

GRAM TIMES

OCTOBER



GILMORE JOINS TEAM GRAM



Gilmore Johnson has returned to his home town of Cairns after 5 years working away in Indigenous Media. Gilmore began his broadcasting career as a volunteer after school at BBM in Cairns.

He liked it so much he later took up a trainee radio announcer and producer position on the very popular "Talk Black" program, with host Greg Reid.

An opportunity to work in administration at the AICA National Office presented itself and Gilmore was on his way to Canberra. For the past 5 years Gilmore has worked at the Peak Body Canberra office as a membership officer and getting to know the sector.

His work in promoting youth in indigenous broadcasting and his attendance at national youth leadership forums, underpins QRAM current project to set up a multi media centre in Yarrabah.

Gilmore grew up in Yarrabah and is one of the representative Traditional Owner Clan family groups for the region. QRAM recently visited Yarrabah to talk to council about their multi media plans for the future. The first step is application for a TCBL as the first building block towards a functioning radio station and multi media future.

Yarrabah historically has story lines into northern communities and the Torres Strait. It is these story lines, that they want to explore further and resume the past cultural and family connections. A radio studio, can provide a means for the recording and archiving of spoken word stories in aboriginal languages. Stories would then be stored in the Yarrabah Museum, for future generations of descendents to access to hear the stories and the language of their peoples.

Gilmore has qualifications in creative industries and is completing his TEA qualification, this experience will add to the talent pool now at QRAM. Gilmore has hit the ground running, preparing license applications for remote towns within Queensland where there are large populations of aboriginal and TSI people living and with the roll out of Black Star nearing completion, Gilmore is taking on a network coordinating role, preparing daily logs, campaign material, monitoring the network play out systems and contacting the broadcasters on a regular basis.

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GRAM LAUNCHES NEW WEB SITE



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WELCOME TO GRAM

Featured
by qrammanager
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GRAM believes that people living in remote communities deserve radio services as good as those in the major towns and cities of our nation. We are here to support their [...]



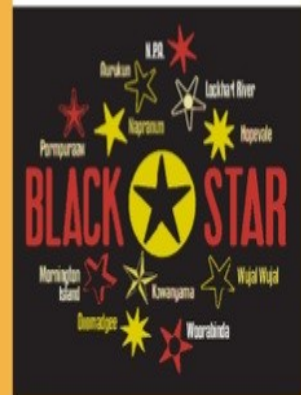
Black Star is the innovative network developed by GRAM. It provides program support, via broadband, to help local stations serve their communities. **Want to connect with communities in remote Queensland? Black Star** makes it easier - click here for info.



NAPRANUM NO 8 ON BLACK STAR

September 17, 2012
by qrammanager
Leave a comment

Napranum is a combination of two Aboriginal languages meaning "meeting place of the people". The history of Napranum is consistent with the dispossession of Aboriginal peoples across the country where [...]



NEW GRAM PROJECT UNDERWAY

September 13, 2012

GRAM's newest educational project kicks off this month with a look at how we can eat more healthy food every day. The 'Our Community -Our Future' program is a

GRAM LAUNCHES NEW WEB SITE

GRAM launched its new web site in August. The new web site is professional, interactive, modern and easy to navigate. The designer DWE interpreted our ideas and articulated our thoughts, then

www.gram.com.au

was able to present the concepts, into a content management system that is really easy to use.

The design of the site is a step forward in architecture and brand promotion from the previous GRAM static site. It takes the visitor to the site on a journey of discovery looking through a window into GRAM activities. It showcases what we do where we do it and gives an insight into a modern remote radio network.

The GRAM web site shows the visitor how we deliver remote media services on a network of radio stations spread across the vast backcountry of Northern Australia. The site sits you in the passenger seat and takes you with us, with individual post cards of the towns and the grass roots people who run the remote radio stations in remote regions.

For the researcher, there is historical and research information about the community for those that want to know more about the history of the community and the radio infrastructure.

Visitors to the site can look at our series of on the road story postcards, that we video as we travel the vast dusty roads of Cape York and the Gulf Country. There are also links that will take you to a live stream of the Black Star radio and an information page about Black Star.

It takes the visitor to the site on a journey of discovery looking through a window into GRAM activities.

