

NINTIRINGTJAKU PROFILE



MARGARET ORR MPWELARRE COMMUNITY – WALKABOUT BORE

I was born at Horseshoe Bend station on the Finke River. I grew up at Horseshoe Bend with my mother and father and all my family. We used to travel around on the donkey wagon or camel or horse to visit family at Idracowra and from there to Henbury, back to Horseshoe, and across to Erldunda Station. Our life was really good. We really enjoyed travelling around with family and eating bush tucker. Our dad was a stockman, he had one wooden leg, our mum looked after us and she use to carry water with a bucket on her head. We had no water taps. We used to go hunting with our old aunties, and find yalkas, (bush onion), ilcoota (bush rockmelon) and we'd go fishing on the Finke.

As we got older our family decided to bring us into Alice Springs for school. I went to Hartley Street, the old school building, then I went to Anzac Hill up to year 7. Then I worked at Horseshoe Bend and at Kulgera as a housemaid for the station family. I taught Sunday school at the Lutheran church Mission block in Alice Springs - in the real old building, while I was still at school.

We moved back into Alice Springs, I worked at the Oasis Motel for Bernie Kilgariff as a housemaid, then I worked as a housemaid at the hospital. I met Malcolm my husband,

Contact Margaret through Waltja Tjutanku Palyapayi ph 08 8953 4488 fax 08 8953 4577

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 Margaret Orr's story and photograph belong to her and are not to be published or distributed without her permission.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

and we went to Anetoowa near the Queensland border. We worked at a lot of stations then back to town for our kids schooling.

After that I worked at Congress doing family support work looking after the little kids and taking them to the hospital and looking after them when they went home to town camps. I worked there for seven years. My children were grown up so I went back to my dad's homeland, that's where I am now. I'm still really busy with Congress, I am a Congress Cabinet member. I went to Canada for the 'Healing Our Spirit' conference for Congress.

I was at the beginning of the Central Australia Family Resource Centre, on Management Committee. Waltja came from the Family Resource Centre. I was chairperson of Waltja for a few years, and Management Committee member, and I'm still Executive Member. I'm really proud to be still with Waltja. I learnt a lot of things with Waltja, like talking up in meetings, I used to be really shy and I'm getting my confidence from Waltja. I've done Management Committee support for lots of Waltja projects, especially child-care training, nutrition and the Nintiringtjaku project.

I've done training in governance, child care and Train the Trainer.

Nintiringjaku work is like what I already do, helping people to talk up and explaining things in meetings and workshops. I look after visitors to Walkabout Bore, and I talk for Waltja and Congress at conferences and government meetings.

I am fluent in western and eastern Arrernte, Luritja and English, and I also understand Pitjantjatjara and Warlpiri.

Contact Margaret through Waltja Tjutangku Palyapayi Aboriginal Corporation:
www.waltja.org.au

Contact Margaret through Waltja Tjutangku Palyapayi ph 08 8953 4488 fax 08 8953 4577

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