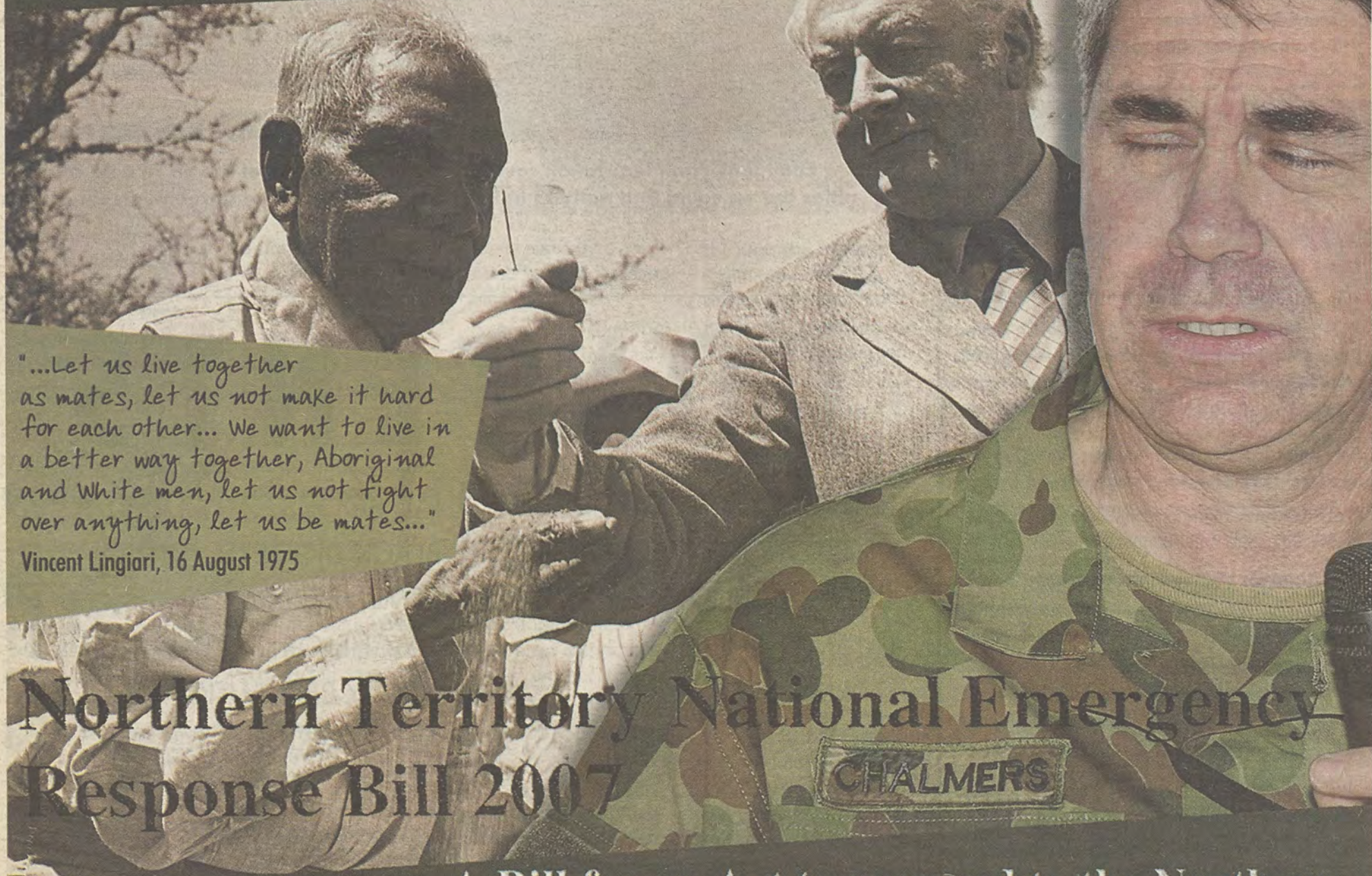


LAND RIGHTS NEWS



Volume 9, Number 2, August 2007

"Vincent Lingiari, I solemnly hand to you these deeds as proof, in Australian law, that these land belong to the Gurindji people and I put into your hands this piece of the Earth itself as a sign that we restore them to you and your children forever."
Gough Whitlam 16 August, 1975



"...Let us live together as mates, let us not make it hard for each other... We want to live in a better way together, Aboriginal and White men, let us not fight over anything, let us be mates..."
Vincent Lingiari, 16 August 1975

Northern Territory National Emergency Response Bill 2007

A Bill for an Act to respond to the Northern Territory's national emergency, and for related purposes



INSIDE
GOVERNMENT EMERGENCY INTERVENTION
IN THE NORTHERN TERRITORY - PERMITS,
CDEP, CANBERRA DELEGATION AND
LIFT OUT GUIDE TO THE NEW MEASURES



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The new Commonwealth legislation covers nearly every aspect of life on remote communities but we could find nothing in it which included tenancy agreements for camels

Land Rights NEWS

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COVER PHOTO

The past and the present. Has the dream been lost?
Most Aboriginal groups have come out strongly against the Government's lack of consultation with the people it says its trying to help with its Federal intervention legislation

GOVERNMENT INTERVENTION

The world changed dramatically for the Northern Territory's Aboriginal people on 21 June this year when the Federal Government declared the welfare of indigenous children in the Territory a national emergency.

Prompted by findings of the Little Children are Sacred child abuse report, Prime Minister John Howard and the Indigenous Affairs Minister Mal Brough announced, in their words, "broad ranging measures to stabilise and protect communities in the crisis area".

The Little Children are Sacred inquiry was set up by the Territory Government to investigate child sexual abuse in Aboriginal communities.

It was co-chaired by Rex Wild QC and Pat Anderson and they were asked to:

- Investigate how and why Aboriginal children were being abused; and,
- Identify problems with the way the government attempts to protect Aboriginal children from abuse and how government departments could improve those attempts.

The inquiry gathered feedback from more than 260 meetings with individuals, agencies and organisations, visited 45 com-

munities and received 65 submissions.

Swift action

Rex Wild and Pat Anderson's Little Children are Sacred report found that child sexual abuse is serious, widespread and often unreported and included 97 recommendations.

The co-chairs now criticise the Prime Minister John Howard and the Indigenous Affairs Minister Mal Brough because the Federal Government's sweeping changes ignored the report's recommendations.

Mr Brough declared child abuse in Aboriginal communities a national emergency and announced many measures, including:

- Welfare reforms to stem the flow of money being put towards substance abuse;
- Enforcing school attendance by linking income support and

family assistance payments to school attendance;

- Acquiring communities through five year leases and paying just terms compensation;
- Increasing police numbers in communities by seconding Australian Federal Police and police from other states;
- Banning the possession of pornography;
- Scrapping the permit system for common areas in communities, access roads and airstrips;
- Appointing managers of government business in communities;
- Appointing a taskforce chaired by West Australian magistrate Sue Gordon to oversee the intervention; and,
- Compulsory health checks for all Aboriginal children to identify and treat health problems and any effects of abuse.

The health checks have since become voluntary and legislation has been passed

through the Federal Parliament with the support of the Labor Party implementing the Government's intervention response.

Intervention legislation

It's been argued that three of the Federal Government's five intervention Bills breach the Racial Discrimination Act.

Those alleged breaches include the forced creation of five-year leases over Aboriginal communities, regulating how people spend their welfare payments and withdrawing the right of indigenous people to appeal through the courts and the Territory or Federal governments assuming control over government-funded buildings in Aboriginal communities.

Protests

Since the Federal Government first announced it's intervention in Northern Terri-

tory Aboriginal communities, the Central and Northern land councils have welcomed greater efforts being made to address the disadvantage in communities, but declared their opposition to the compulsory acquisition of communities under five year leases and scrapping the permit system controlling access to those communities.

Without significant amendments the entire package of legislation could not be supported by the Land Councils.

Protests were also held by indigenous groups in Alice Springs

and Darwin.

Non-Aboriginal organisations including the NT Police Union have supported retention of the permit system.

Both land councils sought meetings with the Federal Indigenous Affairs Minister Mal Brough but were denied any direct contact with him.

The Federal Government dismissed calls for the legislation to be delayed so people would have time to consider its consequences, but even the Country Liberal Party member for Solomon based on Darwin, Dave Tollner, admitted on ABC radio that he hadn't had time to read all the legislation before voting on it.

Amid the protests, the government agreed to send the legislation to a one-day Senate hearing and it was passed on 17 August this year.

Below: Signs at Willowra before the intervention teams arrived



Bureaucrat Brian Stacey, Taskforce leader Sue Gordon, Taskforce Operational Commander General Chalmers and CLC Director at the recent CLC meeting



Emotional plea on lethal roads



Richard Minor and Lindsay Corby worry about the roads west of Alice Springs

One of the biggest concerns of members at the Central Land Council's meeting near Alice Springs recently was the poor state of remote roads in Central Australia.

Speaker after speaker voiced their anger at the failure of successive governments to follow through on promises to improve the remote road network.

People spoke emotionally about the relations who'd lost their lives on unsealed roads that are disintegrating through a lack of maintenance.

The issue was put into perspective by Richard Minor from Mount Liebig who spoke of the number of graves that have been filled by road accident victims.

"I see gravesites like flowers, I cry there. I cry a couple of times there on the roads. It's very important thing you know. Look today, tomorrow, next day we lose a couple more because of these bad roads," Mr Minor said.

He appealed to Labor MLAs Alison Anderson, the Member for MacDonnell and Karl Hampton, the Member for Stuart, to fight for more roads funding from the Northern Territory Government.

Lindsay Corby, representing region five of the CLC which takes in Kintore, Mount Liebig and Papunya, appealed for greater policing of the sale of gunga in Central Australia. He said drugs and bad roads were a dangerous combination.

"We crying for our young people. Especially in Kintore. A lot of crosses from Kintore might end up on this Tanami Road here," he said.

Harry Nelson from Yuendumu said the issue of road funding had been a problem for remote

communities for many years and that the former member for Stuart Peter Toyne had promised to seal the Tanami Road.

"This roads business been going on for years. These discussions and our former Member for Stuart. He's made the promise that the bitumen would be put out to our community or the West Australian-Northern Territory border."

The current member for Stuart Karl Hampton told the CLC meeting he wasn't aware of the promise.

"I didn't know about that promise to seal it to the Northern Territory border and W-A border but certainly the Tanami is one of the major roads that we are trying to upgrade and seal and we do that every budget year.

"I think there's five-point-four million dollars for this financial year but to seal it all the way to the Northern Territory-WA border - we wouldn't be able to fund that ourselves. We'd have to go to Canberra. You'd have to maybe get mining companies to have a look at that because it's a lot of money."

Francis Kelly from Yuendumu warned of other dangers if proper attention wasn't paid to the state of Central Australia's unsealed road network.

"Getting old on these corrugations. These corrugations making us old," Mr Kelly said. "Old man lost all his dogs out of the back of his car on those roads," Mr Kelly said.



Taskforce visits CLC Meeting

Above: Sue Gordon, General Chalmers and bureaucrat Brian Stacy listen to the concerns of Council members at the meeting
Left: Gilbert Corbett supporting sending a delegation to Canberra

Below: Taskforce leader Sue Gordon talks with MLA Alison Anderson

Bottom: Council members listen to the taskforce members talk about the intervention



Abolition of CDEP punishes the poor

The Central and Northern Land Councils say that hardship and poverty will result from the recently announced abolition of the CDEP program.

