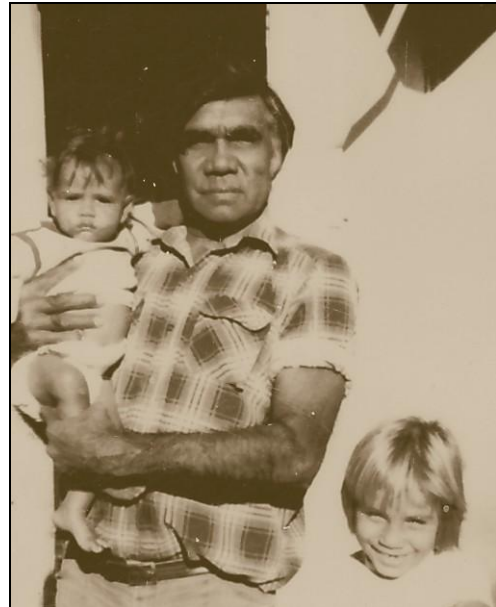


# In memory of Charlie Stream 1930-2004

“The singing cowboy”



**Above right and left: Charlie Stream**

Son of Tommy Stream and Mabel Thompson. Stepson of Kundi. Brother of Susie, Freddie, Kevin, Walter, Tom (deceased), Linda, Marilyn and Natalie. Husband of Charlotte Black (deceased) and Polly Moses-Martin (deceased). Father of Colin (deceased), Dawn, Charleston, Peter, Sandra, Lionel and Marie.

Grandfather of Darryl Craig, Charletta, Bronwyn, Cassandra, Farren, Jadine, Bonita, Louis, Billie Jo, Sharna, Harry, Geon, Blake, Taylah, Dolly, Asman, Deanne, Ethan and Rita.

Great-grandfather of Tosheena, Liam, Irwin, Kiara, Kyan, Rosita, and Jamie Lee.

Charlie Stream was born at Corunna Downs Station on 15 June, 1930. His father Tommy Stream was the son of a German station worker, Fred Stream. Tommy and Charlie's mother Mabel ran off together on Split Rock Station and stayed in the bush for three months. There was trouble over this because they were the wrong skin for marriage. After Charlie was born, Mabel lived with Charlie's stepfather, Old Kundi. Billy Thompson, the son of William Thompson, was the owner of Split Rock and his children Alan, Frank and Elsie Thompson were Charlie's 'kid mates' and their mother was like a mother to Charlie. Charlie reckoned his mother Mabel might have been William Thompson's daughter, making Billy his uncle and the children his cousins. The Government wanted to take Charlie away when he was a boy but Billy Thompson stopped them. Charlie didn't go to school. He lived in Marble Bar while his mother worked in the big white house.

In the 1940s, by a miracle Charlie and Lennie were not injured when a hand grenade exploded and destroyed the room where they were sleeping at Corunna Downs Station. One theory was that the explosion was caused

by the Pilbara Aboriginal strikers who wanted the station workers to join the strike. Split Rock Station closed in 1949 and the family were relocated to Coogeligong. At 19, Charlie moved to Onslow. At 21 he travelled around Geraldton and Northampton and worked at Murchison House where Kalbarri is now. He also worked at Pippingarra, Corunna Downs, Hillside, Bamboo Springs and Warrie Stations. At Warrie, Charlie was an offsider to Ronald Parker when the two of them rode to 'Dead Bullock on top of Woodside' to see Ronald's son, Jimmy Todd. Charlie was a great guitar player and singer who entertained everyone at race meetings and social events. He taught Gordon Yuline to play the guitar. He is remembered as a talented musician, boxer, athlete, horseman and a champion marksman with a rifle. On the stations he worked as fencer, shearer, horsebreaker and building yards.

He met his first wife in Onslow. Their son Colin was born at Winning Pool in 1958. Dawn was born in 1962 at the old reserve in Onslow in a tent. He worked with Richard Yuline at Peedamulla Station then the family moved to Wyloo where they were living in a tent. Charleston was born beside a snakewood tree which is still standing at Wyloo. In 1965, his son Peter was born in the old stone hospital in Roebourne. Sandra was born in the Carnarvon Regional Hospital three years later. When he was getting ready to leave for work on Billy Clarke's truck, Sandra would roll up a little swag on a stick and her father would sing 'Goodbye my little Sandra girl, Daddy's going back to work.' He showed Dawn the rope swing he made over the Bellary Creek while mustering in the area before there was a town at Paraburdoo.

Tommy Stream with Freddie Stream and his older brother did contract fencing at Marillana making trap yards for brumbies and cattle. They were also at Walarenya and Lalla Rookh. After Charlotte and Charlie separated, Charlie moved to Hedland with Polly Moses Martin. Charlotte married Bardie Smith and lived at Mulgul. She tragically died from burns in January 1988. Lionel was born in Port Hedland in 1972. When David Moses was little, Charlie and Polly were sheep mustering on Boodarie station. From there they took Lionel with them to the Northern Territory for three and a half years from 1975 to 1978. They worked around Darwin including the community at Delissaville now called Belyuen. When they returned, David Moses drove to Broome to bring the family home. After Darwin, they were at Pippingarra and Yandeyarra.

Charlie admits he had been avoiding going through Aboriginal Law until he 'gave himself up' and was initiated at Coogeligong after he returned from Darwin. For some time Charlie 'hit the grog' on the coast. After the Church of Christ started up, Richard Yuline picked up Charlie from Roebourne and brought him back to Marble Bar to live. He became a Christian and in 1985 he brought his seven year old granddaughter Charletta from Onslow to live with him and Lionel at Francis Street. She stayed with him for seven happy years, until first year high school. Charletta would go prospecting for gold with her grandfather and Lennie and Judy with Samantha and Calvin. Her Pop showed her how to use a spinifex brush to look for specks of gold to put in a matchbox. Charletta reckons he probably hid the gold for her to find. On weekends he would take her to Chinamans Pool with her playmates Ruth Kickett, Glenys Muccan and Denise Yuline. They would grab hold of the rope and he would swing them out over the water.

In 1999 he won a NAIDOC award for teaching children at Marble Bar Primary School about Aboriginal language and how to collect and cook bush tucker. He also took the children on a camp to Dampier and visited the islands. Some years he would meet up with his old friend Alan Thompson and go prospecting for gold at Sharks Gully. Since 1992, he had been helping get native title for his Nyiyaparli people. He was also recording the Nyiyaparli language with Alison Kohn from the Linguistics Department of the University of Western Australia. His nineteen grandchildren gave him much happiness. In later years he moved to Yarrunga Crescent, South Hedland to be close to the hospital. He was staying with his son Lionel in Stanley Street when he passed away suddenly on July 16<sup>th</sup>, 2004.

.....



**Above: Members of the Stream family in South Hedland.**

Dear Pop I am grateful for the happy years with you. I am sure I wouldn't have got to where I am today if it wasn't for you. I still remember the 'Coca cola bike' you bought me in Marble Bar. You taught me how to ride it and laughed when I fell off. I remember when you took me to the 1988 Expo in Hedland with Uncle Lionel, I was looking for you, but you put on a scary mask and I started crying. Then you took the mask off and I was happy to see you. Sometimes people asked me if you were an Indian Chief with your long hair. You will always be special to me. We miss you so much. Charletta, Damien, Tosheena and Liam.

