



In Flies Micko



Micko O'Byrne flew up from Perth to address the trainees

It's one thing to earn good money in the mining industry, but is it really going to lead to a better life, savings and increased assets?

Micko O'Byrne is a successful business man and consultant. He told his story of rising from the grimest of circumstances to prosperity.

It was a memorable afternoon. The lecture was supposed to last an hour but it carried on for four hours. One of Micko's memorable tips was : it doesn't matter how much money flows in, if there is a hole in the bottom of your "savings tank", it will just all flow out. You have to put a tap on the hole. **In other words have a savings plan!**



Pundulmurra Job Completed (Ahead of Schedule)

Only ten days ago, Ngarda's trainees completed their theoretical training now they have completed a major landscaping exercise at the back of Pundulmurra College. Pictured opposite trainees pose with Lew Nannup, Frank Schwalger and DEWR representatives alongside the completed work. The work involved shifting a wind-

row and leveling an area behind the Pundulmurra basketball courts. Now work shifts on to the mock mine phase of the training.

Pundulmurra CEO Alan Scott marveled at the transformation of a waste area. But thank you Alan for meaningful practical work!



Inside this issue:

In Flies Micko	1
Pundulmurra Job Completed	1
Homage to Ngarda's First Generation	2
Rodney Hall, Clinton Abdullah, Kevin Bumbrew	3
Richard Whalebone, Henry Whalebone, Teena Poland	4
Shane Foley, Natalie Anderson	5
Dion Joseph, Benson Dickerson, Glen Aubrey	6
Steven Stewart, Alexander Dann, Justin Cortez	7
Leon Borlace, Janine Kelly	8
Michael Whalebone, Joseph Jenkins	9
James Wally, Homage to Ngarda's First Gen (2)(contition	10
Executive Chairman's Message	11

Special points of interest:

- Micko O'Byrne
- Pundulmurra Job Completed (Ahead of Schedule)
- Homage to Ngarda's First Generation
- Ngarda's New Generation

Homage to Ngarda's First Generation



Rodney Hall



Rodney Hall was in a grader at the age of 6. His father, Ray Mc Mahon made the first Yandeyarra access road and many other roads for the Shire of Marble Bar. Ray went through tribal law with the legendary Kangushot.

Rodney's mother Dorothy Hall is Nyi-

yaparli and Nyamal.

Rodney would refuse to get out of the grader or the truck until his Dad took him out for the day working for the Shire. His Dad finally relented and Rodney would go out working with his Dad.

At the age of 13 Rodney's Dad taught him how to drive. From that time he would drive utes and cattle trucks out in the bush.

So Rodney has a life time of experience with plant and machinery. This was most apparent when the practical training began. Rodney's favourite machines are the grader and the loader. He particularly enjoys leveling out surfaces

and has a natural eye for road making.

Rodney would like to work at a mining camp and get more experience working with machines. He visited Parabudoo with Willie Jumbo and got a taste of what life is like for operators.

Clinton Abdullah



My father Angus Abdullah was a Nyamal man who was a station worker at Warragine. He's currently living in the hostel at South Hedland and I have been able to visit him while doing the training. Rodney Hall's mother Doris Hall is my sister. I was brought up by the Lee family as a foster child from the age of 9 months old. I am very grateful to them.

I love basketball and football. I played for Rovers and Western Desert Communities.

I attended high school in South Hedland in 1991 and Marble Bar 1995/1996.

I worked for MSB Contracting as a maintenance worker at Marble Bar from 1996-98.

In 1998 I moved to Yandeyarra and worked for CDEP. I met my partner Samantha Norman in 1999. Our daughter Anesha was born in 2003.

My dream is to have my own car so that my family has transport. I would like to be able to afford the best education for my daughter. I would like to allow her to attend an all girl Catholic School

My favorite machine is the front end loader. I also enjoyed using the grader and all the other machines but I am a bit wary of the excavator.

I would like to be with the other members of the team at Nifty or Yarrie and live at Yandeyarra with my family.

I have enjoyed the training and have stuck at it because I really want to get into mining employment.