The Wordpress CMS site will allow broadcasters on the network to post photos, podcasts, and information from their computer or mobile phone. That will be part of the next stage of development. Our research found that people want to be able to find information quickly, be entertained and broadcasters want ease in posting content.

The Black Star streaming link will allow the visitor to stream the program live, and the program can be coming from anyone of the communities on the network. The stream is popular with community organisations staff as they get a to listen to an uninterrupted wide appealing radio stream.



Travelling the remote regions of Queensland for community can always be a challenge during the wet sea-

son, so we have put a link to the Queensland Government road reports. The reports are up graded on the hour and in most circumstances tell people of road closures and conditions.



The Black Jocks journal is a monthly publication of daily his-



torical events prepared at GRAM for the broadcasters as an aide for their programs. The link is proving to be a popular choice for broadcasters.

If you have special birthdays or events from your community or region contact us here at GRAM so we can add the events to our data base.” GRAM phone 0740325022 ask for Gil-

QRAM TRAINING

QRAM was kept busy with the training demands for the region and with the cuts to TAFE funds by the new Queensland “can do government” making things difficult for those already enrolled in training in March put on hold. QRAM has had to look at alternate RTO and pathway opportunities.

QRAM along with the NPA council partnered in providing a week training in Bamaga. The training consisted of news script writing, research and adding local information. We called on the services of Radio Adelaide to provide this training, they were able to provide a qualified journalist who was skilled, had years of experience working in radio news, current affairs, radio documentary making and years of working hands on, with indigenous people in the broadcasting industry.

QRAM has began talks with the NPA high school and the Western Cape York college in Weipa, to partner in future training, for the high school students interested in a multi media future. At NPA the school is very positive to QRAM’s suggestion that a school based apprentice be based at the radio station 2 days a week beginning in 2013. QRAM will hook the student up with an industry RTO.

On our recent visit to Napranum/ Weipa, we did some basic pathway training with enthusiastic people. The station is now part of Black Star network and has all of the benefits of the QRAM central content, as well as its own localism.

Western Cape School in Weipa has a robust population of indigenous students. Students from Napranum, have a regular 28 k round trip bus pick up into Weipa Western Cape College. The high school has media studies and QRAM is now involved in assisting them set up a studio with the redundant equipment, gratefully donated by the Napranum council.

QRAM has began talks with the NPA high school and the Western Cape York college in Weipa to partner in future training for the high school students

QRAM will provide a internet ‘tunnel’ into the school computer. This innovative arrangement will allow the students to do up dates of community announcements, road reports, local events and post them on their desk top for retrieval by QRAM to enter on the central computer and schedule on the Napranum play out log.

QRAM also engaged with Pormpuraaw and Doomadgee providing training for a broadcaster in each place. With the roll out of Black Star comes the advantages of being able to do online training of the broadcaster. The broadband allows a two way highway and a help line.

Gilmore, our network coordinator, is familiar with the Simian system and because the program is a the same network program running on all of the station computers on the QRAM Wide Area Network (WAN) , Gilmore can guide the broadcaster through the program and iron out the problems.

This innovative system allows QRAM the ability to train the broadcasters train broadcasters online as well as in person. The gain for the broadcasters is that they know help is only a phone call away. It lifts their self esteem and is really important that there is a real person to help the. They can be lonely places and our experience since the roll out of the WAN has been positive.

There is more on training on the page 4 with AFTRS in Pormpuraaw

THE MORNING GLORY CLOUD OF THE GULF



Gerry Pyne took this fabulous spectacular photograph, when we were on our way to Doomadgee on the Burketown to Doomadgee Road. The clouds are famous up this way, they arrive in August September and October. They are awesome and powerful formations and just capture the morning rise of air currents across the Gulf

This cloud stretched across the horizon as we headed to Doomadgee. We did not see any hang gliders or pilots in their gliders they ride the wave like a surfer rides a wave. Local traditional owners the Garrawa people called the clouds “kangoli”. Everything in the time has a story and the clouds have been forming from ancient times of the ancestors and are in the folklore of the Garrawa people.

AFTRS Training in Pormpuraaw

GRAM uses the services of TNQ TAFE and also Radio Adelaide both successfully with good outcomes. We have also now formed a training relationship with AFTRS to do some on the job remote training at Pormpuraaw in October. GRAM is working with a variety of RTO'S and trainers to select the best available to work with the broadcasters on the black star network.

