

1993 ANGURUGU REPORT

Group report by Tim Newth, David McMicken, Hellen Sky,
Zhodi Cummings, John McCormick

Groote Eylandt Residency

MONDAY 21/6/1993

- Meeting with Ken, Brown's Mart
- Final purchases, banking (living allowance)
- Flew to Groote Eylandt via Gove
- Picked up car
- Set up domestics
- Night-time town walk after dinner at Alyangula Rec. Club

COMMENTS:

Met 'Bangara' Dance Theatre on their way back to Sydney from Yirrkala.

Car needs to be swapped on THURSDAY

Decision to initially all live in one house for safety.

Constant whistling & dog-barking in late evening, early morning.

School had supplied cooking utensils & suitable bedding. Heather was a pleasant contact & made us feel welcome. Unfortunately, we only have one key between us (master key), which opens all school buildings. Sometimes we have to wait for each other to get into the house.

Left a food/tools bag at the airport & had to collect it. Ate at Alyangula.

PERSONAL COMMENTS:

Zhodi: Culture shocked. Housing seemed very rundown. People seemed very stand-offish.

David: Glad to have had a short prior visit.

Hellen: Tired from travelling

Tim: Still in Japan!

TUESDAY 22/6/1993

- Meeting re: domestics, official business, general project, project history.
- Lands Council re: permits.
- David Glover re: money & mail
- Alyangula - shopping & luggage retrieval.
- Barge - Perkins - pick up props etc.
- Brian & Kathy - no Murabuda (he was sick)
- Marty Rowe & Rec hall
- Murabuda
- Disco

COMMENTS:

Meeting: Domestics - people were cold at night - need for more blankets.

Arrangements needed for the use of the only key

Lands Council: Don Billet questioning of the videoing. Need to know in detail before permission will be given. Many areas of the Island closed for recreation due to two recent deaths.

David Glover: Accountant.

Appeared very helpful. It was noted that there was not any Aboriginal people in the office therefore we did not see officials (due to death).

Got mail address & fax number:

CMA Angurugu via Darwin, NT 0822, Fax: 089 87 4404

Alyangula Well stocked shop - GEMCO supermarket

C.A.A.P.S.: Met Brian. Murabuda is sick. Brian said Murabuda was going to Darwin 5 - 26th July, along with most of the C.A.A.P.S. people. Brian gave names of suggested women for Hellen & Zhodi to visit.

Marty Rowe: Rec. Hall is not ready for two more weeks but we can store things there.

Murabuda: Sick, but we arranged a meeting for 10.00 am next day.

Disco: Met with Geraldine Robertson (G.R.) from Lajamanu who enticed us into dancing.

PERSONAL COMMENTS

Tim: Weather is ideal working temperature.

Zhodi: Still culture shocked never having felt like such a minority within Australia.

Hellen: Becoming aware of car salesman's more urbane than other communities.

David: Clearly fewer people around, harder to contact people than last time.

Tim: People, especially kids, seem to ignore us rather than have a sense of intrigue, which seems to make contact difficult.

David: Disco music is less exciting than last visit, dancing too.

Hellen: Questioning how to make one to one contacts with people.

Tim: Disco seems a good place to make contacts, however we seemed to make little impact.

WEDNESDAY 23/6/1993

- Meet with Murabuda
- Meet with Marty, Hazel & Christine (Rec. Officers in Umbakumba)
- Disco
- Began making star lanterns

COMMENTS:

Murabuda meeting rescheduled to later in the day, as it was payday, as with all meetings arranged for the morning.

Drove to Government Council & located ourselves there to be with the rest of the community & to watch out for Marty.

Murabuda meeting:

Reaffirms starting points of project, & the appropriateness of the people given to us from Brian in previous day's meeting:-

- from references the Lajamanu video tape has been able to give us direction -
- use of the Morning Star (dance & image).
- approved idea of representing each clan with the totem.

- to begin at Umbakumba was a good start.
- need to work in 'both ways'.
- pushed that we contact Jambana Lalara & Claude Mamarika, for more information & for approval of totem & stories (this may be as he will be out of town for large portion of the project).
- not forthcoming with women's contact information.

Marty Meeting

Reaffirmed that Umbakumba workshop would happen in 2nd week of the project (Hazel's family death had caused some doubt). Christine was also present & expressed her enthusiasm & support & suggested separate locations for girls & boys workshops. She reported back that the community kids had noted our presence at the disco.

PERSONAL COMMENTS:

David: That projects in Aboriginal community are strongly affected in many ways because of the effects & consequential "sorry business" ie. The shop was closed etc & that payday also carries large ramifications in that everyone is involved.

Zhodi: More grounded from interactive & conversation with Aboriginal community members.

Tim: Disco continues to remain an important link re: visibility & exposure to our target group; however very little choice in ignoring due to proximity, noise level & duration.

Marty suggested a mural, this caused some confusion: relevance to the project (it's not a performance element) as well as the time it would take. Who would do it? Conflict between Donald Lalara & Murabuda saying not to work with him.

Hellen: What appears to be disinterest is rather reserve & shyness, which is gradually changing as more conversation is initiated.

Tim: I wonder how many people think that we were used car salesmen.

THURSDAY 24/6/1993

- Phone report to Ken
- Started to follow up women's contacts (Marty not available to help introduce us to people)
- Swapped car & looked at local murals
- Met with Jambana Lalara & Land's Council members re: clarifying clan totems
- Library - researching pictures of totems
- Disco
- Started making flags for Umbakumba workshops
- Compiled totem clan list in English & language.

Women's Contacts:

Although Kelly (Health worker) was sick, Hellen & Zhodi met with Lalina Wurramarra & her husband Johnny Lalara, they had been curious about our presence in town, & were glad we were now talking with them.. Hellen & Zhodi begin to work separately from Tim & David to pursue female contacts, & without the assistance of Jacqui (local teacher) because she has been unavailable.

Jambana Lalara Meeting:

He clarified our knowledge of clans & totems, & expanded on them in local language. He told us of the existence of relevant song & dance related to the clan's & their ability to be used by all (ie. not ceremonial). He suggested confirming some of the animal

totems, & that Claude Mamarika would be able, as a Yiridja (moity 2), to teach us the dances & songs. We intended to contact Claude on Monday at Umbakumba to arrange a teaching & talking time. Jambana's information drew the clan together into six major groupings.

Library:

The library was discovered through meetings with Lalina & Johnny. It was made available to us, dictionary of plants & animals in language & images.

Disco:

Our presence at the disco continues to provide a focus for the project. D.J. Timothy Lalara, made an announcement about our purpose & intentions. Hellen & David's solo dancing caused a positive response. Our presence within this social context begins to merge boundaries between the team & the community as we familiarise ourselves with codes of social/movement behaviour.

PERSONAL COMMENTS:

David: Jambana more helpful than last visit, with his generosity of information.

Tim: I feel that only through meetings with people, can we begin to find the question that we need to ask. The more we know the more we know we don't know.

Zhodi: As we were able to collect some information it seemed to be a trigger for other people to willingly contribute theirs, although this meeting with Lalina (without an intermediary) was a difficult personal barrier to cross.

Hellen: It felt good to make contact with people. Meeting with Lalina was through our own initiative of walking into someone's front yard to sit down & talk with them, rather than being escorted by Marty, or Jacqui who was always unavailable. Lalina & Johnny were glad that we did because our presence in town of a few days had already made them curious, & they were glad to be enlightened as to why we were here. They were happy to talk to us, & this gave us confidence to follow through unaccompanied with other people.

David: The frustration of the paradox arising from projects within Aboriginal communities:

- how is information gathered?
- what information is important?
- speed of information and material gathered
- who is it for?

There does not yet seem to be a clear forum within team to deal with those questions.

Hellen had cold (head & throat), all a little under par except me.

FRIDAY 25/6/1993

- Hellen & Zhodi tried to meet with Kelly - she was in Alyangula.
- Plotted clan chart with totems.
- Hellen & Zhodi met with female elder Jigakwa Lalara
- Tim & David looked for artist (Nanga) Wurrabadalamba from Bartalamba Bay.
- Tim & David - library for local images; spoke with young men (Dawson, Ian, Steve, Namon).
- Lands Council - permits (David & Tim)
- Hellen & Zhodi met with Didjidi Wurrwagwa (Elder Woman)
- Tim & David returned to Library (locked, as was our house)
- Bamboo splitting & workshop planning.
- Attempted visit to Leske Pools (didn't make it).

- Saw petrol sniffers.
- Made contact with local band members: Leonard, Matthew, Muriel, Sylvester
- No Disco therefore no chance to publicise morning workshop.
- Funeral in Umbakumba.
- Hellen & Zhodi meeting via phone call, contacts of women to pursue were followed through with by mentioning Kelly first.

Jigakwa was warm & welcoming, greeted us at the car. We sat & talked about the Brolga story/dance, her past activities; gathering, food, craft, shells, string, colour. She invited us to go with her to collect colour, dies, string & that she & her sisters would dance the Brolga dance & teach us. She told us her husband Hindoo knew the whole Brolga story. She was very comfortable having her conversation recorded on Zhodi's dictaphone. We would visit her again on returning from Umbakumba.

Tim & David: Library - Through being at the library access was gained to younger male adults; a discussion began about contemporary life in Angurugu. Drawing skills from young people (18-30) were pursued. Steve from Ngukurr (Roper River) gave an interesting perspective on life in this community from an outsider Aboriginal point of view.

Didjidi Wurrwagwa meeting was also positive, she was happy to tell both of us about her life, gathering food, she did not know all the dreaming stories, her life in missions & her family & tragedy of boat subsiding, maybe explaining the few Wurrawagwa's.

Workshop Planning:

Confirmation with Murabuda that East Wind & Morning Stars were images to be used, construction of star lanterns & flags for East Wind were the starting point to plan workshops for Umbakumba. A workshop plan of morning, afternoon & evening activities was drawn up. Included in this discussion was preliminary directions for show context & form. Questions were raised regarding groups ie. older / younger boys / girls, work space, time scales, break up of movement time & construction time, our involvement/roles in workshop. Priority was given on Monday to meet with Claude to follow through with CDEP, due to Clan day being on Tuesday.

Leske Pools visit arose from the need to get out of the community environment but demonstrated the benefits of a local guide, which we did not have.

Meeting local band members, opened up musical possibilities in the project ie. recorded music or including them in next year's project. Through Alan Murphy being in town & filming local bands this contact was accessed.

Funeral in Umbakumba meant many people were out of town in the afternoon, disco was cancelled & the chance to publicise a planned Saturday morning workshop was nullified.

PERSONAL COMMENTS:

Allan Murphy statement: "IF WE GET IT RIGHT IT WILL BE GOOD".

Tim: It seems we need to find out more about contemporary life in Angurugu, what people do & what they aspire to

Clan chart is a good way to enter into discussion with community members, & totems are good beginning points into forming relationships with local artists.

Outsiders eg. Steve from Ngukurr & G.R. from Lajamanu seem more open to talk than locals.

David: Difficulty of one car today, meant not being able to follow up Nanga lead promptly. One key to the house left me unable to do anything.

Concern about appropriate actions which arise due to being in a foreign culture. Questions of cultural dominance arising ie. what rights do I have in this place? How far do I impose my culture? How do I define my culture? How flexible should I be in this project? Zhodi: Seeing as I have not been on an Aboriginal community before I am still coming to terms with this place & people, & started to experience that the essence of the people were the same, so was able to make real people connections even if cultures were different.

Hellen: Today's meeting was positive, feeling that doors were opening, feeling that there was more at ease, with gaining perceptions through conversation, & that this is more of a contemporary society than first anticipated. Enthused by feeling from contacts made person to person, & that we can meet with people on their ground. Jigakwa was at first wondering where she could sit with us, as there was no ground cover, but sitting in the sand was fine.

SATURDAY 26/6/1993

- Continued preparation for Umbakumba
- Alyangula - shopped for the week away at Umbakumba
- Leske Pools expedition
- Disco (Tim piked)
- Alyangula - shopping (Post Office & Commonwealth Bank only open between 10 - 11. Supermarket closes at 12 o'clock) Filled with petrol.
- Leske Pools, easier to find in the early afternoon, spoke to Reggy Warramabra for permission to go (he lives in this out-station). Road easily accessible until last sandy stretch, on exit small delay with minor bogging. Pools very beautiful & good rest & change for team.
- Disco clearly male & female contact dancing causes an immediate response, as does any individual movement vocabulary. The community youth, (older & younger) really went for their rap dancing through individual & group dance. The disco went on till 3 o'clock etc. which made sleeping very difficult. David & Zhodi made contact with Guy Esperon who they had heard much about, he offered to work after clan. We will follow up.

PERSONAL COMMENTS:

David: Hard to have time off project while in the community. Thoroughly enjoyed Leske pools, beautiful.

Tim: The team started to come together a bit more as a group. Quite difficult to find personal space is difficult ie. disco.

Hellen: Enjoyed the outing, not the bogging of the vehicle.

SUNDAY 27/6/1993

- Packed for Umbakumba
- Preparation/bamboo for workshops
- Drove to Umbakumba - no accommodation prepared for us.
- Water hole - met with ex-teachers (while) and his wife Nancy Lalara
- Returned to Angurugu
- Report meeting

- Band film clip
- Actions

Packing involved everything needed for a week's living, eating, working & documenting. This marked a major shift of focus within the project, & leaving behind burgeoning relationships with people & place.

Drove to Umbakumba, took 50 minutes. On arrival, our assumed contact Carol had left the community & her husband was not home. We waited & did a reconnaissance of the proposed living space, & working spaces. One of the houses appeared to be occupied. After waiting we returned & were informed where & who had the keys & were taken back to the house, one was unable to be opened, the other had not been prepared & only one single mattress. No water, no cleaning. These conditions were untenable & Kim, they key holder, followed up other options, while she did this we waited at a nearby local swimming hole. After returning, no advances had been found so we decided to return to Angurugu & drive into the workshop early the following morning.

Report meeting am. then report of Daily Agenda, detailed comments & personal comments were decided as report structure.

The band film clip, Alan Murphy was filming "Poison Whisky" we watch & also went to "actions" on Sunday pray & say meeting.

PERSONAL COMMENTS:

Hellen: Dislocated through change of plan when preparation had already taken place.

Tim: Talked with Paul Jamala, who referred to his sickness retrenchment caused from working in the mine. Further evidence was given to "The Groote Eylandt" Syndrome; drinking of water & living in Angurugu causes such symptoms: Schizophrenia, bone & physical / mental disorders.

Zhodi: Feeling as though turned upside down at having to return, & that we were not being looked after as we had anticipated. Feeling apprehensive about what Clan Money Day would be like after hearing stories of violent activity which created a sense of unease.

David: Felt much more centred into Umbakumba, the lack of planned activity taking place seemed more expected. The domestic violence in the evening reminded me about how different this community is from a white community.

Tim: I found it difficult to uproot ourselves & move into Umbakumba, particularly in view of the lack of preparation for us.

David: Impossible to have a clear connection in Umbakumba when this had been initially established through the school but the school was closed. Method of reporting raised issues with me about what we decide, at this stage, to be important. We need to report more regularly, & include more details about community activities (ie. funeral) that affect the facilitation of the project.

MONDAY 28/6/1993

- am travelled to Umbakumba
- waited for Hazel, Christine, Ivan & Isaac.
- Hellen, Zhodi & David swept Rec. Hall
- Tim collected flag poles with CDEP Team
- Claude Mamarika not in. David & Zhodi spoke to Richard Herbert (accountant)
- Marty arrived from Angurugu

- Tim & Marty looked for Rec. Officers not present, collected children in a bus with assistance from Eric in CDEP Team.
- Workshop with children, two groups, movement & star-making.
- Attempted meeting with Umbakumba contacts, unsuccessful.
- Advised Clan Money day would prevent the following day's workshop.
- Returned via Alyangula, filled car.

Hazel, Christine, Ivan & Isaac did not show up.

Claude Mamarika not being able to be found, caused planned dance learning & information regarding totems to be delayed, until after Clan Money time. How long unknown at present.

CDEP workers & Council workers will be on holiday for 2 weeks from Tuesday, (tomorrow).

Richard Herbert from the council office suggested that Clan Money would be on Thursday, not Tuesday, this added to our confusion.

Due to Hazel & Christine not being there to gather children, Tim & Marty were referred through five different people to find anyone who could assist, eventually Eric a CDEP worker volunteered to drive the bus, & help round up the children. (We suspect that the children may have been led to expect that they were coming to a performance rather than a workshop).

