

Paul Taylor

Named Finalist in Australian of the Year Representing the Northern Territory

by Steve Eulberg

Celebrated for his work as a "Heritage Campaigner", Paul Taylor - a Local 1000 member since 2006 was named Finalist in the Australian of the Year 2013 Awards. The award states:

"With an interest in Indigenous culture sparked

when he was social worker in the 1980s, Paul Taylor is passionate about preserving the language, law and culture of the Wardaman people. He is also an Indigenous ambassador showcasing their culture by staging performances of song, dance, painting and didgeridoo each year to thousands of children in the United States where he spends much of his time. When he returns to the vast Victoria and Flora River region of the Northern Territory each year his passion is guided by Wardaman elder Yidumduma Bill Harney whose extraordinary cultural knowledge was at risk until the inception of the Yubulywan Dreaming Project. Every dry season for the last decade, the pair has gone bush, travelling to sacred sites to record and preserve the art and songs of the Wardaman culture, an integral part of Australia's history. Paul is confident that in 2013 his work will culminate with the transfer and safe storage of the records in the archives of the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders Studies in Canberra." Taylor makes his home in

Laramie, WY. He came to the USA from Adelaide, South Australia and feels that Laramie is the heart of America's outback.

A graduate of the University of South Australia with a BA in Social Work, Taylor's interest in the Aboriginal culture of his own country is born from time spent as a social worker among the Aboriginal people in the outback Australia's Northern Territory in the early eighties. It was at that time that he was

> introduced to the wonderful tradition of storytelling and the music of the didjeridoo, possibly one of the world's oldest musical traditions. In the mid-eighties, Paul trained as an actor at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art in London. UK and worked professionally as an actor and clown.

Taylor has created a career by weaving the strands of

his life and experience together: bringing the stories and songs with which he is entrusted to an audience of American schoolchildren and their families, all the while helping his

audiences to connect to their own stories. School residencies often produce murals depicting local history that takes into account the stories of local indigenous people.

Paul, recipient of grants from the Kalliopeia Foundation and WRAR (Western Rock Art Research), is director of the Yubulawan Dreaming Project which is documenting the stories, art and culture of this clan of the Yubulawan Clan of the Wardaman people. He has been filming, recording and editing interviews to preserve and share since 2003. A website with a video archive has recently been launched http:// yubulyawandreamingproject.com/. This is also where donations to support the final phases of the project can be received.

Paul has produced 4 recordings, included Cooee! (co-produced Russ Hopkins and by Local 1000 member Steve Eulberg). Cooee! Has won 6 National Awards including NAPPA Gold Award, Parent's Choice Gold Award and Storytelling World.

http://paultaylor.ws/



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