

LAND RIGHTS NEWS

Volume 7, Number 3, December 2005



INSIDE

Nuclear waste debate,
Land Rights Act changes, Camels,
Rangers, Tourism, Festivals and lots more...



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THE MARU-WARINYI ANKKULI RANGERS (TENNANT CREEK) TOOK OUT A CERTIFICATE OF MERIT IN THE INDIGENOUS COMMUNITY LANDCARE AWARDS IN KATHERINE THIS YEAR. THE GROUP HAS WASTED NO TIME SINCE ITS FORMATION COMPLETING A NUMBER OF PROJECTS ON AND OFF WARUMUNGU LAND INCLUDING FENCING, WEED CONTROL, FAUNA AND FLORA SURVEYS AND REHABILITATION.

LEFT TO RIGHT

BRIAN CRAFTER, VALERIE WILLIAMS, MANDY LAING, ANTHEA GRAHAM, GEOFFERY TAYLOR, JEREMY DAWSON, DESMOND PLUMMER

Land Rights NEWS

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COVER PHOTO

Local children were a feature at this year's 'Walking with Spirits', held at Beswick, near Katherine

NLC fights to give traditional owners a voice over the radioactive waste repository



NLC Chairman John Dely at the FCM where the resolution was passed.

THE NLC HAS FOUGHT FOR A SEAT AT THE NEGOTIATION TABLE FOR TRADITIONAL OWNERS AFTER MINISTER FOR SCIENCE, DR BRENDAN NELSON, ANNOUNCED THAT COMMONWEALTH LAND IN THE NT WILL BE CONSIDERED AS A POSSIBLE RADIOACTIVE WASTE REPOSITORY.

The decision by Minister Nelson to consider three sites in the Northern Territory came after the South Australian government backed out of a deal to have a waste repository located outside of Woomera.

One of the Commonwealth properties is in the Top End at Fishers Ridge near Katherine, the two other properties under consideration are in Central Australia at Mt Everard and Harts Range.

In order to give effect to Minister Nelson's decision, the Commonwealth government has introduced the *Commonwealth Radioactive Waste Repository Bill 2005* into Parliament. The original version of this Bill overrides all Northern Territory laws, including environmental laws and sacred sites legislation, and does not provide traditional owners with any rights in relation to the location of the repository.

The Full Council of the NLC, concerned that traditional owners' interests would not be protected, passed a resolution on 20 October 2005 calling for an amendment to the Bill

to be made. The NLC amendment ensures that if traditional owners of Aboriginal or native title land agree, and provided sacred sites and environmental issues are resolved (and native title is not extinguished) a Land Council can nominate an alternative site in the NT for a waste facility.

On 22 November 2005, the NLC gave evidence at a Senate Inquiry in order to ensure that the Full Council's resolution was properly understood by the Senate, which is currently reviewing the Waste Management Bill.

NLC Chief Executive, Norman Fry said that the NLC's resolution was about supporting the ability of traditional owners to make informed decisions about proposals that affect their land, including the decision to say yes or no to development.

"We've come to the conclusion at our Full Council meeting that if it was going to come to the Northern Territory then we wanted to make sure that traditional Aboriginal owners here in the Northern Territory, and especially in the Northern Land Council's region, would

be afforded the right to sit at the table with the Commonwealth government and not be excluded from decisions that affect them," Mr Fry said.

"The amendments we are seeking ensure that the rights of traditional owners will be protected and that their consent will be sought, they will also safeguard sacred sites and make sure that the environment is protected," Mr Fry said.

Mr Fry said the storage of radioactive waste from medical treatment was clearly a matter of national importance.

Australia produces radiological material for medical treatment and industrial use. This material is produced in Australia's only nuclear reactor at Lucas Heights in Sydney. The waste associated with this material is presently stored in 100 different locations in Australia, particularly in hospitals including Darwin hospital. The storage of this material at these locations does not accord with international best practice. This type of waste is considered to be low level radioactive waste.

In addition to low level waste, the Lucas Heights reactors old fuel rods need to be reprocessed. The reprocessing is currently taking place in France. In 2011 the reprocessed fuel rods will be returned to Australia for storage. The reprocessed fuel rods are considered intermediate level waste.

Turn to page 6 for the NLC Full Council resolution



William Tilmouth, Benedict Stevens, Desmond Tilmouth, Audrey McCormack, Kathleen Martin, Mervyn Rubuntja, George Club, CLC Director David Ross and NT Deputy Chief Minister Syd Stirling and NT MLA Alison Anderson outside the Lucas Heights nuclear facility in Sydney

keep the poison in your own backyard

"WE'VE COME TO SEE THIS PLACE WHERE THEY MAKE THIS STUFF THAT THEY WANT TO SEND ALL THE WAY TO US. BUT WE'VE ALL THOUGHT ABOUT IT LONG AND HARD AND WE THINK IT SHOULD STAY WHERE IT IS."

That was the message from Benedict Stevens, a member of a group of Aboriginal people from Central Australia at the Lucas Heights nuclear facility in Sydney recently.

The delegation were on their way to Canberra to try and convince politicians that a nuclear waste dump in Central Australia is against the wishes of the people who live there.

Central Land Council Director David Ross says that after consultations done by the CLC, traditional landowners have said no.

"The traditional owners of the two proposed waste dump sites have listened to presentations from the Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation and the Department of Education Science and Training.

"They talked with them and they asked a lot of questions but at the end of the day they were still not convinced of the safety and long term issues associated with having a nuclear dump in their

backyard," Mr Ross said.

"This is not just low level waste. This waste facility will include the spent reactor fuel rods that have to be returned from overseas within the next five years.

"Aboriginal people are concerned for their grandchildren and children. They say that although the waste may be safe for another twenty years there are no guarantees in the future.

"People feel very strongly that the waste should stay here at Lucas Heights where waste is already stored and experts are on hand until a site can be found which is safe and suitable.



Benedict Stevens

"Trucking 170 truckloads of waste thousands of kilometres to be dumped in our backyard just isn't on.

Central Australia is one of the most clean and pure environments in the world and we want to keep it that way," Mr Ross said.

See page 6 for Traditional Owners statement to the Prime Minister

ANSTO staff with Lindsay Bookie and Margaret Kemarre Turner at a meeting with traditional owners at Bond Springs.



land rights act amendments announced

AFTER A WAIT OF EIGHT YEARS, THE MINISTER FOR INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS, AMANDA VANSTONE, HAS ANNOUNCED THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S PLANNED CHANGES TO THE LAND RIGHTS ACT.

THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT WILL NOT CHANGE THE BASIC STRUCTURE OF THE LAND RIGHTS ACT.

Traditional owners will still own Aboriginal land and will keep the right to say no to mining and other developments.

"Many of these amendments derive from the package agreed between the Land Councils and the NT Government in 2002," NLC Chief Executive, Norman Fry said. "These workability amendments will remove red tape and speed up processes for mining and other developments, and are welcome."

CLC Director David Ross said that while he had yet to see the full details, a briefing by the Government revealed that most of the amendments seem to be positive, sensible and workable.

"Excluding the leasing arrangements announced earlier, the amendments should modernise and streamline the Land Rights Act without compromising its integrity," CLC Director, David Ross said.

The forty per cent proportion of the Aboriginals Benefit Account (ABA) allocated to funding the Land Councils will be abolished and funding will be on a performance-based system.



John Duggie and Casey Holmes reading through brochures sent out by the Minister, Amanda Vanstone, on the ALRA changes.

"We are disappointed that the statutory guarantee of funding has been removed," Mr Ross said.

"However the CLC has already moved towards performance-based management and reporting and we're confident we'll continue to be adequately funded to perform our statutory functions.

"Fundamentally, these amendments are a vindication of the Land Rights Act. After 30 years of operation, its ability to balance the interests of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Australians remains relevant and workable," Mr Ross said.

The new legislation will be introduced into Federal Parliament next year.

Mr Fry welcomed the Minister's decision to provide a consultation period before legislation is introduced.

"This consultation period provides an important opportunity for public comment, to ensure that traditional owners rights are recognised in a non-discriminatory way both in the claim process and in relation to the productive investment and expenditure of funds," Mr Fry said.

Land Councils will be holding meetings with traditional owners to discuss the proposed changes to the Land Rights Act.

New Land Councils

The Land Rights Act currently says the Minister can create a new Land Council if a *substantial majority* of Aboriginal people living in the area of a new Land Council are in favour of the new Land Council.

The Federal Government proposes to change the Land Rights Act so that:

- A new Land Council can be created if, after a vote, fifty five percent of Aboriginal people in the area of the new Land Council consent;
- Any new Land Council will have to demonstrate sound governance structures and the ability to satisfactorily represent all Aboriginal people in its area.

Regionalisation

The Land Rights Act only permits the Full Council of a Land Council to delegate a limited number of its functions. The Federal Government proposes to change the Act to provide for the delegation of some Land Council powers to regional groups.

summary of changes

Land Councils funding and the Aboriginals Benefit Account

Each year, the Federal Government pays a sum of money equivalent to mining royalties generated by mining on Aboriginal land, into the Aboriginals Benefit Account (the ABA). Forty percent of this money is used to fund the Land Councils. The Federal Government wants to change the Land Rights Act to remove Land Councils guaranteed minimum funding. Instead, the Minister will decide how much money the Land Councils should receive on the basis of each Land Council's performance and workloads.

The Federal Government also wants the Act changed:

- to allow the Minister not to distribute the money in the ABA but to build it up as an investment fund, and
- to allow the Minister to appoint two additional members to the ABA Advisory Committee.

Royalty Associations

The Federal Government wants to change the Land Rights Act and other Acts that apply to royalty associations:

- (a) to require all royalty associations to be incorporated under the Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Bill 2005 (when enacted). To give the Commonwealth Department of Finance and Administration the power to investigate royalty associations
- (b) to improve the oversight by Land Councils of royalty associations
- (c) to prevent a Land Council distributing funds to a royalty association controlled by a Land Council member
- (d) to prohibit royalty associations making payments to individuals without a specific purpose to apply these accountability improvements to all mining related payments and land use payments by the Australian Government.

Mining and Exploration

The Federal Government will implement most of the package of amendments agreed between the four land Councils and the NT Government but will not support an amendment to the Land Rights Act that would allow traditional owners and mining companies to negotiate freely on ordinary commercial terms.

Mining withholding Tax

The Federal Government has agreed to review the appropriateness of the four percent mining withholding tax. The tax is the amount withheld from mining payments to Aboriginal groups for the use of Aboriginal land for exploration and mining.

Outstanding land claims and claims that cannot proceed

The Federal Government says it will change the Land Rights Act to dispose of land claims over stock routes and

stock reserves and claims to the intertidal zone and the beds and banks of rivers which are not located beside Aboriginal land.

Land management

The Federal Government will change the Land Rights Act so that:

- Ministerial consent will only be required for leases exceeding 40 years (instead of the current 10 years)
- Ministerial consent required for contracts exceeding \$1 million dollars (instead of \$100,000)
- Leases will be allowed to include provisions for future transfer to ensure that the leases can be used as security for loans. Agreements relating to land under claim will be effective immediately.

Town Leases

Although traditional owners can already grant leases of Aboriginal land to any Government, individual or business, the Federal Government says it will change the Land Rights Act to allow the North-

ern Territory Government to set up an organisation to negotiate with traditional owners about leasing the whole of the town area in a community. These changes would restrict the bargaining between the Northern Territory and traditional owners so that the town leases:

- Would have to be for a period of 99 years
- The rent money could not be more than 5% of the value of the land
- Would allow the Northern Territory to grant further leases (sub-leases) to individuals, business and community organisations without further agreement from the traditional owners; and
- Would allow the Northern Territory to keep all of the rent or other money made from the sub-leases.

All expenses for the new scheme (rent payments, land valuations etc) will come from the ABA.

The Federal Government will not force traditional owners to lease towns to the Northern Territory Government.

TO's working on country



At the conference were key delegates from left Parry Agius, Hans Matthews, David Ross, Peter Recollet, Marcia Langton and Paul Wilkinson.



James Drover and Richard (Cowboy) Reiff take samples on their country

conference calls for new body

THE INAUGURAL AUSTRALIAN ABORIGINAL ENTERPRISES IN MINING AND EXPLORATION CONFERENCE WAS RECENTLY HELD IN ALICE SPRINGS WITH 120 INDIGENOUS PEOPLE FROM ACROSS AUSTRALIA ATTENDING.

The conference called for the formation of an Australia-wide body to be established to represent indigenous mining interests. The Indigenous conference

organising committee will work towards establishing such an association in the next six months.

This one-day event provided participants with a range of key discussion sessions such as partnerships, business development and case studies of Indigenous opportunities seen in Australia and

internationally. A highlight of the event included an international speaker from the Canadian Aboriginal Minerals Council, Hans Matthews.

Mr Matthews addressed the conference about sharing benefits and how to address negative impacts of resource development.

AS TEMPERATURES IN THE CENTRAL REGION CLIMBED SO TOO DID THE WORK SKILLS OF FOUR TRADITIONAL OWNERS, EMPLOYED AS PART OF THE RIO TINTO EXPLORATION TEAM.

The four traditional owners spent a week employed as part of the team working on their country, the Atneye Aboriginal Land Trust, 400 kilometres east of Alice Springs.

The work opportunity proved a great success with the traditional owners keen to progress to the next stage of work, a drilling programme.

The Central Land Council says this is a real breakthrough in exploration, providing benefits to traditional owners in the form of short term employment on their land and efficiencies to the company from employing local people.

Now companies are seeing the benefits of building relationships with the locals and using their cultural and historical knowledge to access country and get the job done.

