

Mediaportal Report

24/09/2007

▶ **You've got to give it a go to try and find out the best way to run this country**

Australian, 24/09/07, General News, Page 15
By: None

Clip Ref: **00030267039**

816 words
Type:
Photo: Yes

Steven has been an assistant teacher with **Lajamanu** School for the past 15 years. He was awarded a National Curriculum Award for his work at **Lajamanu** School this year. I'VE lived here in **Lajamanu** all my life. I'm an assistant teacher.

Keywords: Lajamanu(5)

▶ **We don't want to lose Warlpiri**

Australian, 24/09/07, General News, Page 15
By: None

Clip Ref: **00030267038**

534 words
Type:
Photo: Yes

Nancy is a qualified teacher at the **Yuendumu** school. She has been working as a teacher for nearly 30 years. Nancy has been closely involved with the development of the Warlpiri language program at the school

Keywords: Lajamanu(1), Yuendumu(5)

▶ **Education is a special thing to have**

Australian, 24/09/07, General News, Page 15
By: None

Clip Ref: **00030267037**

466 words
Type:
Photo: Yes

Eudcation should be yapa side and kardiya side. So a school that has English reading and writing and all that has learning Warlpiri culture as well.

Keywords: Yuendumu(1)

▶ **Learning more English is how people find work**

Australian, 24/09/07, General News, Page 15

By: None

Neville has over 30 years' experience as a teacher. He has taught at **Yuendumu**, **Papunya**, Yirara College and Ali Curung, among other places. Nevitte, known locally as Cobra for his love of the Cobra car, has been a co-ordinator for the Wartukurtangu Aboriginal Artists GatteriyatYuendumu, as well as a park ranger in the Tanami area and at Telegraph Station in Alice Springs.

Keywords: Papunya(1), Yuendumu(1)

Clip Ref: **00030267036**

313 words

Type:

Photo: Yes

▶ **That's abuse, making kids pick up rubbish until tired**

Australian, 24/09/07, General News, Page 15

By: None

Ned is a Warlpiri man aged 46. He is a traditional owner who works at the men's reception desk at the **Yuendumu** clinic.

Keywords: Aboriginal(1), abuse(5), child(4), Government(2), kid(1), kids(10), support(1), Welfare(1), Yuendumu(4)

Clip Ref: **00030267035**

376 words

Type:

Photo: Yes

▶ **We haven't got a Year 12 and Year 8 and Year 4**

Australian, 24/09/07, General News, Page 15

By: None

Francis was one of the founders of Warlpiri Media and starred in its best known production, Bush Mechanics, and more recently in **Aboriginal Rules**. I CARE about remote area community schools, because there's not much there for those kids.

Keywords: Aboriginal(2), family(1), Yuendumu(1)

Clip Ref: **00030267034**

265 words

Type:

Photo: Yes

▶ **Intervention tackles truancy**

Australian, 24/09/07, General News, Page 15

By: Jessica Jeeves

The Northern Territory in-tervention is targeting poor school attendance, with the quarantining of up to 100 per cent of a parent or carer's Centrelink **payments** being used to encourage attendance. A leaked plan from Yuendumu's new **government** business manager, **Noel Mason**, proposes that truant children be required to pick up rubbish under supervision until they are "visibly tired".

Keywords: Aboriginal(2), government(1), Indigenous(4), Lajamanu(2), Mason(1), Noel(1), Papunya(1), payments(1), Yuendumu(5)

Clip Ref: **00030267033**

402 words

Type:

Photo: Yes

▶ **The people's view**

Australian, 24/09/07, Edition Changes - All-round First, Page 15
By: None

Voices From the Heart of the Nation is a fortnightly series in which The Australian allows the people of **Yuendumu** to express their views on the progress of the federal Government's indigenous intervention program.

Keywords: Yuendumu(1)

Clip Ref: **00030269630**

69 words

Type:

Photo: No

▶ **Insight into intervention**

Australian, 24/09/07, Edition Changes - QLD First, Page 1
By: None

The full effect of the Howard Government's intervention in Northern Territory indigenous communities is finally being felt, with taskforce members focusing their efforts on enforcing school attendance. In Voices From the Heart of the Nation a fortnightly project in conjunction with Reconciliation Australia which offers an insight into the intervention at work members of the **Yuendumu** community have told The Australian how life has changed for them.

