Maryanne Beebe Transcript

Audio Description: Two older women look at landscape photos at an outdoor stall. One holds some photos and opens her purse. The other lady, wearing a black singlet with the word Kununurra on the front, hands over a $20 bill to Maryanne, the middle aged Aboriginal woman running the stall. Maryanne is tall with brown curly hair and a bright pink top. Maryanne chats as she writes out a receipt. She holds out a white water bottle to another customer. It has one of her photos with a boab tree on it. She then shows her a child’s t-shirt with a landscape photo on it.

**Maryanne:** My name’s Maryanne Beebe. I come from the Kimberley, but I lived in Kununurra all my life. And I picked up photography later on in my life.

I sell water bottles, pictures, bags, clothing prints.

Audio Description: The scene changes to Maryanne sitting side on to a computer and writing on a form. A middle aged man stands pointing out words on a white board. The terms say OH&S 1984; WHS 2021 and Regulations. Maryanne listens to him then works at the computer.

**Maryanne:** At TAFE I’m doing a business course and to get to know what I can do with my own business is just fantastic, I think.

Audio Description: Maryanne picks up a camera and holds it away from her face, looking at the screen. The camera has the brand Canon on the front.

In a different scene, she looks at prints laid out on a counter next to one of her signature water bottles. She picks up a print of a fat Boab tree near a lake and shows it to the lady behind the counter at the photographic shop they are standing. There are many brightly coloured Kimberley landscapes on postcards and on prints on the wall.

**Maryanne:** Landscape photography for me is like my walk in the Kimberley. I feel like I’m in another world, like it probably takes me back forty thousand years. It’s like my people calling me, “Record it, record it”, you know.

And I believe the best way to preserve our culture, I’m doing it through photography.

Audio Description: Maryanne’s feet walk on rocks in a shallow moving stream. She steps up onto the bank and walks a bush track amongst tropical trees and plants. She stops and holds up her camera to capture the scene

In a different landscape at sunset, Maryanne, now wearing a bright orange top, walks to the top of a rocky outcrop. She stands right at the front, looking out over Kunnunurra to some hills in the distance, and aims her camera. The hills orange at the top and green in the light of the sunset. A small amount of smoke drifts up from an area of trees in front. Maryanne chats to someone off to the side, gesturing to the distance.

**Maryanne:** Elephant rock is, to me, it means Kununurra. Some of these places here, they’re touristy sites, but they don’t see it – the really true story of the Kimberley, which is always side-tracked, I believe. And that sort of thing, I like to show people, the real deal you know.

Audio Description: Maryanne is seated in a chair doing her interview. There are other blue chairs in the background. She is wearing a white t-shirt and points to its picture of brown rocks and blue water.

**Maryanne:** Like my picture here. This is Lake Argyle. It represents a very sad story.

Audio Description: Maryanne stands on top of rocks looking out over Lake Argyle, with spinifex plants and small scrubby trees close by. She is wearing an orange t shirt and skirt with orange and blue coloured swirl pattern. She holds up her camera. Further around we see power lines coming down the hill to a pumping station and two powerful jets of water being pumped int the blue green waters below.

At the clicking sound of a shutter, two of Maryanne’s own photos are seen: calm waters with rocks and green trees overhanging and a river surrounded by thick greenery growing right to the edge.

The scene changes back to a waterfall cascading over red brown rocks into a small still pool. Maryanne takes pictures of it from different angles. She sits on a rock in front and smiles as she pumps the air with a fist.

**Maryanne:** Most of my photos are about water because in the indigenous life, water is important. It means survival. Molly Springs is a local waterfall. It’s a place where it’s been there for years. It’s always been there for my people. And when you go in there, it’s like you’re entering a gate to the unknown. And to me, I consider that plain water as spirituality. That’s why in my photos, I just see heaven because God created it.

Audio Description: Back at the stall, a little girl wearing a sunhat looks at Maryanne’s photos, with her Mum. Maryanne points out some of the flowers in the pictures. On three of the photos are verses from the bible with Beebe’s Photos and a copyright symbol on the bottom. One has the words: Psalm 119:2 Blessed are they that keep his testimonies. Another: For the scriptures declare: Rivers of living water will flow from the heart of anyone who believes in me John 7:38 and below that the words - Dunham River, Kununurra, East Kimberley. The thirds says: John 3:16. For GOD so loved the world that he gave his one and only son. On a different board, Maryanne points to other photos with scriptures: Jesus said to Him I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me John 14.6. And the words Dunham Bridge, East Kimberley.

**Maryanne:** In my spare time, I do witnessing in church, and I use my pictures to help people in prison, to engage people into a better lifestyle I reckon. From the bible, I put scriptures in my photos. One of the flowers that have a got a scripture on it, that bright morning star in Revelation, it explains when the sun rises, the flowers open up like they’re really saying, “Hello God”. I got a perfect lily picture and I say to myself how perfect is that lily.

Audio Description: Off a backroad the sun is going down on a patch of trees with big and small Boabs and wild grasses. In a different field, several flowers are shown close up: a bright yellow orchid with lime green stems, a small purple water lily and a white lily in a garden pool. Maryanne stoops to photograph it.

**Maryanne:** I had a breakdown and I’ve been heavily medicated, and you know what, photography has taken over my life, just saying. And it’s become a medicine.

Audio Description: Maryanne is once again at Kelly’s Knob, taking photographs in the last rays of sunset.

**Maryanne:** I don’t wanna miss out on that capture of that picture, the sunrise, sunset, yeah it needs to be captured!

End titles appear. The title says The Lives We Lead Worklife next to a logo of the outline of Western Australia in a pindan colour, with the blue and orange geode inside.

The next slide shows funders and partners:

Government of Western Australia, Department of Communities and says – The Lives We Lead has been funded by the Department of Communities, Disability Services through an NDIS Information, Linkages and Capacity Building (ILC) initiative.

Underneath are partner logos:

WAIS, Women with Disabilities WA Inc, EDAC PWDWA and YDAN