

For them, by them

Focus on talents of youth

Story by ALF WILSON



ABORIGINAL and Torres Strait Islander youth explore themes, issues and social events that define what it means to be a young

Indigenous person in north Queensland in a new exhibition.

'Depth of Field' features the work of Melinee Jackway, Kathleen Namok, Harry Reuben, Krysten Harvey, Tania Haines, Eunice Webster, Tim Nardoo and Monique Satrick, who have sought to present a non-traditional representation of Indigenous identity through photographic glimpses of local places, people and communities.

Pinnacles Gallery, in Townsville,



facilitated workshops in which Indigenous new media artist Jenny Fraser tutored and mentored the exhibition participants to develop a personal vision and the technical skills to take and manipulate digital photographs.

"What was made obvious is that taking a good photo comes naturally, and that's a sure sign of advanced visual literacy," she said.

"The fruits of our labour, the sharing spirit and insider perspective imparted in the 'Depth

of Field' exhibition will go a long way towards the FUBU Philosophy: For Us By Us... and beyond."

In the months following the workshops, local artists Rachel Tipoti and May Kabay mentored the young artists, assisting with the selecting and editing of photos.

Workshops

"Depth of Field" will be shown at the Pinnacles Gallery Riverway Arts Centre, 20 Village Boulevard, Thuringowa Central in Townsville,

● LEFT: Artist Jenny Fraser (front, left) led a workshop at Pinnacles Gallery. Back, from left, Tania Haines (Palm Island), Rachel Tipoti, Harry Reuben (Palm Island), Kathleen Namok (Townsville), Krysten Harvey (Palm Island) and May Kaybay. Front, from left, Jenny Fraser with Tim Nardoo (Palm Island) and Eunice Webster (Palm Island). Away when the photo was taken were Monique Satrick-Manning and Melanee Satrick-Jackway (both from Townsville).

● RIGHT: A work by one of the emerging photographers on the walls of Pinnacles Gallery.



until 9 August. The exhibition was opened officially on Saturday, with talks addressing themes of the importance of maintaining healthy Indigenous communities.

Harry Reuben said he had photographed Indigenous youth because he felt they were often misrepresented in the national media.

"I want to show happy Indigenous young people from Palm Island," he said.

The *Koori Mail* visited Pinnacles

Gallery on July 6 and found some wonderful real-life and grass-roots snaps on the walls.

Images in the exhibition include the Palm Island foreshore, a boxer, and youngsters.

Big Eye Aboriginal Animations from Australia and Canada also screened as part of the show. Big Eye, curated by Jenny Fraser and Rennae Hopkins, explores a cross-tribal exchange of ideas and world views through animation techniques.