Keywords: Yuendumu(1)

Clip Ref: **00030269701**

68 words

Type:

Photo: No



VOICES FROM THE HEART OF THE NATION

'You've got to give it a go to try and find out the best way to run this country'

STEVEN has been an assistant teacher with Lajamanu School for the past 15 years. He was awarded a National Curriculum Award for his work at Lajamanu School this year.

I'VE lived here in Lajamanu all my life. I'm an assistant teacher. I'm 43. I've got two boys and one grandson. Just recently, the Lajamanu School's started to listen and we've got a group of good yapa and kardiya staff willing to work together. The new principal is consulting with the community and we've got an assistant principal. They're fairly new but they're starting to move forward.

There was an open day on Monday, which was successful because there were some games, a lot of the parents come in and even after they left the kids remained right up to the end — that's one of those good signs that they were enjoying themselves. We're thinking maybe we were going to have more of them, maybe twice a term and keep adding things and some excitement — you know, more games to it, and that will involve not only the kids but the community. The parents, too.

I had education both ways. I went to my ceremonies and learnt about all my people's ways and cultural ways, and then I learnt about this other culture — this kardiya culture. I went to Alice Springs to teachers college and I stayed there for three years as a student. In some ways I'm really lucky that I got that two-way learning, which helped me as a person to try and look for ways to bring the two, what you call world

views, together to make one world view, an Australian view.

Which some of them government mob are still doubting whether that can work or not. But I feel you've got to give it a go to try and find out the best way to run this country, run yapa and kardiya way.

THIS welfare payment stuff, I hope it's done in the right way and a more sensible way. Parents have been playing too much government money in cards or something, or gone off to get grog, but I don't know if that can put a stop to those two things which have been really bringing us down - playing too much cards and not looking after kids.

I think (the rubbish collecting), that's the intervention mob — that's one of their plans. I don't know if it's going to work here but I feel that one is a bit too rough, I'd say. I'm sure they've got to find another way that would maybe be more effective than picking up rubbish. Educate them, find out a way to acknowledge knowledge. Learn them to be open to learning, find a way to teach people who are willing to learn instead of forcing them to do things — through community consultation and community events like this Milpirri, that's there to look at both ways, how we can receive knowledge. Bringing the both cultures together and look at what it means. What does this story talk about? Is it talking to me? We're using Milpirri as a way to get into people's minds. Milpirri — it's a rain cloud. Well, when we talk Milpirri here at

Lajamanu — it's a ceremony and it's a cloud — it's a certain cloud that one, that builds up in the hot weather and it's full of lightning and all that. We're using that as a metaphor, you know, it takes two to build up that cloud. You've got the cold air falling, you've got the hot air rising and there you've got the cloud being formed, I guess. All that lightning, fury, it's just all sorting itself out and you've got the rain falling and then it's drenching the land I guess and that brings out the goodness out of the land — it brings back all animals, birds and everyone.

There's two ways, kardiya and yapa. Like with the Milpirri, the two come together and they sort themselves out then really come out with that confidence that we can make the lands celebrate again. For the first Milpirri we had old people and young people coming together. Hopefully the next Milpirri will be kardiya and yapa coming together to find out the best way to become Australian again.

We need to become allies, to work something out and not be afraid to talk up. That's a way — I feel like we've got a really good team here. In my 15 years at school I didn't see that sort of co-operation. This year I feel more comfortable working at school. They talk to that department not to try to tell us or try to control us what to teach, but listen to the community — what we need to teach. That's the way we want to move — for them to support us when we're trying to teach in education.



Uniting two cultures: Steven Patrick



VOICES FROM THE HEART OF THE NATION

‘We don’t want to lose Warlpiri’

NANCY is a qualified teacher at the Yuendumu school. She has been working as a teacher for nearly 30 years. Nancy has been closely involved with the development of the Warlpiri language program at the school. She is currently teaching Years 1 and 2. Nancy was born at Yuelamu (Mt Allen) close to Yuendumu.

I am talking here as a mother, grandmother and a community member of Yuendumu. I think education is really important because we want our kids to learn. It’s really good to educate our kids here at Yuendumu. We want more kardiya teachers and more yapa TAs (teachers assistants). In every class there should be yapa, but we need lots of kids to come to school so that they can give us lots of TAs and teachers. I think kardiya are really good, too, because they’ve got lots of experience. Two-way is really good — teaching in both ways is really good. We want to keep our culture, we don’t want to lose it, we don’t want to lose Warlpiri. We want to keep it strong, we want to speak our own language.

