



Land Rights

NEWS



One Mob, One Voice, One Land

Vol 3 No 8 December 2001



INSIDE : Petrol sniffing,
Indigenous media,
Kiwirrkurra native title

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Kenbi dancers at the opening of Parliament in September

Land Rights NEWS

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COVER PHOTO
Ngukurr kids having fun

Self care option for kidney disease patients

A dialysis centre for the community of Kintore has been ruled out due to lack of water, money and skilled support. But Aboriginal people in the Western Desert with kidney disease will still be able to live at home, says Dr Paul Rivalland, Manager of the Western Desert Dialysis Appeal.

"There are Aboriginal people in the Kimberley and in other remote areas of Australia who are living at home and treating themselves everyday. If you want to learn how to do it for yourself, then there is no reason you can't live at home," Dr Rivalland said.

"Our aim is to return people home by whatever way is possible.

"We are now looking at two types of self-care," he said. "There is a machine that can be used at home (haemodialysis) or a system called peritoneal dialysis, which uses a bag and a tube near your stomach. Nationally, about 30 per cent of dialysis patients are using peritoneal dialysis and about 11 per cent use haemodialysis at home," he said.

"We had a committee meeting of people from Haasts Bluff, Mt Leibig, Kintore and Kiwirrkurra at Hamilton Downs about a month ago and they have decided that they would like to go to the Kimberleys

and have a look at how people up there do it. The Committee understands that it is now impossible to do what we had originally hoped at Kintore.

"The building alone would have cost \$1.5 million and the road is not too good. The 13 dialysis patients from the Western Desert would have brought their families with them and added about an extra 100 people to the community. There just isn't enough water out there to sustain that. We would have needed a new power plant and skilled staff that are really hard to find in Australia."

Stuart MLA Peter Toyne said he did not think people were disappointed with the change in focus.

"The aim of the Appeal is still being achieved - that is to get patients home. The wishes of the community are being carried out in a very practical way and the Committee of Management is doing its job well. I feel very optimistic," he said.



Western Desert Dialysis Appeal Committee members at the Hamilton Downs meeting

"The contributors to the Appeal should be in no doubt that the service will be delivered.

"After the committee has reassured

itself that self care is a good option on the Kimberley trip, a self care trainer will be appointed in Alice Springs early in 2002."

Go ahead for new Palmerston suburb

Larrakia people finally have the NT government's agreement for a proposal that settles a native title claim they lodged back in May 1994.

This was the first native title claim lodged in the Northern Territory.

It is the first native title agreement of its kind in any major city in Australia.

The agreement means that about 250 hectares in the Rosebery and Bellamack suburbs at Palmerston are available for development without native title concerns, and Larrakia have the rights to be the developers for a substantial portion of the suburb.

In addition, and as a gesture of good will, the Larrakia have waived native title and compensation over the nearby Archer Sporting Complex including land for expansion - ensuring that new sporting facilities will be available for all Palmerston residents.

The agreement had been arranged with the previous CLP Government, but had not been finalised or signed before the election.

Following discussions between Larrakia representatives, the new NT Government has given its approval.

As part of the deal, the Larrakia, under a commercial lease from the NT Government on commercial terms, plan to undertake the urban land development of nearly 50 hectares of the Rosebery suburb over the next 3-4 years.

The Larrakia development concept at the moment involves about 325 housing lots, comprising house, courtyard, duplex and unit sites.

A portion will be handed back to the NT Government for public housing.

The venture will open doors for Aboriginal employment during construction, as well as providing profits which will be held in trust and re-invested in other enterprises for the benefit of all Larrakia.

Reducing NT prison rates - fines can wait

The number of Indigenous people sent to jail for not paying their fines is set to plummet with a new system that makes jail a last resort for defaulters.

Since January 1998 and October this year, 3460 Indigenous people were jailed for not paying their fines. Over the same period, 986 non-Indigenous fine defaulters were jailed.

The new system - for Indigenous and non-Indigenous people - tries to take the worry out of fine payments with various options to help people pay the money.

Director of the new Fines Recovery Unit, Karen Day, said a common culture was for people who have no income to be resigned to the fact that they inevitably go to jail for not paying their fines.

"So we have people going to jail for sleeping in a public place, speeding, and

other minor offences," she said.

"With the new system, jail will be a last resort. We will help people meet their obligations with flexible payment plans and make sure that there isn't too much hardship."

To give everyone a chance to understand the new system and work out how they can pay their fines, the government says that, until March 1, 2001, no-one will incur any further penalties for not paying their fines, no matter how overdue they are. Even people with warrants can still enter time-to-pay arrangements.

Call the Fines Recovery Unit Easy Pay Line on 1800 111 530

Freedom of Information for the NT

The NT Government has honoured its election promise on freedom of information legislation.

It has released a draft Bill for public comment that combines freedom of information provisions with privacy protection and government

records management.

Leading Australian expert on the topic, Rick Snell, from the University of Tasmania, visited the NT this month to brief community groups.

He said that the Bill is far from international or even Australian "best

practice" because it still provides a lot of avenues for avoiding the release of information

However he said that the combination of information law with privacy and records management is a very positive step.

There are also some significant con-

cerns about the protection of secret cultural information under the proposed new regime.

A copy of the discussion draft of the Bill is available from your local member of parliament.

Contact your Land Council for more information.

Petrol sniffing - passing the buck to Intjartnama



Outstations are being used by the NT Department of Correctional Services as a convenient and cost free 'solution' to the problem of where to place petrol sniffers.

Intjartnama, near Hermannsburg 100 kilometres west of Alice Springs is one outstation dealing with petrol sniffers and often has 10-20 people at a time.

The outstation was set up by Western Arrernte woman Elva Cook and her late husband to look after kids they knew. But demand grew rapidly over the years and Elva says that they are now required to be surveillance officers as well as take care of kids placed there by their communities.

"We get a lot of referrals from Correctional Services - a lot on parole, some on home detention. But correctional services don't pay us," she said.

"We've got a good relationship with them, but we never get any back up - no swag, blankets, food, nothing. We need a few young fellas who can help us with these young sniffers. We need a proper kitchen and a proper cook. Out here they don't get all the services that they would get in jail - education, health. Here we've got nothing."

Recommendations were made seven years ago by a group of outstations, including Intjartnama, that there needed to be more support from Correctional Serv-

ices and a central coordinator who could link up the outstations with the agencies which dealt with them.

Intjartnama counsellor Dr Craig San Roque said that there needed to be a complete restructuring of the system.

Currently, Intjartnama only gets paid for juveniles who come through diversionary programs and not, for instance, for 20-year-old prisoners on home detention or for young people referred by the Courts.

In addition, one young person on home detention requires more supervision than kids who have been sent there by their

“These old people don't know how to behave when they see their son coming back from here. So what they do is go and buy a welcome home jerry can full of petrol and put it in front of him. They do that because petrol sniffers get angry and hit them.”

communities.

"Intjartnama has been used as an extra facility by Correctional Services for years. They should no longer make use of the good will of Elva Cook and should offer her professional support if the partnership is to continue," Craig said.

However, both Elva and Craig stress that money is only one small part of the problem and that the big issues are that



Elva Cook and her granddaughter in the vegetable garden at Intjartnama

more support and more services need to be available.

"I've had a six-year-old girl in here because all the kids on the communities watch what the other kids do and copy them. That's what kids do. And there are more and more kids now - the outstations are full with kids.

They do that because petrol sniffers get angry and hit them.

"They can't help it, those old people and there should be some sort of program for old people as well because they are so scared. It's happening everywhere now.

"Parents got no responsibility now. Kids have gone mad and stealing and raping. I've got two old people who have run away to here from their outstation because they're too scared to go home.

"Parents have got to be involved and they should come and help me too. I can't do it on my own. I'm a bit scared of these long term sniffers, although I've only had to call the police once here," she said.

But some young lives are saved at Intjartnama.

"My nephew was a ringleader for petrol sniffing but now he comes back and helps me. Another young fella - he rings me up all the time and another one is good too," says Elva.

"We got them all healthy here and when they go back home there is nothing there for them - the same environment - all resources are in town and that's trouble.

"These old people don't know how to behave when they see their son coming back from here because they are so used to being scared of them," Elva said. "So what they do is go and buy a welcome homejerry can full of petrol and put it in front of him.

Youth Link Up a boost to communities

Tangentyere Council will spend \$500,000 over the next two years in a Youth Link Up project in Alice Springs to help combat substance misuse, in particular petrol sniffing.

A focus for the funds, which is half of the \$1 million set aside by the Commonwealth Government for such programs, is to build existing primary services and coordinate a link-up network for other services.

Tangentyere CEO William Tilmouth said: "The program is designed to facilitate the establishment of youth services and increase the social and emotional well being of young people in Central Australian communities. We are hoping to introduce meaningful activities which can provide an alternative to substance misuse.

"Yarrenty-Arltere (Larapinta Town Camp) is an example where a specific strategy in relation to petrol sniffing has been really successful.

"An inter-generational school has been established to which a nutrition and youth activity program is attached.

"This sort of initiative has contributed to the reduction of petrol sniffing by around 80 per cent and we would be looking to develop these sorts of programs in remote communities.

"Mt Theo has been able to secure regular funding and they have also been quite successful.

Mr. Tilmouth does see substantial opportunities for funding programs and part of Youth Link Up will be to identify opportunities for community initiatives and assist in the preparation of funding submissions for the community.



Tangentyere CEO William Tilmouth

"In our first year the challenge will be to build up existing primary services in places like Papunya, Kintore, Mt Theo,

Yuendumu, Injartnama and Docker River.

"There needs to be a coordinated approach to funding opportunities. Coroner Warren McDonald in his Coroner's Inquiry into the death of a petrol sniffer in October 1988 recommended that this sort of service be set up.

"Historically initiatives are sporadic and uncoordinated, the funding dries up and then it falls apart and the community goes backwards again.

"It will be a model very similar to Remote Area Night Patrol. This project will do similar things to build capacity within these communities.

"It will be associated with sport and recreation, health and nutrition, because petrol is a hunger suppressant. It's getting families and youth to work together to bring back quality of life to people," said Mr. Tilmouth.

Ngukurr wants Aboriginal law back



"Unless we are in charge, the first people responsible for the problem, it is never going to stop."

David Daniels is on the Council of Elders in the Ngukurr

community on the southern border of Arnhem Land in the Northern Territory where a reinstated warden scheme is trying to create a bridge between Western law and Aboriginal law in dealing with petrol sniffing, drug and alcohol abuse and petty crime.

"It is our problem. We want to take responsibility, but we have had that responsibility taken away from us by white man's law," Mr Daniels said.

Working along with programs for petrol sniffers and youth undertaking community service orders, the scheme has about 10 women and 10 men who have taken on "warden" roles in the community.

