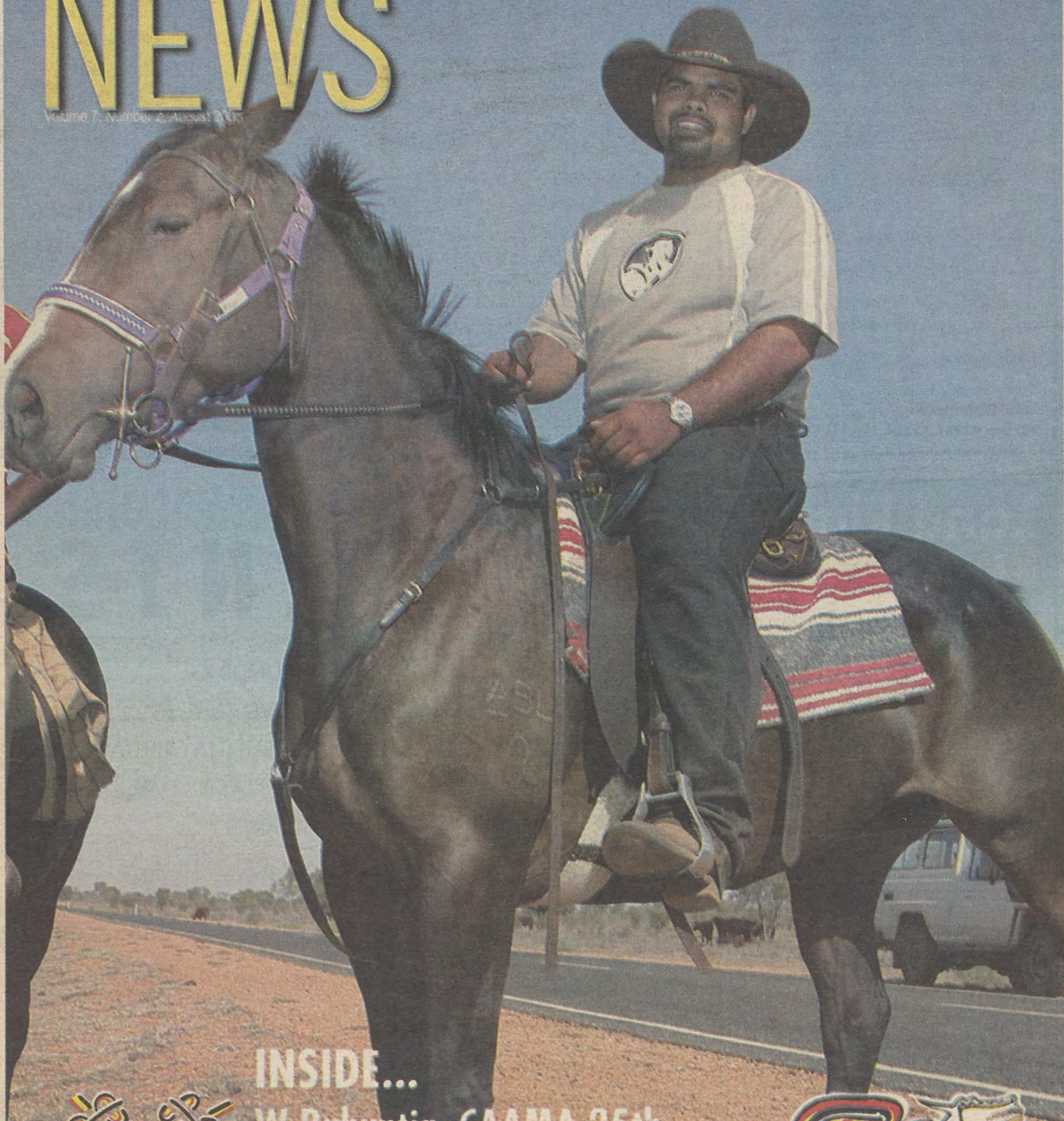


LAND RIGHTS NEWS

Volume 7, Number 2, August 2005



INSIDE...

W Rubuntja, CAAMA 25th,
Land Management special feature
camel pizzas and more...



ONE MOB ONE VOICE ONE LAND

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CASEY HOLMES AT POLICEMANS WATERHOLE IN MAY

Land Rights NEWS

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COVER PHOTO

MICHAEL KUNOTH PREPARES TO TAKE CATTLE FROM LOVES CREEK STATION NEAR ALICE SPRINGS TO ABORIGINAL LAND NEAR TENNANT CREEK TO ESCAPE THE DROUGHT CONDITIONS OF CENTRAL AUSTRALIA

FAREWELL CHIEF

THE ALICE SPRINGS CONVENTION CENTRE WAS FILLED LAST MONTH WITH MORE THAN 1200 MOURNERS TO FAREWELL MR W. RUBUNTJA, OR 'THE CHIEF', AS HE WAS FONDLY KNOWN BY MANY WHO KNEW HIM.

The prayers were held in Arrernte and English with both Catholic and Lutheran ministers, including Mr Rubuntja's brother, Pastor Eli Rubuntja.

Mr Rubuntja AM was given a state funeral, a first for an Aboriginal person in the Northern Territory,

to recognise his work fighting for land rights, protecting Aboriginal sacred sites and promoting reconciliation.

Tributes flowed from the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Amanda Vanstone, the Chief Minister Clare Martin and friends and family, many of whom spoke about Mr Rubuntja's sense of humour, his tolerance and his vision.

Tracker Tilmouth read the eulogy and the ladies from the Areyonga Choir led the hymns in Luritja.

Justices Eames QC, the very first lawyer to work at the Central Land Council, spoke of

Mr Rubuntja's trip to meet Malcolm Fraser in 1976 when he took a tjuringa to prove the Aboriginal connection to country.

It was this meeting that sealed the decision by Fraser to retain the Land Rights Act as Commonwealth legislation despite considerable pressure by the Northern Territory politicians to have it as territory law.

Justice Eames said that in all his years practicing law Mr Rubuntja was still the best mediator he had ever come across.

One of the most



THE FUNERAL PROCESSION LED BY PASTOR ELI RUBUNTJA, PASTOR DAVEY INKAMALA AND FATHER PAT HEALY

powerfully moving tributes came from Mr Rubuntja's son Mervyn who spoke of his father's gentle personal-

ity and the wonderful tales he told of his meetings and travels during his time as the Chairman of the

Central Land Council. Obituary see page 21

Nuclear waste to be dumped on Central Australia

THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT RECENTLY PROPOSED THREE POSSIBLE SITES FOR A NUCLEAR WASTE DUMP IN THE NORTHERN TERRITORY - TWO NEAR TO ALICE SPRINGS AND ONE JUST SOUTH OF KATHERINE

The Director of the Central Land Council (CLC), Mr David Ross said today that there had been no approach from the Federal Government about locating a nuclear waste dump in Central Australia prior to the public announcement.

"I think people in Canberra just looked at a map and thought it looked remote and empty.

"However, the two proposed sites in Central Australia - Mt Everard and Harts Range - are close to people's homes and communities," he said. "There must be a process for consent."

"No-one wants a nuclear waste dump in their backyard and I am sure that traditional owners will have deep concerns about their safety, risks to the environment and the transportation of the nuclear waste.

"In September last year the Australian Government assured Territorians there would be no waste dump sites in the NT.

"The next we hear about it, the sites have already been chosen. Minister Nelson's media statement today does not even acknowledge that the Territory Government has already legislated to ban the transport and disposal of federal nuclear waste in the Territory and this position is also supported by the Leader of the Opposition, Jodeen Carney.

"The views of Territorians - both black and white - do not seem to be important to this government.

"We have all watched the courageous struggle of the Kupa Piti Kungka Tjuta to stop this dump being built on their country nearby in SA, and some

of those women have recently visited Alice Springs to talk about their experience. It would seem that the Australian Government has not learnt anything from the defeat of the waste dump proposal in SA."

The women of Kupa Piti Kungka Tjuta have already begun a campaign to help the people of Central Australia fight the dump.

In a letter to the Northern Territory News soon after the announcement they urged Territorians to fight the proposal. "We just wanted to say to everyone don't give up, just keep on going. We kept on going and we won. We were always talking strong over and over. ...We say keep the poison at Lucas Heights where they make it. We have



EMILY MUNYUNGKA AUSTIN AND EILEEN KAMPAKUTA BROWN

been saying that all along. We don't want the poison in trucks, driving along any road. It's just too dangerous."

South Australian Premier Mike Rann is also opposed to the dump being located in the Territory.

He told ABC Radio that waste on its way to the Territory would

be trucked through South Australia and that was unacceptable and he would campaign against it.

NT Minister for Environment and Heritage Marion Scrymgour said the NT Government was asking Territorians to sign a petition "which asks the Commonwealth government not to

overturn the Territory's legislation banning the transport and disposal of nuclear waste in the Territory.

"It also asks the CLP's Dave Tollner and Nigel Scullion to stand up for the Territory and oppose the dump - and if necessary cross the floor in Parliament," she said.

Aboriginal members lead the way in Territory politics

"I come here today to join four other Aboriginal members: two Aboriginal brothers; two Aboriginal sisters. They share with me a special moment in the history of the Northern Territory and this parliament. We continue a tradition which began on the Labor side of this Chamber with the election of Wesley Lanhupuy and Stanley Tipiloura. Both died, tragically, well before their time. I am conscious of their legacy to this Parliament."

Member for Macdonnell, Alison Anderson addressing Parliament in Luritja.

The Territory election was a landslide victory by the Labor Government who took control of parliament with a majority of seats for its second term.

It was a historic and proud moment for

"I publicly recommit myself to fighting any changes to the *Aboriginal Land Rights Act* that do not come with the free and informed consent of traditional owners.

"The same applies to any proposal that does



NEW MLA ALISON ANDERSON ON THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL IN MAY

Aboriginal people as five Aboriginal members took up their roles as members of Parliament.

Three members re-elected to parliament include Member for Arafura, Marion Scyngour; Member for Barkly, Elliott McAdam and Member for Millner, Matthew Bonson.

Two new members gave their maiden speeches to colleagues, family and friends as they embarked on their new political career.

The member for Macdonnell, Alison Anderson showed her true fighting spirit as she spoke strongly about issues affecting her electorate.

not respect the wishes of the old people who own the land.

"We must continue to fight the appalling conditions in our Aboriginal communities without destroying the hard-won rights of those who live there," said Ms Anderson.

The new member for Arnhem, Barbara McCarthy, emphasised her passion to improve the future for young people in her electorate and the Territory.

Ms McCarthy is a Yanyuwa woman from Borroloola in the Gulf of Carpentaria, who is also well known by many as an



BARBARA MCCARTHY

ABC journalist and presenter.

"One of the strong themes emerging from my visits to the communities is youth.

"The future of the Northern Territory's young people is of deep concern to me and is one of the guiding reasons as to why I decided to enter politics.

"So many young Territorians in our remote regions continue to have a sense of hopelessness about their opportunities for the future.

"The lure of substance abuse and crime-related activities become too familiar a pastime for many of our youth.

"These young people are our future leaders and, more than ever before, we need to embrace that fact and provide for them real opportunities for a good future, whether in an urban setting or a remote region," said Ms McCarthy.

New NLC Chairman John Daly

The Northern Land Council (NLC) has a new Chair following the resignation of former Chairman, Mr Binalany Gunbalga due to illness.

Former Deputy Chair, Mr John Daly will replace Mr Gunbalga following his election to the position at the recent NLC Full Council meeting held at Lake Bennett during April.

A Nanggiwumerrie man from the Daly River region southwest of Darwin, Mr Daly said he is acutely aware of the challenges that lay ahead, and was committed to continuing to pursue economic, cultural and social opportunities for Aboriginal people.

"Obtaining economic stability, gaining access to capacity building opportunities, achieving educational out-



NEW NLC CHAIRMAN, JOHN DALY

comes, and assisting Aboriginal people in their efforts to develop their land are all tasks to aspire to," Mr Daly said.

"Aboriginal involvement in the economy of the Northern Territory should be recognised. I and the NLC will be working hard to ensure that this is achieved."

In announcing his decision to resign, Mr Gunbalga said recent hospitalisation due to ill health had forced

the decision upon him.

"Unfortunately, due to my health concerns, I do not feel confident that I can provide the maximum effort required to contribute to the possible challenges that lie ahead for the NLC." Mr Gunbalga said.

Mr Samuel Bush-Blanasi from Beswick in the Katherine region fills the vacant Deputy Chairperson's position following Mr Daly's election to the Chair.

Private land on native title conference agenda

A lively debate regarding the status of Aboriginal land set the scene for an interesting and informative National Native Title Conference held recently in the New South Wales (NSW) coastal city of Coff's Harbour.

The debate centred on a presentation by members of the National Indigenous Council (NIC) to representatives of Native Title Representative Bodies (NTRB's).

NIC members presented a draft Indig-

enous land tenure principles that were later adopted by the NIC at their third meeting held in Canberra.

One of the NIC principles states that; "the consent of traditional owners should not be unreasonably withheld for requests for individual lease-hold interests for contemporary purposes."

This principle in particular was a concern to many at the conference that were worried that the NIC appeared to be calling for

a broad compulsory acquisition power.

Northern Land Council Chairman, John Daly, said that Aboriginal land should not be forcibly offered for private sale, and was not a realistic option for Aboriginal people.

"People have fought and died to have their traditional lands returned to them," Mr Daly said.

"Offering it for private sale is simply not a consideration for many Aboriginal people in the Northern Territory."

Skull returned to country

WITH A FEW HANDFULS OF RED SOIL HITTING A SMALL PINE BOX, AMIDST THE SINGING OF SENIOR SONG MEN, A CEREMONY ON THE BARKLY TABLELAND CLOSED THE FINAL CHAPTER IN A SORRY LIFE PREMATURELY TAKEN A CENTURY BEFORE.