The Stevens Review into the Government's investment in Indigenous broadcasting and media 2010, in framing recommendations for Closing the Gap, noted that Mainstream media employment and training also increases the depth and capacity of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander media professionals which flows through to the Indigenous broadcasting and media sector. The Review found that some of the better performing Indigenous media organisations are most often staffed by people trained in mainstream media, frequently the ABC and the Australian Film, Television and Radio School (AFTRS).

A
FTRS will be sending 2 trainers and also will be accompanied by GRAM staff member Gilmore Johnson. Gilmore is working to completing his TEA training and the trip with AFTRS will add to his own capacity building.

“ the better performing Indigenous media organisations are most often staffed by people trained in mainstream media, frequently the ABC and AFTRS”

AFTRS is a good fit for GRAM, and we are grateful that all costs are covered by AFTRS including 2 trainers their accommodation and incidentals are all taken care of by AFTRS and GRAM benefit from the capacity building in training for our staff member. **THANKS AFTRS U ROC**

QRAM are involved in 5 Closing The Gap Projects. The distribution of the projects over the broadband has proved to be a very effective and efficient way to get the message direct into the studio scheduling computer. Check out the web site www.qram.com.au/projects

The production comes in segments from the production company for distribution to the remote RIBS radio stations. The productions can come by 3 methods from the producers, either in dot wav file, in an mp3 file or by CD.

CD is the old method. The station would get a CD delivered by post and it could take up to 3 weeks before the broadcaster received the information. The broadcaster would then be expected to play out the messages during their shift.

In the past CD was the only method. If the broadcaster has a few days off or the station does not have a broadcaster then the message CD lies un-opened gathering dust on the shelves of remote community stations. Now we have the technology to change the way messages are delivered. We can now guarantee that the message will get through and be played out to the community.

The method that QRAM has developed is much better for all concerned. The guaranteed spot placement satisfies the agency, sponsor or department that is running the campaign. They only have to stream the Black Star program to monitor the sponsorship message.

The campaign producer only need send the one file to QRAM for scheduling to all communities or to individual stations for placement. The RIMO can guarantee the placement is scheduled for play, making it easier for broadcasters not having to select the CD and play a certain track at a certain time. The listener gets all of the information all of the time and everyone along the Closing the Gap Campaign chain is a winner.

The seamless transition of the messages allows more time for the broadcaster tasks, to do other broadcasting tasks such as interview research and frees them up from mundane tasks, to branch into other forms of multi media.

QRAM receives the product and enters it on the QRAM central data base using a software package called Natural Log which integrates with Simian Systems. This combined with the Natural Music scheduling software, generates daily logs for all of the QRAM Black Star sites.



In time the production costs will decline as there will not be a need to produce and mail so many CD's to the communities.

3 of the production voices on the campaigns were in the QRAM studios to put their voices to the projects from Yarrabah community

L to R Bonie O'Brian, Kyron Casey and Natsia O'Brian

SATELLITE RADIO COVERAGE ON QRAM

Following years of lobbying, QRAM is close to switching on its service in October or November. The service replaces the now defunct TAIMA satellite service and be completely run by QRAM Central in Cairns. This is a breakthrough for the communities in Cape York and Gulf of Carpentaria. In the past, satellite services into the region has been by providers from Brisbane and Townsville.

Although they provided a tangible service for Brisbane and Townsville the programs were not suitable for the remote regions of the country. Over the years their programs became stale and ignored the large youth audience that call the communities home.

RIMOS have the task of bringing the best and most appropriate programs to their audiences. This can not be done by stations that provide one genre of music and commercial type talk back radio.

Place yourself in a community; you turn the radio on and day after day the call sign is for a local network a thousand or more miles away. You hear the same message day in day out year in year out. What if you don't like it and it is the only station in the community? What do you do? You turn off and never turn on again. This is what was happening in the Cape and Gulf regions, until the board of QRAM made a commitment to young people.

What if you are a young person; part of the fastest growing population in the country of indige-

It's one of the tragedies of our timethat youth listeners have been forgotten in this way.

nous youth? You want to listen to the latest music, keep in touch with the latest trends and your friends. Too bad, RIBS radio passed you by. It's one of the tragedy of our time as indigenous radio managers, that community youth have been forgotten in this way.

Good quality indigenous radio in communities can shape the future of our children and give hope to what to many is a hopeless situation.

