Ethan Hoad -Transcript

Above a doorway on a white wall is a black electronic box. Inside it has red digital letters which are lit up and read On Air.

Voice Over: My name is Ethan Hoad and you’re listening to…

A silver radio desk has black volume faders above red on air buttons, one of which is on. Alongside are other green and yellow buttons. Across the top of the radio desk are two small rectangular windows which have gauges where needles move back and forward, indicating volume levels in black and red. There are another two buttons marked Call and Drop.

Voiceover: …Wangki Radio on 936am.

A young Aboriginal man, Ethan, is seen in profile. He has black curly hair and is wearing a blue shirt with black shoulder tags. He speaks into a microphone with a red foam cover. Beyond that is the blurred out image of the radio desk.

Voice over: Yeah, I’ve got the first song for you today. It’s Fitzroy Express with ‘A Little Bit of Country’.

On the screen a white caption appears with his name – Ethan.

Ethan continues to talk into the microphone. There are white logos on his blue shirt, one of which reads Ford. Behind him are several framed certificates and a white bookshelf with CDs.

Ethan’s right hand, wearing a chunky silver bracelet, types on the keyboard in front of the radio desk. As the music starts to play, he laughs with an older man, Neil, in a green striped polo shirt. Ethan gestures to Neil.

Voice over: Click it.

Ethan sings along to the lyrics.

Voice over: Pack up your guitar boys and wake up to a brand new day.

Out of town, a long road is seen through a car windscreen. There are mostly clear blue skies with an occasional puffy white cloud. There are medium size trees on either side and yellow native grasses. In front is a white van.

Voice over: I work at the radio station in Wangki, Fitzroy. And my boss is Wayne.

Ethan, now wearing a purple Dockers cap and a grey denim shirt with a white skull motif, is being interviewed at the radio desk.

Wayne, a middle aged man with white hair and a blue shirt, adjust his black glasses as he laughs and talks with Ethan.

Voice over: He’s the boss who will look after us. He’s a good boss.

Ethan sits in a manual wheelchair in the radio studio and shares a laugh with Wayne.

A young man in white shirt and brown trousers rides a red bike alongside the wood and corrugated iron shop of a petrol station. Two four wheel drives are in front of bowsers.

Ethan, now wearing a purple checked shirt and cut off shorts is wheeled by Neil, down the driveway of the Fitzroy Crossing Visitors Centre. They are looking over at something. Ethan holds a water bottle. He wears a large blue band around his stomach.

Voice over: I’ve got my family here in Fitzroy, grew up here all my life.

A family of four are crossing the road. The Dad, wearing black t shirt and shorts, holds the hands of the baby in a nappy who is riding on his shoulders. Two teenage girls follow behind also in shorts and t shirts, their hair swept up in buns. And a younger primary school aged girl in yellow shirt and jean shorts is right behind them. Another young teenager is behind her, wearing black shorts and a colourful red patterned cardigan.

The group walk further down a road that dips in the centre, and the girl in the red cardigan is pouring water out of a plastic bottle onto the ground. There are two other children coming the opposite way on bikes. A yellow sign on the side of the road says Floodway.

Voice over: Fitzroy Crossing is a lovely town.

Across rippled water is a brown rocky outcrop (Danggu) with low trees in front and to the side.

Voice over: It’s got the river down there, the gorge.

The sun lights the upper half of the rocks and the water reflects the trees. An open pontoon boat travels down the river with a driver and four other passengers.

Voice over: I used to play football for the Yakanarra Dockers.

Ethan sits in his purple wheelchair at the beginning of a dirt incline down to the river, talking to Neil who is also seated.

Voice over: I used to be like Stephen Hill or Michael Walters.

Ethan is back being interviewed at the radio desk, then is seen back at Danggu with Neil. He pumps his fist as he talks.

Voice Over: I love my Fremantle Dockers as well. Doesn’t matter, win or lose, I’m always a purple army.

Back at the river Ethan leans forward in his chair and nods.

Voice over: Yeah, I used to work in the station. I used to ride a horse, I used to muster cattle. Yeah, after my accident, I told them I don’t wanna sit doing nothing.

Ethan is again sitting behind the radio desk looking up at Wayne, who is standing looking at the monitor.

Voice over: He said, Ethan do you want a job? I said, yes okay. Yeah okay, I would love a job.

Ethan has his right hand on the computer mouse as he speaks close to the microphone. Neil’s hand points to something on the desk.

Voice over: Then when I started practicing, people loved my radio.

A man in his is sitting on a chair under a tree. He has a crew cut and glasses has a toddler on this lap. She is wearing a pink t shirt and white shorts. He helps her clap her hands in rhythm with the song that is playing on a red and white radio on a table nearby.

Voice over: I love my music. I like the sound around me.

In the radio studio a large black poster on the wall next to the CDs has a colourful red, yellow, black and orange design with the words Wangki Yupurnanupurru Radio 936AM. A pair of large black headphones sit on the desk near Ethan’s hand.

Behind the radio desk, Ethan looks over at Neil and laughs and shakes his head.

Voice over: I play mixed Rock ‘n Roll, Country, Indigenous music.

As Ethan sits in his wheelchair at the desk, he drums his fingers in time to the music.

Voice over: Yeah people around here love my music.