"They go around the community. If they

see someone sniffing petrol, they spill it out. If they see someone doing something wrong, they stop them. If they are out late at night, they send them home," Mr Daniels said.

Neither Mr Daniels nor Ben Kiwikiwi, who runs a scheme for petrol sniffers, consider the problems at Ngukurr to be rising or as serious as in some other communities in the NT.

"But people are edgy, and want to do something about it," Mr Kiwikiwi said.

Petrol sniffers referred by the community wardens to his program find themselves hunting and fishing - providing food for their families and community groups.

He involves ex-sniffers in his program and also young people in danger of sniffing or getting into trouble.

"We need to keep the boys out of prison. There's something wrong with that system - where they learn nothing, and nothing changes," Mr Kiwikiwi said.

"Petrol sniffing is not a crime, but it leads to crime. We need to work with those ones too. I've seen what it does to young people."

"In the program, you've got to do things they want to do, like hunting and fishing.

And I teach them things they haven't done before. I get them stripping motors. And learning how to get their driver's licence. Building up their self esteem in those ways."

Mr Daniels ideally would like to see funding for a rehabilitation centre set up in the Bush, as an alternative to jail terms.

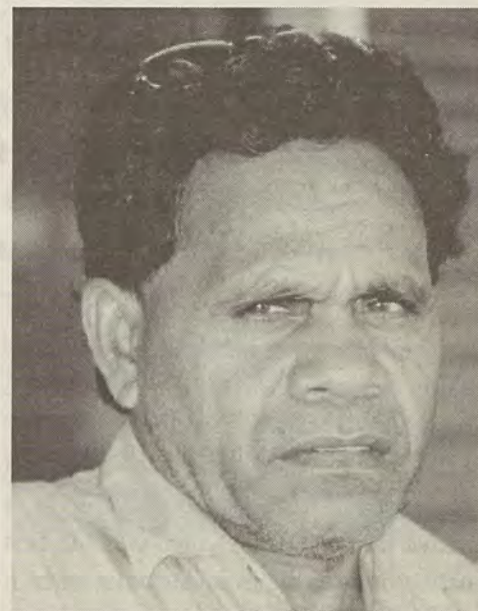
"Traditionally, if I was a naughty boy I was taken to another place and disciplined there," he said. "It is like a jail. You don't go back to camp until the elders teach you to respect, teach you dance and ceremony and to be a part of society. Elders will then say 'He is all right now.'

"It is Aboriginal people disciplining Aboriginal people.

"The government must recognise and give us that right to be in charge of our community problems first.

"At the end of the day, you got to have that basic thing: control to the community and people who live here all the time. Others come and go, but this is our community."

But he is impatient for action. Of the government promise shortly after its election in August to look at using customary law, he said: "Don't look. Do something about it. All the elders are dying and young



David Daniels

people are growing up in this western type world. If we don't hurry up...

"Government got to stop this nonsense. This is our land. They gave our land back. Give us our law back."

Mr Daniels also considers that the lack of respect for Aboriginal law has also translated into a lack of respect within the younger generations for white man's law.

"In the last 20 years, young people have the attitude; 'nobody want to respect our law, we will abuse your law'."

Mt Theo works thanks to community support

The Mt Theo outstation for petrol sniffers says the key to its success is community support.

More than 70 kids were sniffing before the project began eight years ago but Yuendumu is now relatively free of the problem.

Project Coordinator Andrew Stojanovski says Tangentyere's new Youth Link Up

project will give valuable support.

"The Youth Link Up money isn't really directed to Mount Theo since we already have government funding but I think just having a centralised service based in Alice Springs will be good for us to be able to get expert information and support on some particular issues," Andrew said.

"More importantly, I think it will be good for other communities who want to start up petrol sniffing programs in a similar vein to how we've started up Mt Theo.

"At the moment in Yuendumu we've got

no kids sniffing petrol and we've got only one young person living at Mt Theo so I think its probably more critical that other communities without programs are supported by Youth Link Up.

"The reason why we have no sniffing in Yuendumu is because the whole community has been really vigilant and has been really hard working for the last eight years trying to stop petrol sniffing and Mt Theo has been pivotal in that.

Community leader Otto Sims said that everybody in Yuendumu had got behind the project.

"Aboriginal problems should be dealt with by the local people," he said.

and we have achieved a lot.

"We're amazed at what we've achieved and its because everyone has got behind and supported one another. We supported Andrew and the co-workers and we have been working together on tackling this problem.

Replacing petrol sniffing with other activities and removing peer group pressure appear to be the other winning elements in Mt Theo's program.

"We've had youth activities nearly every night so that kids have something better to do and we have night patrols that go and tell the kids to go home and not to sniff petrol," Andrew said.

"It used to be a youth culture where petrol sniffing was a groovy, cool thing to do and where the kids that were looked up to were the kids who were the petrol sniffers. They were the gang leaders, but over a period of time youth culture has changed."

ANDREW STOJANOVSKI

"I think the main important step is that the elders have got to be strong and determined to eradicate sniffing.

"It won't happen overnight - it's taken us eight years and we've never given up

"Its effectiveness lies in the fact that, by sending kids to Mt Theo, we remove them from petrol and we also remove the peer group pressure on other kids to sniff.

"It creates an immediate and real consequence of petrol sniffing for young kids in Yuendumu which is a lot more effective than just sitting down and telling kids you're going to get brain damage if you sniff petrol because most of them think 'oh yeah that wont happen to me'."

"You can never say petrol sniffing will not come back - it only takes a few kids to come back into the community to start it off again but I think what has happened in Yuendumu is that fundamentally youth culture has changed," he said.

"It used to be a youth culture where petrol sniffing was a groovy, cool thing to do and where the kids that were looked up to were the kids who were the petrol sniffers.

"They were the gang leaders, but over a period of time youth culture has changed.

"The kids who are admired now are the good sports people, good musicians, the ones who are doing the radio shows at Warlpiri Media, the ones who are the good dancers at the disco and the winners at the pool table."

First victory in the battle for the seas

The traditional owners of the seas around Croker Island off the Northern Territory, bolstered by the High Court's recognition that native title exists on sea country, have called on all Australian governments to recognise and protect the extent of those rights in law for all Indigenous people.

They also want the destructive Native Title Act amendments of 1998 to be reversed.

The High Court handed down its final decision in October in the Croker Seas native title test case, which was the first native title sea claim in Australia when it was lodged in 1994.

While the Mabo native title decision related to land, it did not deal with the question of rights to sea, and the Croker case has been dubbed "The Mabo of the Seas."

For Indigenous people, the connection to land does not stop at the water's edge.

This fact is well accepted in other parts of the world. Rights to offshore areas is nothing new and has been recognised in England, for instance, for hundreds of years.

Principal claimant in the case, Mary Yarmirr, said the decision "confirms what we have always known: our law and our rights extend out into the seas."

"The Commonwealth Government's ridiculous and hurtful argument that our law stops at the water's edge has been overturned forever."

However, Ms Yarmirr said they were disappointed that the High Court had not yet fully understood the extent of native title rights to the seas.

"Australian law is still blind to the reality of our law, but we will use this decision as a platform to fight for greater and

stronger recognition," she said.

The native title claimants had wanted exclusive and commercial rights - recognition that they own their sea country and should have a strong say over what happens.

They also hoped that the court would recognise that they have commercial rights, just as they did with the Macassans, who traded with them until the start of last century.

"When it came to land rights, Aboriginal people fought for recognition of those rights for many years before they were finally recognised by the High Court.

"Our sea rights have now been recognised to a limited extent and the next step is to establish the full extent of those traditional interests to manage our traditional resources," she said.

"We are very heartened by the dissenting judgement of Justice Michael Kirby who stated that our sea rights are as strong as the rights found in the Mabo case. He called on all governments to legislate to recognise and protect the extent of those rights and we agree.

"All Governments must now come to the table with a view to fully recognising our rights and reversing the majority decision by legislation.

"The destructive Native Title Act amendments of 1998 must also now be reversed in the light of this decision." ●



**Top (from left): John Christopherson, Mary Yarmirr and Sam Namaruka
Middle: Croker claimants
Left: Mary Yarmirr**

Cosmetics and diamonds from the Bush

De Beers, Jurlique and Rio Tinto are among major national and international companies entering joint venture agreements with traditional Aboriginal landowners in the Northern Territory.

Jurlique's business proposal is to harvest a fruit called Morinda citriflora in the Maningrida region to make personal care products, while De Beers, in search for diamonds, is involved in exploration licences just east of Gregory National Park near Timber Creek and near Borroloola.

The diverse range of activities on Aboriginal land in the Top End were approved by the Full Council of the Northern Land Council in October.

The list of seven exploration licences and 10 Land Use agreements were all negotiated using the Land Rights Act.

"Economic development is alive and well on Aboriginal land in the Territory, thanks to the Land Rights Act," NLC Chairman Galarrwuy Yunupingu said.

"The list of economic projects given the nod by traditional owners shows that the Coalition is really out of touch when they try to suggest in their Indigenous Policy document that the Land

Rights Act is creating barriers to development.

"The real barrier to letting Aboriginal people into economic development is negative attitudes.

"We hope the new government in the NT will help to tackle some of those entrenched negative attitudes and values at a Territory level.

"The latest batch of exploration and other land use agreements demonstrate that many companies are making this transition and getting a very positive response from traditional owners."

Seven new exploration licences in the Timber Creek, Ngukurr and Borroloola regions, totalling more than 2300 square kilometres, were approved by the Full Council.

Rio Tinto has entered joint venture agreements with traditional owners for two licences about 125 kilometres south-west

of Timber Creek and an area close to Hodgson Downs in the Ngukurr region.

There is scope with all the joint ventures for some employment, training and contract work for Aboriginal people.

Major sacred sites will be identified before any exploration begins, to ensure they are excluded from activities, and employees will receive cross cultural training.

Other land use agreements approved at the Full Council meeting also include a sports fishing enterprise on Croker Island and two crabbing agreements at Blue Mud Bay in east Arnhem Land.

Telstra has also signed land use agreements for a radio repeater tower at Ramingining, a transmission tower at Nhulunbuy and a communications tower at Milingimbi. ●

KIWIRRKURRA



native title claim



Above left : Claimants with the judges report; Right: Kiwirrkurra Chairman Jimmy Brown and Bobby West (standing)
Below: Justice French in the bush court; Other pictures are of the claimants who came from communities in Western Australia and the Northern Territory

Lawyers in flowing black robes made a strange sight in the scrub at Muyin, about 30 kilometres west of Kintore in September.

Justice French of the Federal Court had set up his court to deliver some good news to the Pintupi people from the Kiwirrkurra native title claim.

Six years after lodging a native title claim to their traditional country, the Pintupi finally had native title recognised over 43,000 square kilometres of their land in West Australia's northern interior.

