

To the friends of *From Bourke With Love*, an update!

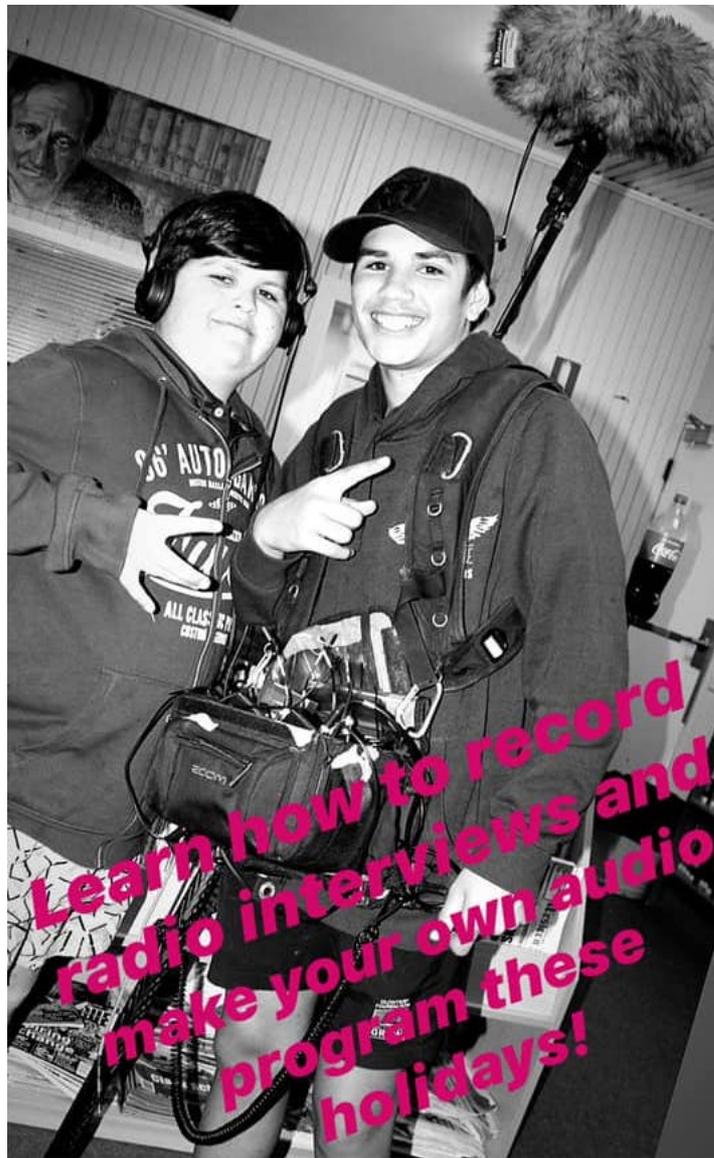


With New Year Greetings we send you an update about our year at *From Bourke With Love*.

Our project started in 2017 as a documentary and oral history. With Allan Clarke, a journalist and passionate advocate for Aboriginal children who deserve an equal chance, the idea to create an oral history of Bourke grew into an additional project – S.P.I.R.I.T Program Bourke, bridging the past and the future. The Bourke S.P.I.R.I.T program connects young Aboriginal people with local elders to record stories and share knowledge.

<https://www.facebook.com/SpiritBourke/>

S.P.I.R.I.T is a community project linked with the Maranguka Justice Reinvestment community hub in Bourke. Our champion in Bourke is Fiona Smith, a proud Kunja and Muruwari woman who was born and raised in Bourke and has lived there most of her life. In August Allan and Fiona ran two workshops in Bourke (check out the photos and a video in our earlier posts). We've kept filming this year, because the interviews with elders can't wait and the Bourke community needs to see its stories recorded.



We have new partners, including Bourke High School and 2CUZ FM Indigenous Community Radio, and we are very delighted to announce four grants that made it possible for us to keep working in 2019 and are giving us funding to film two elders early in 2020.

### **ORAL HISTORY NSW**

The Oral History NSW biennial grant made it possible for us to set up an oral history workshop at Bourke High School. This led to the school introducing our oral history youth initiative into its regular timetable and into the curriculum.

