

# KEEPING THE DESERT STORY ALIVE

## Community Report

Kiwirrkurra September 2017



## ABOUT THIS COMMUNITY REPORT

This community report is about the 'Keeping the Desert Stories Alive' project carried out by the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS) with the Tjamu Tjamu Aboriginal Corporation and Desert Support Services (DSS) in the Kiwirrkurra community.

This is the second trip for a pilot project about finding ways to return Kiwirrkurra stories to the community, record new stories and develop strong rules about keeping community stories safe.

This report provides an update of the project following the second trip to Kiwirrkurra from 12 September –14 September, 2017.

'Keeping the Desert Stories Alive' is part of an AIATSIS research project, 'Preserve, Strengthen, Renew in Communities', which aims to involve communities in the development of culturally informed processes and practices for returning materials, and creating and archiving new materials.







## PROJECT AIMS

The aims of this project stage are to:

- Discuss the draft protocols made during the last trip in April 2017 and fix any mistakes so that there are clear protocols for keeping Kiwirrkurra stories safe
- Record new material with Kiwirrkurra community members and
- Return more old photos and films taken by Jeremy Long and others.

## WHO IS AIATSIS

### *Nganarna yara tjurta kanyilpayi*

AIATSIS is an archive of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander material. This material is preserved and stored safely for use in the future.

Our job is to gather materials to keep safe in archives and to make those things available for other people to see and learn from in the future.

AIATSIS also has to follow rules about who they share material with so that important cultural material is only shared with the right people.

AIATSIS looks after stories by:

- Keeping them safe (storing photos and films)
- Making sure only the right people can see or hear the stories
- Helping communities to make new stories and look after them and
- Helping communities to tell their stories through research.



*Above: AIATSIS, Canberra.*

*Below: Sally Butler and Kate Crossing with Charlotte Craw looking at Pintupi language resources in the closed stacks at AIATSIS in Canberra.*







*Above: Camping at Mukula.*

*Below: Mantua James remembering visiting Mukula as a child.*



## Tuesday 12 September

On Monday evening, Tran Tran and Nell Reidy arrived in Kiwirrkurra from Alice Springs where they met Kate Crossing as well as Boyd Wright who joined us to help with translation during the trip.

On Tuesday we held a meeting at the Women's Centre in Kiwirrkurra. We discussed the last trip to Kiwirrkurra in April, when we recorded stories and songs at Ngami, Marapinti, Walykalykarra and Karruwarra and shared some photos from this trip.

We also talked about AIATSIS, Sally Butler and Kate Crossing's visit to Canberra and their tour of the AIATSIS archive. We then discussed camping and recording for the next three days.

After lunch, we packed the cars and headed to Mukula, where Jangala and Mantua decided on a good camping spot. We set up camp and Mantua and Jangala both recorded stories about this place and their memories of coming in from the bush as children. These stories became the focus of the rest of our recording over the following days.

In the evening we set up the projector and watched some of the footage recorded during the last trip at Marapinti and Karruwarra.





## Wednesday 13 September

On Wednesday morning we held a meeting after breakfast to go over the protocols that were established during the last trip. Together we made a few things clearer and these protocols will now help keep recordings of Kiwirrkurra stories safe at AIATSIS by making sure the right people see and hear this material. These protocols are laid out in a table at the end of this report.

After the meeting we drove to 3 rock holes at Mukula where Mantua and Jangala recorded their memories of this place.

We then stopped on the road to Port Hedland at the place that Jeremy Long, a patrol officer with the Welfare Branch in Central Australia, picked up Mantua as a child, gave her and her family fruit before taking them to Papunya in his land cruiser.

We drove further west to Jupiter Well, this is a natural underground water source visited regularly by Pintupi people before and since contact. We recorded Mantua and Jangala's stories in Pintupi language about this place, as well as Boyd Wright's translation of these stories. These are open stories that will be archived at AIATSIS.



*Above: Tran Tran and Nell Reidy recording with Boyd Wright, Mantua James and Jangala James at three rock holes near Mukula.*

*Below: The group gathered at Jupiter Well to hear stories about this place.*







*Jangala at Jupiter Well*



*Mantua James and Jupiter Well.*



*Mantua James, Donna James and Yinarupa Nangala singing.*

The stories that were recorded with Mantua and Jangala are open stories and the recordings can be watched by anyone at AIATSIS. Kiwirrkurra people can take copies of these recordings from AIATSIS and other people need to ask for permission to take a copy or use this material.

We returned to camp and Payu, Mantua, Jangala and Donna went hunting for rumiya (sand goannas). Jangala and Boyd left camp so that some of the women could sing and record a songline. This recording can only be accessed by women and permission needs to be sought for anyone to access this recording.

In the evening, we watched films taken by Jeremy Long in the 1960s and Payu recognised her parents in the films.



## Thursday 14 September

On Thursday we had a meeting in the morning to talk about everyone's thought and feelings about the trip and get some feedback about how people felt about getting old photos and films back and recording new material.

