

# LAND RIGHTS NEWS

Volume 11, Number 1, April 2008



**Inside:**  
FOOTY...Lightning Carnival,  
Waliburru Station, Alekerange,  
The Apology ...

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Thousands of people gathered on the lawns outside Parliament House in Canberra on February the 13th to hear the Prime Minister Kevin Rudd apologise, on behalf of the Federal Government, to the Stolen Generations for their treatment and suffering. For more stories on the apology turn to page 12 and 13.

# Land Rights NEWS

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### COVER PHOTO

Phillip Watson and Roy Cresswell, two Top End stockmen happy to be back working on their own country on Waliburru Station in the Roper River region.

# New growth brings jobs to the desert

People at Alekerange are finally getting access to real jobs for the first time in generations.

Pumpkins and melons have been planted on a 30 hectare block on the Warrabri Aboriginal Land Trust with the project to provide jobs for a large proportion of the community.

This initial enterprise is the first stage of a 400 hectare development over the next five years planned by private operator AFM Central Australia.

Centrefarm, a company set up by the Central Land Council in 2000 has negotiated the agreement for traditional owners and is coordinating training to prepare the new workers. The community market garden will be expanded to help prepare people for their roles.

The first crop is expected to be harvested later this month.

Just a little down the track at Ti Tree, 19 Aboriginal workers are being trained in horticulture – in the grape industry – at the CSIRO facility there.

The men are spending 20 weeks training while being paid through CDEP. After that, they'll go straight into jobs in the area. The grape industry at Ti Tree is worth millions of dollars annually and farm owners are keen to hire local Aboriginal people to meet labour demands.

**Clockwise from top: First Alekerange worker on the spot at Centrefarm, Jimmy Marshall, with farm manager, Warwick Harrison; Land at Alekerange is prepared for an AFM Central Australia enterprise; Tony Scrutton and Kim Brown training for work in the table grape industry at Ti Tree; Elton Limbiari (left) with Assistant Farm Manager Murray Aldridge and Jimmy Marshall; New life in the Central Australian desert.**



# Grog ban increases gunja use in NT communities

Marijuana is fast becoming "the drug of choice" in rural and remote Aboriginal communities in the Northern Territory (NT), with its use on the increase according to a new study released in March by researchers from Darwin's Menzies School of Health.

The study found an unintended consequence of the Federal Intervention into Aboriginal communities in the Northern Territory has been the increased use of marijuana.

The NT Government said it would work with the Federal Government in combating the use of marijuana in remote Aboriginal communities by announcing tougher drug laws, including the provision of more detection dogs.

The study 'Lukumbat marawana: A changing pattern of drug use by youth in a remote Aboriginal community' by Darwin researchers Kate Senior and Richard Chenhall from the Menzies School of Health shows that marijuana use in one Arnhemland community has jumped since alcohol restrictions were introduced, and as leaded fuel has been replaced by an unsmiffable one.

The report researchers also found that marijuana often has a more immediate impact on domestic violence and neglect than alcohol, because it is smoked at home by men, women and children.

"The move from alcohol and petrol sniffing to marijuana use has created a new set of problems, many of which arise in the domestic setting, not outside the community," the report said.

"The existing marijuana market has grown and its use has extended beyond youths to include adults."

NT Chief Minister Paul Henderson said its new tougher drug laws would make bringing cannabis into remote communities an aggravated trafficking offence.

"The current sentencing standards for remote trafficking are too low – the maximum penalty for trafficking cannabis into a community will be increased from five to nine years imprisonment," Mr Henderson said.

"The message is simple – if

you're caught bringing dope or dealing dope in your community, you'll face a severe sentence."

He said the NT Government had committed \$10 million to tackle alcohol and drug abuse, including a licensing identification program and declaring dry areas across the Territory.

"I look forward to working closely with my Federal colleagues to increase our police capacity to deal with drugs in remote areas, including the provision of more detection dogs," Henderson said.

According to national statistics, marijuana use is highly prevalent in Australia, with at least 11 per cent of the urban non-indigenous population using the drug.

This compares with 22 per cent of Aboriginal people, with the report authors suggesting that this figure is even higher in remote Indigenous communities in the Northern Territory.

NT Minister for Indigenous Policy Marion Scrymgour said signs were now in place in Indigenous communities in the Katherine region to clearly communicate rules on alcohol and drug use.

"We believe this will help get the message across and help keep illegal substances out of the communities," she said.

"We are working with the Commonwealth Government to implement measures under the Intervention to address these issues."

The signs are the result of a program run by the Northern Territory Department of Health and Community Services in communities including Borroloola, Lajamanu and Ngukurr.

The NT government's new laws come as police conducted several drug busts during the month of March.

Sizeable quantities of drugs destined for remote NT communities were seized in those raids during the month.



Gunja haul: photo courtesy of NT Police

## NEW EYE CLINIC FOR ALICE SPRINGS

The Fred Hollows Foundation is about to operate on another 50 patients this month and there are bigger plans afoot

The Fred Hollows Foundation says it will put \$3 million towards an eye clinic in Alice Springs and it hopes an agreement will be made with the Northern Territory and Australian Governments by the middle of this year.

"Many people are content just pointing out that health services should be

better in rural and remote Australia. Well this is Fred's Foundation saying 'bugger it, the money is on the table, let's get on and do it'. That's the Fred Hollows way," said the Foundation's CEO, Brian Doolan.

This month the Foundation will have treated another 50 patients from Alice Springs town camps, Tennant Creek and the bush. More than 75 per cent of those operations will be removing cataracts.

Chris Masters works for the Fred Hollows Foundation in Alice

Springs and travels extensively throughout the bush to talk to people about what can be done for their eyesight.

"They're worried they'll go blind or we'll take their eye out," he said. "So

**"This is Fred's Foundation saying 'bugger it, the money is on the table, let's get on and do it'. That's the Fred Hollows way"**

**Fred Hollows Foundation's CEO, Brian Doolan.**

we need to reassure them and talk with clinic staff before we have another blitz."

He says that it is "absolutely fantastic" to see people's reactions after the procedure.

"We had a busload of 10 people from Yuendumu come in last time and they looked very worried and sad before they had the procedure. Afterwards they jumped on the bus laughing and shaking hands with everybody and very, very happy," he said.

"In the case of cataracts, in 24 hours somebody can go from being completely blind to having vision. It's a very effective intervention."

# KINTORE

## the pool is open...

It was one of the most eagerly anticipated pool parties ever. Children strained at the fence while adults presented speeches for what seemed an eternity in child years.

Sweat dripped down worn faces as a baking sun peaked in the sky. Small children were chased back by adults bearing serious faces after the youngsters had attempted to slip by dignitaries and through a tall wire gate with the sole ambition of diving into the sparkling waters of Kintore's brand new pool.

Then, just as the speeches seemed to be coming to an end, senior women of the community spent what seemed to be another child's lifetime outlining the rules they'd have to obey if they were going to dip even just a little toe in the pool.

But after all was said and a little more on top of that, children from Kintore, Kirrikurra and other communities far and wide burst through that gate they'd been prevented from crossing earlier and like a river making its way to the sea raced towards the pool - only to be diverted into the showers for a quick clean-up.

After that swift dip though, dozens of children finally felt the cooling waters of Kintore's pool upon their skin and the biggest smiles the southern hemisphere has seen

revealed good things do come to those who wait.

The Kintore community, 500 kilometres west of Alice Springs near the Western Australia border, raised the bulk of the funds to build the pool.



An Art Gallery of New South Wales auction of artworks in November 2005 raised more than \$900,000 for the project.

Papunya Tula artists had donated the works for the auction as they had done in 2000 when a similar art sale raised more than \$1 million to establish a remote haemodialysis unit in Kintore.

That unit was created to treat about 20 patients but is now servicing more than 40.

The community's "can-do" attitude has attracted praise from all over the country, but there's no more appreciation than that from the kids who now have a pool to swim in over the dry hot summers of the western desert.

Apart from the fun element, having access to a pool has been found to improve the health standards of children, contributing to reductions in ear and skin infections.

Children are required to have a shower before swimming in the pool and if they don't go to school then they're not allowed to swim in the pool.

It's also created job opportunities such as lifesaver positions.

**Top: Gates open...Lindsay Corby, Jimmy Brown and the kids at the front of the rush**  
**Above: Jimmy Brown addresses the crowd**



# Mungkarta cattle deal gets the thumbs up

Traditional owners and a lessee to a five-year pastoral agreement, Wally Klein, from Orange Creek station south of Alice Springs, have given the thumbs up to the first 12 months of the deal at a meeting on the land trust south of Tennant Creek.

The deal requires Mr Klein to pay a leasing fee to run cattle on the land trust, which he uses to upgrade infrastructure such as bores and fencing on the property.

Traditional owners have committed their leasing fees to upgrading the infrastructure on Mungkarta and about half a dozen young men from the community are being employed by Mr Klein on the land trust.

The agreement has been coordinated under the Indigenous Pastoral Program which involves the Central Land Council, the Indigenous Land Corporation, the Northern Territory Department of Primary Industry, Fisheries and Mines and the Northern Territory Cattleman's Association.

Traditional owner David Duggie says the deal with Mr Klein has brought some real benefits for the Mungkarta Land Trust.