David's this time. Hellen & Zhodi, tried a variety of tactics to entice children to the Rec. Hall not centrally located.

Workshop

30 excited hooraying children ran from the bus. We quickly attempted to initiate activities. Eric assisted us in drawing the children into the centre & to sit down. He translated an introduction to a name game & helped with names as most were extremely shy.

We quickly passed through several activities trying to engage them. It became evident that a girls & boys group would be more comfortable to work in. The girls went to a grassy area, & the boys stayed in the Rec Hall.

The girls were very shy & mixed as a group. One older woman helped translate & encourage participation at first. Girls were not all dressed appropriately. Attempts to teach somersaults, cat & mouse & balancing were only partially successful. They all said next time they would wear shorts & after a while, we decided to continue the activities by making stars. This activity proved to be more successful as it encouraged conversation & working together in close proximity, ie. gaffa sticking, passing, helping hold the constructions, telling names & showing photos & telling them why we were there.

Tim & David were left at sea, & decided that making stars would be good. Initially, the boys just watched intently but did not participate, until one star had been made, then some left & others began gaffering. The older boys were distracted but then helped make the stars. When the girls returned the boys left except one, who played tapes slowly. Others returned & we did some rap dancing in the storeroom (a smaller separate enclosed space). A need for more set material became obvious.

After the workshop children seemed happy to stay around & talk to us & show us their skills in a casual manner. It was difficult to eat & discuss the workshop without our own space, & without a formal way of finishing the workshop.

Council & CDEP were closed in the afternoon & we were advised that afternoon was not a good time to meet with people, that Clan Money would be tomorrow, workshops were not advised, (for some not for the whole week). We took this advice; we had nowhere to stay in Umbakumba still & the appropriate people to help us were not there so we decided to return on Wednesday.

PERSONAL COMMENTS:

Zhodi: Went through the whole gamut; flat chaos in the morning, to being more relaxed after talking with Marty about Clan Money time & through contacting my own culture through watching T.V.

Tim: Felt disillusioned about what nights we had to ask people to dance, to make, in a situation & environment that I felt unconnected to. This was amplified with us eating our lunch which was ours & unable to be shared. Give to me but I won't give to you, come here, go away.

David: Need to look at different planning & strategies tactics for workshops. Being clear about who is in charge at different times. We need to support one another more in the workshop. We need to accept the unknown rather than structure this. How can we expect the (participants) to go into uncharted seas if we are not prepared to do this ourselves? The lack of initial inroad ie. no Hazel, very disappointing, although I partly expected that, therefore how do we use Hazel in the project.

Hellen: Need for clearer communication within the team, & students for workshop activities to be open to change & to read the needs of the immediate situation. A clearer idea of what the project aims to achieve in conceptual terms would assist me in feeling that I can continue more creatively & with more focus. Total shock & discomfort with moments throughout the workshop & eating, yet from the apparent chaos a clearer idea about what things may be possible, especially if there was more input from the elder members of the community. Eric was a saving grace & the children seemed though at first very shy extremely open & friendly. Although we have only been here for a week, the intensity of both the community & living makes it feel far greater. Really enjoyed the video (& ABC review program & sense of common culture. Shocked at the news of America bombing Bagdad).

David: Their style is not my preferred style of choreography, how do I enter this. Maybe it is time to direct the project more.

Tim: Rewarding to work with the CDEP workers. It appears to work well through Phil Price's direction.

TUESDAY 29/6/1993 (CLAN MONEY DAY)

- report writing 10.00 - 5.00 pm
- report writing 8.30 - 11.00 pm & planning Umbakumba workshop

COMMENTS:

- decided to do report writing at more regular intervals, as it's more time consuming than first imagined.

- long day, but worth it.

- advice to stay indoors today. Made it an ideal time to report.

- as a result of yesterday's workshop in Umbakumba, we created a more informed plan, & defined roles more clearly.

PERSONAL COMMENTS:

David: Dinner in Alyangula - met Captain & Engineer of Bulk Ore Carrier. Two Indian men in charge of a Hong Kong ship taking Groote Eylandt Manganese to Egypt. What a strange connection to this project. Reporting is very gruelling.

Tim: Being clan money day, none of us knew what we would wake up to. Throughout the clan day, each of us kept asking "has it happened?" as if a bomb was to explode.

Zhodi: What do I really want to get & give to this project?

Hellen: Report writing seemed to release thoughts & feelings about the process we'd all been sharing. No dolphins at the pier. Musical instruments for sale on the basketball court.

Tim: Although the reporting seemed gruelling I felt that our awareness of each other was important. We actually became aware that we had gotten somewhere.

David: It's easy to see what you want to see & hear what you want to hear. How do I look with more open eyes & hear with more receptive ears?

GENERAL COMMENTS:

Many motorbikes, new cars, 4WD buggies, 7-year-old drivers. Scary to be on the road.

David: Boy sniffing petrol direct from motorbike fuel tank.

WEDNESDAY 30/6/1993

- Hellen to Angurugu clinic for bad hands, but it was not open.
- Drive to Umbakumba
- Umbakumba clinic closed.
- Preparation & workshop 9-12.
- Hellen to clinic
- Arrange contractors house for Thursday (we will stay over)
- Home to Angurugu
- Hellen to clinic
- Alyangula for chemist & food
- Meeting with Guy Esperon
- Post dinner discussion; personal goals; possible process.
- Watched Guy's videos of the Aboriginal Dance Festival.
- Disco, Tim & David.

COMMENTS:

- Hellen's hand saga: Infected dermatitis causing swollen glands & fever - due to tropical conditions & working environment.

- Workshop - extra planning gave clarity to both the participants & us. Beginnings of water dance & continuing making stars. Fewer kids meant we could work with a bit more concentration (the day after Clan Money) - no assistance in collecting kids.

- Home to Angurugu - a car overtook us & skidded off into the bush - a reminder to be careful on these roads, especially at this time (Clan).

- Guy Esperon: Guy explained he was hanging back so as not to tread on Marty's toes. Guy's knowledge of this community is immense as is his energy for creative projects & his commitment to these people. If he was still in his old position with Sport & Rec. the project would have been better equipped to make greater inroads. However, he has suggested that he will assist us when & where he can. However, his direction may differ from that as suggested by C.A.A.P.S. & Murabuda.

- Guy will do some thinking as to who would be a good Aboriginal liaison person - (Gladys Lalara, Timothy Lalara was also suggested as someone who can control the kids.) He said there would be a funeral on Bickerton Island on the weekend & most families from

Umbakumba will be going. He suggests that too many projects are run on Western / European ("missionary/balanda") methods, especially in the 9-5 timing. Things would work better if we worked according to their energies ie night-time on oval with the lights on. Also to enjoy the people & place during the day.

A WORD FROM OUR DIRECTOR: Goals & processes.

Tim wanted us to look at work processes & personal goals. This became a discussion as to how we might proceed, especially over the next 2 weeks. We questioned whether we could achieve a performance in the given time.

- Disco - everyone is in new clothes.

PERSONAL COMMENTS:

Tim: Sense of frustration - feels impossible to achieve a performance in 6 weeks. Just doesn't feel the time to make the personal contacts, to give the project any depth & support. Should we now focus on simply making those contacts within this work block.

Frustration: how to make personal contacts within what feels like the confines of this group & our daily timetable. Am I here to work with three white artists or an Aboriginal community? How do I support & exist within this team?

Hellen: Although feeling somewhat subdued by my own personal condition, I was happy to have made contact with Guy who seems to be a vital link for this project & whose information suggested possible creative starting points. Amazed at the amount of money circulated through card games. Clan Day did not seem as nervy as I had imagined it. I could see similarities between "it" & Christmas day.

Zhodi: Although we are all employed as multi-skilled artists I am finding it difficult not having a specialist skill (as everyone else does). Comparisons & parallels are often being drawn between the working methods within visual art & dance & it seems that my opinions are often not sort in either. Discussions may be better started by hearing an initial comment from each person before more detailed opinions are given.

David: A sense of uneasiness from Tim's post-dinner discussion. How do we as a team fit in with his ideal way of working. The streets are loud tonight with cars & especially motorbikes which drive so quickly & recklessly up & down.

Hellen: Bruce in discussion with Hellen about the general noise said: "wait a couple of days when all the mufflers have fallen off".

THURSDAY 1st July 1993

- Pack & drive to Umbakumba
- Secured lodgings
- Workshop, prep. & pick up kids
- Take bark off poles for flag, & sewing
- Slept at Umbakumba

COMMENTS:

- passed a smashed-in rolled car, a reminder of the "excesses" of clan time
- still wary on roads (care needed)
- staying in council contractors housing, comfortably equipped & cheaper.
- workshop. A structure of repetition & an expansion of the previous day's workshop structure proved to be successful. Stars glued & covered. Smaller numbers but still a consistent core of participants.

- knowing we had accommodation for the night meant we could pace our afternoon activities & create a profile.
- the smaller community of Umbakumba felt more open.

PERSONAL COMMENTS:

Hellen: The vicinity of Umbakumba to the coast and its smaller size seemed a less stressful environment for the community & us. The workshops seemed to be enjoyed & looked forward to by the children whose ages ranged from 3 - 14 years. It was good not to drive back, the nights were quieter, it was cracker night. We shared some sparklers. My hand affected my workshop energy. I needed to sleep more than usual.

Zhodi: The kids are such a great bunch. They respond positively to our attention & warmth.
David: Workshops going well but hard to know where they are heading re: overall project. I am concerned about Hellen's hands, & the chances of healing in these conditions. Less motorbikes but a power generator all night. A rolled car brings up issues of advice given ie. "stay off the roads". Small signs of out-of-controlledness.

Tim: Enjoyed skinning the flag poles (which happened to look like spears) in a public place by the road & beach. The workspace (although nice) is not near to where the majority of the people live.

FRIDAY 2nd July 1993

- 9.30 start workshop preparation.
- pick up kids in van - 9.30 - 12.30 workshop
- Star work
- Claude Mamarika meeting as suggested by Jambana (follow up meeting)
- pack up house & workspace / tools / gear.
- drive to Angurugu
- report meeting 7.30 - 10.30

Workshop:

- some kids already at workshop space while flags & new sequence prepared.
- kids quickly came to the van, with assistance from other kids. Workshop continued on established patterns, introduction of flags, use of rhythm, children's names, dance names with singing workshop, provides direction for future visits & performance. The week of workshop established a unit of ideas & studies for future refinement & development.
- A loosely structured workshop in the afternoon to complete stars allowed people to flow in as they choose, the kids were keen to have us return next week.

Claude Meeting

After initial approach in the morning, Claude advised us to see him after lunch, in our workspace. While waiting for him to come we realised if the meeting was to happen before our departure we would have to take the initiative. The men went (David & Tim - we thought that this would be more appropriate because Claude was with a group of men gathered on the beach in the local drinking spot). Claude seemed distant & not overly interested, however, the group encouraged us to sit & say our piece. We asked about totem images & dances, connected to the Umbakumba community. Again the morning star was confirmed as being a primary totem as was the seagull. On questioning further regarding morning star dance we were told that everybody knows & can do it. We have made an arrangement to return Wednesday morning to follow this through. Possibly to watch & hear the music (didj. & sing). Earnest, a younger adult in the men's meeting was the key speaker.

- Pack up - the house was left clean & arrangements for Brown's Mart to be invoiced made.

Report Meeting:

Although we planned to do this daily we still store them up.

PERSONAL COMMENTS:

Zhodi: I am finding reflection to be quite difficult - is this because of the sheer quantity of new things being experienced every day? Or that I feel that strong connections have been made with that group of children? Or that the occurrence of these happens at a late time in the day?

Tim: I feel the reporting forms a united base of thought before we move on to the next thing. I question whether we have the time to make adult contacts in Umbakumba, although working with the kid's energy this week has been invigorating. It makes me feel more optimistic.

David: Access to people other than young ones is difficult. No senior girls as expected. No Hazel this week. Where is the community support for this project? How do we enlist or create it? Seaside definitely a different lifestyle here. Claude was hard to access this visit. Why?

Hellen: Feel strong foundations amongst kids have been keyed for future work & ideas being for future development. Young people no older ones. Perhaps this would have been difficult with other community assistance. Feeling better as hands heal.

SATURDAY 3 JULY 1993

- Shopping - Alyangula
- Videos for recreation
- Guy Esperon visit
- Dinner & meeting with Guy
- Disco

COMMENTS:

Shopping at Alyangula Supermarket - we have been asked not to shop there anymore as the freight of goods is being paid by GEMCO.

Guy explained that he had not come to take us to Bartalumba Bay as suggested because Galidja (who was coming with us) had spent the afternoon 'singing' for lost keys.

Told us that drum kit, video & mats were around somewhere.

A car accident that happened this afternoon reiterated the tensions between the clans from here & Umbakumba. Some people from Umbakumba who were in the car, in shock, some badly injured, were not helped or brought blankets from the Alyangula mob until Guy forced them to.

Guy informed us of a women's Christian singing group.

Arranging a performance of the three local bands.

Discussed the importance of fashion to the older youth.

Disco - not many people in town due to clan money time.

PERSONAL COMMENTS:-

David: Miners town: they get the benefits & profits while the landowners are not allowed to use the facilities. This is difficult to reconcile.

Guy is helpful, however, his contacts & methods appear at times to go against already advised ways (Christian v. non-Christian).

Tim: Guy seems to come from a similar cultural background to the people of Angurugu. He tells of arriving in Melbourne & crying for two weeks. I don't think he realises that we might feel like crying for two weeks on arriving here.

Hellen: Need a recreational break (video diversions). Guy Esperon is our only social engagement. Dinner conversations gave further illuminations to the community.

Zhodi: As the initial "newness" of clan money time wears off, we seem to move into a time of rapid degeneration - we have seen four or five car accidents in the last few days & the motorbikes get louder as the mufflers fall off.

SUNDAY 4 JULY 1993

- Walk in forest/jungle
- pm: meeting to plan next four weeks
- Looking at aims of the project
- Plan workshop & other activities for Monday
- Collection of metal things for percussion
- Meet Marty - Hellen & David
- Worked on development of story line - Tim
- Storyline discussion

Last night's dinner at Guy's (& his directions & information about places) gave us the confidence to venture out of the house & into the forest. On this walk, we found a nice swimming hole & Hellen found many abandoned metal objects that could be used as musical instruments.

Planning Meeting:-

We discussed what people saw as a possible culmination of this project. We discussed what people saw as personal priorities. Tim did not feel that the community & we were ready for a full-on performance yet, but we all agreed on the need to have a focus for the work & that this should be some form of "showing." Where, what & how were talked about. Tim still staying with the idea of six major images for the clans & a series of dances that link & support.

Discussed end product as the tour & problems etc involved ie. difficulty in touring older people & the 16 - 18-year-olds. The tourability of images - size, dimension & durability.

Workshop planning for Monday

Agreed on workshop format as similar to Umbakumba with the addition of a routine to modern/pop music.

Hellen & David drove into the bush & collected pipes & drums & bits of cars etc to be used as percussion instruments.

Marty

Hellen & David met with Marty to follow up on things mentioned the night before at Guys, ie.

- acrobatic mats (there are none)
- video camera (we've picked it up)
- drum kits (need re-skinning)
- Also got the key to the space & informed him of our 9am start. He said the bus would be available to pick up the kids.

Movies & Story Development

Hellen, Zhodi & David went to Alyangula to see a movie (Somersby). Meanwhile, back at the ranch, Tim stayed on to work on storyline development - this came out of the afternoon meeting. On the return of the movie-goers, Tim led a discussion on the projected draft storyline.

- Contemporary dance
- Six clan group dances featuring totems (totem dances, emblems & puppets)
- Macassans
- Missionaries
- Mining
- Contemporary dance

PERSONAL COMMENTS

Tim: In past projects, there have been local people (like Christine Nichols & Kevin Buzacott) who have had a knowledge of the possibilities & positive outcomes of doing a project like this. However, there is no such support, knowing or direction here.

10 months of collaboratively working, eating, sleeping & living are having a toll on me & therefore affecting the group on this project.

I still fight the idea of having any kind of performance. This is coloured by past experience of working on shows in Aboriginal communities. I would question putting on a performance that is not up to scratch.

Zhodi: Team dynamics seem to be settling. Today's discussion was evenly balanced between the four of us.

