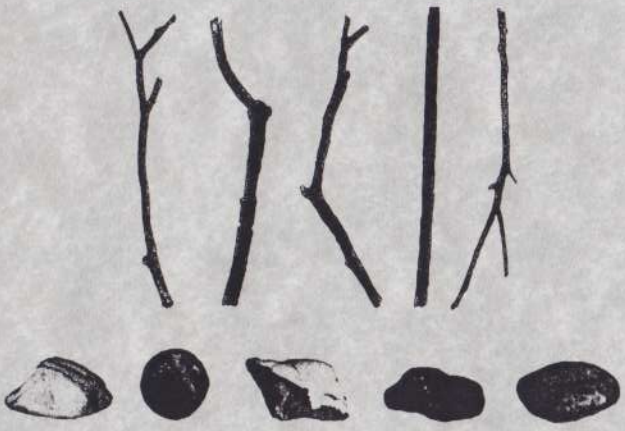


Sticks 'n' Stones

VISUAL ARTS AND PERFORMANCE WORKSHOP PROGRAM

February – June 2000

Sticks 'n' Stones is a community arts project developed by **Tracks Inc.** and **Torture and Trauma Survivors Service of the Northern Territory** (TTSSNT). The aim of the project is to bring together youth from refugee, Indigenous, migrant and other cultural backgrounds, to celebrate cultural identities, explore ways of understanding difference and promote racial tolerance through a range of creative art forms.

The project has two main areas of participation – the web site www.sticksnstones.org.au which will operate until June 2000, and the visual arts and performance workshop program, which runs from February until June 2000.

At the end of the project there will be a Final Gathering of artwork, performance and participants.

www.sticksnstones.org.au

Messages of Harmony

Sticks 'n' Stones was inspired by the "message sticks", and "message stones" of various cultures around the world – objects which have messages carved into them as symbols or words, to be sent to other people or communities. The aim of **Sticks 'n' Stones** is to create "messages" through art, on the themes of cultural identity, racial tolerance and harmony. These messages will be sent out to the local, national and international community in the form of artworks, a final exhibition and the web site.

Living in Harmony

Sticks 'n' Stones is funded by the Commonwealth Government's **Living in Harmony** initiative, which is being administered by the Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs. The **Living in Harmony** campaign aims to promote harmony and racial tolerance within the community. There are community arts projects being developed all around Australia which have been funded as part of the **Living in Harmony** program.

Web Site

www.sticksnstones.org.au is our web site. It has a section called the Gathering Ground, where people can post messages in text, graphics, photos etc. Within this section is a space called Art Works, where photos of the workshops and art work will be posted. The site also has information about the Sticks 'n' Stones project, TTSSNT and Tracks, the national Living in Harmony project, the workshop program and the Final Gathering. The web site will be updated regularly during 2000. Anyone can contribute to the web site, not just workshop participants. **Contact Karen at TTSSNT on (08) 89 85 33 11 or ttssnt@topend.com.au**

Workshops & Events

February – June 2000

The Sticks 'n' Stones program has four main sections:

- **Visual Arts**
- **Performing Arts**
- **Message Raft**
- **Final Gathering**

Visual artist Tim Newth and performing artist David McMicken are the creative directors of Sticks 'n' Stones. The program is based on the themes **This is me** (my story, my culture), **This is my neighbour** (sharing stories) and **This is the world** (linking stories). The story of Sticks 'n' Stones is being followed by photographer Elke Kerkhofs.

Groups

There are five workshop groups at Darwin High (mainstream and SIEU), Nightcliff High, Lajamanu community and the Buddhist Society. If you are not in a group, you can still be part of Sticks 'n' Stones by adding to the web site or coming to the Final Gathering. For information call **Karen at TTSSNT on 89 85 33 11.**

Cost

Sticks 'n' Stones will cover the cost of maintaining the web site, running the workshops (basic materials, creative facilitation, guest artists), producing the performance, and the final event. The cost of extra materials, artists or events requested by a group will not be the responsibility of TTSSNT and Tracks.