Employment opportunities, such as these, on country build up a skilled source of local employees for the next work stint.

Allan Drover a senior traditional

owner and employee on the project said it was good but very hot.

"It was hard work. We would fly in a helicopter to the exploration target and collect samples and put them in bags and drive them back. We did this everyday and it was just so hot we couldn't do anything else," said Allan, who usually finds the energy each day to hunt kangaroo.

Rio Tinto is exploring for diamonds in the eastern Plenty Region of Central Australia.

After the sampling results come through Rio Tinto will return to start the drilling programme, and employ traditional owners on the team once again.

The employment of traditional owners is an essential part of all agreements between the Central Land Council and exploration and mining companies to provide landowners affected by exploration and mining activities with future benefits.

new CLC deputy chair

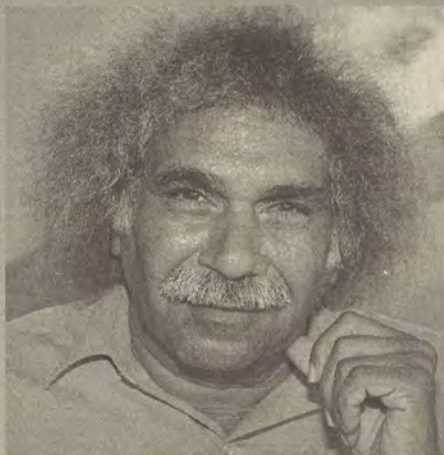
A RECENT CENTRAL LAND COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN TENNANT CREEK SAW THE ELECTION OF A NEW DEPUTY CHAIR TO THE COUNCIL.

Former CLC North west executive member, Maurie Ryan was elected to the new position.

Mr Gus George will replace Maurie as an executive member.

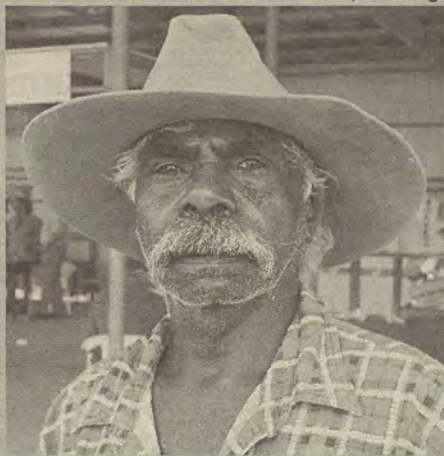
In other changes to the council, Mr Gilbert Corbery will replace former executive member David Riley as the Eastern Sandover executive member.

New Eastern Sandover Executive member, Gilbert Corbery



New CLC deputy chairman, Maurie Ryan

New North West Executive member, Gus George

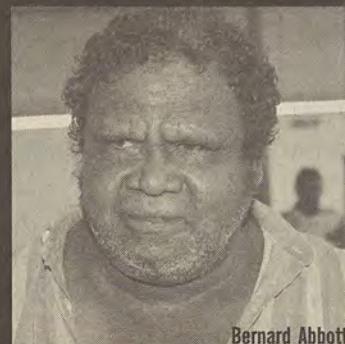


new clc nominations for aapa

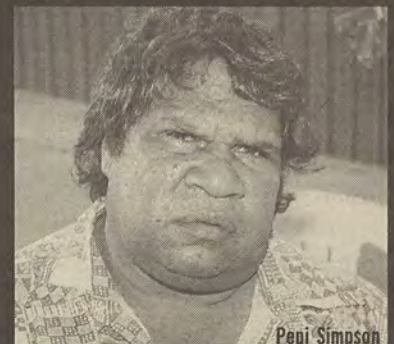
THE CENTRAL LAND COUNCIL MEMBERS RECENTLY ELECTED BERNARD ABBOTT, PEPI SIMPSON AND TERESA SPENCER AS THE CLC NOMINATIONS FOR THE BOARD OF THE ABORIGINAL AREAS PROTECTION AUTHORITY (AAPA). Pepi and Bernard are already Board members, whilst Teresa Spencer replaces Lena Pula from Utopia in Central Australia.



Teresa Spencer



Bernard Abbott



Pepi Simpson



NLC executive members & staff in front of newly-purchased accommodation at Wadeye

NLC visits wadeye and tiwi

THE NORTHERN LAND COUNCIL (NLC) HELD SEVERAL OF ITS MEETINGS IN REMOTE AND REGIONAL AREAS THIS YEAR, INCLUDING A EXECUTIVE MEETING HELD IN WADEYE OR PORT KEATS AS IT IS COMMONLY KNOWN, SOUTHWEST OF DARWIN.

NLC executive members while meeting at the Thamarrurr Community Government Council offices took the opportunity to visit a series of demountable accommodation blocks purchased by the NLC for visiting

staff and contractors working in the area.

The NLC also travelled to the Bathurst and Melville Islands, north of Darwin, which make up the Tiwi Islands, to visit the neighbouring Tiwi Land Council.

Representatives toured some of the economic enterprises conducted by the Tiwi Land Council including forestry and fish farming.



NLC Chief Executive, Norman Fry, inspects an aquaculture project on the Tiwi Islands

NLC resolution

On 20 October 2005, the NLC's Full Council passed the following resolution:

"The Northern Land Council supports an amendment to the Commonwealth Radioactive Waste Management Bill 2005 to enable a Land Council to nominate a site in the Northern Territory as a radioactive waste facility, provided that:

- (i) the traditional owners of the site agree;
- (ii) sacred sites and heritage are protected (including under current Commonwealth and NT legislation);
- (iii) environment protection requirements are met (including under current Commonwealth and NT legislation);
- (iv) Aboriginal land is not acquired or native title extinguished (unless with the traditional owners' consent)."

central australian traditional landowners say 'NO' to nuclear dump!

STATEMENT BY TRADITIONAL ABORIGINAL LANDOWNERS OF THE TWO SITES IN CENTRAL AUSTRALIA PROPOSED FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NUCLEAR WASTE DUMP TO THE PRIME MINISTER OF AUSTRALIA

A meeting of traditional landowners for both the Alcoota/Harts Range site and the Mt Everard site was held on country on Thursday 20 October 2005.

At that meeting traditional landowners agreed to send the following message to the Prime Minister, the Hon John Howard:

We are the traditional landowners of the country where your Government wants to build a nuclear waste dump.

We do not want your nuclear waste dumped on our country.

You and others in Canberra might think that our country is an empty place, that no people live here. We are telling you that there are communities and outstations close to the proposed sites – this is our home and unlike you we cannot move to another place.

We live on this country, we use it for hunting kangaroo and getting bush tucker like honey ants and bush bananas. Our country is alive – there are sacred sites and our law and ceremonies are strong.

We don't believe that this poisonous waste can be kept safely for thousand of years. You will be gone but our grandchildren will be left to worry. Can you tell us why we should be the ones to live with this risk? Why should Aboriginal people be dumped with this problem?

We know you have experts in Sydney. You should leave the waste safely there instead of bringing it here out of your sight. We will not let you turn our country into a waste land.

You talk a lot about economic development – telling us we should make money from our country. We run a successful cattle business on Alcoota station, and now you want to put this dump in the middle of it. Do you think people will still buy our beef if the nuclear waste dump is built here? We have ideas for tourism too – but tourists won't come to our country if we have a waste dump.

Your Government tells us to manage and care for our country. Putting this waste on our country is not caring for country, it might take a long time but one day it will poison our country.

We call on you, as the Prime Minister of Australia, to respect our law and culture, to respect our views as traditional landowners and to listen to our voice. We call on you to stop your plans to impose a nuclear waste dump on our country.



Central Australian delegation in Canberra: Kathleen Martin, Lindsay Bookie, Benedict Stevens, William Tilmouth, Mervyn Rubuntja, Desmond Tilmouth, George Club and Audrey McCormack

Uluru 20 years on

THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HANDBACK OF ULURU KATA TJUTA NATIONAL PARK TO ITS ABORIGINAL TRADITIONAL LANDOWNERS, AND ITS SUBSEQUENT LEASEBACK TO THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT IS A CELEBRATION OF NOT ONLY ABORIGINAL PEOPLE GETTING THEIR LAND BACK BUT ALSO ONE OF THE FIRST EXAMPLES OF ABORIGINAL PEOPLE ENTERING INTO A PARTNERSHIP WITH GOVERNMENT, THE CENTRAL LAND COUNCIL SAID.

"The 20th anniversary celebrations is extremely significant because today we tend to take agreements and partnerships for granted, but back then in 1985 it was groundbreaking. I think these arrangements of joint management, whereby the traditional indigenous owners and the Government entered into an agreement to jointly manage the Park for their mutual benefit, were a world first.

"There have been some extraordinary achievements from joint management - the Aboriginal traditional owners are able to still protect their sacred sites and still own the country and the Park has been listed as a World Heritage site partly because this living culture remains so strong.

"We have Aboriginal

companies like award-winning Anangu Tours and Maraku Arts who have grown with the Park, and there are some Aboriginal rangers who have been trained and mentored within this Park to become professional rangers who are able to work anywhere.

"However, joint management isn't always easy and there are a number of challenges ahead, in particular, increasing the number of Aboriginal people employed within the Park and at the resort. In addition, all agencies and the community must work together to improve the grim situation confronting the people at Mutitjulu which is within the Park boundaries," Mr Ross said.

"At the end of the day, there can be no room for complacency.

Joint management is an evolving entity, constantly changing as different governments come and go, different generations of traditional owners become involved and the dynamics of the affected communities change.

"There needs to be a fundamental commitment by both sides to see it work. Sometimes that is difficult and sometimes it takes a lot of valuable resources but the reality is that genuine joint management requires hard work, mutual respect and resources.

"The Central Land Council is always happy to participate in any process that improves joint management. Recently a reinvigorated Joint Management Partnership with Parks Australia was put in place resulting in an expansion of the Man-



agement Partnership team and the Board of Joint Management currently enjoys strong leadership," Mr Ross said.



Above: Yami Lester addresses the crowd at the community event, whilst an Anangu Tours member blows out the candles celebrating 10 years of the tours. Above left: Mutitjulu Chairperson, Sammy Wilson and Mutitjulu community members celebrate at the big community barbeque.

outrage over centre closure

THE IRRKERLANTYE LEARNING CENTRE IS FURIOUS AT THE NT GOVERNMENT'S DECISION TO AXE FUNDING TO THE CENTRE NEXT YEAR.

The NT Education department announced it would stop funding the centre for failing to reach national literacy and numeracy benchmarks.

A recent rally in support of the Centre heard heartfelt pleas to reverse the decision and anger at the lack of consultation.

Irrkerlantie President Margaret Kemarre Turner said it was a very sad day for all the families of the centre and the

whole community.

"They came to school and called a meeting and just told us they will not fund the centre and that our kids will have to go into the mainstream schools next year. Our kids will not learn in the mainstream schools. We don't have to drag our kids kicking and screaming onto the school bus because they want to come and learn at Irrkerlantie. They are learning the right way at our centre and they can still maintain their language and culture which is important to our families", said Turner.

Irrkerlantie Executive Officer, Debra Maidment said it's a disgrace on

the department's behalf and that the centre would not go down without a fight.

"These kids have tried mainstream schooling and failed and their parents have brought them to Irrkerlantie because it is a safe and secure place and everyone has a real sense of belonging," Irrkerlantie Executive Officer, Debra Maidment said.

"The Minister keeps changing his story behind his decision - where is the report or formal evaluation recommending the closure of the learning centre? In fairness the Minister needs to initiate a formal review which backs his decision

and we haven't seen that yet. It seems that the Government has just plucked this school and is using it as a scapegoat," said Maidment.

Irrkerlantie President, Margaret Kemarre Turner addresses the rally outside a NT education forum



Parents angry over the decision Irrkerlantie students



NEWS

appeal reinforces native title holder's rights

THE ALYAWARR, KAYTETE, WARUMUNGU AND WAKAY PEOPLE'S NATIVE TITLE RIGHTS NEAR TENNANT CREEK WERE ONCE AGAIN REINFORCED AFTER THE FULL FEDERAL COURT RETURNED ITS DECISION IN DARWIN.

"The Federal Court has substantially upheld Justice Mansfield's original decision. Importantly, native title holders around Australia have won the right to live on and protect sacred sites on pastoral land," said Central Land Council director Mr Ross.

"While it is mainly a technical legal decision, it reinforces the initial victory for the native title holders who lodged their application 10 years ago to ensure their native title rights and interests were protected in the Davenport Murchison Ranges.

"The decision means

strong rights in country will continue to be recognised and native title holders can continue their role in negotiating joint management of the national park."

"The Davenport Murchison native title holders can be rightfully proud that recognition of the ceremonies and ground paintings they shared with Justice Mansfield to show strong connection to country has not been diminished. It is just a shame that 10 years have passed since the original application and a number of the key witnesses have now passed away," said Mr Ross.

The Central Land Council lodged a native title application on behalf of native title holders in 1995 over land south-east of

Tennant Creek, including the proposed Davenport Murchison National Park and the historic township of Hatches Creek.

The application was heard by Justice Mansfield "on-country" in September 2000 and his decision was handed down in 2004. The Northern Territory Government subsequently appealed on 55 separate grounds which were heard by the Full Court of the Federal Court in Darwin in November 2004.

As a result of the Full Federal Court decision, the native title holders keep rights to hunt and live on the land and continue to practice cultural and ceremonial activities.

A decision by the High Court to hear another appeal by the NT Government is yet to be decided.



sea rights closer to full recognition

BENEATH THE SHADE OF A TAMARIND TREE ON THE SHORES OF BLUE MUD BAY IN EAST ARNHEMLAND, TRADITIONAL OWNER (TO)S CAME A LITTLE CLOSER TO HAVING THEIR CULTURAL, SPIRITUAL AND COMMERCIAL LINKS RECOGNISED WITH A RECENT DETERMINATION OF NATIVE TITLE BY THE FEDERAL COURT.

