



# FROM GORDON DOWNS TO YARUMAN

Story of  
the Painting by  
Yaruman people

BIRLIR NGAWIYIWU CATHOLIC SCHOOL

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© Painting remains with the artists

© Story remains with the Yaruman people

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# **FROM GORDON DOWNS TO YARUMAN**

Story of the Painting by  
Yaruman people

Birlirr Ngawiyiwu Catholic School



This painting is by the Yaruman people.  
It was completed in 1993 to celebrate 150 years of  
Catholic education in Western Australia.

The artists who worked on the painting were

Sheila Seela

Judy Tchooga

Nida Tchooga

Jodi Lukemerrie

Robert Rahla

Angela Gordon

Rosie Lala

Maria Wantiga

Pauline Jack

Mary Seela

Claris Gordon and

Peter Jakamarra Gordon.

The story is told in Jaru and English.



Artist: Sheila Seela

# Ngamu gayilu yanani Gordon Downs dawu.

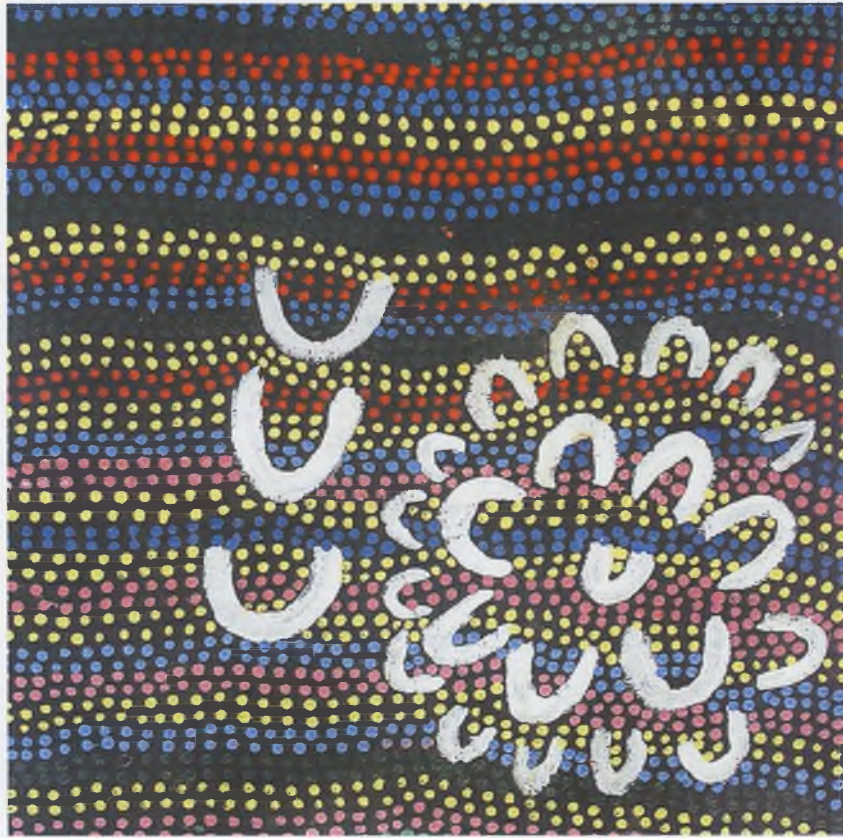
The people first came to  
Gordon Downs long ago.



Artist: Jodi Lukemerrie

Father ngalu yanani ngalu yanu  
marnani jaru Ngawiyiyaru  
wagurralula bina nyinani.

Several Fathers came and told stories about Ngawiyi  
but the people were too busy working on the station  
to think about those stories.



Artist: Rosie Lala

Mawun ngaringga yidayiyida ngalu  
yani wurna Gordon Downsnyung  
ngalu yani nyinini Halls Creekda.

The people were put off Gordon Downs.

They had to go and live  
in Halls Creek.

