

CAMD Case Study – INDIGENOUS CULTURES: *ningenneh tunapry and nawi*

Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery/Australian National Maritime Museum

Gallery opened 2007/conference to be held 2012



Using collections to regenerate traditional practice

ningenneh tunapry, which means to give knowledge and understanding, is the name of the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery's (TMAG) Aboriginal Gallery developed with the guidance of the Tasmanian

Aboriginal Advisory Council and the Tasmanian Aboriginal Community and opened in 2007. The gallery and its exhibitions provide insight into the traditional and contemporary cultural practices and concerns of Tasmanian Aboriginals. It provides the basis for a schools' program to connect school children to the deep culture of the Tasmanian Aboriginal people.

One of the initiatives associated with the gallery has been the building of a full size bark canoe by Aboriginal community members – a project that has not been attempted in over 170 years. The project utilised the museum collections to restore the knowledge of building traditional Tasmanian Aboriginal bark canoes. This work was carried out in close collaboration with Indigenous groups in a way which also changes public perceptions of Indigenous and non-Indigenous relationships. TMAG's Bark Canoe project won a Knowledge Management Gold Award (in the Cultural Initiatives Category) at the ACTKM Awards for public sector organisations.

http://www.tmag.tas.gov.au/learning_and_discovery/learning_resources/current_resources/ningenneh_tunapry

Such is the interest in bark canoes that the Australian National Maritime Museum is soon to host the first national conference on Australia's Indigenous watercraft in order to survey knowledge and the existence of craft in museum and other collections. 'nawi: Exploring Australia's Indigenous Watercraft' which will take place in 2012, seeks to gain a national picture of more than 40,000 years of Australia's maritime history. It will bring together practitioners and theorists and include demonstrations and talks by traditional canoe builders and people engaged in reviving Indigenous canoe building practices.

<http://www.anmm.gov.au/site/page.cfm?u=1921>