

# Arrernte signs on buildings in Alice Springs

Alice Springs has a typical townscape – with buildings of various types and signage announcing the nature of the service or business that goes on inside. Most of these are in English, but a closer inspection reveals Arrernte words dotted throughout.

The **Akangkentye Hostel** in South Terrace, Alice Springs is one example. The word *akangkentye* means ‘kindness’ in Arrernte.

**Mwerre House** is in Hartley Street, and houses government offices. *Mwerre* is an Arrernte word that means ‘good’.

The **Yeperenye** building in Alice Springs is owned by Arrernte people. It is named after an important ancestral creator being, the caterpillar called *ayepe-arenye*, which lives on the tar vine plant (the tar vine is called *ayepe*, and *arenye* is an ending which means ‘belonging to’).

The ranges to the south of town represent the *ayepe-arenye* and other caterpillars. The Yeperenye building has two murals painted on the exterior walls which show Arrernte women in their country, surrounded by bush foods. This mural is titled Aknganentye Groceries. It was painted by a group of Arrernte artists. The foods depicted in the painting include:

*artewe* ‘bush turkey, *ngkwarle yerrampe* ‘honey ants’ and *pelkere* ‘crested pigeon’. The mural also contains a message which reads:

*Merne arlke, kere arlke, ngkwarle arlke, tyape arlke, anwerne arlkwetyarte ngkwarle arlke awantyetyarte lyete kwete anwerne arlkweme, anwernenhe mwerrileme.*

We have always eaten these foods and still today they keep us strong.

ngkwarle yerrampe ‘honey ants’

pelkere ‘crested pigeon’

ingkwerlpe ‘bush tobacco’

artewe ‘bush turkey’

The East Side IGA supermarket has a beautiful mural showing different foods as well.

Merne arrutnenge means 'wild passionfruit fruit' (*Capparis spinosa*)

Kere kantye is 'kangaroo tail' – kere means 'meat' and kantye is 'tail'

yerrampe 'honey ants'

parts of the mural of Arrernte bush foods on the wall of the IGA store in Eastside, Alice Springs