The new QRAM satellite service will be entertaining, provide up to date news and weather 7 days a week. There will be a strong youth format, promoting youth interests, and youth talking to youth

The program pathway for the service is from Cairns via phone and ADSL link to Imparja in Alice Springs. The stereo analogue service is a precursor to the switchover to VAST in December 2013.

The QRAM satellite will offer some space for programming from other sources. The programs we are interested in taking are information programs during that time of the day Monday to Friday that cover local issues from the regions. RIBS will provide some of the content other content would come from some of the regions radio stations such as CAAMA, who have indicated that they would supply program.

You don't have to be connected to a station to get on to the QRAM network. You need the means to be able to do a regular program that fits within our guidelines of codes of practise. You need experience as a broadcaster producer. You may want to do a special contemporary program but cant get any air play. You may be a school that has some talented kids that want to expand their media experience. Talk to us at QRAM. Check the web site for details www.qram.com.au

QRAM have a commitment to youth in our region and across the country. To that end the satellite will carry programs that are targeted at a youth audience during the times that youth are most likely to be listening.

BLACK STAR UPDATE

The Black Star roll out continues at a hectic rate. Kowanyama is the 9th station to be connected to the QRAM WAN. We had to use the B Team to do the job for us.

Gerry and I were bugged from the long rough drive to Napranum/Weipa, and Doomadgee, so we seconded Broadsoft Tech Shane Gibson to do the long haul out to Kowanyama. Shane was on a normal maintenance visit to Kowanyama to return the computer and new parts that had suffered a lightning strike. When the computer was in Cairns for repairs, Gerry loaded all of the Black Star data and bench tested it all.



The thought came to Gerry that maybe we could get the Black Star system connected. A quick phone call to Telstra to check out the broadband and we were amazed that next door to the RIBS, was a BDSL fast internet connection. The rest as they say was history.

A big thanks to Shane for fitting the connections and making it all work well done Shane .

QRAM has connected services to Pormpuraaw, Doomadgee and Napranum in the last month, taking the number on the Wide Area Network (WAN) to 9, leaving only Lockhart River and Arurkun left to complete. Lockhart River will be completed in October. Arurkun we have to work out the best way with internet.

*“Thank you
Shane great
job at
Kowanyama”*

We are receiving a lot of positive feed back from people in the communities as they get used to the program content. The format takes a bit of getting used to, but once people get used to it, they will be able to enjoy their favourite music program

“Love your taste of music talkback. Good on you from Vicki Thursday Island, I like most of all the weather because we live on the boat to go do the shopping if not I get the other half to do it, because the little boat always get wet love to all keep it up

We are planning to add a network breakfast program in the coming month that will coincide with the launching of the satellite network. This will give added choice to the community listeners. If you have any ideas for the program drop into your station and let the broadcaster know so they can inform