Hellen: The possibility of being able to leave the house & go for a walk was inspired by Guy's suggestion & direction. We walked along the road & found a possible swimming spot. It exposed new aspects which surround the community. I enjoyed the activity of collecting metal rubbish with David.

We've been very cautious about treading the streets. Mostly we go together. The urban environment is dominated by sparse yards, scattered plastic rubbish & derelict cars.

David: I question the time we have available to us (12 weeks in total) & the chance to develop personal working processes, strong community connection & ownership of the work and performance skills of adequate standards. I still do not know how to get into this

project. Will Tim take a strong direction? We are asked to say our preferred ways of working but will that way of work be able to be affected?

MONDAY 5 JULY 1993

- Workshop - develop routine
- pick up kids
- workshop
- Attempt to meet Nanga Warrabardalumba, Leonard, Timothy Lalara
- Workshop - builder, Grant, press drill
- mechanic: Ned, inner-tubes
- Collect wood from out bush for drumsticks
- Cutting & preparing metal objects for percussion instruments
- Strip & prepare wood for drumstick - general preparation for 'making' workshops etc.
- The accident!! - Tim's arm
- Clinic
- Meeting with Guy re: Galidja
- Further work on wood & drumsticks
- Re-attempt to visit Leonard
- Tim - further planning - dolphin, windsock, post-primary boys
- Ken phone call

Workshop

Although planned to commence at 10:30, through Marty, his attempts to find assistants were initially unsuccessful. Grace, the wife of Timothy Lalara, was eventually seconded an hour later & proved to be of great assistance both in collecting kids, informing families & within the workshop, 25 children between the ages of 4 & 14 predominantly 6 years old & predominantly female, was quite successful. Their attention span seemed to be greater than the Umbakumba group, perhaps because of the contained space (ie. walls). Followed workshop plan.

NANGA (key painter) is off-island for two weeks as is Timothy Lalara. Leonard (music contact) out fishing. Generally following up with people is proving frustrating, due to their absence, clan money could be a contributing factor to this condition.

Metal rubbish collected on Sunday was constructed, using the contacts & equipment of the Mechanic & Builder Workshop, by Hellen into a variety of scaled drums & percussive drums & tins. Wood collected by Tim, David & Zhodi has been stripped & rubber tyres cut to be constructed in Tuesday making workshop (into mallets & drumsticks).

Tim's Accident

Tim cut his arm while preparing bamboo, he was driven by Zhodi in the bus to the Health Centre & was given three stitches & a tetanus shot. It was reported by phone to Ken Conway (Darwin) [*Ken please put this in the Accident Report Book*].

GALIDJA, Hellen & Time met Guy to arrange another time on the following day to meet with Galidja. Leonard still not home.

Ken Phone Call

Although Tim had tried earlier in the day (10 minutes before the accident) we did not get through. Ken called late afternoon. It was good for all of us to 'touch base' with Ken.

PERSONAL COMMENTS:

Zhodi: I've been thinking about whether or not we will be able to reach our preferred 'end goal' of a performance. If we don't, has it been a waste of time? If the end outcome is not as we expected then I think we need to accept that things are as they are & that many people here may have gained enormously from the work that's being done.

David: How do we get older youth/young adults involved. I do not seem to have much quality male contact here yet.

Unrest in town tonight 'something brewing'. People not out as much & doors closed. I feel this strangeness strongly even though Hellen says "no no." Later on, big fighting & gunshot was sobering. It has been a full day both rewarding & warning.

Are we just another group of white people trying to get something from this community? What will excite them? What will they own?

Tim: Christian versus non-Christian. Guy & Murabuda's advice conflict each other.

Good to let off steam to Ken (will rethink how to access target group).

I continue to feel frustrated.

Hellen: Marty has done well in preparing & cleaning our workspace & in following through with the pick-up of children. Feel more contact with the community though actually have met many younger ones through the workshop. They & their mothers now initiate greetings in the street. Tim's arm & hospital visit causes concern amongst team members & mothers in the community (who were at the hospital).

Tim: Maybe doing everything together (as we do) doesn't make us very approachable to people.

TUESDAY 6 JULY 1993

- Waiting for Guy
- Rec Hall - further preparation
- Meeting with Guy, Galidga and Belma
- Rec Hall - finish preparation
- Grace re: picking up kids (didn't happen)
- Lunch
- Pick up kids and workshop - movement and making drumsticks
- Alyangula - shopping and attempting to get bamboo
- Emblems and casual liaising with Marty
- Attempt to see Grace
- Leonard
- Tim: story developed
- Tea and visit from GR and Bernadine
- - report meeting

- - Umbakumba planning
- - Update from Tim re: story development

9:00 - 9:30

While waiting for Guy, David cut his fingers while slicing bamboo.

Meeting with Galidga and Belma

Explained project through photographs, asked Galidga to assist in helping get target age group kids together (as advised by Guy) showed her our clan totem chart while explaining and showing emblem for show. She seemed excited about painting an emblem for her clan (Durila) and involving others in painting further emblems. Belma translated for us and agreed to follow through with Mary Amagula and Paul as to contacting our target group. A meeting was arranged for the following afternoon. Left chart for more details to be added and pictures of emblem to assist in the explanation to other painters.

Upon Grace's advice, we delayed the morning workshop to afternoon time (to allow kids lunch). Meanwhile further preparation/building activities for emblems and drumsticks). Grace, Zhodi and David picked up kids on the bus, more participants than yesterday in three groupings - preschool, primary and post-primary. Once again mostly female especially in the older group. The attention span was really committed. The group was split into three. They responded well to the challenge of routine, listening and making drumsticks. It was our longest workshop. Grace again was of assistance in collecting and in the workshop and Marty has offered to pay her through Sport & Rec.

During the workshop, Tim targeted the storyline towards the target group dropping ideas of Macassans, missionaries, and mining in favour of an alien image influenced by heavy metal imagery or traditional evil spirit imagery.

Alyangula, shopping and bamboo collection from town. The first was successful, the second was not although we saw where it was Guy would need to be present to cut it as it borders on the Golf course and the river/creek. Hellen and Zhodi.

Tim and David attempt to see Grace, Leonard (not home), continue with emblem construction.

Umbakumba planning - two options:

- 1 with being given the morning star dance through Earnest by Claude Mamarika
- 2 to continue to develop workshops with children.

Tim updated the team on story development and target for this morning's session.

PERSONAL COMMENTS

Zhodi: Frustrated at my own hesitancies to contact people.

Tim: Sick of being woken up throughout the night by screams, whistles and skidding cars.

Through not being able to use my arm, it was good to have time to develop storyline.

David: Time is time is time looking for connection where there may not be any, latching onto 'sameness', often frustrated with 'other'. We plan but cannot expect to stick to it. Why do it?

Today I sliced my fingers on the bamboo. I say to myself maybe these things don't want to be made. Is there a connection between Hellen's hands, Tim's machete wounds and now this. So much for hands-on experience.

Introduction to Galidga through Guy (his skin mother) felt right despite the waiting. It links into family obligations.

Shame job, shame job, shame job . . . a chant from a post-primary boy on the bus during pickup.

Hellen: Was encouraged by the enthusiasm and energy of children during today's workshop, more than those at Umbakumba. They seemed keen to get more detail, walk alone at evening to hear women singing at a church gathering, it wasn't a choir only two women singing but nice harmonies, though better mikes than usual. I felt quite safe, it reminded me of walking in New York alone, where people warn of danger yet I feel safer than walking alone in Caulfield, there are so many people around.

WEDNESDAY 7 JULY 1993

- depart for Umbakumba
- Clean rec hall
- Attempt to get morning star dance from elders
- Workshop
- Attempt meeting with Galidga and Belma
- Emblem making
- Drive to see traditional rock paintings
- ABC documentary on Roebourne Aboriginal Community

Umbakumba

On arriving we had to clear out dog shit, cigarette butts, and drinking debris from the space. Earnest drives past and says 'come to the beach when you're ready.' This is the arranged place to learn the dance. We go to the beach - they are not ready, no Claude, advised to come back in 10 minutes - WAITING. 35 minutes later Claude drives to the beach, we go down and Claude leaves. Still not ready, advised to go and wait, we decide to run a children's workshop. Hellen and Zhodi collect kids - seven kids - the township seems empty. Tim and David do another round to get boys - none. Meanwhile, Hellen & Zhodi star workshop, went well potential movement and form given over the general workshop began and boys (some) arrived. Were not as focused on doing old or new dances, so star painting activity began. Some enjoyed painting the stars, others enjoyed more the painting of their hands and space.

Still no Claude. Earnest (from Numbulwar) spoke to Tim and David and suggested try again next week. Claude may be occupied in arrangement for funeral business. Claude appeared to be disinterested to the point of seeming rude.

Galidga and Belma Meeting

Galidga not available. Belma advised that Paul and Mary had been too busy when contacted and for us to come around again tomorrow afternoon.

Drive to Rock Painting

Was the first opportunity of seeing traditional art from here. Dugongs, Spearfishing. ABC documentary on Aboriginal Community at Roebourne seemed to parallel the experience to here, through the close contact of mining industries on the local community.

PERSONAL COMMENTS

Tim: We appear to have got onto the wrong side of Claude. Marty says he could make life difficult for us if this is the case.

I am losing faith in believing that people will do what they say they will, which is affecting how I communicate with people - in the back of my mind I'm saying 'Oh yeah'

I enjoy physically being here but there would need to be a major turn-around in support in the next few weeks to get me to come back here again next year.

David: Lunch stop on the way home from Umbakumba was good in terms of seeing another part of the island away from the township.

It's hard to be enthusiastic about working with 'the younger people' when 'the older people' appear to lack interest. Do we have to 'sell' to them why they should be interested in the project? Help comes more easily from people not of this place.

Advise from Marty:- 'don't push Claude, it'll get him right off-side.

View from on top of outcrop at rock art is beautiful and calm. A very physical reminder of a larger overview regarding the project.

The Roebourne doco: I appreciated the Aboriginal perspective of this documentary. This perspective is important for my understanding of my own history.

Hellen: feeling very tired this evening. Drive to and from Umbakumba seems quite long. This feeling is compounded by diffused energy of this morning's activities.

Drive to rock art was refreshing, both as an experience of the landscape and older art culture.

Three whistles in the early morning - a strange discord and they seem to be coming from outside our house. Maybe black magic.

Wonder about target group? Are other opportunities being missed by sticking to this goal?

Zhodi: Attempted meetings with Claude were disconcerting and disillusioning.

At the cave paintings, there is a view across the island to the sea, which is beautiful and offers mental 'release'. It is in contrast to the atmosphere of the townships - I'd like to return at sunrise.

THURSDAY 8TH JULY

- contact Alan Hale
- Reporting
- Informal meeting with Dorson, Steve, Bruce and Guy
- Meeting Galidja and Belma
- Pick up and workshop
- Making

Tried to contact Alan Hale to gain C.S.O.S help, he is on holiday. The message was to be passed on to Amos his offsider who was to ring us back.

8.45 am reported to last five days work.

Bruce Mumford (defacto youth worker) was contacted for target group participation, he said he had not had any contact with any of that group since clan time, this was unusual compared to the years he thought as people (youth) normally return after a few days.

Dorson showed Hellen and David his blue guitar and expressed interest in the project. He introduced Steven as a drummer who later came to the workshop space re; music

Guy reported that elders had planned to meet later today as there is much petrol sniffing going on at this time

Galidja and Belma had forgotten and said come back tomorrow

Pick up was less successful due to us not having an aboriginal person with us(Grace had now left the community). The boys that we picked up ran away when we arrived at the workspace.

Workshop started with two small boys and seven girls (9 - 10 years old). Started as planned, David and Tim left to talk to some older boy bought by Steve (from above) who began drawing images from for the negative force puppet. He too followed through the workshop, working with rhythm and developed movement with the use of their dancing skills from the disco movement as, line work, and as aide and duo materials. During this time many more people joined from outside some returning for other days, again predominantly female. making activities began outside while a "disco" developed inside, people flowed freely through the space, people made, danced and played music. This was bought to a formal close after two and half hours and the team continued on making Tim left after the workshop because of his arm. Three emblems now complete and space cleaned up. Marty spoke about setting up a room tomorrow with local drums.

PERSONAL COMMENTS

David: The approach of and chance encounter with some young men adults today was encouraging as was my team of young male makers. It will be good to find a way of harnessing this energy which seems to alter radically when females are around.

Zhodi: Loved the more in-depth contact made with a few of the girls. Holding hands, making up a dance, while talking of where we live, our families, our lifestyle. I felt frustrated at various times today with the team dynamics. Sometimes I feel as though we have to battle to have our point of view heard above the more forceful points of view.

Hellen: Yesterday filled with unsolicited meetings which added energy to our work, through workshop somewhat less structured very positive energy which gathered interest to our work, making and moving.

Tim: Today felt like a beginning, there seemed some curiosity about why we are here. My cut arm limited my input into the workshop and making. I now question us spending the week in Umbakumba, we just weren't here, maybe spreading ourselves too thin. Also maybe making contact with elders before working with young kids may have been the wrong way about, the little kids seem to be guinea pigs for the rest of the community, once again you make them happy then the rest might look in.

David: Use of work space - the variety of activities today (dancing, making, music, being with us) seemed to keep the participants interested and engaged. But this also brings

some problems ie control of the children, respect for the space and equipment who is responsible for whom?

FRIDAY 9 JULY 1993

9:30 Report & planning meeting
11:00 Accountant; Library; Shopping in Angurugu
11:30 Hellen & Zhodi shopping & put in photos of Alyangula
Tim & David prepared workspace
2:00 Meet with Belma & Galidga
2:15 Pick up kids in bus
2:45 Workshop : movement
making
dancing
Finish back of emblems

Accounting, no problem in getting money.

Library - found Dolphin book for clan totem.

During workspace preparation Quinton & Rafael arrived and helped; Quinton was a rap dancer.

Belma said no-one is interested except Galidga. Hellen brought Galidga down to the workspace to show her around and the emblem she will paint. down to the workspace to show her around and the emblem she will paint.

Young men have set up the drum kit in other room within the work space.

Hellen put up notice in the shop about workshops.

About 15 kids picked up on bus, again mostly girls. Numbers increased as day went on four dances were worked on; exercise dance, "jump", wind and Chicken Hark. Within making the front of the emblems where cover, followed by more "jump" dancing. "Jump" is a favourite disco song at the moment.

In the evening David & Tim finished back of emblems.

PERSONAL COMMENTS

Zhodi: Kids seem to be getting more familiar both with us and the material. Still unclear where we are headed.

Hellen: Consist group gradually building in interest and participation.
How to formalise target group involvement?

David: Re reporting: questions seemed to be raised and not properly debated. Tims personal comments seem to come from a place of inner turmoil and left hanging without discussion.

It rained last night for many hours. As a result people stayed indoors, there were no motorbikes & much quieter evening.

Workshop predominantly girls. Once workshop is underway it is difficult to engage

the few boys without drawing support from other workshop activities.

Tim: Workshops seem to be taking stronger direction. We seem to be more prepared and understanding of the kids' energy.

Both my mind & my arm stop me from being fully engaged in the project.

I decided to take greater advantage of any time that can be taken alone.

Saturday 10 July 1993

Workshop

We took the morning off for washing, shopping & walking in the forest etc.

Afternoon workshop 2pm

Small bus pick up - mostly boys. This was extraordinary. On arrival the older boys were drumming. There was an attempt to engage them in the workshop. They agreed to come back later - but didn't.

As a result of there being more boys the workshop format changed. Played with control & cues with music/drumming - speeds & acceleration, freeze. Use of gestures for controlling movement. Exercise dance - drumming workshop on floor. Making:- fabric on back of emblems. "Jump" dance - mainly two elder girls - Cynthia & Sherrasita gave over new vocabulary - added more to the sequence.

Pole balancing outside - walking along bamboo pole.

Watched videos in the evening.

PERSONAL COMMENTS

Hellen: Good workshop & concentration. Extraordinarily mostly boys - a big change. The day is quiet & sunny again.

The kids love making activities - we need more of these - it encourages their interest & skills to the project.

Zhodi: Today felt different somehow. Workshop was fantastic - lots more boys involved, kids were focussed, David acted as "MC" for workshop & passed the leadership over to other team members when appropriate. A few kids stood out as ones who would be great to work with next year.

David: It was good to have a little more control over leading the workshop today - the connections and separations between boys & girls is becoming clearer. Some activities ie stick jumping, engaged the boys for longer while the drumming kept the girls going for longer. Being able to split the boys & girls for the sequence worked well.