Kevin Bumbrew



My father was a Martu elder, Mum and Dad played an important role in the 1946 strike and built up the community at Yandeyarra.

My aunties were also strong leaders in the Yandeyarra that also played important roles in the 1946 strike. In the late 1990s Mum and her sisters moved back to Port Hedland because of illness and had to be close to medical facilities. But I continued to live in Yandeyarra.

I finished traditional law and high school at Yandeyarra. To finish traditional law means you are respected as a man in the community. I am a full Nyamal law man.

After school I worked for Yandeyarra

CDEP and picked up some training in bobcat, horticulture, welding, forklift and a bit of building.

My favorite machine is the grader. Next favorite is front end loader. Kevin was also regarded as one of the best bob cat operators.

I look forward to working at Ngarda with the other members of the team. I would like to be posted somewhere so that I can live at Yandeyarra. Nifty would be a good place for two and one shifts.

Richard Whalebone



My mother Flora Jenkins is a Nyamal elder. She is a custodian of our traditional law of the Nyamal lands. My Dad is Ralph Whalebone a Ngarluma elder. He is a custodian of our traditional law of the Ngarluma lands. My mum also worked with Kangushot after the 1946 strike yandying tin, making ends meet.

I completed my traditional law study and ceremonies as a Nyamal man. I

attended school at Marble Bar and completed Year 11 at Yandeyarra around 1992.

I was mustering at Yandeyarra in mid 1990s as part of the CDEP program.

I worked in the Marble Bar CDEP and did a bit of contract fencing at Limestone.

After that I worked on the roads as a labourer for the Main Roads Department. We worked on the roads around the Dooleena Gorge at that time and we worked with East Pilbara Shire.

Then I continued to do local work at Goodabinya and Pipunya community.

I understand Nyamal and Ngarluma languages as I have heard them all my life.

I like the skid steer, front end loader, excavator. I want to work at Nifty with my brothers and the other team members and live in Marble Bar. At this stage of our development two weeks on and one weeks off is very good for us as we develop our family resources.

My dream is to own my own 4WD land-cruiser.

Henry Whalebone



My mother Flora Jenkins is a Nyamal elder. She is a custodian of our traditional law of the Nyamal lands. My Dad is Ralph

Whalebone a Ngarluma elder. He is a custodian of our traditional law of the Ngarluma lands. My mum also worked

with Kangushot after the 1946 strike yandying tin, making ends meet.

I finished my traditional law and studies at Yandeyarra and Warralon. I did my school study at Cook Point, Port Hedland Primary, South Hedland Primary, Marble Bar school and finished high school at South Hedland. I have worked all my life before CDEP at cattle stations. I did cattle work at Warralon and Yandeyarra and at Coongan Station. I went to Pundulmurra in 1982 doing motor mechanics for six months.

I went back to Marble Bar and worked

on CDEP and worked on renovating houses. My favorite machine is the front end loader. I enjoyed the bob cat. Lew found that Henry was a natural on the truck. He had been driving semi-trailers for cattle back at Yandeyarra all around Yandeyarra outcamp Wadacunya.

This is the best training. I have learned a lot. This is the first time I have been able to get on to machines and see how they worked. I want to buy a block—you know acres of land and have some horses of my own to go riding. That's my dream.

Teena Poland



My mother comes from Fremantle she is half Noongar. My father comes from Denham (Shark Bay) served in the army with all his brothers, worked as a drover. He was Malayan/Aboriginal a prospector and collected samples and used to send them down to Perth. Even

when he was retired he would do part time work. He became one of Australia's finest Emu Egg carvers and the Queen has two eggs that were carved by him. When I was a young girl I used to go out into the bush and taught me about prospecting and how to survive. One day my young brothers found a piece of beral worth 70,000 pounds. I had a partnership in a multi-service shoe repair business in Carnavon. We made a lot of one-off clothing including boots, shoes, leather repairs and sea snake belts. We had a special licence for using skins. I have been a leading hand in a prawning factory North West Seafoods

and a scallop factory after that. I have worked on prawning and scallop trawlers as a deck hand and cook.

I have enjoyed working on the machines and all of the people in the team. I enjoyed the loader best so far.