Parents have got to be strong — they’ve got to send their kids to school and wake them. Sometimes it’s really sad when we see our kids go and drink — it’s really sad if I

was teaching that kid and he’s going wrong way — “Maybe get a job first, you know” — we taught those kids.

I WANT to talk about my little grandson. I sent my little grandson to Darwin to live with his aunty because he used to run away with other boys, jump over the fence and I used to talk and talk, to chase him. By running he used to miss lessons and I decided to send my little grandson to do his education in Darwin. I used to be ashamed of myself, “oh, my grandson’s running away — I’m supposed to be a teacher. He should stay in school”. But he didn’t listen. He was eight years old — he’s nine now. Education is really important — it’s the key. When he grows up maybe he’ll be a really educated person and come and work back here at Yuendumu or Lajamanu.

I’VE got this issue with the cutbacks from education by both parties. There’s no assistant teachers for secondary age classes, no assistant teachers for Aboriginal teachers, no money to pay for these jobs. There’s no money to pay old people, that’s PTI (part-time instructor) hours; there’s no RATE (Remote Area Teacher

Education) program; no mentors for Aboriginal teachers; no community liaison officer; no using buses to pick up kids; no breakfast program, no lunch program, no fruits; no night school; no rent-free education for Aboriginal teachers. The Liberal Party Government tried to end bilingual education three times. The Labour Party has tried to take it away once. But we are the only lucky school in the Centre which has kept our own program since 1974. When we started we had about 20 Warlpiri working in the school. One TA for every white teacher and two each in any childhood classroom, three cleaners, three gardeners, three literacy teachers. Before taking money away fix the school first, thankyou.



Cutbacks worry: Nancy Oldfield



VOICES FROM THE HEART OF THE NATION

‘Education is a special thing to have’

BETHANY is an 18-year-old Warlpiri woman with a two-year-old daughter, Chiara. She grew up in Alice Springs. Her mother is Warlpiri and her stepfather is of Austrian-Irish descent. She has two brothers. She moved to Yuendumu a few years ago.

EDUCATION should be yapa side and kardiya side. So a school that has English reading and writing and all that has learning Warlpiri culture as well. (You need) a chance to learn how to read or write or see from two different points of view. So you’ve got your cultural background and your other one as well, which you can use to achieve goals. Like English, you can go on a higher level and also use your cultural background as well, like, say for interpreting — like helping out people.

Well, when I first pulled out of Year 10 and 11 I thought that school was all boring — I thought I’m glad I got out of that. Then a couple of years later I’m glad that Dad put me in another school. Every time my dad rings up and he asks me, “Have you got a job yet?”, I say, “Yeah”. And dad says: “See, you’re smart, Aboriginal, educated young woman and you can do just about anything and I’m happy.” And I thank him.

I see these young kids here and I think they just let them run wild. They don’t want to go to school because they’re not disciplined enough. A mother and father’s job is, like, to take care of their kids and to try and make them understand and teach them what’s right and wrong, and you have to egg them on to learning more things — like, why they need education. There should be more tutors here, Aboriginal tutors speaking Warlpiri and English as well, and teaching them and egging them on and making it more exciting for them.

I’m still thinking about doing law and order

because I find that interesting; like finding out what yapa’s rights and wrongs are and what kardiya’s rights and wrongs are. Because some Aboriginal people — they don’t have the right to speak up for their rights. And they don’t because of government and all that. Education is a special thing to have, not only for younger kids but for older people as well. Some old people don’t speak English — some of them don’t understand — say, (my uncle) Bandy, for example. Every time he gets some mail he always gives it to me and I’m always there sitting next to him and reading it to him and he asks me: “What does it mean?”

I understand what education is and I really want Chiara to grow up strong, and know what education is and try and achieve something when she’s older. I’m thankful that I went to school.