The native title claim decision by Yolngu people over Blue Mud Bay, 50 kms north-west of Groote Eylandt, grants TOs existing rights over the land area but non-exclusive rights on the water.

The decision allows both traditional hunters, and commercial and recreational fishermen continued access to the bay – considered by many as one of the Northern Territory's most abundant fishing grounds.

However, Yolngu Traditional Owners have sought to appeal the Federal Court decision to the High Court of Australia for exclusivity in ownership and control of commercial activities in the inter-tidal zone.

Claimant Djambuwa Marawili said the appeal would argue that TOs are able to better manage the fisheries outlined in the claim.

"We are not satisfied with this decision, and will take it further to the High Court. This country was given to us by the ancestors. We sing those seas. We know the bays, waterholes and billabongs. We give thanks through ceremonies for what the sea gives us," Marawili said.

"We are able to better manage the fisheries in this area, and want to negotiate with all the fishermen."

Northern Land Council (NLC) chief executive Norman Fry said an appeal would clear up some outstanding issues.

"An appeal will be pursued regarding the outstanding legal issue of whether it is trespass for commercial fishing to occur in tidal waters in rivers overlying Aboriginal freehold," Mr Fry said.

A successful outcome in the High Court for the claimants would set a precedent for other coastal Aboriginal communities to control sea resources in their area – a situation likely to

attract opposition from commercial and recreational fishing groups.

NLC chairman John Daly said the decision is a good result for Top End Aboriginal coastal communities.

"This decision gives us (Aboriginal people) greater rights to the sea, and it gives encouragement for other TOs right around the coastline of the Northern Territory if this case goes into the next stage and results in an even better outcome, it will be a great outcome for Aboriginal people," Mr Daly said.

Fellow claimant Donald Marawili said ties with the sea went further than just a food source.

"We own the river mouths, the sea country. We name our children after the sea country. We are saltwater people," he said.

The claim has been recognised in the form of non-exclusive rights similar to that gained through the Croker Island and Mornington Island cases which allow TOs the right to hunt, fish, gather and use resources within the area, including the right to hunt and take turtle and dugong, for personal, domestic or non-commercial exchange or communal consumption as legislated under traditional laws and customs.

The site of choice for the hearing couldn't have been more symbolic.

The hearing at Yilpra outstation took place underneath a tamarind tree which was brought to northern Australia through centuries-old trade with the Indonesian Macassan peoples.

Court proceedings also took place amongst several blue and white flags also reverting back to a time when Yolngu people saw the cloth flags on visiting Macassan ships and traded with the Indonesians for cloth to fly their own flags.

historic land claim 'landmark achievement'

AFTER ALMOST 30 YEARS OF WAITING, TRADITIONAL OWNERS IN THE GULF COUNTRY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY WILL HAVE THEIR LAND RETURNED TO THEM.

Federal Minister, Amanda Vanstone, has announced that she will recommend the Warnarrwarnarr-Barranyi (Borrooloola No. 2) Land Claim be granted to its traditional owners.

Northern Land Council (NLC) Chief Executive Norman Fry said it has been a long wait for traditional owners.

"Sadly, many of the original claimants are no longer with us today," Mr Fry said.

"The settlement is a landmark achievement since it concerns a longstanding dispute deriving from the Borrooloola No. 1 land claim in 1978 which was successful other than in relation to Centre Island and related islands."

The grant of land, an island group situated in the Sir Edward Pellew Group in the Western Gulf of Carpentaria represents the settlement of the longest running land claim in the Northern Territory.

Twenty-eight years ago in 1977, the land was included in the first claim ever lodged under the NT Aboriginal Land Rights Act (1976).

PARKS DEAL TO BE ENDORSED

As part of the ALRA amendments the Australian Government has also announced that it will schedule as Aboriginal land a series of national parks as agreed by land councils and the NT Government.

The decision allows Aboriginal groups to participate in cooperative planning arrangements and joint management responsibilities.

The announcement is the final act in a negotiating process that was long and involved for all parties.

Stepping in the right direction

TRADITIONAL OWNERS IN CENTRAL AUSTRALIA ARE TAKING PART IN A NEW STEPPING STONES WORKSHOP DESIGNED TO HELP DEVELOP TOURISM FOR INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES.

Black Tank outstation and Rainbow Valley are the first groups in Central Australia to complete the workshops which has inspired the groups to move forward into tourism planning for their country.

The traditional owners of Black Tank have already identified tourism initiatives including a cultural and nature trail for tourists and a cultural awareness program run on country.

Black Tank community member Veronica Lynch says the family is keen to get tourism ventures up and running in the New Year.

"We want to focus on our family and get most of our families working and not just sitting down on CDEP. We wanted to initiate some sort of tourism development for our community.

There is a walking track we want to build at Black Tank and have young people as tour guides. There is storytelling and sites of significance to visit and we are talking about offering overnight camping too.

"We came to CLC and completed the stepping stones workshop. It was a three day workshop and most of us attended all three days and it was good. We had a lot of ideas and suggestions from across the whole family.

"We have a large family and skills come from every direction, so it's important we use these skills. At the moment most family members live in town because of the lack of transport and housing, but that won't be a problem in the near future when we get tourism up and running.

"We will go into a pilot program in January and are really eager to get started on the projects," said Veronica Lynch.

The Central Land Council has taken an active role in supporting traditional owners wanting to use their land to develop tourism enterprises and has embarked on a coordinated approach to support Aboriginal tourism opportunities in Central Australia, in partnership with the NT Tourist Commission.

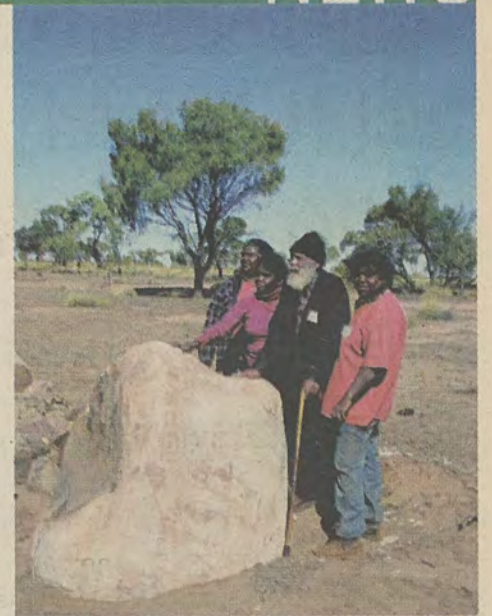
The new 'Aboriginal Tourism Development Officer' position in the Land Management Unit of the Central Land Council is seconded from the NT Tourist Commission.

The role of the Aboriginal Tourism Development Officer is to support existing tourism projects and help new tourism projects in central region.

Currently there are ten tourism proposals on Aboriginal land in Central Australia.

"The initial step includes talking to groups about the reality of tourism, that it can be really hard work. We then talk about business development process and what needs to happen from having an idea, right through to finally registering a business name and marketing the product. If people show they are committed to the idea of tourism, then we start the business planning," said CLC Aboriginal Tourism Development Officer, Danielle Russ.

"It is important for communities to work together for tourism. Tourists want experiences with Aboriginal people on their land. It makes it easier to get into the tourism industry if



Magdaline, Pamela, Popsy and Veronica showing sites of significance at Black Tank Outstation

communities and families work together. There is a lot of help available right now for people who want to work hard and be committed to setting up tourism," said Danielle.

Black Tank family members at a Governance workshop in Alice Springs



bright future at the end of the rainbow

"IT'S GOING TO BE HARD WORK... WE NEED TO BE ABLE TO WORK TOGETHER"

Hard work has not deterred the traditional owners of Rainbow Valley Conservation Reserve, who have stepped up to the joint management challenge.

Under the new joint management arrangements, family members of Rainbow Valley are making history and are the first group to work with CLC and the Parks and Wildlife Service on a new Joint Management Plan.

Planning started in September with a three day camp at Rainbow Valley Ranger Station. The participants talked about "what is joint



Rainbow Valley Joint Management Camp

management?" "what do we expect from joint management?" and "what is a joint management plan?"

From the discussions a "vision statement" for the Reserve was developed which states what the joint management partners want for the future of "Ure," Rainbow Valley.

A key to joint management is agreement on how decisions will be made about the park. The families from the area decided to form a committee to be part of a planning team. The committee will work closely

with PWS and CLC to write the joint management plan to ensure traditional owners' values and aspirations are represented in the new plan.

During the camp, traditional owners talked openly with Park staff about some of their "worries" for Rainbow Valley and have started to think about what they want for that place and their families.

A draft plan will be produced early next year. The draft document will be released for public comment following approval by the wider family group.



Above: Harry Taylor.

Below: Don Kenny and Aubrey Johnson



Mary Le Rossignol and women of the Kenny family



"wild tucker, farmed tucker, doesn't matter - as long as it's good bush tucker"

(Apologies Warumpi Band)



IF YOU HAD A GOOD LOOK AROUND THE SHELVES AND FREEZERS OF NT SUPERMARKETS LATELY YOU WOULD HAVE NOTICED SOME YUMMY NEW TREATS.

From bush tomato chutney and quandong jam to wattle seed ice cream – new food products based on traditional desert tucker are making their way into kitchens around Australia.

Most shoppers don't realise that many of the fruits and seeds needed to make these specialties are largely hand-gathered by women in remote Aboriginal communities.

As these age-old staples are becoming more popular many wonder how the new industry is going to keep up with the demand, especially when the rains fail to come.

For some Central Australian harvesters the drought has meant slim pickings this season and the wholesalers who pay them have been forced to look as far away as Western Queensland and the Kimberley to fill big orders.

"This new industry has a number of hurdles to overcome and we need to be careful not to create a demand for native produce which cannot be met", says CSIRO scientist Dr Maarten Ryder.

Dr Ryder manages the Bush Produce project of the Desert Knowledge Cooperative Research Centre, of which the CLC is also a partner.

His team is working with harvesters and businesses to build a healthy bush foods industry that creates new opportunities for Aboriginal people.

One way of meeting the demand for a reliable year-round supply of quality bush foods, says Dr Ryder, may be to farm them.

The first large trial plots of bush tomatoes at John Holland North and Oak Valley outstations and at Areyonga will show how well bush tomatoes from different parts of Central Australia grow in a range of soils.

Dr Ryder believes horticulture won't threaten the income of wild harvesters because there will be room for both. "Tourists in desert Australia could become an important market for bush foods that are harvested in the traditional way."

He says not enough people in the new industry really understand the importance of desert Aboriginal peoples' plant knowledge. "This project will change this and also find out how Indigenous people can benefit from their knowledge."

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aboriginal sea rangers

ABORIGINAL SEA RANGERS IN THE TOP END OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY (NT) HAVE CALLED ON THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO ASSIST THEM WITH THE MONITORING AND POTENTIAL SEIZURE OF ILLEGAL FOREIGN FISHING VESSELS IN TERRITORY WATERS.

The call comes after the Djelk Rangers at the remote NT coastal community of Maningrida, 500 kilometres east from Darwin apprehended and detained a foreign fishing vessel on 19 November.

In the past six months more than a dozen vessels have been sighted in the region. The sighting on 19 November was the second time in a week that a foreign fishing vessel had been spotted along that section of the NT's coastline.

Dhimurru Land Management Aboriginal Corporation in Nhulunbuy also operates a sea ranger program, Djawa Yunupingu says traditional owners are concerned with the arrivals, and would welcome an opportunity to participate in the detention of the vessels.

"The ranger groups want very strong input, we want to be able to detain them where they are and wait until Customs arrive. That way, if we do have these powers for a start, that way we can be working together," Mr Yunupingu said.

"Local people are the best people for the job, especially when you come across an Indonesian fishing boat that's right in your back yard, and you try ringing Customs and they take about a day, or a couple of hours to get to where the fishing vessels are, by the time they get there the buggers have disappeared."

Traditional owner groups say that federal government initiatives to quell the influx of

"We need to have very strong relationships with the federal and NT government's so that funding for sea rangers in conjunction with Customs, Fisheries or whoever is going to be our partners or stakeholders, we need to have a good relationship and training," Mr Yunupingu said.

Djawa Yunupingu believes involving them in ongoing coastal surveillance would allow the Federal Government to tap into a knowledge

plans to present a proposal from the NT Government to Federal Minister, Ian McDonald, urging ranger groups be given an increase in equipment, training and funding.

"I have informed Senator Macdonald of the great work being done by the rangers, who work as part of the Government's Marine Ranger Program," Mr Vatskalis said. "These guys are our eyes and ears on the water and they make a valuable contribution to the fight against illegal fishing."

"I have asked Senator Macdonald to consider increased funding for the marine rangers for more training and resources. These guys are doing such a great job and they deserve more recognition," Mr Vatskalis said.

The Sea Ranger program is an initiative introduced by the NLC some four years ago. Today some 50 sea rangers operate across the length of the NT's vast coastline, many earning as little as \$230 a week from the Community Development Employment Scheme (CDEP).

"People say we are the eyes and ears for whatever's coming in."

DJAWA YUNUPINGU

foreign vessels appears to be insufficient, with ranger groups consistently reporting and monitoring on illegal entries into Australian waters.

"We're all aware of what a foreign fishing vessel looks like," Mr Yunupingu said.

"In my opinion, we strongly require both governments to chip in for funding to provide the resources that we need to monitor our coastlines."

base that's existed for several thousands of years.