CLC Director David Ross said that delegates at a Land Council meeting this week were upset and extremely anxious about the future.

"Abolishing CDEP is not to get people into jobs. It is to get them out of jobs, for the sole purpose of reducing and controlling the incomes of Aboriginal people in the Northern Territory," Mr Ross said.

The Government is unable to quarantine people's wages but it can quarantine people's welfare payments.

"It's just a hasty postscript to a package of measures created with no evidence of long term planning or investment.

"There are 8000 people on CDEP in the Northern Territory and the Government says it aims to shift 2000

people into real jobs.

"That leaves 6000 people whose income will be halved after a year.

"This is counter productive to any measures that the Government says are designed to improve people's lives.

"The Australian Government has just pushed Aboriginal people further from the mainstream economy and further into poverty.

Mr Ross said that while CDEP wasn't perfect and in some cases needed better management it did provide a bridge to real employment.

"This is especially the case in groups like rangers who are increasingly able to secure private contracts due to the support given to them by CDEP.

"The best that can be said for abolishing CDEP is that it will no longer disguise the real employment figures," Mr Ross said.

"The situation in remote communities

is so bad that this government has finally declared a national emergency. How getting rid of 8,000 jobs, and halving many family incomes overnight, supposed to reduce poverty?" NLC Chairman, John Daly, said.

"At the NLC, we have the most successful Aboriginal employment program in the country.

"Over the next three years, we will have secured over 700 jobs for Aboriginal people. So far, governments are not even been in the race with us. How will they replace those 8,000 jobs?"

The NLC is also worried about the impact of the scrapping of the CDEP on its ranger programs which currently employ over 400 people.

Mr Daly said land and sea based ranger programs have been operational for over a decade in remote regions, and fulfil roles often not covered by mainstream agencies.

"They know their own lands and seas better than most; work in tandem with government and non-government agencies and; are well placed to deal with the incursion of feral animals, vegetation and illegal fishermen," Mr Daly said.

"They have, indirectly, played a vital role in the coastal surveillance of this country."

"To no longer have these valuable land and sea managers patrolling and monitor country and coastline would be a travesty," Mr Daly said.."

"If the federal government is fair dinkum about providing employment opportunities for Aboriginal people in remote and regional areas, then perhaps now is the time for them to acknowledge the work these groups are doing on-country and engage them in negotiations to move towards a real wage," Mr Daly said.

New suburb of Lyons for Darwin



NLC chief executive Norman Fry, senior Larrakia representative Koolpinyah Richard Barnes, Larrakia Development Corporation's Greg Constantine, and Larrakia Nation's Kelvin Costello.

Darwin has a new suburb as a result of a partnership involving traditional owners, Defence Housing, a Canberra investment group, and the Northern Land Council.

The neighbourhood centre of new suburb Lyons, in Darwin's northern suburbs, was recently opened, which will eventually see 700 houses built, with 300 for Defence Force families.

The joint venture of Defence Housing Authority, and the Canberra Investment Corporation has been working with Larrakia Nation Aboriginal Corporation, Larrakia Development Corporation and the NLC on ensuring that the cultural heritage of the area is recognised.

NLC chief executive Norman Fry joined

Larrakia Elder Koolpinyah Richard Barnes, Larrakia Nation's Kelvin Costello, and Larrakia Development Corporation's Greg Constantine at the opening of the neighbourhood centre, Garanmanuk, which is Larrakia for 'grandmother'.

The joint venture is also committed to provide employment opportunities throughout the course of the project for the Indigenous community.

The first employment contract approved was to the Larrakia Development Corporation for the creation of fire trails.

725 new bureaucrats suck up remote jobs

While some 6000 Aboriginal people will lose their jobs when CDEP is scrapped, the Government will create 725 more full-time bureaucrats to deal with its intervention in the Northern Territory.

And nearly half of

those are for Centrelink to micromanage all the people whose income will be quarantined.

The Department of Employment and Workplace Relations will increase by 140 positions to manage the transition of getting people out of CDEP employment

and on to Work for the Dole.

The Attorney-Generals Department will get an additional 16 people, mainly located in NT.

However there will be no new Australian Federal Police positions.

The Defence force get no additional

personnel but will use 125 reservists and three permanent ADF members

Employment and Workplace Relations (DEWR) scores 140 new positions (for CDEP 'transition', expansion of Work for the Dole and other employment programs). Of these, 105 will be Northern

Territory based.

Indigenous Business Australia will create 10 new positions

The Department of Education Science and Training (DEST) will boost by 17 new staff with eight to be based in NT

Minister Brough's Department, Families, Community Services

and Indigenous Affairs (FACSIA) increases staffing by 150 which includes the new Government Business Managers.

About seventy five per cent of these new positions will be Territory based.

Health and Ageing will get 42 new positions of which 15 to be based in the NT.

THE LAND NEEDS ITS PEOPLE

The people of Lajamanu had worked hard for years on becoming an Indigenous Protected Area and a ceremony which finally declared the region around it as an IPA was held earlier this year.

Central Land Council Director, David Ross said that the declaration to have 40,000 square kilometers of the area as an IPA is a valuable investment by the Australian Government and a boost to the Lajamanu community.

"Investing in the bush, stimulating employment and building on the skills of local people is vital for the future of young Aboriginal people in remote areas," Mr Ross said.

"Lack of employment opportunities in remote areas contributes to urban drift, alienation and social dysfunction which costs lives and money.

"We would like to see many more of these types of investments in the bush by governments," he said.

The northern Tanami has a large number of cultural sites, dreaming tracks and historic locations for the Warlpiri and Gurindji people.

"It remains a dynamic cultural landscape supporting the spiritual and social wellbeing of around 1200 traditional Aboriginal landowners.

"I think Lajamanu can feel proud of its young men and women who have worked on this. All Australians reap the rewards of the preservation and management of



Above and left: the day was celebrated with some rarely performed and spectacular dances

a unique part of our natural estate," Mr Ross said.

"Already the rangers have had contracts rehabilitating the Tanami Mine Site and are about to begin a flora and fauna survey at the old mine.

They are also involved in controlled

burning and a broad range of other land management activities."

Several mining leases, including Groundrush and the Tanami Mine fall within the area as they are on Aboriginal freehold land and are environmentally



managed by the Wu-laign Rangers who are key participants in the

Tanami Biodiversity Monitoring Project.

Traditional owners challenge mine in Federal Court

Traditional owners from the Borroloola region attended a Federal Court case against the Commonwealth in late July.

The case follows the approval of the expansion of McArthur River Mine, allowing the company to convert from an underground to an open-cut mine and divert five kilometres of the McArthur River.

Traditional owners from the Borroloola region are challenging whether the Commonwealth followed due process in approving the changes.

Northern Land Council chief executive Norman Fry congratulated the traditional owners for showing strength by initiating court action.

"The McArthur River is an extensive river with a diverse channel system," Mr Fry said.

"Impact assessments of the proposal indicated that an alteration to its natural course would have



had significant impact on many traditional and commercial activities downstream of the mine's operations."

Above: Borroloola traditional owners leave the Supreme Court in Darwin

Indigenous leaders at Garma respond to Federal intervention

The timing of this year's Garma Festival in north-east Arnhem Land came at a critical time in Aboriginal affairs...

With the tabling of the Federal Government's 500 pages of amendments to Land Rights legislation due the following week, Indigenous leaders including the Northern Land Council chairman John Daly, and chief executive Norman Fry, former NLC chairman Galarrwuy Yunupingu, Central Land Council's Maurie Ryan, historian Jackie Huggins, Carpentaria Land Council's Murradoo Yanner, Reconciliation Australia's Patrick Dodson, National Indigenous Television's Patricia Turner, and former NT minister John Ah Kit, held forums during the festival to discuss the Federal intervention into remote Aboriginal communities in the Northern Territory.

Delegates spoke passionately about the struggle to gain land rights over many decades, and were supportive of the need for improved services and infrastructure in Aboriginal communities to combat the symptoms of poverty – low education levels, increased domestic violence, substance and alcohol abuse, gambling, and the neglect and the abuse of Aboriginal children.

However, the forum questioned aspects of the reform package which seemingly had little to do with the safety of Aboriginal children, and indeed, potentially worked against the initial

intention of any changes.

Changes to the permit system, the abolition of the CDEP network, changes to lease arrangements, and the compulsory acquisition of Aboriginal lands were vehemently opposed by the delegates who vowed to travel to Canberra to present five message sticks to Federal politicians including Prime Minister John Howard, Opposition Leader Kevin Rudd, Greens Leader Bob Brown, Democrats Leader Andrew Bartlett, and Family First Senator Fielding.

NLC chief executive Norman Fry said the Commonwealth take-over of Aboriginal communities reflected the abject failure of all Governments, NT and Federal, to properly resource remote communities over the past three decades.

Mr Fry said the NLC opposed some proposals including the removal of the permit system in communities, and the removal of customary law from consideration in bail and sentencing cases.

"The NLC also seeks clarification as to the extent of compulsory acquisition for five years of land in communities," he said.

The Federal Government's amendments were passed through the Senate last week.



Top: Women at Garma
Middle left to right: Galarrwuy Yunupingu holds the 'Little Children are Sacred' report which sparked a Federal intervention into the abuse of Aboriginal children in the Northern Territory; traditional dancers at Garma; The passing of song, dance and ceremony from one generation to the next is a highlight of Garma; Red Flag dancers told the story of contact with the Indonesian Maccassans.
Bottom: Former NLC chairman Galarrwuy Yunupingu looks at the historic 30 years of land rights panels, produced by the NLC; the leadership group at the Festival

Mutitjulu may get 500,000 tourists



The crowd at Mutitjulu for the 20th anniversary of the handback of Uluru in 2005

Another double standard has emerged under the Federal Government's intervention legislation that will see the Aboriginal residents of Mutitjulu opened up to the public scrutiny of possibly half a million tourists a year, but protect the mostly non-Aboriginal residents of the rangers' accommodation just a few metres away.

Both Mutitjulu and the rangers' accommodation, known as Rangerville, are located within the Uluru Kata Tjuta National Park little more than 500 metres from Uluru itself and have been protected from visitor access by a notice of the Director of National Parks under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act.

The Government's new legislation describes community land on which the public will have a right of access to roads and common areas within the community.

Under the new legislation that includes Mutitjulu but not Rangerville.

The two are separated by just a sand hill and a few metres.

The Central Land Council's director David Ross says it's another example of

one rule for Aboriginal people and a second rule for non-Aboriginal people.

"This government says it's good for the wellbeing of one of those communities to be open to the public glare of up to 500,000 tourists but not the other.

"For the other community just a little distance away, it would presumably be an invasion of privacy to have half a million people wandering past your bedroom window."

"Uluru Kata Tjuta National Park is set up very well for people to learn about the Anangu culture," said Mr Ross.

"The cultural centre is designed for that, Anangu Tours provide cultural tours where visitors are guaranteed of meeting a local Anangu person, there's abundant interpretive material that the

Anangu have made available themselves for tourists and there's numerous signs that help people understand the local culture.