I'm looking forward to working for Ngarda and creating a better quality of life for my family and to have things I never had as a child. I'd like to be based close to my family in the Port Hedland area. I would like to work on a two week on one week off shift. My big dream is to own my own boat by the time I am 50 so that I can travel right around Australia.

Natalie Anderson



Natalie Anderson centre with Teena Poland & Janine Kelly

I was born at Moora Hospital. My mother was Mary Spratt and Dad was Ruben Anderson. We worked on farms. My Dad was a shearer around Moora and Daragun. There was seven of us. Four boys and three girls.

We moved around a lot and I went to four different schools. We ended up in Port Hedland at Cook Point Primary. Then I attended high school until Year Ten at South Hedland High School.

I met my partner and we started a family. We had our own house at Carnamah and I tried flower picking and office work. We then got another house in Geraldton. My first born was Cassandra and then came Kristen, then Teagan. I moved to Geraldton and then I had my last baby girl Mariika at Port Hedland hospital. So we were pretty much an all girl team. In 2001 I got onto CDEP working at the Baler Primary School as an Aboriginal Indigenous Education Officer. I really enjoyed that work and stayed there for four years. I ended up learning a lot of skills. How to talk and speak up I organized a lot of Aboriginal Support Awareness meetings at school. I met a great friend Lisa Fletcher who

was the Deputy Principal and she was a role model for me. We still keep in contact even though she's moved down to Mandurah now.

I took on the care of my niece Jodi at the age of 3 months and twelve days. That was a challenge and then I had to leave the school as my post became redundant.

Since then I have been looking after the home front and did a bit of cleaning for FMG and the caravan park in Port Hedland. I am the coach of the Hedland Angels Basketball team and we were runners up in the recent local competition.

This is the best training course I have ever done. It's been a challenge and I'm really pleased to have passed all the tests. But I have gained a lot of really interesting skills and made some really good friends including Tina and Janine.

Shane Foley



My mother Ann Barker is Ngarluma and did all her schooling at Roebourne Hostel. When she was sixteen she met my father Harold Foley, he was born in Carnarvon but his father, William Foley, was from Gobadya Station in the Kimberley he was one of the stolen generation.

My father was a gun operator back in the 1970s. He helped build the Yule River Bridge and worked for the Main Roads Dept for many years. He passed away when I was twelve.

My mother's family and grandfather Adam Barker, a Wanman man, took a guiding influence in my brother and sisters lives. He taught us culture and I

then decided to go through traditional law to become a man in Indigenous terms. Every Christmas I still carry on all my traditional obligations. Adam Barker was a very important custodian so I was lucky he taught me about how to take my own sons through law.

In primary and secondary school I really enjoyed athletics and track and field events. As a boxer I was invited to Indonesia from the Katherine Boxing Club. I played football for Rovers and did very well in the Grand Final in 1986.

After school I traveled to Turkey Creek and worked on CDEP and got into Argyle Diamond Mine as a gardener. From gardening I became airport loader and inspector, then I got a job as a machine operator, then I worked as a plant operator. I was a contractor and I just kept on renewing my areas of experience and work.

I came back to South Hedland to use my skills around my own community as an environmental health and health clinic worker on men's health.

When the opportunity came to work for Ngarla I took it because they are offering me a chance to regain my old skills and to improve my family's opportunities and life chances.

I would feel most comfortable working in Ngarluma and Wanman lands. I have operated Dozer, Loader, 5 ton tipper, water truck, backhoe, bobcat, I28 loader with attachments, roller and now grader and excavator. So I am very keen to work for Ngarla and would like to work at Nelson Point if possible.

My dream is to own my own lands and to have my own machines and hopefully my sons and daughters can then carry on in my footsteps. I am currently engaged to marry my partner Kaylene Lawford and one day we will have our own business and she will do the books..

Dion Joseph



I am a Wadjarri man, my country is Mullewa and Murchison area but I was born in Geraldton. When I was seven I was taken with my brothers and sisters to Mount Lawley Children's Home. My Dad was Raymond Joseph and he died when I was eleven years old.

