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## PRESS RELEASE

# 2013 GARMA FESTIVAL 9 – 12 August 2013

Garma'wu Buku\_lungthurra  
(GETTING PEOPLE TOGETHER)

The Board of the Yothu Yindi Foundation are delighted to announce the dates for the 2013 Garma Festival. Garma will be hosted by the Yothu Yindi Foundation over a four day period, from **Friday 9 August to Monday 12 August 2013**.

The recently upgraded Garma grounds and our new Garratjambal Auditorium is expected to alleviate previous operational challenges to the site come August. Our event will be held in the usual location at Gulkula, 40 kilometres outside the township of Nhulunbuy, Northern Territory.

The 2013 programme will consist of 2 forums that link together in the evening ceremony (*bunggul*) and celebration of song (*manikay*), art (*miny'tji*) and Yolngu dance.

The Key Forum, which deals with major contemporary issues of the Aboriginal world, will run from Friday morning to Saturday afternoon, its theme: ***A Bi-Partisan Project: Partnerships, Reconciliation & Future Prosperity.***

This theme will cover practical examples of co-operation, change and reform in remote Aboriginal Australia – Aboriginal groups and leaders will speak to the challenges, successes and failures of their endeavours to improve the lives of their people.

A series of presentations will focus on the particular challenge of getting consistent bi-partisan support for the enormous challenges faced by remote Aboriginal Australia. We will hear from the nation's leading thinkers and politicians and reflect on Indigenous governance issues.

A series of lectures and workshops will also focus on the issue of Constitutional Change as Yolngu clans and participants mark the **50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Yirrkala Bark Petition**.

On the afternoon of Saturday 10 August the Key Forum closes and the focus falls upon the cultural beauty and strength of Yolngu Australia – to unwind, relax, reflect and learn at a different pace.

The 2013 Garma cultural programme will see Yolngu clan groups from North East Arnhem Land inviting you to share with them their significant teachings drawn from centuries of practice: weaving, art, cultural education and yidaki workshops. These workshops are open to all registered guests, giving participants unprecedented opportunity to learn many aspects of Yolngu life.

As always, the mid-afternoons at Garma will be devoted to the treasured *bunggul* performances where the art and mystery of Yolngu ceremony and dance will be on display and interpreted by a series of senior Yolngu elders.

The Yothu Yindi Foundation is proud to again present *Garma* – where saltwater and freshwater mix, where balance is sought and solutions are found. *Garma* is an experience that should be enjoyed by every Australian – please join us this year at the *Garma Festival - Australia's Leading Indigenous Cultural Exchange Event*.

On-line registrations will be available to the public from 1 March, 2013 by visiting our website [www.garmafestival.com.au](http://www.garmafestival.com.au)

*For more information please call Denise Bowden, General Manager, Yothu Yindi Foundation on 08 89 412900/0488 522 150 or visit the website.*

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NOTICE\* The Yothu Yindi Foundation attempts to make programing available to our guests as early as possible to assist with travel planning & scheduling. At the time of this announcement, the programing is subject to change and we reserve the right to alter any content without notice. Garma programing is constant and ever-evolving up to the commencement date of this event, and where we can avoid any significant impact on our guests we will. Any substantial changes to the programing will be immediately posted to our website: [www.garmafestival.com.au](http://www.garmafestival.com.au)