Dear friends, we are exploring hopefully the possibility of visiting Nauiyu (Daly River) again this year, 12-16th August. Again we would go trustingly in the spirit of pilgrimage, offering ourselves to what may appear, letting go of expectations, open to the place and people and each other, and to the Spirit, and hoping that somehow our presence may hold something for those there. As during our visit last year, we would begin and end each day together with times of meditation, trusting in the spirit of dadirri, that deep inner listening and quiet silent awareness, being with us over the days. 8-9-10 pilgrims would work well.

The plan would involve

1. Each to book their flights to and from Darwin.
2. Each to book accommodation, we stayed at Banyan Farm nearby last time which worked well
3. Each sharing in the cost of food and bus hire
4. Each responsible for paying the Miriam Rose Foundation for their facilitation of the cultural program

Notes from our visit in 2018… we’d hope costs to be similar this year (fyi 3. and 4. Combined cost was around $920)

* The driving time Darwin to Nauiyu (Daly River) is about 3 hours (221 km via National Highway 1 and Daly River Rd/State Route 28). We can hire the 12 seater mini-van + luggage trailer from Thrifty for around $100-$150 per person for these days
* MRF advises their preferred ***accommodation*** in Daly River is Banyan Farm [http://www.banyanfarm.com.au/accomodation/](http://www.banyanfarm.com.au/accomodation/%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank) they can offer a range of accommodation from share rooms and facilities or rooms with en suites, the possibility for each to have the level of accommodation they prefer.
* ***Food*** was a combination of self-catering (some will shop for supplies in Darwin) with Banyan Farm offering an evening meal. Last time we looked at food options with the group who is going to be there, it can be quite simple and adequate.
* ***facilitation*** of the cultural program at Nauiyu was $700. Last year Lukas guided us *“In terms of a daily itinerary, the way days pan out is pretty fluid, so we don't like to say that certain things will happen at certain times on certain days. We can say that the following things are very likely to take place through the week, with lots of space for rest and reflection*
* *participation in a local welcome to country ceremony*
* *yarning circles to investigate Aboriginal culture and spirituality (dadirri)*
* *opportunity to interact with the Aboriginal community over the week.*
* *walking tour of the community*
* *learn the history of the community that has been a Catholic mission on several occasions*
* *trips out on to the surrounding country*
* *collecting and sampling bush tucker*
* *collecting materials on country for Indigenous arts (eg, weaving)*
* *session exploring local Indigenous art*

*Most days will have half of day of organised activities from the list above, the other half of the day is left open for groups to do their own thing. Often unique opportunities to share experiences with the community emerge in this space.*

*You could also look at how the trips are described on the following facebook page - the Cultural Connection Tour to Naiuyu Community Facebook page [https://www.facebook.com/Cultural-Connection-Tours-to-Nauiyu-Community-1407134619591809/](https://www.facebook.com/Cultural-Connection-Tours-to-Nauiyu-Community-1407134619591809/%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank)*

*I hope you don't consider the above too vague, we have discovered that managing peoples’ expectations is key to ensuring a good experience and supplying a day by day hour by hour itinerary that we know will be altered by the community is not helpful.”*

* We note that the facilitation fee supports the work of the Miriam Rose Foundation…from their website [www.miriamrosefoundation.org.au](http://www.miriamrosefoundation.org.au), we read… *In recent years, the people of Nauiyu have witnessed a decline in the general wellbeing of their youth, with suicide and substance abuse on the increase.  Young people are not succeeding in their education. Nauiyu has no discrete high school and students need to go away from home to get a full education. The best successes are for students who stay with a family who can provide a family support system while completing high school, but this requires further funding to give the students the same opportunities that most other Australian children receive as a matter of course. Following school, there are many young people at Nauiyu who need to be meaningfully employed in order to become confident and successful adults.*

Certainly Miriam Rose has spoken to us about her great concern for the young people and her hope that the Miriam Rose Foundation will be able to help, both regarding education and in relation to their connecting to traditional ways.

* FYI we asked about how mobile people would need to be to join the group, he says *I am sure a person with a walking stick would be able to be included in the vast majority, if not all, the activities that take place that week. We do a little walking in the bush, but it is not strenuous, and we drive into most of the places we visit.*

* If you (or anyone you know whether they can be with us or not) are able to make a donation to support someone else’s pilgrimage, please let us know and we’ll pass it on.

This year we will look at spending a couple of days in Darwin where the festival will be on as a kind of bridge between home and Nauiyu, an optional extra for those who’d like [www.darwinfestival.org.au](http://www.darwinfestival.org.au)

 ***A couple of requests please***

* If you can indicate asap whether you can come or cannot come or are a maybe, that will be a great help.
* You may have a sense that this is quite a logistical undertaking. We would be very grateful if you could respond to emails asap, we will try to keep them to the point. that will be a great help.

Please feel free to share this with those who may like to be part of the pilgrimage

With love and every blessing of joy and hope in this Easter season,

               Judi for the team