



CELEBRATING NAIDOC WEEK 1–8 JULY 2012 WWW.naidoc.org.au Spirit of the Tent Embassy: 40 years on

**Amanda Joy Tronc** 

I was shocked to realise that most people I know have never heard of the Tent Embassy. I knew it existed but never appreciated what our people and my family had to fight for only 40 years ago. Look at us now I researched the four men who founded the Tent Embassy - Billy Craige, Bert Williams, Michael Anderson and Tony Coorey - and thought it was important to portray them in my artwork along with their beach umbrella in front of Parliament House. Forty years on, the foreground shows what we have achieved today because of the fruits of their labour. The artwork shows that our history is behind us but our culture is a part of our people, not dwindling but getting stronger the more our mob succeed and pave the way for the future generations.