"We finally lay this man to rest, and know that he rests in peace in his own country after being taken away before his time," said Harold Thomas junior, the designer of the internationally recognised Aboriginal flag, who has family connections to the land surrounding the gravesite at Anthony Lagoon pastoral station.

Mr Thomas jnr, who with his father, Harold Thomas senior, joined countrymen Tony Cutta, Jacky Green, and Ted Lowe, and their families, as well as Anthony Lagoon station manager Ian Rush, to honour the return of the man's remains.

Harold Thomas senior and Gladys Cutta are the only two surviving Mingaringki (father's country traditional owners), while senior song and dance men from the region oversaw the ceremony.

The burial ceremony marked the return to country of a skull of an adult male taken from the area over a

century before and sent to Edinburgh University in the early 1900s.

The skull is clearly of a murder victim, with a bullet entry wound in the back of the skull and an exit wound in the front.

The path of the bullet suggests deliberate execution rather than defence, and it was raised by traditional owners at the ceremony that the unfortunate man was victim of one of the many 'hunting parties' conducted by sections of the pastoral industry in the 1900s.

The skull was collected by Dr William Ramsay Smith of Adelaide probably between 1900 and 1903 and then sent to the United Kingdom.

Ramsay Smith was the state coroner and it is possible he obtained the skull through local police in the course of a coronial investigation.

Alternatively, he was a man of suspect ethics who collected remains widely from South Australia and the NT at

this time and the details of the death and of their transfer into his possession may not have been documented.

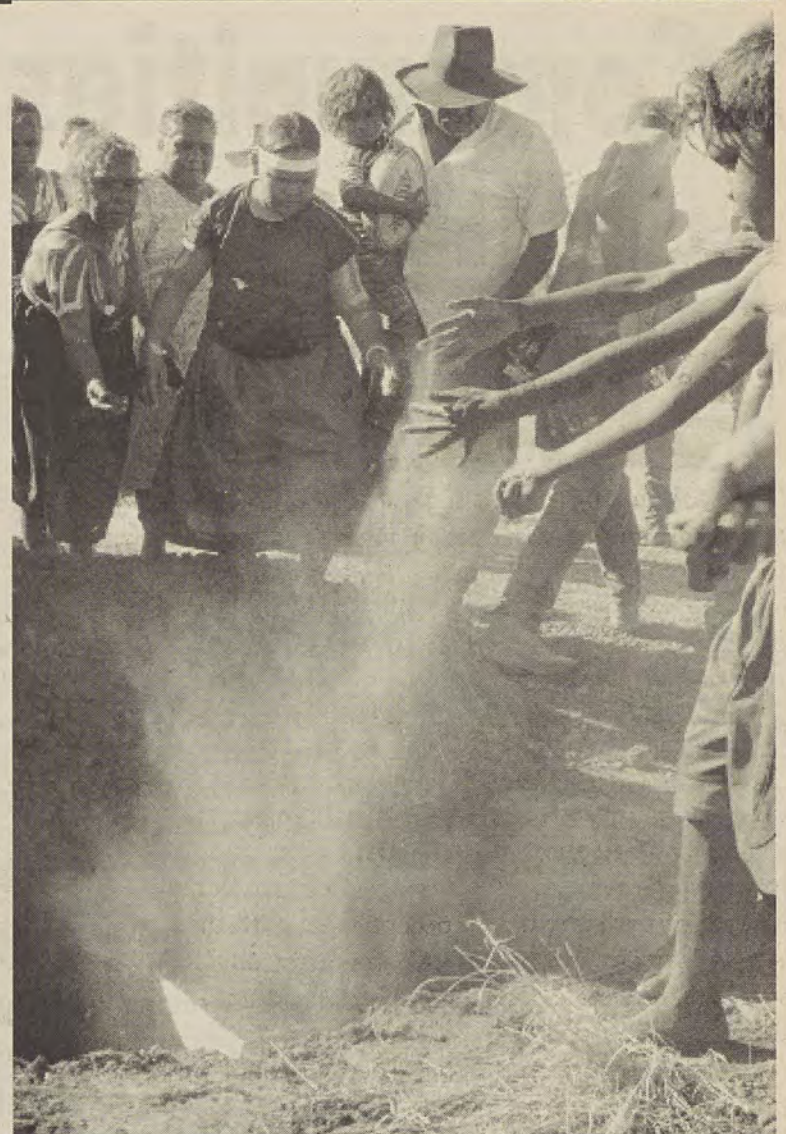
Jacky Green spoke strongly about Aboriginal people in the NT being 'the backbone of the pastoral industry' despite deriving little or no benefit for the sacrifice that went into developing the industry to what it is today.

The return to country of Aboriginal remains has been part of a repatriation campaign in recent years by museums in Australia and around the world.

National Museum of Australia (NMA) repatriation director Dr Michael Pickering said the NMA is committed to the repatriation of Indigenous ancestral remains.

"The National Museum seeks to return these remains to their country and to return legal ownership to those people entitled to care for them," Dr Pickering said.

"The repatriation unit is continuing background



THE REMAINS OF ANTHONY LAGOON MAN FINALLY LAID TO REST

research into the history and provenance of ancestral remains held by the Museum."

In relation to DNA testing of the skull to determine his identity, Dr Pickering explained whilst it was possible to do, the process was expensive, time-consuming and may only give a very general blueprint.

Section 71 of the Aboriginal Land Rights Act (NT) provides for Aboriginal burials on Aboriginal land which means that the Cemeteries Act, which ensures human remains are kept within a cemetery, does not apply.

Camel pizza the hit of Docker River

IT COMES WITH EXTRA CHEESE, PLENTY OF CAMEL AND THE MEGA FAMILY SIZE ONLY COSTS YOU 20 BUCKS DELIVERED TO THE DOOR.

That is if you live in Docker River, west of Alice Springs near the WA border.

Camel pizza has taken off in the community, along with camel stew, camel chilli con carne, and all other combinations of camel thanks to a youth program partly funded by the Juvenile Diversionary Program and Family and Community Services.

Youth workers Pauline Fietz and Mark Swindells say that the young men and women of Docker River have overcome a sentimental aversion to eating camel and now embrace this new source of food enthusiastically.

"We did have a camel project here which built a camel stockade but a collapse in the camel market left the

community with no demand for camels.

So the young fellas go out with Mark and shoot and butcher a beast. It's up to the kungkas to cook it up and it all works pretty well," Ms Fietz said.

"There are huge benefits of eating these stews packed with chickpeas, beans and vegies. Some of the skinny kids are putting on weight and every day the kids sing out 'we want camel stew'.

"We only aim to feed the kids. If there is any left over then adults can buy a feed for \$4.

The pizzas are intended to fundraise for the youth programme, with kids taking the orders and doing all the preparation and delivery

"Camels are a great resource and they are supplying some badly needed protein to some of these young kids who are anaemic.

Nobody could afford to eat this well if the camels weren't free," she said.



PACKED WITH PROTEIN AND THE CAMELS ARE FREE

Communities sign up for SRAs

TEN COMMUNITIES AND COMMUNITY GROUPS IN CENTRAL AUSTRALIA HAVE NEGOTIATED SHARED RESPONSIBILITY AGREEMENTS WITH THE COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENT THROUGH THE INDIGENOUS COORDINATION CENTRES.

Alice Springs Manager of the Indigenous Coordination Centre (ICC), Ross McDougall, says that the obligations of the community are not difficult.

"They are usually things the community has thought about which would help make it a better place to live.

"A Shared Responsibility Agreement is only 'supplementary funding'. It does not replace the recurrent funding which Gov-

ernment puts into communities and while it is monitored, there are no penalties."

"These initial SRAs are laying the foundation for more complex and comprehensive agreements in the future. As we establish trust and build partnerships with the communities we will move on to more comprehensive agreements which, for example, underpin comprehensive community plans" said minister for Indigenous Affairs, Senator Amanda

Vanstone.

Senator Vanstone, has announced Government approval of over \$660 million for Indigenous programs in 2005-06 and details of 24 new Shared Responsibility Agreements (SRAs).

FULL DETAILS OF SRAS SIGNED BY COMMUNITIES ARE ON PAGE 19. IT GIVES A GOOD INDICATION OF THE TYPES OF IDEAS THE GOVERNMENT IS LOOKING FOR TO QUALIFY FOR FUNDING

Education the key

CLC DIRECTOR DAVID ROSS SAYS EDUCATION FOR ABORIGINAL CHILDREN IS VITAL BUT TYING SCHOOL ATTENDANCE TO WELFARE PAYMENTS MAY NOT BE THE WAY TO GO FORWARD.

Mr Ross was responding to Cape York leader, Noel Pearson's comments last month suggesting people lose their payments if they do not send their children to school.

"I am not so sure that starving people into education is the way to go because it means that the children are the first to suffer."

"We do recognise that school attendance is vital and that truancy is one of the biggest problems.

"All states have Education Acts with penalties for parents of truant children but governments seem reluctant to pursue and enforce them in remote

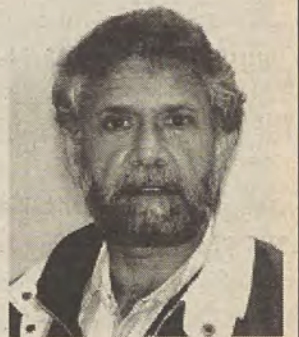
areas. You'll quickly get a call if your kid doesn't show up to a town school but it's tolerated in remote areas.

"In the Northern Territory, we also have the Collins Report which clearly mapped the problems and gave plenty of practical recommendations.

"Unfortunately for Aboriginal kids, very few of these recommendations have been implemented.

"Education is an excellent issue to base mutual responsibility agreements on.

"However it is doubtful that the Government would be able to keep its side of the bargain given the deplorable state of our



CLC DIRECTOR DAVID ROSS

bush schools – short teaching hours or a visiting teacher two days a fortnight are commonplace for some of our communities," Mr Ross said.

"The government should legislate for benchmarks in health and education outcomes as is done in some other countries. That would certainly make bureaucrats more accountable."

Wadeye mounts legal challenge

THE REMOTE NORTHERN TERRITORY COMMUNITY OF WADEYE IS EXAMINING ITS LEGAL OPTIONS FOLLOWING THE RELEASE OF THE LANDMARK TAYLOR REPORT EARLIER THIS YEAR.

The Commonwealth Government, as part of the Coalition of Australian Governments (COAG) trail at Wadeye, recently commissioned the report analysing government expenditure in the Wadeye community and region. The report entitled: 'The Opportunity Costs of the Status Quo in the Thamarrur Region' was written by John Taylor and Owen Stanley of the Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy (CAEPR).

The CAEPR report found that government

spending in Wadeye on positive areas such as education was significantly below expenditure in areas such as Darwin.

The original report found that only 26 cents was being spent in Wadeye for every dollar spent on the average NT child. (The NT Government has recently revised their figures to reflect an expenditure of 47-cents.)

Representatives from the Thamarrur Regional Council, along with officials from the Northern Land Council (NLC) recently met with the Castan Centre for Human Rights Law (Monash University) and leading Melbourne law firm Arnold Bloch Leibler. The Castan Centre

will examine the human rights failures while Arnold Bloch Leibler will advise the Wadeye community on their legal options.

"We understand that education is very important for our children," Boniface Namarluk, a representative from the Wadeye community said.

"Aboriginal people have aspirations for an education, for jobs, for economic development. But we have no future if we don't get a decent education.

"We need to give every kid in Thamarrur a chance at life."

NLC Chairman, John Daly, said: "We support the community of Wadeye in their fight for a better future for their children.

"This has been a long-term problem. The

under-funding of Aboriginal communities in the Northern Territory has been ongoing for over 30-years. It's time something was done about it and the Taylor report in part provides us with vital figures and information that has been unavailable to us in the past.

"People need to remember that this is an issue that confronts all Aboriginal communities in the Northern Territory.

"Aboriginal people want to take control of their future and lift themselves out of poverty.

To do that we need to provide our kids a decent education."

Melissa Castan of the Castan Centre for Human Rights Law said the Taylor report pro-



PRIME MINISTER, JOHN HOWARD VISITED WADEYE IN APRIL

vided a strong basis for improving the education of children in Wadeye.

"The failure to

provide basic education is a fundamental violation of human rights," Ms Castan said.

Community benefits from Uluru gate money

THE CENTRAL LAND COUNCIL IS DEVELOPING A NEW PROJECT TO APPLY A PORTION OF ULURU-KATA TJUTA NATIONAL PARK RENT PAYMENTS TOWARDS COMMUNITY PROJECTS THAT WILL BENEFIT ABORIGINAL COMMUNITIES, INCLUDING THE MANY TRADITIONAL OWNERS OF THE PARK ASSOCIATED WITH THESE COMMUNITIES.

In recent months community meetings have been held in Imanpa, Docker River and Areyonga to discuss this and to identify suitable projects.

Mutitjulu receives community development funding through a separate process.

Project proposals will need to demonstrate that the project will benefit the community and that community organisations are able to manage such projects.

Project funds will be used only to assist

communities and not individuals. Some support may be needed to target Aboriginal organisations working in Imanpa, Docker River and Areyonga and elsewhere for Anangu.

These funds are not intended to be used as a substitute for funding that should be provided by government agencies.

However, the funds may be made available to support projects which extend or complement the services funded from other agencies.



