



Aṛa Irititja

Aṛa Irititja protecting the past, accessing the future – Indigenous memories in a digital age.

An exhibition touring Australia, 2003 – 2005.

Aṛa Irititja: protecting the past, accessing the future – Indigenous memories in a digital age examines the way Aṅangu (Pitjantjatjara & Yankunytjatjara people) are using digitally-based information technology to protect and secure their past. Focusing on the work of the Aṛa Irititja, a project of the Pitjantjatjara Council, it details how materials of historical significance – previously inaccessible to Aṅangu – are tracked down, copied and digitally returned to communities living in remote parts of Central Australia.

Aṛa Irititja (stories from a long time ago) commenced in 1994 and has developed a unique, multimedia computer database of Pitjantjatjara/Yankunytjatjara historical records. The Project was instigated by Aṅangu communities through their wish to repatriate images and information previously removed from them.

Through narrative panels and three interactive computer programs, the exhibition examines six aspects of Aṛa Irititja's goals, development and achievements and invites visitors to consider broader issues pertaining to

- the use and ownership of cultural and historical materials of significance to Indigenous Australians;
- the difficulties and dilemmas associated with repatriating cultural materials; and
- the way in which new technologies can protect traditional and contemporary Indigenous culture material.

The exhibition highlights the ability of Aṅangu, under adverse and remote conditions, to encompass and achieve success in a state-of-the-art digital project.

Itinerary:

1 October 2003 to 22 November 2003	South Australian Museum, Adelaide
1 December 2003 to 26 January 2004	Alice Springs Public Library
9 February 2004 to 29 February 2004	Roxby Down Regional Gallery
8 March 2004 to 28 March 2004	Fountain Gallery, Port Augusta
5 April 2004 to 25 April 2004	Wudinna Artsplace
3 May 2004 to 23 May 2004	Memorial Hall Artspace, Ceduna
31 May 2004 to 20 June 2004	ArtsUp Supper Room Studio, Streaky Bay
28 June 2004 to 18 July 2004	Berri Arts Centre
26 July 2004 to 15 August 2004	Winmante Arts Inc, Glossop
23 August 2004 to 12 September 2004	Pomberuk Cultural Centre, Murray Bridge
20 September 2004 to 10 October 2004	Camp Coorong – Race Relations Education Centre, Meningie
18 October 2004 to 7 November 2004	Millicent Art Gallery
December 2004 to February 2005	Museum Victoria, Melbourne

The development and touring of this exhibition was assisted by Visions of Australia, a Commonwealth Government Program providing funding support to tour exhibitions of cultural material across Australia. Visions of Australia aims to provide all Australians, wherever they live, with better access to the nation's

- cultural heritage;
- historic, scientific and visual arts material; and
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture.

Additional information on Aṛa Irititja can be found at www.irititja.com