"We look at what he does and you know it's really good yeah. Probably you know we got to look him up and check on what he do and how he's getting on and yeah he's doing very well," Mr Duggie said.

"Been a change yeah like before anything didn't change and now we see everything is changing.

Another traditional owner Joe Murphy agrees with the positive outlook.

"Everything is good. Fine," he said. "It's good yeah.

"We talk to each other.

"Young people working with him on the job working, cleaning up, doing all the right things."

Mr Murphy said the deal requiring the lessee Wally Klein to renovate the property means traditional owners will have a station in good order when the agreement ends.

"It's going to be good for the future. When everything's all set up properly," he said.

Another benefit of the deal is the training and work opportunities for young men in the Mungkarta community.

"That'll come (young people trained up and regularly working) and they know they can do it," Mr Murphy said.

"We are all happy. Young people working on it - that's good.

"It's good for the country too. It's looking different now. It's all working good. I'm happy about that too."

The lessee Mr Klein said the pastoral agreement with the Mungkarta land trust had given his business a lifeline after years of drought.

"We've been here for 12 months now and it only took us 12 months to set this lease up where we could put cattle here and we're very fortunate we had somewhere to go like I've said we've had seven years of drought and we're very very happy with the way we've been able to replace the improvements and



**Top: Joe Murphy and David Duggie at a meeting to discuss a pastoral agreement between the Mungkarta community and pastoralist Wally Klein. Below: Basil Murphy, Joanne White and Jordan Shannon at Mungkarta**

the fencing and that and very very happy with the help we've been getting from the traditional owners and the young fellas here have been excellent," Mr Klein said.

"So far it's been really good. The enthusiasm we've been getting here is unbelievable. We've still got our drinking problems and the days when they don't come to work but the opportunity is there and they've been really really good and helpful.

"I can see it just getting bigger and better every year and to get to a stage where it's a viable proposition."

Mr Klein said he'd recommend the pastoral agreement path to other pastoralists.

"It's good and there's miles of Aboriginal country available and well, Aboriginal people themselves are asking to have something done with their places and for bores to be reconstructed and they can see that

what's happened in the past is just totally neglected.

"They want it to happen and the other groups and other places can see like Ooratipra, the things they are doing there, they are quite a few years in front of us but they're very very happy with those sorts of projects. Which is good I reckon. They can see some future down the end of the line.

"I also get some satisfaction out of being able to help. I think it's a good step in the right direction.

"There's miles of opportunities out there and it's got to be good for both parties. When I went to school there was no division and I think in the last 20 to 30 years the division between the cultures has, could have caused a few problems. I honestly do, so I think these people are asking for something to be happening for their country and they are really enthusiastic about it. They are."



## New president leads Congress into the future

For the first time in its 35 year history, the Central Australian Aboriginal Congress in Alice Springs has a female President.

Mrs Helen Kantawara was voted in as President at the Congress AGM in January.

Mrs Kantawarra is a well-known local Arrernte woman with strong links to her culture. She has been active on the board of Congress for the last seven years.

"My hope is that strong leadership will bring more Aboriginal community involvement in this organisation," Mrs Kantawarra said.

"My father, Benno Davis, was involved in setting Congress up



and I see myself as carrying on his dream. It has so far exceeded all of his expectations as a successful Aboriginal health service organisation. He would be very proud of it today.

"I think electing a woman to the position is extremely significant. It was always such a traditionally male position. But the community has come a long way and it wants change and modern leadership and that is very positive," she said.

## NEW COP SHOP FOR GALIWINKU

A permanent, fully operational police station is to be built in the remote Arnhem Land community of Galiwinku as part of a joint agreement between the federal and Northern Territory government's.

Almost \$8 million has been committed to a project that will not only see the building of a new police facility, but four staff houses as well.

The new facilities will be a first for the community who, prior to the federal government's intervention program, had no permanent police presence. The introduction of a temporary facility and three full-time officers in November 2007 has improved community safety.

Funds will also be directed towards the supply of transport and technical gear, with a boat being provided to officers along with breath analysis equipment and electronic interview recording equipment.

Work on the new facility is expected to start in April this year, with completion scheduled for January 2009.

Galiwinku is home to some 2000 people.

## Rare desert skink find good start for IPA

Long, hot days this summer didn't stop the Kaltukatjara Rangers and traditional owners getting out and about on country where they discovered a new colony of the

of different ages since the last burn.

The discovery came as the traditional owners were out on a planning trip for a proposed Indigenous Protected



Unearthed - the Great Desert Skink



endangered *tjakura* (Great Desert Skink). No scientific records existed for *tjakura* in this area, but people could remember seeing them in the past.

The area is said to be ideal *tjakura* habitat, with plenty of spinifex and mulga

Area with the CLC and government representatives

They also found some old *ninu* (Greater Bilby) burrows and some evidence of the *way-urta* (Brush-tail possum) in a large rock overhang.

These trips are part of the feasibility planning for the IPA and these discoveries are just some of the rare plants and animals which exist in the area.

The proposed IPA boundary extends around the Katiti and Petermann Aboriginal Land Trusts which are rich in biodiversity and cultural importance.

The IPA will give regional conservation efforts a boost as the proposed boundary completely surrounds Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park, and butts on to the Watarrka National Park and the Ngaanyatjarra IPA on the West Australian border.

The Katiti-Petermann IPA proposal is also bounded to the



Above: Nyinku found it difficult not to eat the rare reptile

south by areas of APY land currently undergoing IPA feasibility planning.

An IPA was declared over a large area around Lajamanu last year.

Indigenous Protected Areas attract government funding for groups such as rangers to look after country.

## DRY SUBURBS FOR DARWIN

In a sign that residents and governments at all levels are becoming increasingly frustrated with anti-social behaviour, the Northern Territory Licensing Commission has approved an application from the Darwin City Council calling for selected suburbs within the city of Darwin to be designated as "dry areas."

Recreational areas along the foreshore in the Darwin suburbs of Nightcliff, Coconut Grove and Rapid Creek are now "dry," with the consumption

of alcohol and inappropriate behaviour no longer tolerated by authorities.

NT Government Minister for Alcohol Policy, Dr Chris Burns, welcomed the decision, saying that alcohol plans should be done on a region by region basis.

"In other towns such as Alice Springs and Katherine, the local councils pushed for the whole town to go dry," Mr Burns said. "Darwin is different from Alice Springs, Katherine and Tennant Creek."

"If Darwin were to be declared dry there could be displacement to other areas in the Darwin and Palmerston region without any significant benefit."

Mr Burns' comments come as the Darwin City Council seeks a ban across the whole of Darwin's public areas.

But the NT licensing Commission's Richard O'Sullivan says the matter is complex and a thorough analysis needs to be conducted before such a decision can be made.

## \$50,000 fine for phone company misleading Elcho Island callers

A telemarketing company has been fined \$50,000 for unscrupulous trading practices in its dealings with Aboriginal residents of Elcho Island, off the coast of north-east Arnhemland.

The Federal Court in Darwin declared that VIPtel Mobile engaged in multiple breaches of the Trade Practices Act 1974 during telemarketing calls across Australia.

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) took action following complaints from remote Indigenous communities in the Northern Territory, the first of which came from Elcho Island.

The ACCC said in its ruling that the worst aspect of the company's conduct 'was in its selling its mobile phones and service plans to people living in remote areas of Australia, including remote Aboriginal communities, when the slightest enquiry on its behalf would have disclosed that those mobile phones could not connect to the local network because that network did not provide coverage to those remote areas of Australia'.

ACCC chairman Graeme Samuel said it was appalling that consumers were committed over the telephone to direct debit contracts that would ultimately cost them from \$900 to \$2,300 where there was no mobile service available to them.

"It seems the telemarketers had a flagrant disregard for the truth in

their pursuit of customers," he said.

"The telemarketing calls, which originated in India, were often received by Indigenous consumers for whom English was a second language.

"This factor combined with the agreeable nature of many Indigenous consumers made them an easy target."

Mr Samuel said the situation was made worse when some customers rang to complain and were given no assistance.

"One customer in a remote Indigenous community was told that he should try standing on his roof to obtain a signal in circumstances where the nearest reception was 230kms away," he said.

ACCC regional director for the Northern Territory Derek Farrell said the original complaints came from Indigenous consumers on Elcho Island which led to a significant national case.

"We would like to highlight the importance of people bringing these problems to our attention and how people protect their rights when dealing with telemarketers," he said.

The company, as well as being fined \$50,000, has been ordered not to engage in the conduct again, and to organise the broadcast of a community service announcement in Indigenous communities to educate consumers about telemarketing calls.

## Native title backlog needs to be addressed: judge

A judge has told the Federal Court in Darwin that he wants more than 170 outstanding native title cases across the Northern Territory settled in years not decades.