ABOVE: ROBERT MUMU AT THE IMANPA STORE
TOP RIGHT: BARBARA TJIKADU, BESSIE NIPPER, JULIE CLYNE, VERA WILLIAMS AND MAGGIE KAVANAGH AT AREYONGA



MIDDLE: COMMUNITY BBQ AT DOCKER RIVER COOKED BY CLC STAFF
ABOVE LEFT: MEETING AT ULPANYALI
ABOVE RIGHT: IMANPA MOB

We need our country and the country needs us

A SPECTACULAR SETTING, GREAT FOOD, GOOD YARNS AROUND THE CAMPFIRE, AND BUCKET LOADS OF INSPIRATION. IT DOESN'T SOUND LIKE YOUR USUAL CONFERENCE WITH GLASSES OF WATER AND COOL MINTS ON WHITE TABLECLOTHS. THAT'S BECAUSE THIS WAS THE NATIONAL INDIGENOUS LAND AND SEA CONFERENCE - CLC-STYLE - AND THE 400 CONFERENCE-GOERS LOVED IT.

Conference-goers covered an extremely wide range of land management interests.

For example projects varied from fire management in the Kimberleys to preservation of ancient fish traps in western New South Wales, youth programs in Tasmania to fighting against nuclear waste dumps in Coober Pedy.

Many groups were from ranger programs and others had various projects that they were looking to develop. Some found funding sources and others found others in similar situations.

Most of the delegates had a particular concern that the value of traditional knowledge and the older people who held it start being valued and acknowledged.

"Whilst land is important to Aboriginal people, land also contributes to people's cultural, social and emotional well being....It is a fact that when the level of respect for elders erodes there are a lot more social problems on communities," said Leanne Liddle from the South Australian Department of Heritage and Environment.

Not only did people believe that knowledge should be valued but that there should be mechanisms to ensure that knowledge is transferred from generation to generation. The conference also called for secure long term funding arrangements, a strong national network of land managers, and more opportunities and investment for Aboriginal land managers.

"The conference is great - hearing other people talk - it's been really powerful and it's really touched me. We should have more and get something out of it and look at the next step." Ishmahl Croft, Kimberley Land Council, WA

I have learnt a lot from this: met lots of interesting people, and possibly found a couple of funding sources but the biggest thing I'm getting out of it is learning so much."

Cheryl Crawford, Brewarrina, NSW

Read about the Ngukurr Rangers who presented an inspiring speech at the conference on p22



ABOVE: THE PAINTING WORKSHOP
BELOW: CHARLES PROWSE FROM THE KIMBERLEYS,



Sniffing soon to be banned

REGULATIONS WHICH WILL ALLOW POLICE TO SEIZE PETROL WHEN IT IS BEING SNIFFED AND GIVE POLICE THE POWER TO MOVE SNIFFERS TO A PLACE OF SAFETY WILL COME INTO FORCE EARLY NEXT YEAR.

The regulations will also give courts the power to order compulsory treatment programs for chronic sniffers.

The Northern Territory Government has committed \$10 million over five years to support the new legislation.

Tristan Ray from Central Australian Youth Link Up Service says that Aboriginal communities and the Mt Theo project have been requesting these changes for some time.

"These changes are really major and we think its important that the government talks properly to communities and Aboriginal organisations about how they will work, justtalking once at the beginning of the process is not enough"

"It's great that the government are putting some money into some treatment projects, we also need to see money put into prevention, but it is a good start".
Meanwhile deaths



ABOVE: BARRY ABBOTT, WHO RUNS A PROJECT AT ILPURLA, RECENTLY WON THE PRIME MINISTER'S AWARD FOR DRUG AND ALCOHOL. MR ABBOTT TAKES UP TO 18 YOUNG SNIFFERS ON HIS CATTLE ENTERPRISE TO GIVE THEM A BREAK FROM SNIFFING AND TO LEARN HEALTHY WAYS OF LIVING

from sniffing continue. CAYLUS has made a submission to a Coronial Inquiry soon to be held in Alice Springs and Mutijulu. The Coroner will investigate the deaths of

three petrol sniffers who died – two who died under blankets while they were sniffing and one who fell asleep on his can. The Inquiry will be held on 9-12 August.

Pool hope for Kintore



THE PAINTINGS AT THE PAPUNYA TULA ART GALLERY IN ALICE SPRINGS BEFORE BEING SOLD AT THE ART GALLERY OF NSW

The people of Kintore are fundraising again. After the outstanding success of their art auction at the Art Gallery of New South Wales five years ago to raise money for a dialysis centre at their community, they have decided to auction four more paintings in the hope of raising \$1 million to build a 25 metre pool for the kids of Kintore.

Saltwater chlorinated pools have a lot of benefits for Aboriginal people on communities. Importantly for the Kintore mob, the risk of

future renal failure is reduced through a lower incidence of skin-related infections in young people.

The pool will also be a valuable facility for the community which is desperately in need of sporting and recreational facilities.

The project has been coordinated by Papunya Tula Artists, a collective of painters from the Western Desert.

The function will be held early this month at the Art Gallery of New South Wales.

Two new dictionaries



TWO NEW PICTURE DICTIONARIES OF CENTRAL AUSTRALIAN ABORIGINAL LANGUAGES HAVE BEEN PUBLISHED.

The Warumungu Picture Dictionary compiled by Samantha Disbray and Warumungu speakers was launched in June in Tennant Creek and the Ngaanyatjarra Picture Dictionary, compiled by Kazuko Obata and Inga Kral, was launched at Warburton in April.

Picture Dictionaries are an important resource for school

children and adult literacy learners and anybody interested in Aboriginal languages.

"The communities for whom IAD Press has produced these picture dictionaries are telling us they are the most important books they've ever had," said IAD Press Publisher Josie Douglas. "These resources are truly owned by the people who use them."

Pipeline plan blocked

The proposal to build a 1000 kilometre gas pipeline from Wadeye in the west of the Northern Territory to Gove in the east has hit a snag, with key player Alcan opting out of the project.

Alcan has decided against purchasing gas from Woodside's Blacktip gas field in the Joseph Bonaparte Gulf, west of Wadeye.

But it remains committed to operating its alumina plant at Gove on natural gas.

Alcan has initiated talks with a gas supply company in Papua New Guinea regarding the purchasing of gas and the prospects of piping it onshore to Gove along the seabed via Cape York in Queensland. The cost of the gas a significant factor in Alcan's decision making process.

While disappointed with the announcement, Northern Land Council (NLC) Chief Executive, Norman Fry, said the NLC will continue to liaise with relevant stakeholders.

"It is disappointing that Woodside and Alcan could not reach agreement over gas supply," Mr Fry said.

"But, the NLC looks forward to negotiating with Alcan in the event

that alternative options are developed for the supply of gas to Gove."

But the NLC remains positive.

The possibility exists that over the next 5-years a pipeline may be required to supply gas to Darwin and other areas. The NLC has initiated talks with various companies interested in pursuing this development.

While traditional owners involved with the Wadeye to Gove pipeline have expressed disappointed with Alcan's decision (which came late in negotiations), they will continue to be consulted with by the NLC over any further proposals.

The NLC was seeking a commercial interest on behalf of traditional owners in the proposed Trans Territory Pipeline project linking Wadeye in the west to Alcan's refinery in Nhulunbuy.



ABOVE: THE ROUTE THAT THE PIPELINE WOULD HAVE TAKEN HAD IT GONE AHEAD. LEFT: DRILLING RIG AT ONE OF THE SITES ALONG THE ROUTE

Ngukurr Rangers 'too good'

THE NGUKURR RANGERS ARE WELL-KNOWN FOR THEIR 'CAN DO' ATTITUDE AND RANGE OF SKILLS. LEADER CHERRY DANIELS SET UP THE GROUP AFTER GOING TO A CONFERENCE AND HEARING ABOUT THE WORK THAT COULD BE DONE.

"I started off the Ranger Program and we worked really hard, without a vehicle. We had to go and do soil erosion, push a wheel barrow, worked on the soil and went around planting trees," said Ms Daniels.

"Then they gave us this job looking after the old cemetery. We went out there one time walking, carrying our jerry cans with fuel, our chainsaw, our brush-cutters.

"I tell you, the girls are very strong, they work - not grumbling - just keep on working.

"They liked the job, they are keen on what they are doing. It's a

new program to us. We've heard about rangers, but by doing it, now they like it.

"We have been going for nearly three years now. We have a vehicle that we adore very much and we go out a lot now.

"We do monitoring - waters and billabongs and creek beds. You know, make sure our country is left the way it was in the past. We make sure that people do the right thing on this land. The girls love it. It's going back to country a lot. We are proud of what we are doing and what we are.

"The girls have

learnt how to post-mortem animals, propagating seeds, surveying animals, identifying animals, plants, weeds and they've done poisoning.

"They carry the sacks and poison parkensonia and they can mix chemicals. They are too good them girls.

We did firearms lesson, we've all got our licence but we've got to practise again to get the full licence.

"A couple of my girls have passed the coxswain training. I am very proud of them, nobody sees how I feel



THE NGUKURR RANGERS AT THE NATIONAL INDIGENOUS LAND AND SEA MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE IN CENTRAL AUSTRALIA EARLIER THIS YEAR

inside and when I go home and I think about them and what they

are, sometimes I have tear in my eye. That's very true, I am

very proud of them."

Large group of Rangers graduate from CDU



WAGIMAN 'GUWARDAGUN' RANGERS FROM PINE CREEK

A recent ceremony in Darwin represents one of the largest group of Indigenous rangers to graduate from a resource management course at Charles Darwin University.

Twenty Wagiman 'Guwardagun' rangers from Pine Creek, nine Djelk rangers from Maningrida, and three Mimal rangers from Bulman/Weemol received their Certificate I in

Resource Management.

The course has been developed in partnership between the Charles Darwin University and the Northern Land Council's Caring for Country Unit.

It contains many units of particular relevance to remote Indigenous people learning to manage their natural and cultural resources.

Matthew Ryan, co-ordinator and

supervisor of Bawinanga Djelk Rangers, based at Maningrida, in the Top End, said the course had given him and his fellow graduates the ability to combine their own traditional knowledge with Western science.

"I think the course has been good, it has given us more skills," Ryan said.

"We have learnt about Western culture and Western culture

people have learnt about ours."

Ryan said the course reinforced their own traditional knowledge, and added to it by learning the science behind land-caring practices such as weed control, feral animal control, quarantine issues, and monitoring amateur and commercial fishers.

Ryan said the health of ecosystems and local environments directly correlated with the health of his family and community.

"We look after that country, because we from that country," he said.

"If you have healthy country, you have healthy people."

Stuart Ankin, supervisor of the Bawinanga Sea Ranger group, said it is very important for Aboriginal people to look after land and sea country, particularly in relation

to the recent issue of illegal Indonesian fishermen operating in Aboriginal fisheries.

"We want to take control of our coastal areas, look after sacred sites, help control diseases coming from overseas that affect our people, and manage the amount of fishing taking place," Ankin said.

Both men said a junior ranger program had been successful in passing on land and sea management skills to the younger members of the

community.

*In related news the North Australian Indigenous Land and Sea Management Alliance (NAISMA), a group of Indigenous organisations working together on land and sea management projects, is offering study assistance for Aboriginal people in northern Australia wanting to train in land management. The contact for further information is as follows: Lisa Binge on (08) 8946 6883 or email: lisa.binge@cdu.edu.au

DJELK RANGERS FROM MANINGRIDA





WARLPIRI RANGERS SHERMAN, SHAWN AND RICKY DIGGING UP A WARRARNA

Tanami Threatened Species Project

Threatened species such as the Bilby and the Great Desert Skink in the Tanami Desert are being helped by the work of rangers from Yuendumu in Central Australia.

Earlier this year the Warlpiri Rangers from Yuendumu community, Central Land Council and Desert Wildlife Services consultancy staff headed north-west into the Tanami Desert to set up camp at *Jakadi*, also known as Sangsters Bore.

This field trip was the first of four that will occur this year as part of a Threatened Species Network-funded project.

The work aims to help protect threatened species through researching methods to control foxes and introduced predators that are held responsible for the demise of a number of native animals in the Northern Territory.

The initial field trip surveyed known populations of *Walpajirri* (Bilby), *Jajajina* (Mulgara) and *Warrarna* (Great Desert Skink) in the area using both scientific trapping and traditional tracking methods.

Populations of all three threatened species were found, however, tracks of cats and foxes were also recorded.

The tracking work involves driving along transects that have been dragged the previous day to provide a fresh tracking surface.

One person drives and the other sits on the front of the bonnet with their eyes peeled for tracks and other signs (dung or diggings).

The rangers recorded *Walpajirri* burrows, *Warrarna* warrens and *Jajajina* tracks using the GPS.

This information will be used to help map current populations of these three threatened species within the Tanami.

Warlpiri Rangers participation in scientific projects on Aboriginal land is very important.

The information collected from such projects helps to look after animals that are disappearing from this country.

Subsequent trips will involve baiting for predators around bilby populations and monitoring both predator activity and threatened species numbers.

Tennant rangers take charge

The Muru-warinyi ankkul rangers took matters into their own hands recently by fencing the road towards Mary-Ann Dam, near Tennant Creek, to stop tourists from illegally camping in the area.

The Central Land Council facilitated the project and helped raise funds to get the job done with the support of Julalikari Council and financial assistance from Member for Barkly, Elliot McAdam.

Historically this has been a concern for landowners and Tennant Creek businesses as it has had an enormous impact on Aboriginal land, resulting in erosion and affecting the local economy.

The Rangers have been in high demand since last year working on fencing and other environmental projects on and off Warumungu country.

Currently the rangers are participating in a 'Lead on Training' program through Centre for Appropriate



THE RANGERS DOING THEIR WELDING COURSE

Technology (CAT) in Alice Springs.

