



Adelaide Baird and Raymond Buchanan at the book launch.



Some of those who attended the book launch in Cairns, in far north Queensland.

Kuku Yalanji celebrate

By Cairns correspondent
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The Kuku Yalanji people of Cape York are celebrating the launch of a book that recognises their traditional fire and land management skills.

'Yalanji Warranga Kaban:

Yalanji People of the Rainforest Fire Management', launched in Cairns, combines ancient knowledge and modern scientific research by environmental scientist Rosemary Hill.

The book shows Yalanji traditional culture and knowledge about fire, bush tucker, seasons, and some dreaming stories.

Dr Hill said: "Working together with Yalanji people on this book was a great honour - it has given Aboriginal people a chance to speak for themselves about Aboriginal fire management."

Yalanji people's fire management was deeply affected by traditional culture and law and they managed fire to protect the rainforest on their country and to keep

small patches of open forest. Dr Hill said this dispelled the myth that Aboriginal fires destroyed Australian rainforests.

'Yalanji Warranga Kaban' is written in Yalanji and English.

Eileen Walker, a Kuku Yalanji woman living in Wujal Wujal, said the book includes photographs of people who



A big mob was on hand to take part in the launch of their book.



Koori Mail

Wednesday 26/1/2005

Page: 35

Section: General News

Region: National Circulation: 7,991

Type: Magazines Lifestyle

Size: 549.49 sq.cms.

Published: Bi-Monthly

Brief: JCU
Page 2 of 2



had passed away, but that should not stop people from reading it.

“The book is for everybody to read and understand and know more about language,” she said

Also involved in the book were the Rainforest Co-operative Research Centre, Cape York Land Council, Wujal Wujal Aboriginal Community Council, Bamanga Bubu Ngadimunkiu, the Australian Conservation Foundation,

The Natural Heritage Trust, James Cook University and publisher Little Ramsay Press.

All proceeds from the sale of the book return to Yalanji people for language, land management and culture projects. The book can be obtained from photographer Steven Nowakowski, 0402 810 411, Little Ramsay Press, PO Box 4761, Cairns, Qld, 4870, Australia or Ramsaypress@ozemail.com.au



● LEFT: Brother and sister Daniel and Judy Dick.

● ABOVE: Lizzie Walker, Seraya Tranby and Stanley Walker were among those who attended the launch.