Many (some) of the kids do not come from here but rather from Numbulwar - we will lose them at the end of the holidays.

Tim: I can now see the possibility and need to be establishing a core team for us to work with, shame many of the good kids come from Numbulwar.

Sunday 11 July 1993

Paint backs of emblems

Outing to South Point beach

Paint fronts of emblems
Movies - Alyangula

PERSONAL COMMENTS:-

Hellen: Good to get out of town & see another environment - this time coast.

Zhodi: A welcome day off - especially enjoyed looking at the tiny shells David & Tim collected, which had amazingly intricate patterns all over them.

David: South Point drive: an adventure. This island is rich in variety - constantly changing landscapes.

The evening painting session brought children into the space showing possibilities for evening work. At first there were only a couple of boys & towards the end maybe eight. They began to take up a range of activities - drumming (instruments & walls), fighting & playing with bamboo poles, dancing, cleaning up etc. The energy was fast approaching a point of no control. Tim turned the lights off.

Tim: Good to open the mind through the drive.

How can we approach the target group? They sniff during the night & sleep during the day. Maybe the only way is to involve someone like Guy or Bruce who already have some sort of relationship. They are an unknown & unseen group.

Monday 12 July 1993

9:00 - Planning and reporting meeting

Tim & Zhodi - prepare making section of workshop

David & Hellen - prepare movement section of workshop

Pick up kids in bus

Workshop

Zhodi - prep of tomorrow's making workshop

David, Tim & Hellen - collecting wood for drumsticks

Weighing up pros & cons of three potential spaces for performance

David with Lance to look for Leonard re: cassette tape of song

Watch "Mabo Country" on the ABC

COMMENTS

Planning Meeting

- discussing these areas:

1 Storyline - running order for performance

Drumming up emblems

Traditional elements

Six clan dances

"Jump"

Outside force

Finale - unity

2 Emblems - Tim to co-ordinate

3 Music: Drumming up the emblems - Hellen

}Traditional

Brolga - Hellen & Zhodi

Morning star - David & Tim
Jump - David & Hellen [Techno]
Leonard's (Amarunga Band) Song for finale
Still to be decided
Six Clan Dances music - David & Hellen
"Outside Force" music

4 Making Schedule - Tim & Zhodi
What's needed for show?
How can this be filtered into workshops?

5 Six Clan Dances - Hellen & David

6 Space - three potential spaces for performance
Outside rec hall
Basketball Court
Stage area

7 Target Group- Tim to follow up with Guy
Include them in the "Outside Force" section - making
- manipulating
- sound

Two evenings a week?
Hellen to look at how percussion might fit in.

8 Workspace
Morning time - making & painting
2:00 - workshop time
Evening time - target group

Movement section of workshop
- Clan dance : Warramara
- Additional steps to routine dance
- Extension of last week's activities

Making section of workshop
- Designed dolphin & rainbow snake & appropriate activity for the afternoon

Pickup - quiet in town - less kids in town - meeting at Lands Council - people going away in cars

Workshop: - primarily new people
- about 12 people aged 3 - 11
- unable to follow plan
- going over old material rather than extending
- making activity was completed but not really appropriate for such a young group
(bending bamboo & gaffering circles for rainbow snake).
- clear reminder that we cannot rely on attendance & participation (quite a shock to go back to the beginning, half way through the project).

Potential Performance Spaces
Basketball court: - a known space (discos)

- good access to power & lights
 - toilet block
 - common space to other communities
- Stage space:
- backdrop
 - good power access
 - added height
- but
- split level may be difficult
 - needs sanding work

David left at this point to go with Lance.

Tim, Hellen & Zhodi discussed potential of outside the rec hall.

- Rec Hall:
- give a different sense of ownership to this space
 - centrally located
 - familiar to workshop participants
 - shed provides focus & backdrop
 - some seating
- but:
- would need prep time (cleaning & sanding)
 - is there sufficient power for lights?

Leonard follow-up; being with a local allowed David to look in other houses & places. It became an opportunity for Lance to act as tour guide with pride. Leonard was not found.

PERSONAL COMMENTS

Tim: At last the direction for the project seems clearer - we know more about working with each other and the community. Allotting tasks for each team member now seems an okay thing to do even though it means we can't all have our fingers in every pie.

It was disastrous to go to pick up four of our key older kids and for them to say they're off to Nunbulwar where they live.

David: A sad day in workshop-land with few participants and most of them new. No building on past material. They also didn't seem to be interested in any participating activity. On the other hand, this did not seem all that different from other workshops in other places. It was a good reminder that we cannot rely on attendance and participation.

“for any recreational activity to be successful, the community and relatives must be an integral part of the programme . . . as many Aboriginal people as possible should be used in an [petrol sniffing] prevention programme.”

Petrol Sniffing Among Aboriginal Australians : A Resource Manual
by Rodney Morice, Hellen Swift & Maggie Brodie

A drive with Lance looking for Leonard turned into an informative time, finding out that many people (such as Timothy Lalara, his wife Grace, Lance, Dawson etc) are all going to Nukkur, some to stay. Will anyone be left on Groote Eylandt in three weeks? There has not been a lot of time with local people & my time with Lance allowed me to see the pride he has in this place (ie Angurugu) as opposed to the bush & the beach.

Zhodi: Our planning meeting this morning was extremely worthwhile. Discussion, clarification of storyline & delegation of tasks means we all have a firmer grasp on the project.

Storyline: an interesting point arose - while we don't have the "answer" to the problem of petrol-sniffing, how do we visually represent the coming together of the traditional & contemporary cultures of this community?

Hellen: Fewer people attended the workshop; fewer & newer! The plan to follow on conceptually & choreographically; develop quickly in the head but not in the reality of inconstant attendance to give over to participants.

Tuesday 13 July 1993

9:00 reporting

Attempted meeting Heather (school), Marty, Guy, Galidja, Jigakwa, Donald Lalara.

Prepared Rainbow Serpent for making workshop

Meeting Leonard

Workshop

Shopping

Music Research

The town was quiet when we got to Council. There was a notice on the door saying "closed due to death." Heather (school) & Marty not able to be found. Ran into Guy who agreed to meet us in the afternoon to discuss sound, lighting & target group. He also said the woman who died was related to Claude Mamarika which suggests he won't be available tomorrow. It was now no longer right to meet with the older people (Galidja, Jigakwa & Donald Lalara) to day due to this death.

Meeting with Leonard Amagula

Also Simeon & Muriel asked if we could use tape of his bands (Amarranga) song "All Through The Night." He said yes but Guy had copy of tape. I told them about the show. Leonard would come down to the rec hall this afternoon. He was also looking for a didj player. He suggested we speak to Marty to set up a band night. They said to see Donald Lalara for image of Wuramuka (bogey man), and that Jabani was good to speak to (better than Jambana). They said not to visit old women today but that kids workshop would be okay.

Workshop: Extraordinarily large female content in bus, also more post-primary girls - boys were already at the hall as well as some older boys. Leonard arrived. Split focus at start as Tim & David left with Leonard & some boys while Hellen & Zhodi tried to run the workshop. A difficult workshop as boys were humbugging girls. A new section was added to the "routine."

Rainbow snake making - diamonds glued to fabric & hoops attached to cane.

Some jump dancing.

Music A large amount of today was spent listening to music appropriate to the show in particular for the six clan dances.

PERSONAL COMMENTS

Hellen: Extraordinarily large bus pick up, predominantly girls of a variety of age groups. Unusually large number of post primary girls. Workshop had a very disruptive beginning. It was necessary to reintroduce the actual notion of the project as again many of the

participants were new. As this was commencing new arrival of older & younger boys added to the split focus. Workshop plan to give over new material was changed to accommodate new-comers and began by Zhodi & Hellen, & Tim & David talked to older boys, many of the older girls left as a result of not being particularly addressed. Making session was quite successful but usual plan of returning to do more dances was not - energy too scattered & personal energy today (menstrual) meant I didn't want to shout. Through the night, a new kind of "serenade" whistles shout bird like but eerie by our petrol-sniffer night-strollers, stopped outside our window on several occasions adds a little something to the already fertile night tired dreaming.

Zhodi: Workshop was difficult at beginning - heaps of kids, some brand new. Boys in with Tim & David in the next room (noise spill). Girls being "shamed" by bias & the older girls who were sitting on the edge, watching. Unfocused beginning.

Came together more when girls & boys groups joined together and the four team members focused attention & encouraged.

Making section of workshop had good participation - some squabbling but keen to help (& cover themselves in glue!).

The big disappointment of the day came in Alyangula at tea time - the waffles were cold.

Tim: Meeting Leonard was really up-lifting. It's like what he does as a song writer in a band (taking language, traditional strengths & values & putting them in the context of a rock band) is not very different from what we are trying to do in this theatre show. He too could see that link & even if it doesn't go beyond this point, the connection is made.

No matter how well you prepare yourself for the day ahead, you can never tell what life is going to be like outside your door. It was a real disappointment to find out someone had died last night. Start, stop.

David: Finally catching up with Leonard was good. He, Simeon & Muriel seemed interested in the connection between old & new & open to ideas. They also seemed to think about future possibilities (which is a change from the usual "now" thinking). I hope we can build on this.

Another death I don't know the protocol for this but it sure holds things up (the unknowing).

Although the beginning of the workshop was chaotic I enjoyed it once I joined, getting the boys on side & participating. I know it may have seemed hard for Hellen & Zhodi but it felt more real to me. The erratic high & basically free-form energy needs to be harnessed & used - not suppressed & overly controlled. It is hard work getting the boys involved, they so quickly leave or move away when the girls (including Hellen or Zhodi sometimes) approach. This seems obvious but we have not yet solved it. Working after hours might work but the girls will still be around & the days are long already. Maybe this is not the time for them.

Wednesday 14 July 1993

9:00 reporting
Finalise workshop preparation
Tim - making in space
David, Hellen & Zhodi - drive to Umbakumba
Umbakumba workshop
Meet with Earnest, Claude & Donald re: Morning Star
Meeting Jigakwa & Galidja
Further making

Difficulty with CD not playing particular disks, held up preparation time (through ringing Darwin trying to find an explanation as to why the problem).

Again tried to make schools contacts (maybe Heather has left?).

Worked in the shed making. Completed structuring for two dolphins & rainbow snake. Researched and began sea eagle. Most of the day kids from our workshops were helping in ones & twos. Many teenage boys flowed freely through the space; good relations were established.

David met with Earnest re: Morning Star Dance - he said to go to Claude Mamarika on the beach - "everything is ready." I walk to Claude & they tell me he is sick today. "Go to Donald [Mamarika]." Meanwhile Hellen & Zhodi are collecting kids for the workshop. They (the kids) say that Donald is not home - "he's gone hunting." No Morning Star dance.

Good pick up - mostly our regulars. The games work well but the actual dance routines and/or rehearsed material has a very cool response. Drumming works well as does the drumming & freezing-in-statues game. Working with the stars: they were not interested today. Except for Tiny - a three year old who was fabulous.

On the drive home we discussed the need for a more game-like structure for the choreography.

Jigakwa was leaving as Hellen & Zhodi arrived (going back to her home-land for a short while as she was homesick).

Galidja was keen to begin painting emblem. Paint, brushes & emblem were taken back to her. She suggested other women as painters: Mary Amagula, Leanne Lalara, Sylvia Lalara. It seems that Mary Amagula has to give Galidja permission for what she can paint. Belma not home so Sammy & wife (Lorraine?) translated.

Hellen & Zhodi returned to Umbakumba to retrieve Zhodi's bag. Tim & David remained in the rec hall making. Many kids came to the hall after dark & were utilized in the making. The rainbow serpent was carried around by 11 kids - this was an exciting time as they could see the potential of this puppet. Three senior girls worked well with David making the dolphins.

PERSONAL COMMENTS

Tim: First real sense of belonging here today, I think this was influenced by me making all day, it's the "give and take" thing. It was such a buzz to see these girls bringing the dolphin

to life - it dived and jumped & the 11-person snake twisted & curled on an endless path until its head fell off. I was also able to make much contact with the target group (they were drumming in the same building) and were happy to wander in and out or sit for a chat.

Hellen: Morning meeting prior to Umbakumba workshop meant we left late & without finishing meeting or workshop preparation. Clearly workshop itself was attended by fewer than usual but a good mixture of boys & girls. We know them quite well & they look forward to our time there. They work best within game structures and with rhythm sticks which means rethinking strategies of choreography for this particular group in the final performance. After returning to Angurugu it was necessary to drive back to Umbakumba to retrieve left personal belongings. Drive back was pleasant in fading light. Woken early morning by house shaking as if something was running up stairs - dogs started howling & barking loudly.

Zhodi: Galidja gave us quite a cool response on our first visit today (back turned, not so smiley & outgoing) but when we arrived back later, she had raked the yard & laid out a fresh cloth to sit on. I think she had just been uncomfortable for us to arrive without having had time to prepare - she has her standards & likes to be hospitable.

Dolphins are looking beautiful. A great pleasure to arrive back from Umbakumba to see kids enthusiastically operating the big snake in inward & outward spirals.

David: Another disappointment with Claude Mamarika - if only he could understand the project & how it could be used to his community's advantage. Tim didn't come today to Umbakumba. His struggle to direct this project seems to be resolving in the way he separates himself from the action. Obviously he had a good day & it was such a joy to return to Angurugu to see two dolphin forms. They were so beautiful. Hellen & Zhodi returned to Umbakumba & time seemed to disappear as Tim & I continued making.

More & more kids gathered; helping, playing etc. By the time Hellen & Zhodi returned at 7:30pm we had dolphins flying & diving and a rainbow serpent circling and twisting. I find it easier to make objects & feel a sense of achievement. They do not drop in and out but they stay how you make them. The making process also allows the kids to come and go as they want. I find the dancing very hard in this project. The participants are constantly changing and the movement is not really settling. They make choices as to what they will or won't do and we seem to keep choosing away from what excites them. Too many intricacies or subtleties which are lost on them. These people have not really performed before and we are expecting them to have more than they do have. Somehow we must find a way to make the performing environment & process as safe as possible for them - their shame is overpowering.

Thursday 15 July 1993

Reporting 9 - 9:40

Planning 9:40

Workshop planning - music & choreography

Making

Pick up (also picked up emblems from Galidja)

Workshop

Drumsticks

GENERAL COMMENTS

Planning: we decided to try running the workshops following the structure of the show with Tim telling the story first (ie drumming up the emblems, clan dances & games, "outside force" techno dancing, community sequence).

Workshop planning

David & Hellen put together a rough show tape after clarifying the musical choices. Tim gave a running order for the clan dances, which once set, allowed us to shape that section more fully - musical changes & style.

Making Zhodi & Tim continued on making the sea-eagle and the snake skin with help from passers by. Hellen cut wood for drumsticks. General preparation for workshop.

Pick up Small pick up & took a long time. Again it was council pay day & the kids kept saying "they at the post office." Lots of card games.

Workshop Delayed start due to small numbers. Decided to "make" first to allow numbers to build. The actual workshop was run to plan. This was good to go through the structure to see what we had. An adult was there assisting translating. His energy was great. Finished off with some making tasks. Sent kids home and sat outside peeling bark from drumsticks.

Dropped note to Guy asking him to dinner so that we can talk with him. He seems hard to tie down.

Talked late into the evening about the workshop that day.

Marty has returned after being away for four days. We were unaware of where he had gone. We have arranged a meeting with him for tomorrow.

PERSONAL COMMENTS

Tim: I am confused and ashamed by the emblem (painting that Galidja has done; it feels as if there is no heart in what she has presented to us and she seems to be a woman with a big heart. Her sculptures are exquisite, I question the painting as to it coming from the same hands. Have I presented the task so coldly with too much prescription? Is she thinking she has done what we wanted her to and is trying to please us or is the skill of painting with a brush one she doesn't have? I need to take action but need to tread lightly. Where do I take the first step?

Today there were some wonderful moments of movement that felt just right but there were moments where I had no idea where things were going or why.

There are a lot of people's need that need to be met here, from the individual artist to the kids, from Brown's Mart to Murabuda's, males to females, boys to girls and from the elders to their culture.

Feel better about today's workshop now in talking to David & Hellen about what they aimed to get out of today and that was achieved. Jumping the gun, Friday 30th (the show) feels close for what we are trying to do but worth the risk.