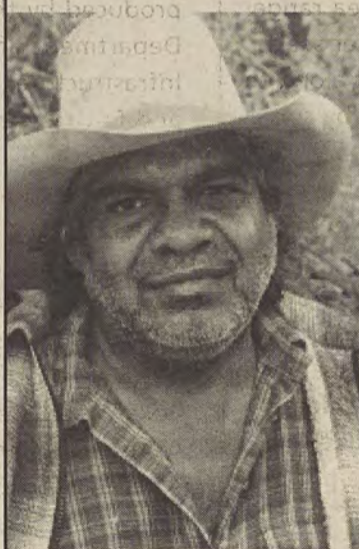
The rangers are keen and enthusiastic about the training and have already completed a week of welding training.

This training is part of a Devil's Marbles project to build infrastructure for tourist visiting the national park.

The rangers will construct a bough shelter, interpretative signs to explain the cultural significance of the area, picnic tables and toilets.

It is hoped that the project will be completed by mid-October.

Park meetings in the Centre



Park meetings and workshops have been held all around Central Australia in recent months to speak about joint management arrangements.

Traditional owners have been doing some paid work in the parks to get an idea of the type of work rangers do.

PICTURED ABOVE LEFT: STEVEN CLYNE AT WATARRKA, TRADITIONAL OWNERS AT WATARRKA AND HUBERT PARELOUTJA AT A CAMP AT TWO MILE NEAR MT SONDER IN THE WESTERN MACDONNELLS

Island hopping not welcome



Djelk ranger leads the way

Land Rights News talked to Otto Bulmaniya, a Djelk ranger, based at Maningrida, in west Arnhem Land, about the nature of his work, and the combination of Aboriginal traditional knowledge and Western scientific thinking.

Otto and senior man George Jungawunga conducted a workshop on the role of traditional knowledge in the management of country at the Northern Land Council's Caring for Country land and sea rangers meeting at Noonamah, near Darwin, earlier this year.

"This (combining traditional knowledge with Western science) is very important for Bining people to keep our country strong for the second and third generations coming.

"We know that country is still alive, and we want to go back and visit the old peoples' spirit.

"We know that when they pass away their spirit is still there.

It's also about doing the right thing by your country, things like burning country, and having a look at what animals are there.

All this will make the old people spirits really

happy.

"They reward us with good hunting, and we come back with lots of food – kangaroo, fish, yam.

"We get good flowering season, because we don't damage the flower. We also get good 'sugarbag' (wild native honey) when we look after country.

"If you look after country, it will look after you.

"It will give you everything you want for ceremony purpose or to feed family or to camp on country with family, and in that way, your kids won't get sick and they can drink that water anytime, and they can swim.

"For example, the Djelk ranger program (in Maningrida) started a long-necked turtle project because some in our community were worried about the number of feral animals growing really quick and

our lands were getting damaged.

"Turtle law is when we take turtle from one area, and turtle from other areas take its place.

"We know that to take the empty shell from that area because no other turtle will come if you leave it there. The family of the turtle smell that dead shell, or smell that the turtle has been eaten the wrong way like raw.

"For feral animal like pig it is new country for them, that's why they just wreck the country. They just dig out turtle holes, and no turtle come back.

"Our womans are finding it hard to dig in the ground. They are finding the soil really hard, because of the pigs, and water buffalo.

"I was talking to a traditional landowner recently at Tompkinson (outstation) who said that the magpie geese are starting to come back because we got rid of the mimosa from that area, and also the rangers sometimes do burning along the floodplain.

"We (at Maningrida) have seven or eight inland rangers, and about nine sea rangers, who look after sea management along the coastal area, by surveying what floats by from other country, removing rubbish from the coast, and picking up nets left behind by fishermen.

"In future we want to work more closely with groups like Customs, and the police.

"We want to look at more powers for our people to stop boats going into restricted areas where we have sacred sites.

"At the moment, we spot a boat that is not supposed to be there, we tell police, and by the time we get back the boat takes off.



ABOVE LEFT TO RIGHT: DAVID GANAMBARR, BRUCE GANAMBARR, NT MINISTER CHRIS BURNS, JOHN GURRUMGURRU

ABORIGINAL RANGER GROUPS AND THE NORTHERN TERRITORY GOVERNMENT HAVE JOINED FORCES TO HELP COMBAT THE SPREAD OF THE CANE TOAD TO THE ISLANDS NORTH OF THE TOP END.

The feral amphibian, *Bufo Marinus*, which has reached the outskirts of Darwin, is reportedly having a negative effect on native mammals all along its path – something Aboriginal rangers based along the coastal and island communities of northern Australia are desperate to avoid on their country.

check your swag

The film, 'No Cane Toads on Our Islands', produced by the NT Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Environment (DIPE), and featuring Gumurr Marthakal Rangers from Galiwinku (Elcho Island), offers advice to island and coastal peoples to check their boxes, plants and swags when they arrive on the islands from the mainland.

John Gurrungurru, a Gumurr Marthakal ranger, and one of the narrators of the DVD, said the project enabled him to get the message out to his countrymen about the destructive path the cane toad had left in its spread throughout northern Australia.

"I have been one of the ones letting our people know to beware of the cane toad," Gurrungurru said.

"I have been telling them not to let the cane toad on their lands, because of the big impact they will make."

'devastating'

Gurrungurru said the impact on his lands if the cane toad ever reached Galiwinku would be 'devastating'.

"It would be bad for our bushtuckers, the native animals, leaving us with nothing left to hunt, and nothing left to eat," he said at the launch.

He stressed that the DVD is helpful for Traditional Owners to recognise the calls and appearance of the cane toad, introduced to the cane fields of far north Queensland last century as a deterrent to the cane beetle.

"As a ranger I am worried about the impact of cane toads on native animals, because we don't want any native animals to be killed by those bad cane toads," he said.

"I am spreading the

message and the word about the cane toads to the people on the islands in northern Australia, to catch any toad they see, and make sure they give the toad to their local ranger or at least tell them."

Local Aboriginal rangers will then keep a note of the numbers of any toads who hitchhike a lift on planes or on the most common form of transport – boat, ferry, or barge.

Bill Panton, of Conservation and Natural Resources, said the film has been translated into six of the most widely-used Indigenous languages - Yolngu, Anindilyakwa, Tiwi, Kriol, Gunwinggu, and Djamburruyngu - covering the coast from the Tiwi Islands to Groote Eylandt.

"The distribution of this film will enable whole communities to become informed about cane toads in a culturally-appropriate way," Panton said.

It will be distributed as a DVD to schools and community resource centres to educate residents to check their loads for cane toads.



VERONICA DOBSON PULLING AN INGWENENGE (WITCHETTY GRUB) OUT OF THE APERÉ (RIVER RED GUM) TRUNK

Mapping Arrernte knowledge

Senior Arrernte woman Veronica Dobson has been working with the Central Land Council on a plant project in national parks in the East MacDonnell region to record information about the significance of trees and plants for Arrernte people and map important populations of these plants.

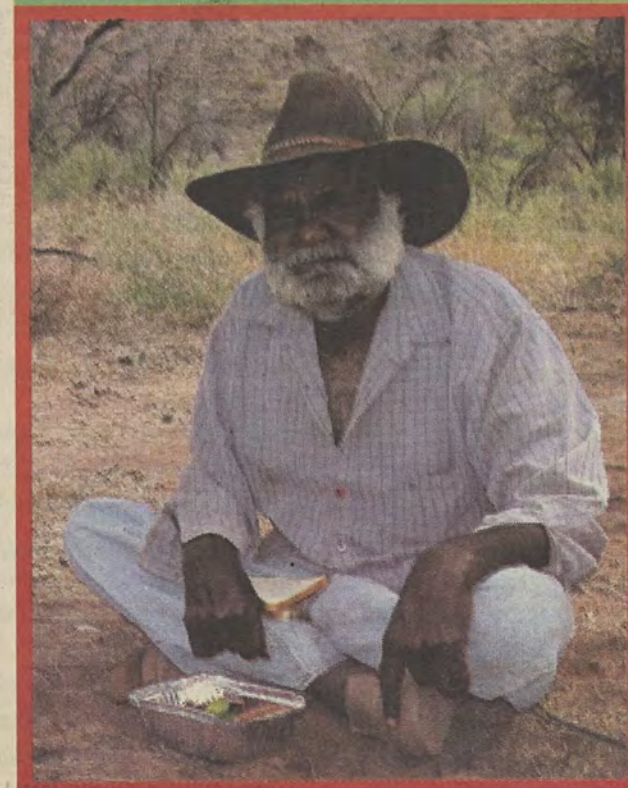
"It's good for Arrernte people and tourists to know the names of plants and learn to respect plants and the areas they grow in. It's a source of life knowing what trees are used for, what they have and how they give shade as well. If people are around when there's plenty of seeds and fruits, they can learn what to eat and what not to. And respect and learn about traditional culture as well".

"It would be good to see the younger generations getting involved and taking care of places like Emily and Jessie Gap and other places now that joint management is happening.

"Now that we have some Arrernte ranger trainees, it would be good to see them involved in taking care of places that are important to our people."

A number of other Arrernte people have been working on the project. A report is being compiled which will be available for Arrernte people and schools. The work will also contribute to the new joint management plan for the parks.

BELOW: TRADITIONAL OWNER ERNIE WILLIAMS AT TREPHINA GORGE



Park meetings and camps great success

The Central Land Council's Land Management section has been hard at work with traditional owners and the NT Parks and Wildlife Service talking about the new joint management arrangements for the new and existing national parks in the region.

In some cases the traditional owners have been camping out and working with the rangers fencing, burning, conducting fauna and flora surveys, and other work that park rangers normally do.

The success of these meetings and camps has been considerable, with young Aboriginal people keen to take on more permanent roles.

Employment opportunities are limited although the parks will provide some permanent jobs.

However, the growth of ranger groups in some areas is expected to generate employment which isn't dependent on government funding.

Twenty of the 27 jointly managed parks across the Territory are in Central Australia. In a few cases Aboriginal people will get freehold title over land they have had under claim for years. In other cases traditional owners have signed Indigenous Land Use Agreements.



TALKING WITH CLC AND PARKS STAFF AT POLICEMAN'S WATERHOLE

Davenport mob worry for horses

Culling horses and donkeys was the main issue at a meeting of traditional owners of the proposed Davenport Ranges National Park with CLC staff and Parks and Wildlife Service rangers in June.

Over the years, Parks staff have been concerned about the high numbers of horses and donkeys in the park and have been culling them since 2001.

With the new joint management arrangements, this park will be converted to Aboriginal freehold land under the

Aboriginal Land Rights Act. This will place traditional owners in the strongest position possible to work equally with Parks and Wildlife in managing the park.

At the June meeting, traditional owners talked up strongly about their associations with horses and donkeys.

They remembered growing up with donkeys and horses on that country and said donkeys were important because, 'they brought the rain' and had carried baby Jesus.

'Horses are like Toyotas and helicopters to the pastoralists, so they should be looked after' said Frankie Holmes.

Stanley Holmes said that when Parks staff started shooting, "we felt really sad when we saw this happening because no one talked to us about it. We just saw the dead horses and donkeys all piled up."

The meeting was the first time park staff and traditional owners had talked about the issues.

The group agreed

that they would like to first consider an aerial muster which removed as many horses and donkeys from the park as possible, into adjacent Aboriginal land and fence off most, if not all of the park.

"We still got to get rid of donkeys, horses and cattle.

"That's what we're talking about. One way. We're making a good arrangement here.

"Rangers, us fellas, all working together.

"One arrangement, all looking after this country", said Frankie Holmes.

Traditional knowledge at Devil's Marbles

Freezing weather didn't deter 12 women recording their traditional ecological knowledge at Karlu Karlu (Devil's Marbles) to be used in the new joint management plan.

The women worked with Central Land Council staff documenting the uses of plants and animals for bush medicines and bush tucker.

The women also discussed areas which need to be protected from the impact of tourists in the park.

Many of the women talked about being raised in the area when they were young girls, travelling around with their families, going to school, herding nanny goats, working in the

wolfram mines, swimming & hunting in waterholes.

"The old people (pulka pulka) used to travel (kalal-palu wappaja) through here on their way to the mines to collect their ration", said Mona Heywood.

"There were lots of people who lived all around there and they had and owned lots of goats (nanikut).

"They had wagons and they used to go hunting (wilinyi-kala-lu-wappaja) with the wagons."

The knowledge was recorded in the four different languages spoken in the area, Kaytetje, Warumungu, Warlpiri and Alyawarra.



WINNIE MARTIN, TRIXIE CARR, MARLENE WAISTCOAT, NORMA JOSHUA, MARLENE WAISTCOAT, BARBARA FOSTER AND ROSIE THOMPSON.

Camping at Trepghina



ARRERENTE MEN TALKING WITH PARK STAFF AT TREPghina GORGE

The very first joint management camp hosted by the CLC and Parks and Wildlife Service staff was held at Trepghina Gorge in April.

The camp was well attended by many traditional owners for the area, including Ernie Williams, Teresa Ryder, Valerie Burdett and their families.

They heard from Park rangers about issues important to them, such as controlling weeds, protecting wildlife and looking

after tourists.

Many Aboriginal people in the area have expressed interest in working in these eastern parks.

A team of young men from Amoonguna, have been doing regular paid work, which includes fencing maintenance, control burns and up-grading walking tracks.

At the Trepghina Gorge camp they assisted rangers in carrying out a fauna survey and cleared scrub around fencelines.

Traditional owner

Ernie Williams was happy with the job opportunities joint management provides. "The way I look at it is, it's for my grandchildren, my son's sons...and they can carry on when I'm gone." At the camp, Ernie taught the rangers about bush tucker plants and animals. "I teach them everything. I tell them in language, in my language, the foods we have here...in Arrernte way".

