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Strong Women Business Gathering 2022

Birdwood Downs Station, West Kimberley

June 2022 // Prepared by Clare Wood
PHOTOS by Exposure New Voices in Australian Photography

The Strong Women Business Gathering, June 2022



The Strong Women Business Gathering is a two-day event offering a shared space for women and girls across the Kimberley to build connections, learn new skills and create opportunities to work together. Women have the strength and capability to nurture positive change in their communities from the ground-up. The event was an opportunity for women to come together to share stories, spark new ideas and take action. This was particularly important for women from Kalumburu as the community has been closed to visitors due to Covid-19 biosecurity restrictions



Winun Ngari Aboriginal Corporation organises the Strong Women Business Gathering and want to shine the light on girls and women who are thinkers, leaders and who give back to their community.

Winun Ngari invited the Tramulla Strong Womens Group and Enterprise Partnerships WA (EPWA) to host a workshop about their partnership and what has been achieved together.



Maggie Captain and Maria Fredericks drove from Kalumburu, Maria Maraltadj came up from Karratha, Margaret Peurmora travelled from Broome all to meet up at Birdwood Downs Station. Susannah Wallman and Clare Wood from EPWA also travelled up from the south to be there.

The workshop went really well. There was a small audience which was great as this was the first time the Tramulla Strong women had spoken at an event about their work. The women shared the challenges in reaching for their dreams of operating a business as well as the activities of the local drug action group. The workshop was a Q&A style panel with Clare.





Kalumburu Photography Collective and the Exposure; New Voices in Australian Photography Project

Maria Fredericks and Maria Maraltadj, with support from Sarah and Christine at Perth Centre for Photography, were paid alongside the 'New Look Ladies Collective' from Bidjyanga to take images and document the event.



This was a great opportunity for the Marias to grow in confidence in taking photos at formal events and they rocked it!

They took portraits, images of workshops and photographed the nighttime events.

Even young Bart is now following his Mum, Maria in photography!



Nurturing learning, relationships and partnerships

The two- day event was a great opportunity for networking and sharing knowledge. There were many workshops to attend including weaving, bush medicine, marketing, branding, collaborating, storytelling and more!

On the first night Pat Torres led a beautiful storytelling by the fire at which everyone in the circle shared some stories of their lives or of old people. The truth telling around the campfire was very moving and reminded everyone of the hardship people have survived and how important healing is.

On the final night there was a Junba which Rona Charles supported, a night market with lots of bush products, bush medicine and other small businesses. The event concluded with a concert headlined by Olive Knight.

The event was a huge success and everyone is very keen to attend future events like this!



Clare Wood and
Susannah Wallman

**enterprise
partnerships.**



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