



A selection of indigenous tools to create art and fire.

Top Didj Cultural Experience & Art Gallery in Katherine is where you will find Manuel Pamkal, a local Dalabon Aboriginal man who is the face for AATKings 2019 Australian Brochure

RESIDENT CULTURAL EXPERIENCE

THE HEART OF INDIGENOUS CULTURE

Although Manuel only attended school for one day (because he couldn't speak English), he is now a Brolga Award-winning artist and presenter at Top Didj, where he eagerly shares his Aboriginal culture, traditions and skills with visitors. 'We're so proud of Manuel and the experiences he so openly shares,' Top Didj owners Petrena and Alex Ariston said. 'Everyone loves his stories and learning the art of spear throwing, fire lighting, painting and more.' At 15 Manuel learnt the art of Rarrk painting on bark from his father, but it wasn't until he began working as a groundsman at Barunga School that he learnt English from his fellow workers. Now Manuel can explain to visitors what it was like for Aboriginal people living in the bush, teach them about Aboriginal culture and involve them in traditional hands-on activities. This year Manuel's life was also

broadcast in the ABC Australian Story episode, 'Call the Doctor', about Dr Tim Duncan's life-changing experiences in the NT. Tim and Manuel formed an unlikely friendship forged out of near-death experiences that shaped the rest of their lives. Top Didj & Art Gallery has a collection of quality Aboriginal art, didgeridoos and artefacts with many of the works created on site. Manuel's twice-daily cultural experience promotes a positive exchange with Aboriginal people and is an ideal addition to a family holiday, school excursion or conference group trip. **If you're looking for something particular, have an artist in mind or need to find out more about Manuel's Cultural Experience, visit Top Didj Cultural Experience & Art Gallery, 363 Gorge Road, Katherine. Ph: 0414 888 786 sales@topdidj.com www.topdidj.com**



Discover the techniques used to paint.



Manuel creating fire.



See incredible Top End indigenous art.



Learn how to throw a spear with Manuel.



Manuel shows how to make a fire when in the bush.