There's no need for tourists to go wondering through the residential areas of Mutitjulu.

"The Government says access is only for the roads and common areas but in such a small community, that means the whole community.

People should be able to spend time with their families in privacy without their picture being taken by hundreds of thousands of tourists, day or night, any time of the year," Mr Ross said.

"The fact that public access to Rangerville is prohibited suggests the Government itself recognises the implications of half a million tourists looking over residents' front fence."



Above: Administrator Ted Egan, Andrew Stojanovski, Johnny Miller and Peggy Brown with their awards

After years of hard work running the remote Mt Theo petrol sniffing program, workers Johnny Miller, Peggy Brown, and Andrew Stojanovski each received the Order of Australia in a ceremony at Yuendumu.



Taskforce members during a recent visit to Elsey station

Northern Development Taskforce

A 15 member taskforce has been set up to examine opportunities for further land and water development in northern Australia in a manner that is ecologically, culturally and economically sustainable.

Chaired by Senator Bill Heffernan, the Northern Australia Land and Water Taskforce recently undertook a two-day visit, facilitated by the Northern Land Council, to Aboriginal owned and operated pastoral properties in the Daly River and Katherine regions of the Northern Territory (NT).

Meeting with sta-

tion managers, members of the taskforce learned first-hand about the properties operational and governance procedures, as well as Aboriginal peoples desire to become active, commercial participants in the NT's pastoral industry.

In the coming months the taskforce is planning to visit a number of locations across northern Australia to access local experience, skills and knowledge.

The taskforce has been established to examine the potential for further land and water develop-

ment in Northern Australia, with particular emphasis on the identification of the capacity of the north to play a role in future agricultural development.

Taskforce members include;

Senator Bill Heffernan (NSW), Senator Ian McDonald (QLD), Mr David Baffsky, Mr Lachlan Murdoch, Mr John Daly (NLC Chairman), Mr Noel Pearson, Mr Warren Entsch (MP), Mr Joe Ross, Dr Wally Cox, Mr Dave Tollner (NT), Senator Ron Boswell (QLD), Mrs Terry Underwood, OAM, Mr David Crombie, Mr Barry Haase (MP), Dr Andrew Johnson

Alice dry town

Alice Springs officially became a dry town on the first of August, meaning that grog can't be drunk in any public outdoor places.

The only exception is the Telegraph Station where alcohol can be drunk.

Signs were erected on the edge of Alice Springs last month, warning people of the change.

When unveiling the signs, the Chief Minister Clare Martin said banning the consumption of alcohol in public places in Alice Springs would help stop some of the town's social problems.

"There are serious anti-social problems in Alice Springs caused by alcohol abuse – public restricted areas are part of the solution," Ms Martin said.

"Alice Springs Town Council applied to become the first town in the Northern Territory to adopt these tough new measures – Katherine is set to follow its example."

The new law means people can be prosecuted for drinking in public areas like the Todd River, town council lawns or sporting fields with fines of up to \$500.

Special permits can be applied for from the Licensing Commis-

sion allowing for the consumption of alcohol for special events.

Grog will also be banned in Alice Springs town camps.

The Northern Territory's Licensing Minister Chris Burns said the ban will initially be for only six months. It will be evaluated after that period.

Legislation making the town camps bans law will be introduced to the NT Parliament in August and the bans enforced from a date yet-to-be decided.

Mr Burns says the Government is also considering introducing similar bans for other town camps around the Territory.

Aboriginal trainees work on Darwin Convention centre



NLC's Natasha Jeffrey and David Ross jnr with trainees in front of the Convention Centre

The Northern Land Council's award-winning Jobs and Careers Service (JACS) has continued to maintain its reputation as one of the most successful Indigenous employment and training programs in Australia by capitalising on opportunities at the Darwin convention centre site.

Darwin's new waterfront precinct will provide much-needed employment in the booming building industry for local Aboriginal people.

Some 90 Indigenous men and women are being supported to train for jobs in the local construction industry, as well as gain nationally-recognised skills across various trades.

The first 30 participants, aged between 16 and 43, started their training last month, where trainees learnt skills in con-

crete finishing, plastering and boarding.

Northern Land Council (NLC)'s Jobs and Career Services Manager, Barry King said the waterfront work represented a 'stepping stone' to other work in the industry.

Of the 90 trainees, 60 graduates of the training will be offered jobs in trades in concreting, painting and skilled labouring on the waterfront site, with the remaining 30 trainees to be offered jobs on other major projects in the Darwin area.

The Territory Con-

struction Association (TCA) and the NLC has developed the project with the support of the Australian Government, and the construction groups on the waterfront project, Sitzler Bros and Laiang O'Rourke.

The TCA and the NLC have been in successful partnerships involving the training and placing of Indigenous people into jobs since 2001 in projects such as the ADRail Project, Wickham Point LNG Plant and the Bradshaw Field Training Area near Timber Creek.



Federal MP Sharman Stone with trainees



Drinking in public areas without a permit in Alice Springs is banned.

This declaration covers the area bordered by:

- North near to the Motor Vehicle Registry;
- East to include the Ross Highway and the former Chateau Hornsby;
- South to the Adelaide turnoff; and
- West to include White Gums and Iparpa.

Public areas within these borders include parks, the Todd River bed, the mall, streets and carparks.

Alcohol can still be consumed in licensed premises and private residences and the picnic area at the Telegraph Station Reserve.

Penalties for drinking without a permit in public include:

- confiscation or 'tip out' of alcohol by police;
- on-the-spot fine of \$100; or
- taken to court where the maximum fine is \$500.

For more information go to:
www.nt.gov.au/justice or contact
 Licensing and Regulation on 8951 8452.



The 'Pope' teaches the young

recording the knowledge



Alec Peterson Apetyarr shares his intimate knowledge of the land

Alec Peterson Apetyarr is often referred to as "The Pope". He might also be known as a machine, a bundle of energy or simply one of the great characters of Central Australia.

Alec is more than 80 years-old, but could outpace many even a quarter his age.

He recently helped lead a joint Central Land Council-NT Libraries project through the Alyawarra lands south-east of Tennant Creek.

The project proposes engaging young people to capture important historical and cultural information and indigenous ecological knowledge from senior Alyawarra traditional owners and to perhaps in the future store it on an archive for future generations.

Alec was a key member of the team along with Casey Holmes Akemarr, Donald Thompson Akemarr, Alby Bailey Akemarr, Lucy Apwerl Pumper and Linda Apwerl Dobbs.

The group represents a remarkable collection of both historical and cultural knowledge.

Each demonstrated

their razor sharp memories on many occasions, including Alec. After an absence of about 60 years, he led the party directly to an area where he and his family used to hide from the Army in what he thinks was the 1940s.

Without a hint of his age, Alec swiftly led the group to a collection of rocks on top of a ridge hundreds of metres away in the distance. With the help of Donald Thompson Akemarr, he outlined how the children would hide behind a shelter made from rocks and watch the road below to avoid being taken away by the Army.

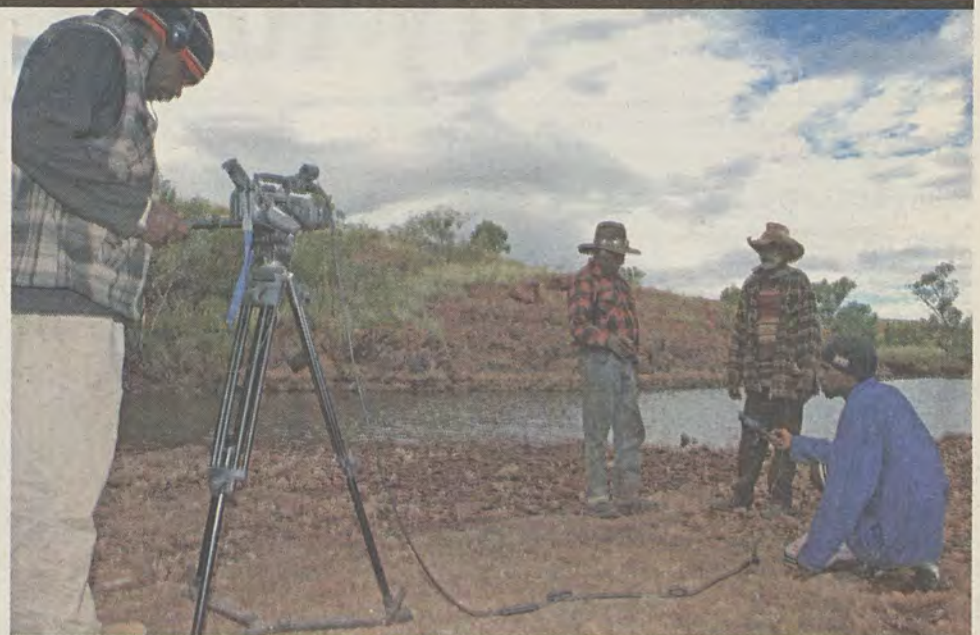
Further down the hill a circle of rocks was pointed out as the remnants of a childhood game.

Alec, Donald and Casey freely recounted tales from their childhood days in the Hatches Creek area in what is now the Anurrete Aboriginal Land

Trust in the Davenport Ranges.

They included games of football and ceremony in an open area near the former policeman's residence at Hatches Creek and the kindly assistance of a Chinese merchant who would help the local Aboriginal people in the area.

Below: Linda Apwerl Dobbs.



In August, the Central Land Council and NT Libraries combined forces with traditional owners from the Alyawarra language group to record traditional ecological knowledge and oral history

Organised by the CLC and a number of senior Alyawarra men, the project aims to engage young people to record oral history and traditional knowledge.

The four-day expedition included recording the knowledge of senior people, Alec Peterson Apetyarr, Alby Bailey Akemarr, Donald Thompson Akemarr, Casey Holmes Akemarr, Lucy Pumper Apwerl and Linda Dobbs Apwerl. Recording the knowledge was young men Meshak Holmes Apetyarr, Waylan Holmes Apetyarr, Farren

Bailey Apetyarr, Basil Morrison Apwerl and Ainsley Corbett Ngwarrey with the assistance of Jay Gibson and Sebastian Walker from NT Libraries.

Sometimes it is hard for senior people to get young people out bush, or to have the opportunity to transfer knowledge to younger generations, but it's hoped that by providing the opportunity to learn new recording and editing skills, there is an extra incentive for young people to get out bush.

Linda Apwerl Dobbs, from Murray Downs, said the project was worthwhile because it got the young men involved.

"Travelling around and looking for kwarlp (spectacled hare-wallaby) and the bush medicine. We showed them bush medicine at Hatches Creek," she said.

"Taking them young people around. They've got to learn more about the taking of the pictures. We're happy for them young fellas.

Two of the young men involved, Ainsley

Corbett Ngwarrey and Basil Morrison Apwerl, were both from Murray Downs.

Ainsley said he liked using the movie cameras to record what the old people were saying and that it was good to be able to spend some days travelling with them.

Basil said he also enjoyed learning more about filming and taking photographs during the trip. He said it was something he hadn't done before and that it was good recording the stories and the history that the old people knew.

