

THE OOMBULGURRI STORY

A PICTORIAL HISTORY
OF THE PEOPLE OF
OOMBULGURRI
1884-1988

edited by
NEVILLE GREEN

DEDICATION

The Oombulgurri Story is dedicated to
those who re-established Oombulgurri
as an independent community.

Amongst these were:

Frank and Barbara Martin
Robert and Louisa Roberts
Conrad and Susan Clark
Ronald and Doris Morgan
Hilton Gore
Sandy Morton
Leo Taylor
Edward Gerard
and a group of young people
who helped them.

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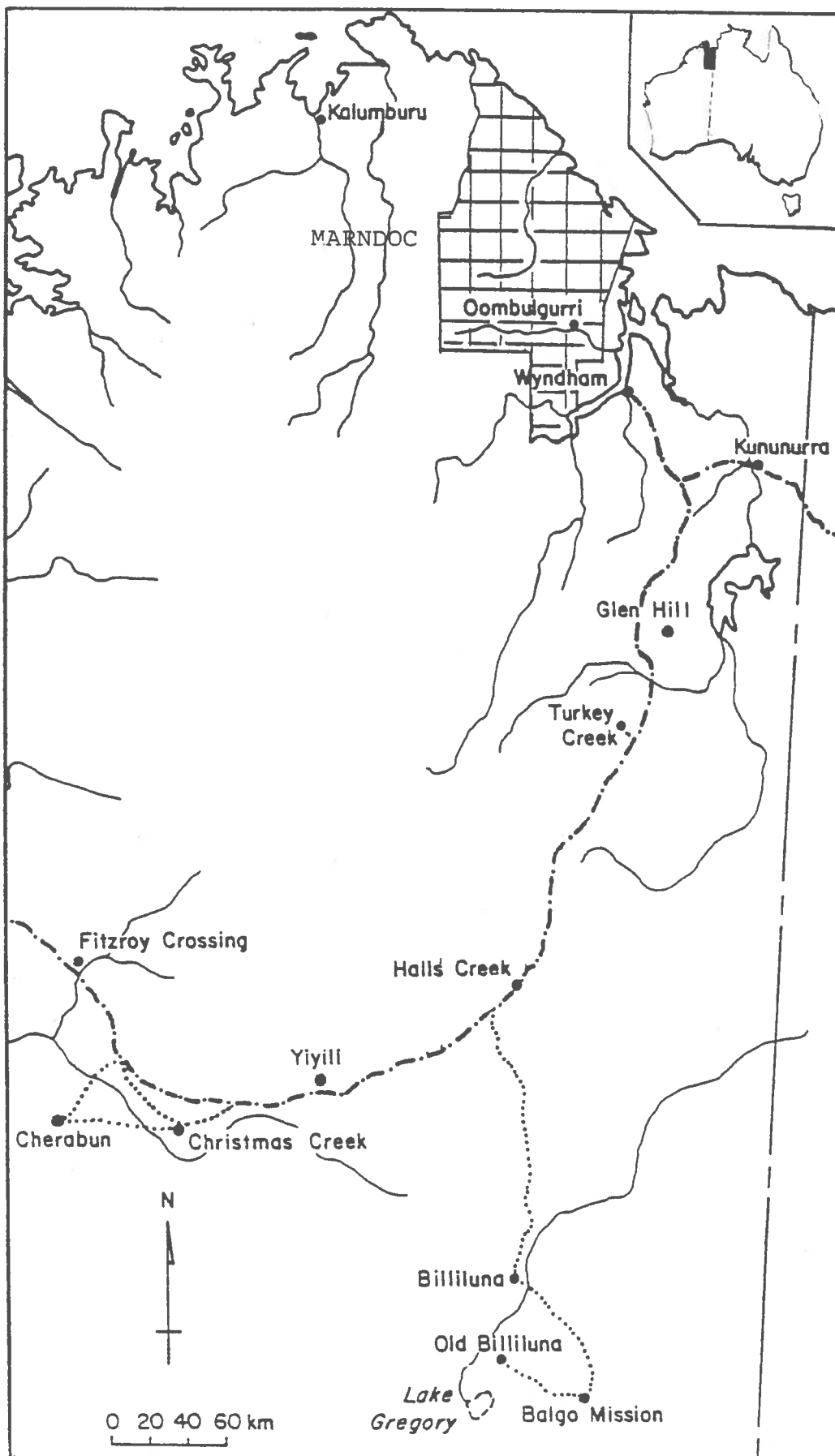
Cover photograph by Peter Cowlshaw, 1987. Eric and Elaine Johnstone with Oombulgurri children.

Story by Eric Johnstone

The old people who are gone taught me to dance. Robert Roberts, his brothers and uncles. When visitors came out from Wyndham they would go across the river to show them some corroboree dances. That's where I learned the corroboree dance in the man's ceremony. I got dance from Arnhem Land and Port Keats. They bring the dances down and we watch them too.

When I was on Rosewood Station, over near Argyle, I was about eighteen years old when I was a stockman. That's where I started to learn about dancing. When I came down to Wyndham for the race meetings there were big corroborees, I used to dance at those corroborees. I used to mix up with them. The old fellow died now Clara's first husband [Herbert Mitchell] was a champion.

A couple of months ago, the teacher [Peter Cowlshaw] said, 'I want someone to come and teach these young children to dance'. So I went up there to teach them. I want to teach them our culture so that it will keep going when I am dead and gone. It is what I tell them, there's nothing to be afraid of. They should not be ashamed to dance. We teach them the stories. The old ladies and men, such as Clara, Doris, Joyce, Elaine, Leo and others. They listen to us. They want to learn. (Eric Johnstone, 1 Oct 1987)



Oombulgurri 1987



1. Sandra and Alan Gore.



2. The school principal, Peter Cowlshaw gives a practical lesson in handling money.



3. Father Les Baird, the resident Anglican priest.



4. The champion basketball teams.



5. Bishop Isaac Gadebo, of Papua New Guinea presents the basketball trophies.

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