



DAWN KOONDUMBIN

Born:

Dawn was born in 1948 on the 6th of June. She was born in the community with the assistance of a mid-wife.

Family / Country:

Dawn is a Wik Mungkan lady and senior traditional owner for an area upstream in the Archer River.

Dawn is one of three sisters, who live in Aurukun. Her mother Dulcie Koondumbin is one of the oldest ladies in the community and came from Mornington Island when she was young and single. She married a local man, Edward Koondumbin who was a traditional owner for an area known as Ark Puul.

This is a special place where the Archer River runs through Melaleuca forest and semi-enclosed vine thicket. The fishing is the best anywhere.

Dawn has five children, including four boys and one girl. She also has 7 grandchildren who she enjoys spending time with and watching them grow up.

Language:

Dawn speaks Wik Mungkan as her first language, speaks English and understands Wik Ngatan (because of her father's mother).

Totem:

White-breasted Sea Eagle (Kang Kang)

Burdekin Duck (min korn)

Black Duck (min themp)

Interests:

Weaving: Dawn makes fruit bowls and mats from local material. She gets pandanus, cabbage palm and different roots which are used as material and dyes for the weaving. She works alongside her friends Mavis and Hersey for two days each week, producing weavings for sale and ceremony in Aurukun.

Each week Dawn is involved with teaching young girls her craftwork at the local school. Dawn worked with the 'Youth Strategy' for a couple of years. Her work included taking adolescents out bush, camping and collecting bush foods. This was part of an education project, aimed at giving young people skills in life and in the bush.

Fishing: Dawn can often be found collecting bush tucker and fishing in her favourite places around Aurukun. Her country in the upper Archer River, is renowned for good fishing, hunting and camping on white-sandy beaches. Dawn knows her country very well and can name almost every place around the river. When camping, she enjoys having kup mari (earthen-oven) fish and geese, eating them with damper and bush honey.

Involvement with Aurukun Wetland Charters

Dawn has been involved with developing tourism for some time now. When practice tours began five years ago, Dawn was called on to be the senior guide onto her country. These trips paved the way for Aurukun Wetland Charters and the charter boat. Dawn is still involved with the tours and now works as a guide and host with Aurukun Wetland Charters.

She enjoys visitors to her country and sees it as her role to protect and teach people about her country.