I have learned a lot of my traditional knowledge from traveling around the country. My grandfather was from

Onslow/Roebourne/Carnarvon. My great grandmother was a full Onslow Wadjarri/Indjibarndi woman.

My brother Jamie Joseph has worked all the way through machines on mining sites and he loads ships in Dampier. He's encouraged me to stick with the Ngarda training. He said that way you'll end up with whatever you want in life.

I have been very wary of working in the mining industry because of some problems that occurred around my traditional homelands. But I can see that Ngarda is a way for Aboriginal people to have a say about mining and where it occurs and so there is knowledge of traditionally important areas.

I have done a lot of work in the building industry, for the shire council, for main

roads, fencing, labouring and I have driven trucks over many years in my younger days. I have traveled and worked all over Australia including Kununurra, Darwin, Mt Isa, Brisbane, Adelaide and Perth.

My dream is to get good pay so I can give my kids some of the things that they have missed out and to make up for any time that I haven't spent with them.

I want to buy a good car, boat and a motorbike and have my house done up well. So I can really have the best things around me and my family.

Benson Dickerson



I am twenty three years old. When I was born my mum Debra Dickerson was only sixteen years old. My Dad split up with her soon after I was born. I am the oldest of five children.

It was hard for my Mum to look after us. I went to live with my Nana and

Pop when I was about six.

When I was nine I first got into trouble with the police. I was stealing and I went to juvenile prison and adult prison from that time on. It was a cycle of trouble that just seemed to follow me everywhere.

I learned to paint in Kalumbaroo and a bit in prison. Everyone likes my paintings. There was never any money. It all went on drink and cards and gambling. So a lot of the time I didn't know any better but to do whatever I could.

I learned a lot of guitar from my uncles and in prison. My favorite songs are Christian songs, rock n roll and a bit of Slim Dusty.

When I was sixteen I had a son, Shakiel Dickerson, with Louise Cox. They live in Tom Price.

This training has given me a big chance in life. I could still be in jail but Ngarda has given me this training to get out of the cycle.

This is the best training I have ever done. I have really enjoyed the machines and all of the people on the course and the trainers have helped me.

I want to now be a good role model for my family. I want to pay off all my debts to society. I want to buy a V8 SS Monaro and a boat and a house. I never want to go back anywhere near a jail

Glen Aubrey



My mum was Phylis Aubrey from Roebourne a Jindibarndi woman. I was fostered to my grandmother Venus Aubrey in Marble Bar when I was very young.

I went to Marble Bar school until I was

about seven and did distance school of the air education from Perth. When I was a kid we used to fossick for gold at the Gold Lease Mine and then I left school. I went to Newman after school and went to work for BHP as a metallurgist assistant for two years. Then I went to live back at Roebourne and I got to know my family again. I did some work around CDEP and worked on the stations as a fencer. I did some horticultural work on the farms. I met my partner Glenys Stewart about six years ago. We've got two kids a Zorion boy and a

girl Glynelle and I then worked at Yandeyarra doing environmental health work and other work around the community. The opportunity for this training came along and I have grasped it with both hands. (Glen's trainers regard him as a bit of a gun grader operator.) It's taken some time but I have learned all about the proper procedures.

My dream is to buy a house, a car and a boat. I would love to get to the point where I can just go fishing and have all my bills paid and just enjoy life.

Steven “Gibby” Stewart



Steven’s father is Stephen Senior who worked with the Native Title Office in the 2000s. He is one of the elders of Ngarla language group. Stephen Senior had the nickname “No. 2” because he was second in charge to Barry Taylor’s father Kangushot over the period from 1946 to the present. His mother is Irene is of the Kar-

riyara language group.

Both his parents are custodians of traditional law practices all over the Pilbara.

Steven is married to Trevina and has five children, two girls and three boys. His eldest is his daughter who is 15.

Steven’s father was a stockman and truck driver. He used to take Steven from about the age of 7 and taught him many skills.

Steven attended Yandeyarra Primary and High School until Year 10 in 1987. He has not done any formal training with a TAFE but he is a natural operator and his favorite machine is the front end loader pictured opposite.

Steven would like to do a couple of years working as a machine operator at any mine where there is a position avail-

able.

