirrkala Bark Petitions*. Walter Reid Gallery, Rockhampton, Queensland, Australia, 02 – 10 July 2013.

Research Background

This work is in response to the 2013 NAIDOC theme: *We value the vision: Yirrkala Bark Petitions*.

- Field – Indigenous Studies
- Context – Indigenous political and social history
- Research Question – How can ‘We value the vision: Yirrkala Bark Petitions’ be conveyed in an artist representation?

Research Contribution

This artwork is a piece of local stringy bark timber slab measuring just over two metres by 50 cm which has been processed in the “old ways” technology by male Dharumbal elder Lester James. The slab has textual content that has been branded by using a “new ways” art burning tool. The text was provided for this community project by linguists and Dharumbal elder Aunty Nyoka Hatfield.

Research Significance

Research was required to record the Dharumbal Welcome to Country greeting in text as a way of adding to and extending cultural understanding and awareness of Aboriginal protocols in the spirit of reconciliation. This bark ‘petition’ is reconciliatory whereas the Yirrkalla bark petitions were political lobbying objects that commanded government to take notice and listen to the Yirrkala clans and their communities. The Dharumbal petition commands the recognition that Dharumbal people are the first nation’s people of this region.

This artwork was interconnected with the other works in the Capricornia Arts Mob’s (CAM) NAIDOC Exhibition and curated by Dr Pamela CroftWarcon to the *NAIDOC theme: we value the vision: Yirrkala Bark Petitions*. CAM’s NAIDOC Exhibition was held 01 – 13 July 2013 at the Walter Reid Cultural Centre, Rockhampton, Queensland, Australia.

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