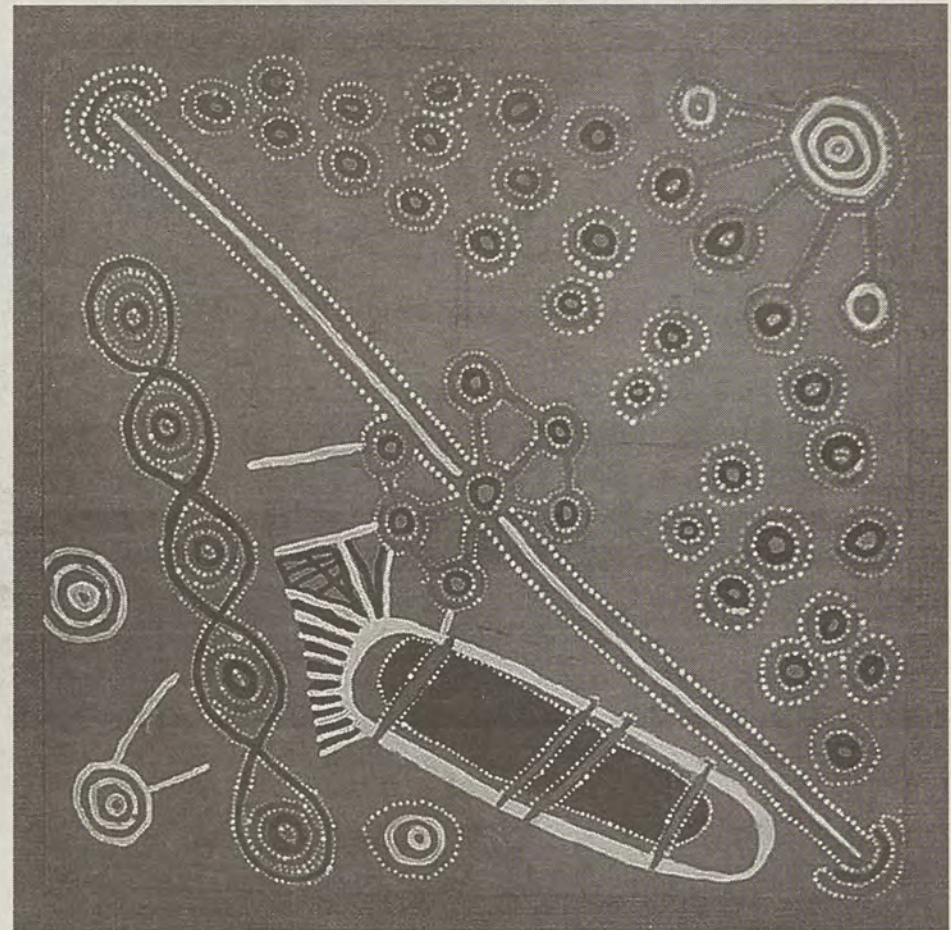
Some date back to the late 1990s and cover pastoral properties, townships and Crown land.

Several groups are fighting the claims, including the Northern Territory Government, whose lawyer told the court that it had no access to anthropologists to determine a claimant's links to the land.

Justice John Mansfield said that the Government 'couldn't bury its head in the sand over the matter'.

# MUSEUM ART THEFT

There were some dramatic hours after the discovery that some of the NT Museum's finest pictures had gone... through a broken window. The paintings were discovered soon after - dumped under some palm trees at the Bowling Club down the road.



Was it an April Fools Day joke, or an art heist gone wrong?

Northern Territory (NT) police are continuing with their investigations as they try to piece together who, and why several valuable pieces of Indigenous art were stolen from the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory in Darwin (MAGNT).

Stolen in a daring 15-minute heist during the early hours of the morning on April 1st, NT Police were on the scene within 15-minutes of the alarm being raised.

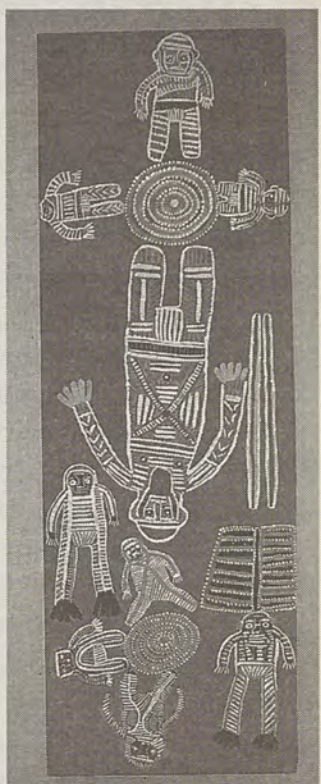
But, by mid-afternoon Territory police had apprehended a 37-year old man in relation to the incident, not long after

the arrest the stolen works were recovered in bushland some 500 metres from the museum.

All works taken were from Central Australian artists and collectively had an estimated value of \$500,000.

"All the works are from important ceremonial leaders (all now deceased) from the early 1970's period, which indicates that the paintings may have been specifically targeted," MAGNT Director, Anna Malgorzewicz said.

The artworks included pieces from prominent artists such as Mick Namarari Tjapaltjarri (pictured above), Charlie Tjaru-



ru Tjunrurrayi, Uta Uta Tjangala (pictured top); Kaapa Mbitjana Tjampitjinpa, Old Tutama Tjapangati (Karllyalykunu), Yala Yala Gibbs Tjungurrayi, and Walter Ebatarinja



# Ukaka



**Philemon Kumanara and Raymond Coulthard during welding training at Ukaka. Ukaka is one of the communities where traditional owners of Uluru have directed some of their rent money to community development projects. Ukaka are currently building a workshop and a community laundry.**

## Yuendumu and Lajamanu Dialysis Service

Mining royalties will be used to fund the establishment of a renal dialysis unit in Yuendumu, north-west of Alice Springs.

The Kurra Aboriginal Corporation, which manages the dispersal of royalties from the Granites mine, will provide a quarter of a million dollars to get the unit started.

The \$247,380 initially committed will fund an infrastructure and operational budget, including the provision of a part-time manager and part-time patient support worker for the Yuendumu and Lajamanu Dialysis Service.

The Kurra Aboriginal Corporation will now negotiate an agreement with the Western Desert Nganampa Walytja Palyantjaku Tjutaku Aboriginal Corporation and a memorandum of understanding will be sought with the Northern Territory Health Department.

Early priorities for the Yuendumu Dialysis Service will be to

develop infrastructure such as office space, pursue funding contributions from the Territory and federal governments and negotiate lease applications within the Yuendumu community for sites of the proposed dialysis unit and nurse's accommodation.

The commitment to provide funding for the dialysis unit from mining royalties follows another Aboriginal community's self help approach to a similar problem.

In 2000 the Kintore community in the far west of the Northern Territory raised more than a million dollars through art sales to fund its renal dialysis unit.

The Western Desert Dialysis Service grew from that move and now treats more than 40 patients from the region.

## Uluru rent project builds Areyonga

A new basketball court at Areyonga is up and running thanks to money from the Uluru Gate Money project. Under this project run by the CLC, Uluru traditional owners can put money from the rent at Uluru towards community development projects.

Areyonga decided they wanted a basketball court, a new workshop and an art and craft centre with their share of the money.

Community Service officer Yvonne Kleinig says the community's using all of the facilities.

"Everyone loves the stadium because its undercover. They use it for BBQs, Christmas concerts, all sorts of things. The band loves it because their sound echoes off the hills," she said.

"We have already collected so much rain water off the roof.

"People are using the art centre for relaxation as well as painting. They are selling their works and there are people in there all the time. Its the same with the workshop - it's the only workshop the community has and its like a garage with all the tools you need," she said.

**Below: It's all happening at Areyonga - the workshop, the art and craft centre and the basketball shed are busy every day**



# Hopes for model training centre at Harts Range

Parties involved in planning for a new training centre at Harts Range hope it will become a model for future job creation schemes in remote areas.

Representatives from communities in the Plenty Highway region, including Atitjere, Engawala, Bonya, Santa Teresa, Mt Swan and Akarnane Well, met at Harts Range in February to discuss the creation of the training centre.

They voted to form the Arrkernke Awapete Aboriginal Corporation and elected 12 directors to serve on its board. They are: Keven Bloomfield, Alec Cavanagh, Bruce Petrick, Neville Petrick, Freddy Mulladad, Anthony Petrick, Maria Schaber, Jane Bloomfield, Joanne Peckham, Leanne Reiff, Rosalie Petrick and Cecelia Webb Schaber.

The plan for a training centre is based around plans by Olympia Resources to open a garnet mine at Aturga Creek.

Olympia board approval and regulatory approval is expected later this year.

If the mine does go ahead, it's expected to employ up to 80 people with about 20 people per shift. Olympia has said it's aiming to employ up to 80 percent of its workers from local Aboriginal communities.



**Peter Wallace from Alice Springs and Santa Teresa.**

Initially, the training centre would prepare and supply local Aboriginal workers to the Olympia mine, but it's hoped it will expand to cater for other projects such as Thor Mining's Molybdenum mine at Molyhill.



**Directors of the newly formed Arrkernke Awapete Aboriginal Corporation. (from left) Alex Cavanagh, Bruce Petrick, Freddy Mulladad, Cecelia Webb Schaber, Neville Petrick, Jane Bloomfield, Maria Schaber, Anthony Petrick, Rosalie Petrick and Leanne Reiff. Absent: Joanne Peckham and Kevin Bloomfield.**



**(above left) Nina Cavanagh, her grandson Michael Wallace and daughter Elizabeth Cananagh from Santa Teresa. (above right) Riley Williams and Raymond Webb from Harts Range.**

## WALIBURRU STATION FORGING AHEAD

Big things are happening at Waliburru Station, and it's the traditional owners of the property who are leading the way.

