

Artist: Dawn Sandy



Newsletter

2025 WHAT A YEAR!



Rodney Adams on Yindjibarndi Country. Photography by Jess Russell, courtesy of AACHWA.

Yinjaa-Barni Art has had a big and successful year, filled with exhibitions, prizes and strong representation at art markets and fairs. Highlights included Allery Sandy's first overseas trip to London, our very first on-Country camp, and the continued sharing of Yindjibarndi culture and stories with thousands of people across Australia and beyond.

At the heart of it all were many cups of tea, plenty of visits from the wanjas (dogs), and an amazing team of staff. Together, we made space for learning, connection and creativity—and we're proud of everything achieved this year.



IN THIS **NEWSLETTER** YOU WILL FIND:

a celebration of our 2025 projects, workshops, funding & achievements

2025 Exhibitions & Prizes

CONGRATULATIONS ARTISTS!

In 2025, Yinjaa-Barni artists have exhibited across a wide range of regional, national and international platforms, including:

- Dampier Hub, Dampier
- *Places around Ngarluma & Yindjibarndi Country*, Chalk Horse Gallery, Sydney
- *Ravenswood Australian Women's Art Prize*, NSW
- *Rising Stars*, Salon des Refusés, Darwin
- *Collie Art Prize*, Collie
- Red Earth Arts Precinct, Karratha
- *Jury Art Prize Courthouse Gallery*
- *Cossack*, Cossack
- *Where We Come From*, FORM Gallery, Perth
- *NATSIAA*, MAGNT, Northern Territory
- *Colours of Our Country*, London, Perth & Busselton
- *Adorned*, MJAC, Midland
- *Wildflowers*, Linton & Kay, Vasse Felix
- Yallingup Aboriginal Art, Yallingup



Melissa Sandy at FORM Gallery, 'Where We Come From' exhibition.

EXHIBITION SPOTLIGHT RODNEY ADAM & RENEE WALLY

We began 2025 on a high with partner duo Rodney Adam and Renee Wally presenting their first exhibition together, *Places around Yindjibarndi & Ngarluma Ngurra*, at Chalk Horse Gallery on Gadigal land, Sydney.

The exhibition expressed Rodney and Renee's deep connection to their ancestral homelands. The artists invited reflection on their Ngurra (Country), at a time of increasing development. Together, they offered a heartfelt tribute to place, story and history through their complementary artistic voices.



Rodney Adam & Renee Wally at Chalk Horse Gallery, 'Places Around Ngarluma and Yindjibarndi Ngurra' exhibition.

Yinjaa-Barni's 14-year relationship with Chalk Horse Gallery continues to be invaluable in sharing our artists' work beyond our community. The opening night was lively and engaging, with many visitors keen to connect with Rodney and Renee.

Congratulations to Rodney & Renee on this important show.

Art Market Success

MARKET SPOTLIGHT DAAF AUGUST

The Darwin Aboriginal Art Fair is always a highlight on our calendar as one of the most significant Indigenous art events. 2025 was no exception, with Allery Sandy, Donna Willis and Renee Wally proudly representing Yinjaa-Barni Art.

DAAF brought together more than 80 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander art centres for four vibrant days of market sales, attracting collectors, curators and art lovers from around the world seeking to ethically purchase artworks directly from Indigenous-owned art centres



Renee, Allery, Talitha, Rachael & Donna at the art market.

We also explored the Top End during our time, including a memorable visit to Crocodylus Park, visiting lots of art exhibitions and even heading backstage at the National Indigenous Music Awards.



Donna, Renee & Allery at the NATSIAA award ceremony celebration,

We loved the special events associated with opening night where there was a buzz in the air! Throughout the weekend, our booth drew a crowd and we had some great sales and engaging conversations.

A standout moment was attending the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Awards (NATSIAA) presentation night. For the third time, Allery Sandy was named a finalist, and we were honoured to celebrate alongside artists from across the country.

After three successful days of markets, we returned home inspired, proud, and already looking forward to DAAF 2026.

Art Market Success continued...

MARKET SPOTLIGHT NIAF JULY

In July, YBA travelled to Sydney to take part in the National Indigenous Art Fair (NIAF) for the first time, alongside 30 Aboriginal art centres and 20 independent stallholders from across the country.

Held at the Overseas Passenger Terminal, the Fair showcased work by emerging and established Indigenous artists, with all profits returning directly to participating art centres. YBA was proud to be one of only two participating art centres from WA.



Maddie in front of Sydney Harbour Bridge.

Sheryl Hicks and Madeline Sandy painted live throughout the

weekend, engaging visitors with their work against the stunning backdrop of Sydney Harbour.

After a busy weekend of markets and painting, the team spent Monday exploring Sydney, including a powerful visit to the Yolngu Power exhibition at the Art Gallery of New South Wales.