Above: Sebastian Walker and Waylan Holmes Apetyarr record Donald Thompson and Alec Peterson

Below: Donald Thompson at the old Hatches Creek township



NT ABORIGINAL PEOPLE TAKE FIGHT TO CANBERRA

INTERVENTION LIFT OUT



Above: delegations from the Central Land Council and the Northern Land Council in Canberra. Left to right front row: Richard Minor, John Daly, Dhuwarrwarr Marika, Margie Daiyi Back row: Francis Kelly, Wali Wunungmurra, Valda Shannon, Harry Nelson, Gordon Nawundulpi, Gilbert Corbett, Helen Lee, Maurie Ryan, Lindsay Bookie, Norman Fry, Maria Singh, Walter Shaw, Bunug Galaminda, David Ross, Gina Bennett

Where the land councils stand

Both the Central and Northern land councils have been strong campaigners over many years for increased action by governments to address the alarming disadvantage in Northern Territory Aboriginal communities, but in the weeks since the Federal Government announced its intervention, they've also argued that the "emergency" action has missed the mark.

The two land councils have supported some of the government's emergency measures but have campaigned against some key elements of the legislation including the scrapping of permits for access to communities, acquiring of land through five-year leases and

the lack of a long term plan.

In his statement to the Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee, which had just one day to review the 500 pages of legislation, NLC Chairman John Daly questioned the need for such sweeping legislative changes.

"We continue to question the need for the totality of this package of legislation," Mr Daly said. "In fact, we doubt that most members of the Lower house had any idea of the detail of the amendments that they voted for this week.

"MP's used to be legislators; now they appear to vote for press releases."

The CLC's Director David Ross has de-

scribed the legislation as a tragedy for the Territory's Aboriginal people.

He said it signifies a new era when a minister can ignore the people who will be most affected by his policies.

Speaking at a rally of Aboriginal people in Alice Springs on the 15th of August, the day the legislation was due to be passed by the Senate, Mr Ross said, "We are genuinely shocked by the regressive, punitive and insidious nature of the legislative package.

This is an extraordinary move by the Australian Government."

On the issue of the permit changes and forced five-year leases over Aboriginal communities Mr Ross said,

"I can simply say that these changes have been vigorously opposed by the CLC and traditional owners, by other Aboriginal organisations, by the NT Government, by the police association, by academics, by lawyers and some politicians. In fact, it would seem that the only people that support these moves are Minister Brough and his hand-picked Emergency Intervention Taskforce."

Mr Daly said the Land Rights Act should be seen for the strength it is and the potential for Aboriginal economic development that it has.

"We would like to think beyond the current short-term politics to the next decade," he said. "We seek some assurances

from both the major parties that the essential strengths of the Land Rights Act are still valued by sensible people who can see the progress which it has caused.

"We hope that this tendency to trifle needlessly with the Act is temporary."

Mr Ross said the Government's intervention was an opportunity lost, but again it would be up to Aboriginal people to pick up the pieces.

"I can only hope that by coming together, by standing strong, by admitting our problems and confronting them, and by reaching out to our supporters right around the nation we can still build the future we want for our children."

From the heart...

"Our dream has been shattered. This is coming from my heart

We can't go home from Canberra and hold our heads up. I've got no answer for my people because the Minister wouldn't even meet with us. I feel sad and no good. I don't have anything positive to say.

After all these years of fighting for our land and our freedom this is where we end up. What about our freehold title? Only a handful of people in remote communities even understand what a 'lease' is, the government needs to come out and speak about it slowly.

It will take years for people to understand these changes. Our rights have been taken away."

Harry Nelson

Jakamarra, Yuendumu

WHAT DOES THE INTERVENTION MEAN?

Centrelink - welfare payments and school



The Australian Government will introduce legislation to quarantine (hold back) 50 percent of all Australian Government income support and family assistance payments, and CDEP wages.

This will occur for an initial period of 12 months for people who have had payments for two years or longer and live in an area "declared by the Minister"

The Australian Government will also link income support and family assistance payments to school attendance for principal carers of children of compulsory school age in school areas declared by the Minister.

Where school attendance is poor, it will hold back 50 percent of income support payments and 100 percent of family assistance payments, for an initial period of 12 months.

It will include deductions to provide for school breakfast and lunch for the school age children.

Housing



It is unclear at this stage how much the Government will be spending on housing. No new housing money was made available in the Appropriation Bills

Major General Chalmers said that 'thousands' of houses are needed but it is not known how many the Government will build or how much money they will make available.

Mr Brough says that normal rents and normal tenancy arrangements the same as NT Housing will be introduced.

Police

Police

The Government asked all the states to lend some police officers and there are an extra 18 police officers in Central Australia at the minute. State Governments have committed 47 police officers.

However it is not known whether there will be more police in the long term.

Community stores



The Federal Government says community stores currently offer low quality food, poor management and high prices.

So it is introducing a licensing scheme to assess the quality of the store's food, its financial integrity, retail practices, governance and its ability to be included in the government's plans to quarantine welfare payments for the purchase of essential items only.

Stores will be assessed by contracted experts and an independent board will advise on licence decisions.

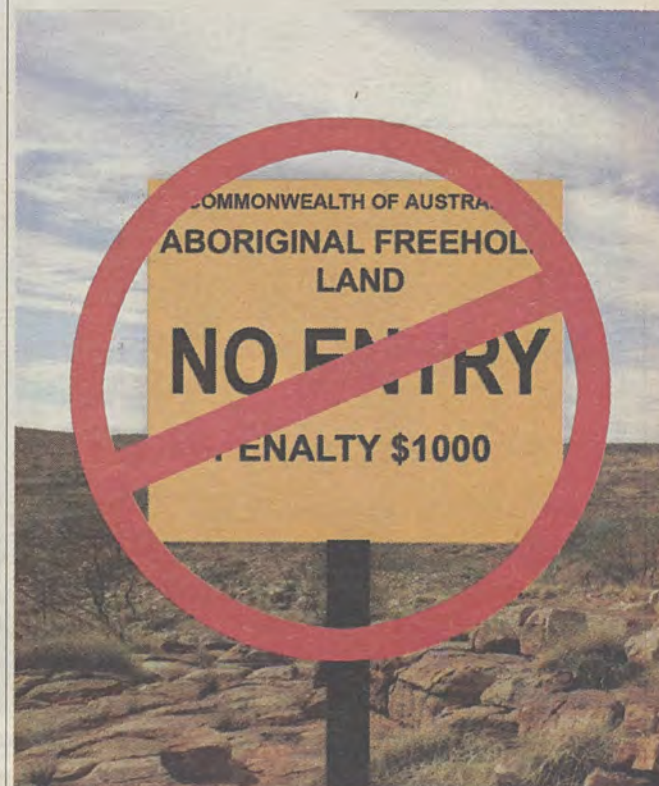
At first, community store licenses will only be granted for six months.

If an operator repeatedly fails its licence conditions, the store owner will be given a chance to replace the operator.

If the owner refuses to appoint a new operator a new licence may be granted to a competitor.

The government may also compulsorily acquire the store and appoint a new operator itself.

Permits



Even though Aboriginal people told the Government they wanted to keep the permit system as it was, the Government is scrapping permits for common areas in major communities, airstrips and access roads to the communities.

Common areas include roads in the communities and areas that are normally accessible to everyone such as public buildings and facilities, shops, art centres and the like.

Private residences and sacred sites will continue to be protected.

Permits will still be required for land outside of communities

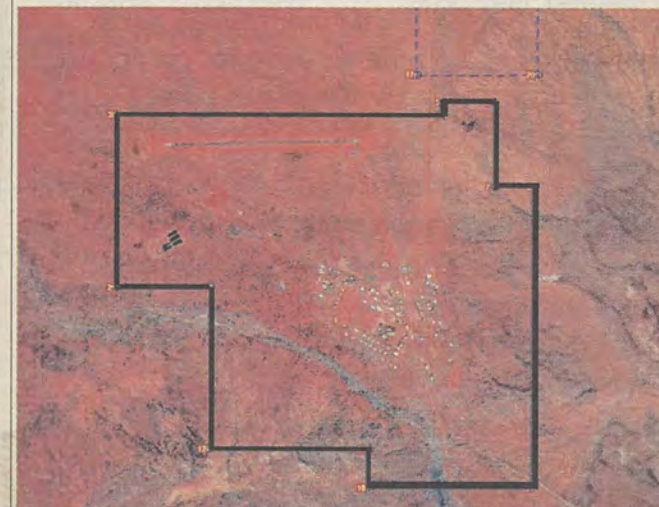
The army



The army has been going out to communities and setting up tents for the health teams it is also assessing infrastructure.

Major General Dave Chalmers is the Operational Commander of the Northern Territory Emergency Task Force Operational Group, and has been seconded to FACSIA

Compulsory acquisition of communities - five year leases

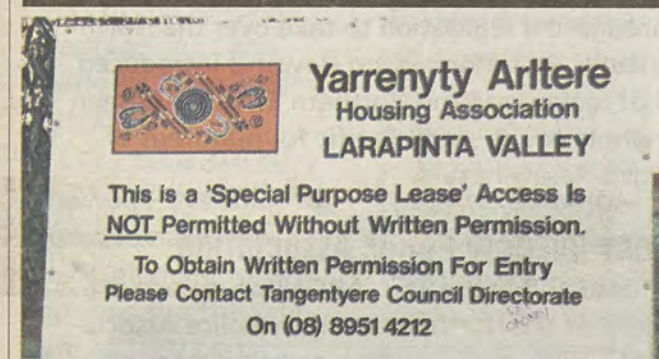


The Government will compulsorily acquire Aboriginal communities which have more than 100 people and take a lease over them for five years.

The legislation does not guarantee 'just terms' compensation.

The CLC and the NLC say that it is not necessary to lease whole communities. The Land Rights Act has always been used to make leases for housing and other infrastructure but that it does not need to lease the whole community. Compulsory acquisition does not need to be used to achieve the Commonwealth's objectives.

Town camps



Town camps are on special purpose and Crown leases that are in place under Northern Territory legislation.

The Federal Government's changes will allow an Australian Government Minister to take on the Northern Territory Minister's powers to take over those leases.

The legislation also reduces the amount of notice the government must give for resuming the leases from six months to just two months.

The Federal Government Minister can cancel the leases for breaches of the leases' conditions and acquire any interest within the camps, including freehold land.

The changes also give the Australian Government Minister a new power to compulsorily acquire town camps without notice.

Health checks for all NT Aboriginal children



One of the first things the Federal Government announced was to send doctors and health workers into communities to give every Aboriginal child a health check. They asked for volunteer doctors to come and help from other states.

At first the Government said every child would have to be checked but it now says it's up to the parents if they want their kids to be checked.

One of the things some people were worried about was the type of checks that would be done on the children but Mr Brough now says that they will be regular health checks. The health checks have already started.

Government business managers



The Federal Government's announced sweeping changes to the way communities and the services provided to them will be managed.

The Commonwealth will have powers to unilaterally alter funding agreements, direct how services are to be provided acquire community assets from service providers, appoint observers to attend meetings, suspend community councils on service related issues, appoint a statutory manager to administer associations on service related issues.

The Government will also be able to terminate a funding agreement, even if the agreement's conditions haven't been breached, and vary funding agreements without the consent of the recipient.

