



Eight Ladies

A JOURNEY THROUGH ALYAWARR
COUNTRY WITH EIGHT LADIES AS THEY HUNT
ECHIDNA AND GATHER BUSH TUCKER.



SYNOPSIS

ONE PARAGRAPH SYNOPSIS

A journey through Alyawarr Country with eight ladies as they hunt Echidna and gather Bush Tucker.

SHORT SYNOPSIS

Eight Alyawarr Ladies; Katie, Jeannie, Mary, Lena, Rosie, Patsy, Pansy and Mavis take us on a journey through their country hunting Echidna and gathering Bush Potato.

The amount of effort, energy and skills needed to hunt, gather and prepare these bush tuckers is a revelation.

LONG SYNOPSIS

The eight ladies in this film come from Alyawarr Country in the Sandover River region in central Australia, about 250km north of Alice Springs. The filmmakers joined them on a five-day journey into the bush to hunt echidna and gather bush foods such as the bush potato. As they hunt and gather, and as they sit around their campfire at night preparing the food, they talk about the old days and how life has changed.

Filmed in observational style, this gentle and reflective film is a moving revelation of the women's sense of relaxed oneness with their Country and their sense of maintaining a lifestyle from the old days before white man came.

Looking for animal tracks, working together to dig out an echidna from underneath an ant hill, finding bush potatoes, and then cooking their food – all of these activities build a rich and visually beautiful portrait of a way of life and of eight women who share the work and the rewards.

EIGHT LADIES is a delightful film by Dena Curtis who has edited many CAAMA documentaries, and all too rarely makes her own films.

The ladies in this documentary come from Alyawarr Country in Sandover River region in the Northern Territory. The centre of Alyawarr country is 250 km North West of Alice Springs and contains the communities of Utopia, Arlparra and Ampilatwatja.





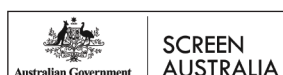
CREDITS

DirectorDENA CURTIS
 Photography.....NICOLA DALEY
 EditorTANIA NEHME
 Blink Media and Post
 Sound Recordists.....BIANNCA HOOLIHAN
 DENA CURTIS
 Sound EditorRUSSEL ALEXANDER
 Rusty Prod. Soundworks
 Production Assistants.....BIANNCA HOOLIHAN
 KATHRYN GILBEY
 ComposerWARREN H. WILLIAMS
 NarratorANITA BAILEY
 Translator.....SELINA TURNER
 Aboriginal Interpreter Service
 ColouristERFAN KHADEM
 Series Producer.....TANYA FRASER
 Executive Producer.....RAY LILLIS

The Ladies: Mavis Young, Mary Morton, Pansy McLeod, Lena Skinner,
 Rosie Ngwarreye, Jeannie Pula, Kate Morton, Patsy Kemarra (Patsy Long).

2010 | 22 mins | Colour | Alyawarr language [English subtitles] | DigiBeta 16:9

A CAAMA Production for Imparja TV, in the Nganampa Anwernekenhe series. Principal investor: Screen Australia.





THE FILMMAKERS

Director / Writer - DENA CURTIS

*In 2002 Dena attended AFTRS where she studied a graduate diploma in Television Editing. On completion of this diploma she worked at CAAMA Productions for a number of years. Some of her editing credits include Warwick Thornton's **Rosalie's Journey**, Beck Cole's **Lore of Love**, David Tranter's **Willaberta Jack** and **Cheeky Dog**, a documentary in which she also directed.*

*In 2008 Dena wrote/directed **Hush** a five minute narrative film which won the Audience Award for Best Foreign Short Film at the 2008 Films de Femmes, Créteil France. Then in 2009 she premiered her third short film **Jacob** at Message Sticks Indigenous Film Festival. Nominated for Best Short at the 2009 IF awards, it also won Best Drama at the WOW Film Festival.*

EIGHT LADIES follows Katie, Jeannie, Mary, Lena, Rosie, Patsy, Pansy and Mavis as they travel through their country hunting for Echidna and collecting Bush Potato.