"Aboriginal sea ranger groups around the Territory live on the coastline of the Northern Territory, we are the one's that live on the land. People say we are the eyes and ears for whatever's coming in," Mr Yunupingu said.

NT Fisheries minister, Kon Vatskalis, believes the ranger groups are an important asset and

Djelic Rangers, Matthew Ryan, Dean Yibarbuk & Stuart Ankin



minister says no on croc hunts

ABORIGINAL RANGERS FROM ARNHEM LAND HAVE SLAMMED THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S DECISION TO BLOCK A PROPOSAL FOR THE CONSERVATION HUNTING OF WILD CROCODILE'S IN THE NORTHERN TERRITORY.

The plan, rejected by Environment Minister, Senator Ian Campbell, involved domestic and international tourists being given the opportunity to hunt a quota of 25 crocodiles a year, paying up to \$10,000 for the chance to hunt, and take the skin or trophy head.

Senator Campbell said that he could not be assured that the humane destruction of the reptiles could be guaranteed.

"I wanted to be assured that you could kill the crocodiles humanely. The difference between shooting crocodiles or shooting buffalo or pigs or kangaroos or anything else is that they have – they're very, very hard to kill out in the wild," Senator Campbell said.

Aboriginal groups had lobbied hard for the proposal to be given the go-ahead.

Djelic ranger Dean Yibarbuk, of Maningrida, said he and others were disappointed with the decision, saying it was ironic that there was pressure for Aboriginal people living in remote areas to generate extra money while activities to do just that are rejected by

decision-makers in Canberra.

"For us who have lived in the north (of Australia) all our lives, and our people have lived for thousands of years with the crocodile, and we know how to balance the numbers by managing the number of big animals and juveniles in the waterways and billabongs," Mr Yibarbuk said.

NLC Chairman, John Daly, said he was disappointed at the government's decision.

"Detailed submissions had been presented to the federal government outlining a management plan that was directed at the long-term sustainable utilisation and conservation of crocodiles and their habitats throughout the NT," Mr Daly said.

Mr Daly said the government's decision would deprive Aboriginal groups of an opportunity to gain economic benefit from their land.

"This presented a small but important opportunity for remote Aboriginal communities to gain economic benefits, as well as allowing them to become actively engaged in crocodile management," Mr Daly said.

Mr Yibarbuk said it was an illogical situation when the pressure to limit traditional hunting clashed with the need for commercial enterprises in remote Aboriginal communities.

"We don't over harvest, we manage our food resources in a sustainable way, and we kill the crocodile in a humane way. We feel sad if the animal is not killed quick," he said.



Crocodile numbers have increased since the banning of hunting in the 1970s, its effects on recreational swimming sites, has also been cited as a reason to allocate 'problem crocodiles' to the conservation hunter.

"During the time when the crocodile hunt was forbidden when it was an endangered species, the numbers have grown a lot, and now we have families and communities who fear going swimming, fishing, hunting turtle or collecting water lilies in their river systems," Yibarbuk said.

Crocodiles were declared a protected species in 1971.

At present 600 crocodiles are culled by professional wildlife officers.

Every year in the Top End up to 25,000 wild eggs can be harvested and sold as stock to crocodile farms in the NT, QLD and WA.



A group of Indonesian fishermen in a long-tail fishing boat at Hawk Island in August, 2005.

anindilyakwa rangers take control

IN A BID TO STOP THE INCREASE OF ILLEGAL FISHING AROUND GROOTE ISLAND, THE ANINDILYAKWA RANGERS ARE USING WHAT LITTLE RESOURCES THEY HAVE TO STEP UP TO THE CHALLENGE AND TAKE CONTROL OF THE SITUATION.

Over the last three decades, Indonesian boats have been a common sight around the place that even professional fisherman today, no longer report them.

Recently the Anindilyakwa rangers and World Wildlife Foundation staff found a group of Indonesian shark fishermen on Hawk Island. The rangers notified customs and the Indonesian boat was sunk and the occupants sent home via a detention center.

Although Groote is a hotspot for illegal fishing, the enforcement agencies in the area are under resourced and mostly located on the mainland approximately 200 kilometres away.

The local agencies work together to try and combat the problem, but it is a big job.

The Anindilyakwa Land Council is taking steps for traditional owners in the area to protect their country and are planning to purchase a patrol boat, that'll enable the Anindilyakwa people to patrol their own country.

The Indonesian fishermen come to the area to harvest animals such as trepang, sponges and trochus shell and shelter around the island from winds and dangerous seas and to collect fresh water. In past years the Indonesians have traded with the Aboriginal people. Evidence of



A finned shark on the beach at Hawk Island. The rangers observed eight of these animals. The largest was over two metres in length.

the close relationship that previously existed between the Anindilyakwa people and Indonesian's can be heard in some words of the Anindilyakwa language and in the stories of Aboriginal people.

Apart from illegal fishing there are other issues associated with Indonesian fishermen. The practice of shark-finning is one. This is where fins of sharks are cut off, often whilst the animals are alive, before they are returned to the water to die. The fins are used for shark fin soup and are a purported aphrodisiac in Asia. The rationale for taking only the fins is that these are the most valuable part of the animal, and on a small boat there is no room for the flesh.

Other issues associated with Indonesian fishermen include the introduction of noxious plants and animals such as wood borer, termites and ants, and diseases like avian bird flu, tuberculosis and rabies. This threat is greater when fishermen come ashore, as they did on North East, whilst shark finning recently.



beswick under the stars

SHAKESPEARE ON A RIVERBANK, ABORIGINAL GIRLS DANCING IN AN INDIAN-STYLE, YOUNG BOYS PERFORMING URBAN HIP-HOP IN THE BUSH, CORROBOREE IN THE SAND, AND ANIMATION SCREENED UNDER THE STARS.

You might wonder what is happening at the Wugularr (Beswick) Aboriginal community, 100kms south of Katherine in the Northern Territory.

Well, for one thing the annual *Walking with Spirits* concert and corroboree.

The one-night event, now in its fourth year, is an initiative of the community of Wugularr, and draws on the Aboriginal tradition of corroboree, and uses fire, puppetry, images and music to help interpret the concepts contained within the traditional dances.

The Australian Shakespeare Company presented a special concert version of their 2005 touring show *Much Ado About Nothing*.

Many ceremonial or sacred dances cannot be performed outside ceremony ground and are not meant for the uninitiated eye, but dances performed on the night are known as 'light' corroboree, which can be performed publicly.

As artistic director Tom E. Lewis, well known for his poignant acting role in *The Chant of Jimmy Blacksmith*, said of the stunning backdrop of gorges ringing the performance site at Malkgulumbu (Beswick Falls).

"The land is our church and everything in it is one, and one is everything," Lewis said.

"The dancers not only represent, but enter into, the spirits of the animals, plants, seasons and natural phenomena."

He describes the corroboree ground as a theatre, with the fire place as its centre.

"We warm our spirit at the fire place and around it, and we pass on the stories and sing the songs and thus keep our history and our culture going," he said.

Dancers, performers, and songmen came from throughout the area including the Mularra dancers from Bulman, the Thumbul dancers from Numbulwar, Bunggul dancers from Mt Catt and Lake Evalla (Gapuwiyak), dancers from Beswick, songmen Victor Hood, Jimmy Wesan, Micky Hall, Roy Ashley, Nyalik Murrungun, and Donald Blitner.



arnhem land community opens its doors

THE GUNBALANYA COMMUNITY IN ARNHEM LAND OPENED ITS DOORS RECENTLY TO THE PUBLIC FOR A FEAST OF FOOTBALL, BASKETBALL, TRADITIONAL DANCING, PAINTING, WEAVING, MUSIC, HELICOPTER RIDES AND BUFFALO STEAK SANDWICHES.

The Aboriginal community, surrounded by a large billabong and escarpment country in the north-west corner of Arnhem Land, has annually held the open day for several years, initially to raise funds for the local community school.

It has now grown into an event which features rock art tours to Injalak Hill, football and basketball competitions, traditional dancing, a mock battle by NORFORCE on the oval, basket weaving, scenic flights around the nearby escarpment country by light plane or helicopter, and a music night which included Neil Murray, formerly of the Warumpi Band, Letterstick Band, Bininj Band and the Wildflower Band.

Visitors to the community, which is cut off to vehicles during the wet season, also get to see crocodiles close up when they drive over Cahill's Crossing through the East Alligator River, 16 kms from the community.

In the football, the Oepelli All-Stars were victorious over spirited competition.

In both the football and basketball there were players who competed barefoot, but it was the women who played barefoot on an outside concrete basketball court in the middle of a 33-degree day who take out the 'tough and deadly' award for the day.



Above: Artist Simon Badari at work.

Below: Barbra Gurralwal



NORFORCE LANCE CORPORAL JOHN TIPILOURA, PRIVATE RUSSELL YUNUPINGU, PRIVATE GRAHAM LEIGH



garma, a place of the old and the new

FOR THE GUMATI CLAN OF YOLNGU PEOPLE IN NORTH-EAST ARNHEM LAND, GULKULA IS THE PLACE WHERE THE ANCESTOR GANBULABULA BROUGHT THE YIDAKI (DIDGERIDOO) INTO BEING FOR USE BY THE LOCAL PEOPLE.

Gulkula, near the Aboriginal community of Yirrkala, and the mining township of Nhulunbuy, is also the site of this year's Garma Festival, the seventh festival since 1999.

Deriving a livelihood from cultural practice, one of the broader themes of the Garma Festival, was given a shot in the arm with statements made by former Northern Land Council chairman Galarrwuy Yunupingu who advocated the setting up of an Indigenous owned-and-controlled bauxite mine, on Aboriginal land yet to be developed.

"Yolngu people also own the rights to all the resources of their land, the trees, the animals, the earth, and the minerals - including the bauxite which lies just underneath many parts of north-east Arnhem Land," Mr Yunupingu said in his opening address.

"The bauxite mine and refinery at Nhulunbuy is the only mine on Aboriginal land where there is no agreement or partnership with traditional owners."

Alcan's director of business planning, David Sutherland disputed Mr Yunupingu's claim that Alcan had not involved enough Aboriginal people at the existing mine, citing the contracting of local Aboriginal company, Yirrkala Business Enterprises.

Also this year's Garma (a Yolngu word meaning 'two-way learning process') had a focus on tourism, visual art, traditional dancing, traditional and contemporary music, and community development through economic opportunities.

One of the many highlights of the five-day event included the visit and performance of the Macassans, who for centuries traded with Yolngu people, transported by their sailing vessels from Makassar, on the Indonesian island of Sulawesi.

This year a group of musicians and dancers from Makassar visited Garma, led by master drummer, Daeng Mile.

The cultural exchange by Macassan and Yolngu at the daily bunggul (dances) ceremony at sunset was warmly received by the throng of international and interstate visitors.

Next year's key forum will look at education and



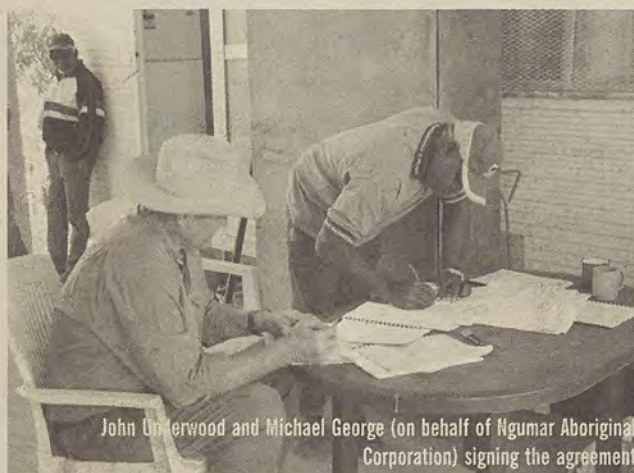
SPECIAL GUESTS TO GARMA, THE MACASSANS AND DAENG MILE OF INDONESIA



John Daly, Galarrwuy Yunupingu, Sammy Bush-Blanasi

training of Aboriginal people, as well as continuing the festival's tradition of showcasing the traditional culture of Aboriginal people from north-east Arnhem Land.

aboriginal cattle enterprises get a helping hand



John Underwood and Michael George (on behalf of Ngumar Aboriginal Corporation) signing the agreement



MANY TRADITIONAL OWNERS OF ABORIGINAL LAND TRUSTS IN THE CENTRAL LAND COUNCIL AREA ARE INTERESTED IN RUNNING CATTLE ON THEIR COUNTRY AND THE CLC HAS BEEN WORKING HARD TO ASSIST THEM THIS YEAR.

One such project the CLC has undertaken has been at Managalawurru west of Tennant Creek.

The Witjiwampa Aboriginal Corporation bought 84 heifers from the Aboriginal-owned Atula Station to run on the Land Trust and a young man from the community will take charge of the herd book and diary.

The project has received staged funding for infrastructure and cattle from the Indigenous Land Corporation.

Progression to each stage of the project relies on the demonstrated

commitment of community members to the enterprise through on-ground works.

Further north, the Hooker Creek Aboriginal Land Trust has signed off an agreement with its neighbours, Riveren Station.

The agreement allows the owners of Riveren, the Underwood family, to graze cattle over 500 square kilometres of the Land Trust.

Traditional owners have already been employed by Riveren on fencing and clearing the property and both parties are enthusiastic about future

employment opportunities.

The agreement is the culmination of months of consultations and planning and the process has been assisted through the various agencies in the Indigenous Pastoral Program.

The Indigenous Land Corporation has assisted

traditional owners in funding the necessary improvements and pastoral development officers from the CLC and DPIFM have been involved in on-ground planning and implementation.