Ntaria rangers take off

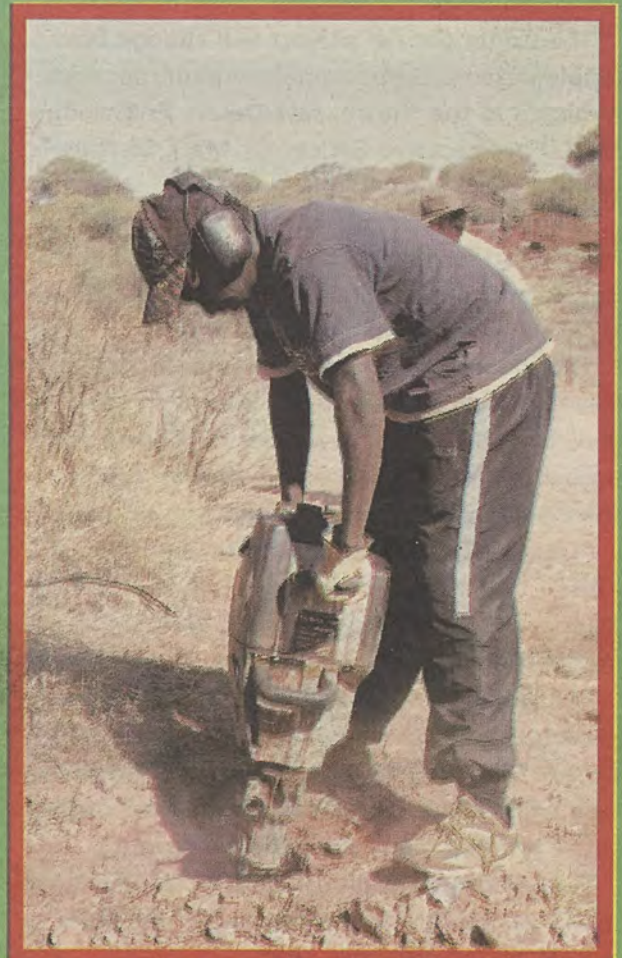
A new ranger feasibility project at Hermannsburg (Ntaria) 125 kilometres west of Alice Springs is off to a flying start as part of new joint management arrangements for the Finke Gorge and West MacDonnell National Parks.

The project has received an overwhelming response from the community and some valuable support from the Tjuwanpa Outstation Resource Centre and Ntaria Council.

This year 23 people from the community camped out and worked alongside park rangers fencing out feral stock, electrifying existing fences, steel and cable fencing at a car park, controlling weeds, doing fauna surveys and fire management.

Other community members are also lining up to take part.

The potential for a successful ranger



ABOVE: KRISTOFF RATARA ROCK DRILLING A POST HOLE

group is extremely positive because of the number of tourists who visit the area and the enthusiasm from community members.

There are also prospects for contract

work which would make the rangers independent from government funding.

The project was run by the Central Land Council and the Parks and Wildlife Service.

Footy inspires new phone network for remote communities

Football may hold the answer to one of the biggest problems facing Aboriginal communities: how to get a decent phone service in a remote place.

Scientists in the Desert Knowledge Cooperative Research Centre (CRC) are working on a new phone network that copies footy players by passing calls from one mobile handset to the next, until they reach their goal.

The Desert Knowledge CRC, a partner of the Central Land Council, plans to beat the high cost of bringing phone services to remote communities with a new network that works without expensive wires, optic fibres, masts, satellites and technicians.

The 'footy phone' project will change how people in remote Aboriginal communities communicate in the future, says Desert Knowledge CRC Chief Executive Officer, Dr Mark Stafford-Smith.

"People like to move around. This project matches affordable technology to their needs and wishes, not the other way around," he says.
mobiles form network

The idea is that each mobile phone automatically connects itself to the next phone, and the next, to form a temporary network, explains project leader Dr. Mehran Abolhasan of the University of Wollongong.

"Like footy players moving on the field, it doesn't matter if the individual phones are on the move, so long as they are within handballing distance of each other."

"Because the handballing distance, or range, of each mobile phone is small, it may take several 'passes', from one phone to another, for a call to reach its destination or to connect to the national communication network.

Smart new technology allows the phones to do all this by themselves, without help from experts or technicians.

"Clever software manages the calls through this network and picks the best way – or series of passes – without phone users even knowing about it. All they have to do is leave their mobile handsets switched on."

"It will provide better, more convenient technology to help individuals, communities and businesses to keep in touch as they move around in remote areas.

"It will also link them more closely with the rest of Australia," Dr. Abolhasan explains.



MICHAEL KUNOTH AND DWAYNE CAMBELL FROM LOVES CREEK STATION DRIVING THEIR CATTLE NORTH

Cows move on to Land Trusts

ABORIGINAL LAND TRUSTS (ALTS) ARE PROVING TO BE A LIFESAVER FOR THOUSANDS OF CATTLE ACROSS DROUGHT AFFECTED CENTRAL AUSTRALIA.

The Central Land Council says that it is experiencing an unprecedented demand for grazing licences on the Land Trusts, and for musters and other types of support on Aboriginal land.

CLC Director David Ross said that several factors have led to the high level of activity this year.

"The drought is hitting Central Australia's pastoralists pretty hard but fortunately many Aboriginal properties still have plenty of feed on them. We

have negotiated a number of grazing licences for both other Aboriginal pastoralists and non-Aboriginal pastoralists on these land trusts," he said

Mr Ross said that a partnership between the CLC and the NT Department of Business, Industry and Resource Development was proving to be of enormous assistance to Aboriginal pastoralists.

"We are finding that Aboriginal people are increasingly keen to run cattle and with

this sort of help we are able to devote more resources into helping Aboriginal pastoralists manage their properties," Mr Ross said

The CLC signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Northern Territory Government and the Indigenous Land Corporation in 2003 to develop the Aboriginal pastoral industry through the Indigenous Pastoral Program.

"The partnership with DBIRD gives us access to some skilled

personnel with valuable experience in the NT pastoral industry.

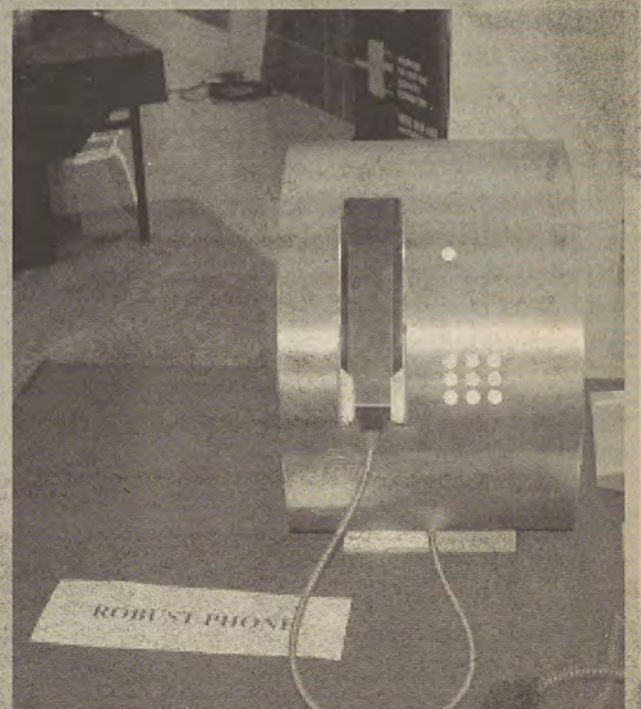
It has enabled us to kickstart a few more projects and build some good relationships with pastoralists all over the NT.

"The CLC's region is immense - it covers the entire southern portion of the NT - so we do have to prioritise the more viable properties. However, we are assisting as many of our constituents as we are able with fencing, bores, feral animal control and mustering."

Don't mess with me...

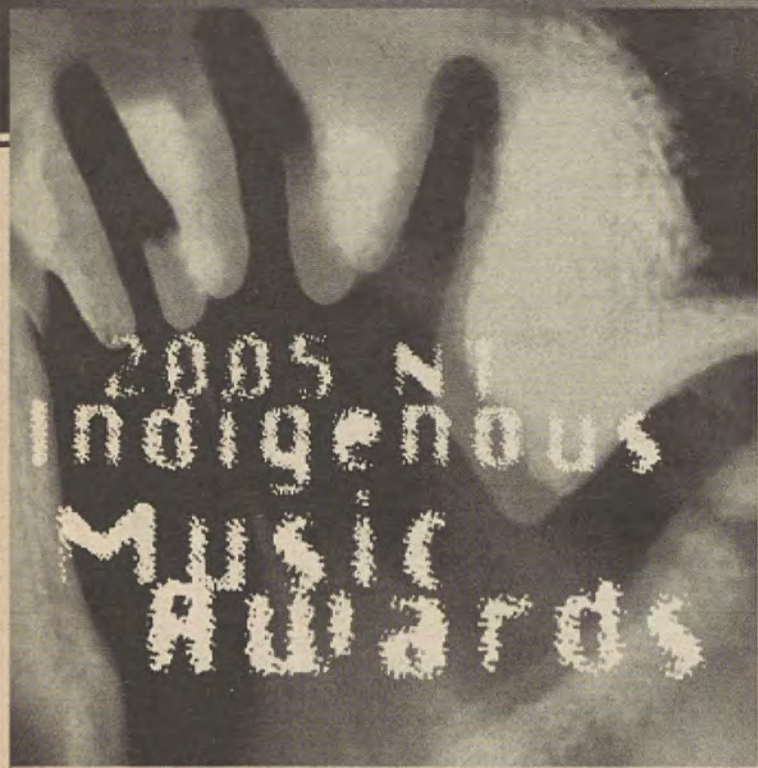
It's built like a tank from 3mm steel, vandals will wear themselves out trying to wreck it, and it's easy to fix if the handset does get torn off.

The Robust Phone designed by the Centre for Appropriate Technology in Alice Springs will hopefully be rolled out to communities which don't qualify for public phones early next year. The phones don't take cash and instead rely on prepaid users inputting a number. Telstra and CAT launched the phone at a recent telecommunications conference in Alice Springs.



They're back! They're black! They're bigger!

music NT
your music office



And they rock!

After the resounding success of the Inaugural Indigenous Music Awards of 2004, Music NT in association with the NT Government's Indigenous Arts Development Unit is proudly hosting the second NT Indigenous Music Awards.

"Some of the best and most successful music Australia ever produced has come out of the Territory," said Tessa Rose, NT Indigenous Music Awards Co-ordinator. "These awards are recognising that special something that the Territory brings to Australian music," she said.

The Territory has a long history of outstanding musicians with names like Yugul, Warumpi, Sunrize, Letterstick, Warren H Williams and last years Band of the Year, Yothu Yindi, to name just some of the legendary acts that have graced stages from remote NT communities to international venues.

The new Millennium is no different with Shellie Morris, Narbalek, Wildwater, Yilila, Saltwater Band, Tjupi and George Rurrumbu, just some of those continuing the tradition of singing loud and playing strong.

The awards recognise excellence, dedication innovation and outstanding contribution to the NT music industry.

As momentum for this event gathers pace, Indigenous radio stations Radio Larrakia, CAAMA and TEABBA have come on board with the Indigenous Radio Award. This award is the NT Community's opportunity to support and give recognition to their favourite musicians. All requests to these radio stations will be registered and the most requested song will win the Indigenous Radio Award - Most Popular Song.

TEABBA Manager Ella Geia said "All the remote communities love to hear their favourite bands on the radio and usually it's the ones that sing in their language. We're proud to be a part of the awards this year," she said.

The 2005 Gala Awards Night will be held at the Marrara Outdoor Stadium which will be transformed from a sporting venue to the deadliest Rock Awards venue Darwin has ever seen. Showcasing the cream of Indigenous Music Talent, special guest presenters will guide you through the night of rock nights.....Don't be slack! Get your tickets NOW or miss out on what is fast becoming THE EVENT on the National Indigenous Music calendar.

Shellie Morris is going from strength to strength with her gutsy brand of Indigenous acoustic rock. After winning the Best Female Award in 2004 she said "The Award has given me a great sense of achievement and the strength to keep going when the going gets tough."

Last year's Best Male Award winner, Warren H. Williams said it was "Really good to be recognised in your own place. Last years ceremony was fantastic and I am sure this year will be even better." Warren says music in the Territory is more culturally based. "There's more people singing in language here than anywhere else," he said.

The lineup is yet to be fully confirmed but for more information call Music NT on 08 89811995 or check out the website www.musicnt.com.au

Aug 27th

7.30PM Marrara Stadium

Cost \$20.00
Children 12 and under free

TICKETS OUTLETS

CD CITY DARWIN - The Galleria - 8981 9548
SOUNDS OF MUSIC - Casuarina Shopping Centre - 8927 0990
CURVED AIR - Palmerston Shopping Centre - 8932 1751



Larrakia man comes home

The world premiere performance by internationally renowned dancer and choreographer Gary Lang is set to open in Darwin in August.

'Entrapment: One Man's Journey into a Forbidden Zone' is the latest production by Larrakia man Lang, and will be performed by his newly-formed Indigenous dance theatre company, Baru Kadal.

Lang trained at the National Aboriginal and Islander Dance School (NAISDA) before touring nationally and internationally with some of Australia's premier dance companies, including Bangarra and Dance North.

Dancers featured include Samantha Chalmers, George Roussos, Michele Dott, Julia Quinn, Tara Robertson, Cassie Williams, David Senge, and Mehali Tsangaris,

LEFT: MEHALI TSANGARIS AND SAMANTHA CHALMERS IN A SCENE FROM ENTRAPMENT

Entrapment will be performed at the Darwin Entertainment Centre (DEC) Playhouse Theatre on August 12, and August 13. Bookings can be made at the DEC box office on 8980 3333.

