HOMELAND STORY

Saving Country

A film by Glenda Hambly
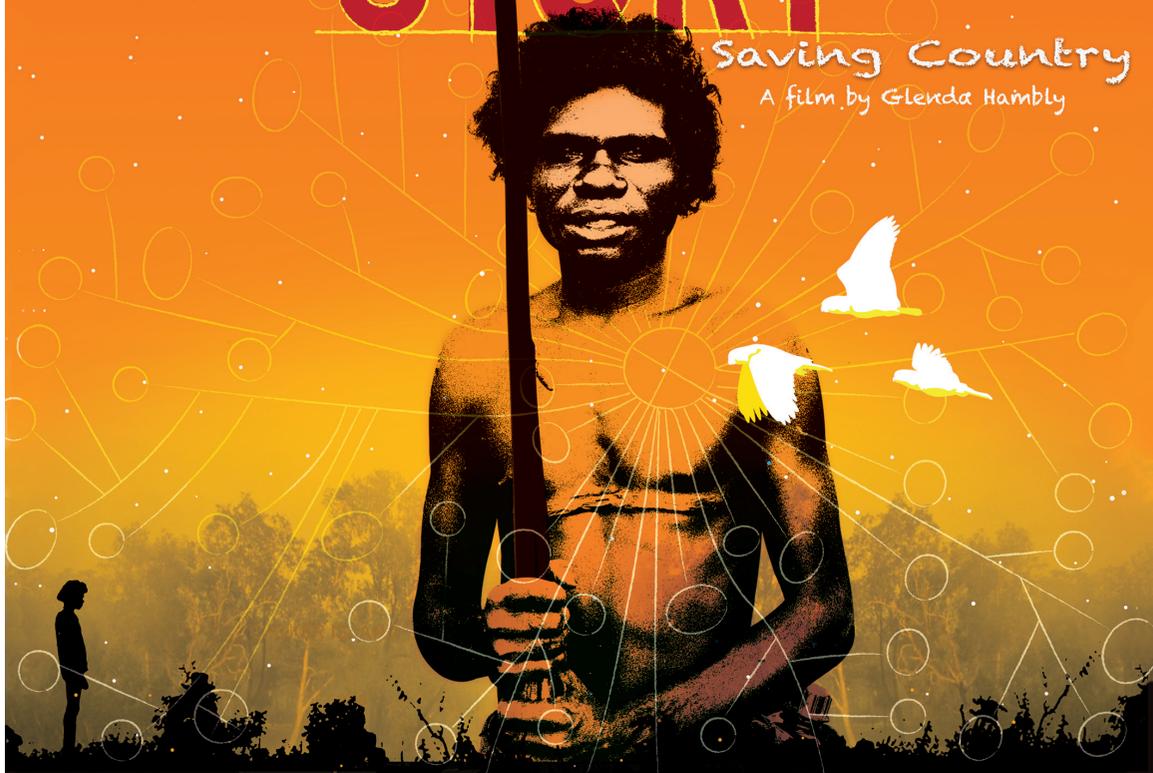
"The film shows that Yolngu people can take on any challenge. ... My goal is for young people to watch it and then stand up and be strong for our land."

Damien Guyula, co-producer

M Recommended for mature audiences Occasional coarse language

HOMELAND STORY

Homeland Story is an intimate portrait of Donydji, an Indigenous community in North East Arnhem Land, from the 1960s to the present day. It is a moving story of their struggle to preserve the community's vibrant culture and to remain on their Homeland despite many severe obstacles.

The film also tells a remarkable story of cross cultural co-operation. In 1974, Neville White, a genetic anthropologist, went to Donydji to conduct research for a PhD. In effect he has never left. Spending part of each year on the Homeland, he responded to the community's request to help them map their clan lands as a way of resisting the threat of mining license claims.

When education, housing and employment opportunities became the community's major concern, Neville White convinced the Rotary Club of Melbourne to fund a major building project that was undertaken by Vietnam Veterans working with the young men of Donydji. Together they built the first school, new houses and a workshop where the youth could learn trade skills to prepare them for employment. Fifteen years later the partnership between Rotary, the Vets and the young men continues.

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