

Tarna Andrews

Language: Pintupi, Luritja

Other languages spoken/known: Pitjantjatjara

I grew up in a Pintupi Luritja bilingual school at Haasts Bluff. I first worked for one year at Haasts Bluff as an Assistant Teacher before moving to Areyonga with my husband and worked as an Assistant Teacher with Junior Class. I was learning slowly how to read in Pitjantjatjara. It's a little bit different.

I worked with my sister-in-law Margaret (Poulson). I saw people doing first year RATE (Remote Area Teacher Education) at Batchelor College. I said to my husband, "We should do that." So we started doing teacher training first year. I became a qualified teacher in 1998 and upgraded to a Bachelor of Teaching and Learning (CDU) in 2013.

Being a teacher is from my uncle at Haasts Bluff. He was an Assistant Teacher. He chose me and told me, "You my niece, I want you to be like me, teaching the kids."

Before, there were more students. There were about 80 students. It was really good that time. There was more community support, more people coming in. Bush trips were every second week. A lot of old people, ladies helping in the school for language and culture. That was the time I learned about Pitjantjatjara background and culture. I learned from the old ladies. It was really nice that I learned their culture.

Lots of country visits, going out seeing country, *inma*, dancing. They used to make all the teachers dance

too, Anangu staff. So the kids learnt about *maku*, bush tucker and bush medicine. It was really hard to get meat. That was the changes when the government took their rifles. But we kept teaching culture. That was a really good time learning about culture. Teaching was really good.

I was bought up learning both ways, the Anangu way and the Western way. It was really good to teach the kids the way that I learnt, in both ways. It's also good for my grandkids to learn both ways. Doesn't matter it's a different language but it's still the same culture. All my family kids that I brought up have also grown up in a Pitjantjatjara school. Now my grandchildren are doing the same and two are in boarding school in South Australia.

I really love working at Areyonga school. It's a bilingual school and we need to keep our languages strong. New people have been coming, new principals. Every time I have to say, "You must come behind me, don't overtake me." It's an Anangu school, a bilingual school. It used to be 50/50 (Pitjantjatjara/English). The bilingual program is *palya*, it's still going. It's not 50/50 now but it's still good. We still got the ladies. It's a bit different now but we are still keeping our bilingual strong.

My career is to keep teaching Pitjantjatjara. I have worked in education for over 30 years. Thank you to my family members who taught me and showed

me both ways teaching and educating children: Djala Andrews (Areyonga), Murphy Roberts and Ester Hayes (Haasts Bluff), Obed Raggett, Irene Nangala, Monica Robinson and Victor Robinson (Papunya). I really love working at Areyonga schools and am really proud students I taught since they were in my class have reached Year 12 and completed Year 12.

Publications

Wangka Walytja Warara: First Language First, 50 years of Bilingual Education, Tangentyere Land and Learning, 2023; co-author with Daphne Puntjina, Lydia Angus, Margaret Poulson, Tjirpowa Meneri, Renita Winmati, Hilda Amuna Bert, Carolyn Windy, Isabelle Makinti Windy, Kathleen Windy, Sandra Windy, Arnold Nipper, Lucinda Nipper, Gordon Tiger, Sarah Gallagher, Erica Shorty and Sandra George.

Irmangka Irmangka Palyantja: Making Rubbing Medicine from Native Fuchsia, Tangentyere Land and Learning, 2020.

We Always Stay: Stories from Seven Aboriginal Teachers in Remote Australia, Batchelor Institute Press, 2018; co-author with Linda Anderson, Fiona Gibson, Mona Kantawara, Barbara Martin, Yamurna (Nancy) Oldfield, Carolyn Windy, and Lisa Hall.



aka Dinah Allan

Place of birth

Papunya

Date of birth

1 May 1963

Skin name

Napangati

Positions worked

Literacy Worker,
Assistant Teacher, Principal

Career highlights

Graduating as a teacher (1998)
Bachelor of Teaching and Learning (2013)

