



HERSEY YUNKAPORTA

Born:

Aurukun 22nd Feb 1946. Sth Kendle River (Hersey Ck) during McKenzie time

Family / Country:

Hersey is a member of the Apaetch people (meaning clean water), who are from the coast south of Aurukun. This area includes, Love, Kirk, Knox, Kendle and Holroyd Rivers.

Hersey's husband, Kenlock Yunkaporta is a Wik Mungkan man from Sth Kirk River. Kenlock and Hersey were married during McKenzie time in a ceremony with three other couples. The ceremony was on the 1st of April, 1965, the last of such ceremonies in Aurukun.

Growing up as the second oldest, Hersey had four sisters and four brothers.

She has five children and 14 grand children who all live in Aurukun, making her one busy lady.

Language:

Hersey speaks both Wik Mungkan and English. However, her traditional language is Wik Ngatan which is still spoken by some members of the community.

Totem:

Fresh Water shark (Papal)

Interests:

Weaving: Hersey makes intricate weavings of mats, bands, bangles, bowls and various other items woven from local materials.

She sells some of her weavings from the local art centre and also produces work for exhibitions. Hersey also helps teach young woman how to weave and collect materials from the bush.

Fishing: Hersey can often be seen at the landing, fishing with handlines for catfish, grunter, barramundi, trevally and queenfish. Her family enjoy going fishing with her, especially when they have fresh fish for dinner.

Cooking: Hersey makes a mean damper and enjoys nothing more than cooking some fresh fish to be eaten with damper and sugarbag (native honey).

Keeping House: She does all the cleaning up around home, including gardening, washing, cleaning and taking care of the kids.

Involvement with Aurukun Wetland Charters:

Hersey works as a guide and host for Aurukun Wetland Charters. She will often accompany tourists for day trips up the Watson and Archer Rivers.

Activities may include weaving, cooking and the telling of stories. Hersey is also very knowledgeable about bush tucker, bush medicine and the history of Aurukun.