### **DUSSELDORP FORUM**

The grant from Dusseldorp Forum also helped us with something incredibly important: engaging our Bourke-based coordinator, Fiona Smith, for the oral history program that the team of *From Bourke With Love* is developing with the community. Fiona is a community-oriented person who wants to see her community grow and thrive. She was the one to name the oral history youth initiative “S.P.I.R.I.T” and is now its Bourke director.

Please watch this short video we made for the students of Bourke High School at the end of an oral history workshop in August that we organised for the students. Some of it was shot on iPads by the students themselves: <https://vimeo.com/379139514>



Allan Clarke and Fiona Smith with the students of Bourke High School (photo Irene Ulman)

We also did a workshop with a group of boys who are disengaged from school but were hungry to know about culture and stories from the past.

We want to thank [Maranguka](#) and [Bourke High School](#) for making these workshops happen. Our thanks to Phillip Parnaby, Peter Crothers and Eva-Lena Ericson Crothers for helping with accommodation without which we would never have been able to bring our crew to Bourke for two whole weeks. Apart from being awesome at what they do our crew really added to the kids' experience of the workshops.



## WESTPAC COMMUNITY GRANT

*From Bourke With Love* received a Westpac Community Grant through Documentary Australia Foundation. The grant will go towards editing more impact videos for the community and organising a screening event for the community of our work in Bourke, which will be filmed as part of giving back to the community and for our documentary film.

## JUST REINVEST

We are incredibly lucky to be supported by Just Reinvest NSW. Thanks to them, S.P.I.R.I.T was able to take part in the summer program for children over the school holidays. Our thanks to Maranguka, SOS, YOUTH OFF THE STREETS, CATHOLIC CARE, Bourke Shire Council and 2CUZ FM, Pania Tahu and Kristie Smiles!



Auntie Lorraine Johnson being recorded at 2CUZ FM during the SPIRIT summer holiday program (Photo Fiona Smith)

## RONA TRANBY TRUST

Finally, we are delighted to announce that *From Bourke With Love* has very recently received a grant from the Rona Tranby Trust which will make it possible for us to film more interviews with Bourke elders this summer. This is an important grant and a great way to end 2019. Check out the announcement here: <http://ronatranby.org.au/participants-wi.../winners-finalists/>

## WHAT NEXT IN 2020?

As well as filming and building the oral history project, we will be tenaciously working away at fundraising to keep us going. We hope you don't mind but until we get full film funding we will continue to rely on you too. We need to film more urgent interviews with elders whose health is increasingly frail, and we need to start filming the children's progress - an intimate record of their lives backgrounded by the stories that their elders are waiting to tell them. We will be recording oral history together with them and be with

them as they cope with everyday reality. There will be milestones and moments we don't want to miss. In order to be in Bourke to capture them we need to continue fundraising.

And so, we head into 2020 excited to be doing work that will make a difference for the grandchildren and great grandchildren of the elders who inspired our documentary.

Thank you for your support, all of our many well wishers, elders who are sharing their stories, community members, Bourke friends and non-Bourke friends. Even though it's impossible to name you all at all times, we are truly grateful. Since the start of the project, our work has only been possible because of you.

Wishing you a very Happy New Year!

From Allan, Fiona, Irene and Pat, January 2020



Callum (Photo by Michael Steel)

# S.P.I.R.I.T

STRENGTHEN PERSONAL INTELLIGENCE AND RADIATE INITIATIVES TOGETHER

*A new initiative in Bourke for young people  
to take part in creating an oral history  
of our community*

## This is an opportunity for young people in Bourke...

-  to connect with family and community and engage with local and family histories
-  to learn interviewing, movie making skills, engage in storytelling, filmmaking, and other forms of expression
-  to display their work online... videos, photos, writing and more
-  to be part of creating their own Bourke oral history

S.P.I.R.I.T is led by **Allan Clarke** who is passionate about giving young indigenous people a voice, preserving the elders' stories and sharing his skills with the children of Bourke.

He is also involved in a documentary film that will include the oral history project – **From Bourke With Love**

The youth initiative is part of a collaboration with Maranguka and endorsed by the Bourke Tribal Council



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