Justice French found the Pintupi, numbering around 600, have 'exclusive possession' of the land which extends from the Lake Mackay region on the West Australian/Northern Territory border into the Gibson Desert and includes the community of Kiwirrkurra.

The Western Australian Government, to its credit, agreed with him and the claim was settled in what is termed a consent agreement. Deputy Premier Eric Ripper came out to Muyin to congratulate the Pintupi.

The Kiwirrkurra native title holders will have the right to be compensated if the government acquire their land or waters for future developments and a right to negotiate over mining developments and mineral exploration.

Kiwirrkurra Council Chairman Jimmy Brown said the decision would make people happier after the difficult times following the flooding of Kiwirrkurra. "It's been a long process and we are all very proud. This is our traditional country and we are glad the judge found us to be the only people who have any rights in it."

The claim was lodged by the Ngaanyatjarra Council as the Native Title Representative Body for the Kiwirrkurra claimants. The claim area encompasses land already held by the Ngaanyatjarra Land Council under 50 year and 99 year leases.



New radio service hits the Tanami region airwaves on 102.9FM

The Pintubi Anmatjere Warlpiri (PAW) Radio Network kicked off full time broadcasting with a live to air concert in October.

This new radio service will bring together radio programs produced by BRACS (Broadcasting to Remote Communities Scheme) workers from Yuendumu, Nyirripi, Willowra, Ali Curung, Kintore, Yuelamu, Laramba, Pmara Jutunta and Nturiya.

The new radio station will be operated by Warlpiri Media Association who have been working with BRACS operators in their region for over two years to get the network up and running.

For BRACS operators in communities, PAW provides a whole new audience.

PAW also provides communities and organisations with an effective way to get their message and information out



into the remote areas.

Tune into PAW on 102.9FM and listen to a range of music from country,

rap, late night request shows and live music from bands such as Rising Winds.



Above left: PAW on-air at Yuendumu

Above: Warlpiri Media identity DJ Big Bear Tom

Volunteers key to success for Darwin's Indigenous radio station 94.5FM

The continuing rise of Darwin's Indigenous radio station 94.5FM this year has seen the on-air hours grow dramatically along with the number of volunteers who produce and present the programs.

However, like the myth of 'overnight success' for the top musicians it features, Radio Larrakia has had a hard slog to get to its current position.

Now it regularly conducts outside broadcasts and has programs going national through the National Indigenous Radio Service.

"Since April, it has been absolutely amazing. It is a credit to Jim Remedio (station manager) and his staff of CDEP and volunteers," said Jack Crosbie who was involved in the feasibility study that recommended major changes for the future viability of the station.

The station is Indigenous controlled through its board of management, the majority of volunteers are Indigenous, much of the music is Indigenous and the nature of the community announcements and messages from government sponsors tend to target Indigenous audiences.

The station has increased its on air broadcast time from 30 hours a week to 135, offering a diverse range of programs.

"The participation rate among Indigenous women and youth doing programs on the station is very

encouraging," Jack said

Some volunteers are employed under the CDEP work-for-the-dole program, and a number are undertaking media courses through the Batchelor Institute of Tertiary Education.

Presenter Rico Adjrun says he got involved with the station purely by accident – and now reckons it's a lifetime career.

Music is his first love and the chance to meet his favourite bands is a major plus of the job.

"I went to Yeperenye Festival. I was in awe of all the people I was surrounded by," Rico said. "I love music and can't live without it."

For Jessi Egan, radio has been a dream since she was 15.

"I love going on air, but I think if I was going to pursue a career it would be production," she said. There are lots of different areas in production – going out and getting material, editing interviews, doing effects, making adverts and promos."

Experienced presenter "Smurf" Sultan often has a spot at the station, doing morning and afternoon programs of interviews, trivia, public announcements and

sport.

"I've been in the media since 1980, trained at the ABC, and was the first Aboriginal radio broadcaster to press a button (at CAAMA)," Smurf said.

"Radio is the most powerful thing in the world to send a message, to make other people realise what we can do and what we can achieve.

"It's about inclusion, and doing it our way"

Right: Jessie Egan

Below: Smurf Sultan at Radio Larrakia



Imparja out of Darwin

Imparja Television will close its Darwin office at the end of the year. It has had a news crew in Darwin for the past two years to cover stories in the Top End.

Imparja, based in Alice Springs and broadcasting throughout regional Northern Territory, will again rely on other TV stations to provide it with Top End news stories.

Action at last on illegal trespassing

The NT Government, police and the Northern Land Council are working together to track down commercial crabbers illegally trespassing and working on Aboriginal land.



For years, crabbing teams have set up camps onshore on Marra Land trust and Arnhem Land Trust land without proper permission from traditional owners, and without making formal commercial

agreements to carry out their activities.

Apart from concerns about trespassing on their property, traditional owners are worried that the activities are environmentally damaging to the land and fish stocks and they are also worried about the desecration of special and sacred sites on and offshore.

While the crabbers' activities have been well known for many years, it appears that lack of political will to act in the past has denied traditional owners the assistance they have needed to deal with the illegal trespassers.

But a recent joint operation, encouraged by the new local member for Barkly, Elliot McAdam, is a hopeful sign that authorities are willing to enforce the provisions of the Land Rights Act.

"Been a long time talking about this," traditional owner Roy Hammer said. "We have known about these crabbers since maybe 1996, but no-one has done anything about it.

"I pushed, and pushed. All the time.

"Maybe it's because there is a new government..."

Mr Hammer, like many traditional owners, said he didn't mind some crabbers working on his land "but they got to have a permit and an agreement with us," he said.

"No-one told them they could come here. They cut down our trees. They tie their boats on our land. It is really bad – sitting on our land.

"They need to talk to us, make an agreement."

The law, under the Land Rights Act, states that anyone who wants to go onto Aboriginal Land requires a permit, and, for those who want to carry out commercial operations, they are required to enter an agreement with the relevant traditional owners.

A number of fishing businesses in the Northern Territory have agreements with traditional owners, including fishing tour operators, crabbers and pearling companies.

However, there are a number of enterprises with fishing licences that are illegally trespassing on Aboriginal land.

Three illegal camps were spotted and two were visited in the recent operation when traditional owners, accompanied by local police and NLC staff, flew by helicopter over the coastal Marra Land Trust area north of Borroloola and spoke to 10 crabbers.

While the crabbers can now be prosecuted for trespassing and required to leave, Mr Hammer said that he was happy



An example of crabbers and traditional owners successfully reaching agreement – at Blue Mud Bay in 1999

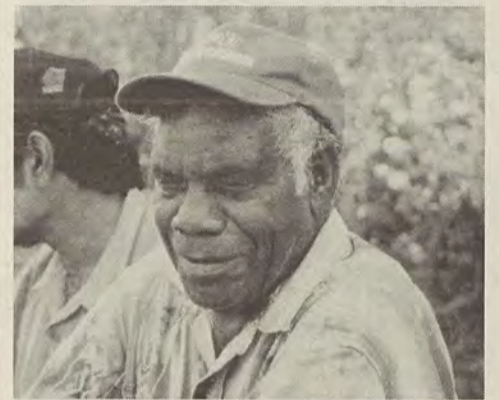
to sit down and talk to them to reach agreements.

He would like to have meetings with all the crabbers in the area who are illegally trespassing. At this stage, six crabbers have agreed to a meeting with traditional owners of the Limmen Bight area early in the New Year, with a view to entering into two-year agreements under the Land Rights Act.

Roy said he was impressed with the professional conduct of the two Ngukurr police officers, Geoffrey Pickering and Michael Ward, during the recent operation.

It is anticipated that collaboration will continue with further field work in the Gulf region next year.

The NLC suggests that a long term solution could be that crabbers who are given a licence from Fisheries should clearly state if they have land bases and, if so, the formal approval of the NLC should



Roy Hammer

be necessary if they are on Land Trust Land.

"We need to find options to sort this out and avoid the humbug," MLC Elliot McAdam said.

"It is such a waste of energy and very costly (to have to seek out these illegal trespassers)." "This government is prepared to work in close cooperation with agencies and organisations to iron out this kind of situation." ●

Fire management critical to future of northern Australia

The Northern Land Council has welcomed the announcement of \$330,000 additional funding support from the Natural Heritage Trust for fire management practices in the Pine Creek, Arnhem Plateau and Central Arnhem regions.

Collaboration between Government agencies, CSIRO, the ILC, the NLC, the NT Bushfires Council and Aboriginal community organisations has produced a \$1m project.

NLC Chief Executive Officer Norman Fry explained that fire management was critical to the environmental and economic future of northern Australia.

"The negative effects of unmanaged fire over time could be as costly to north

Australia as salinity is in southern states," he said.

The funding is an important recognition of the role Aboriginal land managers play in helping to maintain and reintroduce environmentally friendly fire regimes.

Traditional fire burning practices are characterised by early mosaic burning techniques, which controls and prevents the likelihood of dangerous and environmentally damaging "hot" burns.

The project will extend over an area of about 60,000 square kilometres of western and central Arnhem Land and will provide support for the NLC's Caring for Country Unit to carry out on-ground management with the Jawoyn Association, Bawinanga Aboriginal Corporation, Demed Association, Gulin Gulin and Weemoll Community Council and Yugil Mangi Landcare.

Mr Fry said that the announcement fit-

ted well with the acknowledgement at the recent NT Government's Economic Summit that the changing nature of economic activity required a new approach to potential opportunities based on looking after and managing the condition of land.

"Improved fire management practices offer opportunities for future carbon trading markets and well managed country is critical to the emergence of new industries such as the sustainable harvest of native wildlife, bio prospecting and eco-tourism," he said.

"In addition, this project provides immediate jobs for Aboriginal participants in regional areas.

The NLC is keen to continue our partnerships with Government and non-government agencies, in other innovative developments on Aboriginal land."



UMUWA VIDEO FESTIVAL

Above left: Trevor Hitan;
 Above middle: The Irrekelong mob;
 Above top: May Forbes, Roma, Maysie Nelson, Josephine Mick and Frudence Anderson
 Above: Kimberley mob Henry Augustine, Rodney Badal, Troy Albert and Raymond Henry
 Far left: Maysie Nelson and Kunmanara Butler
 Below: PY media radio presenter Tubby



Indigenous films by Indigenous filmmakers featuring remote areas across Australia were showcased recently at the 3rd Annual BRACS Video festival in Umuwa, a South Australian community, 500 kilometres south-west of Alice Springs.

Groups travelled from near and far to attend the festival, hosted by Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjara Media.

The festival came alive each evening as people from nearby communities such as Ernabella and Fregon, and people who had come from as far as the Kimberleys and Yuendumu enjoyed the richness and diversity of Indigenous films.

Warlpiri media, from Yuendumu, won

first prize in the BRACS remote video festival, for a short film about a man who was dodging a court appearance.