Already months ahead of schedule with development plans, Waliburru has no intentions of slowing down and admiring their progress, instead they're forging ahead with the next phase of development; improving infrastructure and increasing existing herd numbers.

"When I first started here, they - [Waliburru Cattle Committee] - were talking about somewhere around seven to eight thousand breeders - that's fully developed. We've got basically one million acres here, fully developed... with all the waters and fencing and everything developed and utilising all the country... I reckon you could probably bump that up to about 10,000 breeders," station

manager, John Geddes said.

John Geddes, is engaged by the Indigenous Land Corporation (ILC) to oversee development and the day-to-day operations of the property.

"With the cattle we're ahead. We didn't plan to have any ILC cattle on the place until the end of the development period, but we've got 3,000 here at the moment with probably six to 6,500 by the end of this year," John said.

Head stockman, Roy Cresswell, has worked on many cattle properties in the Northern Territory in his 20 plus years in the saddle, but there's always something special about working on your own country.

"Working for your family is good; my grandmother; my grandfather; uncle; aunties," Roy said.

Starting from scratch, Roy and local colleagues

Phillip Watson and Lansan Joshua, have had a major hand in much of the development that has taken place on the station.

"We started off from scratch," Roy said. "We started working on the old fences and putting in new ones. We've done a bit of building.

"We built our kitchen then our horse yard and saddle shed."

Roy, Phillip and Lansan are full-time employees of Waliburru.

It's hoped that they're the first of many local residents the WCC can attract to stock and station work in the coming years.

But, rather than wait



for the next generation to come along, the WCC are already active with their recruitment campaign.

A one-week period in early April has been set aside to take five local participants through a training program on the basics required for station work. "The future is for the young

fella's to understand what we are doing now so when they finish school they might be able to work here - that's the future," Roy Cresswell said.

Waliburru, formerly Hodgson Downs Station, is home to some 600 residents in the nearby community of Minyerri.

# Willowra: family reading night draws big crowd

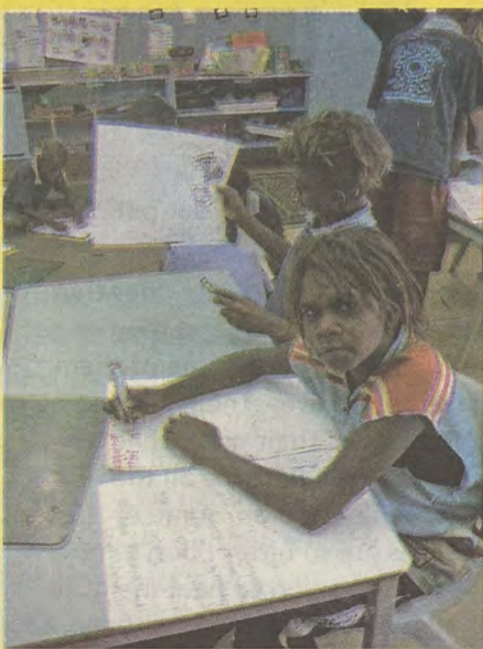


**Top:** More than 100 people came to the Family Reading Night at Willowra to learn to read with their kids

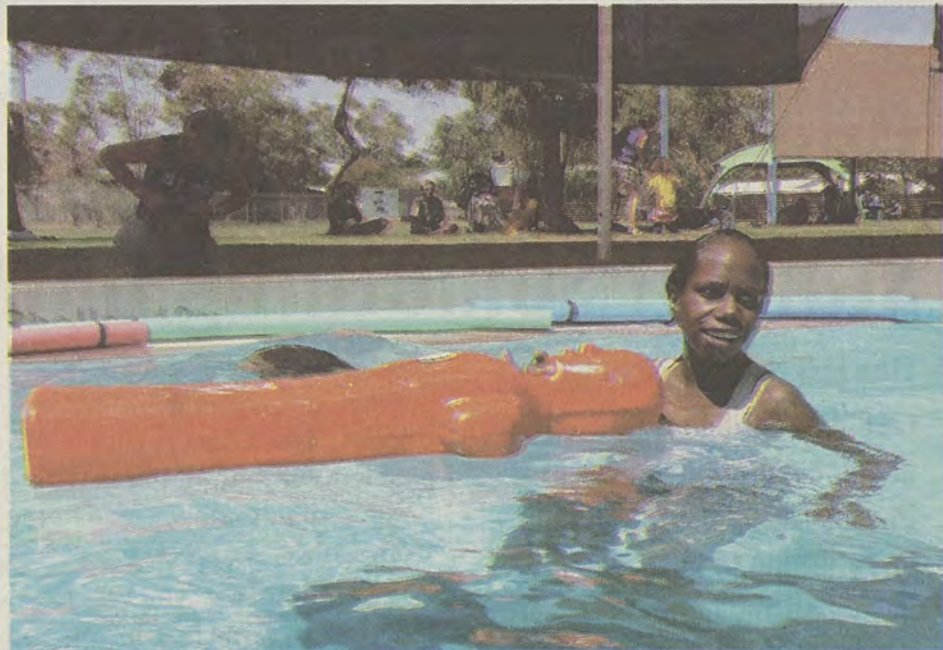
**Above:** Students show their invitations for the reading night

**Right:** Writing invitations to family members for the first Reading Night with teacher Maisie Napaljarri Kitson.

The school is a bilingual school and students learn in Warlpiri and in English.



# Yuendumu life savers train for new pool



Bethany Langdon is among a group of young leaders from the Yuendumu community north-west of Alice Springs who are overcoming obstacles to improve life for young people in their region.

The Royal Life Saving Society of Australia says it's impressed by the commitment of the Yuendumu community to seeing its new pool bring social and economic benefits to people in the region.

Construction of the Yuendumu pool is nearing completion and last month a group of 16 young women from the community completed a life saving course at the Alice Springs pool in preparation for the opening of their own.

The women say that shortly after arriving in Alice Springs, they were asked to leave the Haven Hostel, which the life saving society had booked them into, because they were Aboriginal.

The Hostel denies the suggestion but the women, with support from the Mt Theo-Yuendumu Substance Misuse Program are pushing ahead with a complaint to the Northern Territory Anti-discrimination Commissioner.

The life saving society says the young women who've been chosen as young leaders under Mt Theo's Jaru Pirrjird Youth Leadership Program have shown great composure during the incident.

Justin Scarr from the Royal Life Saving Society of Australia said their behaviour showed great signs for the future.

"They've been identified by their own community," he said.

"They identified the people they wanted to invest in.

"I've got no doubts in the

Yuendumu community's ability to identify the people to lead them into the future," Mr Scarr said.

He said the life saving society is working with communities to help them make the most of the opportunities a pool can provide.

"We're finding communities like Yuendumu, Kintore and Nauyu Nambiyu are leaders in this area," Mr Scarr said.

One of the young women who undertook the training, Bethany Langdon, said the Jaru Pirrjird program sees young adults mentoring youth in Yuendumu.

"Anyone 16 years and older we take them on a bush trip and talk about their lives," she said.

"Another thing we do out here is after school activities so the kids go home tired and sleep for school the next day."

The program also provides reading, writing and computer lessons.

Given their efforts to improve life for young people in Yuendumu, the girls say they were shocked when asked to leave the hostel.

"It makes you feel like you're not welcome anywhere," Ms Langdon said. "It goes for everyone, no-one should be treated like we were."

The 25 metre pool being built in Yuendumu is substantially funded by mining royalties Warlpiri people received and the project has been assisted by the CLC's community development unit.

# “For the pain, suffering and hurt .... we say sorry”

Prime Minister Kevin Rudd, National apology to the Stolen Generations, 13 February 2008

## Gesture can be the start of something new

**“The last thing we want is racially discriminatory practises in place and we’d hope that those sorts of issues wouldn’t be returning to Australia but we have it sitting here in the Northern Territory at the moment.”**

For Harold Furber, the Federal Government’s apology to the Stolen Generations was a momentous occasion, but it’s not the end of the struggle for equal rights. There’s still more work to be done.

“For me I guess it was a lot of things,” Mr Furber said.

“It was emotional. It all came together and the sense of relief that this was all finally being acknowledged at the highest level. For me, I was humbled by being caught up in it. I think it was an historical day.

Harold said the apology must be used as a catalyst for overcoming Aboriginal disadvantage.

“With the reality of life I guess there is that concern that that euphoria, that goodwill might not be carried forward as much as a lot of us hoped.

“Whether that can be sustained obviously is another question,” Harold said.

“Right now we have in the Northern Territory the intervention and there’s obviously bits and pieces we agree with and obviously there’s bits we don’t but while it sits there with the Racial Discrimination Act being set aside there’s clearly a problem. Clearly a problem.

“I was taken away from Alice

Springs here along with my sister. Some might argue it was for my benefit. That’s fine. A couple of problems with that. Big sister left behind, didn’t know, came home from school, we were gone.

“Grandmother who was looking after us came home from hospital or medical attention in Adelaide – found out we were gone.

“We got sent to Croker Island in Western Arnhem Land. Little



**Harold Furber says the apology must be a catalyst for more progress.**

sister then taken away within 12 months to Queensland. I’m still there. I’m still there for the duration. Now, I’m not too sure how that was all for our benefit.

“Hopefully those people who are in denial or don’t understand the issues will seek in their hearts and minds some way of trying to understand it.

“It’s only them who can do it.”