David: The workshop today was an attempt to push through a structure for the show. There

are some things these people do so well and yet we are having such trouble tapping into this. Maybe more adult supervision/intervention would help. We still need to know what they will & won't do but we keep having new people and losing others. Perhaps we are working too far away from the familiar for them. They are so easily "shamed" and wary of the new. I find myself more and more questioning work methods - but I recall this in other Aboriginal work. I guess I have enough trouble with understanding a lot of white, western, European, American culture and ways of thinking. It is a lot to expect another culture to do so. Talking into the evening shows that things are bubbling away. Lots of questions and fears arising. Can we actually do it in two weeks time? Tomorrow we have to move house.

Zhodi: Networking seems to have been put back a step due to our involvement in the immediacy of workshops and workshop planning.

Kids worked long and hard today. It was great to have that man come in to watch and help today - the more they get used to an "audience" the better. Afterwards they even worked up enough courage to parade the rainbow snake around outside the rec hall.

Hellen: The time spent creating structure/form/music gave clearer idea for the running of workshops. Today this seemed to be very effective, we were able to run them through both ideas & order of dances with music and percussion from beginning to almost the end. This maintained their interest but required us to be with them both physically and vocally all the time, this may also be needed during the "eventual" performance.

Friday 16 July 1993

Planning & reporting

Shopping & petrol - Hellen & Zhodi

Planned to meet with Guy, Julie Waddy, Mary Amagula, Galidja, Marty, Donald Lalara, Jigakwa

Making in shed - Tim

Rerecord soundtrack - David & further refining of choreographic ideas

Create 'action' dance - David & Hellen

Phonecall to Ken & Sarah - Tim

Kids came to our house to dance

Met with Marty re: tech equipment - David & Hellen

Pinned up snake - Tim & Zhodi

Met with Bruce - Tim

Pick up

Workshop

Meeting with Marty - Tim

COMMENTS:-

Attempted meetings:

Jigakwa - Jigakwa's daughter Betty, & her husband David, said Jigakwa is out of town (due to noise) and that they may be able to show us where. Not home when we went to meet them.

Julie Waddy - in office but having a long phone conversation. Later went to her house - no-one home.

Guy - not around (we've been chasing him since Monday for info on tape, Galidja, target group - even tried to entice him with the promise of dinner. No reply). Being able to follow

up Galidja & Mary Amagula depended on this meeting with Guy.

Donald Lalara - not in town.

Marty - arranged to meet David & Hellen later.

Action Dance

Dance was created using the gestural style of fellowship action dance - closely following a narrative (or song) and signing the 'action.' This was for the Lalara, Maninyamanja, Wurrawagwan, Yanlarrnga clan group (sawfish, brolga, diamond stingray, curlew, shovel-nosed shark, king brown snake, pretty parrot).

Phone call to Ken & Sarah

Due to the possibility of losing the workspace (becoming a games room to try to stop petrol sniffing) created a dilemma which needed to be discussed as there are no support structure available to us here.

Tech equipment

Is not in as good a condition or as complete as we were led to believe before coming to the Eylandt (eg 3 of 5 lights not working).

Band PA will be fine if the bands play but more than we need for our soundtrack.

Bruce: Found image for 'outside force' through drawings done by the target group. The young artist was present at the time.

Pick up: Small. This was surprising as we'd had kids dancing in our house who said they were coming to the workshop.

Workshop: Had intended to add on new choreography but due to the small size of pick up and influx of new people yet again, we began the workshop with sewing up the Rainbow Snake. Next, we ran some drumming, followed by the new action dance which was quite well received. Finished by painting drumsticks.

Meeting with Marty

Suggested time for project next year could culminate on May Day, as many people from other communities would be here.

Senior girls & boys have not started sniffing yet.

You need to have a good reason for the bands to play. You can't ask one band, all four need to be asked.

Phone access - we no longer have it. Access to Marty's phone to be arranged.

People are likely to sit in their cars to watch the show.

He can't take responsibility for the show beyond a day-to-day basis (ie nothing can be promised for next year).

Bruce is keen to get the games room going (our present workspace). Marty wants to stay open to negotiating this.

A kitchen will be built in the rec hall this week.

He would be very concerned about bringing Umbakumba kids here & vice-versa (may not feel safe).

Worried about friction that may be created by having a show here & not at Umbakumba but Marty & Tim will go to Umbakumba on Wednesday to speak to the appropriate people about this and to put responsibility for getting the show to Umbakumba on them.

Marty will get a truckload of sand for the performance space.

Marty willing to pay anyone who works with us through Sport & Rec money (\$9.50 per hour).

Everybody is saying that it's Murrabuda's fault that there's petrol sniffing and that he should be here and not in Darwin.

Jackie Amagula would be the perfect liaison person but she's not available.

Be cautious about asking older people to paint and payment (they may keep coming back for more money).

PERSONAL COMMENTS

Tim: A recommendation - a team of white artists should not enter into a project such as this in an Aboriginal community without ground support of a local person (preferably one who speaks the language). This person needs to have a physical commitment to want to make the project happen.

We need to be attached to an organisation. We have no rights or power; we can not act as an unsupported independent identity.

After feeling much clearer and more positive about the project this week I was pushed off the deep end again by a pool table being moved into our workspace and the thought of moving house (five of us will be living in a two bedroom house). The one of the workspace brings up the biggest dilemma. It has always been planned to be a games room but because there are a large amount of sniffers at the moment this is being pushed to happen now. What we are doing is so long term. The seed we are planting sometimes seems so small that I can't see it myself.

David: A bit of a scare today with the possibility of not having a work space. We make such small steps forward and seem often to have the ground dug out from under us. Does this community really want us here? The workshops do not seem to get as far as I would like. They responded well to the action dance but would not continue with the other dances. It feels like we have run a great holiday programme but I don't know how to get a show together. Maybe the white team will end up doing the performance and the community watches (if they are in town).

While retaping the music today doubts arose as to how appropriate it is. It sounds great but the kids do not respond. But we cannot create new music.

Zhodi: Somehow frustrating - missing connections, things not falling into place.

Hellen: Less people during pick up (no two days the same) the desire to build on previous days work when things had run well with great detail & time, did not eventuate, however it was great to see all the girls sitting in a line 'quietly' sewing up the long rainbow snake. Playing with ideas later for the dances was not as easy or as focused a task. Constantly reviewing strategies for adapting to changing 'dance population' in workshops is demanding.

Saturday 17 July 1993

Shift house & clean up

Alyangula
Kids over
Workshop
Meeting with Heather (teacher)
Andrew over for dinner

Shift - five people fitting into two bedroom house. Andrew returned within one minute of us vacating his premises. Impeccable timing. We are now quite short of household goods.

Kids over - second time - today they came to get us for the workshop.

Workshop -because of the boys in the house earlier it was hoped to run a workshop more specifically orientated to them. However we ended up concentrating on "making" - working on the Rainbow Serpent and the White Breasted Sea Eagle. We didn't do a bus pick up.

Meeting with Heather - discussed if school would be interested in handing over students. Asked if anything specific was happening in the school in the next two weeks; she said the only thing happening was that John's class (upper primary) were going to Darwin for the entire second week. This was a bit of a bombshell as most of the participants to date come from this class.

Andrew over to dinner - although this was a social event, it was also quite informative with regard to the school structure and specifically working with his class.

PERSONAL COMMENTS

Tim: Moving house, even though its only two houses up takes it out of you, but it didn't take long for us to create a new home.

Zhodi: Moving house: bizarre familiarity - same outlay as Andrew's. We came in and knew where everything went! It felt good to have a clean out and re-establish ourselves.

Comment from the hairdresser: "I couldn't believe that Aboriginals didn't have fridges until recently. They just used to eat everything as soon as they bought it. They're getting more fridges and freezers now though - they're slowly getting better".

Not sure if I want the kids to be able to come into our house whenever they want - need for time out.

David: New house. Big move even though only two doors down. Very tired today - would like to run away to a tropical island (a different tropical island). Several young girls are getting very cheeky and this irritates me greatly - I don't wish to deal with this now. I would rather "zap" them away. It felt good today to "make" more solidly. Andrew Poltnianka's return - maybe this heralds a better connection with the senior boys. Having Andrew for dinner was a good distraction as well as valuable information time before hitting the schools next week.

It seems the main contact I have had with boys in the past few days is in our house. I was disappointed that they didn't come to the workshop. Zhodi expressed concern about them in the house and wants to discuss it further. I don't mind them here.

Hellen: We shifted house early morning - midmorning and established a 'new home' with a

great deal of efficiency and creativity. Afternoon spent making rather than workshopping - maybe some kids disappointed by this as we have said we would be practising and picking them up. Andrew for tea, the second "social night" of the project.

Sunday 18 July 1993

Timetabling workshop content and structuring meeting 9 - 12:30

Trip to Makbumanja (Mak mamundja)

Finalising with John McCormick who was at a meeting at Sarah Calver & Matthew James new house

Further planning

1 Discussed structuring a show around the school break up of classes. We then tried to find the most appropriate activity within the show for each group. This meant changes in both images and movement as well as the division of labour (ours). Also discussed how to work Umbakumba through the school. All of this is dependent on the schools agreeing to the above.

2 Necessary half day outing for our souls.

3 Telephone from take-away shop - gave him a list of things we need. He was supposed to be discussing technical things with Matthew but Matthew was called out to another job. We need to ring him again tomorrow at 12:00.

4 New possible structures for work and show means new juggling of staff and what we will be doing. Therefore more planning.

PERSONAL COMMENTS

Zhodi: Makbamanja was exquisite. Little cover with corrugated iron humpies. Then over the dune and onto the ocean! Little rocky islands, deep blue sea, white sand, rocky outcrops - bliss! Concentrated on being there and not in my head.

David: Finding time off is important but it also seems that we are now on 24 hour alert. This mornings Sunday breakfast turned into a long planning meeting which was good but Makbamanja was a most exquisite place - literally breathtaking. I look at that place and say "who would want to live anywhere else?" Everyday brings new hurdles - I worry about the upper primary people not being there - I worry about our work space being taken over - I worry about us all living closely at a time we seem to need more personal space. All of these worries were set drifting for a time in the waters of Makbamanja. I look forward to John McCormick's arrival as his new energy will be an injection.

Hellen: Sunday meeting re: strategies for next two weeks - a not expected way of spending the morning. It was good to find new "head and physical" space at Makbamanja, a bay of beauty. Rocks, sand, shell sifting - a good way to clean the brain. Rather than the activity of "creating" we are constantly addressing the shape of the show and tactics to achieve it given the situation (without the community) as a daily activity.

Tim: It seems, from talking to people, that for kids to travel from Umbakumba to here is a more natural thing to do than vice-versa. Umbakumba is seen as somewhere to fear.

I would recommend that if this project were to tour in 1994 that it tour Angurugu,

Umbakumba, Alyangula and Bickerton Island. Again the fear factor for children that we work with of places like Numbullwar (seen as the place where sniffers come from) is strong. Also at the moment there is not the support to place a tour beyond the above places.

Monday 19 July 1993

School visit - Tim 8:15

Reporting & planning

School visit - John
- Bernie
- Warren
- attempted meeting with senior boys
- Leonard Amagula

Timetabling school rehearsals

Ring John McCormick & Ken

Attempt to - phone Umbakumba
- meet with Guy

Lunchtime meeting - restructure entire show

Meeting with Warren Hastings (Batchelor College), Elvis Wurraramara & Rebecca Wurraramara (student teachers, Rebecca from Bickerton)

Restructured Clan Dance

Making in rec hall

Informal meeting with Marty - Tim 10:30pm

COMMENTS

Meet with Bernie (school principal) to okay us working in the school and decided on spaces to work. Met with most teachers to see if they wanted us. Got stumped on what we should do about John's upper primary class not arriving back till after the planned day for show. Went back home to discuss change of day with the artistic team.

Planned to visit school at 10:00. We needed more information to decide a change of show day.

Nine of John's class were regular attendees at our workshop and were going to Darwin. He advised against changing the day of the show for the usual reason that everyone would go bush on Saturday and, as it was a long weekend, teachers may be leaving too.

Bernie asked us to go to Bickerton Island on Thursday to give a workshop and meet people at the school - we accepted.

Warren Hasting (a teacher trainer for Batchelor College) has several student teachers (stage 2) doing an Arts and Maths workshop over the next two weeks and suggested the tasks they need to complete could relate to our project exactly. He said that the school attendance and morale was at an all time low. We arranged to meet later with the student teachers.

Attempted meeting with senior boys but no-one at school.

Leonard too, is still waiting for the tape which we are waiting for.

Hellen & Zhodi time table classes with staff discovering this Friday is a public holiday.

Last minute talk and requests to John before he leaves Darwin. Updated Ken.

Due to it being impossible for us to predict who and how many people we might have in the show, it gave us reason to revise our structure. Tim suggested that rather than working with groups on different tasks we condense known material and teach it to all groups. Within this Tim decided to change venue to the oval so the puppets could be in a procession and closer to the bands.

Batchelor students meet. Expanded concept of show and what we were doing here. Elvis agreed to work with Nanga Warramara as part of his study. He and Tim would travel to see Nanga tomorrow and ask about emblem painting. Discussed with Rebecca to meet and show video on Thursday at Bickerton.

Rather than having six separate dances we condensed the material into one larger dance.

Lots of kids during the making session who worked well. Variety of ages involved.

Marty and Tim discussed change of venue for the show, Marty would contact band members for meeting. He also said he may not be here next year.

PERSONAL COMMENTS

Tim: I feel really good about what we have achieved in the past four weeks. We know almost every child in the school, you realise how much contact we have made. Also with the change around in the show structure, you realise how much we have to draw from. We have created a solid base even though our ingredients keep changing.

I enjoy Marty's friendship, his is the only strong support outside the team.

The Batchelor contact seems full of potential, good for now and the future.

David: Talk about being open to change! Everything in this community seems so fluid. Today in the school emphasised this. No senior boys - Batchelor College people and new contacts. Tim has offered (at lunch time) a new direction for the show. On one hand a relief and I think a necessary move. This show could almost happen with no kids which is a distinct possibility. On the other hand it is perhaps difficult as it is not Tim's work (ie making) being thrown out - just compacted and restructured. I wonder now if there is anything for the Senior Girls to get excited by. The community seems to lack common ground and it seems someone, or group, will not be catered for this time around.

I seemed to miss a few things today, with things changing and moving so quickly.

John arrives tomorrow and I am quite looking forward to this. I always enjoy being with him.

Zhodi: The condensed show structure seems much more realistic to head towards. The new contacts made today were predominantly positive and this is a relief. We seem to

know all the kids around town and they are so friendly when you see them. It feels as though it has been a worthwhile time even if all we do is to make strong connections with these people.

A day of change and this was welcome.

Hellen: Today I begin to question what gives integrity to an artist. Is it the value that they or others place in their work. Presently it seems arbitrary whether accumulated skills in movement and visual arts really matter, are valued, or have time to find their place. Constantly changing direction seems almost to have completed its cycle, we are back to what seems to be the original idea (with surgery) of a show on basketball court with use of oval, local bands and disco. It seems like a long trip with use of ideas which surfaced sometime back in the process and which might have been further developed by now if followed through with. Seems like an "act of faith" and a little space is sometimes needed.

Fitting into school the frame changes our relationship to the community and our roles. It seems we have already made friends with many who don't attend school. Hopefully we can maintain and extend this enjoyable contact.

Tuesday 20 July 1993

Reporting

Pick up John from airport

Tim to pick up Elvis to look for Nanga re: painting an emblem

Pre-school workshop - David & Zhodi

Upper-primary workshop - Tim, Hellen & John

Senior boys workshop - David, Tim & John

Senior Girls workshop - Hellen & Zhodi

Tim & John to look for Nanga

Alyangula shopping

See teachers from Umbakumba whom we had been trying to contact by phone.

Making in rec hall

COMMENTS

Nanga - drove to Bartalumba Bay and Little Paradise in search of Nanga but he'd just left for a trust meeting.

Pre-school - went well - the kids are extremely enthusiastic at this age (although their English is not as good as the older kids). When we arrived, Paul Jamala was there playing the guitar to them (Nick, teacher, says Paul has been an invaluable resource).

Kids will fit well into our show structure as they are extremely good mimics. Many mothers are in attendance. The Aboriginal aid was extremely helpful. Nick was around but isolated himself from the activities. Megan, a white woman, was also helpful.

Upper Primary - Hellen led the workshop through drumming and Clan Dance and relaxation exercises. They then learnt the Amarranga dance. Good support Rose, the Aboriginal aid. Easy to operate in a closed space. They seemed to have an understanding of the show structure by the end. John videoed the session.

