

NINU GRANDMOTHERS' LAW

The autobiography of Nura Nungalka Ward, a Yankunytjatjara woman from the Central Desert, translated to English from Pitjantjatjara

Ninu Grandmothers' Law is a definitive account of a traditional lifestyle and way of thinking. Accompanied by exceptional archival photographs, it is an evocative, compelling chronicle and cultural philosophy of a time almost forgotten. Nura shares intimate stories of how life was for Aboriginal people of Central Australia before and after white contact: from complicated marriage arrangements, to complex preparations of bush medicines, from station and health work to political activism.

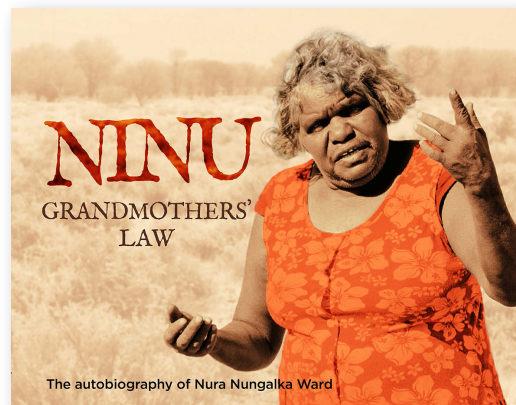
Part biography, part customs manual and food guide, part traditional social history and women's customs and governance, *Ninu Grandmothers' Law* is a rare testament to one woman's advocacy for her family, people and culture.

About the author



Nura Nungalka Ward was a Yankunytjatjara woman from the Central Desert. Nura was born during a time when Central Desert people were leaving their homelands and entering a society they did not know. She was born at Katjikatji and spent her early years living at Ernabella. She was continually running away to join her parents, who were station workers, as she preferred living in the bush and being connected to country.

Nura, who has passed away, was a great storyteller, a matriarch, a strong Law woman and a consummate teacher of dance. She remained true to 'Grandmother's Law'. Nura wrote about her life because she wanted the world to know how she had grown up — learning etiquette from traditional living and relying on the land to supply all her needs and wants. Nura felt these customs would bring happiness into the lives of all those who would listen and learn. It was a philosophy she wanted us all to live by.



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