

CAN



Media Release

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Sharing photos and sharing history

CAN and the State Library of Western Australia's Storylines collection will be hosting a photo sharing day in Busselton as part of the Bush Babies Community Arts project.

The aim of the project is to bring together Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people from all walks of life, to share photos they might have, that document the Noongar history of the South West region of WA

CAN's photo sharing workshops in other towns have led to Noongar families uncovering historical photos featuring themselves and their family members that they did not know existed.

"Our experience with the Bush Babies project is that people often do not realise the personal or historical significance of their photo collections until they are shared and viewed by others," said CAN Managing Director Pilar Kasat.

The sharing of private photo collections can also result in findings of national significance.

Earlier this year, a collection of 325 photos was unearthed during a photo sharing workshop in Goomalling. The images, taken by Noongar woman Mavis Walley during the 50's and 70's, captured day to day life on the Reserve. The photos were donated to the library by late photographer's daughter, Dallas Phillips. She had been carrying the slides around in an old chocolate tin for decades, unaware of their historical worth until she attended a CAN workshop.

The Busselton workshop will include presentations of the Storylines online photo archive, photo sharing and copying and story recordings with acclaimed Oral Historian historian Bill Bunbury.

The general public is invited to bring their old photos along to two photo sharing workshops at the Busselton Library, Stanley Street, on Thursday 26 of November. 10am – 2pm and 5-7pm. Light refreshment will be provided.

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Government of Western Australia
Department of Culture and the Arts



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About Community Arts Network (CAN)

CAN is an exciting and dynamic organisation working towards positive social change through community arts and cultural development practice.

Over the last thirty years CAN has been inspiring and mobilising WA communities who experience social disadvantage, to creatively express their unique stories through a diversity of art mediums.

About Storylines

Storylines is an online archive for the State Library's digitised heritage collections relating to Aboriginal history in Western Australia. Members of the public can view, print and engage with thousands of photographs, as well as a growing number of oral histories, historical documents, sounds and movies.

Storylines assists in the digital return of photos and other materials directly to Aboriginal families, communities and people. It is also helping to identify many of the photographs in the J.S. Batty Collection which are currently unidentified and unknown.

For more information about CAN's Bush Babies project:

<http://www.canwa.com.au/project/bush-babies/>

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