

07 July 2022

### **‘Our Barunga Dogs’ Book Launch**

Last Friday was a very exciting day for kids in the Barunga community, as we launched the new book ‘Our Barunga Dogs’.

The book came about through the Deadly Dogs Storytelling Project as a collaboration between Council’s Sport & Recreation and Animal Management programs. It is filled with drawings and stories created by the Barunga kids about their beloved dogs.

Kaylene Doust, Animal Program Manager and Vet Nurse at Roper Gulf Regional Council, has been coordinating the project.

“The Deadly Dogs Storytelling Project is a celebration of the love, companionship and importance of dog ownership encountered during our work in remote Indigenous communities,” said Kaylene.

“This collection comes directly from community kids and recognises the role these dogs play in community and family life.”

A storytelling workshop was delivered in Barunga as part of their Easter school holiday program. The workshop was facilitated by Johanna Bell from Story Projects, who designed and published the book.

As part of the workshop, participants were encouraged to talk about their dog, what makes them special, and why they love them. This message ties in to Council’s larger Animal Management program, which teaches that a happy and healthy dog is less likely to be ‘cheeky’ and cause issues in community.

Children went around the community and took photos of their dogs, which they then used to draw the pictures which illustrate the book.

There is also an audio element to the book, where if readers scan a QR code they can listen to the Barunga children talk about their dog in Kriol.

Listen to the audio [here](#).

On Friday 01 July, Council invited the children who have stories and drawings in the book to an official book launch at the Barunga Library, where the children were presented with their copy of the book.

“It was very special to see the kids looking through the book at the launch, seeing their own names and drawings published”, said Kaylene.

“Thank you to everyone who helped with the book launch, especially Aden who is Council’s Sport and Recreation Coordinator in Barunga, who has been a great support for the project”.

‘Our Barunga Dogs’ has also made it into the NT Library. It can be found in both hard copy and as a digital book as part of the Territory Stories archive.

This means that the book will be held as part of a uniquely Territorian collection which will be accessible to anyone around the world.

You can view the book [here](#).

The Council wishes to congratulate Kaylene for her work in putting together this project, and to Johanna and the team from Story Projects for creating something that will be cherished by the community and the region for years to come.

A big thank you to the Sport and Recreation staff and to the National Indigenous Australians Agency for the ongoing funding and support which has made this project possible.

ENDS

For more information, please contact:

Bethany O’SULLIVAN  
Communications Coordinator  
(08) 8972 9024  
[bethany.osullivan@ropergulf.nt.gov.au](mailto:bethany.osullivan@ropergulf.nt.gov.au)



Image Description: Storytelling Workshop in the Easter School Holidays with Johanna from Story Projects and Delma McCartney, Media Officer.



Image Description: 'Our Barunga Dogs' Book Launch on Friday 01 July 2022 at the Barunga Library.



Image Description: Lorise Lee with her drawing and story of her dog Arna in 'Our Barunga Dogs'.