His instructors say that he has been an outstanding trainee with a natural talent on all of the machines he has tried. He has been a regular attendee and has missed very few days of training. On one occasion traditional law requirements kept him away from class. But he was back as soon as those commitments were fulfilled.

Steven would one day like to own his own plane just like Micko O’Byrne who addressed the class. He would like to own his own house and make life better for his wife and children and extended family.

Alexander Dann

Alexander’s parents were Bernard and Maureen Dan. He was born in Port Hedland in the regional hospital. Maureen was born in Broome and Bernard was born in Hedland and worked on the pearling luggers when they were operating out of Cossack. Alex’s grandfather was the famous Matt Dann. He was a pioneer who escaped Beagle Bay Mission and is from the Noonyall community. His Mum is from the Bardi community.

Alexander has worked many years on the wharves in Port Hedland for Pilbara Stevedores, then P&O. He worked as a labourer at Shay Gap and worked as a trades assistant in many other companies. Alexander is looking to obtain tickets and to get a position beyond just labouring. He would like to work at Karatha or Yarrie and has enjoyed operating all of the machines and looks forward to getting some time on the excavator. Alexander would like to own his own house, boat and would like to buy a



Alex Dann

Justin Cortez

Justin Cortez is determined to see more Aboriginal people in the paid workforce and owning their own homes. His Mum is Linda Doogiebee from the East Pilbara. Justin was born in Broome. He spent most of his education in Broome. He became a labourer in the pearling industry setting pearl shells. He obtained security licences and worked in the industry for four years.

Justin was raised on a horticulture property specializing in mangoes and tropical fruits. He has always wanted to be a fitter and truckdriver. He has worked in underground mines at Fitzroy Crossing

at Colex in Port Hedland as an operator trainee.

Justin will have completed his HR licence by the end of the training and has had a long period of unblemished driving. Justin has joined Ngarda to improve his opportunities. He wants to be a fitter and has spent some of his training time in the Wedgefield workshop with Wayne Parker and staff.

Justin has enjoyed operating the dump truck most of all during the eight week program.



Justin Cortez

Leon Borlace



My Dad, Ernie Borlace, was born in Cornwall, England, my mother was Eileen Mc Kenna she was from the Nyamal and Kariyong language groups.

I was born in Port Hedland and spent most of my life in the Pilbara. My grandfather was Clancy Mc Kenna who was part of the original 1946 group that

built up economic independence for the Indigenous community.

I have worked as an Aboriginal Health Worker, eye health coordinator, Aboriginal hostel manager and community work coordinator. I spent one year as a trainee dump truck operator at Area C and Ore Body 25 at Newman. During that time I had a lot of experiences with machine operation and general mining work.

My favorite machine is the grader. But I have been enjoying the general machine operations and look forward to developing my career in the mining industry.

I want to own my own house, hopefully get my son into the mining industry. I would like to work at Karatha or Parabudoo keen to do shift work in remote mining areas. Keen to get out of

Port Hedland and to see more of the Pilbara and to get my own accommodation.

Senior First Aid certificates, theory for front end loader, grader, excavator, dozer, occupational health and safety, drug and alcohol awareness, working at heights, working in confined spaces and tip truck experience.

I'd just like to thank Ngarda for the opportunity of participating in the training program. It's the best training program I have ever done. I would also like to encourage other people to take up the challenge of the training and to get into mining industry employment.

Janine Kelly



Janine gets her work ethic from her parents. Mum Gladys Clinch and stepfather Owen Clinch always worked. Dad worked for the council and Mum is senior social worker for the Department of Child Protection.

Janine grew up in Perth. I went to school at Balga and then completed Year 10 at

Derby.

My daughter Imogen was born in 1999 in Brisbane. She is my real boss. I have really worked hard to make sure she's been in the best of health and enjoyed all of life opportunities.

I joined the steady workforce when Imagen started kindy. I worked as a trades assistant at Excel and then I started to get into horticulture and gardening.

I obtained my qualifications from Pundulmurra and did stints with CDEP and Pilbara Landscapes. I obtained a bobcat, dogger and cherry picker tickets

during this time.