Traditional owners have also taken part in governance training.



elsey station - moving ahead

ELSEY STATION HAS BEEN RUNNING AS A CATTLE ENTERPRISE SINCE ACQUISITION IN 1992 AND CURRENTLY RUNS APPROXIMATELY 9,000 HEAD OF ITS OWN CATTLE. WHILE THIS MAY SOUND A SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER IT IS ESTIMATED THE STATION COULD SUPPORT UP TO APPROXIMATELY 20,000 HEAD AND COULD INCREASE THE ECONOMIC STRENGTH OF THE ENTERPRISE SIGNIFICANTLY.

Previously large areas of the station were unused and largely unmanaged, so the Indigenous Pastoral Program assisted Traditional Owners broker partnerships to utilise these areas to increase the economic strength of the enterprise and create an economic base for improved land management.

The partnerships included establishing new pastoral infrastructure, receiving cash rents and incoming fees for the management of agistment stock.

The partnerships are framed within an innovative "Head" Pastoral Land Use Agreement that sees Banibi Pty Ltd (Aboriginal-owned pastoral company that runs Elsey) as the principal holder of grazing rights across the Mangarrayi ALT with the capacity to negotiate individual grazing sublicenses with "external" partners.

To date, Banibi have negotiated six grazing sublicenses that will see an additional 9,500 of cattle on Elsey Station.

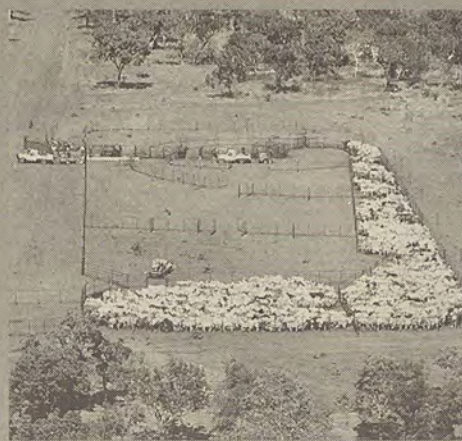
This is the pinnacle for Aboriginal pastoralism – an Aboriginal-owned company managing other people's cattle in return for lease fees and cattle management fees, and achiev-

ing significant job outcomes and land management improvements.

The improvements to the land from these partnerships are significant; approximately 50% of the Mangarrayi Aboriginal Land Trust that was previously not utilised now supports stock and creates income for Banibi. Improvements include several hundreds of kilometres of fencing, many additional water points and turkey nests, and improved access tracks.

Improvements in land management include, better fire management through improved fire breaks and fire control, improved control of feral animals by establishing fencing, prevent feral animal movement into paddock areas, and improved management of weeds by creating additional enterprise income to resource control activities. These improvements in land management not only benefit the Traditional Owners of Banibi, but also neighbouring stations that also deal with these cross property boundary issues.

In addition to the improvements to land, the Traditional Owners have also benefited directly through employment. All new pastoral infrastructure



Cattle yarded at Elsey Station ready for drafting

was erected by Traditional Owners, Banibi employs a fencing team of 12 Aboriginal people who have become highly skilled. Their work record to date is 24 kilometres of fence erected in three and a half days!

Since Banibi is managing many of the cattle as part of the grazing licences, Traditional Owners have access to more jobs within the enterprise. To date Banibi employs a seasonal mustering team of eight Aboriginal people, and four fulltime Aboriginal staff members on the Station. The additional cattle on Elsey have resulted in more jobs for skilled Traditional Owners.

new funding boost

CARPENTARIA DOWNS AND BALBARINI STATIONS ARE ABOUT TO RECEIVE A MUCH-NEEDED INJECTION OF FUNDS, WITH THE INDIGENOUS LAND CORPORATION SET TO ALLOCATE UP TO \$500,000 FOR DEVELOPMENT WORKS ON BOTH PROPERTIES.

The capital boost will allow traditional owners (TO's) to erect fences, sink bores, construct turkey nests and increase their overall herd size.

To assist with the development the NLC has developed a schedule of works for the proposed new infrastructure, and is close to approving contractors to carry out TO's requirements.

The new works form part of a larger project that will see traditional owners of Carpentaria and Balbarini develop and determine as to how their land can be used for economic purposes.

Aware that an operation of this nature will take considerable skill and dedication, traditional owners are also keen to increasing their capacity and have approached the NLC for assistance in obtaining skills in matters of corporate governance, and pastoral operation.

sacred objects returned

MORE THAN 50 SACRED OBJECTS HAVE BEEN GIVEN BACK TO THEIR TRADITIONAL OWNERS IN TENNANT CREEK AND LAJAMANU FROM THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AUSTRALIA IN CANBERRA.

Several of the objects were removed from Central Australia over 70 years ago and later put in the Museum. Many were removed nearly 50 years ago.

A number of the objects returned in Lajamanu will be taken to Yuendumu and stored in a new keeping place there, possibly as early as next year.

The return of the objects, in Tennant Creek on 18 October and in Lajamanu on 20 October, completed an 18 month CLC project

in partnership with the National Museum. The Museum provided funding under the Commonwealth Return of Intellectual and Cultural Property Program. Using this funding, CLC consulted men at Tennant Creek, Yuendumu, Lajamanu and elsewhere to determine the owners of the objects and where they want them stored.

National Museum Repatriation Program Director Mike Pickering and Curator David Kaus personally delivered the objects back to the traditional owners, with CLC anthropologists assisting.

Mike Pickering said: "The success of this exercise stands as a testimony to the com-

mitment to repatriation by both the Central Land Council and the National Museum of Australia. A process of consultation and repatriation has been tested that should serve as a model for future exercises of this type. It was a privilege to be able to assist the Traditional owners and custodians through the repatriation of these objects."

CLC has received funding under the Commonwealth Indigenous Heritage Program to build the new keeping place at Yuendumu and has consulted senior men there about a suitable place to build it.

CLC projects to return sacred objects in other areas are also underway.

endangered languages get a helping hand

IN THE VICTORIA RIVER DISTRICT (VRD) OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY, COMMUNITY MEMBERS AND A TEAM OF EXPERTS FROM ACROSS THE WORLD ARE WORKING WITH SPEAKERS OF SOME OF THE MOST ENDANGERED LANGUAGES OF THE WORLD.

The project focuses on five endangered languages of the VRD area - Jaminjung, Ngaliwurru, Ngarinyman, Bilinarra and Gurindji. The main aim of the project is to record, transcribe, translate and archive the languages for the future. Aspects of the languages being recorded include accounts of significant sites, contact history as well as traditional and contemporary everyday life. Efforts are also being made to produce dictionaries and gram-



Christine Mangala Ahwon doing language fieldwork

mars for Jaminjung, Ngaliwurru, Gurindji and Ngarinyman.

The project is a response to both local and global concerns about language loss, with elders throughout the Victoria River District expressing a desire for their languages to be documented before they pass away.

"It is an exciting opportunity. Elders are keen for the project to

happen. This funding provides a real opportunity to work with some of the last speakers of these languages". Felicity Meakins previously worked for Diwurruwurru-jaru Aboriginal Corporation (or Katherine Regional Language Centre) and spent several years working with community members in schools on language revitalisation programs.

darwin telstra office opened

BETTER PHONE SERVICES, EXTENDED MOBILE COVERAGE, STURDY PAYPHONES AND ACCESS TO DIGITAL SERVICES ARE ALL THINGS NECESSARY FOR REMOTE INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES IN THE NORTHERN TERRITORY TO IMPROVE BUSINESS, EDUCATIONAL, HEALTH AND CULTURAL OUTCOMES.

been opened to boost access to the digital age.

Telstra's National Indigenous Directorate, a national business unit of the telecommunications giant, has been established to counter what Telstra Countrywide's Geoff Booth described as Telstra's previous 'lack of focus for service delivery in remote Indigenous communities'.

Directorate general manager Lawrie Mortimer said his office would focus on understanding the customer needs of remote communities, offering the 'right' products such as 'robust phones' found already in 240 sites in northern Australia, and making sure communication products were made more available to Telstra's Aboriginal customers in the bush.



Telstra's Nicholas Scrymgour

In an effort to improve telecommunications to Aboriginal communities in northern Australia - of which the majority of Australia's remote Indigenous communities reside - an office in Darwin has just

NEWS flash

THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT HAS AGREED TO PAY CANADIAN INDIANS MORE THAN \$2 BILLION COMPENSATION FOR FORCING CHILDREN TO LEAVE HOME TO ATTEND GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS.

Native children in Canada were forced to attend residential schools located far from their homes for almost a century.

They would often not return to their communities for many years, losing their native language and becoming unable to communicate with their parents.

Those that ran the schools have said they were designed to assimilate native youth.

The Government will pay almost \$35,000 to every former student, with extra compensation to be paid if there were allegations of abuse.

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Centre for Australian Indigenous Research and Studies



camel farm open for business

A CHILDHOOD DREAM TURNED TO REALITY THIS WEEK AS THE UNDURANA CAMEL FARM PADDOCK WAS COMPLETED AND OFFICIALLY OPENED FOR BUSINESS.

The 200 square kilometre paddock, specially designed to hold hundreds of camels, has been a major project driven by the vision of one of the traditional owners from the Haasts Bluff Aboriginal Land Trust, Anslem Impu.

"It's a great day. I'm really happy to see it finished and to celebrate. We have already got 500 camels in the paddock and next year we will be ready to send them off to markets overseas," said Anslem.

The next major step for the enterprise is to ensure ongoing support and assistance to make the enterprise a sustainable camel business for the people on the land trust.

The camel farm enterprise was initiated in 2001, by Anslem who has worked as a stockman mustering cattle, camels and horses all his life. His childhood dream has been to build a camel farm for marketing on his country and it is now a reality. Since its conception more than 80 people from around the region have been employed in the project.

Anslem initially worked with the CLC to plan the enterprise which included attracting funding from the Indigenous Land Corporation for fencing, building the yards and fixing bores. It was during this time that Santos also became a major partner in the project.

The paddock includes a trapping system for



camels which come in from the desert country and once the camels are in the paddock they will have plenty of feed and water. The paddock is designed to hold up to 500 camels and this will ensure the enterprise

Above: Anslem and his grandkids celebrate the opening of the camel farm.

Below: (left) Anslem and Ned Impu with a painting presented to Santos for their help (right): Camels in the new yard.

can meet camel market demands in the future.



Threatened lizard found

SENIOR WOMEN FROM THREE ABORIGINAL COMMUNITIES IN CENTRAL AUSTRALIA HAVE JOINED FORCES TO FIND THE GREAT DESERT SKINK.

The Central Land Council is working closely with the women to look for threatened species as part of a Threatened Species Network-funded project.

Initially the project aimed to survey the endangered central rock-rat in the Amundurngu Range near Mt Liebig.

However, interest grew throughout the region and the project expanded to include searching for vulnerable sandplain species, *murrjtja* (mulgara) and *warrana* (great desert skink). The expansion of the project included the involvement of senior women from nearby Papunya, who are using this threatened species project to teach school children about significant species like the *murrjtja*, *warrana* and *jalku* (bilby).

The project has included extensive field trips throughout the western region of central Australia.

After two weeks of not sighting the lizards the women travelled further north where the older women remembered catching and eating *warrana* as young girls.

A group of Anmatyerr women from the Laramba community



The *warrana* or *arrarn*

with traditional links to this area joined the group.

The extensive knowledge of the women about the specific habitats proved a valuable tool in locating the *warrana* and *murrjtja* in the vast sandplains of the Great Sandy Desert.

A beautiful orange lizard was finally unearthed after weeks of searching. The women were very happy to learn that this significant species is still alive on their country.

The *warrana* was replaced to give it a chance to breed after all the good rains. The Anmatyerr and Luritja women are keen to continue mapping the extent of this population and look for others on the nearby Ngalarurtju Aboriginal Land Trust.

The CLC is currently looking to secure funding for Aboriginal community ranger groups to undertake regional fire management projects that are likely to improve habitat for *warrana* and many other desert species.

Anmatyerr and Luritja women excavating the *warrana* burrow



MoU door to employment opportunities

A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING SIGNED IN DARWIN IS EXPECTED TO DELIVER UP TO 25 IMMEDIATE JOBS FOR INDIGENOUS PARTICIPANTS, WITH FURTHER OPPORTUNITIES AS CONSTRUCTION PROGRESSES ON THE NEW WATERFRONT DEVELOPMENT PROJECT IN DARWIN.

The Northern Land Council (NLC) and the Territory Construction Association (TCA) have teamed up with the Larrakia Nation Aboriginal Corporation. The trio signed a Memorandum of Understanding to deliver training and employment opportunities on this major development project.

"This agreement is about providing real jobs and real outcomes for Indigenous people," NLC Chairman, John Daly said. "It provides pre-vocational training linked to real jobs on the project for all participants and offers the opportunity for five individuals to undertake apprenticeships."

"This is an example of the excellent results being achieved by our Employment and Training Unit in association with the TCA, as already demonstrated by the successful outcomes achieved on the Alice Springs to

Darwin Railway Project," Mr Daly said.

Territory Construction Association General Manager, Jon Baker said the signing of the MOU is an important step in developing a local skills base for the construction industry.

"TCA and the NLC have worked closely on employment and training endeavours in the past with some outstanding results. We are now looking forward to working with both the NLC and the Larrakia to produce similar results on the Darwin Waterfront project," Mr Baker said.

Larrakia Nation Aboriginal Corporation Coordinator, Kelvin Costello, said the agreement builds on an existing relationship with the TCA forged during the construction of the Wickham Point LNG project.

"The Larrakia will continue to involve itself in major projects where practicable and where they offer training and employment opportunities for Aboriginal people," Mr Costello said.