## A fabulous destination after a long journey

**As she talks about the Federal Government’s apology to the Stolen Generations Zita Wallace has the look of a woman who has reached a wonderful destination after a long and trying journey.**

It’s a look that mixes relief with joy, fatigue and energy.

“I’ve been involved with Stolen Generations since, I was one of the founders. I was one of the founding members here and it’s been a really long haul,” she said.

Zita has held board member, deputy chair and chair positions with the Stolen Generations in Alice Springs. For her, winning an apology has been a decade-long struggle.

“We want to help our people and their descendants.

“Because they’re the ones that have come through and they’ve got really broken lives. Some of them have got no lives. Their children have got no lives. Their grandchildren have no lives. Because all the hurt has been passed on. Some of the families are so bitter I don’t know if we’re ever going to heal them. So that’s what my mission has been, to try and fix that.

“This started 10 years ago talking about an apology from the government,” she says.

“We had no luck at all with the (John) Howard Government.

“I lost faith in that man a long time ago.

“When he turned around and also took up the chant of ‘so-called Stolen Generations’, you know, there’s nothing so-called about us.

“We’re recorded in history, every one of us are recorded in history and they actually put us down with the flora and fauna.

“Well, if that’s the way people are going to be then I’d rather be with the flora and fauna.

Zita said there was only one reason why she was removed from her family.

Her father was white and her mother was black.

“No good reason,” she said. “The colour of my skin. I never got to see my father again or my grandparents,

On February 13 in parliament house in Canberra, the Prime Minister Kevin Rudd apologised on behalf of the Federal Government to the people known as the Stolen Generations and their families who were forcibly removed from their family environment.

Included in Mr Rudd’s speech were the words, “We apologise especially for the removal of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children from their families, their communities and their country.

“To the mothers and the fathers, the brothers and the sisters, for the breaking up of families and communities, we say sorry.”

The apology ended years of struggle for the Stolen Generations to be recognised and followed 11 years of refusal by the Howard Government to utter the word sorry.

*Land Rights News* has spoken to some members of the Stolen Generations to find out what difference one little word can make.

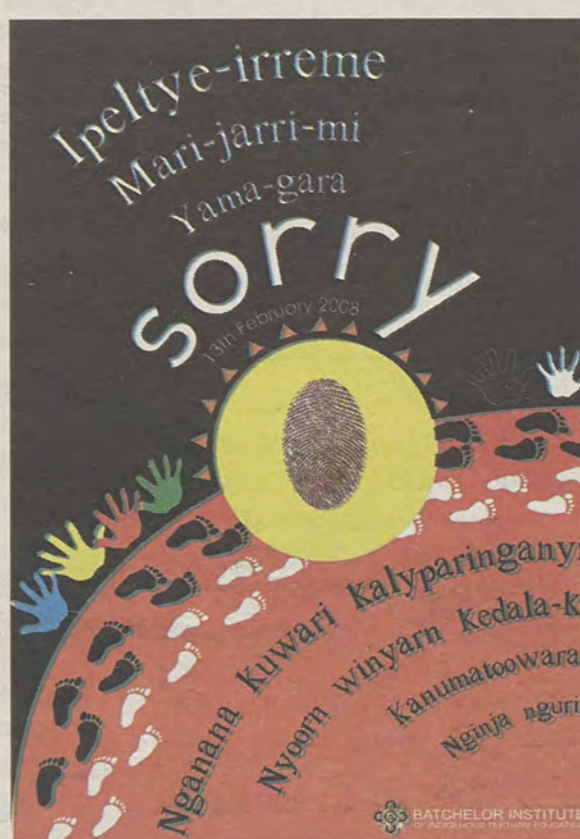


**For Zita Wallace, the apology justified years of struggle.**

they passed on.

“One of the Eastern Arrernte cultures is when a mother loses a child or when they lose anybody that person’s name is never ever mentioned again. It’s a sort of, even a stronger tie when a child dies.

“That child is never ever mentioned again so when I came back as a 42-year-old woman she said, ‘No, my baby’s spirit world. You’re



## Text of PM Rudd’s ‘sorry’ address

That today we honour the indigenous peoples of this land, the oldest continuing cultures in human history.

We reflect on their past mistreatment.

We reflect in particular on the mistreatment of those who were stolen generations - this blemished chapter in our nation’s history.

The time has now come for the nation to turn a new page in Australia’s history by righting the wrongs of the past and so moving forward with confidence to the future.

We apologise for the laws and policies of successive parliaments and governments that have inflicted profound grief, suffering and loss on these our fellow Australians.

We apologise especially for the removal of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children from their families, their communities and their country.

For the pain, suffering and hurt of these stolen generations, their descendants and for their families left behind, we say sorry.

To the mothers and the fathers, the brothers and the sisters, for the breaking up of families and communities, we say sorry.

And for the indignity and degradation thus inflicted on a proud people and a proud culture, we say sorry.

We the Parliament of Australia respectfully request that this apology be received in the spirit in which it is offered as part of the healing of the nation.

For the future we take heart; resolving that this new page in the history of our great continent can now be written.

We today take this first step by acknowledging the past and laying claim to a future that embraces all Australians.

A future where this parliament resolves that the injustices of the past must never, never happen again.

A future where we harness the determination of all Australians, indigenous and non-indigenous, to close the gap that lies between us in life expectancy, educational achievement and economic opportunity.

A future where we embrace the possibility of new solutions to enduring problems where old approaches have failed.

A future based on mutual respect, mutual resolve and mutual responsibility. A future where all Australians, whatever their origins, are truly equal partners, with equal opportunities and with an equal stake in shaping the next chapter in the history of this great country, Australia.

There comes a time in the history of nations when their peoples must become fully reconciled to their past if they are to go forward with confidence to embrace their future.

Our nation, Australia, has reached such a time.

# Alice Springs lightning football carnival 2008



**Anti-clockwise from the top: A Papunya Outstations Cats player soars above a Lajamanu Swans player; An Alcoota player breaks a tackle from his Mount Allan opponent; The Areyonga squad takes to Traeger Park; Lajamanu Swans drive forward.**

## Desert communities flock to footy festival

Community teams have done well at the 2008 AFL Central Australia Lightning Carnival in Alice Springs with Ti Tree performing the best by winning the second division in extra time.

Yuendumu was another strong performer, finishing runner-up in division one.

The two-day carnival, held on March 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>, attracted about 25 teams from across Central Australia, including Warburton in Western Australia.

About 5,000 spectators watched the 12 hours of football at Traeger Park in Alice Springs each day in what is a highlight for football fans in the region.

The lightning carnival provides small Aboriginal communities in Central Australia with the chance to enter their own team under rules that are more relaxed than the regular season.

In division two, Ti Tree won its way through to the grand final against Mount Allan (Yuelamu) by defeating the Ngannytjarra Devils in their semi-final.

Mt Allan overcame Plenty Highway to take its place in the grand final.

It was an exciting play-off for the silverware with the match going into extra time after Ti Tree and Mount Allen finished level on three goals apiece.

It took Ti Tree just another minute or so of extra time to score the golden point needed for victory.

Coach of the Roosters Kim Brown said the victory will bring some joy to the Stuart Highway community.

"It's good for Ti Tree. We've

struggled over the last few years," Brown said. "In the last game we showed what we can do. In the past we let our supporters down."

Ti Tree have combined with Central Anmatjere in the AFLCA's newly-formed competition this season that combines both the town and country leagues.

Central Anmatjere takes in the Mt Allan community, which Ti Tree defeated in the lightning carnival grand final.

Brown said the new combined Anmatjere team will field a competitive line-up.

Division one sides Yuendumu and Santa Teresa (Lyentye Apurte) had shown strong form throughout both days but each had varying success in their respective semi-finals.

Yuendumu won through to the grand final when it defeated Lajamanu, but Santa Teresa went down to the Power and Water under 18 development squad.

In the grand final, the development squad was too strong for the Magpies, recording a 6.5 (41) to 2.0 (12) victory.

The loss was disappointing for a team more accustomed to winning grand finals. Yuendumu has won three of the past four Country Cup grand finals.

Magpies coach Lindsay Williams was able to see a positive side though.

"It was a good build-up for the season," he said. "We're looking forward to the coming season and the new combined competition."

"It'll take community football to another level and we'll enjoy the challenge of playing against the town teams," Williams said.



# Alice Springs lightning football carnival 2008



Clockwise from above: The big men from the Papunya Outstations Cats and Lajamanu Swans fly for the ruck contest; A Warburton player in full flight; and, a united Papunya Outstations Cats take to the field.



Clockwise from above: the Papunya Outstations Cats show their pace; Areyonga and Warburton; Ti Tree celebrates its title and Areyonga clears under pressure.



# Better managed waterways the goal: NLC

If it wins an upcoming High Court ruling relating the rights to the water of Blue Mud Bay in Arnhemland, the Northern Land Council will manage tidal zones in the Northern Territory according to world's best practice.

The Northern Territory Government has appealed to the High Court against a Federal Court ruling that could give traditional owners exclusive access rights to about 80 per cent of the Territory's waterways.

In an effort to address the concerns of the powerful fishing lobby group, AFANT, NLC marine policy officer John Christophersen attended the AFANT AGM in Darwin, attended by around 100 recreational fishers.

Mr Christophersen said the NLC is trying to negotiate a 'win-win' situation between traditional owners and recreational fishers.