A man in a black cap with sunglasses, and a black shirt with a colourful Aboriginal design, leans forward looking at something. He adjusts a dial on a large black Makita digital radio on the desk in a hardware store. Across from him two other people lean into the radio. A teenage boy wearing a black cap with yellow lettering that says Supreme, and a slightly older man with a moustache, who wears his cap backwards lean against the bench as they listen. Their shirts have the words Fitzroy Hardware and in the background the peg board walls have different hooks and hardware products. The older man shows the boy something on his mobile phone.

Voice over: And they always say, we like the show as well.

Ethan wears a different black shirt with white markings and sits outside near some foliage. An older lady with white hair and a purple top and blue skirt sits across from him in a manual wheelchair. She smiles and nods at Ethan.

At the hostel, I always play good music for them,

Another younger lady is smiling at Ethan as she sits off to the other side of him. She is wearing a bright green t shirt with black writing. Ethan nods and clicks his fingers , as if keeping the tempo.

Voice over: And they always sing along with me. And when I sing, it makes me feel good in myself.

The elderly lady is now wearing sunglasses. She has one leg amputated below the knee. Ethan and the lady in green are laughing as if at a joke.

Voice over: It makes me feel alright.

Back in the radio studio Ethan speaks into the microphone and then in an interview. Behind him is a large yellow screen print hung on the wall with an Aboriginal drawing of two kangaroos fighting and concentric circles round that image. At the bottom are two handprints in black.

Voice over: Some of my favourite songs is the Fitzroy Express with Home Sweet Home. When I feel that song I feel home.

(The following is a montage of different landscape shots set to music).

On a suburban street there are wide pavements and on one side in the pindan coloured sand sits a trailer with large plastic bags. It is outside a low wire fence and in front of large tree. There is also a white car and near it a teenage boy facing away. He is wearing a red t shirt with black shorts and is barefoot. A little further down us a white bicycle on its stand on the footpath.

On a different street a black dog trots along on the pavement near a tree which throws it shadow across grass. In the background are houses with old style verandahs.

A man wearing a cap and in a blue tie dye tshirt with pink and purple streaks and brown shorts walks down the road alongside a black iron fence at head height.

A group of six Aboriginal people, two women and four men, walk across an empty car park to green grass and trees. The older man at the back has white hair and is wearing a blue shirt and jeans.

A young woman wearing a black felt hat over her black braided hair is holding a credit card and shopping bag as she smiles at someone. She is wearing a v necked yellow dress with black dots. A four wheel drive goes past in the background.

Two primary aged girls, one in a red top and shirt and the other in black shorts and green top both seen from behind pedalling their bikes. The one on the right pumps the pedals by standing on them.

On another road the sun is getting low and casts its rays over the tarmac. A large green road sign with white letters says Fitzroy Crossing.

The waters of the Fitzroy River are still and reflect the green trees on either rside. There is a sandbar in the middle. Sun pierces the foliage of the trees.

Voice over: Music means a lot of things to me.

Ethan is clicking his fingers in time to the music back in the studio with Neil alongside.

Voice over: When I’m playing my music, I feel like I’m at home.

A man in a red t shirt and grey calf length pants is walking behind a small boy in brown shorts and multicoloured t-shirt and a green cap worn the wrong way round. On their right are houses.

The man in the red t shirt is now sitting on a verandah and leaning forward laughing with two ladies next to him. Both wear scoop necked tops, one in white and one in blue. She is looking over at someone.

Voice over: I’m thinking about people round town, my little brothers, my little sisters.

The lady in blue carefully hands over a little toddler wearing blue shorts with white stars to the little boy. The little boy smiles as he lifts the girl up and then turns her around. The little girl holds onto him lightly and looks back at her Mum. Behind her is an older lady with grey white hair and a orange and white top. She looks down.

Voice over: The radio is a good thing for the people outside if they’re listening in.

The little boy leans back and the girl rests against his cheek as he points something out.

Back in the studio Ethan talks in an interview.

Voice over: People like music cause it gives them hope. The best thing of my life is my job. I’ve had my job for six or seven years. People think I’m a star, and I always tell them, I’m not a star, I’m just Ethan.

Ethan talks into the microphone while Neil reaches for a fader across the radio desk. A tall young man with a moustache, and brown hair past his shoulders, George, stands looking over their shoulders. One of his hand rests on Ethan’s right wheelchair handle.

Voice over: At the end of my show, I feel proud of myself, doing well in the radio station.

George looks down at Ethan and chats to him. Ethan laughs.

Ethan, now in his purple checked shirt, sits in his wheelchair outside the visitor’s centre with Neil crouching down alongside.

Voice over: People in this town can hear my voice from here…

Green foliage curtains the right hand side of a view of the Fitzroy river and its sandbank. On the other side, four small children enjoy a mudslide on the banks with another one already in the water and one further back up the bank.

Voice over…. To Erskine, to Halls Creek.

Hills are seen on the horizon across fields of shrubby green trees.

A white van travels across the Fitzroy River on a bridge supported by A shaped steel girders.

Voice over: …all around this Fitzroy valley.

A reddish brown eagle wings its way across tree canopies and a cloudless blue sky.

Voice over: I’m the voice in the valley.

The eagle soars upwards.

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 a blue and orange geode inside.

The next slide shows funders and partners:

Government of Western Australia, Department of Communities

The Lives We Lead has been funded by the Department of Communities, Disability Services.

Underneath are five partner logos:

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

The screen fades to white.