Chief Executive of the Larrakia Development Corporation, Greg Constantine, said the deal would



NLC Chairman John Daly and Larrakia Nation Coordinator Kelvin Costello sign MOU.

open the doors to further opportunities.

"The MOU will assist in continuing to raise the commercial profile of the Larrakia with the major construction businesses in Darwin and enable Larrakia to gain long term employment and further develop business opportunities," Mr Constantine said.

The Sitzler Barclay Mowlem Joint Venture welcomed the announcement.

"As members of the Darwin City Waterfront Consortium and the

designers and constructors of the Darwin Convention and Exhibition Centre, we welcome this initiative and look forward to making a positive contribution towards the training and employment of indigenous people on our project," Sitzler Barclay Mowlem Joint Venture representative, Dick Guit, said.

Construction of the \$102.85m Darwin Convention and Exhibition Centre is scheduled to commence on site later this year.

new suburb on the way



NLC Chief Executive Norman Fry, NLC Chairman John Daly, Larrakia Nation Coordinator Kelvin Costello, Larrakia Development Corporation Greg Constantine and Richard Barnes Koolpinyah.

AN AGREEMENT SIGNED IN DARWIN RECENTLY HAS PAVED THE WAY FOR DEVELOPMENT TO COMMENCE ON THE PROPOSED NEW SUBDIVISION OF LYONS TO BE LOCATED IN DARWIN'S NORTHERN SUBURBS.

Lyons, named after senior Larrakia Elder Tommy Lyons, comprises a total land area of 77 hectares, and will involve the construction of 700 new houses.

The agreement, which encourages the employment of Larrakia people in the construction of the new suburb, is between the Lyons Development Corporation, Larrakia Nation Aboriginal Corporation, Larrakia Development Corporation and Northern Land Council.

NLC chairman John Daly said the project will provide employment and economic opportunities to the traditional owners of Darwin.

"This is a demonstration of the

benefits that can flow to Aboriginal people willing to foster partnerships with private companies," Mr Daly said.

Larrakia Development Corporation chairman Kelvin Costello said the signing of the agreement is an important step for the Larrakia people.

"The Heads of Agreement will continue to raise the commercial profile of the Larrakia with the major construction businesses in Darwin and enable Larrakia to gain long-term employment and further develop business opportunities," Mr Costello said.

Lyons represents the first residential development opportunity to be conducted in Darwin's northern suburbs for 20 years, and will recognise Larrakia heritage with streets and parks to be given Larrakia names and public art depicting Larrakia stories to be displayed throughout the suburb.

communities ready for emergencies

REMOTE ABORIGINAL COMMUNITIES IN NORTHERN AUSTRALIA ARE USED TO THE POTENTIAL HAZARDS PRESENTED BY TROPICAL CYCLONES, FLOODING AND BUSHFIRES, AND EXHIBIT A NATURAL INSTINCT FOR DEALING WITH ITS IMPACT.

Several days without power, communications and fresh food and water is not uncommon in northern Australia following a natural disaster.

A new project, under a Federal Government initiative managed by Emergency Management Australia (EMA), launched at Pirlangimpi on Melville Island in the Northern Territory, will look to support and learn from this 'natural readiness' with a national strategy addressing emergency management in remote Indigenous communities.

The Tiwi Islands was chosen for the launch given its remote location and recent experience with Category 5 tropical cyclone Ingrid which hit coastal Northern Territory communities earlier in the year.

Moya Newman, co-ordinator of Indigenous programs with Fire and Emergency Services Authority of Western



Moya Newman, Phillip Ruddock and Maurice Rioli

Australia, said boosting the 'preparedness' of remote communities for the after-effects of natural disasters was the aim of the new project.

"It is hoped the enhancement of the capacity of the people before, during and after natural hazard events in terms of prevention, preparedness, response and recovery will be addressed easier," Newman said.

Local Tiwi resident, and newly-inducted Aboriginal AFL Team of the Century member, Maurice Rioli, said any efforts to shorten the period of disruption to

remote communities following a natural hazard event was welcomed.

Attorney-General Philip Ruddock said the Tiwi Island community had shown 'considerable resilience and considerable self-reliance' in their post-cyclone response.

"We believe it is important that we work together to further prepare for natural hazards of this type," Mr Ruddock said.

The project involves remote Indigenous community consultation across several states and territories, including the Tiwi Islands.



Yuendumu Magpies



Yuendumu Magpies Under 17's take out their second flag

ngurratjuta grandfinal washup!

THE NGURRATJUTA CUP 2005 GRAND FINAL, COULD BE CONSIDERED THE GREATEST COUNTRY GRAND FINAL TO DATE, AND ARGUABLY THE BEST EVER GAME OF FOOTBALL WITNESSED IN CENTRAL AUSTRALIA.

This match had it all. Centrals looked like they had the Magpies covered at one stage in the last quarter leading by three goals. However, the Maggies kicked a handful of unanswered goals to surge to a 14 point lead deep into the last quarter.

The Yuendumu crowd were whipped

into a frenzy.

However their celebrations were somewhat premature, with Centrals rallying again (as they have done regularly this season). With the final siren sounding, Centrals were lining up from 40m almost directly in front, courtesy of a Norm Hagan mark.

However, Norm was unable to take the kick due to an injury.

The ensuing kick by his replacement Casey Nelson sailed wide to force a draw for the third time this season, and for the first time in

a Ngurratjuta Cup Grand Final.

In extra time, straight kicking saw the Magpies hold on by 7 points (kicking two goals straight to Centrals five points).

Commiserations to Centrals who almost pulled off one of the biggest upsets in Ngurratjuta Cup history and for providing fantastic entertainment at Traeger Park for the entire 2005 season, playing in five matches decided by less than a goal (including two draws).

Congratulations must

go to Yuendumu who secured their third successive flag in the seniors and also secured the double by winning the U17 flag.

It was a great year for the Magpies who will again take some toppling in season 2006.



Jefferson Williams and Sebastian Watson



Kenny Morton from Ti Tree won the trophy for Best and Fairest

Central Anmatyere



perkins carnival

HOME GROUND ADVANTAGE COUNTED FOR LITTLE DURING THE DR CHARLES PERKINS INDIGENOUS SPORTING CARNIVAL HELD IN DARWIN RECENTLY, WITH SOUTH AUSTRALIA EMERGING VICTORIOUS IN THE FOOTBALL COMPETITION.

With the Top End team boasting some of the finest Aboriginal talent available in the local competition, many believed home ground advantage would play a significant part in their efforts to secure the trophy.

But, South Australia defied the weather, a tough schedule, and an enthusiastic local crowd to defeat a courageous Top End side by three points to win this year's football carnival.

One of the attractions of the football carnival was the appear-

ance of former AFL star and Brisbane Lions three-time premiership player, Daryl White, who pulled on a Central Australian guernsey for the first time in many years.

Over at the netball courts, South Australia completed the double for both codes when they faced off against long-time nemesis Western Australia. The two states have built up a competitive rivalry in recent years.

Held in Darwin during the month of October, the annual carnival once again attracted strong competition in both the football and netball competitions.

This year seven state and territory teams made their way to Darwin to contest the football section, while the

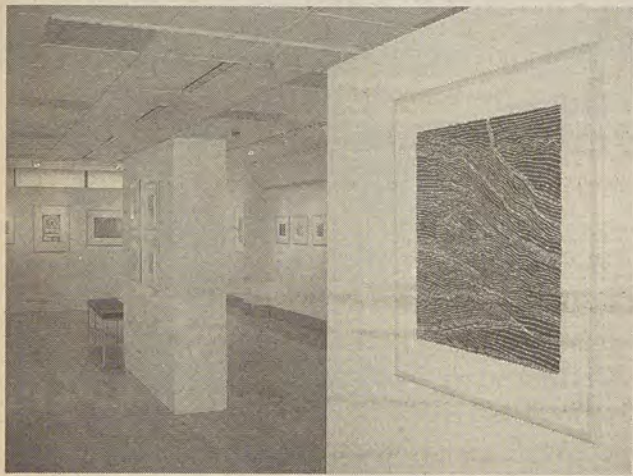


netball was again competitive, with eight representative sides making the trek north to participate.

In 2006 participating teams will head to Adelaide, with the carnival continuing to attract emerging talent and offering high quality competition.



indigenous art on display in USA



CONTEMPORARY ABORIGINAL PRINTS FROM THE NORTHERN EDITIONS PRINTMAKING STUDIO AND GALLERY AT CHARLES DARWIN UNIVERSITY HAS WOWED AUDIENCES AT THE AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON DC, USA.

The exhibition of 40 limited edition etchings and screenprints went on display at Gallery 1601 at the Embassy during September. The collection is the largest overseas exhibition Northern Editions has held.

Entitled; *'Print 'em up!'* – the exhibition is a take on the unique phrase used by artists when they are ready for their work to be printed.

The works showcase some of Australia's leading Indigenous artists from Balgo and the East Kimberley in Western Australia, Yuendumu in Central Australia and Melville Island in Northern Australia.

There are over 20 Indigenous artists featured in the exhibition including Eubena Nampitjin, Kathleen Paddoon, Elizabeth Nyumi, Charlene Carrington, Marcia Purdie, Dorothy Napangardi, Shorty Jangala Robertson and Nina Puruntatameri.

Maryanne Voyazis, the Project Manager organising the Washington DC show said there had been an incredibly positive response to the work.

"People are blown away by the vibrancy of colour and use of pattern in creating beautiful prints that speaks of the land and its people," Mrs Voyazis said.

"For Australians, I think there is a real connection with 'home' and for foreigners there is a sense of wonder and wanting to know more - every visitor either talks of a past trip to Australia with great fondness or fantasises about the trip they are going to take one day.

"The overall impression is, overwhelmingly, one of great delight in the visual art treasures that Australia has to offer," Mrs Voyazis said.

Northern Editions Manager, Emma Fowler-Thomason said she was "thrilled" with the recognition the artists were receiving.

"These artists have taken us on an inspiring journey through the Australian landscape and into Aboriginal country. Their connection to land is given powerful visual form through the medium of printmaking," Mrs Fowler-Thomason said.

Northern Editions printmaking studio is located on the Casuarina campus of Charles Darwin University. Established in 1993, it is the oldest and largest producer of limited edition fine art prints in Northern Australia.

Many Fine Art prints from Northern Editions have found their way into major art galleries, museums and corporate and private collections around the world.

warruwi celebrate new art centre

A REMOTE ABORIGINAL COMMUNITY OFF THE COAST OF ARNHEM LAND CELEBRATED RECENTLY WITH THE OPENING OF A NEW ART CENTRE ON THE GOULBURN ISLANDS.

The Mardbalk Arts and Culture Centre, opened by cultural manager Ralph Gumurdul and NT Arts Minister Marion Scrymgour, will enable the Warruwi people to house and sell locally-produced paintings on canvas, art paper and bark mediums, carvings and didgeridoos made from the local wood such as stringy bark and iron wood, all painted with naturally-occurring ochres and modern acrylics.

Mr Gumurdul said the art centre would be a great opportunity for his people to express their stories and culture, and a place where art buyers could source artwork.

"My people now have a place to tell their stories through paintings, and carvings," Mr Gumurdul said, adding that the community's children would be encouraged to create art based on their Elder's stories.

The idea for an art centre on the island was sparked by a visit to the island in 2002 by Australian naval vessel HMAS Wollongong, which anchored off the coast of Goulburn Island



Ralph Gumurdul

during routine patrol.

Defence personnel, including the ship's engineers, wanted to contribute something to the Warruwi community following a tour of the ship by Traditional Owners and so began the restoration of power, plumbing and a new coat of paint to the old community store.

Artist Sandy Murdumurdu said he

learnt to paint from his late father when he was a boy.

"My painting helps me remember my father and remember my culture," he said.

Warruwi Community council president Jim Gorey said pride amongst the community had been boosted due to the opening, and that it would not be long before exhibitions would be held on mainland Australia.

indigenous languages story writing awards

THE INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES STORY WRITING COMPETITION PROVED POPULAR YET AGAIN THIS YEAR WITH ENTRIES FROM ALL OVER THE TERRITORY.