During the festival local media mob PY Media buzzed with excitement and movement as Indigenous people checked out their facilities and met Indigenous people involved in broadcasting local radio at Umuwa.



Ara Irititja Archival Project

Anangu people can now access Ara Irititja (stories from a long time ago) thanks to an innovative computer archive project.

The Ara Irititjara Archive stores over 26,000 records dating from 1932 to 2001 including photographs, art and craft works, artefacts, diaries, journals, manuscripts and hundreds of hours of movies and sound recordings.

These archival materials are stored in a digital format in a special hi-tech mobile work station combining computer, projector, power saver and printer, called a *nyiri nyiri* (Pitjantjatjara for 'beetle').

Six *nyiri nyiri* machines are located on Anangu Pitjantjatjara land, in the Umuwa, Indulkana, Mimili, Ernabella, Murputja communities and the NPY Women's Council in Alice Springs.

They are networked to a mother computer located in the SA museum complex at Netley.

The Ara Irititja Archival project began in 1994 when a group of Anangu men visited the SA museum and realised that

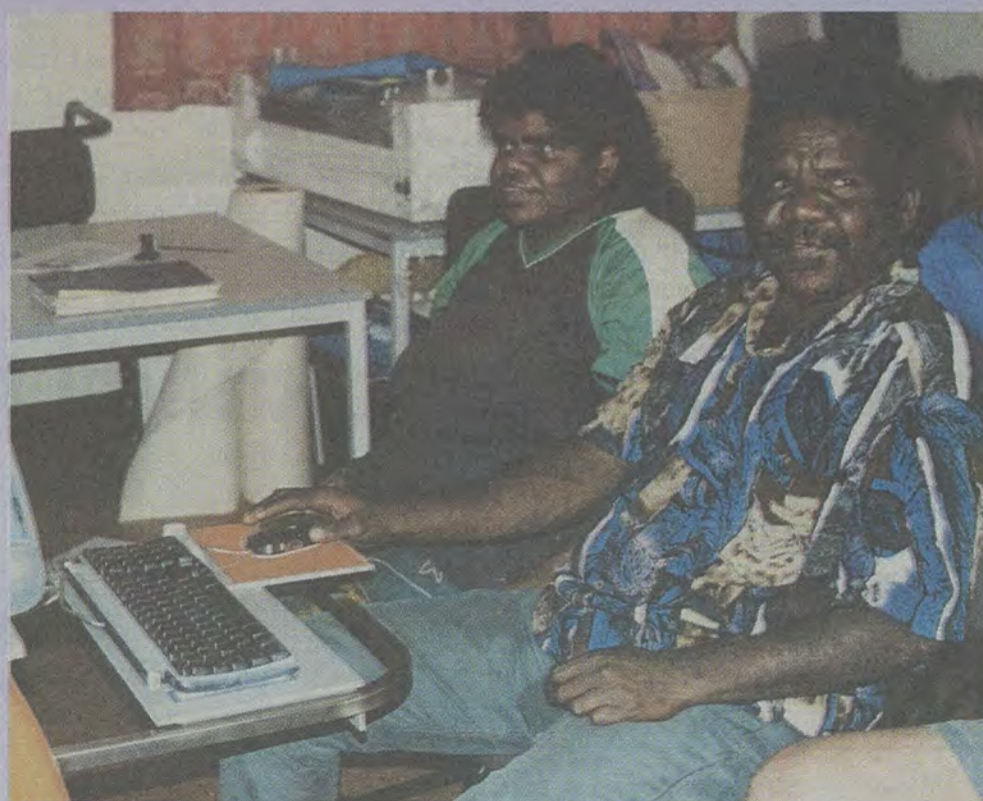
a large amount of Anangu archival material being housed by museums, libraries and private collections was not accessible to Anangu on the Pitjantjatjara lands.

Since then the Social History Unit of the Pitjantjatjara Council has worked extensively to retrieve and secure Anangu materials for the project.

Ara Irititja has been funded by a number of organisations such as ATSIC, SA Museum, AIATSIS, National Library of Australia and Anangu Education Services.

Project worker, Ushma Scales, who consulted with community members said: 'For most of the six years the main part of the project was all a matter of trial and error where we were bringing the Ara Irititja unit up to communities and testing it at a community level.'

Ushma says the project allows community members to view old times and family: Anangu people can spend



Ara Irititja unit operator Shannon and Nita from Ernabella

hours browsing through thousands of photos on a big screen which they then can print to keep for their family.

"So many people were so joyous to see old deceased people and it just shows the wonderful adaptability of culture,"

Ushma said. "But there are still issues surrounding young people who pass away or old people who have only recently passed on."

web: www.waru.org/arairititja/index



CLC COUNCIL MEETING

The Central Land Council held its last meeting for the year at Aputula, 235 kilometres south east of Alice Springs, in November.



Aputula Council Chairman David Doolan and his father, Howard Doolan, welcomed CLC delegates to their country.

Many important issues were discussed over the three-day meeting, including the abolition of mandatory sentencing, and CLC Director David Ross informed everyone about the new Northern

Territory Government and the Commonwealth election.

Re-elected Labor member for Lingiari, Warren Snowdon attended the meeting and said the new Federal Government was already talking again about amending the Land Rights Act but said the Opposition would not let them.

Members also discussed the CLC strategic plan which has been developed, permits, ATSIC funding to outstations and possible ABA changes.

There was a lot of discussion about the changes to mandatory sentencing.

Members were told that mandatory sentencing had been abolished by the new Government and that the new law was much better. People will still go to jail for property crimes but the judge can listen and

have much more say than the old system where they just had to send them to jail.

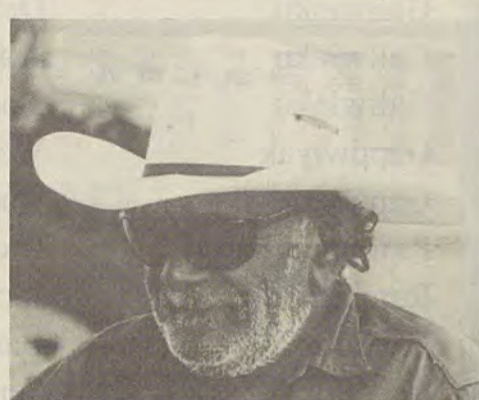
Now it is easier to show there are "exceptional circumstances" and they can order a community work order or home detention. People convicted of rape will still go to jail first time.

Customary law was also talked about.

A number of resolutions on mining licence applications were also passed.

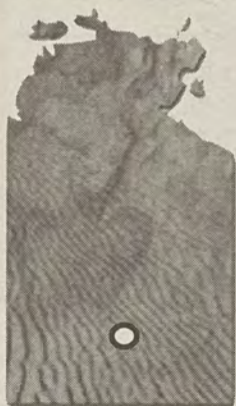
The next Council meeting will be held in March 2002 at Canteen Creek. ●

Top l-r: Teresa Yibwon from Kalkaringi at the CLC meeting, Council members at Aputula, Mrs Fitz from Tennant Creek Right: Patch Price (top) and other members



Town campers learn about banking

More than 340 town campers in Alice Springs are able to open bank accounts and use electronic cards in automatic teller machines thanks to a Tangentyere Council bank training project.



"A lot of Indigenous people haven't really had proper control and ready access to their money because they haven't been able to get electronic bank accounts," bank trainer Julie Whittaker said.

"If people are not used to using a bank account, we give them training when we sign them up and we give them an option for a transaction booklet or a Handycard."

Tangentyere CEO William Tilmouth said many Aboriginal people on welfare cash their cheques at stores then have difficulties regulating their spending over the following fortnight.

"Even though people didn't need all the money at once, they would cash their cheques and get the whole lot - they had no choice," he said.

"Electronic banking provides people with a choice. Some will draw it all out and some won't. If family is putting pressure on them, to draw out all their money at once, they have the choice of leaving their keycard at the bank for safe keeping.

"If they need to travel, they can take their card with them. It's a flexible system and people can handle their money how they want to.

"This is a Tangentyere Council Executive initiative - clients can have their say as to how they want to handle their finances. This is a new project and is as much a learning process for us as it is for our clients," said Mr. Tilmouth.

"Transaction fees, for example, can im-



The Bank Pilot Project staff Julie Whittaker, and Anmatyerre speaker Sabio George.

pact heavily on people on welfare. These represent a much higher percentage of income than for people on a higher salary.

Julie Whittaker negotiates with the banks on her clients' behalf.

"Some people go to the ATM 12 times before their cheque goes in," she said. "Each time they check it, it incurs a bank fee and then there is a debt of \$30 or \$40, so we negotiate with the bank and say this person can't pay this and we find a solution," she said.

"People are slowly getting a concept of the feast or famine concept and they seem

to be a lot happier because if they travel a lot, every store has EFTPOS.

"In this project we also sign people to a new food voucher system. Centrepay is a system where deductions are made prior to the deposit going into the bank and there is flexibility on how much people want to take out.

"For example they may take \$10 out for lights and \$20 out for a food voucher."

Tangentyere Council has a One Stop Shop philosophy with a Centrelink office, a bank, Job Shop, Family Assistance Office and a housing office. ●

Northern Land Council

Ninth Full Council of the Northern Land Council (October 2001 – October 2004). The NLC has seven regions, each with an executive member.

There are 78 elected members as well as five co-opted women's positions.

