

CLEARED OUT

First contact in the Western Desert

Sue Davenport, Peter Johnson and Yuwali Nixon

Foreword by Peter Garrett

DESCRIPTION

In 1964, a group of 20 Aboriginal women and children in the Western Desert made their first contact with European Australians — patrol officers from the Woomera Rocket Range, clearing an area into which rockets were to be fired. They had been pursued by the patrol officers for several weeks, running from this frightening new force in the desert.

Yuwali, 17 at the time, remembers every detail of the drama – first seeing these ‘devils’ and their ‘rocks that moved’, escaping the strange intruders. Her sharp recollections are complemented in a 3-part diary of the ‘chase’ by the colourful official reports of the patrol. These reflect a similar drama – arguments within Government about the treatment of desert inhabitants and public scepticism about the Government’s intent. Line-drawn maps and black & white illustrations complement the text.

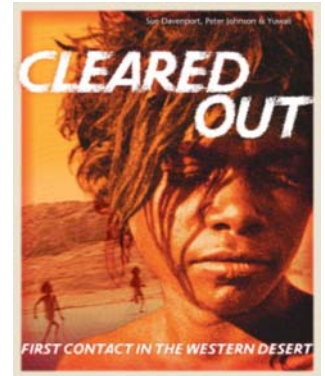
Yuwali’s story also resonates in today’s debate about the future of many Indigenous desert communities. *Cleared Out* combines three oral histories, detailed archival research and a wealth of photographs and rare film footage from the patrol. Through one extraordinary episode, the multiple perspectives on the moment of contact are revealed.

AUTHOR(S)

Sue Davenport is an anthropologist and photographer who has worked for many years in Western Australia with the Martu people, whose story is told here. Peter Johnson is a lawyer who has also worked with Aboriginal communities and who co-wrote the book. Yuwali Nixon is the main Martu storyteller whose memories of first contact form such a strong part of the book.

Selling points

- Rare story of first contact (oral and written histories); three versions of the same event (Indigenous and non-Indigenous)
- Richly illustrated with photographs and film footage taken on patrol, supplemented by detailed archival research.
- Snapshot of first contact resonates today regarding what’s owed desert community people.



Due date

October 2005

Format

270x140mm, pb

Extent

304pp

Illustrations

Two-colour text; highly illus throughout with b/w photos and rare film footage

RRP

\$45.00

ISBN

0 85575 457 5

Target markets

- Academics and students, Australian Indigenous history
- Indigenous community workers
- Policy makers/govt
- Cross-cultural awareness trainers

Categories

- Indigenous studies
- Social history; Australian history; Oral history
- Cultural studies

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