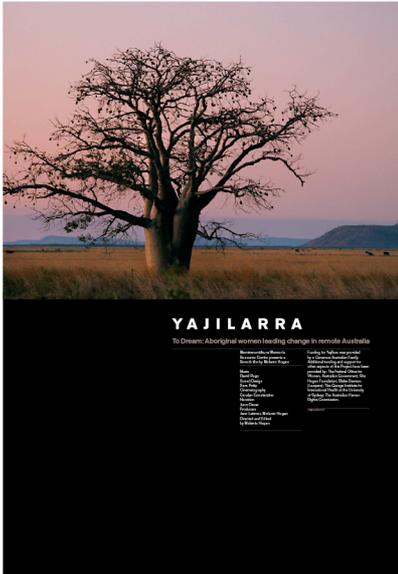


YAJILARRA

To Dream: Aboriginal women leading change in remote Australia



A Reverb film by Melanie Hogan

Music by

David Page

Sound Design

Sam Petty

Cinematography

Carolyn Constantine

Narration

June Oscar

Producers

Jane Latimer and Melanie Hogan

Directed and Edited

by **Melanie Hogan**

Funding for "Yajilarra" was provided by a Generous Australian Family from Australia.

Additional funding and support for other aspects of this Project have been provided by:

- The George Institute for International Health at the University of Sydney
- The Australian Human Rights Commission
- The Federal Office for Women. Australian Government
- Rita Hogan Foundation
- Blake Dawson (Lawyers)

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

Yajilarra is a film about a group of Aboriginal women from the small Western Australian town of Fitzroy Crossing and their determination to save the town from the scourge of alcohol abuse, domestic violence and fetal alcohol syndrome.

It has been an honour to work on this film. Very few positive films about Indigenous Australians are made, so as soon as there was a chance to tell this inspiring story I jumped at the chance to be involved.

The story of *Yajilarra* begins in 2007 when a group of Aboriginal women from the Fitzroy Valley in Australia's remote northwest decided enough was enough. Their community had experienced 13 suicides in 13 months. Reports of family violence and child abuse were commonplace and alcohol consumption was rising at an alarming rate. Acknowledging that something had to be done urgently, and that things had to change, a group of courageous Aboriginal women from across the Valley came together. With the support of many men, they stood up for a future - for everyone in their community. The results were inspiring and have set the community on a path of healing.

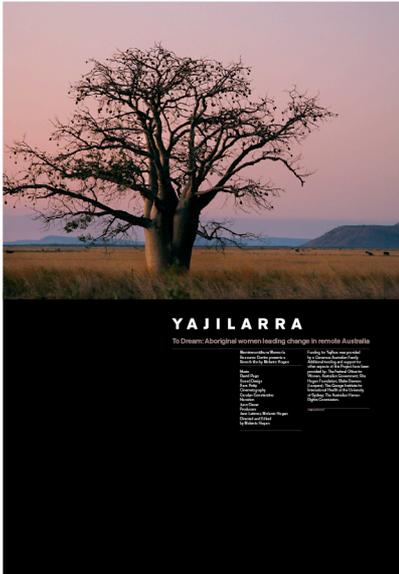
I have made films in Aboriginal communities before and always love the opportunity to listen to and support our Indigenous Australians. The making of *Yajilarra* was another great way to learn more. It was wonderful to learn about how Aboriginal women see a path of healing for their communities. As a result of their dreams and actions, the town of Fitzroy Crossing is on a path of healing. Introducing alcohol restrictions is just the first step. These women have big dreams.

I am very proud of *Yajilarra*. We should all listen to our Indigenous people; there is a great deal to learn.

Melanie Hogan

YAJILARRA

To Dream: Aboriginal women leading change in remote Australia



FILMOGRAPHY - Melanie Hogan

“Kanyini”

(53mins documentary)

Director-Producer
www.kanyini.com



Kanyini premiered at the Sydney Film Festival in 2006.

Winner - Discovery Channel Best Documentary Inside
Film Award 2006

Winner – Glenfiddich Independent Spirit Inside
Film Award 2006

Winner – Best Documentary London-Australian
Film Festival 2007