

# Launch of Local Book

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On Wednesday 4th July, a group of people gathered outside Menkawun Ngurra to receive copies of nyawa Wanyjirra milimili from ethnobiologist Matt Flower. This book - a collection of plants and animals knowledge in the Wanyjirra language - was the conclusion of three years of work with Halls Creek elders Tiny McCale and Maggie Scott. Matt travelled from Darwin especially for this event.

Matt, who was studying at Macquarie

University in Sydney, approached the Kimberley Language Resource Centre in 2003 for assistance with his Masters thesis. He wanted to work with a group of Aboriginal language speakers, who were also willing to share their knowledge of country with him. His hope was to understand better how Aboriginal people see country and the plants and animals that are part of the landscape. As part of the agreement for getting help with his studies, he offered to produce something for the community to use.

Maggie and Tiny agreed to work with Matt, and the book was what they asked for. The book shows what they, and other Wanyjirra



Harry Dann, Jamsey McCale, Roy Skeen, Larrikin Munmin, Matt Flower, Tiny Wajayi McCale, Kathy Cox, Frankie McCale, Roberta Cox, Clinton Cox, Vicki Butters, Menkawun Ngurra staff member, Richard Tax, Jack Johnson, Kimberley Pickett, Nicky Foynes, Landon Punch

speakers at Inverway Station, taught Matt about their country. It has been put together in a way that is easy for their families and the community to use.

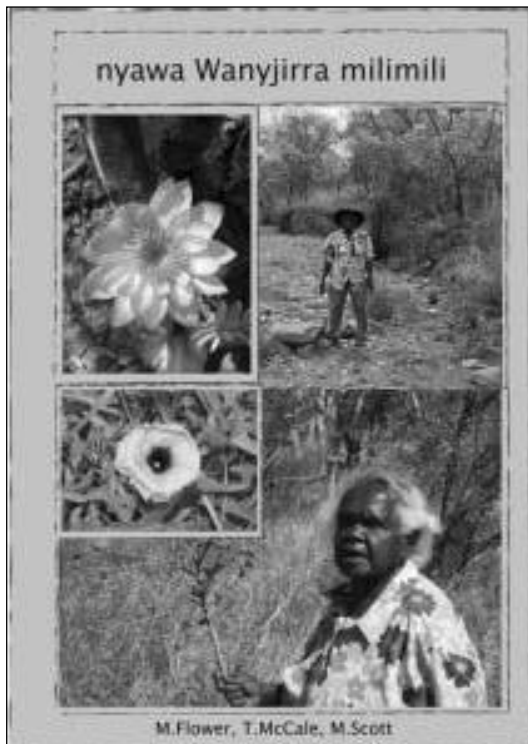
Unfortunately Maggie Scott was not able to be

present, but her daughter Kathy came on her behalf, along with lots of other members of Maggie and Tiny's families.

Matt would like to thank Selina Swan and Mick Alden for intro-

ducing him to the community of Halls Creek, and Dimbanah and Susan Swan and the rest of their family for all their support.

The book can be bought from the KLRC - retail price \$30.



The cover of the new book

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