Workshop Program

Visual Arts

Workshops in sculpture and bannermaking. The focus is on exploring different ways of telling and listening to stories. Guest artist Joanna Barkman shares her textile skills. Cultural storytellers bring their stories. Participants share personal and cultural stories through making banners and sculptures.
Dates: February 21 – April 8

Performing Arts

Participants link their personal and cultural stories through dance and movement. Guest theatre artist Betchay Mondragon and songwriter/singer Allyson Mills share their performance skills. Cultural storytellers add to the stories about identity, place and experience with racial tension.
Dates: April 17 – May 19

Performances (times to be announced):

March 23: Skins – a look at different skin connections and colours. Lajamanu community.

May 14: Wesak – celebration of Buddha's birth, enlightenment and death. Buddhist Temple. Sticks 'n' Stones brings messages of harmony. Open to public.

May 19: Two-Fold Journey – reflections on growing up with Eastern and Western influences. Sticks 'n' Stones joins in with Tracks Dance. Open to public.

Message Raft

Participants reflect on Sticks 'n' Stones and assemble a "message raft" to launch at the Final Gathering.
Dates: June 5 – 16

Final Gathering

Sticks 'n' Stones exhibition and closing event, at the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory. Participants from all groups gather to exhibit their messages in sculpture, banners, dance, photography and video. In a closing ceremony, the "message raft" is sent out to sea. A cultural feast for participants follows this public event.
Date: June 16

Sticks 'n' Stones team

Sticks 'n' Stones was instigated by **Jenny Mitchell**, Coordinator of Torture and Trauma Survivors Service of the Northern Territory. Her work with refugees and migrants over the past 20 years inspired her to develop an art project for youth from a range of cultural backgrounds. She is on the Steering Committee for Sticks 'n' Stones.

Karen Manton is the Project Coordinator for Sticks 'n' Stones. Her experience includes project management radio production, multimedia production and writing for community arts, education and corporate projects. For questions about the web site or Sticks 'n' Stones in general, **contact Karen at TTSSNT on (08) 89 85 33 11.**

Tim Newth is a director and visual artist who works in community arts, dance and theatre. He has developed performances and community arts events with schools, communities and professional dance and theatre companies across Australia and overseas. He is well known for his large-scale outdoor events and work with the Aboriginal community of Lajamanu.

David McMicken works in the areas of dance theatre, community arts projects and large-scale performances with schools, community groups and remote Aboriginal communities. His experience in schools includes teaching drama, dance, choreography, and creative arts / performance work.

For specific questions about workshops, **contact David at Tracks on (08) 89 24 44 14.**

Tracks Inc.

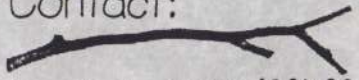
Tracks Inc. is co-directed by Tim Newth and David McMicken. Tracks is committed to providing people with access to creative skills to explore a sense of place and identity. Based in Darwin, Tracks runs a community dance program supported by the Northern Territory Office of the Arts and the Australia Council.

Tracks provides skills workshops for a range of community and cultural groups. The workshops often include guest artists from a range of skill areas, such as visual arts, music, writing and drama. Tracks also tours beyond Darwin to remote and regional areas for extensive workshop programs and residencies. They have worked in schools and communities and have ongoing connections with Lajamanu (Tanami Desert), Angurugu (Groote Eylandt), Yipirinya (Alice Springs) and Nguiu (Bathurst Island).

TTSSNT

TTSSNT is a non-government organisation which was established in 1996. It is funded by the Commonwealth Government, project by project, to provide a range of services to assist people from overseas who have experienced torture and trauma. Clients attending the service have come to Australia from countries such as Bosnia, Colombia, Croatia, East Timor, Ethiopia, Kurdistan, Serbia, Somalia and Sudan.

Contact:



Karen Manton, TTSSNT: (08) 89 85 33 11

David McMicken, Tracks Inc.: (08) 89 24 44 14

Torture & Trauma Survivors Service of the Northern Territory Inc.

Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs

YOU ME AUSTRALIAN

living in harmony

Tracks

Northern Territory Government Department of Arts & Museums

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