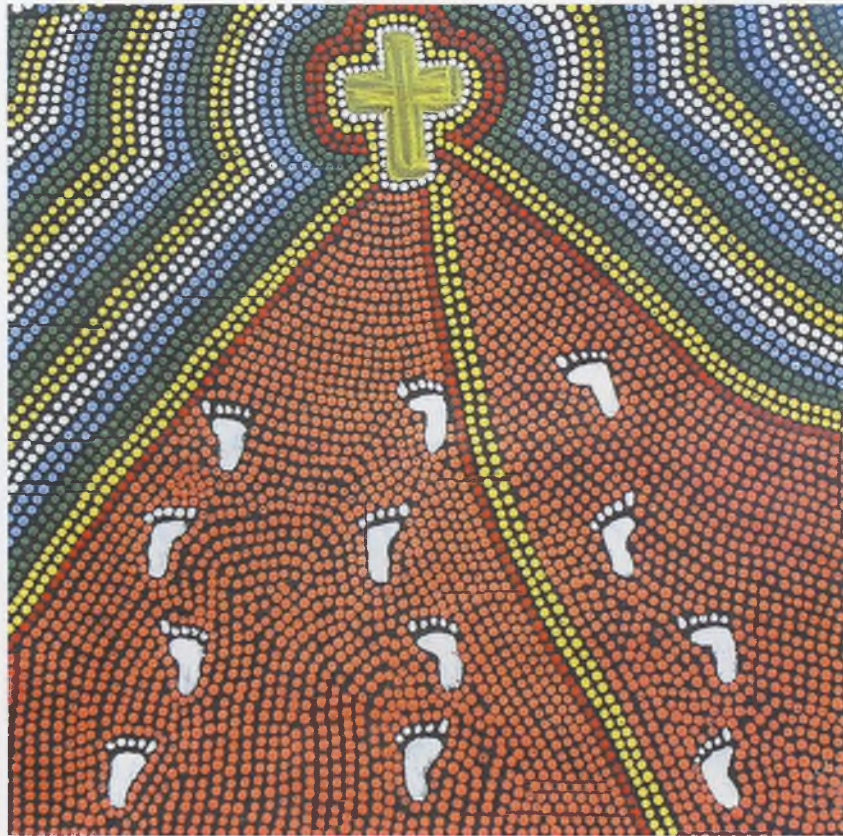




Artist: Mary Seela

Ngalula ngangani wilayi marru  
Ngawiyiyaru ngalu  
yunbarnanggu Ngawiyi.

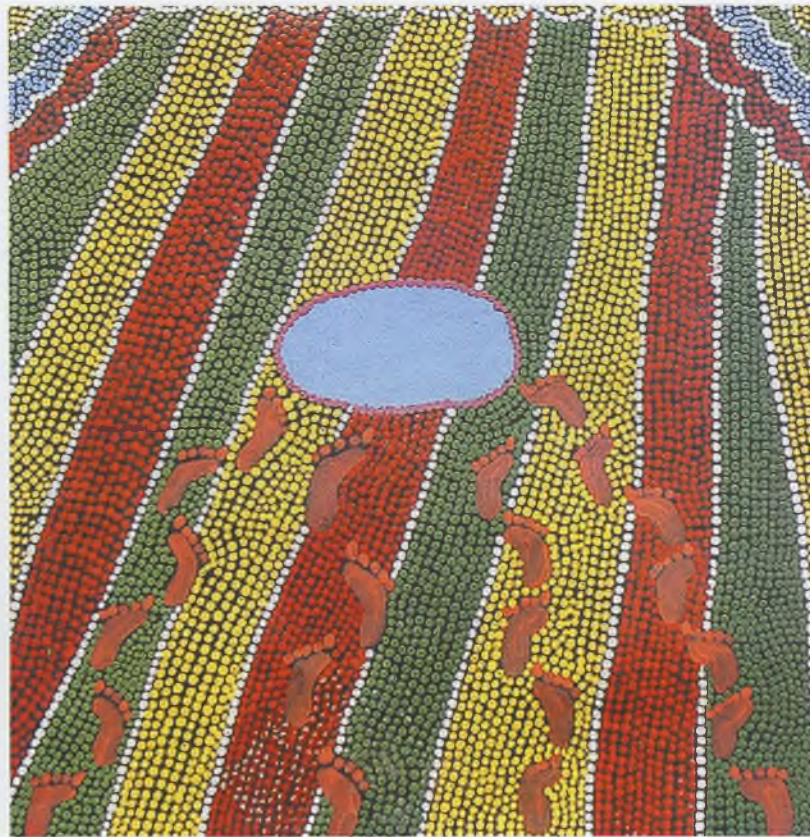
They wanted to belong to a church group  
so they looked around. In the Catholic church they could  
sing and pray to Ngawiyi the Aboriginal way.



Artist: Judy Tchooga

## Ngalu yani Wyndhamdawu, Beagle Baylawu.

They went to Wyndham and  
Beagle Bay to see how the  
Catholic mob prayed.