Barunga Festival

Award winning Territory bands *Yilila*, *Yugul* and *Wild Water* were headline attractions at the 20th Barunga Sports and Cultural Festival.

But, the musical entertainment was just one part of a popular weekend that was jam-packed with action and activities.

This year, more than 2,500 festival-goers travelled to the small community 80km south-east of Katherine, to participate in sporting events and cultural activities.

As ever, the cultural park was a popular venue with visitors. The many activities providing visitors with an insight into such events



as arts and craft demonstration like basket weaving, painting, as well as boomerang and spear throwing.

Dance workshops conducted by the Red Flag Dancers from Numbulwar were also popular, as were the didgeridoo making and playing workshops.

On the sporting fields, Darwin based secondary school, St John's College,



ABOVE LEFT: TIME OUT FOR THE KIDS AT BARUNGA, ABOVE: FOOTY ACTION

snatched a last-gasp victory in the football competition.

Local team the Arnhem Crows led for all but the last seconds of the match, with St John's kicking the winning score after the final siren.

In the 100m sprints,

Evangeline Cameron proved too slick for her competitors in the women's event.

While the men's event went to an unknown Numbulwar man who out-paced his rivals to take first prize.

Success also went the way of the Borroloola region on



ABOVE LEFT: A COMPETITOR LETS FLY IN THE SPEAR THROWING CONTEST

the softball diamond, with both grand finalists originating from the region.

The weekend's activities were capped by a musical and cultural performance by some of the NT's more popular acts.

Saturday night was

cultural night with traditional dancing, fire-lighting, bush tucker tasting, dreamtime stories and performances by Yilila and other local bands.

The Barunga Festival remains one of the NT's oldest and most popular festivals.

Larrakia and Tiwi welcome flame to Arafura Games



LARRAKIA AND TIWI WARRIORS OF NORTHERN AUSTRALIA HAD THE HONOUR OF LIGHTING THE CEREMONIAL FLAME HERALDING THE START OF THE RECENT ARAFURA GAMES IN DARWIN.

Marcellus Mungatopi, a Tiwi man from Milakapati, and Danny Raymond, supervisor for the Larrakia Rangers, joined their countrymen in bringing the Arafura 'flame' to the shoreline at Bullocky Point.

Three hollowed-out log canoes, manned by members of the Larrakia and Tiwi nations, paddled to the boat ramp, near the Museum and Art Gallery of Northern Territory, where Danny Raymond assisted NT Minister for Sport John Ah-Kit to light the official Arafura torch.

Kelvin Costello, co-ordinator of the Larrakia Nation, said it was a great honour and responsibility for Larrakia people to be welcoming over 3000 competitors to their country.

"It is a fantastic Larrakia/Tiwi Indigenous cultural opportunity to showcase the history of



ABOVE LEFT: LARRAKIA MEN WITH ARAFURA TORCH AT MINDIL BEACH ABOVE: FORMER MINISTER JOHN AH KIT WITH LARRAKIA AND TIWI TORCHBEARERS

Indigenous involvement in sport and the recognition of the Larrakia as the Traditional Owners of Darwin," Costello said.

The Larrakia Nation were kept busy with the many 'welcomes to country' they performed for visiting teams from over 30 countries, as well as distributing information outlining the history of the struggle for land rights by Larrakia people.

Costello said the Arafura Games also provided a chance for visitors to be exposed to Indigenous visual art.

"We have set up an art market at Marrara Oval. Local artists have been working on large-scale paintings, carvings and pictures that offer the opportunity for visiting athletes and dignitaries to talk to Larrakia people and experience our artwork," he said.

Daly River art a focus of festival



ABOVE: DANCERS FROM PALUMPA AT THE MERREPEN FESTIVAL AT DALY RIVER

THE NAUIYU COMMUNITY TURNED OUT RECENTLY TO SHOWCASE ART, SPORTS AND BUSHTUCKER TO THE MANY VISITORS TO THE ANNUAL MERREPEN ARTS FESTIVAL, LOCATED 240 KMS SOUTH-WEST OF DARWIN.

Traditional music and dance, a bushtucker display, an art auction, a football competition, and sports such as softball, basketball were all on display.

The festival, which was officially opened by the NT Administrator Ted Egan, and Traditional Owner Bidy Lindsay, featured locally-produced art reflecting the close physical and spiritual ties to the nearby Daly River.

Check-in at Lajamanu



THE JANAMI AIRLINE HAS BOUGHT A NEW TWIN ENGINE PLANE TO EXPAND ITS BUSINESS.

A new hangar and passenger terminal have been built at Lajamanu and passengers will now enjoy the comforts of a check in terminal.

Janami says that the new plane will make tickets more affordable.

The airline has grown since it first moved its services away from Alice Springs and dedicated

its service to the Katherine region.

It now also offers flights to Darwin three times a week.

The purchase of the plane has opened the opportunity for the service to reconnect Alice Springs with Lajamanu once a week by connecting with a Ngurratjuta flight at Yuendumu.

women's land and sea management conference

COWBOYS IN HELICOPTERS DESCENDING FROM THE SKY, TRADITIONAL AFRICAN DANCING AROUND THE FIRE AND A FILM NIGHT UNDER THE STARS, WERE JUST SOME OF THE HIGHLIGHTS OF THIS YEAR'S ANNUAL ABORIGINAL WOMEN'S LAND AND SEA MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE.

Held from the 30 May to the 3 June, the Ngaliwurru Wuli women of Timber Creek hosted this year's conference, which saw over 150 women and children from across the Territory, Queensland and Western Australia converge on the otherwise quiet town of Timber Creek.

Several presentations generated lots of discussion especially the 'Parks and Wildlife Dingo Management Plan' which resulted in an action plan being developed.

Other presentations of interest were the 'Recording of Indigenous Knowledge' by Donna Jackson, wildlife harvesting opportunities by NLC staffer Jenny Koenig-Price and a weed workshop

by Susan King from Department of Infrastructure, Planning & Environment (DIPE) that proposed cleaning down and washing vehicles, limiting the spread of weeds.

Another popular presentation was a bush tucker and bush medicine demonstration, consisting of an impressive display of traditional flora used for medicinal purposes by women of the Timber Creek region.

Delegates were treated to several excursions onto country including a trip to the Timber Creek lookout where participants were told the Dingo Dreaming story. An afternoon trip to Yonderi Rockhole on Fitzroy Crossing Station another welcomed adventure. Hours of travelling on winding and dusty roads resulted in a bit of fishing, a bogged car and many laughs along the way.

Special thanks to the traditional owners of the Timber Creek region for allowing us into their country.

Another Historic Achievement for Gurindji at Wave Hill

BY QUITAYSHA FRITH, THE NEWLY-ELECTED PRESIDENT OF THE KALKARINGI SECONDARY STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

Yes! It's true...from little things, big things really do grow! Paul Kelly's words have never been more meaningful than on May 27, when Kalkaringi Secondary School was officially opened.

Kalkaringi is a small remote community in the Northern Territory 470km south west of Katherine.

This special occasion brought strong emotions to many of the three hundred community members, parents and visitors in response to what Kalkaringi School has achieved so far along their educational journey.

Three years ago three Indigenous students and one non-Indigenous student at Kalkaringi School – Meshach Paddy, Lianna Brown, Rhonda Rankin, and Sam Hewitson - were Northern Territory's first-ever to complete Year 12 in their home school.

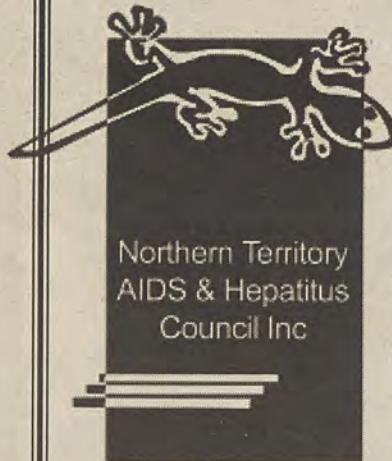
The four students are now in universities, pursuing studies of interest.

One of the students is studying medicine, another is studying cultural tourism, the third is studying to be a teacher and the fourth student is studying Aboriginal and Torres Strait studies.

The group are referred to as 'the pioneers of the school' and will continue to be known as such.

Four of the secondary rooms in the new complex have been named after each of these students.

As part of the Opening Ceremony, attended by NT Minister of Education, Syd Stirling, two current Year 12 students, Antoinette Bernard and Quitaysha Frith, delivered their self-written speeches about 'making a better future', and the history of remote school education.



Indigenous Project Officer Alice Springs

The Northern Territory AIDS and Hepatitis Council is looking to appoint an Indigenous person for a fulltime 15 month contract position classified under the SACS NT Award as a Community Services Worker Level 4 (\$39,125.00 - 41,358.00) commensurate upon experience (salary packaging and relocation allowance is available).

The position is divided into 2 stages:

Stage One (3 months): Mapping/Scoping Project.

Stage Two (12 months): Harm Reduction Awareness Raising Project.

The Project Officer will be based in Alice Springs and have experience in the development and implementation of community education or health promotion programs, and an understanding of and sensitivity to the diversity of Aboriginal culture and language, particularly in a Central Australia context.

Selection criteria and position description are available by contacting (08) 8953 3172. For more detailed information contact Jill Meade on (08) 8953 3172. All applicants are expected to respond to the Selection Criteria as part of their application.

Preference will be given to applicants who strongly identify with the target group

Applications close 17 August 2005

NAIDOC 2005



Loud and proud in Central Australia

CAAMA cleverly decided it would base its 25th anniversary celebrations around NAIDOC Week 2005. It was a decision which saw the biggest NAIDOC march in Alice Springs for years with floats and more than 600 people marching down the mall to meet at Anzac Oval. CAAMA kicked off its birthday celebrations at the Convention Centre with more than 1200 people enjoying a fashion show, NAIDOC Awards and a concert.



Darwin celebrates NAIDOC

Darwin's diverse Indigenous communities and organisations came together for annual NAIDOC celebrations under the broad theme of 'solidarity'.

Amidst a backdrop of the abolition of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission (ATSIC), and possible changes to the Land Rights Act, Aboriginal leaders in the Top End of the Northern Territory expressed concern over the lack of an elected regional voice.

Northern Land Council (NLC) chairman John Daly said the week is 'a time to come together, stand together, and fight together'.

"We need the younger generation to be more involved in NAIDOC activities to carry on the fight," Mr Daly said.

Other leaders agreed stating that NAIDOC 'is an opportunity to show the Darwin community and the rest of Australia that Aboriginal people are not going to

go away, and an opportunity to showcase culture and pride."

NLC chief executive Norman Fry said at the NAIDOC march through Darwin's CBD that with the large number of Aboriginal NT parliamentarians 'concrete change' was needed.

"We need real jobs, and we need to be a part of the economic development pie of the Northern Territory," Mr Fry said.

"This place is growing, lots



of people who don't live here are going to make lots of money. In 20 years time, we will be roughly 50 per cent of the entire NT population, and you don't have to be too smart to realise that there has

to be some real concrete change, starting in education and health, and it means that high schools have to be available to our larger Aboriginal communities."

SRAs - who signed and how much they got

MUNGKARTA \$45,000

The Mungkarta community want to preserve and pass on knowledge about their history and culture.

The community has signed an SRA that will build a meeting place and help to record their language, history and art.

TENNANT CREEK \$363,000

Indigenous young people in the town to have a secure future and are working with the Australian Government to make sure families are supporting their children.

The community has signed an SRA that will provide short-term accommodation for young people affected by family breakdown.

JULALIKARI COUNCIL \$136,000

The Julalikari Council will provide two houses for youth accommodation as well as vehicle and related expenses.

Families have agreed to work with the Julalikari Council and associated agencies to address issues such as alcohol abuse and family violence.

The Australian Government will support the accommodation project by paying for furniture, utilities and food as well as initial salaries for the four youth-support officers.

HATCHES CREEK \$100,000

The community at Hatches Creek have signed an SRA that will establish the infrastructure for a pastoral enterprise.

The community will provide labour to build cattle yards, fences, gates and water troughs and muster the cattle on the associated Anurrete Aboriginal Lands Trust.

The Australian Government will purchase the materials necessary to build the infrastructure.

BONYA \$163,000

The Bonya community wants to replace a nearby store which is closing.

The Bonya community has entered into an SRA to establish a new community-owned and operated store that will also provide longer-term health benefits. The store will sell only healthy food, and the community will participate in health and education programs.

Families will be learning about better nutrition, family budgeting and dog health and will keep a clean-yard policy, including no vandalism or littering in the common area. They have also agreed not to seek credit or loans from the store.

NPY WOMEN'S COUNCIL \$41,000

The NPY Women's Council wants young women in the region to aspire to go to university.

Under an SRA between the Women's Council, the Australian Government and the University of Melbourne, 12 young Anangu and Yarnangu women were selected to go to summer school at the university in March 2005. The young women found out what it is like to live on campus and study in a large city. The Australian Government funded travel to and from Melbourne and a mentor to accompany the young women.

ALPURRULUM \$15,000

The Alpurrrulum community needs a place to hold meetings, health education sessions and training in computers, community radio and the internet.

The community and the Southern Barkley Aboriginal Corporation (the local CDEP) have formed a partnership with government to build a community centre including an internet cafe.

Governments will provide funds for the foundations and building materials and equipment for the internet cafe.

BARROW CREEK REGION

Community residents want to continue living on their ancestral lands while enjoying more of the amenities and opportunities available to other Australians.

The NT Indigenous Housing Authority is already constructing three new houses for the communities.

Through their SRA, the communities will continue to clean up their existing camps, and plant and maintain an orchard.

The communities also want to make sure their children attend school. As the nearest school is at Neutral Junction, 15 kilometres away, parents will develop a roster system to take the children to and from school.

