

MIRIMA DAWANG
WOORLAB-GERRING
LANGUAGE AND
CULTURE CENTRE



Welcomes & Greetings on Miriwoong Country

Thank you for your interest in opening your event by referring to the traditional owners of the lands, the Miriwoong people. They have been inhabiting this area for thousands of years and are formally recognised through Native Title. By acknowledging the traditional owners or by asking them to conduct a greeting or welcome, you openly acknowledge the fact that Miriwoong people have been living here as custodians for millennia before European settlement changed this landscape.

Local Indigenous organisations (Mirima Language Centre - MDWg, Waringarri Arts - WAA, MG Corporation) have worked together to establish a protocol for welcome speeches and performances and will collaborate to ensure that these occur in an appropriate and respectful manner.

Our services and fee schedules are well-aligned and you may decide which organisation you would like to manage the booking. Contact details are shown below. On some occasion, in case we struggle with availability, we may refer you to a partnering organisation.

Agreed options for showing respect to traditional owners.

1. Acknowledgement: (Performed by a non-Miriwoong event organiser)

This is an Acknowledgement of Miriwoong People and their Country.

It can be presented by the organisers of an event or meeting and may follow a recommended template (see page 3). This acknowledgement is spoken in English by the event presenter.

COSTS: n/a

2. Greeting/Event Welcome: (Performed by an approved Miriwoong person on behalf of Miriwoong people)

A Greeting is now an acceptable means of acknowledging the presence of visitors on Miriwoong soil. Strictly speaking, we do not define this as a "Welcome to Country" as it does not reflect the traditional way of admitting visitors to Miriwoong land through a *Mantha*.

However, it is an appropriate and usual way for introducing meetings and events and a Greeting is always conducted by a recognised and approved representative of the Miriwoong people.

COSTS: \$350 (ADDITIONAL COSTS - AFTER HOURS: + \$50; WEEKENDS: +\$150)

3. Mantha or traditional Welcome to Country: (Performed by an approved Miriwoong person on behalf of a particular Dawang or area)

A *Mantha* ceremony traditionally occurs at sites of cultural significance rather than within town boundaries. However, Miriwoong people understand the desire of some visitors to undergo a traditional way of being welcomed and are prepared to arrange a *Mantha* on site for events within Kununurra.

The Miriwoong people performing the *Mantha* are traditional owners specific to the area where the *Mantha* is performed. The ceremony can be described as a blessing which involves visitors being sprinkled with water over head, hands and feet by traditional owners using river red gum twigs. During the performance of *Mantha*, each visitor is acknowledged as being present on Miriwoong Country.

A *Mantha* is also performed by approved Miriwoong people at Waringarri Aboriginal Arts as part of cultural tours.

COSTS: \$550 UP TO 20 PEOPLE; \$750 UP TO 50 PEOPLE (ADDITIONAL COSTS - AFTER HOURS: +\$200; WEEKENDS: +\$500)

*Please note that neighbouring groups (e.g. the Gija people) may conduct a smoking ceremony as a welcome to their country. This is not a traditional practice by Miriwoong people who use water to welcome visitors. Please inquire regarding smoking ceremonies on specific occasions.

**A dance performance follows additional protocols and is not discussed in this information sheet. The logistics and costs for a dance performance exceed the scope of greetings and welcomes; a separate information sheet can be made available for further details.

We would like to thank you for considering and respecting Miriwoong people and wish you all the best for your event.

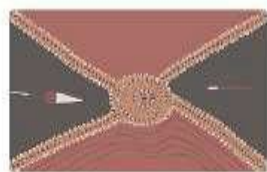
Contact details for local organisations delegated to arrange welcomes and greetings:

- Mirima Dawang Woorlab-gerring Language and Culture Centre (MDWg): info@mirima.org.au; Ph. (08) 9169 1029.
- Waringarri Aboriginal Arts (WAA): manager@waringarriarts.com.au; Ph. (08) 9168 2212.
- MG Corporation - TBC

Booking form

Please complete and return to info@mirima.org.au or manager@waringarriarts.com.au depending on who you would like to manage the booking.

Contact NAME:	
Contact PHONE:	
Contact E-MAIL:	
ORGANISATION:	
Type of service requested:	<input type="checkbox"/> Greeting/Event Welcome (Base rate: \$350)
	<input type="checkbox"/> Welcome to Country with <i>Mantha</i> (at venue) (Rates: \$550/\$750)
	<input type="checkbox"/> On-country welcome with <i>Mantha</i> → Please inquire
Additional costs:	<input type="radio"/> After hours fee (\$50 Event Welcome after 4pm on week days)
	<input type="radio"/> After hours fee (\$150 Event Welcome on a weekend)
	<input type="radio"/> After hours fee (\$200 <i>Mantha</i> after 4pm on week days)
	<input type="radio"/> After hours fee (\$500 <i>Mantha</i> on a weekend)
TOTAL FEE	\$ _____
Event date:	
Event location, address:	
Event start time:	
Event Overview:	



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Examples for an Acknowledgement of country are displayed on the next page.

Acknowledgement of Country - Suggested text

Please note that there is no fixed formula - the following are just proposals. Organisers have the liberty to vary, expand or fine-tune the following acknowledgements at their own discretion.

An Acknowledgement of Country is read in English by a non-Miriwoong person.

Example 1:

"We acknowledge the Miriwoong people as the original custodians of the land on which we live and work."

Example 2:

"We wish to acknowledge the Miriwoong people as the traditional custodians of this land and thank them for allowing us to hold our meeting in their country. We pay our respect to their Elders past, present, and emerging."

Example 3:

"I begin today by acknowledging the Miriwoong people, who are the traditional custodians of the land on which we gather today. I pay my respects to their Elders past and present."