

People lived in a village. They made an announcement saying, "We'll go and burn the grass." Everyone went to burn the grass. They walked a long way. At last they came to the grass land. They flattened the grass around themselves and stood waiting. Nonda made his way to the middle of the grass land to stand right at the centre of the place. He put down his *marifo* and stood there. While he was standing there, they stuck their torches in the grass and surrounded the burning area. They were spearing pigs and wallabies. Meanwhile Nonda kept standing out in the middle of the grass land. He speared pigs and wallabies on one side and then on the other. He threw them up into a big pile. The burning grass was coming in towards him. It was coming close to Nonda when he reached up with his hand and took a very large shell (a *yovi*) from his hair. With it he extinguished the fire on one side and then on the other. It was burning but he was able to put it out. Then the people came in to pick up and carried out all the pigs and wallabies he had speared. They carried them back to the village and shared them all around. They ate then they relaxed.

Another time they said, "Let's go and fire the grass." Once again they all got up and went. The same thing happened. They stood on the edges of the area. Nonda again went right to the centre of the grass land and stood there. He put down his *marifu* and waited while they fired the grass surrounding him. It was burning, coming right up as he again speared and threw up pigs and wallabies into a big pile. The grass burnt until it was coming very close to his body. He reached up and took the big *yovi* from his hair. He use it to extinguish the fire first on one side and then the other side. It died out. When the people arrived they gathered up and carried out all the pigs and wallabies he had speared. They took them to the village and shared them all around and ate.

Every time they fired the grass, this happened. They began to wonder, "How is this man doing this?" So they watched him carefully and saw the *yovi* sitting in his hair. They saw this and said, "This man is keeping that *yovi* there." So they took the *yovi* away when he was sleeping. The next day they said, "Let's go burn the grass land." They got up and walked a long way. They came to the grass land. The same thing took place. They put down *marifo* and stood as Nonda made his way through the grass to the centre and stood there. They fired the grass. As the flames came up he stood and speared pigs and wallabies, throwing them up into a big heap. The grass kept burning and was coming very close to him. He reached up and felt in his hair for his *yovi*. Nothing. He felt around for it but couldn't feel anything. While he was doing this the grass kept on burning. He burnt up and died.

Notes:

- Willie: July 22, 1980
- *tifen teriyonsi*: surround
- *marifu*: first you cut a stick, then put the stick to flatten the grass - just enough sspace to see the pigs and wallabies come out. You move back to the edge so you can get a good view for spearing them. *marifu tavassi*.
- *jangebi fararen*: expression of heap of carcasses - "Heads and legs on top of each other" - W. *jangebi* - pig paws *fararen* - ? they always come together.
- *yovi*: also a shell; so he might have one in his hair.
- *monamara*: i.e. were wondering about Nonda.

The people were jealous of Nonda because he was spearing more food than they were.

- Haven't heard of is business of putting out the fire with the shell.
- Haven't heard this one before.