



MEDIA RELEASE

Issued Wednesday, 1st October 2008

The cooking is in the Kup

Ingham is set to take cooking to the next level with the Kup Murri cook-off competition this Thursday at Mungalla Station. Mercurio's Menu will be filming the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander traditional cooking techniques for an upcoming Townsville region episode. Various traditional custodian groups will showcase their cooking talents and Paul Mercurio will judge the competition to determine the Kup Murri winner.

Kup Murri is a method of traditional underground cooking popular in North Queensland within Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders. The Kup Murri consists of a shallow pit dug in the ground, which is filled with rocks, wood and leaves. The rocks are preheated in a fire and once hot enough, put aside to make the open pit oven. The food is wrapped in banana or coconut-leaf baskets before being put inside the pit. The rocks are placed back on top of the food so it cooks evenly. To seal in the heat, more leaves and sand are placed on top. The food usually cooks for several hours before coming out of the ground, a feast fit for a king.

Locals are invited to attend this special event, with residents from Townsville able to join Kookaburra Tours for return transfers to Ingham. The public are invited to Mungalla Station from 5:30pm to enjoy the celebration.

Townsville Enterprise General Manager Destination Marketing and Development Brent Randall said this media coverage would highlight the indigenous experiences available in the region.

"Indigenous tourism is emerging as a strong product for the Townsville region, offering a number of different Indigenous based experiences. This event has given the region's Indigenous operators a great chance to showcase their culture and we are really excited to have the opportunity and involvement with Mercurio's Menu for the second time."

The program has returned to the region through sponsorship from Townsville Enterprise Limited, Townsville Airport Limited and new sponsor Dreamtime Tracks which is being developed through the Cultural Centre Townsville.

Channel 7 plans to broadcast the Townsville episode to the nation early next year.

Kup Murri is open to the public from 5:30pm, Thursday 2nd October.
Cost: \$15.00 for adults, \$7 for children and pensioners, \$30.00 for families 2+2.

Return transfers from Townsville
Depart: 3:30pm
Return: 9:00pm
Cost: \$30pp, includes transfers and commentary
Contact: Tony O'Connor, Kookaburra Tours on 0448 794 798

ENDS

Photo opportunities and short interviews available onsite
When: 5:00pm, Thursday 2nd October
Where: Mungalla Station, Ingham

For more information contact Therese Toy on (07) 4726 2759