

Hunting and gathering near Kununurra, 14-15 April 2018

The rich cultural practices, knowledge systems and cultural expressions of Indigenous Australians are a source of great strength, resilience and pride. Strong cultural identity is fundamental to Indigenous health and social and emotional wellbeing.

The loss of cultural knowledge is not just a process that occurred in the past, it is still happening now as Indigenous children are prevented from speaking their language, excluded from taking part in the traditional lifestyle on the land, exposed to domestic violence and substance abuse.

During my latest trip to Kununurra Jodie Hall had placed a ban on all family members from consuming alcohol and illegal substances whilst we were out in the country teaching the children about culture knowledge, as a direct result from this restriction I had the opportunity of recording the men hunting for bigger game using my shotgun. This was a big deal for everyone involved, especially the young boys who were all hungry for knowledge.

The destruction of indigenous Australian culture has resulted in ongoing grief, despair and confusion including the disruption of traditional gender roles (especially for men), cultural values and pride, disruption of kinship networks and support systems, and confusion of people forced to balance between two, often irreconcilable cultures.

Darren Clark

Image	CAPTION	FORMAT	DATE	COMMENTS
BA2840/578	Malcolm Simon shooting ducks.	Digital	April 14 2018	On this trip I decided to bring my shotgun along so we could hunt ducks and Geese for the family to eat. when I gave the gun to

				Malcolm to hunt, the effect on his self-esteem was massive. the young boys followed him everywhere cheering him each time he successfully shot some ducks or geese. they raced each other to see who could be first to retrieve the game that he had shot.
BA2840/579	Malcolm Simon hunting.	Digital	April 14 2018	Malcolm bravely retrieving four ducks that he shot with one cartridge from the crocodile infested floodplain.
BA2840/580	Malcolm Simon retrieving ducks.	Digital	April 14 2018	You couldn't wipe the smile of Malcolm's face when he shot four ducks with one cartridge, in fact it was the main topic of conversation around the campfire that night.
BA2840/581	Malcolm Simon with goanna.	Digital	April 14 2018	Malcolm holding a goanna that he caught for tea. This is one of the most prized game meats that you can catch. The sweetest meat is in the tail.
BA2840/582	Malcolm Simon the hunter.	Digital	April 14 2018	Malcolm was so proud to pose with the game he had shot during the afternoon. Being out here hunting gives him a true sense of self and allows him to

				contribute to the family in a meaningful way.
BA2840/583	Ainsley Meeway cooking game.	Digital	April 14 2018	When we got back to the camp Ainsley, got the fire going and was ready to teach the young boys the fine art of cooking big game on an open fire.
BA2840/584	Ainsley cooking game .2	Digital	April 14 2018	I was so impressed with Ainsley's knowledge of cooking game over an open fire. All the young boys eagerly listened to everything he told them and before long they were all cooking the game together.
BA2840/585	Ainsley brushing goanna down.	Digital	April 14 2018	It was Ainsley's role to roast the goanna in the open fire. As it is one of the most prized meats that you can eat, it had to be done correctly.
BA2840/586	Ainsley cooking goanna.	Digital	April 14 2018	Ainsley teaching the young boys the art of roasting a goanna over an open fire.
BA2840/587	Ainsley cleaning goanna.	Digital	April 14 2018	Ainsley cleaning the ash of a freshly roasted goanna.
BA2840/588	Jodie Hall cooking barra.	Digital	April 14 2018	I had mentioned to Jodie that I never got to try any of the barramundi that the family caught because they always kept it for themselves, so on this trip she made a special effort to

				provide me with two big portions of barra, cooked in silver foil in the ashes. They tasted amazing.
BA2840/589	Out there in the Ord Valley.	Digital	April 14 2018	After the main meal was finished the family broke off into separate groups and established their own little fireplaces that their families slept around. An instinctual tradition that has been passed on for generations
BA2840/590	Hunter's camp.	Digital	April 14 2018	This is Ainsley's family camp. A hunter's camp with two wallaby carcasses hanging in the tree and the family sleeping close by the fire.
BA2840/591	First light.	Digital	April 15 2018	None of the children complained when they were asked to sleep on a concrete floor with just a sleeping bag, a pillow and a mosquito coil to protect them, they all loved being around their extended family so much that they forgot about the discomforts.
BA2840/592	Picking water lilies.	Digital	April 15 2018	Early on Sunday morning the children all went down to the billabong to pick Water lilies for breakfast. They formed a rough line and slowly moved along the