CDEP scrapped



One of the Federal Government's changes that will be felt the most in Northern Territory Aboriginal communities is its decision to axe CDEP.

CDEP will be phased out by the 30th of June 2008 and participants moved onto income support programs.

Each CDEP provider will be given a transition date after which CDEP payments will cease.

A CDEP transition payment is intended to make up the difference between average CDEP payments and income support payments but will only be paid from the provider's transition date until the 30th of June 2008.

People whose income is being quarantined by the government under its intervention legislation will also have their CDEP transition payment managed.

CDEP income couldn't be quarantined by the Federal Government, but income support can.

The Federal Government says it hopes to move 2000 people off CDEP and into "real" jobs, but there are 8000 people in the Northern Territory on the scheme, leaving 6000 people with up to 50 percent cut in their income.

Alcohol and pornography

Possession and/or supply of pornography will be banned on all Aboriginal land and community living areas. The police will have the power to seize any pornography that they find.



Alcohol and the transport of alcohol on Aboriginal land, town camps, and community living areas will also be banned.

Identification will be required to purchase larger amounts of liquor throughout the NT.

WHAT THEY SAID

The Federal Government's intervention into Northern Territory communities brought strong reactions from many organisations. Below are edited extracts from some of those organisations and politicians.

NACCHO – The National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation,

Australia's peak body for Aboriginal health, called on parliamentarians to reject the Federal Government's intervention legislation until the full detail of the plan was revealed.

NACCHO executive officer Dea Delaney-Thiele said: "We also remain disappointed the Howard Government has not discussed with NACCHO the full details of its 'national emergency' response.

"It has left us wondering about the detail, and more critically from where the Howard Government is getting its advice on such an important issue."

Law Council of Australia

The Law Council's president Tim Bugg said the Federal Government was rushing the legislation through parliament to avoid public scrutiny.

Mr Bugg said: "Some of the plan's elements have been drastically moderated since first announced and that has principally been due to the force of public criticism levelled at them.

"Much of that criticism has been constructive and has helped save the Government from its own rhetoric, but the Government still appears to see any critic as an enemy that needs to be demonised and Parliament as a rubber stamp. The arrogance of the Government is palpable."

Oxfam Australia

The not-for-profit aid and development organisation commissioned research to consider the Government's intervention. It says the research found compelling evidence that the changes will be detrimental to the development of Aboriginal communities.

Research report author Professor Jon Altman from the Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research at the Australian National University said: "I could find no evidence of the proposed measures being connected in any way to child sex abuse and concluded that there may even be some risk of exacerbating the situation if the permit system is relaxed.

Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission

In a statement, the commission welcomed the Federal Government's recognition of the social and economic problems in Aboriginal communities but said it's concerned the Government's legislation sidestepped the Racial

Discrimination Act (RDA) under the special measures clause. The Commission's statement read: "The many expressions of disquiet, from indigenous communities in particular, indicate that the legislative measures have not been adequately demonstrated to them to be special measures necessary for their wellbeing. This is particularly so in relation to the leasing of Aboriginal land by the Commonwealth, and the partial removal of the permit system."

The Federal Labor Member for Lingiari Warren Snowdon

Mr Snowdon's Northern Territory electorate takes in all of the affected Aboriginal communities. He's also a member of the Labor Opposition which voted in favour of the legislation. In a speech during the Lower House debate on the legislation, Mr Snowdon reflected on recent meetings in NT Aboriginal communities organised by Territory Labor politicians. He said: "What was very clear in every one of those meetings was the absolute concern that was being expressed about the proposals to amend those parts of the legislation which address the permit system and those parts which address land issues. What these people saw was the Little Children are Sacred report, released a few days prior to the Howard Government's announcement, and they said, legitimately, 'Hang on. What's this all about? We appreciate the need to address the recommendations in this report, but we do not see the relationship between those land issues and permit issues and this report'."

The Federal CLP Member for Solomon, Dave Tollner

Mr Tollner's electorate centres on Darwin and doesn't include any of the Aboriginal communities set for takeover but many people living in his electorate would have links to affected communities. He's one of only two NT politicians in the Lower House and the only Government member in that chamber. On Thursday, the ninth of August, ABC radio news reported: "The CLP Member for the Darwin-based seat of Solomon says he hasn't read through legislation that supports the Federal intervention into Northern Territory indigenous communities.

'I haven't read the full 500 pages I've had pretty extensive briefings on the issue. I've got a pretty good idea on what's in the legislation but I never had the chance to do the whole 500 pages.'"

The Northern Territory Chief Minister Clare Martin

Ms Martin criticised the Federal Government's removal of the permits system for communities and the imposition of five year leases over communities. Ms Martin said: "The NT Government has consistently opposed these measures because they have nothing to do with attacking the problem of child abuse. I'm also disappointed about the Federal Oppo-

sition's support of the land acquisition and permit provisions of the Federal Government's proposed intervention legislation," Ms Martin said.

The Democrats

Queensland Democrat Senator Andrew Bartlett said the Federal Government's railroading indigenous intervention risks long-term harm. Senator Bartlett said: "The Government's attempt to ram its indigenous intervention legislation through parliament this week with no time set aside for proper scrutiny or debate is a flagrant abuse of power which seriously risks making things worse rather than better."

Greens Senator Rachel Siewert

In a speech to the Senate on Wednesday the eighth of August Senator Siewert said Australia's democratic traditions had reached a new and historic low.

Senator Siewert said: "These bills represent the most significant changes to the relationship between government and indigenous peoples since the 1967 referendum. They are a deliberate and calculating move away from efforts to build the capacity of indigenous communities and return to complete central government control over every aspect of their lives. These three bills are clearly racist and discriminatory," Senator Siewert said.

Maori Party MP (New Zealand) Hone Harawira

Mr Harawira travelled to Alice Springs to try and focus greater media attention on the Federal Government's intervention in Northern Territory Aboriginal communities.

Upon his arrival at the Alice Springs Airport on Wednesday, August the eighth he told reporters: "Tomorrow (Thursday) is World Indigenous People's Day and yesterday your government decided to suspend the Racial Discrimination Act so they could ram through the legislation to take over the Northern Territory. He's (Prime John Howard) introduced a level of racism into the Northern Territory unseen in the whole of the south Pacific for hundreds of years," Mr Harawira said.

Northern Territory Police Association

On Tuesday July the 31st, ABC News reported: "President of the Northern Territory Police Association, Vince Kelly, maintains the permit system plays an important role in policing indigenous communities.

'The Federal Government has failed to make a case in my view, about the connection between sexual assault in indigenous communities and the permit system.'

'It does give both the police and the local communities the ability to exclude certain people from the community, people who are possibly offenders in relation to sexual abuse and physical abuse of Aboriginal women and children.'

'But more importantly, offenders in terms of running grog and running drugs into these communities. Clearly, the permit system can be used to prevent access.'

Launch of landcare resources for Indigenous communities in central Australia

For a number of years, Tangentyere Landcare has been producing landcare education resources for Indigenous communities. These have included the award-winning 'Just Do It!' video, with short segments on animals, plants, fire, water and planning; a Land and Learning activities book for schools, which is now an official resource for the NT Curriculum Framework; and Big Books on fire and camels.

The Big Books provide information about threats to native animals and plants, as well as practical examples of what communities and other landholders and agencies are doing about them.

They are written in clear, concise language and are well illustrated.

This year Tangentyere has launched more resources, produced with the support of the Natural Heritage Trust and National Landcare Programme.

Fox Tales describes the huge threat of foxes to native animals, management options and the safe use of 1080 poison.

The booklet highlights two important control projects with Indigenous communities, at Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park and Lungardajarra in the Tanami Desert.

The DVD 'Aboriginal Land Management - weeds, feral animals, ranger work' has local experts giving clear accounts of the damage caused by weeds and feral animals.

Indigenous elders

comment on these issues, and community rangers and others tell inspiring stories about their land management work.

This year Tangentyere has also produced an extended Land & Learning activities book and sets of local plant and animal cards.

These are resources for Tangentyere's two-way environmental education program for schools.

The activities book is now a major resource for Aboriginal community schools, and other schools and education institutions throughout the arid zone and beyond.

The Tangentyere Animal Cards and Plant Cards have a photo with the English name of the animal or plant, and information on the back about the animal or plant, with names in up to five Aboriginal languages.

Land & Learning supports the teaching of western science and Indigenous ecological knowledge; and introduces students to contemporary land management issues, such as feral animals, weeds and the decline of native animals like mala, bilbies and possums.

All the above-mentioned resources are available from Tangentyere Landcare on (08) 89533120 or landcare@tangentyere.org.au

Copies of the Big Books can be downloaded from the Tangentyere Landcare website: www.schools.nt.edu.au/tlcland

MUSTER AT UTOPIA



The workers from Utopia and surrounding areas with CLC rural enterprises staff

The mustering of about 100 horses in the Utopia area north-east of Alice Springs earlier this year signified the start of an agreement between a local station owner and the neighbouring aboriginal land trust.

The grazing license agreement is between Charlie Chalmers from Mt Swan Station and the Angarapa Aboriginal Land Trust. It allows for Mr Chalmers to lease part of the trust in exchange for the provision of fencing, help developing a cattle herd and upgrading of bores.

Men from surrounding communities and outstations in the area, including Mosquito Bore, New Store, Kurrajong, Old Homestead and Soapy Bore, were involved.

The CLC negotiated the agreement and assisted with the muster.



Torres Strait Islander wins top art prize

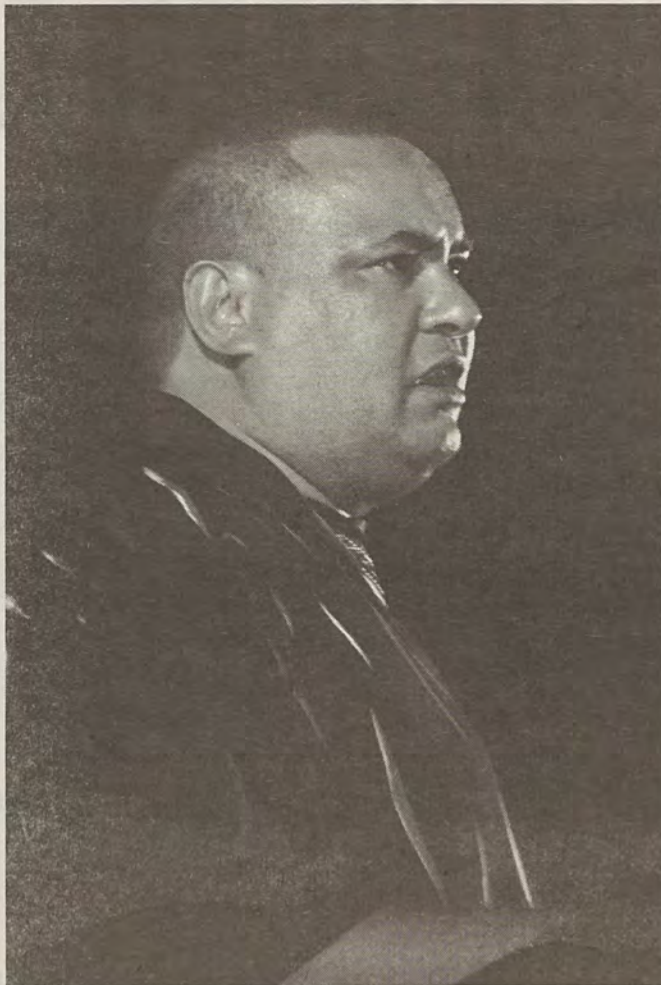
Dennis Nona, one of the best known artists from the Torres Strait Islands, has taken out the \$40,000 award for his 650kg bronze crocodile, *Ubirikubiri*, at this year's National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Awards in Darwin.