Our first NIAF was a great success, and we look forward to returning in the future.

Our year has been very busy!

We have attended 8 art fairs & markets domestically and nationally:

- 1.Revealed, Perth
- 2.Red Earth Arts Fair, Karratha
- 3.NIAF, Sydney (first time)
- 4.Colours of our Country, London
- 5.DAAF, Darwin
- 6.Colours of our Country, Perth
- 7.Murujuga Market, Hearsons Cove
- 8.Christmas market, Roebourne



Happy customers at Revealed art market with Melissa Sandy.

Artist: Treinaya Phillips



Allery Sandy goes to London

2025 COLOURS OF OUR COUNTRY

This year marked the 20th anniversary of the Colours of Our Country exhibition, proudly supported by Rio Tinto, with 100% of sales returned to artists, art centres and local communities. We were delighted that Yinjaa-Barni artist Allery Sandy was chosen as the 2025 signature artist and that the exhibition travelled to London for the very first time.

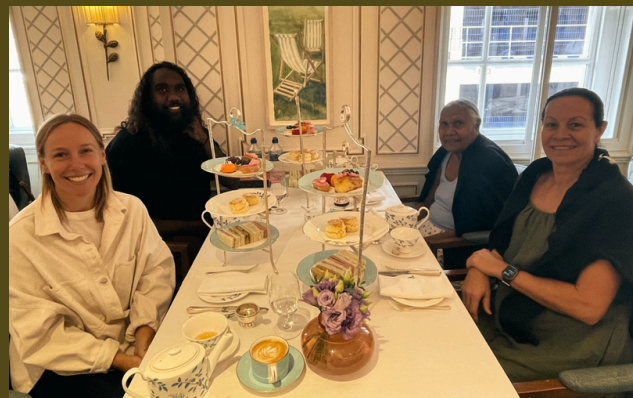
At 70 years old, this was Allery's first trip overseas – and her first experience of jet lag! She travelled to the UK with her grandson Maxie, manager Rachael and fellow artist Lynette Upton to share Pilbara artwork with an international audience.



Allery's signature artwork.

Allery and Lynette completed an artist-in-residence at Rio Tinto's London offices, enjoying conversations with staff and the public about their work and connection to Country.

The trip was filled with unforgettable highlights, including visiting Buckingham Palace, chatting with British police officers, watching the



British High Tea with Rachael, Maxie, Allery & Lynette.

Changing of the Guard, riding in a black taxi and a double-decker bus, enjoying high tea at Fortnum & Mason, and visiting the Emily Kam Kngwarray exhibition at Tate Modern. Allery shared her heartfelt gratitude to Rio Tinto for this incredible opportunity and thanked her team for their care, support and encouragement along the way.

Inaugural on-Country Camp

ARTIST CAMP TO YINDJIBARNDI COUNTRY, MILLSTREAM NATIONAL PARK

Recently, the Yinjaa-Barni mob gathered on Country at Millstream for a special camp focused on reconnecting, sharing stories, and making art together. Elders passed on important knowledge to the younger ones through yarning, walking Country and painting side by side, strengthening connections across generations.

Artists collected ochres from Millstream crossing and experimented with natural pigments, linen and collaborative works, opening new ways to express stories and ideas. There were big feeds, lots of laughs and those quiet moments that only happen back on Country. Since returning, the art centre has been full of fresh energy and new work.

Supported by AACHWA's *Our Country Moves* program, this camp has sparked something powerful. We're proud of what came from it and look forward to making on-Country camps an ongoing part of Yinjaa-Barni's journey.

Yindjibarndi Country looked after us, and we're thankful for the time spent there.



Justina Willis. Photography by Jess Russell, courtesy of AACHWA.



Rodney Adam. Photography by Jess Russell, courtesy of AACHWA.



Artists & the grannies.



Swag camp life at beautiful Millstream, Yindjibarndi Country.

Growing Our Skills

LEARNING SPOTLIGHT 'OUR BUSINESS' FORUM

Artists Donna, Justina and Emily travelled with staff to Port Hedland to attend the 2025 AACHWA Our Business Forum, held on Kariyarra Country at Spinifex Hill Studio. The forum brought together Aboriginal art centres from across WA to share stories, skills and ideas.

Highlights included hands-on linocut printmaking with Spinifex artists, a cultural tour of Hedland, and the opening of The Strelley Mob exhibition at Courthouse Gallery+Studio. The team also gained practical skills in gallery and studio work, alongside learning about ICIP, governance and funding.

It was a valuable gathering that strengthened connections across the Aboriginal arts community and supported our shared futures.