EAST ARNHEM 16 members

Yirrkala	Dhuwarrwarr Marika
Gunyangarra	Galarwuy Yunupingu
Blue Mud Bay	Jabani Lalara
Blue Mud Bay	Gilbert Marawili
Galiwinku	Johnny Barrmula
Galiwinku	Dick Munungu
Galiwinku	Alfred Wunbaya
Galiwinku	Don Wininba
Gapuwiyak	Wesley BandiBandi
Gapuwiyak	Donald Biningdjirri
Ramingining	Richard Bandalil
Ramingining	Jack Munyarirr
Yirrkala	Banduk Marika
Laynhpuy	Terry Djambuwa Marawili
Milingimbi	Henry Djerrigal
Milingimbi	Alfred Birrinydja
Women's position	<i>Vacant</i>



East Arnhem Executive Member, Dhuwarrwarr Marika



NLC Chairman, Galarwuy Yunupingu



NLC Deputy Chair, Mary Yarmirr



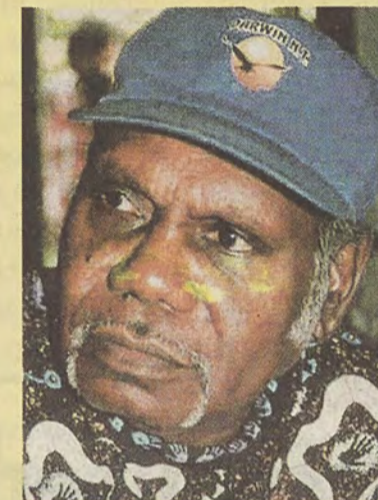
VRD Executive Member, George Campbell

VICTORIA RIVER DISTRICT 7 members

Yarralin	George Campbell
Amanbidji	Peter Waterloo
Bulla	Raymond Long
Timber Creek	Elaine Watts
Yingwunarri	<i>Vacant</i>
Pigeon Hole	Jacky Anzac
Women's position	<i>Vacant</i>

KATHERINE 8 members

Katherine	Andy Andrews
Barunga	Anthony Lee
Beswick	Veronica Birrell
Bulman	Apaak Peter Miller
Weemol	Phillip Ashley
Katherine	Noel McDonald
Mataranka/Djimbra	Robert Smiler
Women's position	May Rosas



Katherine Executive Member, Andy Andrews

NGUKURR 10 members

Ngukurr	Kevin Rogers
Hodgson/Roper	Vincent August
Numbulwar	Mujiji Nunggargalu
Ngukurr	Gordon Nawundulpi
Ngukurr	William Hall
Numbulwar	Samuel Ngalmi
Numbulwar	Moses Numamurdirdi
Nutwood/Cox River	Barney Illaga
Urapunga	David Daniels
Women's position	<i>Vacant</i>



Ngukurr Executive Member, Kevin Rogers

WEST ARNHEM 12 members

Warruwi	Bunug Galaminda
Minjilang	Mary Yarmirr
Gunbalanya	Kevin Buliwana
Gunbalanya	Isaiah Burrnali
Gunbalanya	<i>Vacant</i>
Kakadu	Mandy Muir
Cobourg	Reuben Cooper
Warruwi	Jenny Inmulugulu
Maningrida	Helen Williams
Maningrida	Dean Herreen
Maningrida	Charlie Brian
Maningrida	Maurice Geinbabara



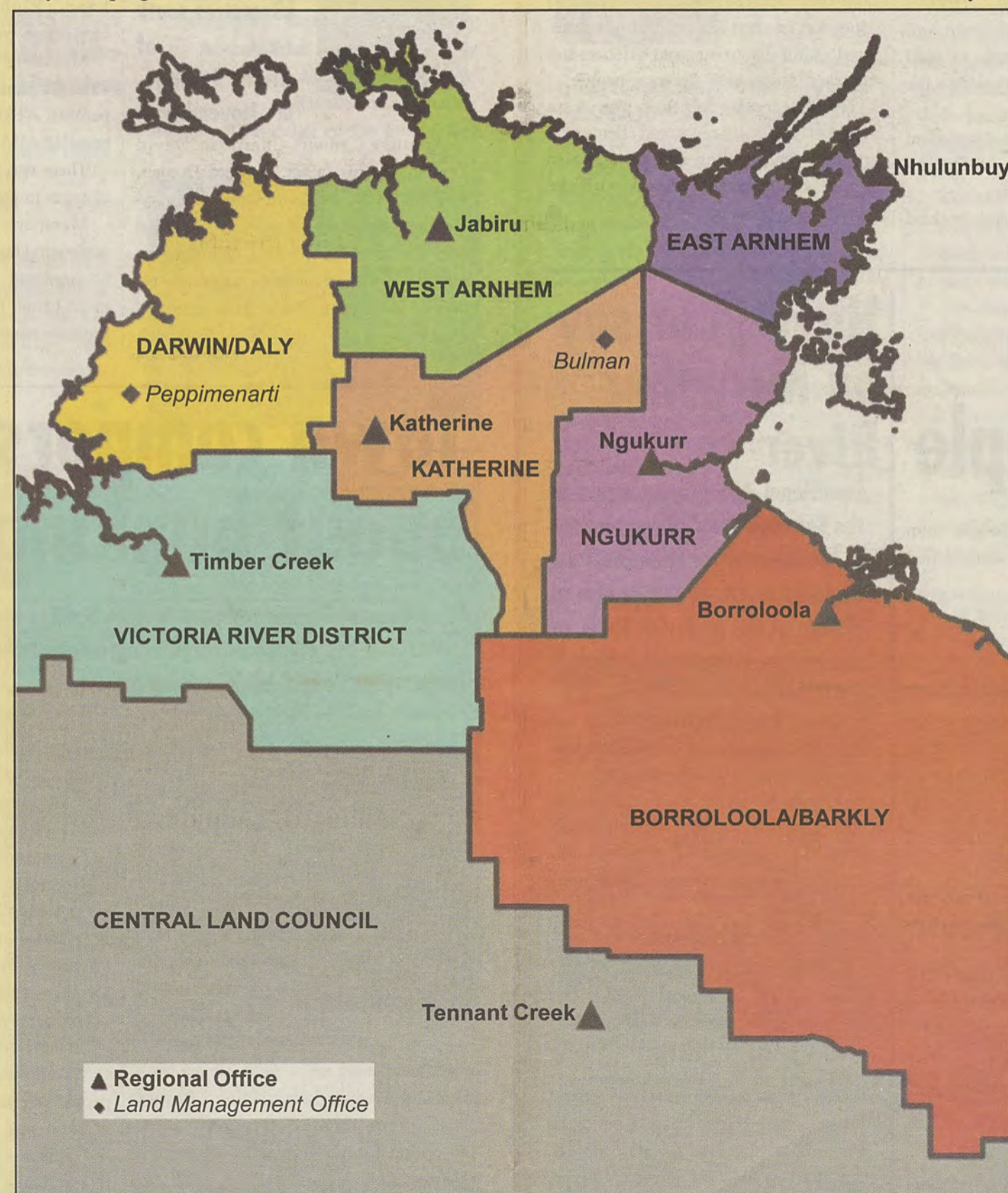
West Arnhem Executive Member, Bunug Galaminda

BORROLOOLA/BARKLY

<small>14 members</small>	Max Finlay
Wombaya	Angus Limmerick
Alexandria	Leonard Norman
Borroloola	Roddy Friday
Borroloola	Roy Hammer
Borroloola	Tony Green
Brunette Downs	Kevin Neade
Elliott	Michael Barclay
Nicholson River	Azman Rory
North Barkly	Jeffrey Dixon
Murrnji	Amy Lauder
Muckaty	Keith Rory
Robinson River	Gordon Noonan
Rockhampton Dwn	Nancy Mc Dinny
Women's position	



Borroloola/Barkly Executive Member, Max Finlay



NLC Head Office: 9 Rowling St, Casuarina, Tel: (08) 8920 5100; **NLC Borroloola/Barkly:** Robinson Rd, Mara Mara Camp, Borroloola, Tel: (08) 8975 8848; **NLC Darwin/Daly/Wagait:** Unit 1 17 Georgina Cres, Palmerston, Tel: (08) 8931 1910; **NLC East Arnhem:** Endeavour Square, Nhulunbuy, Tel: (08) 8987 2602; **NLC Katherine:** 5 Katherine Tee, Tel: (08) 8972 2894; **NLC Ngukurr:** Balamurra St, Tel: (08) 8975 4755; **NLC Tennant Creek:** Shop 4 172 Patterson St, Tel: (08) 8962 3729; **NLC Victoria River District:** 43 Wilson Street, Timber Creek, Tel: (08) 8975 0789; **NLC West Arnhem:** 3 Government Building, Flinders St, Jabiru, Tel: (08) 8979-2847.

DARWIN/DALY 16 members

Daly River South	John Daly
Belyuen	John Singh
Daly River West	John Sullivan
Naiyu Nambiyu	Betty Daly
Daly River North	Eddie Shields
Darwin	Pauline Baban
Darwin	Rosemary Parfitt
Darwin East	David Kenyon
Darwin South	Fabian Hazelbane
Darwin South West	Margaret Daiyi
Pine Creek	Fred Muggleton (Jnr)
Peppimenarti	Harold Wilson
Port Keats North	Matthais Nermarluck
Port Keats	Felix Bunduk
Palumpa	Roger Wodidj



Darwin/Daly Executive Member, John Daly

Tangentyere Job Shop a winner



Tangentyere Council's Job Shop has placed 120 Aboriginal people in jobs in Alice Springs in the last six months - making it the most successful employment agency in the Northern Territory.

Job Shop's Deputy Manager/Senior Case Manager Mandy Ahmat said the agency, which specialises in job opportunities and training for Aboriginal people, provided a culturally appropriate service to Indigenous job seekers.

Staff also attend school Expos, Youth Forums, information seminars and liaise with the Senior High School to provide support and information to Indigenous students on career opportunities.

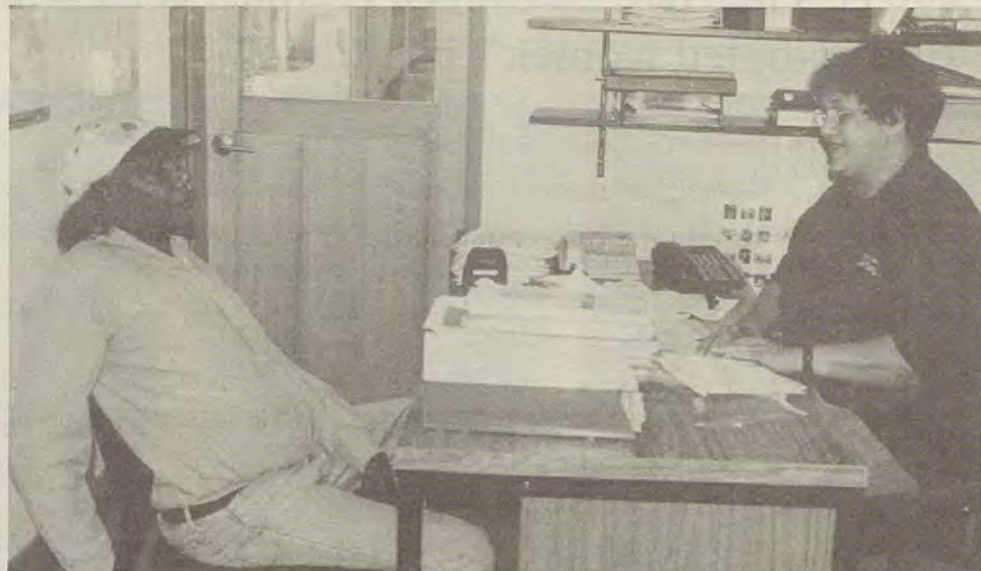
"Since Job Shop has started, we've seen a shift in employment for Aboriginal people," Ms Ahmat said. "The majority of our customers are Town Campers plus our service is available to all people who live in the Alice Springs region. We have been working with the Central Land Council (CLC) on employment opportunities in the

mining industry and for the new railway. We have so far placed 18 clients in the mining industry. The railway opportunities have not been as successful as anticipated.

"We've had a big input into the STEP (Structured Training Employment Program) program with the Northern Territory Health Service and were instrumental in finding the right people to participate in the STEP program at the Alice Springs Hospital.

