

Young stars shine bright at media workshop

Young indigenous people on remote communities are encountering more lifestyle options and future choices than ever.

Yet many are early school leavers who have completely disengaged with formal education.

A recent youth and media workshop held at Hamilton Downs near Alice Springs was part of a research project on learning and literacy development conducted by Dr Inge Kral from ANU.

community photos.

"We've got to learn from the old people but we have to learn how to put it into the database for Warlpiri people and everybody really," he said.

"I also do video and radio broadcasts with Warlpiri Media."

He thought the workshop was valuable for everyone.

"We can learn from other people. Some people have got the answers for what we are looking for and others look to us for

Ravonna Urban from Beswick will start making a documentary about her grandfather when she returns to Beswick.

"I am making a documentary about Victor Hood, my grandfather," Ravonna said.

"Hopefully the whole community will see what its all about and we've been getting some new ideas from here," Ms Urban said.

Musician Chris Read from Wingellina uses music recording software to record his band's songs.

"I record with my band using rhythm guitar. I'm a lead singer. We record on to a computer using *Garage Band*," he said.

"You don't really have to know reading and writing for that – you can learn it, maybe one week you can pick it up."

Many of the young people at the workshop use their mobiles and the internet for banking but few had easy internet access.

Some used the computers in the arts centres and media facilities.

The young Aboriginal people at the workshop said they were using all forms of modern technology to watch videos on the web, download music and videos on their phones, send texts, record music and stories and keep up to date with the latest sport results.

The project was supported by the Fred Hollows Foundation, ANU Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy and Research and the Warlpiri Education and Training Trust.



It made it clear that young people who have missed out on school are still able to learn and make positive contributions.

Young people from Beswick, Lajamanu, Yuendumu, Wingellina, Alice Springs and Ti Tree spent four days using computers to tell their stories in video, powerpoints and music and the chance to share their experiences with others provided inspiration for many of them.

Maxwell Tasman from Lajamanu has worked with Warlpiri Media for several years and, like many of the young people at the workshop, is well versed in the latest technology.

He works on the database set up by NT Libraries to archive

the answers.

"So we have to come together and show the one big picture and the voices to tell us the way through media," he said.

Shane White, also from Lajamanu, worked with Maxwell on making a video for the Warlpiri Education and Training Trust.

"I learnt a lot from making the WETT DVD: editing, filming and interviews," he said.

"I started working with Warlpiri Media three years ago and I also use the database for old photos and stories.

"It's important because old people are getting sick and they need to pass on information to us," Shane said.



Above top and middle: the Youth Media Workshop group

Above: left Shane White and right Maxwell Tasman

Right: Azaria Robertson

Left: l-r Augustine Kennedy, Inga Kraal and Ravonna Urban

