

MEDIA RELEASE

13 February 2008

Yinalung Yenu: women's journey An exhibition celebrating Australian Indigenous women

Discover Indigenous women's contribution to the Australian community through a new exhibition - *Yinalung Yenu: women's journey* - opening at the Powerhouse Museum on 21 March for Easter.

Yinalung Yenu: women's journey will take visitors on a journey into the sometimes unknown and often unexplained world of Indigenous Australian women. A world of people, land, law and ritual, of ceremony and celebration, of social order, language, story, song and dance, art, lore, plants and animals.

Through objects, photographs and personal interviews, *Yinalung Yenu* reveals the many roles Indigenous women have played in Australian society from traditional times to the present.

The exhibition explores areas where a woman's influence far outweighed those of Indigenous men, from their everyday activities as educators, child rearers, camp builders and food collectors, to their influential role as decision makers, artists, story tellers, peace keepers and healers.

This history is interpreted through a display of beautiful crafts from the Powerhouse Museum collection, including textiles, posters, ceramics and basketwork, each of which reveal the skill and artistry of Indigenous women.

The exhibition also features the stories of six prominent Indigenous Australian women: doctors and twin sisters Dr Marlene Kong and Dr Marilyn Clarke; artist, designer and businesswoman Bronwyn Bancroft; lawyer and university professor Larissa Behrendt; and respected elders Aunty Beryl Carmichael and Aunty Sue Blacklock.

Be inspired by the strength and expression of these Indigenous women who have become successful in contemporary Australian society and who have become role models for a new generation.

Yinalung Yenu: women's journey reflects the ways in which Indigenous Australian women's knowledge and perspectives of their world were often ignored until recent times. Today, they are carving their rightful place in Australia's Indigenous history and endowing the next generation of women with the knowledge to speak to their future for succeeding generations of women to come.

On View: *Yinalung Yenu: women's journey*
Date: From 21 March 2008
Address: Powerhouse Museum
500 Harris Street, Ultimo, Sydney
Telephone: (02) 9217 0111 or infoline (02) 9217 0444
Website: www.powerhousemuseum.com
Hours: 10.00am to 5.00pm (closed Christmas Day)
Admission: \$10 adult, \$5 child, \$6 concession and \$25 family.
Powerhouse Museum members and children under four admitted free.

Media information:

Mandy Campbell, Powerhouse Museum, Tel: 02 9217 0551 or email mandyca@phm.gov.au