They will also ensure their children are properly prepared for the school day, starting with a good breakfast.

The Neutral Junction School will provide a venue for community and school activities and keep records of students' participation and attendance.

TARA \$45,000

The Tara community wants to make sure their children go to school and parents are more involved in their education.

Under its SRA, the Tara community will provide a car service to take children from the smaller communities to and from school, assist in a general community clean up, plant and maintain local trees, and arrange sporting and recreational activities for the children.

WILORA \$45,000

The Wilora community wants to raise health standards in the area and give children a better education.

The SRA will provide a meeting place and organised activities for the community to improve their health and education.

Wilora residents have resolved to clean up the whole community, prepare the site for the meeting place and provide labour for the construction.

The Australian Government will fund the new meeting place, and provide equipment and materials to set up programs to improve community health and education.

EMU POINT \$215,000

The Emu Point community wants to become self-sufficient by developing a stockyard and market garden, as well as maintaining traditional harvesting of bush tucker.

The SRA will provide labour and materials to complete the cattle fence and provide a water supply.

To support these activities and promote early childhood development, the Australian Government will also fund a new child-care facility.

Community elders will work with young people to develop stock-handling skills and art and craft skills. They will also ensure cultural knowledge is passed down to the next generation.

A new state school will soon be built for the growing community at Emu Point.

MINJILANG \$1,035,000

Cyclone Ingrid destroyed the Minjilang Store which now operates from a shed with temporary refrigeration.

The community has signed an SRA to replace this important community facility.

Once the store is completed, the Australian Government will provide funds for community facilities outside the store (such as picnic tables and barbeques) where the community can gather

and share a meal. It will also ensure there are enough CDEP places for the community to be part of the rebuilding.

The community will provide labour to help with construction, keep the store free from vandalism, and not pressure staff for store credit.

PALMERSTON \$150,000

Residents of Palmerston Indigenous Village agreed on the need for a community plan and more healthy activities for young people.

The Village has on average 90 people living in 18 dwellings.

The SRA provides for an active partnership with the Palmerston City Council, which will hold fortnightly meetings with residents on community development. The community hall will also be upgraded so it can be used for recreational activities.

There will be funding for a Community Development Officer and an Activities Officer, the repair and maintenance of the hall and the purchase of recreational equipment.

GAPUWIYAK \$160,000

The Gapuwiyak community wants to improve community governance and provide constructive activities for young people, including engaging them in CDEP.

Recently Gapuwiyak Community Council has been struggling to provide local government services not only for its 950 residents but also to 10 smaller communities.

The SRA provides for the construction of a multi-purpose centre, the re-establishment of the CDEP, and healthy activities for young people.

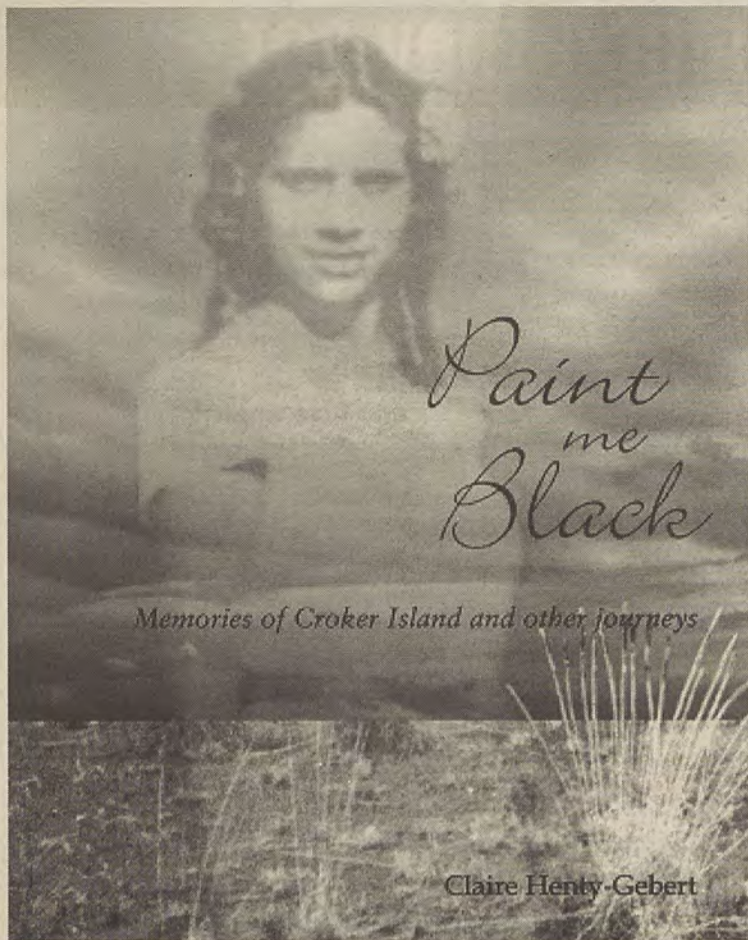
The Australian Government will fund the construction of the centre and the employment of a consultant for six months. Community members will stop the sale of take-away food to children during school hours.

WADEYE \$900,000

The SRA provides for the construction of more houses to overcome housing shortages and provide opportunities for training and local jobs.

The Wadeye Palngun Warangat (Women's Association) promotes women's and family activities. Through the Ngepan Patha Centre, local women are being trained in business and computing skills, developing a sewing business, and organising social events for themselves and the community.

A 'no school, no pool' policy, and other community initiatives, have seen an increase in school attendance.



Paint Me Black: Memories of Croker Island and other Journeys

Written by Claire Henty-Gebert and published by Aboriginal Studies Press. RRP: \$24.95

On 27 September 1989, sixty-nine years after she was born, Claire Henty-Gebert finally met her Indigenous family for the first time. A family that she had dreamed and wondered about for a long time.

Claire was born in *Kaytetye* and *Alyawarra* country near Frew River station, about 400 km northwest of Alice Springs,

in the mid 1920s – a time when many Aboriginal children were taken away from their parents never to be seen again.

This book is Claire's story of piecing together her family's living history and her personal journey to find herself.

It also tells of the personal hardships of a child growing up in the Second World War. In 1941, with Alice Springs preparing for war, children from the Bungalow were removed to various islands off the north coast of Australia.

Under the strict care of Methodist missionaries, Claire was moved to Croker Island (an island where the Arafura and Timor seas meet), only to be forced to flee four months later when the war intensified.

Claire speaks of her extraordinary 90-day journey – by boat, on foot, by canoe, truck and train – to seek refuge in Sydney.

Surviving Cyclone Tracy with her husband, Claire Henty-Gebert also gives the reader a harrowing account of rebuilding her life again in Darwin.

Movie festival coming up



Special guests and home grown products are all a feature of this year's annual Stringworld Homelands Movie Festival to be held in Darwin during the month of September.

This year's Festival brings a moving art story to the Top End.

Australian film director Michael Butler, a guest of the 5th Annual Festival, will bring his painted vehicle and the stories that go with it, for the public to see.

Michael's one-hour film, a journey that he and his Aboriginal partner made while travelling around Australia in Darwin in September.

Nationally renowned Aboriginal film director, Alan

Collins, will present a short film entitled 'Songman' a film surrounding the legendary Wandjina Songman, Scotty Martin.

While local director, Steve McGregor, is expected to present his documentary entitled; "5 Seasons." filmed around the Top End coastal community of Ngukurr, the film is a collaboration between Steven and CAAMA productions in Alice Springs.

Special guest director, Gary Cooper, will preview his film 'Sugarbag' a story about his mother's childhood growing-up in the goldfields of Kalgoorlie.

A special screening of all four films can be viewed on the night.



ABOVE: AT POLICEMAN'S WATERHOLE DURING THE RECENT JOINT MANAGEMENT MEETINGS WERE L-R: DOLLY KELLY, BETTY BEASLEY, EADIE HOLMES, GEORGINA HOLMES AND LUCY HOLMES
ABOVE RIGHT: TERESA RYDER AT TREPHINA GORGE
RIGHT: SOME OF THE GROUP WHO WORKED WITH THE RANGERS AT TREPHINA GORGE



PICTURES CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12-13

W. Rubuntja earns his rest

W Rubuntja Pengarte

c.1923-2005

Painter, political activist, philosopher

Three old men sitting in the dirt under a blue tarp—painting. Constantly in discussion, sometimes singing, about *Arrkweteye atherre*—the Two Women story—that was to be the central Australian contribution to the 1988 Barunga Statement to be presented to prime minister Bob Hawke the next day. They knew they had to get it right.

One of the painters, W Rubuntja Pengarte, Arrernte elder and chairman of the Central Land Council (CLC), had dealt with prime ministers before, from Whitlam to Fraser—and would do so again, from Keating to Howard.

He would get it right.

The death of Rubuntja last week has marked more than the passing of one of the grand old men of Central Australia, but of a significant moment in the history of relations between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Australians.

We have lost one of the great philosophers of reconciliation—and more besides.

Born around 1923 at *Mpwerkingke* (Burts Well), Rubuntja came into a world in which he was raised with adults who remembered the coming of Europeans to central Australia in the 1860s.

As a kid, he grew up in and around the Alice Springs township—but often going hunting with his family north west as far as *Urepentye* (Mt Hay), from which he drew his family name and fire dreaming from his father's father's side.

From his own accounts, he was a bit of a scallywag as a child, with adults often wondering, "where's that little *Atnyematje* (witchetty grub)?" He played with other Aboriginal children, but also with white kids such as Bernie Kilgarrif—a life long friend, and later conservative senator for the Northern Territory. "Everybody mixed up together just like spiders and ants and flies ... all mixed up together ... it was good ... the old days."

It was a time, too, of great Christian missionising in central Australia.

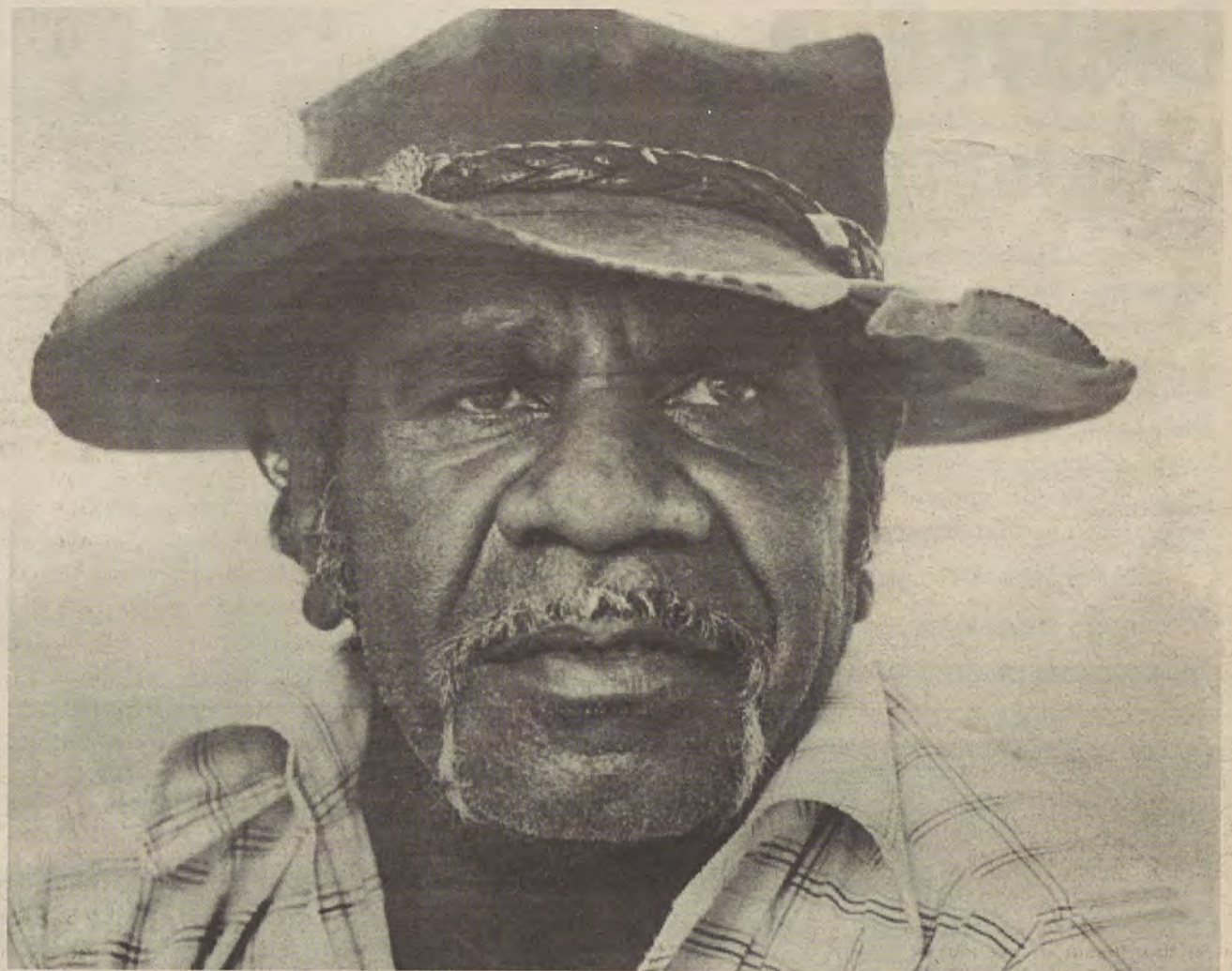
There's a certain wry humour about Rubuntja's recollections of sharing lollies and baptisms with both Lutheran and Catholic missionaries.

Christianity was always to remain a strong influence on Rubuntja—but deeply enmeshed in Arrernte religious and world views.

