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Bush products workshop with Pat Torres from Mayi Harvest

Kalumburu - December 2022

2022 // PREPARED BY ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIPS WA



Identifying and describing suitable planets-the micro viewpoint

Several local Kimberley bush plants were harvested on Kwini country for the Kalumburu workshop which was held at the Strong Women's Centre in Kalumburu. Margaret Peumora (founder of the Tramulla Strong Womens group) led the collection of bush plants this along with Pat Torres.

18 women attended the workshop across the week including some younger teenage women, with a strong interest in bush plants.

Participants were asked to examine in detail the plants they chose and to describe colours, textures, smells, tastes and touch.

Helen Davey travelled in from Honeymoon bay to attend the workshops and shared the process of making Rosella jam with the women. Helen is working on new labels and marketing of her products for the next tourism season

Kalumburu has been closed to tourism for 3 consecutive seasons due to Covid-19 and this workshop focused on the aspirations of women to participate in tourism and bush foods industry.





I like it when you really look at the plants and draw them, this way more ideas come to you."
workshop participant



I like making bush medicine and to learn from Pat, I get happy when I am learning new things.
Zerika Peurmora



Making Bush Lip Balms



Pat Torres led a workshop in making bush lip balm using essential oils, carrier oils bees wax and bush medicine plants.

Women participated in the workshop sharing the roles of collecting the plants, preparing the plants, adding essential oils, infusing the oil and beeswax and then labelling the containers.

The women were provided with resources for the women to continue to practice making lip balms and other bush balms.



Throughout the workshop women learnt how their art work and drawings could contribute to logo development, marketing and the creation of bush products for sale.

Pat also guided the women in the importance of sharing their unique story of the bush plants and Kwini country however at the same time protecting intellectual property and cultural knowledge.



Clare Wood from EPWA mapped out future aspirations with the young women and ideas for future enterprise development workshops. The women are interested in learning more about intellectual property and how to protect this.

Women also expressed an interest in more on country camps in 2023 to share bush knowledge and learn more from elders.





Thanks to Pat Torres for facilitating this workshop and to providing ongoing mentoring to women in Kalumburu who want to be involved in the bush foods and bush products industry.

EPWA, Kimberley Jiygas and Pat Torres are currently seeking sponsorship and funding for three women from Kalumburu to attend the First Nations Bush foods and Botanical Alliance in September 2023 in Darwin.

If you are interested in partnering with Kalumburu on their aspiration to participate in the bush foods economy or want to donate to the fundraising effort please contact Clare Wood at EPWA.

Acknowledgement for the images used in this photo story to Sarah Landro from Camera Story and Maria Fredericks from the Kalumburu Photography Collective.

Maria will be part of an exhibition at the Perth Centre for Photography in March 2023 as part of the Exposure Project; new voices in Indigenous Photography.

Thanks to Kalumburu Strong Womens Centre for hosting the workshop.



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