Ngingi was talking. We was thinking, there they were sitting around in that spot. Those were their punu. Must be down that way along the creek.”

Jennifer and Ivy went, “Let’s go look waiting in that shade. Me, Tjawina and Mrs Woods. Jennifer and Ivy went for walk. There was three woman in that shade. We came back to the camp. Some woman was under the big shade sitting down. Our feet was burning from the heat. We staying under that shade till afternoon. We had cut grasses were dry. There was no green. There was no water. We only had some punu before but now we were resting under that shade for punu. We was very happy to the water coming out. We was very happy to the water coming out. We told them to let the water fill up to the top. The water filled up and then we filled out water. We might choke! We never ate water. We finished that bottle in the afternoon. Then we was thinking how we going to go. We got no food, no water, no diesel, that radiator was not working, the batteries was not working. How we got to go? But we was happy. We had one really big goanna. We was under the big shade sitting down. Our feet was burning from the heat. We was digging under that shade till afternoon. We had cut some punu before but now we were resting in that shade. We came back to the camp. We put the punu in the camp. Two woman went for walk. There was three woman waiting in that shade. That Tjawina and Mrs Woods. Jennifer and Ivy went, “Let’s go look for punu. Must be down that way along the creek.”

Jennifer was talking. We should get a crowbar, shovel and wira and come back. They were taking it in turns to and then it was me digging. We was digging, digging and it was me. We was digging, digging and it was me. I pushed the crowbar straight down into the ground. One and two and then the water came out. We was very happy to the water coming out. I told them to let the water fill up to the top. The water filled up and then we filled out water. Then we got a lot of empty bottles, crowbar, shovel, wira. The three of a Ivy, Jennifer, me. We was walking and walking up to the water. Then we dig that water. The ground was soft and I was telling them to dig it this way. The sun was going down and we was still digging. We made little fires around so we could still keep digging. We were taking it in turns to and then it was me digging. We was digging, digging and it was me. I finished the crowbar straight down into the ground. One and two and then the water came out. We was very happy to the water coming out. I told them to let the water fill up to the top. The water filled up and then we filled out water. We had been cutting the branches and just eating sugar and our mouths were really dry. We had been cutting the branches and just eating sugar and our mouths were really dry. We was soothing our throats. They were so dry. We was drinking the dew in the morning. The water was soothing our throats. They were so dry. We was singing songs at night. Then we made a cup of tea and went to sleep. When we got up in the morning we ate those big goannas for breakfast. We was saying, let’s put a cup of extra blankets in the car and just keep one each. Then we went and we see another goanna for our lunch.

Roma’s Story

Early days times they used to tell stories. The old people said if there was no water in the rockhole you have to look around for punu (sandy water). In says, when we can’t see water in the rockholes. We walk around and see birds sitting. It means they are sitting on top of the water. This is the holy water. It’s an early days story. We hear it from our grandmothers and grand- fathers. When the birds are sitting there, they are sitting on holy water. God gave us that water. Palya. Roma Butler, Irrunytju, 2014