				edge of the billabong gathering armfuls of lotus flowers whilst trying to avoiding being eaten by the crocodiles that also called this billabong home.
BA2840/593	Grace Hall picking water lilies	Digital	April 15 2018	Grace is always happy to make an image with me, especially when she is out practicing the traditional culture.
BA2840/594	Grace Hall heading home.	Digital	April 15 2018	Grace heading back to the campfire with an arm full of freshly picked water lilies for breakfast.
BA2840/595	Water lilies for breakfast.	Digital	April 15 2018	In this image Jodie is showing the children how to eat the flowers, seeds, and rhizomes which are all edible raw or cooked.
BA2840/596	Children with water lilies	Digital	April 15 2018	Young Nickolas and Ainsley were far more interested in just playing with the flowers and smelling their perfume rather than eating them.
BA2840/597	Swimming in creek.	Digital	April 15 2018	Each morning the children were taken down to the creek for a swim. The water is so pure out here that you can drink it straight from the creek. I found this to be an essential part of my day because I desperately

				needed to rehydrate after a long, hot night sweating.
BA2840/598	Turtle hunting	Digital	April 15 2018	Malcolm searching for turtles that had buried themselves in the mud for the dry season. To do this you need a long, steel spike to stick into the mud. When you locate a turtle its shell makes a thud when it is hit directly.
BA2840/599	Jodie Hall cutting goorlung tree.	Digital	April 15 2018	Branches from the goorlung tree are cut and placed onto an open fire. They produce thick clouds of white smoke that help to keep the mosquitos away.
BA2840/600	Collecting goorlung.	Digital	April 15 2018	Jodie teaching the children how to look after this special tree in order to preserve it. Gently and respectfully removing the branches.
BA2840/601	Collecting goorlung. 2	Digital	April 15 2018	Jodie passing over the branches and her knowledge to her eldest daughter, Bernadette.
BA2840/602	Bernadette Meeway (nee Simon) Collecting goorlung.	Digital	April 15 2018	Bernadette carefully removing branches from an old goorlung tree. This tree is over 20 years old and is treated with great love and respect so that it will keep

				providing branches for the family for another 20 years.
BA2840/603	A mi- worri plant.	Digital	April 15 2018	Mi-worri is a small plant that grows a long root that tastes just like a turnip. These smaller plants grow in sandy soil. They are roasted in an open fire and have a very sweet taste to them.
BA2840/604	Collecting mi-worri.	Digital	April 15 2018	Jodie and Bernadette digging up mi-worri plants for the evening meal.
BA2840/605	Close up of mi-worri root.	Digital	April 15 2018	Jodie holding the broken root from a mi-worri plant. They are sweet and tender to eat when found at this size.
BA2840/606	Collecting mi-worri. 2	Digital	April 15 2018	Anjelia and Grace learning to find and dig up mi-worri plants.
BA2840/607	Jodie Hall digging up mi-worri plants.	Digital	April 15 2018	Jodie Hall is an old hand when it comes to collecting mi-worri plants. She just looked around and found a solid stick to dig with and before long we all had a good feed of bush turnips to eat with our evening meal.
BA2840/608	Ahkeelah Hall next to a mi-worri plant.	Digital	April 15 2018	At first no one was able to find any mi-worri plant growing around the camp, but once the children were taught what to look for they

				found them growing everywhere.
BA2840/609	Ahkeelah Hall in infrared.	Digital	April 15 2018	This infrared image of Ahkeelah collecting water lilies, shows the beautiful relationship these children have with the land.
BA2840/610	Grace Hall in infrared.	Digital	April 15 2018	I really love this image of Grace walking through an Infrared landscape with an arm full of water lilies. It is a document of the wonderment that is all around us, yet invisible at the same time.
BA2840/611	Swimming in infrared.	Digital	April 15 2018	A big part of the daily routine is to drive down to the creek for a morning swim. To be honest, I can't think of a better way to fully waking myself up and begin the day. We all drank mouthfuls of fresh water until we couldn't drink any more. Then it was off for another day of exploring.
BA2840/612	The boys at breakfast.	Digital	April 15 2018	I'm always moved to the core by the innocence of these children. This early morning portrait of Trayson Simon and Hamish Hall has a freshness about it that capture that beautiful moment in time when these

				children are still so innocent to the ways of the world.
BA2840/613	Davis Hall.	Digital	April 15 2018	This portrait of Davis seated outside the family home is one of my favourite images At this point of time in his life he's trying his best to be a role good model for the younger children to draw guidance from.
BA2840/614	Ainsley Meeway in infrared.	Digital	April 15 2018	A portrait of Ainsley in infrared.