

BIOS

### **Ormay Nangala Gallagher**



Ormay Nangala Gallagher is a Warlpiri educator and author who has been involved in Warlpiri education for much of her working life. She has worked at both Nyirрпи and Yuendumu School, teaching kids Warlpiri language and culture for many years, and continues to do so to this day. Currently she works at the Bilingual Resource Development Unit within Yuendumu School, creating Warlpiri books and developing language learning resources. In this role, she also supports

other organisations to develop Warlpiri resources, which often includes translation and advice on culturally appropriate content. As an experienced and accomplished educator, Nangala provides mentorship and support to up-and-coming Warlpiri educators across Yuendumu School, Lajamanu School, Willowra School and Nyirрпи School. Nangala also supports non-Warlpiri educators who come to work with Yuendumu School and Nyirрпи School through cultural induction, and ongoing mentoring.

### **Otto Jungarrayi Sims**

Otto Jungarrayi Sims is a well-respected Elder, and world-renowned artist from Yuendumu community. He paints his father's stories, which have been passed down through his family for millennia. Jungarrayi is a passionate supporter of education for Warlpiri children, and has been heavily involved in curriculum development and learning on country programs over the years at Yuendumu School. Jungarrayi leads learning on country, which includes teaching young people traditional ways of life, family, history, jukurrpa and ceremony. Jungarrayi is passionate about keeping Warlpiri culture strong in this ever-changing world, saying that, "Culture is everything. It is our essence". He believes that culture will remain strong if kids are taught culture and language so that it may be passed down through generations. Jungarrayi is also a strong voice for sovereign rights for his community.

### **Gretel Macdonald**



Gretel Macdonald has worked as a linguist for the Bilingual Resource Development Unit within Yuendumu School since 2016. In this role she works with Warlpiri educators in Yuendumu, Lajamanu, Willowra and Nyirрпи to support the implementation of bilingual education, which includes building teacher capacity, documenting local curriculum and developing resources. Currently, Gretel is working with a team of Warlpiri educators, including Ormay and Otto, to align the local language and culture curriculum

framework to the achievement standards of the Northern Territory Indigenous Languages and Cultures Curriculum, which is a major project that has spanned three years.

## ABSTRACT

# 'I don't only speak Warlpiri, I AM WARLPIRI'

Our presentation will focus on first language education, and our current work on curriculum development for Warlpiri schools. Warlpiri country covers a relatively extensive area to the northwest of Alice Springs, and the schools we refer to are located in the four major communities on Warlpiri country – Yuendumu, Lajamanu, Willowra and Nyirrpri. Currently, Yuendumu School, Lajamanu School and Willowra School are operating as bilingual schools. Over the years, Warlpiri educators across the four communities have established a network called Warlpiri-patu-kurlangu Jaru ‘The Warlpiri Triangle’, which meets on a regular basis to take part in culturally and linguistically relevant professional development, and also to develop local language and culture curriculum, and supporting resources. The local language and culture curriculum framework is called, “The Warlpiri Knowledge Cycle” or “The Warlpiri Theme Cycle” and is a well-established framework that is used in Warlpiri schools to guide the teaching of Warlpiri language and culture, and to guide the use of Warlpiri to teach across the Australian curriculum. Currently we are undertaking a major project to align the Warlpiri Theme Cycle to the achievement standards of the Northern Territory Indigenous Language and Culture Curriculum. As the title of our presentation suggests, language is not simply about language but also about culture and identity. The title is a statement endorsed by the Yuendumu School Council that appears in the Yuendumu School Languages Policy as a rationale for bilingual education. Curriculum development in our context is thus complex, but does offer a space to foster culture and identity. We offer reflections on how the local language and culture curriculum framework adopted by Warlpiri Schools, and processes that accompany the framework create space for expression of, and learning about Warlpiri culture and identity in the context of our current work.



Figure 1 Representation of the Warlpiri Theme Cycle