"The STEP program lasts for a short time (9-12 months) and it is designed to assist people with work experience and with gaining new skills. The success of this program has seen STEP participants gain full-time unsubsidised employment with the Alice Springs hospital.

"Job Shop also has recently been awarded the IHANT (Indigenous Housing



Joseph Thompson and Job Shop deputy manager Mandy Ahmat

Agreement of the Northern Territory) contract. The contract is to train and employ 24 Indigenous people to gain skills in the building industry within the Papunya region.

"There are many barriers Aboriginal people have to overcome in finding employment," Ms Ahmat said.

"English is often a second or third

language spoken; access to formal education is often limited and not structured culturally to suit our clients; and transport is a problem for some people."

The Tangentyere Job Shop provides a transport service for registered clients who are attending training courses and also supports and assists clients with the interviewing process.

One hundred jobs promised on the railway for Aboriginal people

The Northern and Central Land Councils have set up special units to help Aboriginal people gain employment and training with the railway project.

The railway project is committed to providing 100 full time jobs and 200 training positions for Indigenous people and the Land Councils are making sure that people who want jobs have the best chance possible and that the best candidates are put forward to ADRail and the various contractors.

Opportunities include work at the sleeper factories in Katherine and Tennant Creek, working on the four fleets set up along the railway corridors and involvement with contractors such as those providing camp services.

Plant operating, culvert making and hospitality are just three areas for training.

For some, ADRail has contracted the services of training providers to help with the training and certification requirements needed (such as driving specialised vehicles).

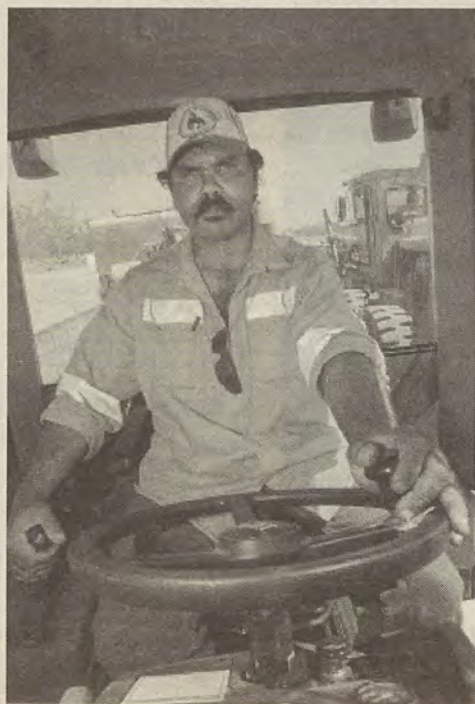
There is also opportunity for independent Indigenous contractors to tender to provide specific services to the

project, such as rubbish disposal and camp rehabilitation.

The NLC currently has 210 applicants on an employment database, which lists people's skills and availability.

So far, 75 people have been referred to AdRail and 27 to Morris Corporation camp services.

Fifty seven people have been employed on the project overall and 45 have been referred for training.



Left: Roller operator Thomas Burdett in Katherine

Below: Joyce Williams at the Katherine camp



The CLC has placed 24 people from Tennant Creek in the corridor construction camps in the region.

Once the project moves closer to Alice Springs, local Aboriginal people will secure similar jobs.

Any Aboriginal people interested in work on the railway should contact — the Katherine office of the NLC on 8972 3336 and Harold Howard at the CLC office on 8950 5002.

Have your say on McArthur River

Traditional Aboriginal owners in the Borroloola region want to talk to the Minister for Fisheries, Paul Henderson about the proposed closure of the McArthur River to commercial barramundi fishing.

The new NT Government has issued a Discussion Paper outlining the proposal, put forward before the election by the previous government.

Other rivers in the NT already closed to commercial operations include the Daly River, Mary River, Darwin Harbour, South Alligator River and Roper River.

There was concern originally about the lack of consultation over the proposal.

At the time, the Mabunji Resource Association offered an alternative partial closure option.

Aboriginal people in the region have a strong interest in the river. Aboriginal interests are involved in two commercial licences for the river - in a region which has very limited commercial opportunities. Any closure would affect them.

Submissions to the Discussion Paper close on December 28.

Communities look closely at bush tucker ideas

Indigenous people from throughout the Top End gathered at Naviyu on the banks of the Daly River in November to discuss how to turn the current popularity for bush tucker products into money-making businesses for their communities.



People spoke about the best seeds and plants to harvest, how to package and sell the produce, and how to market it.

They also discussed how to set up bush tucker businesses and the

issues of sustainable harvest, permits for collecting, labelling of produce and Indigenous property rights.

After wading through a nearby billabong to collect red lily pods, women from the region shared their experiences in trying to turn this bush tucker into a tourist souvenir. Other suggestions included collecting bush tucker to sell in local stalls and the need for authenticity labelling.

The workshop was organised by Key Centre for Tropical Wildlife Management and Parks and Wildlife Commission of the NT, which have been involved over the past three years in a project, working with Aboriginal people, to research which plants can best be harvested and sold.

The Key Centre has been looking at

plants that might be suitable for local, small scale businesses in Aboriginal communities and are keen to help communities get their ideas up and running.

Growing cycads, harvesting yams, collecting grass seeds and marketing native tea leaves were just four examples put forward as potential ventures.

The participants acknowledge that they have a definite marketing advantage over other potential competitors: their products are wild harvested, have not been sprayed with chemicals and they are authentically Indigenous—aspects which customers welcome.

The cultural aspects of plants and harvesting practices and the importance of traditional owners providing direction for any projects was stressed.

The three-day workshop ended with various groups inspired by the discussions and keen to go back to their communities to examine how to get involved in the new and growing bush tucker industry.

A booklet and video will be produced to provide information to communities around the Top End on the steps they need to consider when they are setting up a bush harvesting and selling business.

Michelle Adams, manager of ATSIK's Darwin Network office (left) with Meng Hoeschle, Merrepen Arts Centre



Wardaman traditional owner Lilly Gingina pours a cup of native basil tea



Charles Godjuwa, from Bawinanga Aboriginal Corporation in Maningrida with a photo of the fruit called Morinda citriflora used to make personal care products

Peppimenarti artists reveal new skills



The women of Peppimenarti community — already renowned for their basket weaving — are now revealing their skills on canvas.

An exhibition of paintings and prints by men and women from Peppimenarti was launched at the Karen Brown Gallery in Darwin recently.

Most of the artwork quickly sold — and an interstate exhibition is planned for next year.

The women have translated their knowledge of weaving designs and colors to suit the new medium, producing detailed artwork depicting weaving knots and stitches and representations of huge sun mats.

The men's paintings were inspired by boomerangs, woomeras, spears and didgeridoos.

Twenty artists worked for a year towards this exhibition, undertaking painting and printing workshops before moving onto canvas.



From left: Regina Wilson, Theresa Lemon and Dorothy Sams

SEASONS GREETINGS

from the

CENTRAL AND NORTHERN LAND COUNCILS

First meeting for new NLC Full Council



At the first meeting of the new NLC Full Council, members told John Ah Kit, Minister Assisting the Chief Minister on

Indigenous Affairs (among other portfolios) that a priority for Aboriginal people was the repeal of the mandatory sentencing and anti-social conduct laws.

Mr AhKit is a former Director of the NLC and Executive member of the Council. Warren Snowdon, MHR for the new federal seat of Lingiari, also visited the meeting, when he talked about the opportunities for Aboriginal Territorians now that there is an ALP Government running the NT.

Members were informed that the Ceremonial Trust Fund has been approved for a further year by the Minister for

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs.

A limited amount of money is available in each region for ceremonial purposes, including funerals.

Members were also told that the backlog of 1000 Exploration Licence Applications on pastoral or non-Aboriginal land, created by the former CLP government, is continuing to cause problems for native title holders and mining companies.

The NLC has approached the new ALP government with a proposal for an Indigenous Land Use Agreement to get around the problems of the backlog.

After discussion, members approved a 5% levy on third parties to Land Use Agreements under the Land Rights Act or Native Title Act, to fund the extensive taxation and administrative responsibilities involved.

The levy will not affect the money received by traditional owners but will come directly from outside developers. ●

(From left): Keith Rory, Jeffrey Dixon and Max Finlay



Galarrwuy Yunupingu re-elected

Mr Galarrwuy Yunupingu has been re-elected chairman of the Northern Land Council.



This is the seventh consecutive time that Mr Yunupingu has been elected chairman of the NLC.

He was first elected chairman in 1977, and has held the position continuously since 1983.

Deputy chair is Mary Yarmirr, from Croker Island.

This will be her second term as Deputy Chair.

The election of the two top positions took place in October during the first meeting of the new NLC Full Council, which runs for a three-year term.

The meeting took place at Lake Bennett, south of Darwin.

Mr Yunupingu said that the coming term would be particularly interesting, as the NLC would be working closely with the new ALP government in the Territory.

"Now it is time to work with the new government to make sure that Aboriginal people in the NT play an equal and important role in the future development of the Territory," he said. ●

Good news for Borroloola



The Borroloola region could finally get the women's shelter that residents have been asking for for many years.

Another long sought after facility – a swimming pool – is also on the cards.

While the requests were stalled by the previous government on spurious claims of native title concerns, the current government considers both to be priorities.

It says the shelter "is a most important social issue" in Borroloola and should be progressed as a matter of priority.

The Rumburriya Malandari Council

hopes that it may finally be granted land to construct the shelter and child care facility.

Similarly, the government has stated a swimming pool would provide significant social and recreational benefits to the community.

It is considering granting a lease to the Borroloola Community Government Council to construct one.

In both cases the Government has indicated its intention to favourably resolve any land tenure issues. ●

Traditional owners to have Batten Point returned

The NT Government has advised the NLC that they intend to hand a small but important piece of land back to traditional owners.

The land, known as Batten Point near Borroloola, though relatively small in area, is of high value to the traditional owners.

Batten Point is one of those areas swallowed up by the NT Land Corporation – a body the NLC says was created by the previous government to circumvent the Land Rights Act.

While Crown land could be claimed under the Act by Aboriginal traditional owners, the previous government argued that any areas owned by its Land

Corporation would no longer be Crown land – and therefore unable to be claimed.

This is an issue which is still before the courts.

However, for Batten Point at least, the current government says that the NT Land Corporation doesn't want the land – opening the way for the title to the land to go to the traditional owners.

The title would be held by the appropriate incorporated association which represents traditional owners. ●

The Desert Peoples Centre building starts in the next year

A vision shared by three main Aboriginal education and training providers in Alice Springs is turning into reality as plans for the \$30 million dollar Desert Peoples Centre progress rapidly with construction beginning within the next year.