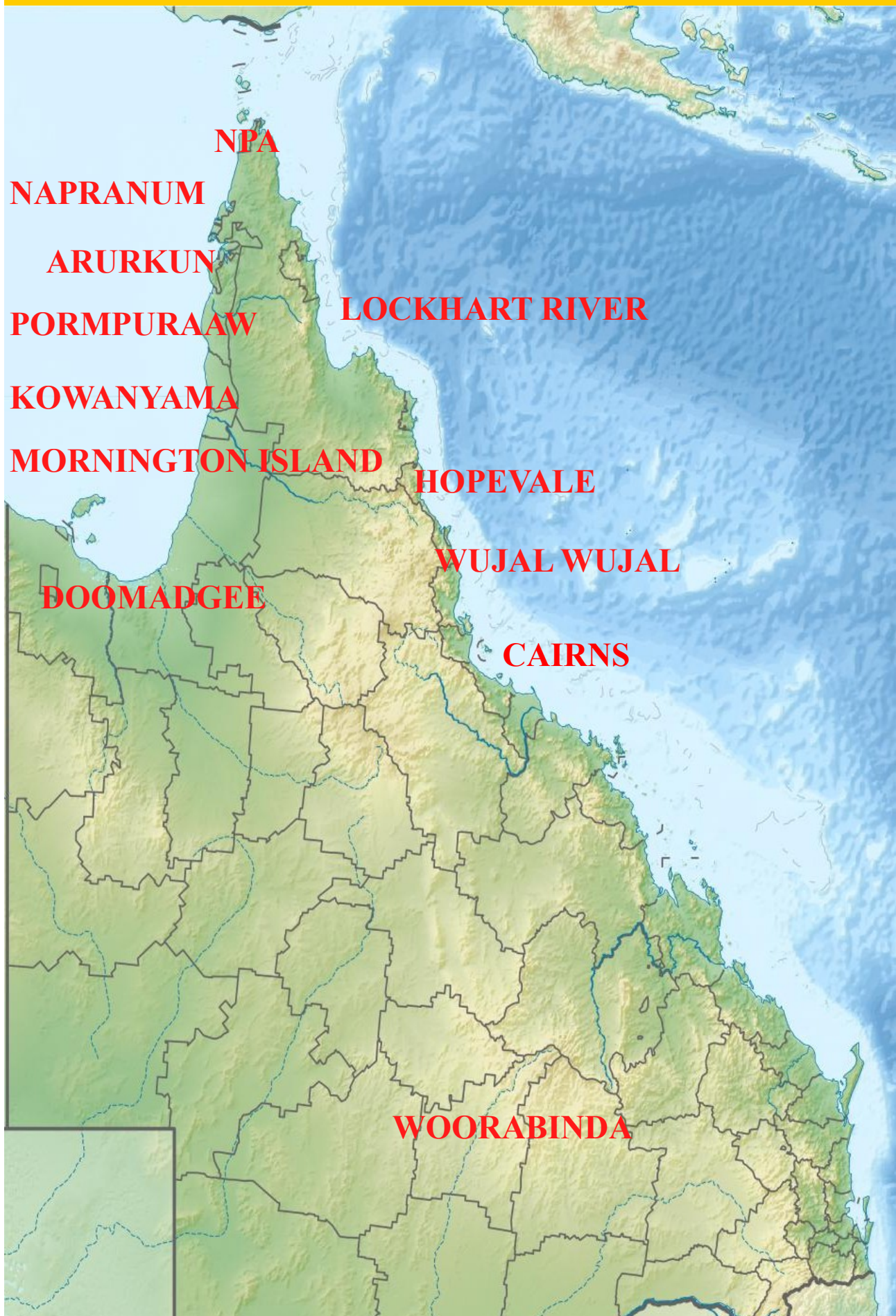
BRIGHT SIGNS SHOW THE WAY

The first thing you notice when you come to QRAM is the bright signage. The new signage replaced outdated signs. *We think the signs are great (what do you think)*

People coming to QRAM central should not get lost now that we have put bright new signage that will catch the eye of the visitor.



REMOTE RADIO STATION LOCATIONS



Warren H Williams wins Prestigious Award



Singer Songwriter and Playwright Warren H. Williams, has won the Red Ochre award at the National Indigenous Arts Awards. Picture: Jane Dempster

Source: The Australian
The prestigious award from the Australia Council is in recognition to Warrens contribution to Indigenous arts.

FOR an easygoing veteran of the Australian music circuit, Warren H. Williams has a long list of unfulfilled ambitions.

In the next year, the 48-year-old country star from Hermannsburg in central Australia is hoping to record an album in Nashville, tour Australia with traditional song men from Tennant Creek in the Northern Territory and write an opera.

Warren a veteran broadcaster at CAAMA Radio in Alice Springs made his mark in country music with the joint recording with John Williamson "Raining On the Rock" between maintaining a strong broadcasting connection to CAAMA, Warren travelled with John Williamson and wooed the crowds of people all over the country with his guitar playing and his great professional approach to music. Warren is a prolific song writer and can lay down a jingle or a track as quick and easy as eating a Villies pie. Warren , John Williamson Amos recorded " Australia another word for free" which won Warren his first golden Guitar at Tamworth in 2010.

The award from the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Arts Board a prize money cheque was presented to Warren in a ceremony at the Sydney Opera House and is in recognition for the contribution to indigenous arts will be put to good use He knows where a lot of the money will be going. "I want to tell Australia's story in language," "I want to take it to the masses, to people who want to hear about Australia."

Warrens latest album Winanjjarra, his first album in language, recorded with song men from Tennant Creek. The project aims to help preserve the local Warumungu language, to which, like Tennant Creek, Warren has a connection through his paternal grandmother. "The language is dying fast so we wanted to preserve it," he said