Encouragement Awards

'Pirrarni' by Shamayla Presley a Warlpiri story from Ti Tree

'The perentie and the goanna' by Kylie Ryder from Ltyentye Apurte Santa Teresa School

CLC Primary School

Category Awards:

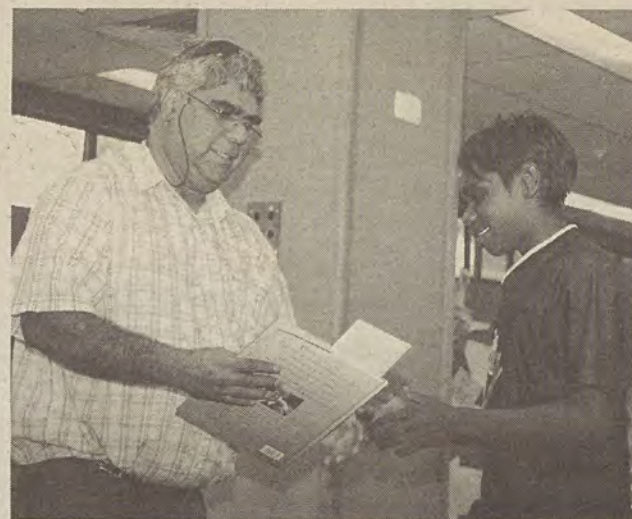
3. 'The kookaburra who lost his voice' and 'Da tetul dat los im ola eigs' Katherine Primary School

2. 'Da Hangari Igul' by Katherine Primary School

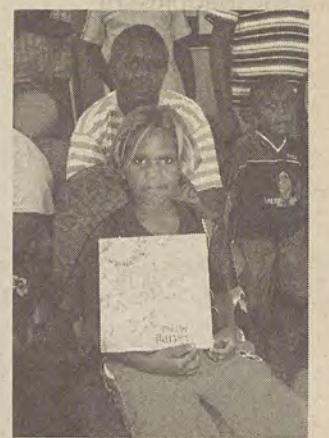
1. Da Reinbo Snake dat lib langa wan leik. By Katherine Primary School

CLC Secondary School

Category Awards: 'Angepe unthene arpwere unthene-The crow and the magpie' Wesley Oliver Ltyentye Apurte-



Wesley Oliver from Santa Teresa won an award for his story in the primary school division



Shamayla Presley (kid) and Serephina Presley – Shamayla received an award for her story in the primary school division

Santa Teresa 'Seven Sisters' James Abbot from Areyonga School

'Wati puutjitja-Wild man from the bush' by Victor Mintuma Donald from Areyonga School

Best Song Lyrics

Award: 3. 'Kungkakuni Ngayunya- My girlfriend' by Lawrence Nipper from Areyonga

2. 'Wangupini- Cloud' by Dhayirra Yunupingu in Gumatj language

1. 'Wampere Wampere - possum song' and 'Arrere nhengele' 'Two

sisters' song by Neutral Junction School in Kaytetye Language

Contemporary Awards:

3. 'Pwanga – The Spider Woman' A Tiwi Legend developed with a contemporary message. By Pwanga Womens Enterprise.

2. 'Apmer warl Marntele Alpenka - Home on the Bush Bus.' A Kaytetye story by Yirara College teacher Valentine Shaw and her students Vivienne Price and Dwayne Jabiard.

1. 'Ngayiny Jaru Jarragab – My Story' by Ivy Hector Nambijima who is one of the last Bilinarra speakers in the Katherine region. Translated by Justine Spence at the Katherine Language Centre.

Traditional story

Award:

1. 'Urreye Akweke – Little Boy Dreamtime story' A Central Arrernte story for the Alice Springs District by Sabella Turner.

Bangardinga-Derkolo Lee*

Jawoyn Leader, 1952-2005

IT WAS THE HEIGHT OF THE BITTER CONTROVERSY OVER MINING AT GURATBA (CORONATION HILL) IN THE EARLY 1990S, WITH BHP POISED TO COMMENCE EXCAVATION ON JAWOYN TRADITIONAL LANDS NORTH EAST OF KATHERINE IN THE NORTHERN TERRITORY. JAWOYN LEADERS BANGARDI NGA-DERKOLO LEE AND HIS BROTHER RAYMOND FORDIMAIL WERE FURIOUS AT ONE OF THEIR WHITE ADVISERS.

At a moment when all seemed lost, and Federal cabinet seemed highly likely to approve mining, the adviser had suggested that there should be a "Plan B"—that options should be explored in terms of royalties and other benefits should mining go ahead. For the Jawoyn people, however, there was to be no Plan B: no going back. Not only was mining in Bulademo, Sickness Country, an anathema—and a profound threat to their people—

Aboriginal ceremonial leaders across Arnhem Land were watching to see what the Jawoyn, that they had supported, would do. Jawoyn interests prevailed: in one of his last acts as Prime Minister, Bob Hawke forced through a cabinet submission that banned mining at Guratba. But within months, Lee found himself a painfully reluctant leader of the Jawoyn people after the early death of Fordimail through tuberculosis. It was not a task he wanted, yet within the next two years Lee was to host a national Indigenous leaders' summit at Manyallaluk, which led to the Eva Valley Statement on Native Title. He was also to be a lead negotiator in Australia's first native title settlement over mining, for gold at Mt Todd, a year before native title legislation was introduced federally. In the 12 years since, he has overseen the Territory's largest Aboriginal-owned tourism operation, Nitmiluk Tours, come to fruition.

Born in 1952 on the banks of Beswick Creek, 80 kilometres east of Katherine, Lee was adopted and brought up by a senior Jawoyn Derkolo clansman, Don Jambalili along with his Ngalkbon mother, Daisy Bordu. He grew up in the bush, at Beswick cattle station, as well as at Barunga, then known as Bamyili. There were times, also, living in makeshift humpies on the edges of Katherine. When she was three, Lee's sister Rita was removed by native welfare authorities and taken to Croker Island. He wasn't to see her until he was 18. He avoided that fate, his parents camping in a banana plantation at Manyalalluk whenever Native Welfare turned up. Schooling was limited and regimented at Bamyili.

Speaking Ngalkbon, he remembers "getting a flogging for not speaking English ... we were like people from two different worlds trying to talk to each other, trying to communicate, speaking two different languages". Although he did quite well at school, high schooling in Darwin failed: he and two others ran away after a few days and returned home, where life was a strange mix of tradition and hunting on weekends, as well as being under the thumb of the superintendent. It was during this period he developed ritual connections that went east as far as Groote Eylandt, and south east to Ngukurr.

At about 14 he went into the workforce, as a

ringer and butcher supplying Bamyili, later as a mechanical works supervisor; for a time he joined a boxing troupe. He was later to serve for a decade as town clerk at Barunga until he moved into Katherine to run the Jawoyn Association.

The Whitlam government brought huge changes to Aboriginal affairs, many of which Lee was critical of. From a highly regimented government settlement, where people were fed in communal kitchens, overnight in 1973, self management was brought in: "Things fell to pieces ... went down ... the government didn't train people to take over responsibility". Alcohol began having an impact as well.

Lee remembers his parents moving into Katherine for months at a time to drink, and the growing devastation it was causing other relations. It was to affect Lee as well: he was always willing to admit that he spent much of his 30s on the grog, often living in the long grass. "I was enjoying life with my mates ... drinking at that time for all sorts of complicated reasons." The 1976 Land Rights Act was to set irrevocable changes for the Jawoyn, and for Lee. Amidst huge hostility from the Territory government and local non-Aboriginal interests, the Jawoyn lodged a claim over Katherine Gorge. There were street marches in Katherine, 'Rights for Whites' groups formed. Lee gave evidence in the

land claim, and after 13 years of hearings, delays and negotiations, traditional lands at Nitmiluk were returned to the Jawoyn.

Although Lee often said he avoided responsibilities, leaving them to his older brother, this was not entirely true. As well as being town clerk, Lee also headed up the Katherine Aboriginal Action Group in response to the massive influx of service personnel when RAAF Base Tindal was established in the mid '80s, and also served on the Aboriginal Development Commission. Lee was one of the negotiators with the Perron government over Katherine Gorge, which achieved what is to this day Australia's most powerful lease agreement over Aboriginal land. The subsequent battle over Guratba, in Kakadu, was to be Lee's bleeding. With strong Northern Land Council support for the custodians, and after a commission of inquiry, Sickness Country was saved.

Fordimail's death was a tragic footnote to an historic victory. "I was dragged in by all my senior council members. They selected me because I was next in line for all those responsibilities."

And those responsibilities were substantial, and growing. The Mabo decision of 1992 coincided with an American operator, Zapopan, wanting to mine north of Katherine at Mt Todd. Using what was described at the time as the "big stick" of native title, the Jawoyn negotiated Australia's first native title deal in the

hot January of 1993. It was touch and go, once again Perron insisted a deal be struck. The mine went ahead, in return for large tracts of land, much of it going into a greatly expanded Nitmiluk park, as well as jobs and training.

Although short lived as a mine, at one stage there was a 35 per cent Indigenous workforce at Mt Todd. At the same time, the Lee-led Jawoyn Association struck a deal giving a 50 per cent share in Nitmiluk Tours at the Gorge in 1995, which will move to 100 per cent at the end of 2005. It was not done with government funds: the Jawoyn obtained commercial loans.

During the 1990s, Lee served as a member of the Northern Territory Tourist Commission, as well as the Parks and Wildlife Commission, as member of the Gurig and Kakadu park boards, as well as chairing Nitmiluk. Other land claims were won; lands were purchased; enterprises established. He negotiated with governments, of all persuasions, on the basis of representing a sovereign Jawoyn Nation: his motto was "a helping hand, not a hand out".

He had a grudging respect for Marshall Perron; dealt extensively with federal politicians from both sides of the fence, and was serving with the Clare Martin government's Indigenous economic development task force. He was deeply opposed, long before it became a popular orthodoxy, to

the devastation caused by welfare dependency.

In 1997, he launched the Jawoyn's Five Year Plan; two years later the first mining policy by a group representing an Aboriginal language group. Lee opposed the payments of royalty moneys to individuals; and saw maximum benefit through training, education and employment: the vision his Elders had promoted in their first land claim. In the last months of his life, Lee and the Jawoyn struck a deal at Nitmiluk which has a potential 30-year time frame.

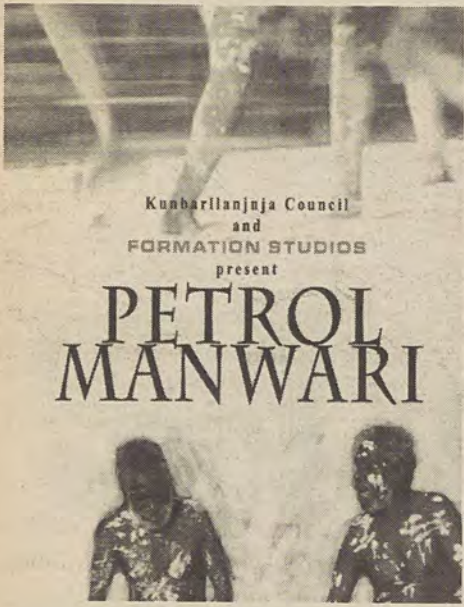
Lee nearly died in 2000 from the tuberculosis that had taken his brother, a third world disease still prevalent in the Top End of the Territory. The experience inspired a successful push to establish the Sunrise Health Service for communities east of Katherine.

Back then he said "when I retire, I would like to sit on the tribal elders council

... making sure it will still be our country ... and that it's not going to be pushed into the Western side too much, so we can still keep an eye on it." It was not to be. Unable to win his final fight with cancer, this man of vision died with his friends and family in Katherine.

Chips Mackinolty is a Darwin-based writer, and worked with the Jawoyn Association 1985-2001.

* Mr Lee's family has requested his given name not be used, nor his photo reproduced. Bangardi nga-Derkolo identifies Mr Lee's skin and clan names.



petrol manwari (petrol is rubbish for you)

IT'S DESCRIBED AS A GROUNDBREAKING DOCUMENTARY VIDEO RESOURCE THAT DISCUSSES THE PROBLEMS AND SOLUTIONS OF PETROL SNIFFING IN THE ARNHEM LAND COMMUNITY OF OENPELLI.

Petrol sniffing is, without doubt, a problem that requires an urgent solution for NT communities.

Petrol Manwari is a film about how this problem affects one particular community, the township of Oenpelli or Kunbarlanjja in Western Arnhem land. This video explores how some of the residents of the community view the problem and their ideas on solutions.

"This video allows people to talk in their own words; we didn't want to make a standard educational video where outsiders tried to tell people what to do. There should be more videos using this approach in the NT" - Adam Blake, of the Kunbarlanjja Council said.

Petrol Manwari is a Kunbarlanjja Council and local NT production company, Formation Studios, initiative. Together they have produced a 30 minute documentary DVD for use by the community and others.

"Petrol sniffing is a complicated problem, but there are a lot of solutions. This video is about the community taking control of the problem and coming up with solutions that will work for their own community," Producer, Danielle Green of Formation Studios said.

Petrol sniffing is a widespread problem in the Northern Territory. The Kunbarlanjja Council has made the DVD available for distribution to other communities.

Contact the Gunbalanya Community Government Council on (08) 790 0170 for further information.

double trouble – twin girls, different worlds

A NEW ABORIGINAL CHILDREN'S TELEVISION SERIES BEING PRODUCED BY CAAMA LOOKS SET TO BLOW AUDIENCES AWAY.

"We are very excited to get approval for funding to produce our children's television series 'Double Trouble,'" said CAAMA Executive Officer, Priscilla Collins

"This is the first ever Aboriginal television series to be broadcast on a commercial network. I came up with the idea three years ago and pitched it to Channel 9 who wanted the series but it took three years to raise the finance. There were many big producers who wanted our series but we knocked them back because we wanted to remain being the producers and keep our copyright and produce it our way so it took a little bit longer to raise the finance but we finally did it," said Collins.

CAAMA Productions will receive up to \$2.6 million to produce 13 half hour episodes of the series.

The series will be broadcast on

Channel 9 and Disney and has support from the Australian Children's Television Series.

Double Trouble is a hilarious children's television series about a set of identical twin Aboriginal girls separated at birth and meet up accidentally 15 years later.

They concoct an outrageous scheme to switch places in order to meet their other family.

One twin has been brought up in the bright lights of Sydney and the other twin grew up in a remote Aboriginal traditional community in Central Australia.

We see both girls having to adapt to a very different lifestyle and also attempt to get to know their family without anyone suspecting anything.

The audience will be left laughing hysterically as they see what is really in store for these girls.

"This is a children's television series with a lot of humour, colour and an inside look at the unique lifestyles of



indigenous people. We are working with high profile Indigenous writers Danielle Maclean and Mitch Torres and working with Indigenous crews including locals Allan Collins, Warwick Thornton and David Tranter," said Collins.

It is estimated that the series will inject over \$3.5 million dollars into Alice Springs and the Northern Territory economies.

Work is currently underway on the series scripts and the production is due to kick off in 2006.