Top left: Geoffrey Shannon, Andrew Japiljari Spencer, Tjuki Pumpjack and Noel Hayes visiting the new site

The Desert Peoples Centre will be a centralised learning campus where Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education, the Institute for Aboriginal Development and the Centre for Appropriate Technology will provide a unified approach to education and training services across Central Australia.

The Desert Peoples Centre has been discussed intensely since a Memorandum of Understanding was first signed between IAD, BIITE and CAT in 1998.

"We started to look at what we could offer each other and identify our future, instead of just operating in isolation with a lot of the same kinds of interests and aspirations," Desert Peoples Centre Joint

Committee member, Ann Davis said.

"That of course is a really delicate process – when three organisations have had their own histories and own identities and had a certain way of doing things."

The Desert Peoples Centre will be part of a bigger Desert Knowledge Precinct, which will incorporate CSIRO, DPIF, Parks and Wildlife and Yirrara College. These organisations will be spread out over many hectares of land to the south of Alice Springs.

"Being part of a Desert Knowledge Precinct means there will be other people sharing in the activity on that site, which will attract more life and attention to that site as well," Ann said.

Ann Davis says the Desert Peoples Centre promises to be a hub of activity as Yirrara College also participates in the bigger picture.

"Instead of Yirrara existing out there in isolation, it becomes part of a precinct where you do your high school there but then your tertiary education is catered for over the road. So it gets to become a place that Aboriginal students are attracted to for further studies," Ann said.

The new centre will offer students access to on-site facilities such as a child care centre, library, innovation centre and a commercial centre which will provide an outlet for selling arts and crafts and other products produced by the students.

At a recent meeting held in Alice Springs, Aboriginal people spoke strongly about the involvement of all Aboriginal people in the development of such a significant centre.

"Aboriginal decision-makers have said we want to keep the woodland a buffer zone so it's a bush area where traditional activity could happen where there's privacy created. So that it can be both more beautiful but also have that opportunity to be used for Aboriginal cultural activity as well," Ann said.

Staff from the three organisations will continue talking to community members

from across the territory who study as a means of informing and gaining feedback from remote community members about the centre.

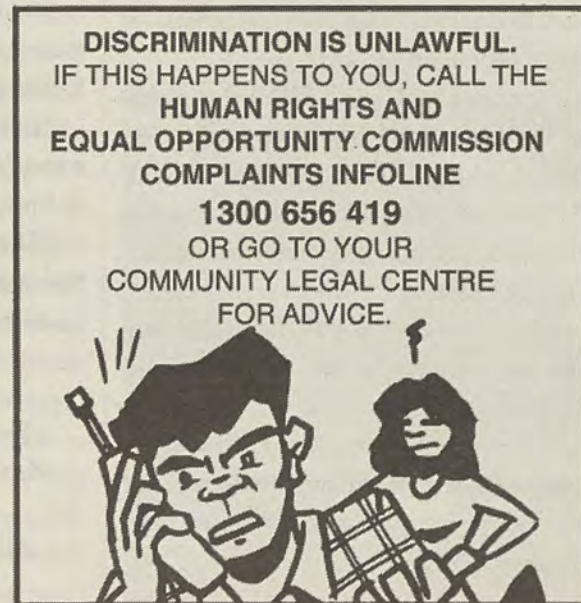
The Australian National Training Authority through NTETA committed \$7 million to the project with this initial funding going into planning the centre and \$6.4 million towards construction. The newly elected NT Government has also committed \$10 million to the project.

The DPC Committee is currently working with Arrernte Native Title Holders to secure an Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA) for the land south of Alice Springs.

Ann pointed out: "As a desert knowledge precinct, it's critical we have an Indigenous Land Use Agreement. We can't put a Desert Peoples Centre where native title has been extinguished and where there's not an acknowledgment of the traditional owners."

A social and cultural impact study is being conducted to direct the centre on the cultural implications which may occur in relation to the centre and land being used.

Below (from left): Harold Furber, Margie Lynch, Geoffrey Shannon, Jenny Kroker, John Reid, Shirley Erlandson





Ten years is a long time - especially in footy

Ten years is a long time - especially in footy.

That was the ban slapped on the Alekerange Football Club by the Barkly Australian Football League after some 200 Alekerange supporters were involved in a brawl on the oval at the grand final in Tennant Creek in October.

While many community members accepted that there needed to be a penalty, most thought that 10 years was much too long.

"By the time we get started again my kids will be playing," said player Jason Thompson.

"We still play community football and we might start our own competition but we're still talking about that. But we still want to play in town.

"Some of these young fellas will just go back to drinking. That's what happens - it keeps people off the grog."

Supporter Mr P also felt that the impact on the community would be hard. "Ten years is a long time. It's not fair," he said.

"A lot of young fellas will never get to play footy at all. It affects the family. They're upset."

BAFL President Bob Bicknell said they had not received an appeal from Alekerange yet.

However he said that BAFL may reconsider the ban on the juniors but it was not the first time this sort of thing had happened.

"One woman just punched a Spitfires



player in the face. If he had retaliated, I have no doubt somebody would have died there that day. It was very ugly. It was totally out of hand and should never have happened. What do you do?" he said.

"I do feel sorry for a lot of the boys out there. Out of 26 players, probably about 20 had nothing to do with it.

"But in 45 years of sport I've never seen a reaction like it. It was like soccer games in England.

"There were tons of rocks on top of Sporties roof and the scoring area was all smashed."

Top: Footy player Jason Thompson (centre) says by the time they get to play again his kids will be playing
Above: Mr P and his son who also plays in the team

Indigenous Football and Netball Carnival



Some 350 Indigenous sporting people from across the country participated in the 2nd Charlie Perkins Indigenous Football and Netball Carnival in Alice Springs last month.

The event included an exhibition soccer match by local junior players in honour of the late Mr Perkins and his involvement in the sport.

Centralian Indigenous Sports Committee Chairperson, Jennifer Nixon said there was a crowd of over 2500 each day.



"It's important that netball is included in major carnivals like this because it is not a priority in a lot of states. It's important Indigenous women in netball are given recognition," she said.

Over the next few months committee members will be scouting to fill teams for next years carnival in Melbourne.

"We want the best coaches, players and managers for the job so we will be head hunting for the best people early in the season," Jennifer said.

Top: The NT football side
Middle: The NT basketball team
Above: Supporters at the footy final



Clockwise from top left : Kenny Windley catches up on Land Rights News at the last CLC meeting at Aputula; Alekerange school kids sell their paintings, cards, mouse pads, calenders and other crafts at the Corkwood Festival in Alice Springs recently
Amena Bryden, Deana Curtis, Aaron Horwood Christine George at Papulu Apparr-kari Language and Culture centre; The Yarrantye Artere school at Larapinta town camp in Alice Springs; Yuyuya Nampijinpa and Irene Nangala of Kintore at the Kiwirrkurra native title claim. Left (l-r) Jason, Shayne Webb and Shirleen Hayes at Umuwa;

Below: Don Young at Aputula



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- Certificate in Preparation for Tertiary Studies (Health)
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- Certificates II and III in Community Services (Disability Work) *

- Diploma in Aged Care
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Plans for the development of a Degree course recognising the Diploma and Advanced Diploma are in progress.

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- Certificate II in Art and Craft
- Certificate I and II in Own Language Work
- Certificate II in BRACS (Broadcasting and Operations)
- Certificate III in Broadcasting
- Certificate IV and Diploma in Broadcasting and Journalism
- Diploma of Interpreting
- Advanced Diploma of Social Science (Community Justice), (Community Work), (Alcohol and Other Drugs), (Generalist)
- Advanced Diploma of Arts (Language Studies)

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- Graduate Diploma in Management and Administration
- Bachelor of Applied Science (Natural and Cultural Resource Management)

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**OFFICE OF THE
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REMINDER

REQUIREMENT TO LODGE ANNUAL RETURNS BY 31 DECEMBER 2001

The Registrar of Aboriginal Corporations reminds all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander corporations that they must lodge their annual returns with the Office by 31 December 2001.

This includes:

1. A Statement of Compliance from the governing committee confirming that the corporation has complied with the Act and the rules.
2. A current List of Members.
3. Audited Financial Statements for 2000-2001 consisting of:
 - (a) a balance sheet;
 - (b) an income and expenditure statement; and
 - (c) an Examiner s (Auditor s) report.

If a corporation cannot lodge the required documents by 31 December then it should write to the Registrar and ask for an extension of time in which to do so.

A corporation may be exempt from providing the annual audited financial statements. This applies when the Registrar is satisfied that it would be *impracticable* (where the corporation has received no funding) or *unduly onerous* (where the corporation has received minimal funding and cannot afford to have an audit carried out).

You can obtain more information by phoning our toll free number 1800 622 431.



Youngsters share glimpses of their cultures

Youngsters at Ngukurr and young refugees from around the world now living in Darwin are sharing glimpses of their cultures and lives with each other through a banner and website community arts project.

Classrooms at the Ngukurr school were transformed in November into workshops where the students produced artwork for their banners and writings for a website that tell the stories of their culture and community – while the young people in Darwin have been doing the same thing with their own stories.

The aim of the *Strong People, Strong Stories* project is to open communication channels in a creative way, so the participants can tell each other about their life experiences, and come to a better understanding of each other, recognising the differences and similarities in their lives.

Textile artist Joanna Barrkman and web designer Catherine Gleeson, have been working with participants to bring their stories to life through textile and new media art forms. Up to 30 young people at Ngukurr, and 14 storytellers in Darwin have been enjoying working with the artists, and are impatiently waiting to see what their own work looks like on the website, and what the other group have been making.

It is a little project between two groups of people and their communities, which will hopefully have an effect that ripples beyond the project itself," project coordinator Karen Manton said. "It makes a space for young people to use their artistic talents and work with other artists to voice their own stories – and others of us can learn from that.

"There have been a lot of negative things said about refugees, and there's often a lot of muddled messages about Indigenous people out there too. The participants in this project are showing other points of view, from their own stories, and by connecting with people who are very different from themselves, without feeling threatened."

Karen, coordinating the project through the Darwin-based Torture and Trauma Survivors Service NT, said that refugee families had shown a strong interest in learning about Indigenous people and their culture and specifically asked for this project. At the same time, Ngukurr CEC asked if some of their students could join in.

"Through the stories from young people at Ngukurr,



Students admire their handwork

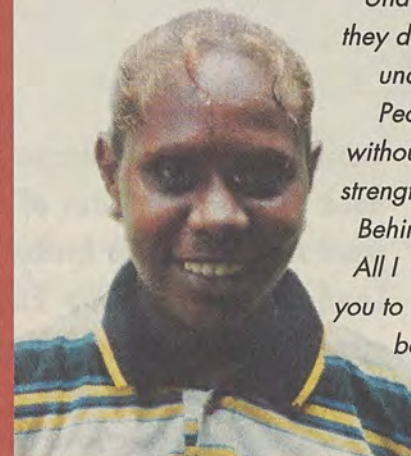
the Darwin participants can learn a bit about life in the community, the people and place, as well as seeing how strong Indigenous cultures are here," Karen said. "It is a different picture from the dominant culture that hits you in the face when you arrive in Australia.