For Rubuntja, there was a catechism in which Jesus has rights to heaven through His father's father—*Aknganentye*—and to this world on earth through His mother's father—*Altyerre*—in which His traditional country was Bethlehem.

World War II brought an end to a rudimentary western education, and an introduction to a diverse working life.

He laboured for a while for the army—including hunting for kangaroo meat for the troops—and afterwards a range of jobs typical



for Aboriginal people living on the fringes of Alice Springs.

As a stockman, most of the work was in the Alice Springs region—but ranged as far a field as Timber Creek in the Top End.

He worked, also, as a timber cutter, brickmaker and gardener—and even for a short spell as a racehorse trainer.

Much later he was to work at Amoonguna as butcher and cook.

But from the 1950s he also began a career as an artist, first learning from Albert Namatjira, his father's cousin: watching him paint at the *Nyewente*, *Kngwertnarre* and *Kerekwatye* camps on the outskirts of Alice.

Starting at "five quid" and scrounging materials, it was the beginning of a half-century creative career that branched out by the 1970s from the Arrernte watercolour genre, to acrylics in the "dot dot" style of the Western Desert.

Alternating between the two, his work over recent decades has been collected by national and state galleries as well as private buyers.

Increasingly, Rubuntja's art became overtly focused on his country and dreamings, reflecting his developing role as a political activist in the burgeoning struggle for land rights in central Australia and beyond.

Deputy to Charles Perkins, chair of the interim CLC, in 1976 Rubuntja famously led a march of a thousand Aboriginal people through the streets of Alice, and a nationwide speaking tour—actions which preserved many of the strengths of the Land Rights Act passed by Fraser's Liberals later that year.

As CLC chairman 1976-1980, and again 1985-1988, Rubuntja's national profile mirrored a local activism in protecting sacred sites in the Alice Springs township.

As chairman of the Sacred Sites Authority (1983-85) he prevented the destruction of sites threatened by urban expansion in the Sadadeen Valley in 1983.

Culminating in victory in an eight-year battle in 1991 over proposals to dam the Todd River at *Werlatye Atherre* and *Atnyere Arrkelthe*, Rubuntja was arguably the architect of legal acknowledgment of Arrernte interests in the living cultural landscape of Alice Springs.

This was to be recognised by the Federal Court in its 2000 ruling in favour of Arrernte Native Title over large tracts of the Alice Springs municipal area—a first in Australia.

In 1991 Rubuntja was appointed to the Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation, and again in 1995.

It was a role he undertook as a senior Indigenous statesman—but one that fitted his vision of a land and nation that might be shared, with mutual respect for each other's laws and belief systems. It was a role he fulfilled with his hallmark grace and good humour.

And it was an intensely local philosophy of reconciliation, often saying that all children born in Alice Springs—black and white—are spiritual inheritors of the local *Ayeparenye* or Caterpillar dreaming: "their mother's blood is in this country".

There is a sense in which—history out of time of course—Rubuntja was Central Australia's renaissance man: artist, historian, singer, diplomat, ambassador, politician, linguist ... philosopher king. A strange and wonderful destiny for a man who once worked as a brickmaker, stockman, gardener, butcher and cook—and who was to play such a large role in shaping the future of Central Australia.

It's hard to imagine Alice Springs and surrounding lands without the presence of old man Rubuntja as an integral part of the landscape he painted—and defended. But, no doubt, the spirit of "that little *Atnyematje*" is still dancing.

W Rubuntja Pengarte is survived by his wife, Cynthia, children, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

COMMUNITY

Docker River rocks

When the Central Land Council held one of its Council meetings at Docker River in May, its Media Unit took the opportunity to display the banners designed and exhibited at the CLC's 30th Anniversary late last year.

The event kicked off with some inma by the ladies of Docker River and a community BBQ cooked by CLC field staff, followed by Docker River musicians playing late into the night in the community recreation hall.

The banners were accompanied by the CLC's digital photo archive which contains more than 4000 photos.

The exhibition and digital archive will continue touring other communities and one digital archive will be left in each region when further development is completed.

RIGHT: NYINKU DANCING AT THE EXHIBITION LAUNCH

THE CLC BANNERS DREW A GOOD CROWD IN DOCKER RIVER'S RECREATION HALL

BELOW RIGHT: CLC MEDIA OFFICER MISCHA CARTWRIGHT, COMMUNITY CHAIRMAN SANDY WILLY AND CLC CHAIRMAN WILLIAM BROWN



NYRRIPI FAMILY DAY

The Nyirripi community, 470 kilometres north-west of Alice Springs has paid respect and honoured family who have passed away over the years with a family Remembrance Day celebration.

The family Remembrance Day is the first time people have gathered to remember their old and young people and to celebrate their lives,

it is hoped this will become an annual event for the community.

The day included Pastor Hamilton Morris speaking words from the Bible in a short service on the basketball court.

The prayers were followed by young children and teenager sprint races and a barbecue.

CLC Council member,

Lindsay Turner said it was an important day for the community.

"It's been a special day for the Nyirripi Community. A lot of our family could not make it from Lajamanu, Alice Springs, Yuendumu and a few other Warlpiri relations and friends, but it's been good, it's something we need to continue family remembrance day

every year.

"It is important for the young generation to know who their father was, mother and family members who have done a lot of great things for the Nyirripi community," said Lindsay.

The Central Land Council photographic exhibition and digital archive was on show for the day and community members enjoyed searching for their loved ones in the collection.



ABOVE: ONE OF THE WINNERS WITH HER GRANDMOTHER

MIDDLE: NYRRIPI KIDS AFTER THE BIG RACE BELOW: CHECKING OUT THE CLC PICTURE

ARCHIVE



Thomas Stevens Peltharre

1950-2005

THE CENTRAL AUSTRALIAN ABORIGINAL COMMUNITY IS MOURNING THE SUDDEN LOSS OF THOMAS STEVENS PELTHARRE, AN ARRERENTE MAN WHO WAS WELL KNOWN FOR HIS DEEP KNOWLEDGE OF ARRERENTE LAW AND CULTURE, HIS WORK PROTECTING SACRED SITES AROUND ALICE SPRINGS AND HIS EARLY INVOLVEMENT IN ABORIGINAL ORGANISATIONS SUCH AS TANGENTYERE COUNCIL, YIPIRINYA SCHOOL AND THE CENTRAL LAND COUNCIL.

Mr Stevens was 55. Mr Stevens belonged to the Mparntwe (pronounced M-bunt-wa) estate group of Arrernte traditional owners in Alice Springs.

His knowledge of not only Arrernte law, but of Aboriginal law outside the Arrernte area, was exceptional and he was highly sought after as an authority on Arrernte culture.

His life spanned a period of enormous change for the Aboriginal people of Central Australia.

He was born in 1950 at Inernte-akerte (a camp south of the Telegraph Station), in a humpy of iron and calico where he lived a traditional life with his grandmother - obtaining water in the creek bed with digging sticks and



MR STEVENS AT A RALLY TO PROTEST AGAINST THE BUILDING OF A DAM ON A SACRED SITE IN ALICE SPRINGS IN 1990

hunting for bush tucker - and learning about Mparntwe country and law from his grandfather and uncle.

In the mid-seventies, he was one of the first employees at Tangentyere Council, welding frames for tents for people to live in on the town camps around Alice Springs.

He lived in one of these tents himself at a camp at Uyenpere

Atwatye.

He went on to become Council President and Vice President for many years.

He was among those who fought to get a lease for Uyenpere Atwatye (Hidden Valley Town Camp) for Mparntwe people to live on their traditional country.

Due to Mr Stevens and other's efforts, the entire Uyenpere Atwatye Valley became a registered sacred site.

During the Alice Springs native title claim he gave important evidence testifying to the travels of ancestral beings, and the markings they left in the town - sacred trees, rocks and hills - during their journeys.

The claim was determined in favour of the Arrernte people in 2000.

Tribute to a champion Kwementyay Gunner

The Central Land Council expressed its deep sorrow at the passing away of Alyawarre man Mr P Gunner at Utopia, 250 kilometers north-east of Alice Springs earlier this year.

CLC Director David Ross paid tribute to Mr Gunner's campaign to seek justice for the Stolen Generations and his work to progress self-governance for the Aboriginal people of Central Australia.

"We have lost a man of profound courage, whose life was deeply affected by his experience of being a stolen child," Mr Ross said.

"He underwent further trauma when he took his case to the Federal Court in 1996, and subsequently the High Court in order to seek justice for those who had experienced similar horrors as members of the

Stolen Generations."

Northern Land Council chief executive Norman Fry also expressed sorrow at the death of Mr Gunner.

"The Northern Land Council passes on its collective condolences to the Gunner family," Mr Fry said.

"His experience as a member of the Stolen Generations, and subsequent treatment by the Federal Court, highlights the often difficult journey faced by Aboriginal people in their journey home."

Tragically, in 2000 the Federal Court found that the Government was not liable for compensation for Mr Gunner and fellow claimant Lorna Cubillo. While Justice O'Loughlin acknowledged the abuse and suffering the pair had undergone as children, he said the Commonwealth had acted in

accordance to the laws of the time and there was not enough documentary evidence to support the arguments of the claimants that they had been removed against the wishes of their family.

The Court accepted the Commonwealth Government's argument that Mr Gunner was not forcibly removed as his mother's thumbprint was on an official document. In 2002 the High Court rejected their appeal.

"Despite the devastation he suffered, Mr Gunner continued to provide leadership to his community and to the Aboriginal people of Central Australia by his commitment to Aboriginal self governance," Mr Ross said. Mr Gunner was 56.

Gagudju man laid to rest

*The content of this story names a traditional Aboriginal person who has passed away.

It was the express wish of Bill Neidjie that his name and image continue to be published despite traditional protocol.

Displaying a wicked sense of humour, Bill Neidjie, traditional owner of Kakadu National Park, always said he wanted to hear all the nice things expressed

by friends, family and colleagues after someone passed away.

His only prerequisite was that he wanted to attend this type of wake - while he was still alive.

So the man credited with gifting his traditional country to the nation in the form of Kakadu National Park received his send-off, when hundreds of people turned up to pay their respects in person,

including judges, politicians, family and friends.

When Neidjie passed away in 2002 a traditional ceremony was held where his body was wrapped in paperbark.

Last month the final funeral rites were conducted in his traditional Bunitj country (also known as East Alligator River) over several days, where his remains were ceremonially painted with ochre,

and placed by his family in a log coffin box.

Following several nights of dance, song and ritual, the log coffin was then placed in a Dreaming place in his traditional country.

The son of Bill Neidjie, Jonathon, himself a Traditional Owner of Kakadu, said his father had a national influence on land rights in Australia.

"As an Elder of his

people and a man responsible to his traditional lands, he lifted the consciousness of the Australian people in general to the importance of place and culture," Jonathon Neidjie said.

Neidjie played an integral role in fighting for land rights in the Alligator Rivers region, and was awarded the Order of Australia Medal.

The Traditional Owners organised that a film production

company be present at certain times during the ceremony to record for future generations.

The subsequent footage and stills photographs will be housed at the National Archives in Canberra, and will be accessible for use by his family who will own and control the material.

TUYU TOP TIWI TEAM



The Tuyu Buffaloes have the bragging rights for the next 12-months as the best Australian football team at the top of Australia, with a hard-fought win over the widely-considered underdogs, Muluwurri Magpie Geese.

Tuyu took out the grand final 81 points to Muluwurri's 63 points, with Romeo Ullungura named the Brother Pye medallist for best on ground.

Even the full might of tropical cyclone Ingrid the week before,

couldn't stop the fanatical football fraternity in northern Australia coming together for the annual highlight of the Tiwi Islands Football League grand final, held at Stanley Tipiloura Oval at Nguiu on Bathurst Island.

The contest contained even more venom than usual with Tuyu, from Bathurst Island, and Muluwurri, from Melville Island – adding fuel to an already intense inter-island rivalry.

Having faced the



brunt of the cyclone the previous week, the preliminary final had to be postponed until two days prior to actual grand final day.

This left the Muluwurri Magpie Geese, based at Milikapiti, one of the worst hit areas by Ingrid, having most of their players cleaning up after the cyclone, and then having to

play, and eventually winning their preliminary final against Pumaralli just two days before the grand final.

Tuyu, who had a two-week preparation prior to the grand final, proved too strong on the day in front of 5000 spectators, including the respective fan-based 'armies' of Magpie Geese and Buffaloes.



The match was also tinged with history with Clancy Puruntatameri the first Tiwi Islander to control a whistle in a grand final.

The day also featured several aspects of the local culture: with traditional dancing by Tiwi Dancers; the national anthem sung in the local Tiwi language prior to the first bounce; camp dogs wandering care-free on the ground during the match; and the ecstatic celebrating



behind the respective goal-mouths when goals were scored, enveloping the goal umpires with team colours.

KANTILLA into Hall of Fame



THE LATE DAVID KANTILLA'S DAUGHTER AND GRANDDAUGHTER DISPLAY MR KANTILLA'S AWARDS

The Tiwi Island Football League grand final in March was also the stage for the long-awaited recognition of one of Tiwi's footballing legends.

The late David Kantilla was honoured with his

posthumous induction into the South Adelaide Football Club's Hall of Fame at a ceremony at Nguiu.

Medals were presented to David Kantilla's daughter, Marie Claire Piluaki, on grand final day.

Kantilla was

recruited to South Adelaide from St Mary's in 1961, and went on as a ruckman and full forward to kick 106 goals in 113 games until 1966.

He went on to achieve the unequalled record of winning the Knuckey Best and Fairest Cup in his first two years with South Adelaide, and played state football for the South Australian premiership side of 1964, a match he was awarded best-on-ground honours.

