JAPU JAPU - A FOOTBALL STORY
Warlpiri Media Association

Length: 6:30
Aspect ratio: 16:9
Format: PAL
Release date: 2007

What is this thing? Where did it come from?

Japu Japu is a short film from Warlpiri Media that pays homage to Bush Mechanics and The Gods must be crazy. It is a fun, light-hearted exploration of the origin myths surrounding Australian Rules football and the Warlpiri adoption of the game.

Originally filmed for the opening and closing sequences of Aboriginal Rules (a 55min documentary by Warlpiri Media), Japu Japu presents an extended version of the story that follows Jupurrurla (Francis Kelly from Bush Mechanics) and his grandson Japanangka as they journey to discover the origin of this strange object that enters the Warlpiri landscape. Accompanied by narration sung to the tune of a traditional Warlpiri song, they arrive in Melbourne where they can be seen fishing in the Yarra River, spearing a cow at Collingwood Children’s Farm, musing on the origins of the white people’s boat at Polly Woodside, paying homage to the shields at Birrang Marr and walking out onto the ceremony ground of the MCG during a Collingwood Magpies game... before returning to Warlpiri country with a swag of Black and White football jumpers.

Japu Japu is a fun exploration of the ceremony of football from a Warlpiri perspective.
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Featuring Francis Jupurrurla Kelly and Annanias Japanangka Woods

Written and Directed by: Francis Kelly and Liam Campbell
Producer: Rita Cattoni
Directors of Photography: Anna Cadden and Scott Duncan
Editors: Bergen O’Brien and Bradley Warden
Sound Recordist: Jock Healy
Production Manager: Sarah Royds
Music Producer: Alex Jarvis
Camera Assistant: Sam Collins
Annanias’ Assistant: Ruby Duncan
Translators: Francis Kelly, Ned Hargraves and Liam Campbell
Stills Photography: Anna Cadden, Scott Duncan and Jesse Marlow

Nyurrw–wiyi Japu Japu
Written by Ned Hargraves and Liam Campbell
Based on a traditional Warlpiri song
Performed by Ned Hargraves
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