



CONTACT

IN 1964, YUWALI WAS 17 WHEN HER FIRST CONTACT WITH WHITEFELLAS WAS FILMED.
THIS IS HER STORY.



Factual: 1 x 52



ABC
Australian Broadcasting Corporation
Commercial

CONTACT

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BENTLEY DEAN AND MARTIN BUTLER

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SCREEN AUSTRALIA, CONTACT FILMS,
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BROADCASTING CORPORATION



SCREEN
AUSTRALIA

arte



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In 1964, Yuwali was 17 when her first contact with "whitefellas" was filmed.

CONTACT is her story and it brings together two vastly different civilisations – the last remnant group of Aboriginals still living traditionally in Australia's Great Sandy Desert...and Space Rocket Research.

Set against the countdown to the launch of the Blue Streak rocket test, authorities are sent to the remote Percival Lakes to clear the potential crash zone of inhabitants. Fortunately, the patrol officers were armed only with a camera and the contents of their film, captured in 16mm colour, documents the actual moment of meeting.

Yuwali's is probably the fullest and most revealing account ever caught on film, of the 'first contact' experience. That amazing and unforgettable moment in time when she stepped out of a subsistence lifestyle and into a world of motor cars, fresh-baked bread and space travel. For Yuwali, it's a memory as clear and vivid as the day it occurred in 1964.

Now 62, Yuwali is a natural storyteller. Back at the Lakes, Yuwali gives a riveting account of her group being chased hundreds of kilometres around the desert trying to escape the 'devilmen' in the 'rocks that move' (four wheel drives), and how through curiosity and sheer hunger, she finally gave in and took her great leap of faith into the modern world.

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