



MAVIS NGALLAMETTA

Born:

Mavis was born in her fathers country which is north of Kendle River. She was born out bush in 1944 on the 10th of August

Family / Country:

Before getting married, Mavis was a Marbunt which is her maiden name, running from her fathers side. Her traditional country is around Kendle River, which she returned to from time to time after getting married.

Between Knox River and Hersey Ck, Kendle River is a large river system, well known for its fishing and hunting.

Language:

Mavis speaks English, Wik Mungkan and Wik Ngatan. She also speaks Kugu which is her traditional language. This language is only spoken by a few people in town (the KyUka? And Ngallametta families), but is more commonly spoken in Pomperaaw

Totem:

Barramundi (Wuunkum)

Mud Crab (Poi)

Cod

Interests:

When Mavis was in her early years (mission time), she began to work cooking, washing, weaving and other jobs from an early age. Mavis has always been a working lady and still takes an active role in the community, passing on her skills to the younger generation.

She spent a lot of time with her mother and aunty making traditional weavings (dilly bags & fruit bowls) made from cabbage palm and pandanus. Today, she likes taking her weavings to the school to show the younger girls and also takes pleasure in showing tourists and visitors her craft.

Mavis is a very well respected lady in Aurukun. She can often be seen at ceremonies in town, leading dance and song. Her travels have taken her as far away as Brisbane, Sydney and Canberra.

Mavis and her husband used to travel for festivals. Her husband, two brothers and uncle were in charge of leading dance and Mavis spent a lot of time travelling and learning dance and song from these men.

Mavis often goes to the beach with Edgar and Doris, her cousin sister and adopted son. They go fishing and take the kids along. She is often asked by visitors to the community to accompany them on camping trips.

She is very fond of digging yams and mud shells on these trips. Mud crabs are a bonus and bush tucker is very important to people still.

Involvement with Aurukun Wetland Charters:

Mavis works for Aurukun Wetland Charters as a host. She is a vibrant lady who enjoys her time with tourists and is well known for making people laugh. Things never get too serious, with Mavis around.