"What we are trying to pursue is the good management of fish in the NT that suits everybody," Mr Christophersen said.

"If you can sort out what is



NLC marine policy officer John Christophersen

good management, you then overcome the politics of fishing."

Christophersen, the first representative of the NLC to address the AFANT AGM, said, if managed properly, there was enough fish stocks for all user groups.

"We (NLC) believe there is room for everybody, and that all people – Aborigines, professional and recreational fishermen – should be able to go and catch a fish," he said.

A decision by the High Court of Australia is expected this year.

# YOLNGU LAW recognised in DVD



## Hope for improved cross-cultural understanding

Educating Yolngu people and legal practitioners in the existence of both mainstream Australian and Indigenous Yolngu law systems is the aim of a new DVD launched on Elcho Island recently.

Romgu Dhukarr Dhiyal (A Meeting of Two Laws): A Cross-Cultural Legal Education video in Yolngu Matha is the first in a series of DVDs, narrated in local Aboriginal languages.

Northern Territory Legal Aid Commission director Suzan Cox said in 2006 legal services from the Top End of the NT travelled to communities in north-eastern Arnhem Land to provide information about key legal issues in the area and evaluate the unmet legal need in the region.

"It was identified that Indigenous community members in the region did not have access to legal education about their rights and responsibilities under the Australian legal system in a language and context they understand," Ms Cox said.

The DVD, which was launched recently at the Galiwin'ku community, was developed in response to that need – the result of a collaboration between Commission

staff Delphine Dupont-Morris and Fiona Hussin and was produced in conjunction with Marthakal Homelands Resource Centre, Duduynngu, local film makers and clan leaders and filmed at Galiwin'ku.

It draws on the existing knowledge of structures of Yolngu law and governance in the region to explain foundational concepts about the Australian legal system.

Ms Cox said while an intended audience for this DVD is Yolngu people in the region, it is also important that those administer-

**"Indigenous community members in the region did not have access to legal education about their rights and responsibilities under the Australian legal system in a language and context they understand,"**

**Northern Territory Legal Aid Commission's Suzan Cox**

ing the Australian legal system understand the law and governance perspective of Aboriginal people in the region.

"This DVD can assist in enhancing cross-cultural understandings and respect between the co-existing Yolngu and Balanda (white) systems of law," Ms Cox said.

The next two DVDs in the series will be set at the Nguiu community on the Tiwi Islands, and the Aboriginal community at Tennant Creek, both will be produced in the languages of the region.

If your community wants a free copy of the DVD or is interested in making their own DVD for their area contact Fiona Hussin at Legal Aid in Darwin on (08) 8999 3000.

# CLC PHOTO ARCHIVE

## 5000 pictures and growing



Above: John Cusack looks for photos of relatives on the CLC's photo archive. The archive is now available to the public at reception at its head office in Alice Springs. It will be available in the Alice Springs Town Library soon as well as Tennant Creek. Other archives will be set up in communities in each of the CLC's regions.

# Tiwi Footy: a passion play in pictures

For almost 40 years Tiwi footballers have been turning it on for the crowds who make the annual pilgrimage to the Tiwi Islands Football League Grand Final.

Now, for the first time, a photographic book has been published that immortalises the Tiwi players' legendary skills.

Tiwi Footy - Yiloga is a lavishly presented 256-page photographic book by Darwin-based photographers Monica Napper and Peter Eve that celebrates every aspect of the big day, from the morning church service to the game itself and its aftermath.

Four years in the making, the book also features an evocative 6,000-word essay by renowned Territory author Andrew McMillan which has been faithfully translated into the Tiwi language by a team of islanders.

The book is the largest Australian sports publication ever to be translated into an Aboriginal language.

President of the Tiwi Islands Football League, Bernard Tipiloura, welcomed the book's publication, saying: "At last, a book we can look at and relive games and days gone by."

Maurice Rioli, Tiwi and Richmond footballing legend, said the book showcased to great effect the playing style Tiwi footballers are renowned for.

"Tiwi players have a standalone style - we call it 'Tiwi Magic,'" he said.

As well as showcasing the Grand Final, Tiwi Footy - Yiloga explores the mystery of why this tiny Aboriginal island community located some 80km north of Darwin in the Timor Sea should have produced so many champion footballers on the national stage.

The book relates how Tiwi football grew from humble beginnings, starting with games of force-'em-back in 1938 on the beach in front of the old mission at Nguui:

"There was no limit to the number of players on each side, indeed no rules

at all, just the ambition to kick the ball over a line drawn in the sand at the other

end of the beach. With that spectacle



- played on until after the sun had set - Tiwi interest in a form of football took hold."

It was in the post-War period that footy really took hold on the islands, helped along by the footy-mad Catholic missionary Brother John Pye. Games between different island communities led to the creation of the Nguilla Football League in 1969 and the rest, as they say, is history.

Tiwi Footy - Yiloga was launched at this year's Tiwi Footy Grand Final on Sunday 16 March, a game which produced a suitably thrilling finish with Melville Island's Imalu Tigers winning by two goals in the dying minutes over a gallant Tapalinga Superstars.



The book is available through selected bookshops and online at [www.tiwifootball.com.au](http://www.tiwifootball.com.au) for \$49.95 a book.

## YOLNGU COUNTRY IN SONG

Geoffrey Gurrumul Yunupingu's talent just grows and grows and his new album is receiving heavy airplay. And if he's playing near you? Don't miss out - it's a rare treat...

The performer that helped officially open the new headquarters of the Northern Land Council in Darwin has now released his debut solo album.

Geoffrey Gurrumul Yun-

upingu, a former member of Yothu Yindi, now with Saltwater Band, released 'Gurrumul' at a launch in Darwin recently.

Blind from birth, Geoffrey, or Gudjuk as he is also

called, is from the Gumatj nation, his mother from the Galpu nation, both from north-east Arnhemland.

Many in the music industry have lauded his haunting voice as he sings

in Yolngu Matha about his Gumatj country.

His solo performances are considered a rare treat and should not be missed.

Yunupingu has received good airplay from radio

stations in the Territory and his album is available now through deadly music stores, Parap markets and Skinnyfish Records on (08) 8941 8066.





Mia Christophersen, Preston Lee and Jamie Ah Fat

## 20 years of the Barunga Statement: Barunga Festival

It's on again!... Preparations for the annual Barunga Festival are in full swing, with 2008 marking the 23rd anniversary of one of the Northern Territory's biggest and most historic cultural festivals.

To ensure the event goes off with a minimum of fuss, the Jawoyn Association in Katherine has engaged the services of a full time festival coordinator to oversee this year's event.

"What makes this year's festival even more special than most is the celebration of the 20th anniversary of the Barunga Statement\*, Lisa Mumbin, Chairperson of the Jawoyn Association said.

"It's one of the Territory's premier festivals, its being going for 23-years, [and] this year is the 20th anniversary of the Barunga Statement which was presented to former Prime Minister, Bob Hawke."

As always, there will be plenty of sporting and cultural events to involve visitors and locals alike.

Enjoying success at last year's event, festival organisers have

once again joined forces with the Road Safety Division Drink Safe coordinators to encourage local, regional and interstate bands to compose a song promoting safe driving and road safety and to enter these songs into the Road Safety Song Competition warning of and encouraging people not to drink and drive.

This year will also see the introduction of a bungul competition for traditional dance troupes.

The introduction of a community forum in 2008 is a new initiative by the organising team, but one festival coordinator, Mia Christophersen, believes may be relevant given events in the Northern Territory during the past 10-months.

"Considering that last year Northern Territory communities were placed under the intervention, we are having a forum this year that will look at the past 20-years; what has been achieved; what has been lost; what has been gained; and what has been removed from Aboriginal communities," Mia

said.

"Considering what was written in the [Barunga] Statement, I think it is going to be a pretty interesting forum."

This year's festival is dedicated to Ngamutjulu Ngal Bagala (Wynjorrotj) and Ngapunun Bokmarnde (Andrews), two senior Jawoyn elders who have passed away since the 2007 festival.

*[\*... The Barunga Statement is a document presented in 1988 to the then Prime Minister of Australia, Bob Hawke, outlining Aboriginal peoples desires to have their rights recognised formally within the Australian Constitution. The document also called on the Australian Government to support Aborigines in the development of an International Declaration of Principles for Indigenous Rights, leading to an International Covenant. It also called on the Commonwealth Parliament to negotiate a Treaty or Compact recognising prior ownership; continued occupation and sovereignty; and affirming human rights and freedoms.]*



## Football the great teacher

Young men from all over the Northern Territory are making great advances in their study thanks to a football program based in Alice Springs.

The Clontarf Foundation is an organisation established by former Fremantle coach in the AFL, Gerard Neesham, which uses football as a means of improving attendance by Aboriginal boys and young men at schools in Western Australia and the Northern Territory.

Football is used as the carrot that encourages them to attend school, meet their study requirements and manage their behaviour in and outside school.

A coach with the Yirara Football Academy in Alice Springs, Joe Clarke, says there are now about 90 involved in the Clontarf program in Alice Springs.

They're involved in juniors, intermediate and senior levels.

He said they'd come from as far afield as Ngukurr on the Gulf of Carpentaria, Ernabella in South Australia and Warburton in Western Australia to be involved.