Spinifex Hill & YBA mob



AACHWA Branding workshop with Tobie George

2025 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

- Spinifex Hill multi-day art exchange, Hedland
- Branding & logo design workshops
- Budgeting and business planning course
- Project Management training
- Curator and arts worker install clinic with FORM Art Gallery
- Studio skills and painting with natural pigments with Mark Chapman
- 2-year governance training for directors with Karen Jacobs
- Women's Gathering – First Nations women in leadership conference



Artist Trelnaya Phillips

Artist: Madeline Sandy

Local Community Events



WICKHAM DAYCARE VISIT

Recently, Justina and Allery shared a very special morning with the children and staff at Wickham One Tree Daycare, joined by their grandson Peter, who delighted in spending the day alongside his and Aunty. Through gentle yarning, storytelling and hands-on painting, the artists showed that art begins long before a brush touches canvas—demonstrating how ochre rocks are ground into paint and inviting the children to join in. Allery also sang songs in language, and encouraging children and educators alike to listen, laugh and join in. Staff engaged deeply, asking thoughtful questions about culture and learning, and expressing gratitude for the chance to learn directly from Elders and artists. What a joy!

Artist:
Michelle
Adams

MURUJUGA MARKET & COMMUNITY CANVAS

We were proud to join the community at Hearson Cove to celebrate Murujuga's UNESCO World Heritage listing, recognising over 50,000 years of continuous culture and connection in north-west WA. Artists Rodney, Renee and Allery created a large collaborative canvas that quickly became a gathering place for children and visitors to paint, yarn and add their mark, while a market stall invited conversation and shared learning through art. Set against the beautiful light and scenery of the Cove, the day was relaxed, joyful and deeply meaningful—an honour for YBA to be part of such an important moment celebrating culture, country and community.



Murujuga Community Canvas

Staffing Update

2025

There were a few staffing changes in 2025. Firstly our wonderful manager Talitha relocated to Perth with her family which saw her take on a new part-time role, redeveloping our Jina-Jina clothing line.



Studio Coordinator Laura Povey

In her absence, Rachael moved from the position of Studio Coordinator into Manager.

We were very lucky to have the amazing Laura Povey join us as Studio Coordinator and the lovely Claudia Kraus as a casual Studio Assistant to help us in particularly busy periods (*which is always!*)



Team at Reveled Art Market

2026

In 2026, Talitha will depart YBA and we thank her for her many years of leadership and love. Laura will take on Talitha's *Project Officer* position ensuring our Jina-Jina line is ready for our eager customers in 2026!

2026 CONT...

Rachael has a new little YBA family member on the way so will head on maternity leave, and we look forward to welcoming an interim manager to guide the organisation.

We are also excited to welcome Treinaya to the team, joining our *Arts Workers* Melissa & Justina for one day a week. We can't wait to see what she brings to the role.

Licensing



Kade Moody licensing deal

INCREASED OPPORTUNITES

2025 has seen YBA expand its licensing opportunities, producing its own merchandise (prints, bucket hats & magnets) as well as further developing our commercial partnerships. It was particularly exciting to receive the products of our collaboration with homewares company *Koh Living*. We love seeing YBA artworks on travel mugs, scarves, keyrings and more!

Artist: Justina Willis



KOH Living merchandise

Funding

RIO TINTO

Now in it's final year of a three-year agreement, Rio Tinto's generous support has allowed YBA to grow it's operations, develop special projects, and recruit and retain staff. The funding has been critical to our success and growth. Thank you Rio Tinto for allowing us to dream big and realise our visions!

IVAIS

Over 2 years, Yinjaa-Barni Art will continue to receive Indigenous Visual Arts Industry Support (IVAIS) funding allowing us to employ Aboriginal Arts Workers and facilitate professional development opportunities, as well as diversify our income streams through the employment of a part-time *Project Officer* focusing on our clothing line and merchandise.

WOODSIDE

YBA was the lucky recipient of Woodside's \$100,000 anniversary grant towards new infrastructure. We are pleased to report that the wheels are in motion for this spend as we utilise the funding towards a revised strategic plan, the employment of a senior architect and an external project management team. Watch this space....

CHEVRON

Chevron provided YBA with \$15 000 towards a new box trailer, which has already made life so much easier, particularly for our on-Country camp and set up for markets and fairs. In January, we will wrap our trailer in our new YBA logo and design!



HORIZON POWER

Horizon Power kindly contributed \$5,000 to YBA for marketing efforts. We've used the support to redesign our YBA logo and fund graphic design for Melissa Sandy's upcoming solo exhibition. Our new logo is in the final stages—and we love it! Here's a sneak peek...



Support

AACHWA & FORM

AACHWA and FORM have been integral to the success of YBA this year, providing tailored support, PD opportunities, and workshops; always with a friendly smile! Thank you to both organisations and their lovely teams for the guidance and care.

*Thank you for an
amazing year.*



Return-to-Country camp for the Sandy family for Melissa Sandy's *The Void* exhibition documentary . Photography by Chad Peacock.

Artist: Sheryl Hicks

Now time for a well-deserved rest.
See you again on the 27th of January!