I want to get a really good pay so that I can fulfil my dreams and ambitions. I want to be able to take my daughter for holidays to see the world. There is a big wide world out there not just Port Hedland.

Janine has excelled as a truck driver and her instructors feel sure she will have completed her HR Licence by the end of the course. Janine has been a comfortable operator on all of the machinery including grader, bobcat, front end loader and excavator.



Michael Whalebone



My mother Flora Jenkins is a Nyamal elder. She is a custodian of our traditional law of the Nyamal lands. My Dad is Ralph Whalebone a Ngarluma elder. He is a custodian of our traditional law of the Ngarluma lands. My mum also worked with Kangushot after the 1946 strike yandying tin, making ends meet.

I finished my traditional law and studies at Yandeyarra and Warralon. I went to

Marble Bar and Yandeyarra Primary School and then I attended Marble Bar High School and finished Year 10.

My first job was a fencing contract on Limestone Station. I did a bit of cattle work and I learned to drive tractors and do mechanical work on station vehicles. I got my HR licence back in 1997. I then got into MSP Constructions and we did roofing, tiling, demolition work, welding and plumbing. I then went to Jigalong and worked for MSP there in construction work.

I have been with my partner Natasha for nine years now. We have three children, Tyros 7, Rowan 6 and Shenelle 3.

I did my full inductions and took a traineeship at Newman with BHP in mining open cut. I was sampling iron ore, cooking it, burning it and testing it. The crew

I worked with was very good. I got a fork lift ticket. I was there for twelve months but the management culture was not very good and I found myself being left out of the general crew activities and was isolated and left out. So I just had to move on.

The Ngarda training has been excellent. I have really enjoyed operating all of the machinery. My favorite was the excavator which I found pretty scary at first. But Michael's instructors say he picked up extremely quickly as with all the machines he has operated.

I would like to buy some good furniture for my house, a brand new car - the latest Ford or Commodore. I also want to build a fence around my house. Most of all I want to look after my family and make sure they have everything they need.

Joseph Jenkins (JJ)



I am twenty four years old. I was born at Port Hedland Hospital. I am a Nyamal man. My mum worked with Kangushot after the 1946 strike yandying tin.

I have been through the traditional education and law. I also attended primary and high school at Yandeyarra.

After high school I worked with cattle at Yandeyarra. I went to MSP Building construction for my CDEP work. I was

painting, roofing, tiling, doing demolition and doing general building work. Then I did some machine operations at Yandeyarra including grader, front end loader, dozer and backhoe. I really enjoy working with machines. We were never given any tickets but I have found it easy to work on the machines during the Ngarda training.

I know all the country around Yandeyarra and most of the Nyamal lands.

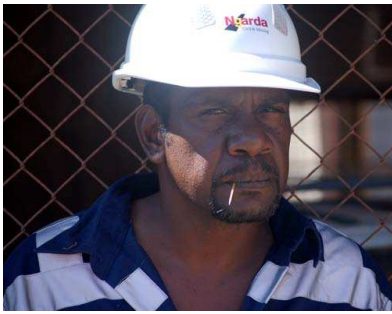
I like to play basketball and football for Yandeyarra community. I enjoy fishing and hunting on weekends.

I have my own house at Yandeyarra that I share with Clinton Abdullah. I want to be based at Yandeyarra and work in the Ngarda mines on a two week on and one week off basis if possible.

My favorite machine is the grader. (JJ's instructors say he has a natural eye for making roads and leveling off areas of land. He has also quickly learned the skills of operating the front end loader.)

JJ's dream is to own his own car. I'd also like to buy a big wide screen television with satellite coverage of Foxtel and all of the other TV channels. I'd also like to pay off my fines and make some some savings for a rainy day!

James Wally



My father was a Yindjibarndi elder born at Mt Florence station. My mum is a Marduthurnia woman. She was born in Balmoral next to the Fortesque River and she now lives in Wickham with my oldest sister. I was born in Roeborne in 1971 I had five sisters and one brother but I grew up with my Aunty Linda from the age of eighteen months so I didn't know my family. I was the second youngest. My grandfather was a Marduthurnia man, my mum followed him.