"They have to be good blokes off the field, be good at the boarding house, not get into fights," Clarke said. "They can't play if they're not training."

"It's a great program and you can really see the difference in the blokes from when they first started.

"It's not just about football, there's a heavy emphasis on schooling."

Christopher Munur has travelled down from Ngukurr to be involved in the Clontarf program and is enrolled in year eight at Yirara College.

"It's tough coming down. You miss family, the water," he said. "But I'm having good fun playing footy."

"Made some new friends. I like school. Footy helps me enjoy it more."

Each week, the Clontarf academy teams play football matches against local schools in Alice Springs and players who meet or surpass expectations at school, the boarding house and during football training, are rewarded with football trips outside Alice Springs.

**23<sup>rd</sup> ANNUAL BARUNGA FESTIVAL**  
**6-9 JUNE 2008**



Above: Anslem Impu jnr, Anslem Impu snr, Raymond Daniels and Joseph Campbell

## CAMEL MUSTER SENDS OFF 40 CAMELS

Only 400,000 more camels left to go ...

Traditional owners from an Aboriginal land trust west of Hermannsburg are hopeful a trickle of camels being transported to an Alice Springs abattoir will become a flood in the near future.

The 40-odd camels taken from the Undurana Camel Farm near the Undurana Outstation recently were processed at Gary Dann's Wamboden Abattoir.

Mr Dann is hopeful he'll be able to take an increasing number of the feral animals as

markets develop.

The camel farm was officially opened two years ago, but its progress as an enterprise for the traditional owners has been limited by a lack of viable markets, but with support from Santos' Indigenous Enterprise Program, traditional owner Anslem Impu and the outstation are pushing ahead with the plan.

Improved prices are helping to make the project economically viable.

"We hope we can send more camels

next time," Mr Impu said. "It's good for our young people to have work.

"We hope we can make some money by catching more camels."

The main goal of the project is for it to lead to meaningful employment for traditional owners still living on their country.

The Central Land Council assisted with the recent muster on the Undurana Camel Farm through its staff in the rural enterprise unit.



Anslem Impu Jnr and Joseph Campbell keep watch over an attempted escape

# War veterans and families urged to come forward

Aboriginal war veterans are being urged to contact the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) in Canberra who are compiling a comprehensive database of indigenous service personnel.

DVA is compiling a list to identify the service and sacrifice of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, both living and deceased, who served Australia in the following conflicts:

Boer War (1899-1902), World War One (1914-1918), World War Two (1935-1945), Malayan Emergency (1948-1960), Korean War (1950-1953), Malaysia/Borneo confrontation (1963-1966), Vietnam

(1962-1972), Gulf War One (1991), East Timor (1999-2002), Gulf War Two (ongoing), and Peacekeeping (1973 onwards).

DVA's Indigenous Veterans Policy Officer Bob Noble said when Aboriginal men and women joined the Defence Forces in the past there was no requirement to identify their cultural background.

The lack of this information has made it impossible to identify the service records of these men.

If you want to supply any information to the DVA please contact Mr Noble on (02) 6289 6205 or email: [robert.noble@dva.gov.au](mailto:robert.noble@dva.gov.au)

## ABS stats for NT: young population, language spoken, most rent

Indigenous people in the Northern Territory make up nearly a third of the population, most Indigenous people are under the age of 25, and most Indigenous households spoke an Indigenous language, according to an analysis of 2006 Census data by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS)

As at June 2006, the estimated Indigenous resident population in the Northern Territory was 66,582 (31.6% of all people in the Northern Territory).

Some key characteristics of the Indigenous population in the Northern Territory are as follows:

More than half (54%) of Indigenous respondents were under 25 years of age.

On average there were 4.5 people per Indigenous household.

An Australian Indigenous language was spoken at home by 59% of Indigenous respondents.

37% of respondents aged 15 years and over stated Year 8 or below as their highest level of schooling. 10% stated Year 12 or equivalent.

44 % of Indigenous respond-

ents aged 15 years and over were in the labour force. Of these respondents, unemployed persons accounted for 14%.

The most common occupations reported were labourers, community and personal service workers, and professionals (32%, 18% and 11% respectively).

The most common industries of employment reported were public administration and safety (35%), health care and social assistance (18%), and education and training (8%).

72% of Indigenous households were living in rented dwellings and 18% of households were living in dwellings that were owned with or without a mortgage.

Some of the key findings on a national basis in relation to Indigenous people included:

The estimated resident Indigenous population was 517,174 or 2.5% of the total population (up from 2.4% in 2001) at 30 June 2006;

The median age for Indigenous people was 21, compared with 37 for non-Indigenous people.

# CENTRAL AUSTRALIA: Police enforced terror

**"Aboriginal people were British subjects and, in theory, equally protected by the law as all other subjects. This was the official rhetoric."**

In the book, *In the Name of the Law*, Amanda Nettelbeck and Robert Foster outline a mountain of evidence from Central Australia's pastoral frontier in the late 1800s that proved otherwise.

People considering this book should be warned that it covers the sad topic of policed massacres of Aboriginal people in the region which were done, as the book title suggests, in the name of the law.

This book should be disturbing for any person reading it, but it will be especially troubling for those people in Central Australia who have memories of family members talking of such murders.

Even someone relatively new to the region will recognise names mentioned in this book, of families and places, of stations and communities, and so this familiarity gives its contents greater resonance.

The following extract sums up policing in Central Australia in the latter half of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century.

It refers to the use of the native police force to patrol the region and the involvement of mounted constable Erwin Wurmbrand, who led several parties that may have included local station owners and staff, to track Aboriginal people who were accused of cattle killing or attacks on stations.

"In June 1885, Wurmbrand reported that while on patrol in April-May, a clash had occurred that resulted in the death of one Aboriginal man among a party of over 20.

"The Hermannsburg missionaries, however, heard from another member of the patrol party, a Glen Helen station stockman, that 17 Aboriginal people had been killed.

"Asked for an explanation by his superiors, Wurmbrand reiterated his original report, and there the matter rested.

"William Benstead, one-time manager of Glen Helen station, had accompanied Wurmbrand on this

patrol and wrote about it years later in his memoir.

"What happened that day,' he continues, 'it is a thing of the past, and of little use writing up now; but I am sure that seventeen out of this lot never killed or troubled anyone else.'

"The consequence of this raid, Benstead wrote: 'It was a lesson they never forgot. It instilled fear into their tribe for 200 miles around, and was the means of putting an end to their murderous attempts.'"

The book goes on to quote Alice Springs historian Dick Kimber as suggesting official records put the killing of Aboriginal people in the Centre between 1860 and 1895 at about 44.

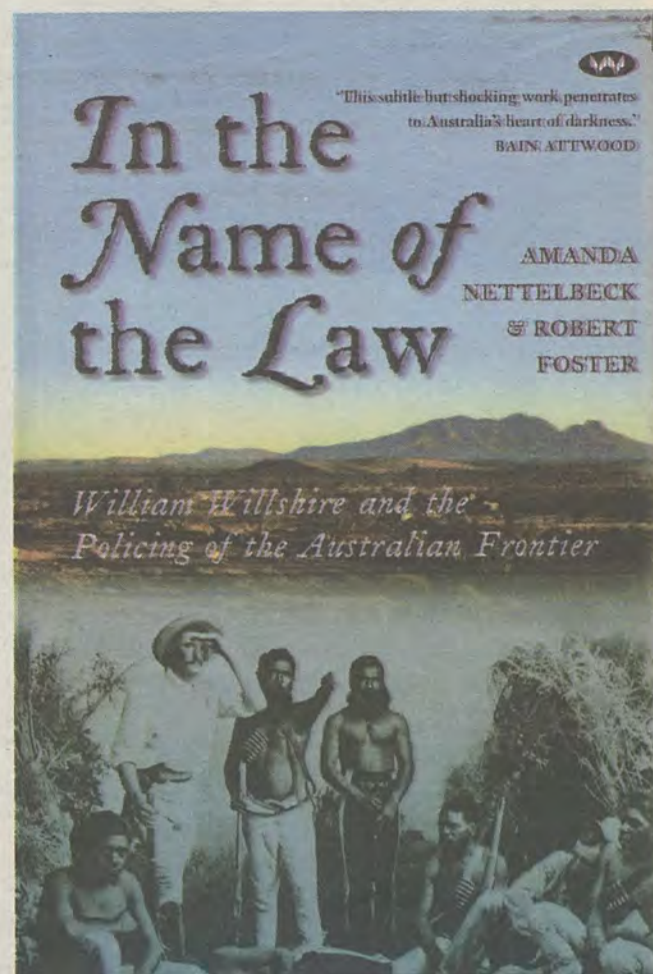
By Mr Kimber's own analysis of other evidence though, a figure closer to 650 people is estimated.

*In the Name of the Law* focuses

on the deeds of Mounted Constable William Willshire who commanded the corps of native police in Central Australia that Wurmbrand belonged to in the 1880s.

Willshire who was notorious in the region for his violent handling of Aboriginal people in Central Australia, was tried in 1891 for the murder of two Aboriginal men, was acquitted of the charge, and wrote about his experiences in memoirs.

It brings into stark clarity the violent history Central Australia has been built on and tears down many of the romantic notions the legend of the Outback has dined out on for so many years.