We found out that John's class is the class of regular attenders who have been put together to give them a good chance. There are the same kids who will be in Darwin during the show.

Senior boys - Started in A/V room. Discussed the show and their possible participation in it. Moved to rec hall and began making scary monster and drumming. Six boys at end of session. They seemed to enjoy themselves but generally very reticent - the sense of shame limits their exploration. On request from boys we took no photos or video. Boys tended to defer to 'Jamie.'

Senior girls - we joined in their drawing activity in class to get to know them - they were very shy. We described the show to them and they identified which clan they were with. During the dancing, girls came in and out of it but they participated more than we had expected. Kay (the teacher) participated in the session also and was interested in the follow up next year in relation to the Drug and Alcohol Abuse National Rock Eisteddfod. We decided not to have John video this first session, so that they could get to know us before bringing a male in to work. Some relaxation work. They enjoyed sewing the dolphin and were quite competent at it.

There were some female petrol sniffers at the window. Kaye went out and asked them to leave.

Nanga search - Elvis, John & Tim met with Nanga at Little Paradise. He enjoyed hearing the ideas for the show and was pleased to take on the painting of the 'Bara, Jaragba, Murrungun & Warrabadalamba' emblem. He also suggested other artist for paintings. Elvis agreed to help follow-up on these. He also thought that Galidja had painted the first emblem.

Met with Marty who agreed to pay Elvis if he continues to help us.

Sawfish - painting in artroom which we are using as the basis for our puppet, was painted by a senior girl's (Charmaine) grandfather who is no longer alive. Sawfish was traced with the assistance of Karl and Vieran. Piano, drumming and acrobatics took place informally also.

We were given fairly open access to the art room and most supplies we may need (eg paper, paint).

Heather (teacher) says that Karl and Vieran are the best kids in the school in terms of attendance and enthusiasm (good to keep in mind next year).

Umbakumba school - uncontactable: Charlotte (principal) teaching in the classroom (phone off hook) due to staff replacement not happening.

Making - until 10:30pm

PERSONAL COMMENTS

David:

It is a welcome relief to work through the school where at least there is some support. People are keen for things to happen but just don't know how to make it happen - so many Aboriginal people of this community are very happy to watch us do all the work.

Finally got to work with some post-primary boys. We have been told over and over that if we get Vabian on side we will get others. Up to this point Tim has had the most contact with this boy. Vabian was present at the start of the class but Tim was not around. From the walk to the rec hall I lost Vabian and two others. Perhaps if Tim was there . . . but who knows. The other five seemed to enjoy themselves. I hope they will open up more. Their presence in the show would be beneficial with regards to future contact with others in this age group.

Working on 'making' after tea was a good time with Cynthia and her sister Louanne. They have such a great sense of humour and Cynthia especially is very articulate - such a shame she will be in Darwin when the show is on. It is good to have John on board - he is very open to all things happening and fits in well.

Tim: School workshop worked well for us, the kids and the staff. Elvis (the Batchelor student) proves a good contact and seems keen to keep working with us to find further emblem painters. Report writing creates a tension but with only two and a half weeks left I think it's worth pushing. We at last have many friends among the kids, we hear more stories and get many more hellos and waves. This makes a great deal of difference to how one feels at the end of the day.

Zhodi: Senior girls workshop went well. All girls participated at some points in the workshop - some the entire time. Sewing the dolphin felt like a nice group activity. A girl about their age was petrol sniffing at the window (about 2pm).

Tim: "You put the discos back on and we will stop sniffing." It's a bit like blackmail as many people say the sniffers run this place.

Hellen: Woke to sounds of drumming (on anything) quite accomplished speed & rhythm. Hanging washing on the line and down our side pathway flags are waving in the hands of our young neighbours. They seem to be cherished objects (today). John arrived it was great to see him. David's guided tour of the sites of Angurugu was an entertaining diversion. Workshops at school went well; middle primaries, many of which we have had in our workshops were very attentive and followed through both dance, listening and relaxation activities. In the afternoon Kaye the teacher of the senior girls class was amazed at how the class involved themselves within the workshop. She was inspired and would like to have follow up with further work of this nature. She particularly thought the National Drug & Alcohol Abuse school performance competitions as an appropriate culmination for a larger artists involvement context within the school.

Wednesday 21 July 1993

9am Packed travel to Umbakumba
10am Met with staff/workshop preparation & research
Tim follow up emblem painters & transport for show
10:30 - 12:30 lunch
1:30 - 3:30 Workshop
3:30 Drive back
4pm Tim & Elvis emblems
John & David record 3 dance tape
David & Hellen: clarify 3 dance times & choreography
Tim & John tech meeting

After dinner: Making - Tim, David, Zhodi & Hellen
Met with staff:

1st pay day since clan time meant less attendance at school, only half as many as usual.

Upper Primary teacher not replaced, one teacher less than usual. David located Jan Teagal Kapetas story-books, and typed and printed action story dance script and clan dancer order, and show order. made new show tape.

Tim was eventually referred to a woman, Mabuda, who was supportive of what we were trying to do. She took on arranging transport for kids to travel from Umbakumba to be in the show. She also suggested two artists for emblem painting - Steven Mamarika & Aaron Amagula. These artists are from Angurugu. Claude was again referred to as someone to talk to but she said he was still heavily involved in business and not good to talk to for at least another week.

Workshop 1:

During the workshop, John documented with photos.

Workshop plan was to teach show structure to allow those to participate in performance and therefore choose to have as much contact with as many children as possible. Following staff recommendation an attempt was made to combine the whole school. Older girls did not participate, older boys did not come into the room but disturbed workshop from outside. Although energy was dissipated by this initially, the workshop managed to transform this high energy into a fairly focused time where many of the children participated and learnt the two major dances and puppet promenade.

Workshop 2:

This workshop was to be focused on working with senior girls and senior boys, to be taken separately. A decision was made to conduct these outside. What eventuated was many of the children for the morning workshop reappeared, the senior boys disappeared, and the senior girls watched but wanted to join in. The staff had decided that it was good for the children to have the opportunity to work with us again. We decided to do some acrobatics as a way of engaging their attention,. we ran the show with opening, dance, stars parade and drumming. Being outside allowed greater space and more focus on the dance, there were less distractions from the older boys.

Emblems Tim & Elvis

The third emblem, the Warrawilya, was accepted by Joyce Damagirararwa and Blondi Darugwabanja. Also contacted Admiral Lalara but as one of his family had just died that timing wasn't right, neither Aaron Amagula or Joanna Wurramarra could be found. Elvis is vital to making these contacts each contact takes about an hour, in that you need to go from one place to another to find the right person. Elvis, as he is from the community, is able to follow through with new starts, from his local knowledge, whereas we would be left at a dead end.

Tape from local band Amarrunga

John and David made a rough rehearsal tape by copying soundtrack from video clips made during Alan Murphy's stay! It is ironic that at this time there are no actual copies of the tape available despite time and money already spent. They are promised to

be here next week, and other attempts to locate the original tape by Elvis and Bruce have not been successful. This videotape had just arrived at the school.

David & Hellen clarify dance: having a rough rehearsal copy allows the timing and choreography of three dances to be set to music.

Tim & John Tech Meeting

Discussed power sources and lighting possibilities, while looking at site (basketball court & oval). Tim gave run down on some lighting and sound possibilities and questions for Marty concerning those.

Rec Hall & Home

Tim and David worked on puppets in rec hall, water supply had been contaminated and water was collected from river for glue making. Water from tap remained slimy (caustic soda) for quite a while after being reconnected. Hellen and Zhodi prepared dolphin and costume at home.

PERSONAL COMMENTS

Zhodi: The atmosphere at Umbakumba in the day time is fresh and oceanic. The school is well- maintained. I really enjoy the company of these kids. Teachers seemed very supportive.

Bit of a fright tonight when we realised that we had no water due to the emptying of the town's water supply because of caustic soda poisoning. Gemco had apparently had a mishap at the river.

Tim: Seeing the dolphins and sea eagle at Umbakumba felt like a good omen.

So its taken five weeks for doors to swing freely open or for us to be given keys which actually fit.

David: Working into the night with Kieren and Cynthia is a gentle way of getting to know some of these people. Both go to Darwin on Monday and miss the show. Cynthia, with her low husky voice, is a fabulous storyteller. It felt good at Umbakumba school to have some other facilities ie computer and printer. Seeing the quiet majesty of the dolphins and sea eagle was very special. They will remind us of what we can achieve.

It is getting very hard to find any time alone. Although I haven't especially wanted this earlier, now that I do, it is difficult.

The Umbakumba workshops were very different. The first one in the morning seemed to have so many distractions such as being new to many of them, first pay for weeks meant money and therefore food (coke, chips and sugar highs), senior boys humbugging and senior girls reticence to participate, regular workshopers not participating, room being small and loud. Afternoon: outdoors, senior boys and girls not around and children more level energy - more assistance from school staff.

Hellen: Umbakumba first workshop chaotic but what can you expect - mixed ages and sexes in small resonating room, some being introduced to us for the first time. Some too shy to participate, some 'too cool' to participate. Still I felt they were all interested.

The energy required by David and me during those workshops to both persuade and convince them to participate is extraordinarily high. If you are not totally committed to 'the action' neither will they be.

Thursday 22 July 1993

Bickerton Island workshop
Meeting with Bernie (principle)
John meeting with Marty re: equipment
Redo Dances tape (rehearsal)
Workshop (older girls) (poster ???)
Meeting with Gerry Lai (adult Ed.)
Tim and Elvis emblems
David Bernie meeting/computer
Alyangula - shopping, dolphins, dinner
Making Tim & David & Hellen & Zhodi
Tim chats with Marty everyday!
Bickerton Island

While waiting for our flight we notice an encampment of army jets and helicopters, in conversing we discovered that a battalion of air persons and a reconnaissance unit were here for two weeks to conduct a survey of Groote.

Flew to Bickerton with Bernie (headmistress) 8 (mins) airfares paid by Education Department, we conducted a workshop with the students at the school (15). We followed the structure of other 'show' workshop teaching them the same dances and played games and exercises. These children were very supportive of each other and did not seem to be distracted by mixed ages and sex. Rebecca Wurramara, assisted in workshop, she is a teacher trainer. Bickerton has recently been categorised as a school in its own right and previously was an outstation school (run by Rebecca). We christened the new school room with our workshop. The kids were quick to pick things up and were very focused.

BERNIE SPEAKS

"The beginning of the year would be the best time as it is the highest attendance," re: our returning.

"Touring Numbulwar and Umbakumba are both tidy due to clan differences, this is sometimes worse than others. Therefore only certain kids, people can travel to those places" She suggests talking to the community further about this issue.

"Yirrkala is neutral."

"The people of Bickerton will tell you what they want," re: scheduling for next year, the aboriginal community will take the lead.

JOHN & MARTY MEET

While meeting at rec hall, John found out that oval lights were individually controllable. Basketball lights are disconnected and only one side work. Power from toilet blocks and stage for lights and sound. Checked sound equipment in storeroom but Marty doesn't know how it works and suggested Timothy Lalara was the man (not here). Took

key so as to check out equipment at a later date. Bases for light stands need poles made to make them function. The four parcans without globes don't have replacements. Two of his lights (parcans work). Marty suggested poster and handbills for display and pickup in shop. Marty suggested we liaise with performance personnel regarding the location of the performance ie will the band play on basketball court?

WORKSHOP OLDER GIRLS (Hellen & Zhodi)

Started with Hellen's activity (dolphin sewing) in library and colouring poster for the show. Moved to art room after David's group had left and went through Bird Dance. Fewer girls that Tuesday however they (except new girl) participated well. Karen stayed back to do Action Dance - Kaye the teacher was absent for workshop due to ill health.

WORKSHOP SENIOR BOYS (David & Tim)

Only two boys, one of which was physically carried to workspace by teacher, both refused to do anything and one ran away. Decided to go to rec hall and make anyway, found Andrew (teacher) who didn't stay and told him the situation. He decided to collect them in his car. Six boys arrived at rec hall, Andrew stayed for a short time, leaving because he 'had work to do'. Worked on "scary monster" with boys and got it to articulation stage they seem to enjoy moving the puppet. Two strongest kids from previous workshops were absent. Tim and David both question whether they will be in the show (on the night).

GERRY LAI MEETING (Tim)

Tim met with him regarding setting up a stall to sell food and drink on 'show' night. He said he hadn't seen anybody in the last week but would attempt to get a crew together on Monday and see if they were interested.

ELVIS & TIM EMBLEM

Followed up again with Joanna Warramara, then Alek Warramara. Neither at home. Met with Robert Junior (Amagula?) who wanted to paint but felt worried that he didn't have the right to paint; he might actually paint something ceremonial. He suggested his brother Aaron. Aaron Amagula said yes to painting Mamarika Amagula emblem but he has to get permission from Lalara Clan elders first because the ceremonies belong to them.

DAVID & BERNIE MEETING

Talked to Bernie about her stockpile of art pieces, her belief is that in another five years no more artwork will be done here. She wants to see a cultural centre open which would encourage artists. In her experience of aboriginal communities she finds Angurugu lacking in expression of culture and that the disciplines and responsibilities which are part of kinship systems are no longer working here.

The petrol sniffing - As the principal, Bernie has a lot of contact with youths, especially in the initial stages of petrol sniffing. She sees the lack of adult control and leadership as major problems (contributing factors). She related several stories where community members stood around sniffers watching them lose it 'chucking wobbles' and seeing their behaviour as entertainment. Intervention on her part has resulted in major confrontation with family members, even when one sniffer involved died (she needed police protection).

TIM CHATS WITH MARTY EVERYDAY

Tim thinks we are aware of the reality of the situation and that we don't have 'high expectations' regarding performance participation and attendances. Tim suggests that we

need clarity or confirmation of band commitment before we make a poster and agrees to meet the following day.

PERSONAL COMMENTS

Zhodi: Flying low in such a small plane was a great experience. The island and ocean looked beautiful - although the huge black scars on Groote weren't as aesthetically pleasing. Bickerton was quiet and bushy. The kids were a pleasure to work with - very accepting and enthusiastic. The teachers (Janet and Rebecca) were keen, and were pleased with what we did with the kids.

David: Bickerton perhaps gives a glimpse of the more supportive and gentler nature of some of these people. At the same time it is another reminder of how difficult/impossible it is to work with all of the Anindilyakwa people as a whole. The clan differences and separations are becoming clearer as are the ways these affect everything we are trying to do. It is disappointing to not have post primary boys interested yet. It all seems to be related to the breakdown in this community. Talking with Bernie Varkevissor (?) today was sobering. She is stockpiling art/craft work because she feels that there will be no more soon. She again talked about the tragedy of the petrol sniffing - the inevitable breakdowns and the lack of family, social or cultural control. From this talk I take a warning of the complacency that settles around the sniffing and how these people seem to sit back and let white people do everything - her suggestion is to close the mine and get every white person off the island. This is indeed a difficult project - with complex issues at every corner. The dolphins at night slide through the water with such simple deliberation - such a contrast.

Tim: Feel really naive in talking about the clan groups to older people, and the kids too. I don't know if what we have been told to do with the groupings is very child-like, which is okay or just a white classification thing to please. I still have little idea of how the family groups work.

Hellen: Bickerton flight, unexpected but revealing both of aerial viewing of mining on Groote and of the difference between a more remote 'out school' and 'urban Angurugu.' The children at Bickerton were at first resistant but later involved. Not as many barriers between ages and gender, generally more co-operation through these categories.

Friday 23 July 1993

Public Holiday - no school, no shop, no holiday for us.

Marty said many people go to Darwin for this day.

reporting & planning

Making: Tim & David - rec hall, Zhodi & Hellen at home

John checked out the sound system and Hellen & John got television for computer editing of film clips/doco.

Tim & Elvis emblem

Girls poster making workshop at home (Hellen & D)

Bus pickup workshop (Hellen & D & J)

Tim meets with Marty everyday

Tim & Zhodi making

Hellen & D & J tip pickup

all making, J video work

8:30 - 11:00 report work

Tim & D making puppets. Zhodi & Hellen finishing puppets and costumes. John sound system is more than adequate for the show but works well. Heather next door teacher loaned us her VCR and television for John to look at video work for editing and preparing documentary video.

TIM & ELVIS

Met Joanna Warramara who agreed to paint Warramara emblem. Attempted meeting Rhoda Lalara. So far unsuccessful in finding a Lalara emblem painter.