I did my traditional law in Woodbrook in 1991. I have one daughter, Courtney, she is 13. She lives with her grandparents and I see her over the weekend. My partner is Nyparu Wellington and we

bring up my niece's son Dimitri and my step daughter Trevina.

In 1975 I traveled all over Australia. We went to Perth, to Adelaide and went up to Queensland and went up to Cape York and then to Darwin and then I came back home to Roebourne to live with my Mum. I met my brother and five sisters then for the first time. One of the highlights of my life was to go to Tasmania to meet my big sister and to attend my niece's wedding.

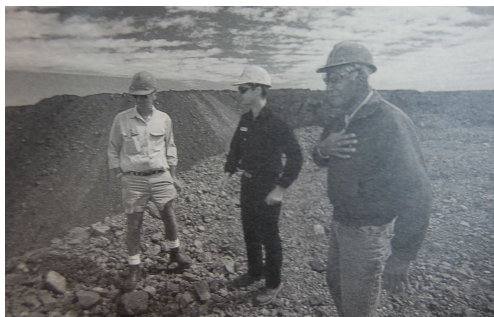
I worked as a gardener at the Port Hedland hospital. I was an education worker at Roebourne Primary School and at South Hedland as well. I worked as a senior language worker for five years at Wangka Maya Language Centre. I mainly studied and researched Yindjibarndi and I worked on the Yindjibarndi dictionary and helped with all the grammar and a new spelling system for the language. I have also worked as a liaison officer between different Aboriginal communities and I have been a youth worker with the Department of Community Development looking after troubled kids taking them on excursions during

school holidays. I have also worked as a gardener at South Hedland Senior High School.

I am very grateful to Ngarda for the eight weeks of training. During the Ngarda training I have been using the grader, front end loader and bob cat. I liked the bob cat and I have a dream of being a fitter because I love using my hands and fixing things. I have always wanted to get into some sort of mechanical job.

My dream is to provide a strong foundation for my wife and kids and to give them things that they haven't been able to get. I'd like to buy them a four wheel quad bike so that they can keep up with me on mine. I want to pay off all of our debts, and put enough money aside to send my kids to college.

Homage to Ngarda's First Generation (continued)



Ngarda's New Generation

A Word from Executive Chairman—Barry Taylor



Ngarda's new generation is the appropriate way of describing our new trainees. Many of them are the descendants of the great men and women of the Pilbara who stood up for economic independence way back in 1946.

The 1946 generation were extremely strong and tough and disciplined. There was no welfare in those days they had to scrape together money by yandying for tin or by any means possible.

The 1946 generation are not well enough acknowledged outside the Pilbara. Many of them were gaoled and threatened with guns but their efforts are at the heart of what Ngarda is all about. They wanted independent economic ventures for Aboriginal people. They eschewed welfare and just wanted their

lands back so they could make a living for their families. They were heroes to us all.

So now sixty one years after the famous Pilbara action for Indigenous economic independence we have some of the grandchildren of those heroes from 1946 joining our company.

Sometimes we are a bit too quick to compare the new generations with those great heroes of the past. The truth is that the circumstances between then and now have changed radically.

Some say it is softer now. But is it? In the old days our traditional discipline was very strong. There was no way that grog could be drunk willy nilly. There was no way that drugs would be so

prevalent in our communities.

It was very tough in the old days but there was a semblance of order and independence. Welfare has made things tougher. When a person gets ahead then like crabs in a bucket others pull them down.

For these reasons it has been every bit as tough for our trainees to get through the eight week training process strongly. They have had to resist the temptations of grog. They have had to put aside their family obligations and to really buckle down and attend each day. I understand that there have been over 80 alcohol tests during the training and only two out of eighty have been positive.

So I am very proud that the third generation on from the 1946 leaders are showing such strength of character. I will be very pleased to see them working for our company.

Lastly I just want to say thank you to Micko O'Bryne who flew his own plane up from Perth to address the trainees. As you can see from the picture opposite he held us all spellbound as he told us his life story about how he had made good as a businessman. I know that not only the trainees but all of us who were there to hear his lecture greatly benefited from it.

So thank you Micko and remember everyone put a tap in your savings tank!

