



Notre Dame Nulungu Talking Heads Seminar Series

A New Partnership, William Roe, 1994

Wanjina oden barnja mirndi: recording cultural stories and places on the road to Jilariba (Munja)

Wednesday 29th May 2019

Venue: UNDA NDB11-101

12:30pm – 1:30pm

Presenters:

John Rastus, Jeannie Dutchie, Rona Charles (Wilinggin Aboriginal Corporation) and Mel Marshall (Nulungu)

Abstract

Since 2015, Traditional Owners of the Wanjina Wunggurr Wilinggin Native Title area and the Wilinggin Aboriginal Corporation have been working in collaboration with researchers from Nulungu Research Institute (UNDA), the University of Western Australia and the Australian National University to record cultural stories and places on the road to Jilariba (otherwise known as 'Munja' in the remote centre of the Kimberley). Together the group have undertaken field trips along the Munja Track in 2017 and 2018, visiting rock art sites and cultural places to share stories and cultural knowledges with future generations. Focusing initially on the eastern end on Mt Elizabeth Station, the group then travelled the length of the track last year and created a series of videos at places along the way. As part of this seminar, we want to share our experiences from this project, some of the videos we made, as well as discuss our future plans for developing this small LotteryWest-funded Community History Project into a larger Australian Research Council research project. Working together, side by side, step by step, we're committed to doing this the right way as part of a community-initiated/owned/driven project.

Biographies

John Rastus

John Rastus is a Traditional Owner and Custodian for this area on Wanjina Wunggurr Wilinggin country. John lives in Dodnun community with his wife and children.

Rona Charles

Rona Charles is a Nyikina/Warwa and Ngarinyin Adopted Woman belonging to the Nikina/Mangala and Wilinggin people of the North Kimberley in Western Australia. Rona was born in Derby and resides in Kupungarri Community along the Gibb River Road, Derby. She has 6 children and 14 grandchildren. She has raised her sibling's children as well which makes her a mother and grandmother to others. She is a leader in teaching young people about learning and maintaining junba dance, knowledge of country, Language, stories and how these practices relate to country. Rona is also a research assistant on the ARC funded project, "Strategies for Preserving and Sustaining Aboriginal Song and Dance in the Modern World," with Sally Treloyn of Melbourne University



Jeannie Dutchie

Jeannie Dutchie has lived in Ngarinyin Country all her life and currently resides in Dodnun remote Community. She is a Widowed Mother and a Grandmother. She cares for her family and looks after her late husband's country. She teaches Ngarinyin Language at Wananami school in Kupungarri. She teaches young people the importance of maintaining culture and looking after country. Dodnun is also part of her grandfather's country. She is of Ngarinyin and Bunuba Descent.

Mel Marshall

Mel is a community-based researcher who has worked with Wanjina Wunggurr Wilinggin people since her arrival in the Kimberley 15 years ago. She has supported the development and implementation of a number of collaborative cultural heritage projects and doctoral research endeavours, sharing her skills and knowledge particularly with the Wunggurr Rangers. Since her employment as a Research Fellow with Nulungu, Mel has been able to extend this support and her capacity with the implementation of research programs in partnership with Traditional Owners across the Kimberley.

