

NINTIRINGTJAKU PROFILE

DAPHNE PUNTJINA AREYONGA COMMUNITY



My parents are both from Areyonga. I was born in 1944 at Tenthill, the west side of Areyonga. My parents returned to Areyonga when I was a little baby. We were four children in the family, only three are living now.

I grew up in Areyonga community when the missionaries were still there. My family used to get rations from the missionaries and we lived in humpies. There was no houses for people in Areyonga back then, only the church, ration store and the missionary house. We used to travel by camel and donkey to visit families at Tempe Downs and sometimes Angus Downs and Ernabella. Then we'd come back again to Areyonga.

The missionaries started a school and I went to that missionary school Monday to Friday. On Saturday all the kids had to clean the church and we went for service on Sunday.

Contact Daphne through Hilda Bird at Areyonga Community Council ph 8956 7311, fax 8956 7302

Copyright.

Daphne Puntjina's story and photograph belong to her and are not to be published or distributed without her permission. Waltja has permission to display Daphne's photograph and story in order to promote her as a Nintiringtjaku worker.

Sometimes we went and stayed with family at Tempe Downs. My father worked for Tempe Downs station. All the family would travel with my father and his brother in law Jack Coulthard, when he would cut timber. We would travel with a camel pulling along a wagon. During the school holidays we would ride the donkeys. We would always travel around during holidays. We went to Haasts Bluff and Alice Springs.

I stayed at the Bungalow in Alice Springs for three years going to school. All the half-caste children stayed at the Bungalow. The welfare put them there. When I was a teenager I went back to Areyonga.

I learnt the Christian hymns and we would sing together every day and every night. I was the choir leader. We went to Darwin for the choir in 1971. The choir went to Melbourne and Adelaide. We sang in three languages, English, Pitjantjarra and Arrernte. The choir put out a cassette and CD.

In 1956 I got married. I have one son, Rodney Burton. I have two grandsons and one granddaughter.

I am on the Areyonga Council and I was President for five years. I was a member of ATSIC and did a lot of travelling for ATSIC meetings. I taught culture knowledge and language at Areyonga school for a long time. I am on the Yirara School Council. I started Tidy Town in 1998. I won the Tidy Town Citizen of the Year Award in 2004 for all the work I do in Areyonga.

I am a Management Committee member of Waltja Tjutanku Palyapayi and have been Executive member, and I attend Waltja meetings. At Waltja I help everybody to understand things and to talk together. I will do that too, with Nintiringtjaku work.

My language is Pitjantjarra. I also learnt English and Arrernte.

Contact Daphne through Hilda Bird at Areyonga Community Council ph 8956 7311, fax 8956 7302

Copyright.

Daphne Puntjina's story and photograph belong to her and are not to be published or distributed without her permission. Waltja has permission to display Daphne's photograph and story in order to promote her as a Nintiringtjaku worker.