

Curtain goes up on Black History month

LIFESTYLE

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

04 AUG 09 @ 01:54PM BY STAFF WRITER



- Campbell Newman

BRISBANE: Lord Mayor Campbell Newman, pictured, today launched the inaugural Brisbane Black History Month arts program to celebrate the city's Aboriginal and Torres Straits Islander culture.

Black History Month will run until September 6 and is made up of 30 cultural events led by Indigenous elders, traditional dancers, authors, narrators, artists and academics.

An exclusive Brisbane exhibition on Michael Aird's photographic book *Brisbane Blacks*, a movie series including award-winning *Ten Canoes*, the Brisbane book launch of Marcus Pedro's *Three Warriors Within*, and lessons in curing toothache from Elder and cultural advisor Aunty Vi Mc Dermott are highlights.

Families and Community Services Chair Geraldine Knapp said 2009 was a significant year for celebrating Brisbane's Indigenous heritage.

"This year, Brisbane marks its 150th year as a municipality and it's the same year we hosted the national NAIDOC celebrations and NAIDOC ball," Cr Knapp, also pictured, said.

"It was important to Council to pay tribute to our cultural heritage in a milestone year when our history, and who we are, is top of mind for many Brisbane people."

Cr Knapp said Black History Month aimed to help people understand and recognise the heritage passed on by Brisbane's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander ancestors.

She said the program featured panel discussions, workshops, performances, activities and events on law and land, literature, children's health issues, art, dance and cinema.

Activities for children include a story telling session with respected Elder of the Jinda Waka Waka People and the Inala Elders Aunty Vi, who will read from her new children's book, *Munyourbarn: Look and Learn An Aboriginal Elders Stories*.

Families can spend an afternoon with long-time Inala resident Aunty Bertha to learn traditional weaving and about her home island, Erub (Darnley Island).

Some highlights of Black History Month :

Brisbane Blacks: A Photographic Exhibition

Monday 3 August – 29 August (9am to 4pm) - Brisbane Square Library foyer

Brisbane Blacks by Michael Aird is a photographic exhibition of his book of the same name. It features 40 images of the Brisbane Aboriginal community and provides a unique insight into the lives of Aboriginal people through stories that may otherwise have remained untold. The memories shared by these people range from light-hearted to deeply moving, and combine to portray a proud, vibrant picture of life in Brisbane.

Book Launch *Three Warriors Within* by Marcus Pedro

Wednesday 26 August (10am to 11am)

BCC library, Brisbane Square, Tiered Theatre, Ground Level

For Marcus Pedro, growing up in the Torres Strait Islands was a struggle. Unable to read or write, ridiculed and bullied, Marcus succeeded in gaining a sense of self by excelling in sports and martial arts, and by later joining the police force. Through his journey he discovered his three warriors within: Brave, Gentle and Humble; teaching self-confidence, self-control and self-respect. Marcus is now a sought-after speaker, sharing his wisdom with young people everywhere. *Three Warriors Within*, with art work by artist Alick Tipoti, is an inspirational gift book for those in search of the courage to create a better future.

<http://www.wherelive.com.au>

WHERE I LIVE
LOCAL NEWS, SPORT & EVENTS
COM.AU