GIRLS AT HOME

'Bisitng'. Visitors were given tasks of colouring in poster for show downstairs.

MARTY & TIM (do it everyday)

Band members not in town, Elvis has the gossip, Public Holiday (Darwin Show) people some pishing (fishing).

BUS PICKUP

Many people got on bus under expectation of 'disco' quite a large pickup, including quite a few babies and older girls (not school goers) and a dog. Held workshop in artroom at school (a new workspace since school has been back). David & Hellen performed 'Dance 3' many times, the audience gradually became the participants after doing action dance several times, older girls left, but continued through 1st & 3rd dances with such passion several times. We decided to let them complete poster colouring finishing with a disco. They worked well, the girls co-operated in helping with dance as Hellen's voice has disappeared. Outside a mixed sex group of petrol sniffers were looking in.

HELLEN & DAVID TIP PICKUP

Drove to Gemco tip and picked up three big drums and bamboo.

VIDEO MAKING

John setup TV and video recorder to review his documentary work, he also videoed bus pickup and workshop and making at the rec hall and began working on titles.

Making costumes till we were taken under false pretences into the bush by Tim.

After evening meal continued costume make & reporting 8:30 - 10pm. John continued video the costumes.

PERSONAL COMMENTS

David: Now we begin to have a knowing about this place although still slight. My feeling is just to be longer here without the unnatural and outside force of 'show'. For the show we still need more time. We work from about 8:30am to about 10pm most days. But the pressure of show is hindering the building of the relationship and trust. These people will probably be happy to let us do the entire show and watch from a distance.

Watched Lajamanu show 'Kurra Karna Yani' last night. What an epic and heroic feat it really was to get it on - absolute proof of the value in long term, varied, and consistent contact within an Aboriginal community and with these people when outside their community. Even at the end of the 13 weeks I do not think Angurugu will be anywhere near the standard of the first Lajamanu show - despite the increased expertise of the team - this is a direct reflection on this community. Whereas generally any Warlpiris I have come

across feel proud to be Warlpiri - these people seem to lack a visible pride in who and what they are.

Tim: I wonder what would happen if there was more support, skill development and respect given to those who can paint. the painters I have met this week seem very warm generous people, it could be good to work with them more.

Zhodi: A weird thing happened to me today. I was covering the dolphin in the rec hall and these girls had just come in to see what was going on. I'd worked with one of them the day before but two of them were new. They were looking at me intently and speaking to each other in language. I asked them what was the matter, and they said 'are you sick?' I told them I felt fine, and asked them why they thought so. They said 'your eyes' and I asked them what about my eyes. They couldn't put it into English and just said 'their deep.' I didn't know what they were talking about and so we just moved onto covering the dolphins.

About an hour later, I suddenly came down with a really sore throat, slight nausea and headiness. I wonder what they saw that suggested sickness?

Hellen: A school holiday, no voice. Last days of workshop taking has weakened vocal chords and their seems to be a flu going around amongst teaching staff. False pretence of disco gave us an extraordinary pickup and gradually David and my performance turned into a small but good participatory workshop. Older girls too shy or too cool to join with dance, older boys mostly left, petrol sniffers outside the window though still preoccupied with their own activity.

Finished 12 'accessory fashion' costume items for the stars from Umbakumba (late into the late) and heard the next door intruders running around our backyard).

'Bisitons' drop in home and colour posters for us now. The house is quite an activity centre, community publicity, colouring downstairs, John video making in lounge-room, me and Zhodi sitting and sewing.

Saturday 24 July 1993

making - dolphins (Zhodi)
costumes (Hellen)
hall (Tim & D)
video (J)

video watching of past days work

Alyangula - Hazel

Bin & pipe pick up

More making

P.A.

Video watching : more repetition in the dance needed, attempt to do first dance twice.

Hazel : Hellen & Zhodi talked, she was keen to bring her own kids to the show and didn't in anyway seem to think she had let us down (not that this was verbally expressed as such but she was keen to talk).

J & Hellen picked up another drum, and pipe was found for lighting stand from the

tip and along side the road.

J rigged up P.A. and found it worked, however some of the speaker leads were shorter than desired.

PERSONAL COMMENTS

David: Watching the videos of past days work and I feel like we almost need to do the show three times in a row in order to get a few of them to participate.

Tim: Not one except the team in the workspace today until nightfall and then only two people, Kieren and Cynthia, just passed through.

David: No-one in town but it was good to just 'make' uninterrupted - a few kids back at the house.

Zhodi: Still feeling unwell. Sewed dolphins and slept intermittently.

Hellen: A full day of making bar time off for shopping and collecting drums and pipe with John for lights and percussion. Feels like production week more hours (all hours) required. Only brief contact with kids when they 'bisited' and buried themselves in colour fabric strip on lounge room/workroom floor, it seems there is no time now to follow through with older women contacts made earlier in the process - that's a pity. Everyone busy doing their own things today. Finish 8 dolphin sea/wind 'costume accessories'. Zhodi has bad throat too. Hazel talked to Zhodi and me at length in town today, very friendly and keen to see the show with the kids.

Sunday 25 July 1993

Sunday breakfast

Costumes - Hellen

Dolphins - Zhodi

Lighting stands - J

Making - Tim & D

Yedikba - (old Mission)

Movie - Michael Douglas

Meeting with Robin Laidlaw

Finished dolphins and rainbow snake

John looked for more bits of metal to make up lighting stands.

John & David returned Heather's video and TV which John had linked up to his computer.

Robin Laidlaw is keen to help out in anyway for the show, he is also doing workshops in Umbakumba next Monday and Tuesday. Is working in Alyangula towards a picnic day performance.

PERSONAL COMMENTS

Tim: Stayed in bed all morning, didn't want to see anyone or anything, my body and mind

ached. I read and day dreamed. Still eight days until we get out of here.

Meeting with Robin Laidlaw in the evening made me feel it must be possible to get something together but ...

David: Minimal work from me today. Hellen spends time on the sewing machine making costumes but I read my book 'Wisdom of the Elders'. The need for sacrifice in order to recycle i.e. the beast sacrifices its life to the hunter and then the hunter sacrifices his own life for the earth, which sacrifices its nutrients for the plants which sacrifice themselves for the animals etc. there is only a limited amount to go around. While people take and do not return or rather they take more than they return - the earth feels this and cries out. Maybe, here on Groote, we have taken too much and these indigenous people have stopped hearing the cries. Robin Laidlaw takes about one week to get a show together.

Zhodi; Relief to finish those dolphins at last! Great to find the swimming hole at the old Mission station (spa included!). Still under the weather. It feels as though we're fairly rapidly moving towards the end - whatever this may be.

Hellen: Spending early morning til afternoon, time with sewing machine 12 rainbow snake 'accessories' finished. I think they look good hope kids do too, they like wrapping things around themselves. Maybe they'll enjoy wearing them in the show if not I think of them as colourful things/gifts for them to be worn/torn when we leave. Time out at Mission swimming hole was much needed by everyone.

MONDAY 26 July 1993

Reporting & planning

Accounting

Bad news - death

phone-call to Ken,

Brian, Murabuda

Workshop - senior girls

senior boys

Making

Lands Council meeting

Tim's meeting with Marty - he does this everyday

Leonard Amagula

Joanna Warramara

Alyangula interlude

Making

After supper discussion

John making lighting stands

got TV and VCR from school

transfer photos to computer

general comments

Accounting - finalised accounting with David Glover from council.

'Bad news' - another death, told funeral would be Friday, phoned Ken to say it was doubtful that the performance would go ahead, looked for Brian and Murabuda (who arrived back that day), for advice, couldn't find them.

Morning workshop went well after a late start (extended smoko). Pre-school kids were included in this workshop. Games and warm-up inside before a run-through on the school basketball court. Despite the heat the kids were generally co-operative and enthusiastic.

Senior Girls - only four girls, slow to arrive but worked well moving through the show.

Senior Boys - painted the spirit (four boys).

David & Tim asked advice re: funeral. They seem to think it would be Monday. They thought something Friday night should be okay.

Meeting with Marty & Tim - Joaz is keen for his band 'Poison Whisky' to play for the show. It was his relation who died but he thinks it could make people happy. Has found out about playing on the basketball court. Marty said that by having Joaz on-side the other bands could follow. Joaz is Elvis' brother.

Robert Amagula would be asked to run a disco and there is a sound man in town who would help set up P.A.

Marty's daughter may video

Leonard: still no tape but when I said we might have to use other music a woman said they would have another look and drop it around.

Joanna, finally at home after dropping in many times over the weekend. She showed some of her craft work.

Tim talked about how we might approach finding material from a different angle. ie. Finding dance material the same way he approached painters.

The preservation of art forms from one that is visual design and concrete, as opposed to a dance which as a group activity attached to a community ritual, lives in the moment in the body.

PERSONAL COMMENTS

Tim: If we could be simply taken out fishing or out bush, it would have been so much easier for us to begin. How much can we ask for? To be shown a dance song or painting would make that beginning point even richer and therefore give a greater depth, somewhere for a performance to come from. If we are being asked to produce one of these (eg. a Lajamanu type show) then how much do we have the right to demand we need to be exposed to these cultural things first?

David: Today we are told someone has died and the funeral will probably be Friday therefore no show. It is difficult to know in which direction to put my energy. Sometimes it feels like all we are doing is imposing more. I don't yet understand or know this place so how can I create relevant work with the people? What do I have to do to create the right relationships with people? Somehow we have to connect with adults and other 'community responsible' people.

Zhodi: The kids seem to enjoy doing a run of the show. We've built up some great relationships with many young people here. Hearing that we may not be able to do the show Friday if the funeral goes ahead means we can't be attached to any particular end product and need to just 'go with the flow.'

Hellen: Good workshop with four older girls but they keep themselves very separate from younger ones and are much more reluctant to begin participating. Once they start they're fine. The die has been cast for the show now we stick to plan, which in some ways narrows our sight and vision.

Tuesday 27 July 1993

Tim ring ken

Alyangula - R.A.Tim.E. students

"Bad news"

Angurugu workshop - transition & lower/mid primary

Senior girls workshop - with John video

No senior boys - making in shed & lights pick up

Attempt to see Jigakwa & Guy

Making in shed

Wood collection

Guy - Tim & Hellen & posters

Warren Hastings, Batchelor

John : making video for Umbakumba until 3am

: welding

Ring Ken : Ken decided not to come over as the show was constantly in doubt and Monday was a holiday and he would not be able to do his follow up.

Alyangula - R.A.Tim.E. Students : Artistic team was invited to talk about their project in Angurugu and their previous arts practice in Aboriginal contests. these students are doing an arts elective as part of their teacher training - our project was a very appropriate example of how arts can address an aboriginal community. The video of Lajamanu show was screened, and section of current show performed. This meeting was a result of Warren Hastings invitation, to address student teachers from Numbulwar, Umbakumba, Angurugu and we discussed with them ways that they could assist in facilitating Friday's show and to attend morning's rehearsal. Departure was distressed as news of death arrived and many women left to wail in the school ground.

Angurugu workshop : First full run through of show with puppets. High energy. Suzanne Warramara, a parent who attend that day was of great help and enjoyed participating. We had heard that the death was Hazel's husband.

Senior girls workshop : Only two girls, Karen and Charmaine. We ran through show dances several times and Charmaine, Zhodi and Hellen were filmed by John doing 'All thru the night' dance with costume.

Senior boys workshop : No boys arrived at workshop, Andrew only, had two at school and he did not bring them over as promised. While making in the workshop David & Tim were informed through Robin Laidlaw that the death was not true. Marty confirmed this

by asking one of his workers.

Jigakwa & Guy : not home

Wood collection : more sticks were needed. Eight gumtrees (small saplings) were felled by D & Tim.

Guy meeting : Tim & Hellen spoke with guy. He promised to be 'scary monster' in show and to arrange a team of boys to assist. He would try to get tape of Amarranga Band song for show. Posters were placed in key spot in community..

Warren Hastings, Batchelor College: Warren came to use the washing machine and stayed to chat. He is an interesting man, married to an aboriginal woman from near Nukurr. He is quite passionate about Aboriginal Education. He suggested we try to connect next year's work with Bachelor Students. This sounds sensible and a good way to connect with a different age group. Warren is very excited by our work and sees it as a valuable way to work "both ways".

John; Umbakumba Video: John stayed up late (3.00 am) compiling a video for Umbakumba workshop participants and school, to see tomorrow. This video consists of still images digitised and keyed in over footage of last week's show rehearsal.

PERSONAL COMMENTS

Tim - Giving up, pushing, letting go, hang on, cutting off, what will be will be.
- Never have I dreamt and been able to recall my dreams as much as I have since being here.

David - Most Aboriginal staff are too shy. The white staff do not turn up to workshops. If we are only seen as baby-sitters, then that is what we become.

Another death today, Hazel's husband. In the end it was a false alarm, but the "howling" began. Marty says there has been 7 death in the past 6 weeks. That is a lot of dying. Not one senior boy in today's workshop ~I could become very depressed about all of this. But the only real problem is the pressure of "show" when we are so disconnected from the pulse of this place. I thought of it like a photographer. Do I just take the photos or do I stop taking photos and mount an exhibition (with poor quality photos).

Tim Finding who has or has not got the house, car, or space key quickly can often make or break your day.

Zhodi Sunset at Cave Paintings:- Every time we go into the landscape there is a renewed sense of tranquillity and peacefulness.

Hellen - The show is constantly put into question, as deaths and appropriate protocol is taken into account, lunchtime doubt has now been cleared, I think a show is important and special, something which will be remembered as separate to usual workshop. Rock painting, bush retreat, battery charge always.

WEDNESDAY 28 JULY

Tim making at shed (?)

Wood cutting & posters
John finished video for Umbakumba (morning)
Umbakumba - Video & workshop
Little Paradise & Nanga re-emblem (Tim & David)
Joyce & Blondie re-emblem (Tim & David)
Galidja (Tim & David)
Attempt to visit Jigakwa (Zhodi & Hellen)
Zhodi - Making at school
Hellen - Making at school
Tim - Star pickets; Daily meeting with Marty, met with Geraldine, Elvis - Try for Admiral Lalara
David - Meeting at Bernie & Heather, then shed
John - Looking for bolts
Puppet Play
Nanga visit
Alyangula for tea - Hellen & John to the rescue
Video watching
Walk through show on Basketball court, especially. for light
Hellen & John & Zhodi - talk about disco.

GENERAL COMMENTS

Tim began the day bright and early by going to the shed & painting.

Hellen followed suit by cutting wood for drumsticks and putting posters at Post Office, mechanics workshop, a tree, print shop, "Angurugu" sign shop.

John finished titles for video to take and show at Umbakumba.

Umbakumba / School was one teacher down today.

Set up video, wood preparation for drumsticks, speak to teacher's power, made posters to give to students Tim followed up Mabuda & on her advice we agreed to show the video first & have her speak to all students about what was going on.

All kids came into Audio Visual room and we showed them a video that John had put together. This consisted predominantly of footage taken from last weeks, Umbakumba workshop overlaid with photographs from holiday workshop.

After video, we waited for Mabuda to arrive & speak to the students. She didn't show up.

We got Donald, another Aboriginal teacher aid, to translate some information to them; asked him to tell them

1/ about the show, where and when

2/ get the kids who are coming to Angurugu to rehearse with us, "last training session".

We wanted to practice with some and send other back to class, but on advice from Donald, we had to have everyone together. This suggestion came from Jennifer initially.

On the way to the Basketball court many students went in different directions (ie home, bush, etc.).

We began with a game to attempt to get kids together on a court (which was in full sunshine). Few kids joined in. We then tried to do a run of the show, beginning with drumming; no one would join us for the dance so Hellen & David, Zhodi & Tim ran first dance done as a performance piece. Tried again from start (drumming) and a few children

began to join in and picked some extras up through run. The majority of people we had worked with over the past 5 weeks would not participate at all. The people who were with us worked well through the second run of the show and kept through with stars and wind flags.

Tim met with Mabuda after workshop. She was clearly trying to get away and off loaded the bus arrangements onto Tim to get bus to her from Minister in Angurugu.

Home for Lunch

Tim & David Drove to little paradise to meet with Nanga. He was not there.

Picked up painting from Joyce & Blondie. Had the story of painting translated by Geraldine & Amagula. (Paid them).

