

Friends Friday

10 May 2019

Barka the Forgotten River & The Lake 2 Lake Corridor: Working for Change with the Barkandji & Adnyamathanha People.

Between 2010 and 2019, Paul Adcock has been working with the Barkandji People of Far West NSW and the Adnyamathanha People of the North Flinders Ranges in South Australia on a number of Community & Cultural Development Projects. The subject of Friend's Friday on 10 May is to look at the current status of two of these Projects and ways in which Friends and interested people of goodwill in Canberra and South East NSW can support and get behind the aspirations of the communities who are driving these significant projects.

The Project with the Barkandji People will introduce the broader Australian public, particularly those from the Murray-Darling Basin and the associated state capitals to a deeper understanding of the Barka / Darling River. The Project will promote the cultural perspective & understanding of the People of the River and will take place over a number of years. It will involve a range of mediums including - painting, carving, fibre-art, music, dance and videographic storytelling and has received some funding from the Indigenous Languages & Arts Program.

The Project is taking place when all Barkandji People believe they are faced with an existential struggle on behalf of the River from which they take their name. In June / July 2019, the process of speaking out for the Barka will commence in Canberra with an exhibition called: ***Barka - the Forgotten River*** - by Senior Barkandji Elder and nationally recognized artist, Badger Bates and Non-Indigenous Artist Justine Mueller. The exhibition will be held at the Belconnen Art Centre and is funded by the artists and a small group of supporters. It is intended to be the first of a series of exhibitions and events scheduled for Canberra as the seat of National Government and the largest population centre in the Murray-Darling Basin. You are very cordially invited.

Lake 2 Lake Corridor, the project with the Adnyamathanha People is now nearing Stage 1 completion with the production of a 25 minute documentary and promotional film, intended to assist the Adnyamathanha People and communities to promote their aspiration to develop the Lake 2 Lake Corridor across the Northern Flinders Ranges from Lake Torrens in the west to Lake Frome to the East of the Ranges. The intention of the Corridor is to bring together 14 different properties for the purpose of promoting natural system & cultural conservation, the development of sustainable local economies and the regeneration of country. The proponents of the project have indicated their wish to place a particular emphasis on drawing together the best in scientific & cultural understanding to inform a new era in land management practice and to build on achievements such as the establishment of Nantawarrina. Nantawarrina was Australia's first Indigenous Protected Area, operating in the proposed Corridor for 21 years.

Canberra Meeting has assisted the production of this film with a donation of \$250.00 for which the Adnyamathanha People have asked Paul to extend their thanks. Over 90% of production costs have come from the unfunded contributions of the joint Broken Hill Art Exchange & GECCO Partner's Videographic Unit. The Unit has been hospitably supported by the Adnyamathanha People and the South Australian Nature Foundation.