NEW ALBUM RELEASES



BE LIKE HOME BY WARREN H WILLIAMS IS AN ALBUM CONCEIVED ON THE ROAD, WHICH FOR WARREN MEANS TRIPS TO THE CITIES RATHER THAN TRIPS TO THE BUSH AS WITH MANY OTHER COUNTRY MUSIC ARTISTS.

He writes of the troubles he sees in the world, of missing home and the important influences of his Aboriginal culture and family. Many of these songs were composed in backstage dressing rooms on the hugely successful tours of 2003/2004 with John Williamson and Pixie Jenkins.

Be Like Home is album number five for this Alice Springs local country music hero, already a legend in Northern Territory.

Be Like Home – is a must for the collection of all lovers of great Australian Country Music with a unique indigenous flavour.

CAAMA albums available at CAAMA Shop, 101 Todd St. Alice springs, NT 0870

Freecall: 1800 008 443

Ph: 08 8951 9713 Fax: 08 8951 9717

c.shop@caama.com.au

www.caama.com.au

historic CAAMA release

A NEW RELEASE FROM CENTRAL AUSTRALIA RECOGNISES AND SHOWCASES THE DIVERSITY OF STYLES AND LANGUAGES EXPRESSED OVER 25 YEARS.

Central Australia Aboriginal Media Association (CAAMA) Music is celebrating 25 years of producing and fostering Aboriginal musical talent with a 4-CD compilation.

The release 'CAAMA Music: 25th Anniversary' compilation album includes legends such as Gus Williams, Herbie Laughton, Auriel Andrew, Roger Knox, Warumpi Band, Blekbala Mujik, Coloured Stone, as well as more recent additions to the CAAMA stable such as Spin FX, Frank Yamma, Letterstick Band, Deadheart, and Warren H. Williams.

Beginning in Alice Springs as Imparja Records in 1980, the initial recordings were made from the boot of a car, which travelled to Aboriginal communities as a mobile studio.

CAAMA Music is a mix of traditional and contemporary. The songs are sung in languages such as Arrernte, Pitjantjatjara, Walpiri, Gapapunynga, Gumnadg, as well as English.

The diversity of the music runs to rock, country and western, ambient, dance, gospel and reggae.

performing arts a hit for barkly region youth

OVER THE LAST TWO YEARS, THE NYINKKA NYUNYU YOUTH PERFORMING ARTS PROJECT IN TENNANT CREEK HAS MANAGED TO RE-ENGAGE THE YOUTH OF THE TOWN THROUGH DANCE, MUSIC AND DRAMA PERFORMANCES.



Initially the vision of the project was to inspire young people towards further education, training and employment by being engaged in performing arts workshops.

A significant outcome of the project has been experienced in education in relation to the re-engagement of disengaged students, and the retaining of students at school.

The partnering of arts, education, supported workplace learning and whole of community youth

development has provided a strong forum for social cohesion and inclusion. This has promoted self-esteem, emotional well being and reconciliation between youth communities in the region.

Since the project began the Barkly Region Youth have performed nine community performances. Each performance averaging 200 - 400 young people in workshops with between 35 - 100 young people performing in the event to audiences over 400 people.

The success of the project is partly due to partnerships with the NAISDA Dance College and the Australian Theatre for Young People (ATYP).

Nyinkka Nyunyu hopes to continue these partnerships to inspire young people in remote communities to pursue careers in dance. A cultural exchange program between traditional dancers, NAISDA students, graduates and Tennant Creek Youth is envisaged for the future.

The youth perform-



ing arts project has been funded by the Australian Government Department of Education, Science and Training with assistance from ARTS NT and NT DEET.

grass toyota wins top prize

THE CENTRALITY OF THE TOYOTA FOUR-WHEEL-DRIVE TO REMOTE ABORIGINAL COMMUNITIES, AND THE INNOVATIVE NATURE OF WEAVING FOR ONE COMMUNITY IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA, HAS LED TO THE AWARDED OF THE TOP PRIZE IN THIS YEAR'S 22ND TELSTRA NATIONAL ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER ART AWARD.

The work, 'Tjanpi Grass Toyota', a life-size replica of a Toyota truck woven from local grasses, by the Blackstone Tjanpi Weavers, featuring the work of Kantjupayi Benson, Nuniwa Donegan (deceased), Angaliya Mitchell, Margaret Donegan, Melissa Donegan, Mary Smith, Freda Lane,

Diedre Lane, Elaine Lane, Wendy Lane, Janet Lane, Janet Forbes, Shirley Bennett, Angela Lyon, Sarkaway Lyon, Ruby Forbes, and Jean Lane, took out the \$40,000 top prize in this year's awards, presented recently in Darwin.

Judges Doug Hall and Destiny Deacon described the winning work as 'a wonderfully witty, well-crafted and relevant work' derived from a community tradition of weaving and celebrating the four wheel drive as central to desert living for Aboriginal people.

Evelyn Pultara, of the Wilora community in the Northern Territory, won the General Painting



award for her work 'Yam Dreaming'.

In the Bark Painting section, artist Banduk Marika, assisted by Boliny Wanambi and Ralwurrandji Wanambi, from Yirrkala in north-east Arnhem Land, won with the work 'Yalangbara' featuring the Rirratjingu clan design.

Gayle Maddigan, of the Wertigia/Wamba Wamba language group in South Mandurang in Victoria was selected for best Work on Paper for her charcoal and ash piece 'Remembered Ritual'.

In the Wandjuk Marika 3D Memorial award, Naminapu Maymuru-White, of Yirrkala, won for a black and white log,

'Milngiyawuy', symbolising a Dreaming related to the souls that formed the stars to become the Milky Way.

Award winners were presented their prizes by dancers from Milingimbi, and welcomed to country by Larrakia woman Alice Mills.

Dancers from Elcho Island (Galiwinku) started the opening which featured a special appearance by Makassar master drummer, Daeng Mile, accompanied by dancers from the Indonesian island of Sulawesi to highlight the long association between them and the Yolngu in northern Australia based on trade from the mid-17th century.



Overall winner Kantjupayi Benson, of Blackstone Tjanpi Weavers



Banduk Marika



Gayle Maddigan

new NLC tourism officer

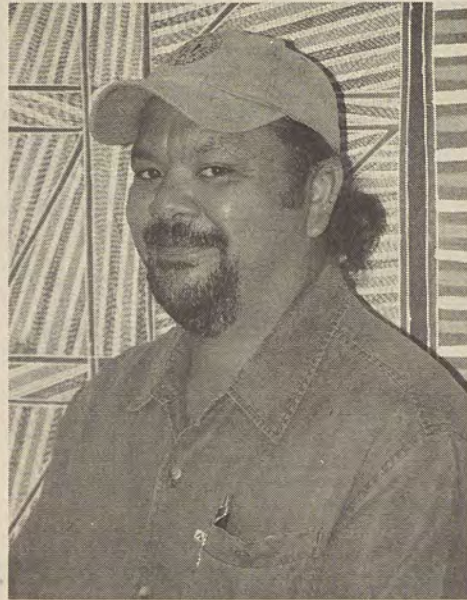
INDIGENOUS TOURISM OPERATORS STAND ON THE THRESHOLD OF A NEW AND EXCITING BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY ACCORDING TO THE NORTHERN LAND COUNCIL'S NEWLY APPOINTED ABORIGINAL TOURISM DEVELOPMENT OFFICER, CHRIS LEE.

Chris believes international visitors are moving away from mainstream tourism operations and are now seeking a more intimate one-on-one cultural experience offered by Indigenous operators.

"International visitors are keen to learn more about Aboriginal people and culture, so that they can walk away better informed and better educated about Aboriginal people, their obligations and responsibility to land and languages," Chris said.

With just six-months to initiate programs on the ground, Chris sees some positive benefits in the recent park's negotiations, with joint management and enterprise agreements already in place that can be capitalised upon immediately.

"Gregory National Park, it's one of the Scheduled One parks, it's one of the first to be returned, there is, whilst it's a complicated joint management agreement, there is opportunity for the traditional owners to be earning an income immediately. It provides them with an opportunity to use that income to develop other economic initiatives in Gregory National Park," Chris said.



"It's an area of enormous natural beauty. It has significant Aboriginal sites and art galleries and there are a number of ways traditional owners can develop small scale eco-tourism enterprises in the park."

A Larrakia man, Chris Lee is excited by the challenges that will be placed before him over the next six-months.

He plans to call upon the experiences learnt from his years involved in Aboriginal enterprise development, as well as the niche-market cultural tourism venture he operates and shares with his family.

"The job satisfaction to me is working in an Aboriginal organisation who has been fighting the good fight for the last 30-years. I see Aboriginal tourism as a great avenue for Aboriginal people," Chris said.

Chris Lee is quietly confident that the future for Indigenous cultural tourism, owned and operated by indigenous people themselves, is positive.



new studio for TEABBA

ABORIGINAL BROADCASTERS IN THE TOP END OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY HAVE CELEBRATED THE OPENING OF A NEW HOME IN THE DARWIN SUBURB OF PALMERSTON.

The new office for the Top End Aboriginal Bush Broadcasting Association (TEABBA) opened recently with celebrations that included dancers from Peppimenarti and Arnhemland, and Torres Strait Island dancers living in Darwin.

TEABBA manager Ella Geia said the new facilities would enable the organisation to better service the more than 30 community radio stations known as BRACS (Broadcasting Remote Aboriginal Community Scheme).

Communities that operate a BRACS unit within the TEABBA network include, Daguragu, Gunbalanya,

Jilkminggan, Lajamanu, Milikapiti, Peppinmenarti, Warruwi, Yirrkala, Minjilang, Numbulwar, Wadeye, Palumpa, Bulman, Minyiri, Pirlangimpi, Ramingining, Nguiu, Gapuwiyak, Ngukurr, Angurugu, Beswick, Umbakumba, Maningrida, Milingimbi, Barunga, Galiwinku and Kalkaringi.

The network provides remote Aboriginal communities access to local information important to their community and helps in the maintenance of culture and language in the Top End.

TEABBA, which was based on Dick Ward Drive in Coconut Grove, is now based at 886 Stuart Highway, Pinelands and can be contacted on (08) 8939 0400 or for more information visit - www.teabba.com.au

new legal service for top end

THE NORTH AUSTRALIAN ABORIGINAL JUSTICE AGENCY (NAAJA) HAS BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN WINNING THE TENDER FOR THE PROVISION OF LEGAL AID SERVICES FOR ABORIGINAL PEOPLE IN THE TOP END OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY.

The new company brings together the existing Aboriginal legal services of NAALAS (Darwin),

KRALAS (Katherine) and Miwatj Legal Service (Nhulunbuy).

Natalie Hunter, president of the

NAALAS council, said the successful tender ensures that the needs of clients is paramount.

"The way each service put aside differences and worked together to address the tender demonstrates our

ability to deliver legal aid to the Indigenous people in the Top End as NAAJA," Hunter said.

Commonwealth Attorney-General Philip Ruddock officially opened the new service at the NAALAS office in Darwin.

The contact for the new service is (08) 8982 5100.

By popular vote the People's Choice
has been awarded to
Leonie Young
Family's Bush Food Story 2005

22nd Telstra
National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander

art award

NT bands: music to our ears



2005 NT Indigenous Music Hall of Famers with NT Chief Minister Clare Martin and NSW Labor MP Peter Garrett



Geoffrey Gurumu Yunupingu

YILILA BAND, NABARLEK, SHELLIE MORRIS, WARREN H. WILLIAMS, CAAMA MUSIC AND LETTERSTICK BAND, JOINED LEGENDARY MUSICIANS THE MILLS FAMILY, THE MYSTICS, DICK MUNUNGGU, HERBIE LAUGHTON, GUS WILLIAMS, AURIEL ANDREW AND MR YAMMA SENIOR IN RECEIVING RECOGNITION FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTION TO AUSTRALIA'S MUSICAL ESTATE AT THE RECENT NT INDIGENOUS MUSIC AWARDS.

The cream of the Northern Territory's Indigenous music scene were on hand to accept accolades for their work at Marrara Stadium in Darwin, featuring performances by the Mills family, George Rurrumbu, Letterstick Band, Shellie Morris, Mandy Garling and Jessica Mauboy, Geoffrey Gurrumul Yunupingu, and Hall of Famers Herbie Laughton, Gus Williams, and Auriel Andrew.

Band of the Year went to the ever-popular Nabarlek band, with the most popular song on Indigenous radio going to Central Australian Warren H. Williams for his song

'Dreamtime Baby'.

Yilila Band from Numbulwar took out two awards for Best Music Release for 'Manila Manila' and for Song of the Year for 'Mijiyanga' written by Roderick Nundhirribala, Grant Nundhirribala, and Anthony Gray.

Jurtbirrk from Croker Island also scored two awards – Best CD/DVD Artwork and Design, and the Traditional Music Award – for their album 'Love Songs from Western Arnhem Land'.

Male Musician of the Year went to Geoffrey

Gurrumul Yunupingu, while Female Musician of Year went to popular singer/songwriter Shellie Morris.

Best New and Emerging Act award went to singer Mandy Garling, who also broadcasts her own music show on Aboriginal station, Radio Larrakia.

The new award for School Band of the Year recognised the efforts of Maningrida Brass Ensemble.

Two special awards were given to Alice Springs-based CAAMA Music, and the

Letterstick Band, for their Outstanding Contribution to the Music Industry.

A highlight of the night was the induction of several Territory icons into the NT Indigenous Music Hall of Fame.

Kathy and David Mills, The Mystics and Dick Mununggu were inducted from the Top End, while Herbie Laughton, Gus Williams, Auriel Andrew and Mr Yamma senior were honoured from Central Australia.

Jurtbirrk with their two awards



Yilila