"And maybe the participants at Ngukurr will get a fuller picture of refugee life, and how it is for young people starting over again in a new country. But it's equally about everyone in the project telling their stories to the rest of us, around Australia and the world to teach us something about themselves."

The two groups will come together in March to personally share the stories behind their poems, music and artwork, display the banners and launch their combined website.

The project stems from a previous website, textiles and performance project called Sticks 'n' Stones, which also celebrated different cultures, and was run by TTSSNT and Tracks Dance.

*My past and my cultures can not be taken from me
They are a part of my bones, my flesh and my souls
All I hope is for happiness and health
But can they see they are killing me
The modern world so full of hope*



*Unaware of a custom they do not understand
People decide without knowing, the strength
Behind my life
All I ask is for you to consider my bones,
my flesh and my soul
Natasha Daniels (Ngukurr)*



Karmelina putting finishing touches to a banner



Standing outside the new annexe are (from left): Batchelor students Justine Rogers, Roger Thompson and Raina Rogers with Ngukurr school teacher Robin Rogers. Front: Dana Gumbula and Rochelle Ponto.

A lesson in patience

Patience is the big lesson being learned at the moment by students at Ngukurr enrolled in courses with the Batchelor Institute of Tertiary Education.

After years of moving from one temporary accommodation to another, generally in cramped and unsatisfactory conditions, a new learning centre has been built in the community.

It has three teaching spaces for community-based

lecturer Sandra D'Arcy and visiting lecturers from Batchelor. But students won't get in there until the start of the new term next year. The latest hold up is the necessary connection to water and sewerage systems and the telephone will not be connected until the end of January.

Ngukurr currently has between 25-30 students doing various courses, including certificates in community health, land management, teacher training and office skills.

GUTSY GORENJI

The adventures of a giant African snail in Arnhem land.



Gutsy Gorenji, a children's book on the adventures of a giant African snail in Arnhem Land, arrived in Top End schools – just as the real thing

arrived in Darwin!

The book, produced by the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS) and filled with pictures by children of Belyuen, Milikapiti and Wadeye communities, is a fun book – with a serious message.

The African snail can weigh up to 1kg, eats 500 different plant species. And, as the storybook starts "Gutsy Gorenji was hungry...very hungry...In fact, Gutsy could hardly remember a time when he hadn't been hungry."

This snail is a notorious hitch-hiker – and the week the book was launched, one was discovered in a container at Darwin wharf.

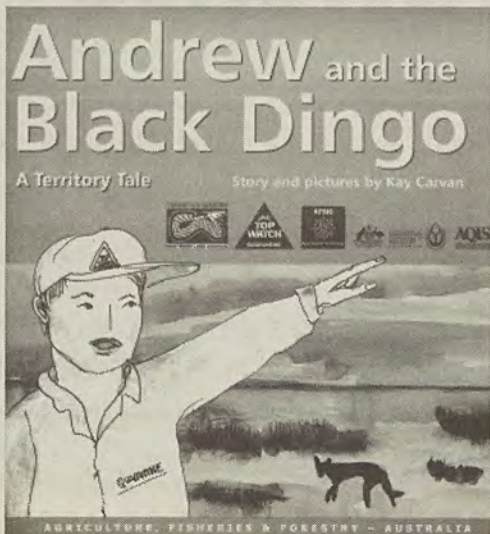
The book is one of two storybooks with a real Territory flavour and a quarantine theme written by Kay Carvan, the Northern Australia Quarantine Strategy's (NAQS) Public Awareness Officer in Darwin.

The books *Andrew and the Black Dingo* and *Gutsy Gorenji* are being distributed free of charge to schools in Darwin and the Top End, and to community groups and resource centres.

Designed to appeal to age groups from 5 to 14, both stories are set in Aboriginal communities in the Territory.

Ms Carvan said the books met a recognised need for Aboriginal children in communities to have relevant reading material that relates to their lifestyle.

Mr Carvan said that people in Aboriginal communities played an important role in keeping the country free of exotic pests, weeds and diseases and the stories deliver the quarantine message in a fun way.



Aboriginal Australia and the Torres Strait Islands: Guide to Indigenous Australia

Published by Lonely Planet, 2001, \$30.00 rrp incl. GST.

A guide to Indigenous Australia is a great idea. Studies of international tourism show that the majority of overseas visitors to Australia are keen to find out more about, or experience, Indigenous culture.

Lonely Planet – the bible of the independent traveller – has done an excellent job in providing the kind of information needed by tourists who eschew the "packaged" experience and want to explore the reality and variety of Indigenous Australia.

It is clear that Lonely Planet has made every effort to present the information in a way that is respectful of Aboriginal peoples' culture and societies.

Information is organised according to state/territory boundaries, but within those there is identification of the Indigenous landowners or estate holders and language groups.

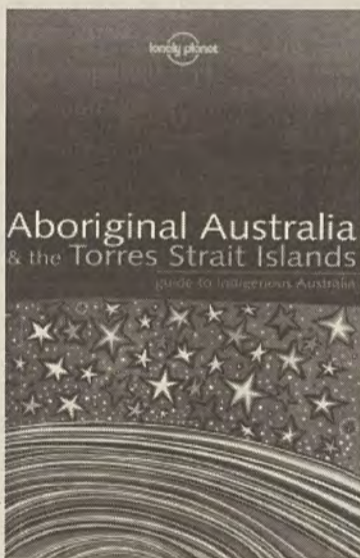
Indigenous contributors to the book have provided advice on protocols for travellers to Aboriginal areas.

The history of the struggle for Indigenous rights in Australia is outlined, as well as useful guides to Aboriginal visual art, theatre and music.

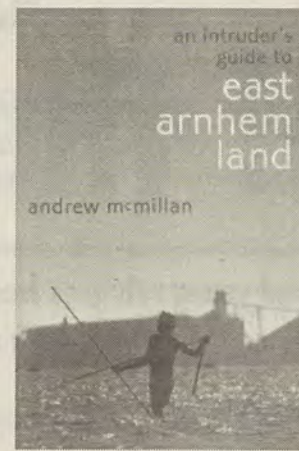
The involvement of Indigenous authors and researchers in the development, writing and production of the book has made it a practical and useful guide.

In a book of this size, particularly the first edition, there are bound to be errors. The Northern Territory section has numerous mistakes both of fact and interpretation but these do not detract from the overall value

of the book.



AN INTRUDERS GUIDE TO EAST ARNHEM LAND.



Andrew McMillan
Published by Duffy & Snellgrove, Sydney



In Andrew's detailed and well researched book "An Intruders Guide To East Arnhem Land," he acknowledges his own invasion too.

Having read Andrew McMillan's at times personal accounts and rich history my first impression is that the book has invaded him as well.

He tells us stories of brave acts of courage by many people from many cultures and countries and brings the region to life through it's own dynamic history.

It may be that one looks at the fishing photograph set against the skyline of the Nhulunbuy mine front cover and feels "Oh I know this story, they shouldn't have been allowed to build that mine.... something to do with Yothu Yindi".

However in order to understand a continual tradition and get to grips with the land itself and the people we should first stop and look at the history that has gone before.

I wanted to be a wise intruder and Andrew's book is the best concise insight I have read on the regions history to date.

The various miners, cattlemen, prospectors and missionaries who are depicted and whose stories are told are not demonised or sanctified in this book. Their tales are told with affection and I am sure great historical accuracy.

Andrew's description and pace allow the reader to understand the lives of people like Donald Thompson and the natural friendships that were built up based on understanding and trust, such as those between Mungurrawuy Yunupingu and Fred Grey.

However this book is a journey in itself and takes us to the present day.

By Adam Black, film producer and well read intruder in East Arnhem Land.

Second album from Nabarlek

Nabarlek - the garage band that never had a garage – has released its second album *Bininj*

Manborlh/Blackfella Road.

Blackfella Road was recorded in Melbourne at Audrey Studio by Craig Pilkington and represents a strong cultural statement by Nabarlek.

This is a band on the move, with major performances at the Telstra Adelaide Festival, Womadelaide, Port Fairy Folk Festival Brunswick Music Festival and World Expo in Hanover Germany.

Nabarlek has been included on both the Triple J compilation *Culture* and the *Real World Compilation* from Womadelaide and their sights are now set on more overseas performance.

Nabarlek and *Bininj Manborlh/Blackfella Road* represent an emerging musical style that is Arnhemland and the band hopes to take its place alongside the great World Music traditions from Africa and Latin America.

Another CLC cadet successfully graduates

Central Land Council land management cadet Sandy Marty has successfully completed a Bachelor of Arts majoring in Environmental Studies and German.

Sandy began full-time studies at the University of Adelaide in 1999 where she will graduate in December.

During her studies, she undertook some research work on native title in South Australia and helped translate Lutheran missionary letters from German into English.

Sandy has also been heavily involved in Aboriginal Partnerships with South Australian Parks and Wildlife where she is also on a Steering Committee for the revision of the Plan of Management for the joint management of the Unnamed Conservation Park in the far north-west of the State.

Sandy pays tribute to the support and assistance she received from the university's Aboriginal support unit Wilto Yerlo.

"Settling into university isn't hard because all the Aboriginal students have their own common room, computers, tea and coffee facilities, study rooms," she said.

"And you have an orientation week for Aboriginal students where you usually go away together and get to know one another.

"I believe education is important for Aboriginal people because it empowers our mob – so I really do believe more Aboriginal people need to study and go to university," Sandy said.

"It's been a great experience to work for the Central Land Council. It was especially exciting to get a cadetship with CLC because this is where land rights all started.

"I enjoyed being able to come back and work here in Alice and involve myself in interesting projects with the support of Land Management unit."

Sandy will formally graduate in Adelaide on 17th December and thanks her husband, Karl and two children Dominik and Simona for their support and patience over the last three years.



Sandy Marty



Back (from left): Jody Kopp, IAD teacher Gail Woods, Tisha Carter, administration assistant Kim Gorrey and IAD teacher Maggie Wallace

Front (from left): Beverley Angeles, Kiyomi Thompson and Carmel Ryan are completing a Bachelor of Arts (teaching) at IAD in Alice Springs as part of a La Trobe University course. Dean Briscoe, Jackie Silverton and Cecily Palmer are fellow students in the group. They will graduate in March next year.

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Festive Season

and a Prosperous New Year

From Joe Mastrolembo, Acting Registrar, and all the staff at the
Office of the Registrar of Aboriginal Corporations

Starcom12



Above: Students from Alekerange Community Education Centre
Below: Ngukurr school kids

