

A Memorandum of Understanding between:-

**RM Williams Australian Bush Learning Centre
and the Wakka Wakka People,
Traditional Owners, Community and Family**

February 2010

1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this MOU is to establish a framework for an ongoing relationship between the RM Williams Australian Bush learning Centre (Board and Management) and the Wakka Wakka people, traditional owners, community and family (Advisory Committee) in order to:

- Identify, protect, conserve and present Aboriginal cultural heritage values of the Traditional Owners lands and waters in a sustainable and culturally appropriate way;
- Provide a means for achieving meaningful management and learning outcomes of the Visual and Performing Arts facility within the Centre precinct; and
- Establish effective communication between the Centre, the North Burnett Regional Council and the Wakka Wakka people, traditional owners, community and family.

The parties acknowledge that this arrangement is not entered into, nor is this memorandum written, as a formal or legal agreement, and will not be subject to legal jurisdiction in the Law Courts of Australia.

2. CONTEXT

This MOU has been developed in the knowledge that no additional resources to the Traditional Owners, the Centre or to the Council have been sought or provided for the implementation of this MOU. However both parties are committed to ensuring this MOU is implemented as effectively as possible using the resources currently available to it. It is anticipated that external resources may be provided from time to time and that the parties will cooperate to maximise these opportunities.

3. AGREEMENT

The parties agree to:

- Work together to design, build and fund the Coonambula slab hut and corroboree ring for use by the Wakka Wakka people to perpetuate traditional customs, storytelling and folk lore;
- Name the reconstructed slab hut in honour of the Wakka Wakka people, using a suitable descriptor name for the building, but for the purposes of the draft at this point to be called the Visual and Performing Arts facility;
- Reference the lemon tree site with a plaque acknowledging it's cultural importance to the Wakka Wakka people;

- Act cooperatively for the betterment of the Wakka Wakka people via cultural activities to be developed at the Centre;
- Establish an Advisory Committee with a terms of reference aimed at progressing this MOU and continuing a relationship with the Centre. This Advisory Committee may include representatives from the Wakka Wakka people, related families, community and family;
- Use best endeavours to establish and maintain the Visual and Performing Arts Centre as an active part of the RM Williams Australian Bush Learning Centre;
- Exchange information and knowledge in accordance with agreed protocols;
- Undertake educational and cultural programs at the Centre for locals and visitors in Wakka Wakka traditions of song, dance and performance where resources permit;
- Identify opportunities for enhancing and promoting Wakka Wakka culture through the centres visual arts and crafts, language, discovery programs, signage, publications and school education programs;
- Undertake joint projects between the Centre and the Wakka Wakka which contribute to joint objectives using both internal and external resources;
- Identify opportunities for employing or engaging Wakka Wakka people, traditional owners, community members and family at the Centre and off-site projects and activities;
- Facilitate Wakka Wakka people, traditional owners, community members and family participation at the Centre for undertaking cultural, social and economic activities which progress the outcomes sought throughout the North Burnett community and beyond;
- Use the Advisory Committee to progress opportunities and to resolve priority issues as might additionally be identified by the parties.

Signed by:

Neville Chapman (Neville Chapman) *Oscar Chapman* (OSCAR CHAPMAN) 18/02/2010
Connie Chapman (CONNIE CHAPMAN) *Yvonne Chapman* (YVONNE CHAPMAN)
John C. Chapman *Yvonne F. Chapman*
Rita Dodd (RITA DODD) *Fay West* (FAY WEST)