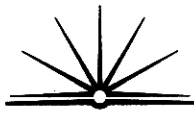


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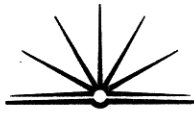
Dear Sir / Madam,

I was recently surfing the net when I chanced across your very informative website. I was very pleased to note that you are increasing awareness about the positive nature of change in other cultures and societies. It was nice to show my mother that technological change, and the influence of western society can have a positive impact on traditional societies, and can even help preserve cultural integrity by assisting economically.

My ~~my~~ mother grew up in a traditional ~~Aboriginal~~ community in central Australia, but they were forced to give up many of their traditional practices due to environmental damage to the land by western developers. We live in Darwin now in high-density housing. My father is white - Australian



(his family come from France) and often cannot understand my mother dwelling so much in the past. I find it difficult with one parent embracing all change, and the other always rejecting it, just on principle. I do not judge my mother for her feelings. It is not my place to do so, and I cannot fathom losing your home and history all in one go and having to change your way of life to survive. However, I am hoping that your website may inspire her to rekindle some part of our ancestry, to track down some old friends and perhaps to use new technology, as the Innits did, to increase awareness about Aboriginal culture. I know that there is a lot of information out there about traditional culture, the Dreamtime and the stolen generation, but I thought it might help her to



explore how Aboriginal culture fits in to the changing Australian society. It may also help my mother and father to develop a common interest, melding the old and the new, using new technology, my father's passion, to revive old culture, my mother's love.

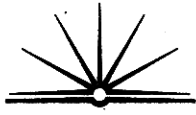
I didn't mean for this letter to become so personal, ~~but~~ I don't even know who it is who reads these things, but your website meant a lot to me.

My mother's people kept the traditional lifestyle alive for as long as they could, but the land, after drought and abuse by western farming methods, could no longer support them. Many of my mother's friends ^{and kin} also became alcoholics, as it was a readily available source of respite. Without a community, ~~to~~ without land, the few of my family still remaining



lost heart and abandoned the traditional life. My mother doesn't speak much about her struggle to assimilate into metropolitan Western society, and I can only imagine what it would be like to take such a big step away from everything you'd every known to make ~~say~~ such a big change. Of course I don't know what she was like before, but I could bet my life that it changed her. My father was a driver until he started his electronics store, and would often meet my mother at a pub where she was trying to coax a friend off the bottle and he always says it added years to her, having to move to the city.

My father, when he married her, always tried to change my mother and make her forget. They would have weekends away and leave all the kids with me, while they had time



out. My mother always came back happy, but after a day in the same old dundery she was ~~gone~~ depressed once again.

We moved around alot because a change in scenery seemed to change my mother's moods. That is when my father became interested in the Internet because it was the only way he could keep his buschens alive from all over the country.

Anyway, I know that you are probably sitting at a desk somewhere in Canada and probably have little understanding of my life and perspective, and all I really wanted to do was thank you.

So, ~~that~~ after all that, thank you for your website, it has given me some great ideas about how to make a difference, hopefully,



to my mother's life and change her
attitude to change in all shapes and
forms.

Yours Thankfully
and most sincerely

[Redacted signature]