People said at this meeting that it is important to continue to teach young people about culture and visit country and that they are doing this regularly. People were very happy to have old photographs and videos returned and would like to visit AIATSIS in Canberra to find more things that can be returned. They also want to record more stories to be kept for future generations.

After the meeting, we drove back to Kiwirrkurra. In the evening, Payu West, Mantua James, Donna James, Monica Jurrah and Joanne West sat with Tran and Nell to look at the AIATSIS photographic database.

They provided very important details about people and places in the photographs and ordered a number of photos. People were given some of these photos on usbs, and the others will be sent on usbs very soon.



*Above: The group discussing the project on the last morning camping at Mukula.*

*Below: (L-R) Joanne West, Mantua James, Tran Tran and Yinarupa Nangala looking at the AIATSIS photographic database.*







## **What will happen to material recorded during this trip?**

Copies of the material recorded during this trip will be given on usbs to the people recorded.

A copy of the material will also be kept at AIATSIS in Canberra for safe keeping. The protocols decided upon during this trip will be kept with the material at AIATSIS so only the people who are meant to look at and take copies of this material will be able to do so.

## **What next?**

We will send usbs with the recorded material and photos from this trip to Kiwirrkurra.

We will also send the photos requested from the picture database on usbs.

We would like to hold a meeting in Canberra with some of the people who participated in this project in March 2018. We want to connect Kiwirrkurra people with other researchers and communities to share experiences, advice and skills so that communities can continue to control, preserve and engage with their stories into the future.



## TRIP 1 – APRIL 2017

Date, place and description of recording	Who can look/listen to this at AIATSIS in Canberra?	Who can use/take copy without asking permission?	Process for anyone not covered in previous column to seek permission for use
04/04/17 <b>Marapinti</b> Kiwirrkurra women singing women's song	Minymaku Minyama kutju Wati wiya  <i>Kiwirrkurra women only</i>	minyma tjuṯa kiwirrkuralanguru  <i>Female family members</i>	Tjamu Tjamu Aboriginal Corporation
04/04/2017 <b>Ngami</b> Jangala, Jimmy Brown and Walimpirri singing	yuwankarraku  <i>Everyone</i>	Walytja tjuṯa Kiwirrkuralanguru kutju  <i>Family members/Kiwirrkurra community members</i>	Tjamu Tjamu Aboriginal Corporation
05/04/2017 <b>Ngami</b> Kiwirrkurra women telling story about Yakari's father being speared at this place	yuwankarraku  <i>Everyone</i>	<i>Everyone needs to ask to use this material</i>	Tjamu Tjamu Aboriginal Corporation
05/04/2017 <b>Walykalykarra</b> Jimmy Brown telling stories about camping at this place	yuwankarraku  <i>Everyone</i>	Walytja tjuṯa Kiwirrkuralanguru kutju  <i>Family members/Kiwirrkurra community members</i>	Tjamu Tjamu Aboriginal Corporation
06/06/2017 <b>Karruwarra</b> Payu West talking about this Kuniya (snake) dreaming site	Walytja tjuṯa Kiwirrkuralanguru  <i>Kiwirrkurra families</i>	<i>Everyone needs to ask to use this material</i>	Tjamu Tjamu Aboriginal Corporation





## TRIP 2 – SEPTEMBER 2017

Date, place and description of recording	Who can look/listen to this at AIATSIS in Canberra?	Who can use/take copy without asking permission?	Process for anyone not covered in previous column to seek permission for use
12/09/2017 <b>Mukula</b> Mantua James and Jangala James talking about visiting Mukula and nearby soakages, as well as being picked up by Jeremy Long and seeing whitefellas for the first time	yuwankarraku  <i>Everyone</i>	Walytja tjuṯa Kiwirrkuralanguru kutju Family members/Kiwirrkurra community members	Tjamu Tjamu Aboriginal Corporation
13/09/2017 <b>Mukula, Three rock holes</b> Mantua and Jangala telling their memories of visiting this place when they were young	yuwankarraku  <i>Everyone</i>	Walytja tjuṯa Kiwirrkuralanguru kutju Family members/Kiwirrkurra community members	Tjamu Tjamu Aboriginal Corporation
13/09/2017 <b>Jupiter Well</b> Mantua and Jangala talking about how they used to visit the well and get water from the well	yuwankarraku  <i>Everyone</i>	Walytja tjuṯa Kiwirrkuralanguru kutju Family members/Kiwirrkurra community members	Tjamu Tjamu Aboriginal Corporation
13/09/2017 <b>Mukula</b> Mantua James catching rumiya (sand goanna)	yuwankarraku  <i>Everyone</i>	Walytja tjuṯa Kiwirrkuralanguru kutju Family members/Kiwirrkurra community members	Tjamu Tjamu Aboriginal Corporation
13/09/2017 <b>Mukula</b> Mantua James, Monica Jurrah and Payu West with Donna James and Yinarupa Nangala singing a women's songline	Minymaku Minyama kutju Wati wiya  <i>Kiwirrkurra women only</i>	minyma tjuṯa kiwirrkuralanguru  Female family members	Tjamu Tjamu Aboriginal Corporation

