

# MY YUENDUMU SONG

(Neil Murray)

*Frank Barda has lived in the Central Australian Walpiri community of Yuendumu for 50 years. Most kardiya (whitefellas) who go to live and work in remote Indigenous communities might last a year or two. Frank and his wife Wendy are staunch supporters of Walpiri culture and aspirations. Yuendumu, like many communities, receives excessive negative media attention. In years past the Yuendumu sports weekend was a major annual event and it coincided with Frank's birthday party, where lengthy jam sessions at his house would ensue, at which Frank -always shabby and barefoot with a conspiratorial grin- would enter with his trumpet and blow sad, plaintive lines, that somehow made magnificent sense.*

For fifty years he's been living here he first came out in 1973  
And opened up his mind to Yuendumu.

He's been through grog wars  
And seen babies born  
Felt the injustice that left families torn  
But through it all he stays in Yuendumu

Walpiri people own this town  
They made it for themselves  
Adapting to all the change  
since kardiya came to their country

And so it is home sweet home  
You'll never be left on your own  
As long as one campfire remains in Yuendumu.

Walpiri people own this town  
They made it for themselves  
Through the good times and the bad  
since kardiya came to their country

And that's why Frank will always stay  
His life has been enriched in so many ways  
That no other place will do like Yuendumu  
Yes no other place will do like Yuendumu