

MILLION DOLLAR ABORIGINAL ART



Earth's Creation by Utopia's Emily Kame Kngwarreye sold for over a million dollars.

AN INDIGENOUS artwork has broken the \$1 million price barrier for the first time, with a painting by Territory artist Emily Kame Kngwarreye selling for \$1,056,000 at an auction in Sydney last night.

Kngwarreye's epic contemporary work *Earth's Creation* smashed all previous records for indigenous art when it was snapped up by Tim Jennings from Alice Springs' Mbantua Gallery at the Lawson-Menzies Aboriginal Art auction in Randwick.

The previous record of \$780,000 set by Rover Thomas' *All That Big Rain Coming From Topside* in 2001, was left by the wayside at the auction, which was one of the largest and most valuable indigenous art sales ever held.

More than 300 art works, including paintings by acclaimed Territory artists Clifford Possum Tjapaltjarri and Albert Namatjira, went under the hammer, with Lawson-Menzies predicting that total sales would be in excess of \$5.5 million.

Aboriginal art is an industry estimated to be earning over \$500 million in annual sales nation-wide.

Filming dates announced

FILMING of Baz Luhrmann's, *Australia* will take place on Darwin's Stokes Hill Wharf from Monday 2 July to Thursday 5 July and on Tuesday 10 July and Wednesday 11 July.

Filming will also take place in a Darwin warehouse on Friday 6 July and Monday 9 July.

Stokes Hill Wharf will remain open for business throughout filming, however as the film will require full use of the car parking on the wharf, alternative car parking and a shuttle bus service will be in place.

It is the most ambitious film ever produced in Australia.

"The filming of this big budget film in Darwin will provide a long-term boost to tourism and there will also be opportunities for Territorians to be part of the action as either volunteers or extras," said Chief Minister Clare Martin.

Mineral Sands to be shipped to China

TIWI ISLANDS mineral sand miner Matilda Minerals is stockpiling heavy minerals concentrate at Port Melville on Melville Island in preparation for shipment to China in mid-June.

The mineral sands contain about 30 different minerals but are particularly high in zircon and rutile.

The company has an off take agreement with Ashton Chemicals in China to take the entire eight years of Tiwi Island production.

The company expects to export 32,000 tonnes of heavy minerals concentrate worth \$18 million each year for eight years.

Strong motor vehicle sales

THE ABS Sales of New Motor Vehicles, April 2007 reports a 14% Territory increase in sales in the year to April 2007 compared to the year to April 2006.

"New vehicle sales are a good indicator of how an economy is travelling – and this result shows we're still on the right track," said Treasurer Syd Stirling.

Nationally, sales increased by 8% in the year to April 2007.

Although monthly data for the Territory can be volatile, seasonally adjusted sales increased by 2% (to 883) in April 2007 compared to March 2007.

Nationally, there was a 1.1 % decrease.

APEC Energy Ministers to meet in Darwin

ON 27-30 MAY 2007, the Hon Ian Macfarlane, Federal Minister for Industry, Tourism and Resources, will host the 8th Energy Ministers Meeting (EMM8) in Darwin.

The EMM8 will focus on the challenges facing APEC economies in meeting growing energy demand in a secure, sustainable and equitable manner.

The Meeting will also look to advance policies and technologies that promote the development of clean energy and the improvement of energy efficiency while reducing the impact on the environment and addressing climate change objectives.

The APEC 2007 year will be the most significant series of international meetings ever hosted by Australia.

APEC's 21 members represent 56% of global GDP and almost half (44%) of world trade.