Went to Galidja's, discussed with her (through Belma) how her painting had come about, also showing her the quality of other people's painting. After some time and discussion, Galidja said in English, "No more painting". The next 15 minutes were spent trying to find out how to spell her name so we could pay her.

Hellen & Zhodi Visit to Jigakwa; she was not home. Told to come back later.

Team split for different tasks making and meetings. People came to rec. Hall and helped.

David Met with Bernie & Heather. Arranged meeting with full staff for 2:45 pm Thursday.

Found out another person had died and that school was closed today and could remain so until it had been smoked (hopefully tomorrow, Thursday).

Discussed with them the need for stronger staff interest; ie being present at workshops. Heather said she assumed we wouldn't want them there.

Tim Located some star pickets with Marty in most unusual places.

Met with Joanna Warramara and husband; painting not yet complete.

Aaron Amagula's painting is not yet complete.

Re-met with Geraldine Amagula; she offered to look for a Lalara to paint emblem.

Went to pick up emblem & paint. On return, she had spotted Elvis. Picked up Elvis and took emblem to Admiral Lalara, who although tired and having just returned from funeral, agreed to paint.

Back at the Rec. Hall

John was looking for bolts to finish lighting stands. The rest of us were finishing off props and puppets.

The kids were stripping bark from drumsticks and painting them. John began videoing them and they began playing for the camera. This developed into playing with the puppets. They went outside with the flags and then brought all the puppets out. Lots of photos & video were taken of this. It became an informal performance with groups of people watching. The children determined their own structures for this, including sounds for everything. The eagle and monster puppets were at times too cumbersome for these younger people and will need some "muscles".

The making tasks for the day were completed.

Team went to Little Paradise to see Nanga. It was just on sunset. He invited us to look at emblem which was only "maybe half finished". It was well done with more details than other paintings we had seen.

Went to have a quick look at Bartalumba Bay before going to Alyangula to pick up a quick supper.

While at Alyangula, a group of Angurugu people required some assistance with their car which had a flat battery in the bush. Assistance was rendered but the car could not be started.

Watched video of afternoon puppets performance, especially. for Tim who was not present for actual show.

Walked show on Basketball Court and explored lighting possibilities.

Zhodi, Hellen & John Discussed whether starting with a disco was such a good idea. Maybe something else should be done to attract them. Maybe starting with disco and stopping it would make it difficult then to go into the actual show.

PERSONAL COMMENTS

Tim: Within the same 6 weeks time frame, as compared to Lajamanu, we have consciously reached wider into the community. We have been in contact with just as many people, showing them a larger variety of skills but in a less structured/disciplined way. We are less far down the track in making solid individual "trusted" relationships. Marty Rowe and Elvis Warramara are the only two whom I have such a relationship with. Geraldine Amagula has been really helpful but there has not been enough time here to know the strength of this relationship.

Another person has died today.

David: Today's lack of work from the Umbakumba mob was firstly a bit of a worry, but secondly it was to be expected. We have not reached a point where they will come with us. As a counterpoint to this, today we picked up an emblem from Joyce and Blondie. They were so proud of their work and wanted photographs taken. Pride in one's work, self or actions, has been almost unseen thus far in the community. Another man died who had a lot of contact with the school; the school is closed until it has been smoked. People have said that black magic is around. How could any bureaucrat understand what it actually means to work in a place like this?

John: In the afternoon, after school, about twenty kids were at the rec. Hall helping make drumsticks. What started as the boys showing off for the video camera quickly escalated into a spontaneous investigation by the kids of every puppet, star, banner, flag within sight, including an impromptu performance on the grounds around the Hall. It's really difficult to know when kids will be shy in participating and being filmed or photographed, or when, as in this instance, they are falling over themselves (in a very orderly fashion) to gain attention. Their use and imagination of the possibilities of all the props, their level of cooperation with very little guidance or explanation of the mechanics was great!

Zhodi: The video was a great way to see, in a condensed form, how much positive work

and interaction has taken place over the last few weeks. Seeing the kids enthusiastically manipulating one puppet after another this afternoon was exciting and uplifting. They enjoyed themselves so much!

We arrived at Little Paradise in the dark, just as the red from sunset had spread across the water. Tim went out to speak to Nanga in the dark and although Nanga didn't know the rest of us, he greeted us with "Hello everyone!" and lots of laughter. He joked about being able to finish the emblem tomorrow only if he didn't have any breakfast, lunch or dinner. He laughed and laughed. The lifestyle there, in the dark around the campfire, away from anyone else, on the edge of the water, was in sharp contrast to living in Angurugu.

Hellen Umbakumba kids difficult to gather even though excitement of video of themselves would seem to be attractive. Watching John's video, there was great excitement during and pleasure at seeing one another. Afterwards it was quiet and run through became a performance of us four, until we again coaxed them in. A different group than usual. I wonder how many will make it to the show. It seems perhaps the last few days of other artist Robin Laidlaw circus skills may have been overload. Angurugu kids seem much more keyed up with the show, they have had the puppets "growing" in the community so therefore seem more involved and connected than the once a week "hit" at Umbakumba. They played for hours today with all the puppets, their imagination blossoms in unstructured situations. Quite a challenge to find a way of working with this to its fullest potential.

THURSDAY 29 JULY

Emblem to Admiral (Tim)

Reporting

Tim & Zhodi check on school /if open or not due to death

Tim to Admiral

Planning tomorrow show

School staff meeting

Follow through on actions for planning meeting

Cleared rec. Hall for workshops

3 van trips / David & Girls / workshop Sledge Hammer

Tim meets with Marty

John, Tim & David visit Admiral and look for Aaron Amagula

Meeting Guy

Tim looks for Aaron & Gary re Umbakumba Bus

Zhodi - Drumsticks,

David & Hellen making

Tim & John collect sound system for tomorrow dress rehearsal

John & Tim meet with Marty; final discussion re equipment

Hellen makes costumes

Tim looks for Aaron Amagula again (not home)

Admiral not awake yet

.

Reporting: We all began reporting of Wednesday's activities. Tim & Zhodi left to find out about school being open for workshop & days ~ plan of actions if it was. Tim to take

emblem to Admiral & picked up Paul from workshop to show him the dolphins at school.

Planning meeting for show.

History of jobs to be attended to for show was compiled and distributed: Zhodi & David to meet with staff, Tim to follow up, Gerry Lai for food , performance & picked up another emblem John picked up sound equipment & van to dub show tape Tim & John met David & Zhodi at school staff meeting Hellen finished costumes & Sledge Hammer.

Staff Meeting: Explained history of project & how the school fitted into that. We asked who would attend show; all those who were residents of Angurugu agreed to assist with specific tasks: videoing, encouragement, costume assistance, kids to puppets supervision, food selling, use of police vehicle to round up audience.

Two plans were set to accommodate school being closed / two other if open.

1/- All staff requested to attend tomorrow dress rehearsal on Basketball court at 11.00 am.

- They could not be needed all day.
- Use of school bus for pick-ups ~ No renew.

School bus needs rules to be implemented first.

2/- Variation on location and time to accommodate picking up puppets.

Rec Hall had only been used for making since school commencement and needed to be cleaned for workshop. As school was closed we needed to do our own pickup in early afternoon in our own vehicle as school bus and troop carrier was not available. Three pick-ups took place and workshop began primarily with boys. Girls joined in later as they arrived. Quite a few kids, who were becoming familiar with the show ran through twice. Good energy. We explained this was the last practice before dress rehearsal on the Basketball court tomorrow morning. With Lance's arrival, the session turned into a photo session for Lance, with David's assistance. We seemed to have more authority than Lance with the kids.

Tim and Marty meet. Discussion about his obligations regarding disco bands, equipment and set-up.

John, Tim & David visit Admiral who showed an almost completed emblem. His wife told the story of the painting to which he will add more details. To be picked up tomorrow.

Aaron Amagula, the final emblem painter, continues to be difficult to find; messages are left.

Guy has attempted to get tape and gave us star pickets.

Messages left with Aaron. Gary re him following up Marbuda's request for bus for Umbakumba kids to show....

PERSONAL COMMENTS

Tim Must remember it's not a good time to look for people when the plane is due in or out.

Zhodi - It feels as though a show will happen. The kids seem familiar with the material and enthusiastic to join in. all images are made, emblems are arriving back, and

people ask us about the show. It feels positive. I'm glad the kids will experience this performing night; they ask every day when it's on.

David School closed. I enjoyed my meeting with the staff. I feel I do these sort of things well. a disappointing response from some of the staff members (ie Marie) who would prefer to be out drinking and will not turn up for the show.

Two pick-ups for the workshop. Tim & David got the boys. It was good to be able to work alone with these boys, even though it was only for a couple of minutes before the girls joined in. it was only the second time this rapport has been able to be worked on. One boy, Martin, knew the whole show in order, if not in action. It gives hope.

Hellen Excitement seems to be brewing about the "show" and about the disco. I'm glad night time schedule with lights and sound has been possible, and I hope that not only the kids will come. We don't get to meet many adults and our schedule doesn't seem to allow time or instances to make contact with adults. Pity the older women could not be located to dance the Brolga dance within the context of the show.

FRIDAY 30 JULY 1993

Tim, David & Zhodi repairs & making at rec. Hall

Hellen evening meal preparation

Planning meeting tasks for days activities devised & delegated

Rehearsal

Bad News

Meeting Murabuda

Planning meeting

Show / set up space, sound, light, puppets, costumes

Emblem pickup ~ Admiral & Nanga's

Jigakwa meeting attempt

SHOW

DISCO

BANDS

VIDEO

BUMP-OUT

Planning Meeting

Transport of set materials & show properties to space, sound equipment, prepared space, lighting stand, sweeping, sound amp. stands, star pickets, show tape dub, costumes.

Bad News

Another death last night, a woman killed by her husband The show is still OK to go on.

Rehearsal teachers and students arrived, though some confusion over whether it was open or not arose. Marty & Gary attended rehearsal and some aboriginal mothers from the community Rehearsal in costumes went well; approximately 30 kids. Andrew videoed, Bernie taped a solid ground for performance this evening; people watched and it looked like a school performance.

We all visited Murabuda at home and told him about the show happening that night.

He had already seen the puppets in the rec. Hall and seemed to feel confident about the show and its ability to make people happy in the very context of so many deaths occurring. He also said not to leave it for too long before returning.

Planning Meeting

Allotted tasks, more costumes needed, people to follow through with what was needed to be done: David, Zhodi & Tim estapolled emblem,
Tim & John pickup emblems with video documentation,
David remix sound tape,
Zhodi fixed stars and dolphins. Returned library books.

Hellen talked to Judy Waddy re artist, art, and culture, birds and language. Judy Waddy was well informed about cultural aspects of the tribal groups and artists, their work and dreamings. She informed me of the lack of an historical dance culture though it was strong in story telling, songs and paintings. She has a wonderful collection of art from painters from the different clans from the 70's to the 80's in particular and can tell by the work and design the characteristics which inform the work.. She has a great knowledge of natural history and was eager to talk and share this.

Hellen & Zhodi try to meet again with Jigakwa. She is now out of town and we were warned to keep on our way as gunshots and spears had happened in the house next door.

Show set-up

Marty & Guy delivered PA and band equipment with 3 helpers for a while and with truck from Gemco via Guy. J & Hellen set up lights, Marty & Guy the sound system, later with assistance of technician and Robert. Puppets collected and delivered with kids Tim, Zhodi & David.

Late starting sound problems: vital leads missing. We were warned about payback in town tonight and that it could affect audience attendance.

Hellen did a pickup with the bus. There was much excitement coming from the kids and you became aware of people heading towards the Basketball courts. People were still driving and walking in, so we decided that Robert Amagula should do 1/2 an hour of disco. It felt very different from the disco earlier in the project: The majority of the people at the disco had been connected to our workshop. There was a strong white presence. Skill share and the school had set up food and drink stalls.

R.A.T.E students did not participate in rehearsal or show which had been planned. Several Umbakumba people were present but did not participate.

SHOW

Costumes were handed out; not only did the workshop participants come to collect them but kids we had never seen before; black and white.

Collected drum sticks and started beating the drum first to music while waiting for Guy, then into rehearsed drumming patterns as others joined in for the beginning of the show. The energy was focused and charged. There were about 60 to 80 kids. They moved into rehearsed show, beating the sticks on the ground => clan dance => clan puppet mardi gras => battle with spirit => Amarranga band dance => "jump" bow "jump".

Half the kids had regularly rehearsed with us, a quarter had been once or twice and the other quarter we had never seen before. This affected the clarity of the show but not the energy - it felt strongly like a community event.

The lights protected performers from seeing those watching.

Bands "Amarranga" & "Poison Whisky" played after about half an hour of set up.

Noticeably, most white people left at this stage.

Bumped out, loaded show stuff onto truck and took off to rec. Hall. followed by band stuff, lights etc.

During bump up, Rodney let it rip spinning and skidding his car across the oval, Basketball court and surrounding streets.

FEED BACK

Marty He'd never seen this many teachers out at a community event before.

Commented that white kids are usually too intimidated to join in.

Warren Hastings Said that it was the best that had happened here for ages. He thought it was the best \$40,000 the community has ever spent.

PERSONAL COMMENTS

David: School closed? No! But many kids think so. Yet another death. This time a murder at Bagot Community in Darwin. So many things seem to be out of control and yet we persist eking out an iota of order.

Hellen: Time to prepare last details. Basketball set-up, sounds lights & costumes. Kids energy during this time and Disco pre show was higher. Driving them around to do final show pick up, they were screaming & yelling for every one to come, with real pleasure. You could see many groups of people moving toward the courts; families, couples, not many oldies.

The show was quite extraordinary - between 10 and 80 performers, even white kids joined in. So much for rehearsals. A large number of the performers had never been to one before. Simplistic structures accommodated their joining in. Every puppet, prop, stick, costume swirled around the court. We could have had even more, still perhaps it would not have been enough. After the show teachers and school principal helped in breakdown. Everyone seemed pleased though we had no direct feedback from Murabuda or the community elders who might have had something useful to say.

Tim: Well, we made about 200 people happy and gave about 60 people a positive performance experience, achieving our aims and the community's. Robert Amagula did the disco and two bands played. Marty, Guy and many school staff did their bit. In a very high degree of difficulty rating, we scored well.

David: Show-time : There were more people involved than we expected. More than those who usually go to school. The children behaved as expected - ie older children were too shamed to participate; children we had never seen performed; performers flocked tightly around us; detail was limited, performers followed what we did as a mob. It was good to notice that kids we had worked with followed better. It was on one hand a struggle with some people having no idea what they should be doing and just getting in the way, but it was as I expected initially. Audience seemed OK. Many in their cars and deep in the shadows. Impossible to gauge the number. It was a treat for the white people of the town - many who seemed never to have had a way into Aboriginal activity. After the show, bands "Amarrunga" and "Poison Whisky" played. Robyn Laidlaw said "Well, you had much more activity than the bands!" I enjoyed Poison Whisky who were very tight. Audience liked this too. It felt strange to be dancing with Lance as we were the only two male adults dancing.

I think we have done an almost impossible thing, with all the deaths and almost an inexistent support from the community. The feedback so far has mainly been from white

people who thought it was an amazing thing. They have trouble engaging Aboriginal people in interesting activities. Amarrunga Band played with their backs mostly to audience.

Car spinning around at end was both exciting and scary. The danger element. One lady crossing the oval at the end was angry about something and was shouting things such as "Go home, you white cunts". It worries me that if you connect that with the car driving and have an angry person behind the wheel, then it would be easy to cause much heartache. Marty told of a time a car drove straight through the band equipment.

Zhodi: 8.30 pm came, costumes were given out and everyone collected the drums around. The drum beats began in perfect timing. It was dark, there were kids around every drums. Anticipation, enthusiasm, smiling faces with gold lame` headbands flashed everywhere. and we're off! There were about 60-80 kids on stage, all going for it. Lights & sound added atmosphere and the security of not seeing the audience. Older kids were present but stayed on the sidelines in the shadows, until the end.

The procession was particularly vibrant and beautiful, with the "scary monster" causing squeals and much action. Energy was high throughout: a very enjoyable performance.

SATURDAY 31 JULY 1993

Packed for barge

Watched video of show

Packed up rec. Hall, stored images & materials

John worked on video.

Attempt to ring Ken - Alyangula

Reporting

Marty's for dinner

COMMENTS

Kids asked us all day : "Disco on tonight?"

Marty said he feels very supportive of the work now that he knows what it is. He suggested that we let him know where the paperwork for touring is up to, and he would follow it through.