Other award winners were fellow Torres Strait Islander Alick Tipoti for his work *Gubau Aimai Mabaigal*, which was selected as best work on paper.

The \$4000 general painting award went to NT-based artist Angelina George for her work *Near Ruined City*.

Margaret Rarru Garrawurra from Arnhem Land won best bark painting.

And the Wandjuk Marika Three-Dimensional Memorial Award went to Queensland-lander Laurie Nilsen for his work called *Goolburris on the Bungil Creek*.



Above: Overall Winner Dennis Nona
Below left: Mawulun Marika presents an award; Below middle: Angelina George who was the winner of the General Painting Award; Below right: Geoffrey Gurumal Yunupingu with Michael Hohnen



Wave Hill heritage listing

The route of the Wave Hill Walk Off, which is recognised as the spark that launched the struggle for land rights, has been included on the National Heritage List.

The area in question involves about 300 hectares of country between Wave Hill Homestead and the Daguragu community.

The listed route takes in the location of key stages of the walk off. They include:

- The station homestead area from which the Gurindji people walked off on the 22nd of August 1966;
- The fence line they followed and a resting point;
- The camps near Wave Hill Welfare Settlement where important meetings were held, which became a key place in the establishment of Daguragu in March 1967; and,
- The site where the Gurindji people received the historic handover of title to their land on the 16th of August 1975.

Several aspects of the walk off have become significant elements of Australia's history. Vincent Lingiari emerged as an important figure through his role in the walk off and one of the Northern Territory's two federal lower house seats is named after him.

Inclusion on the National Heritage List means the Wave Hill Walk Off route can be protected and managed under a range of Commonwealth powers. Places on the list are protected under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act.

More information on the listing can be found at: www.environment.gov.au/heritage/national/sites/wave-hill.html

WINNER Telstra Award
 Dennis Nona *Ubirikubiri*

WINNER Telstra General Painting Award
 Angelina George *Near Ruined City*

WINNER Telstra Bark Painting Award
 Margaret Rarru Garrawurra *Ngarra Body Paint Design*

WINNER Telstra Work on Paper Award
 Alick Tipoti *Gubau Aimai Mabaigal*

WINNER Wandjuk Marika 3D Memorial Award (sponsored by Telstra)
 Laurie Nilsen *Goolburris on the Bungil Creek*

24th Telstra 

National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander
art award



Sport and culture a hit at Barunga

Hundreds of people made their way to the small township of Barunga, south of Katherine, for a full program of music, sport, and culture.

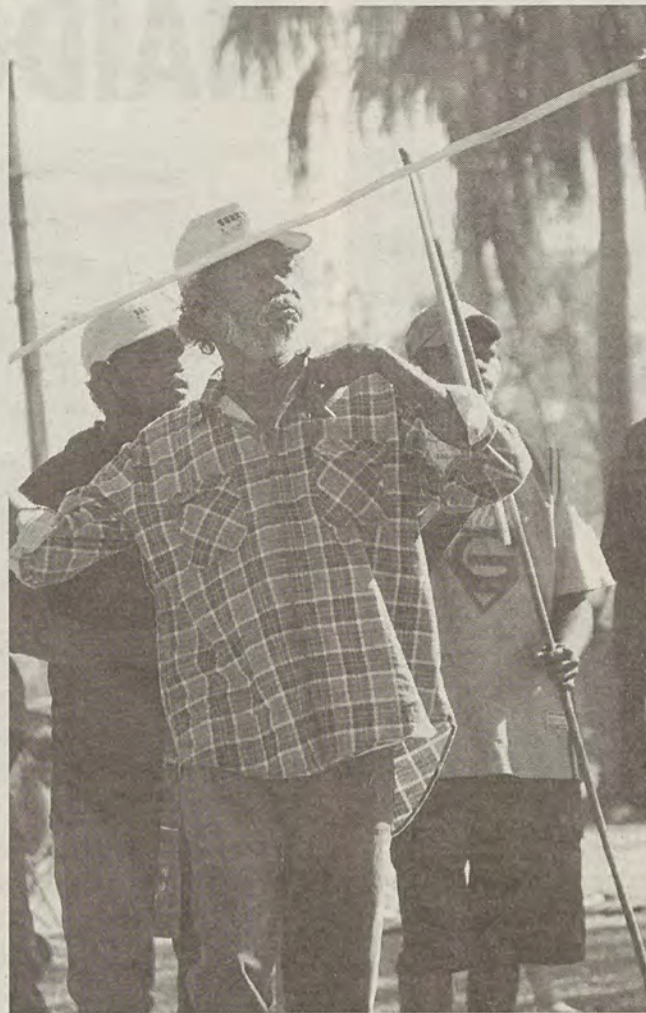
Several Aboriginal communities from the region competed in football, basketball, and softball during the three days of the festival, which also saw bush tucker being cooked, a spear throwing competition, art exhibition, and Aboriginal contemporary and traditional music performed at night time.

The Barunga Festival achieved national recognition in 1988 when then Prime Minister Bob Hawke

signed the 'Barunga Statement' in which Bangardi Lee, Wenton Rubuntja, Galarrwuy Yunupingu and other Indigenous leaders called for a treaty between black and white Australians.

On June 12, 1988, the same year that Australia was celebrating 200 years of colonisation, the Barunga Statement was presented to Prime Minister Hawke at the Festival.

Written on bark and surrounded by a traditional Aboriginal painting, the Barunga Statement calls for Aboriginal self-management, a national system of land rights, compensation for



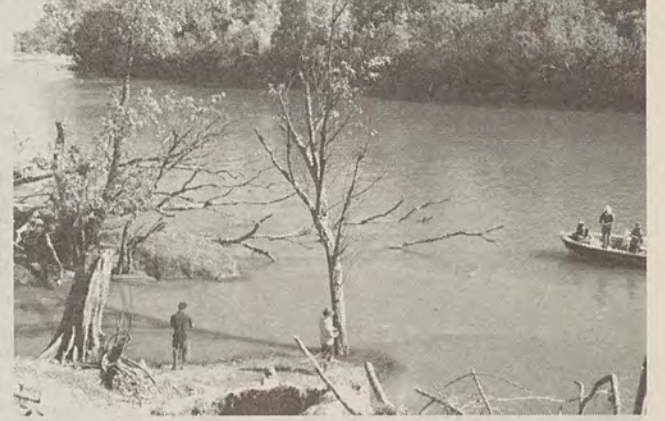
Kevin Forbes of Beswick in spear throwing

loss of lands, respect for Aboriginal identity, and the granting of full civil, economic, social and cultural rights for Indigenous Australians.

In 1991, in his last act as Prime Minister,

Mr Hawke shed a tear as he hung the Barunga Statement in Parliament House in Canberra, saying he wished he could have done more (he never delivered on the promised treaty).

Blue Mud Bay fishing update



The Federal Court's decision on 2 March this year in the Blue Mud Bay case was a landmark event for coastal Aboriginal communities in the Northern Territory (NT).

Not only did the court find that traditional owners had exclusive access to the inter-tidal zones and tidal rivers above the low water mark of Aboriginal freehold land, the decision opens a door for traditional owners to become participants in one of the NT's biggest industry's – fishing!

Seven months on, and the NLC reaction to the Courts decision has been prompt.

Talks continue to progress with industry and land owning groups in an effort to achieve common ground should the High Court up-hold the Federal Court decision.

The Federal Court decision meant the initiation of a host of actions, including creating interim licences and a free of charge permit scheme for recreational fishers.

"The good faith shown by the NLC, and all parties, in promptly issuing interim licences means that the public can be confident that success in the High Court will lead to a win-win outcome - with commercial

fishing continuing to prosper with the involvement of traditional owners," Mr Fry said.

The licences ensure that regulatory requirements of the NT Fisheries Act will continue to apply and be enforced.

The licence agreements are expected to remain in place until two months after the High Courts determines the issues in the case.

Recreational fishers have been encouraged to comply with the interim scheme.

"Recreational licences will be granted to all persons who make an application, and need only be applied for once," Mr Fry said.

"The early signs are encouraging, with over 1000 recreational anglers having registered their interests prior to July 31."

"However, anglers need to remember that the licence will continue to be subject to requirements in the Fisheries Act.

Bag limits, river closure lines and safe vessel requirements continue to apply," Mr Fry said.

"Traditional owners aim to become a stakeholder in the fishing industry and ensure that it prospers - not to close it down," Mr Fry said.

THEY ARE BACK, THEY ARE BLACK AND THEY ROCK...

Four years on, and still going strong!

Covering the desert to the sea, and everything in between, the Northern Territory (NT) Indigenous Music Awards is on again!

Now a well established, annual event in the NT, the Awards recognise excellence, dedication, innovation and outstanding contribution to the Territory's music industry.

This year, as in previous years, the Awards have attracted a record number of nominations from across the NT.

Finalists for the 4th annual NT Indigenous Music Awards are:
ACT OF THE YEAR 2007

Jessica Mauboy, Nabarlek, Warren H. Williams, Gurrumul Yunupingu

ALBUM RELEASE OF THE YEAR 2007

Shellie Morris – Waiting Road; Frank Yamma – Keep up the pace; Nabarlek – Manmoyi Radio

SONG OF THE YEAR 2007

Shellie Morris – Shattered Glass; Djolpa Paul McKenzie,

Wildwater – Angel of Love; Terrah Guymala, Nabarlek – Little Journey to Manmoyi

EMERGING ACT OF THE YEAR 2007

Wildflower; Leah Flanagan; Lonely Boys DVD/FILM CLIP RELEASE OF THE YEAR 2007

Healthy Body Song Clip - Yamba the Honeyant; Brown Bird Clip – Nabarlek; Our Roots – Santa Teresa School

TRADITIONAL MUSIC AWARD 2007

Kenbi Dancers, Wurrurrumi Kun-borrk songs by Kevin Djimarr

All roads lead to Nauiyu for arts festival



Art on display at the recent Merrepen Arts Festival

The first weekend in June signals the start of the dry season calendar of Aboriginal community open days, and this year hundreds of visitors were welcomed to the Daly River for a feast of football, bushtucker, basketball, music and stunning art from local artists.

The festival is always held over the first weekend in June at the Nauiyu Community, located 240 km south west of Darwin on the banks of the Daly River.

Works from artists of the Daly River including Patricia McTaggart, Gracie Kumbi, Mandy Groves, Nola Jimarin, Marita Sambono, and Grace Mardigan were for sale and up for auction.

Aaron McTaggart, of Merrepen Arts, said visitors were enthusiastic buyers of etchings, paintings, screen-printed items, batik T-shirts, silks and weavings.

NAIDOC DARWIN



The Federal Government's intervention in Aboriginal communities across the Northern Territory has been condemned by several speakers at the 50th anniversary NAIDOC march in Darwin.

