



The Australian Journal of **INDIGENOUS EDUCATION**

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FILM : TURTLE ON THE RUN

Turtle on the Run, is the first of a series of films being prepared by John and Sue Erbacher, on the life of the Kuku-Yalanji people of North Queensland. The Kuku-Yalanji people, a community of approximately 500, live in rainforest country along the Daintree and Bloomfield River valleys. Their tribal area extends coastwise from Mossman to Cooktown.

John and Sue first visited these people four years ago when the mission was still functioning. Over this period they have noticed that many of the old people have passed on, and with them, many of the old ways. Also, many of the people are moving away from the community.

The films record and sensitively portray the lives of these people in their contemporary situation. In *Turtle on the Run* there is a comparison between old and recent methods of Aboriginal fishing techniques. The film explains that these people still hunt much as they did many years ago - fishing lines, turtle and dugong harpoons, woomeras and fish spears are still used today. The film ends by showing a turtle hunt. Although for hundreds of years the Aboriginals ventured forth to their fishing grounds in dug-out canoes, in the turtle hunt today one concession is made - outboard motors are used to propel their boats, although the same capture procedure is involved.

This film is recommended for use in an Aboriginal studies course. A teacher information pamphlet is available.

Other films in the series include:

<i>The Legend of Goorialla</i>	- 7½ minutes
<i>Bush Tucker</i>	- 11½ minutes
<i>Bush Crafts</i>	- 10½ "
<i>Bush Medicine</i>	- 6 "
<i>A Time for Fun</i>	- 5 "

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