



Garma
2 - 5 August 2024

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Gurtha-Wuma Worrk-gu: Garma 2024 To Bring Fire, Strength & Renewal

Monday, 22 April, 2024

The Yothu Yindi Foundation (YYF) is delighted to announce that the theme for the 24th annual Garma Festival will be *Gurtha-Wuma Worrk-gu – Fire, Strength and Renewal*.

YYF Chairman Djawa Yunupingu said *Gurtha (Fire)* is a central concept in the Yolngu world; it is the foundation of life that gives strength, energy, and power. *Gurtha* is in the people, and is of the land.

Worrk-gu (Renewal) is in the life of the land and the people. It is the goodness that arises in the country after fire has burnt the land and cleansing rains have come.

Mr Yunupingu said just as the land springs back to life after fire, stronger and better than before, so too Yolngu people are prepared for the future after the referendum on an Indigenous Voice to Parliament.

“Many Australians are still hurting after the vote, which followed years of hard work by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leaders,” he said.

“We have felt the fire of Australians who didn’t approve of our proposals, who rejected us with their own intensity. That is now in the past and we choose to look to the future.

“My totem is the tongue of the fire, *Gurtha*, and *Gurtha-Wuma Worrk-gu* is deeply connected to the ceremonies of the land. Following fire the land and all that is in it renews and comes back to life – and with it the people. This is the Yolngu circle of life.

“A new generation is rising now to take on the challenges ahead, and these young men and women are now our leaders, looking up for us to find the future we need as a nation.”

New Garma Festival Director Joel Ulbricht said the theme was guiding the development of this year’s programming.

“The resilience and strength encapsulated in the concept of *Gurtha-Wuma Worrk-gu* will be reflected in the Festival, from the Youth Forum and the Key Forum to the different creative and artistic components that make Garma so special,” he said.

“The dialogue and determination that is building around the future of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people within the Australian nation will be a powerful theme at Garma this year”.

The 2024 Garma Festival will take place from 2-5 August at the Gulkula ceremonial grounds in northeast Arnhem Land in the NT.

Tickets are still available for local residents, and for schools participating in the Youth Forum. Visit the Sticky Tickets website to register.

For more information, please visit garma.com.au

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