Artist: Robert Rahla

## Governmentdu ngalu buranyanya ngalu yanu marni yandalu nyinalu

The Government heard about the Kundat Jaru people and told them they could go back to live at Yaruman, south of Gordon Downs. They camped near the well, a dreaming place. They made up a song to thank Ngawiyi for this country.



Artist: Maria Wantiga

Mawundu Ngaringgalu ngalu  
miyanggi mani Father  
Kreiner guulgu.

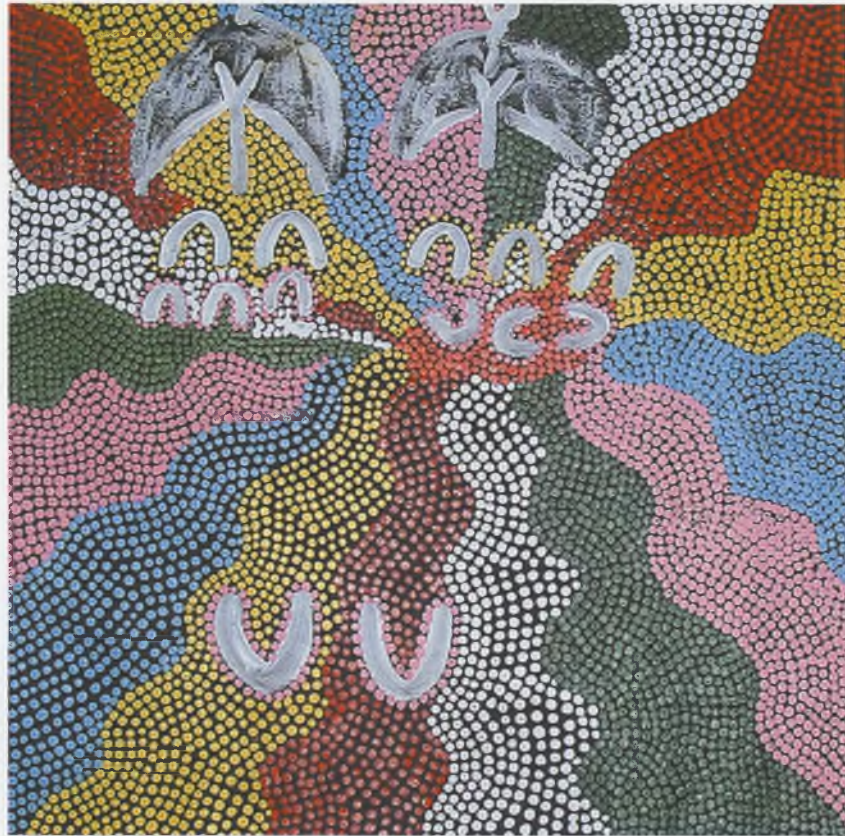
The people wanted a school and so they asked  
Fr Kreiner and he said to ask the Bishop.  
They asked him for two sisters and he said, “Yes”.



Artist: Claris Gordon

Ngalu yanu mani gujarra gaburlu  
ngalu yani bina yunggu jaru  
Ngawiyinyung.

They wanted sisters who would  
learn the language and teach the adults about Ngawiyi.



Artist: Nida Tchooga

Nanagu, Nagarra ngawula yanani  
Yarumandawu ngalu yanu marnani  
ngalu burr wandinya ngabangga.

Sr Nanagu and Sr Nagarra came to Yaruman on 8th May 1985.

They prepared the people for baptism and began  
helping the teachers to teach the children.



Artist: Angela Gordon

Nguyuru mawun, ngaringga ngalu  
burr wandinya ngabangga ngalu  
ngurrgu nyinani.

In November 1985 the whole community was baptised.

Other people came to share their joy.

They were now a full Catholic community.



Artist: Pauline Jack

Mawun, ngaringga ngalu yanan  
Mirrilinkilawu ngalula marnan  
Ngawiyiyu.

The people still go on learning about Ngawiyi.

Every week they meet.

They go to Mirrilingki and have a quiet time  
to think about Ngawiyi.





Artist: Peter Jakamara Gordon

Ngalu yanan Ngawiyinggawu  
weekgula ngalu yunbarnan junba  
ngalula birimarnan Ngawiyiyu.

Every week they hold their own prayer meeting.  
They sing and pray to Ngawiyi in their own language.