Around 2000 people marched through Darwin's CBD to show their support for NAIDOC Week celebrations and to voice their concern over the Federal intervention to combat child sexual abuse in the NT.

Senior Larrakia woman Kathy Mills described the process of sending the Australian Army, police and bureaucrats to Indigenous communities as a 'smoke-screen' for the Howard Government to use for re-election.

"This is an act of war on a de-

fenceless people," she said.

Darwin-based Torres Strait Island leader Doug Bon described the intervention as an 'invasion'.

Northern Territory MLA Barbara McCarthy labelled the intervention as 'a political shame job', and had a message for Federal Minister for Indigenous Affairs Mal Brough.

"Mal Brough, do not dehumanise the Aboriginal people of the Northern Territory," she said.

Former NT Minister John Ah Kit described the intervention as 'policy on the run' and poll-driven.

National NAIDOC Committee chairman Aden Ridgeway said if the recent intervention was forced on any other minority group in Australia, like it had with Indigenous Australians, there would be a national outcry.



NLC Executive members Jeffrey Dixon and Gordon Nawundulpi with a NLC banner.

Darwin's Indigenous communities chose this year's NAIDOC march to fly the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags in unprecedented numbers



Warlpiri and Warumungu dancers go global



Warlpiri and Warumungu dancers became the first Australian Indigenous traditional dance group to visit Algeria during its Festival of Desert Cultures and were greeted with overwhelming enthusiasm.

Artback NT Touring Arts presented the Warlpiri and Warumungu Dancers.

The Warlpiri dancers included Johnny Possum Japaljarri, Charlie Brown, Jimmy Collins and Albert Morris.

The Warumungu dancers included Mr Jimmy Frank, Mr Mark Johnny and Mr Banjo Johnny.

our children will shine like the stars



The Dictionary's contributors at the launch

IAD Press in Alice Springs launched the Pitjantjatjara / Yankunytjatjara Picture Dictionary in July this year making it the 8th in IAD Press' highly acclaimed series of illustrated Aboriginal language dictionaries, designed to enhance literacy in first languages (and English) for primary school children.

The picture dictionaries have also proven to be a fantastic resource for people wishing to access a language for the first time, particularly for government workers and service providers such as doctors

and nursing staff needing a grasp of concrete terms in order to engage with people in the interests of improved health, social and wellbeing outcomes.

The dictionary was developed over a number of years by many contributors from NT and SA Pitjantjatjara and Yankunytjatjara communities including Mutitjulu, Utju (Areyonga), Fregon, Pukatja (Ernabella), Indulkana, Watarrka, Wingellina, Kaltukatjara and Tanytjipa (Oodnadatta), Coober Pedy, Port Augusta and Yalata.

Pitjantjatjara and Yankunytjat-

jara may appear as strong languages as they are spoken every day by about 1600 people in Central Australia, throughout the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara freehold lands in the northwest of South Australia, or just over the Western Australia and Northern Territory borders.

In the words of Pitjantjatjara artist Rene Kulitja who designed the book's stunning cover painting featuring ancestral travels on country and the seven sisters Dreaming, this dictionary and language maintenance is important "...so that our children will shine like the stars".



The Ross family at the launch

DON ROSS THE VERSATILE MAN

They called me the versatile man," Don Ross recalls. "I put up wind-mills, fixed the trucks; I only had to see a thing done once and I could do it. That's how I was."

Born in Barrow Creek, north of Alice Springs, to an Aboriginal mother and a white father, Don grew up on Neutral Junction station between two worlds: the white settler world of his grandfather and other station owners, and the Kaytetye world of his mother's family. He knew both cultures and spoke both languages, and experienced the uneasy tension of

living between the two.

Don was an eager eight-year-old when he first started work in the stock camps on his grandfather's cattle station in the early 1920's. In a series of yarns he delights in recalling the many colourful characters who crossed his path, and reflects the arduous and often dangerous life of a stockman.

"I've had some mongrel jobs," Don admits. And the worst? "Shifting bloody cattle. Walking them when it's

hot and there's a long way to go to water. Oh gawd, you wonder whether your'e going to make it there, but you keep on going.

The Versatile Man was written by Alexander Donald Pwerle Ross and Terry Whitebeach.

It paints a picture of a bygone era of pastoral industry development and technological change in a frontier world where only the strong, the capable, the resourceful and the adaptable survived. A must for readers of Australian history.

ALONE ON THE SOAKS

The Life and Times of Alec Kruger

Alec Kruger was stolen as a child from his family and his country. From this early time he knew the cold and harsh reality of institutions and not the caressing love of his mother or the warmth of other close relations. Still young, he was taken again - to the cattle stations of Central Australia where, even as a

boy, he was expected to display all the independence and ingenuity of someone much older. In isolation. Alec faced possible death, till the arrival of Old People from country who saved him, taught him and made him culturally strong.

Alec Kruger spent years droving and roaming through-

out the Territory and Queensland, forever seeking his place in the world. He found a sense of belonging and somewhere to call home through having his own family and with the emergence and leadership of groups such as the Central Australian Stolen Generations and Families Aboriginal Corporation in the struggle of recognition, reconciliation and recompense.

Alone on the Soaks enhances our understanding of the diverse journeys of Australia's stolen generations by offering readers intimate stories told in an original and valuable voice.

Below left: the Kruger family and below authors Gerard Waterford and Alec Kruger



Indigenous veterans honoured

The Coloured Digger

He came and joined the colours, when the War
God's anvil rang,
He took up modern weapons to replace his
boomerang,
He waited for no call-up, he didn't need a push,
He came in from the stations, and the townships
of the bush.
He helped when help was wanting, just because
he wasn't death,
He is right amongst the columns of the fighting
A.I.F
He is always there when wanted, with his Owen
gun or Bren,
He is in the forward area, the place where men
are men.
He proved he's still a warrior, in action not afraid,
He faced blasting red hot fire from mortar and
grenade;
He didn't mind when food was low, or we were
getting thin,
He didn't growl or worry then, he'd cheer us with
his grin.
He'd hear us talk democracy--, They preach it to
his face--
Yet knows that in our federal house there's no
one of his race.
He feels we push his kinsmen out, where cities
do not reach,
And Parliament has yet to hear the Abo's maiden
speech.
One day he'll leave the Army, then join the
League he shall,
And he hopes we'll give a better deal to the
Aboriginal.
[A poem by Sapper Bert Beros, a non-Aboriginal
soldier in WW2, about Private Harold West
an Aboriginal soldier from Goodooga in NSW.
Harold later died of disease in New Guinea on 26
November 1942.]

A commemoration ceremony held in Darwin during the month of June has paid tribute to the dedication and commitment of Indigenous servicemen and women in Australia's armed forces.

Held as part of National Reconciliation Week, the commemoration paid homage to the Indigenous contribution in all conflicts.

Speaking in glowing terms, Northern Territory Administrator, Ted Egan, said the involvement of the NT's Indigenous population was significant.

"There was considerable local involvement of Aboriginal people of the NT in World War 2," Mr Egan said.

"Many hundreds of Aboriginal men and women worked in various capacities around the Army and Air Force along the Stuart Highway, in Darwin, and especially at Adelaide River."

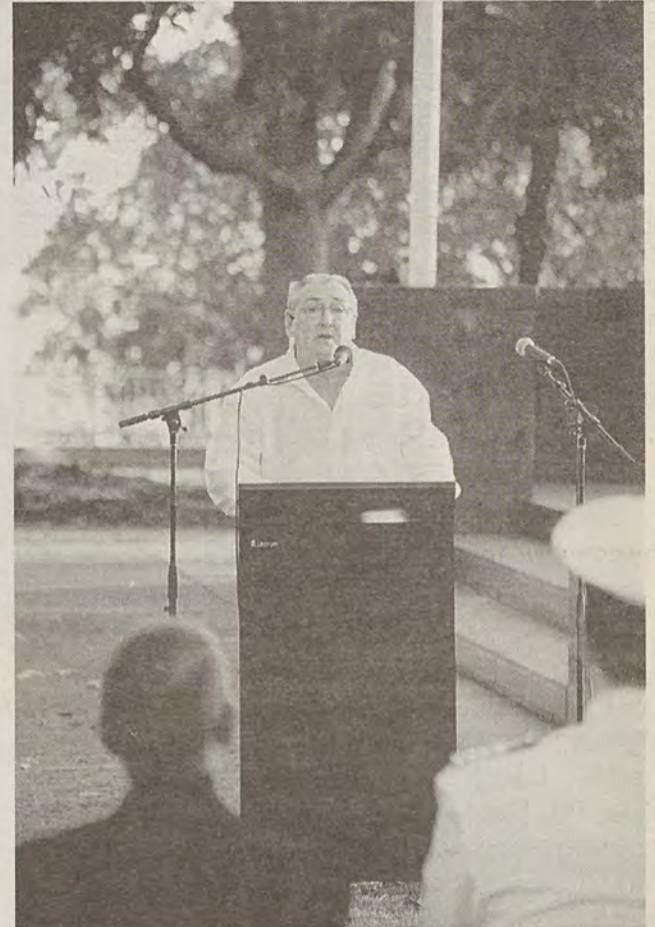
His Honour made special mention to the level of equality experienced by Indigenous personnel while serving in the armed forces during both World Wars, a trait he said, that unfortunately did not carry over into civilian life.

"It's ironic to think that during those two major campaigns, the first Australian enlistees did not have the right to vote, but were not denied the opportunity to die for their country," Mr Egan said.

Similar ceremonies were held throughout Australia with the support of the Department of Veteran Affairs.

Right top: NT Administrator Ted Egan addresses the ceremony

Right: Norforce soldiers at the ceremony



Recycling A Success in Remote Community

A partnership between the Arnhemland Progress Association (ALPA) and Perkins Shipping to reduce land fill in the Arnhemland Community of Milingimbi through a recycling program has achieved excellent results.

The nine month trial to recycle cardboard, paper waste and plastics over the past nine months has reduced the store's landfill waste by 80 per cent, it was announced at the Tidy Towns forum held in Darwin today.

Rubbish is a big issue for remote communities with limited resources to manage community dumps.

Traditional owners are often unsupportive of more land to be allocated for landfill within community boundaries.

The result at Milingimbi is that the

community store, often a large contributor to landfill from the community, is now making a positive and substantial difference in what it throws out by sending much of its waste out of the community for recycling.

Mr Robin Tucker, the Marketing Manager of the Arnhemland Progress Association said that due to the success of the trial, the association will implement the recycling program in another three stores this financial year.

ALPA, an Indigenous Association which runs 13 stores in remote communities across the Top End, developed the idea of recycling waste paper products and plastics from the community 12 months ago.

Perkins has supported the initiative by returning the recycled waste to Darwin at no charge according to Mick Taylor, Perkins Community Trades Manager.

The program involves the purchase of an Orwak twin-chamber compactor for the store. Paper goods are compacted in one barrel and plastics in the other.

The waste is then baled and palletized for transport by Perkins. The bales are collected by NT Recycling Solutions for processing and transport to a recycling plant in Queensland.

Mr. Leon Shultz, Manager of NT Recycling Solutions, said the paper and plastics received from Milingimbi were of a high quality for recycling.