Originally I had hoped to make a film only about Echidna, but out on country with the ladies, the focus of the story changed. As is often the case, the subjects of the film took over and my Echidna story became a story about the Eight Ladies as they live their lives on country; Alyawarr Country.

Adopting the observational approach, myself, DOP Nicola Daley and Sound Recordist Biannca Hoolihan followed and filmed the ladies for five days out on their country – the result is a much more gentle film than first intended. The film became a journey into country and into the daily lives of these extraordinary ladies and the country - its vastness and isolation, but most importantly its beauty.

It was a privilege to work and travel with Katie, Jeannie, Mary, Lena, Rosie, Patsy, Pansy and Mavis as they travelled through their country.

Series Producer - TANYA FRASER

Tanya Fraser is an experienced Producer in a wide range of genre, from prime-time historical documentary, to comedy drama, sketch comedy and short film. She has worked throughout Australia and New Zealand. She was the Series Producer on the 5 documentaries that form Series 22 of the Nganampa Anwernekenhe series.

I am proud to have had a part in creating the 5 documentaries that make up the 22nd Series of Nganampa Anwernekenhe. To help these wonderful filmmakers to give voice in the medium of documentary film, and sustain an Aboriginal sensibility and respect for country throughout the process, is a rare opportunity that I'm grateful to have been allowed to take part.

The Nganampa Anwernekenhe Series of documentaries is surely one of Australia's National Treasures.



PHOTOS



PATSY, MAVIS, KATIE, LENA & PANSY



DENA CURTIS & NICOLA DALEY



EIGHT LADIES



NICOLA DALEY AT SUNSET



EIGHT LADIES BEING FILMED
BY NICOLA DALEY AND DENA CURTIS



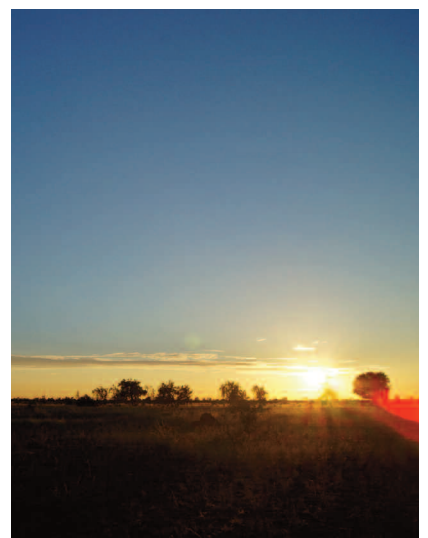
A SCENIC SHOT FROM 'EIGHT LADIES'



ROSIE NGWARREYE



JEANNIE PULA BEING INTERVIEWED



A SCENIC SHOT FROM 'EIGHT LADIES'



CAAMA PRODUCTIONS

CAAMA Productions is located in Alice Springs, Central Australia, is part of the CAAMA media group and is the largest Indigenous production house in the country. Our primary purpose is to represent Indigenous people, culture and language in film and television.



Established by the CAAMA Group in 1988, **CAAMA Productions** is now 22 years old. Over the years the company has established a vast knowledge and understanding of the Indigenous film making industry.

CAAMA Productions continues to focus on the important role of maintaining, documenting and preserving Indigenous culture, language and histories and our unique slate of productions reflects this ongoing commitment.

CAAMA Productions was the recipient of the 2005 Film Australia Stanley Hawes Award for Outstanding Contribution to Australian Documentary.

NGANAMPA ANWERNEKENHE

Nganampa Anwernekenhe is a combination of a Pitjantjatjara/Warlpiri word (Nganampa) and Arrernte word (Anwernekenhe) both meaning 'ours': our language, our culture and our stories.

Produced by **CAAMA Productions** since 1988 the Nganampa Anwernekenhe series is one of Australia's longest running documentary series, and is produced to provide remote communities and urban language based speakers with television programming in touch with their own cultural and language identity.