***In the Name of the Law*: essential but disturbing reading.**

## Preserving language for future generations

**More than a dozen Aboriginal language consultants in Katherine have been recognised for their hard work and expertise.**

Katherine's Regional Aboriginal language centre, Diwurruwurru-jaru Aboriginal Corporation (DAC), presented the awards at their Annual General Meeting in Katherine.

The awards recognise efforts to revitalise and represent Aboriginal languages. More than 30 languages in the region are endangered and the work of the consultants is critical to maintaining culture and language.

Helen Morris won Language Worker-of-the-Year for her work learning about and helping with documentation and preservation of Gurindji language.

Jessie Brown won Interpreter-of-the-Year for her expertise as an interpreter of Kriol, Ngarinyman and Gurindji, and for her initiative and tirelessness doing back-to-back bush trips looking for new interpreters.

Queenie and Marie Brennan won Translators-of-the-Year for a 6000 word Kriol translation of a guide to court procedures commissioned by Katherine Women's Information and Legal Service.

A Ngarinyman story told by Eileen Roberts, illustrated by Noeline Nemit, and a Ngaliwurru story told and illustrated by Doris Roberts won language Resource-of-the-Year. The books were transcribed and made by Josie Roberts and Colleen McQuay.

Josie Roberts also won Student-of-the-Year for participation in the Ngarinyman Own Language Work course, run through Batchelor Institute and DAC and her skills transcribing many Ngarinyman recordings.

Language Team-of-the-Year was awarded to Freda and Betty Roberts and John and Aaron Joshua of Ngukurr for their dedication to teaching Marra Language at Ngukurr School.

Ngarinyman man Peter Waterloo was awarded Story Teller-of-

the-Year for his captivating stories about his life

Ivy Hector Nambijina-Nangari, who passed away in 2007, was recognised for her life-time achievement in language revitalisation and maintenance of Bilinarra language.



**The late Ivy Hector Nambijina-Nangari recognised for preserving the Bilinarra language.**

# Willowra Reading night

continued from page 11



Willowra Senior students welcome their new Principal and class teacher, Jacqueline Israel; Right: Willowra students and their families turn up for the first Family Reading Night at Willowra School. Below right: Maisie Kitson leading a reading activity with the junior class and members of their families.



## Social Justice/Native Title Report – Tom Calma

Modifying the Northern Territory (NT) intervention legislation to maximise protection of children from abuse without racially discriminating against Indigenous people is just one major element of a 10 point plan outlined in the Social Justice Report 2007.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner, Tom Calma, said the plan involved proposed changes to the NT intervention legislation so that it maximised protection of children and families.

"In putting forth this plan, I note that the new federal government emphasised the importance of ensuring that the NT intervention is consistent with Australia's human rights obligations," Mr Calma said.

"But the fact is, as long as the NT intervention al-

lows the conduct of racially discriminatory actions it will lack legitimacy among Aboriginal people and communities as well as the broader Australian society."

In his Native Title Report 2007, Commissioner Calma called for an immediate review and a national summit to discuss ways to improve operations of Australia's native title system.

Commissioner Calma said the Native Title Act was passed 15-years ago with the intention of protecting and promoting the rights of Indigenous Australians, but the system was now too complex, too legalistic and effectively gridlocked.

"The system does not seem to be effectively recognising and protecting native title," Mr Calma said. "We need to rethink the entire system with an open mind

and focus on increasing the recognition of native title strengthening its protection," Mr Calma said.

"It is vital to Indigenous people and their future that their rights and interest in country according to their traditional laws and customs are recognised.

Recognition and protection of native title is critical to advancing reconciliation between Australia's past and present, and between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians."

The reports, produced annually by the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission through the office of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner, consider the impact of government activity on the exercise and enjoyment of Indigenous people's human rights.

### TOM CALMA'S 10-POINT ACTION PLAN

- Restore all rights to procedural fairness and external merits review under the NT intervention legislation;
- Reinstate protections against racial discrimination in the operation of the NT intervention legislation;
- Amend or remove the provisions that declare that the legislation constitutes a 'special measure';
- Reinstate protections against discrimination in the Northern Territory and Queensland;
- Require consent to be obtained in the management of Indigenous property and amend the legislation to confirm the guarantee of just terms compensation;
- Reinstate the CDEP program and review the operation of the income management scheme so that it is consistent with human rights;
- Review the operation and effectiveness of the alcohol management schemes under the intervention legislation;
- Ensure the effective participation of Indigenous people in all aspects of the intervention – Developing Community Partnership Agreements;
- Set a timetable for the transition from an 'emergency' intervention to a community development plan; and,
- Ensure stringent monitoring and review processes.

# Bilinarra elder passes away but her legacy continues

Ivy Hector Nambijina-Nangari was born in 1935 and was regarded as one of the last speakers of her language Bilinarra.

Bilinarra is a severely endangered Indigenous language of the Victoria River District.

Throughout her life, Ivy dedicated herself to keeping her language and culture strong in her remote community of Nijburru (also known as Pigeon Hole - 450km south-west of Katherine). Sadly, Ivy passed away on November 13 last year.

Ivy was the holder of an enormous amount of knowledge about the Bilinarra lan-

guage and culture and with her passing, she takes much of it, which is irreplaceable.

Thankfully though, her work and achievements over the past two decades are great and form a legacy that will be carried on by future generations of Bilinarra.

She worked closely with the Katherine Regional Aboriginal Language Centre to maintain the Bilinarra language and culture.

Ivy was instrumental in developing the Bilinarra Language Program at Pigeon Hole School, a program that has helped maintain Bilinarra Language and Culture for new generations and this work con-

tinues today with the help of Ivy's daughters and other community members from Pigeon Hole.

In 1990, Ivy, with other Bilinarra people who have since passed away, worked on the first dictionary and grammar book of the Bilinarra language.

In 2003, she was a part of the *Bilinarra Dreaming Sites* project, which recorded valuable information about sacred sites on Bilinarra country.

Then, in 2004, Ivy commenced work with NT Parks and Wildlife to document traditional knowledge about plants and animals found on Bilinarra country.

Her dedication to the task saw it completed this year and will result in the publication of a Bilinarra Plants and Animals book.

Ivy's story, *Ngayiny Jaru Jarragab*, won first prize in Northern Territory Department of Education's Indigenous story writing competition in 2005.

Ivy grew up and worked on a variety of stations in the VRD area and was a key claimant and witness for the Bilinarra Land Claim that saw part of Bilinarra country handed back to Traditional Owners in 2002.

Although the Bilinarra people have lost a great elder, Ivy's legacy is a strong one and is instrumental in helping Bilinarra people continue to maintain their language and culture for generations to come.



Ivy Hector sitting at a Nangangari Dreaming site.



Donald Mack was the first Aboriginal person to umpire football in Alice Springs.

## A SUPER ROO until the end

Donald Mack fought to the very end without complaining about anything.

He was born at Alcoota on the 21st June 1927, on the western side under a big gidjea tree.

He lived there until about six and later Waite River. Don grew up in the bush living and playing with other children and remembered a wonderful childhood.

He started work as a young teenager at Woodgreen station, working at the stock camp and breaking in horses.

At the age of 20, Don left Woodgreen for Mt Ebenezer Station and then Angus Downs.

Later in Alice Springs he worked for the Municipal Department clearing the Todd River of Bathurst burr and spent some time as a rock crusher.

In 1957, he joined with the Department

of Works as a truck driver but then set about completing two years correspondence schooling and exams to win his dream job at the Arid Zone Research Institute as the only blood pathologist.

The job involved testing cattle for brucellosis and tuberculosis from Adelaide River to Alice Springs and beyond. He was given the coat of arms by the NT Government for his 30 years service.

He was president of the South Alice Springs Football Club for many years, contacting various AFL clubs for support when trying to set up the club.

The only club to reply to Don's requests was the North Melbourne Football Club, which helped him establish a corporation for Souths.

Don was a Super Roo from beginning to the end and was also the first Aboriginal football umpire in Alice Springs.

## Former NLC chairman remembered

Mr Blitner, who was Northern Land Council chairman from 1980 to 1983 and deputy chairman for 18 years, passed away in February at the age of 87.

Current NLC chairman Wali Wunungmurra paid tribute to a long-time campaigner for Aboriginal land rights.

"(Mr Blitner) was a mentor to me and many others," Mr Wunungmurra said.

"He was a great bloke, and a real fighter for the rights of Aboriginal people."

Born on the banks of the Roper River in 1920, Mr Blitner was taken away to the mission at Emerald River Station on Groote Eylandt (Anindilyakwa) as a child.

He helped develop pearling and trepang industries on the island and during World War Two he served as a scout for the Royal Australian Air Force. Later he was employed at BHP's Gemco manganese mine.

A memorial service was held in Darwin, followed by a traditional funeral on Groote Eylandt.

# AROUND THE TERRITORY



Above: Cattle being mustered on Waliburru Station, an Aboriginal-owned property in the Roper River region.



Above: Clontarf Football Academy student at Yirara College in Alice Springs, Christopher Munur.



Above right: Hanging out at Ukaka



Left: Levitta Corbett and Venice Rankine at Mungkarta community south of Tennant Creek.



Right: Raymond Daniels, Joseph Campbell, Anslem Impu Snr and Anslem Impu Jnr on Undurana Camel Farm west of Hermannsburg.

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