Mr Tucker announced that the Orwak Balers would be installed at the ALPA stores in Lake Evella, Elcho Island and Ramingining later this year.

He said this was a testament to what could be done with organisations working together for the benefit of the community.

Celebrations for Batchelor graduates

Family, friends and supporters joined in celebrations for over 230 graduates from the Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education.

The graduation, a combination of European academic traditions and traditional Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island cultural practices, was held at the Batchelor campus, 100km south of Darwin.

Batchelor Institute director, Dr Jeanie Herbert, said the institution had come a long way from its original beginnings 30 years ago as a small enclave designed to cater for the specific training needs of community teachers in remote areas across the Northern Territory.

"Many of our graduating students have demonstrated extraordinary determination to rise above past educational

disadvantage and are to be applauded for their efforts," Dr Herbert said.

Right top: Rico Adjrun, Bernadette Angus, Paulina Jemma Purantameri

Right bottom The One Mob dance group lead the academic procession as part of the recent Batchelor Graduations.

Far right: Rosemary Urabadi with Bunug Galaminda



Two reasons for Larrakia Nation to celebrate

The Larrakia Nation in Darwin recently had two reasons to celebrate with the opening of its much-anticipated art gallery and studio, and the purchase of its new premises in Coconut Grove.

The gallery recently opened its first exhibition, In the Footprints of Bilirra, and has been established to feature the work of local artists such as Dotty Fejo, Kenny Reid, Jocelyn Archer, Peter Browne, Denis Quall, James Gaston, Pauline Baban, Eyemart Tungulatum, Tanya Williams, Samara Reid, and Dianne 'Dee Dee' Quall.

Dee Dee Quall said the art gallery will be effective in showcasing local work to Darwin residents, and domestic and international tourists to the Northern Territory.

"It is exciting for Aboriginal artists in Darwin," she said.

Quall is also excited about entering for the first time in the painting

section of the Telstra National Aboriginal and Islander Art Award.

Larrakia Nation chief executive Kelvin Costello said the corporation is focused on developing a strong commercially sustainable business, which will be one of the few completely community-owned Aboriginal art retail outlets in the greater Darwin/Palmerston region.

"This vision of the art gallery has been assisted by the Indigenous Land Corporation's purchase on behalf of Larrakia Nation of the premises at 76 Dick Ward Drive in Coconut Grove," he said.

The ILC will hold the property for three years, and then divest the property to the Larrakia Nation.

Right top: The new art gallery and studio will enable Larrakia artist Dee Dee Quall to create and show her work.

Right bottom: Inside the new Larrakia art gallery in Darwin.



NT footy goes interstate

AFL Central Australia says plans are well advanced for a Northern Territory team to be entered into a major interstate league.

The president of AFL club Carlton and one of Australia's richest men Dick Pratt has pledged hefty financial support for the concept but organisers are still looking for additional sponsors to back the proposal.

It would involve an NT team being based in Alice Springs and playing in either the South Australian National Football League (SANFL)

or the Western Australian Football League (WAFL).

AFLCA general manager Brett O'Farrell said the proposed team is seen as the ideal way to lift the professionalism of football in the Northern Territory.

"Basically to increase the standard of footy in the NT and give blokes a chance to play at a higher level and bring a new level of professionalism in the Territory," he said.

Currently, players who wish to play in one of the major state

leagues have to move interstate and others who aren't comfortable or able to move interstate lose out on the chance to play at that higher level.

It's hoped that with an NT team playing in one of those competitions, more local players will get the opportunity to test themselves at that higher level.

Mr O'Farrell said the team would be based and play most of its games in Alice Springs but would also play some matches and have a training group in Darwin

for those players who aren't able to move to Central Australia.

"Say there's a squad of 40 to 50 players, the guys who don't make the team will filter back into the local competitions," Mr O'Farrell said.

"It's a real chance for next year, but as time goes on it makes it harder.

"We're in fundraising mode, looking for sponsors so we can have the team sustainable for four or five years at least."

Central Australian footy restructure

Australian rules football in Central Australia is facing a major restructure next year.

AFL Central Australia says the region's two competitions involving the five-team town league, or Central Australian Football League, and the eight-team Ngurratjuta Cup for Aboriginal communities will be merged to form one league in 2008.

The AFLCA's general manager Brett O'Farrell said the move will see some clubs merge with others.

"Our aim is to merge the current 13 teams into a much stronger eight or 10 teams, therefore eliminating the bye and increasing the standard of each match," Mr O'Farrell said.

"We have some of the country's most exciting footballers here; let's give them the chance to play the game at a higher level.

"Unfortunately there are not enough footballers in Alice Springs and too many teams.

"Players are regularly playing two or three games a weekend," he said.

"Having fewer teams in the competition will produce fiercer competition for playing spots, therefore establishing a healthy rivalry at training and hopefully more consistent performances on the weekend.

"This in turn will improve the standard of each game."

Mr O'Farrell says clubs in both of the current competitions have been told of the changes and have been invited to submit their plans and requests for next year.

The AFLCA board will meet to consider those submissions before announcing the final make up of the new league.

THE CURRENT STATUS OF AUSTRALIAN FOOTBALL IN CENTRAL AUSTRALIA

Central Australian Football League (CAFL)	Ngurratjuta Cup
Federal Pioneer Rovers South West	Central Anmatjere Papunya Plenty Highway Santa Teresa Southern APY Ti Tree Western Aranda Yuendumu

Planned combined league in 2008

Merge the CAFL and Ngurratjuta Cup competitions to form one league.

The change will see the current 13 clubs reduced to just eight or 10 teams through some merging with others.

CULTURAL CENTRE OPENS AT BESWICK



The first floor of the new art gallery in Beswick is home to many paintings, prints, weavings, and didgeridoos (yidaki).

The Beswick community now has a permanent cultural centre after it was officially opened in May.

Actor Tom E. Lewis, swimmer Ian Thorpe and journalist Jeff McMullen opened the Ghunmarn Cultural Centre situated in the Aboriginal community of Beswick (Wugularr) on the Central Arnhem Highway, 107 kms from Katherine by sealed road.

The cultural centre features a range of original art and arte-

facts including didgeridoos and carvings, fibre art and paintings on canvas and bark.

Ghunmarn also houses the Blanas Collection, a permanent exhibition of culturally significant art works, which is named after didgeridoo master David Blanas.

The centre is owned and operated by Djilpin Arts, an Aboriginal corporation, which also produces the annual performance 'Walking with Spirits' at Malkgulumbu (Beswick Falls).

Alexis Wright takes out the big prize

Author Alexis Wright has won Australia's most prestigious prize for fiction, the Miles Franklin Award.

Ms Wright has formerly lived in Alice Springs but now lives in Melbourne and grew up in the Queensland town of Cloncurry near the Northern Territory border.

Her mother's people are the Waanyi of the Gulf.

Ms Wright won the award for her second novel, *Carpentaria*, which is described by its publishers as a soaring epic set in the Gulf country of north-western Queensland.

Her first novel *Plains of Promise* written while she was still living in Alice Springs was also highly acclaimed.

She is only the second indigenous au-



thor to win the Miles Franklin Award.

Ms Wright will be back in Alice Springs to provide an insight into her novel at a literary event

this month.

The 4th annual
Indigenous 07
Music Awards

Saturday August 25. Doors open 6pm. Gardens Amphitheatre

JESSICA MAUBOY

**G.R. BURARRAWANGA
MEMORIAL CONCERT
Feat. WARUMPI BAND**

**MANDAWUY YUNUPINGU
(YOTHU YINDI)**

**GURRUMUL YUNUPINGU
(SALTWATER)**

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ART BACK

Gavin gone but not forgotten

When Gavin O'Brien was first hired by the Northern Land Council in 1978, the Northern Territory Aboriginal Land Rights Act had only been in operation for a little over 12 months, and the Territory was still feeling the effects of Cyclone Tracy.

Indeed, the NLC and the Central Land Council were fledgling organisations in 1978, having been established as a result of the landmark legislation.

From these humble beginnings the decades-old struggle for the return of Aboriginal land to Traditional

Owners in the Northern Territory began.

One of the few remaining employees from the time of NLC's inception, has been Gavin O'Brien who is sadly leaving the organisation after 30 years service across a variety of fields.

O'Brien, a keen bicycle rider, and bush walker, said he had fond memories of the people he had worked with, and the places he had the opportunity to visit during his time with the NLC.

Incredibly, O'Brien, who came to the NT in 1978 from Victoria where he worked as a research officer with

the Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs, has been employed in 10 positions at the NLC including: senior field officer, manager of field operations, manager of research and communications branch, manager of policy and planning, mining and major projects manager, and compliance officer with the anthropology branch.

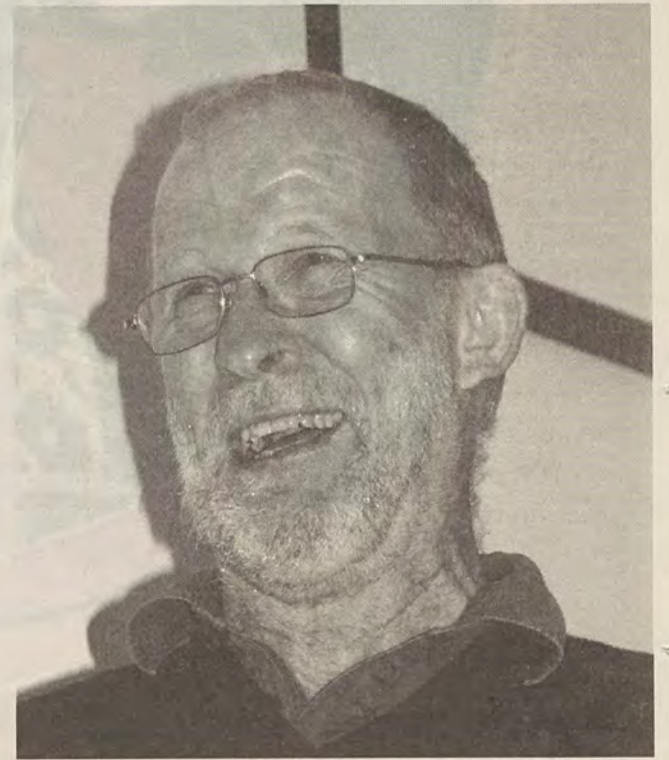
O'Brien studied at tertiary level in Melbourne where he achieved an honours degree in Anthropology, and also has a management diploma from the Northern Territory University

(now Charles Darwin University).

At a recent luncheon held in his honour, O'Brien was regaled with anecdotes from colleagues, past and present.

Former NLC chairman Galarrwuy Yunupingu remembers O'Brien as a hard worker for Aboriginal land rights during the early days of the movement, as well as for his distinctive laugh.

"Galarrwuy remembers when they worked together as the NLCs first field officer that Gavin had a unique and very loud laugh," the luncheon



Gavin O'Brien

was told.

"When they went out bush he could often be heard late in the night laughing, keeping people awake, which is why

whenever they were camping, Galarrwuy would set up his tent a fair distance from Gavin's."



Northern Land Council

Nominations 2007



Our Land, Our Future!

Nominations for Council members close on 24 August 2007.
Contact your NLC Regional Office or the Darwin office for details.

Freecall: 1800 645 299 OR contact your Regional Office