Made her father proud: Bethany Langdon



VOICES FROM THE HEART OF THE NATION

‘Learning more English is how people find work’

NEVILLE has over 30 years’ experience as a teacher. He has taught at Yuendumu, Papunya, Yirara College and Ali Curung, among other places. Neville, known locally as Cobra for his love of the Cobra car, has been a co-ordinator for the Warlukurlangu Aboriginal Artists Gallery at Yuendumu, as well as a park ranger in the Tanami area and at Telegraph Station in Alice Springs. Neville is a member of the Baptist Church congregation and was recently the president of the Baptist Union of NT.

BACK in the 60s we mainly learned in English — writing and maths and all other things in English. We used to speak Warlpiri in the playground and outside the camp, but in the classroom we had to speak in English. So when bilingual education came in 74, it

went well. Our Warlpiri mob should learn to speak in English because its opens up the world for them — they’re not frightened, they can communicate with other people, other tribes. It’s good to learn bilingual but it’s good to make it balanced. We should learn more English because that’s how people find work.

We need a better school in Yuendumu, better education. I reckon there’s better education in urban schools like in Alice Springs and others, but for yapa they want to try and put them down. We should be treated as human beings to have a good level of education in bush schools — that’s what’s missing.

Back in 73 when I went to New Guinea, to Port Moresby, I thought I was dreaming when I

saw yapa as a pilot or taxi driver or policeman or teacher, and that dream made me think that one day Australian yapa will be like that in future. That’s the best dream that I got from New Guinea — other yapa. It’ll be better for Australian yapa to be the same as anybody else. We’ve got to live together.



Teacher: Neville Poulson



VOICES FROM THE HEART OF THE NATION

‘That’s abuse, making kids pick up rubbish until tired’

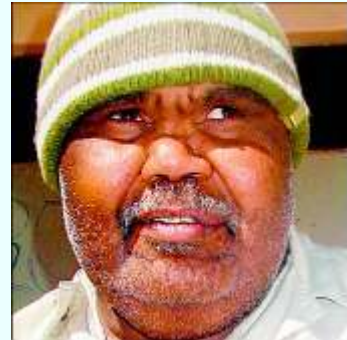
NED is a Warlpiri man aged 46. He is a traditional owner who works at the men’s reception desk at the Yuendumu clinic. He has lived in Yuendumu all his life and is a father to five children. Before his work at the health clinic he was a plant operator and supervisor.

I’D like to see a lot of good things happening in Yuendumu with education. But not with all this picking up rubbish business and that. (Welfare quarantining), that’s going back to the old law — the old government law. The Government promised everything was coming in for child abuse. Like that Noel reckons, he’s going to make kids pick up things. You’ve got to stop child abuse, and what’s he doing? That’s child abuse making kids pick up rubbish until they’re tired. Why doesn’t he do it? We’ll watch him first and see how he feels. That’s what I reckon.

We haven’t got principals and head teachers who go around to the camps and talk to parents to encourage their kids; I never see anyone of them going around there. No school engagement. I reckon it’s important to learn to read and write, but to get them kids to school you’ve got to have a principal to encourage kids to come to school. At the moment Yuendumu School level has dropped. The kids are not going to school lately — not much. We’d like to see a lot of kids going there. They (teachers) get paid big money to be out here. (Community engagement), that’s the key to education. I used to see teachers go around to camps and talk to parents about their kids, you know. They didn’t say, like, ‘Oh, your kid better come to school — if not we’re cutting your money out’. That’s no good.

I always see the Aboriginal

school workers trying to do their best to get kids to school, but they don’t get any support from the principal. All they worry about is who doesn’t come to school. When they made all this child abuse thing on the radio — a state of emergency or whatever — just like this is Iraq or, like, it’s a trouble spot, but it’s not.



Encouragement: Ned Wilson



Australian
24/09/2007
Page: 15
General News
Region: National Circulation: 133000
Type: National
Size: 124.63 sq.cms
MTWTF

VOICES FROM THE HEART OF THE NATION

'We haven't got a Year 12 and Year 8 and Year 4

FRANCIS was one of the founders of Warlpiri Media and starred in its best known production, *Bush Mechanics*, and more recently in *Aboriginal Rules*.

I CARE about remote area community schools, because there's not much there for those kids. Like, in the cities they go to school and they bring their homework back, and they do it with the family and they do reading in the home and they settle in; and the questions those kids ask, we have to explain it in Warlpiri. They go to school here but they don't bring their homework back to get the parents to look at it, and how the teacher's been teaching them. Parents are important to go along with it. They should have night school — learning little ones to be apprentice or mechanic or carpenter or anything like that.

We've got European children who live in Yuendumu (and they go) to school with the Aboriginal kids to learn, they pick up Warlpiri quick. We're exchanging education, but we haven't got a proper school like Year 12 and

Year 8 and Year 4 — anything along the line they should be teaching them.

I DON'T agree (with the rubbish plan) because that kind of thing is not a kid's job. It's a health hazard and they don't know what the kids are going to pick up, and it could be dangerous. Councils — they're doing the rubbish, they get paid for that.

My grandkids go to school in Darwin, Adelaide and all that, they write a bit — they're doing well.



Parents important: Francis Kelly



VOICES FROM THE HEART OF THE NATION

Intervention tackles truancy

Jessica Jeeves

THE Northern Territory intervention is targeting poor school attendance, with the quarantining of up to 100 per cent of a parent or carer's Centrelink payments being used to encourage attendance.

A leaked plan from Yuendumu's new government business manager, Noel Mason, proposes that truant children be required to pick up rubbish under supervision until they are "visibly tired".

Since 2000, the Yuendumu School has had a series of principals, including the current principal who leaves at the end of next term. Attendance rates are at an all-time low. Today there are three local Indigenous teachers or assis-

tant teachers compared to seven in 1997. The school has a bilingual program that has been running since 1974, helping to teach children in English and Warlpiri. Recently the school lost funding for its school liaison officer, who helped engage with the community to improve attendance.

Other programs no longer in effect include the mentoring program — in which a non-Indigenous staff member helped mentor and train Indigenous staff — and the remote area teacher education (RATE) program, where local people could do their teacher training in the community. The school covers pre-school to Year 10, with a small number of children being sent to schools in Melbourne, Alice Springs and

Darwin. There is no formal adult education or trade training.

In the last two weeks since we heard from Yuendumu the community has been visited by members of the intervention taskforce, including Sue Gordon and Major-General David Chalmers. The Yuendumu Magpies triumphed over Papunya in the AFL Grand Final and there has been significant sorry business in the community following a local death.

This week, community members share their thoughts and ideas about education in Yuendumu and nearby Lajamanu.

Jessica Jeeves works for Reconciliation Australia

WARLPIRI LEXICON

Warlpiri and Warlpiri-English
Yapa: Aboriginal people

Kardiya (Kar-dee-ya): non-Aboriginal people

Sorry; sorry business: Rituals performed after a death

Milpirri: A large-scale performance by Lajamanu youth and elders using traditional Warlpiri, contemporary Western dance forms, and a fusion of both. A coming together of opposites, celebrating the new life that this creates.

Milpirri was originally conceived in 2005 by Steve Jampijinpa Patrick, a Warlpiri man from Lajamanu.

HEART LAND



YUENDUMU

Education benchmarks

Percentage achieving year 3 benchmark:

	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous
Reading	20%	85%
Numeracy	2%	97%

Percentage achieving year 5 benchmark:

Reading	19%	90%
Numeracy	16%	88%

Percentage achieving year 7 benchmark:

Reading	15%	89%
Numeracy	6%	85%



In charge: Major-General David Chalmers, head of the intervention taskforce, meets Valerie Martin Napaljarri in the store at Yuendumu



Australian
24/09/2007
Page: 15
Edition Changes - All-round First
Region: National Circulation: 133000
Type: National
Size: 22.88 sq.cms
MTWTF

The people's view

VOICES From the Heart of the Nation is a fortnightly series in which *The Australian* allows the people of Yuendumu to express their views on the progress of the federal Government's indigenous intervention program.

It is a unique project in conjunction with Reconciliation Australia and is intended to give a fresh insight into the progress on the ground and the hopes and aspirations of indigenous Australians.



Australian
24/09/2007

Page: 1

Edition Changes - QLD First

Region: National Circulation: 133000

Type: National

Size: 27.06 sq.cms

MTWTF

Insight into intervention

THE full effect of the Howard Government's intervention in Northern Territory indigenous communities is finally being felt, with taskforce members focusing their efforts on enforcing school attendance.

In *Voices From the Heart of the Nation* — a fortnightly project in conjunction with Reconciliation Australia which offers an insight into the intervention at work — members of the Yuendumu community have told *The Australian* how life has changed for them.