

LAND RIGHTS NEWS

Volume 10, Number 3, December 2007



INSIDE

NEW NLC CHAIRMAN, WELFARE AND
THE INTERVENTION, BLUE MUD BAY, MILPIRRI
CLC URLAMPE MEETING



SUPPORT LAND RIGHTS NEWS

The Land Rights movement needs a national voice. Land Rights News plays a vital role in this. Support the Land Rights movement and Land Rights News by subscribing below:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____

Phone: () _____

Standard subscription fee: \$30 a year.

International: \$US50 airmail,
\$US35 surface

Further donation: \$ _____

Send your subscription to:

**Land Rights News,
PO Box 42921, Casuarina, NT 0811.**



Children at the Amoonguna School are pedalling their way to health and fitness by hitting the streets of their community 30 kilometres south of Alice Springs. Every Thursday the kids put on their helmets and jump on their bikes for a few laps around the community with their school principal. It's all part of a new fitness regime for the kids. It's hoped a little exercise will help improve their health now and in later years.

Land Rights NEWS

Land Rights News: Is published by David Ross and Wali Wunungmurra for the Central and Northern Land Councils.

Projected publication dates: March 2008, July 2008, November 2008

Circulation: 13,000

Advertising: Classified, quarter, half, full page available, contact the Advertising Officer.

Contributions: Land Rights News welcomes items from Aboriginal people and Aboriginal organisations.

Deadlines for photographs and copy: Two weeks before publication; for advertising copy, one week before publication date. Contact the Advertising Officer.

Editorial, Advertising:

PO Box 3321, Alice Springs NT 0871
Ph: (0889) 516215 Fax: (0889) 534344

PO Box 42921, Casuarina NT 0811
Ph: (0889) 205100 Fax: (0889) 452615

Subscriptions:

PO Box 42921, Casuarina NT 0811
Ph: (0889) 205100 Fax: (0889) 452615

Accounts:

PO Box 3321, Alice Springs NT 0871
Ph: (0889) 516215 Fax: (0889) 534344

email: media@nlc.org.au
media@clc.org.au

web site: www.nlc.org.au
or www.clc.org.au

CONTENTS

BROUGHT OUT MACKLIN IN....	3	NITV SATELLITE DEAL.....	17
NEW NLC CHAIRMAN	4	CLC COUNCIL MEETING	18
MARTIN QUILTS	5	BLUE MUD BAY APPEAL	19
TENNANT NATIVE TITLE.....	6	HUMAN RIGHTS AWARDS	20
NLC MOVES HOME	7	MILPIRRI FESTIVAL	21
EYE BLITZ.....	8	GARKMAN EXHIBITION.....	22
INTERVENTION ANGER.....	9	LABOR PROMISES	23
RANGERS' VITAL ROLE.....	10	MUSIC AWARDS.....	24
MARION SCRYMGOUR	11		
NLC CELEBRATES 30 YEARS ..	12		
URANIUM ROADSHOW	13		
PINTUPI LURITJA SCHOOLS ...	14		
CULTURE.....	15		
OUTGOING NLC CEO	16		

COVER PHOTO

Voters queue up to cast their ballots during a Central Land Council meeting at Urlampe on the Northern Territory-Queensland border in November. Territory Aboriginal communities delivered a strong swing against the Coalition and its intervention in the federal election.

NEW MINISTER

for Aboriginal affairs

Aboriginal people in Australia have a new Minister. The Hon Jenny Macklin MP, 53, was sworn in as Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs in a ceremony in Canberra shortly after the landslide victory of the Labor Party on the 24th November this year.

Ms Macklin has held a number of shadow ministries in areas including family and community services, aged care, Indigenous affairs and reconciliation, and employment and training.

The Minister has also met with Aboriginal people in the Northern Territory on issues relating to the waste dump sites near Alice Springs and the intervention.

In stark contrast to her predecessor, Mal Brough who consistently refused to meet traditional owners, meetings with Ms Macklin and NT Aboriginal people are scheduled for this month in the Northern Territory.

CLC director David Ross said he thought Ms Macklin could probably learn from Mal Brough's mistakes.

"While we valued his fierce commitment to Aboriginal affairs,

his refusal to engage with the people he was purportedly trying to help and his grab bag of policies made on the run meant that valuable opportunities were lost. Many of his ideas were based on ideology rather than considered advice and that always spells failure. He underestimated people in the bush because he didn't talk to them although he was always saying he did.

"We are hopeful that this new Minister will have the commitment to change the way things are for the better, deal with the issues in a compassionate but practical way and engage people in their own futures.

"There is no doubt about it: we need change and open minds but we don't need to be punished and trampled on" Mr Ross said.

Labor policies and election promises see page 23



Above New Minister Jenny Macklin and below: a sign which appeared at Mutitjulu after the election



Howard and Brough dumped

The outgoing Prime Minister and the driving force behind the federal intervention into Northern Territory Aboriginal communities have both been dumped by voters in their electorates.



Former Prime Minister John Howard at Hermannsburg earlier this year with Ntaria Council CEO Gus Williams

John Howard and the former minister for Indigenous affairs Mal Brough both lost their seats in the recent federal election – Mr Howard in Bennelong and Mr Brough in Longman.

It's only the second time in Australia's history that a prime minister has lost his seat in an election.

The downfalls of Mr Howard and Mr Brough were celebrated by opponents of elements of the intervention. To those opponents, the pair had come to represent a dictatorial approach to Aboriginal affairs, but just after his defeat Mr Brough was defiant, telling reporters: "It just shows you they (voters) may like what you do, they may respect what you do, but that doesn't mean they will vote for you".

He said it's likely to be the end of his political career.

"At this point I have no intention of continuing on in politics," he said.

Mr Brough told the ABC that the intervention should continue in its present form.

"The work that we

have commenced in the Northern Territory, I just hope and pray continues."

Mr Howard had held his Sydney seat of Bennelong for 33 years. In his concession speech on election night Mr Howard took the Coalition's loss on his own shoulders.

"I take full responsibility for this campaign and I therefore accept full responsibility for the defeat in this election," said.

Mr Howard said he also regretted the loss of Mr Brough.

"I particularly grieve the loss of Mal Brough, who led the indigenous intervention in the Northern Territory, which was an absolute watershed," he said.

"I hope that the new government of (this) country maintains that intervention because it is very important to the long-term benefit of the first Australians."

Mr Brough lost his Queensland seat of Longman after suffering a 10.3 percent swing against him. A 5.4 percent swing to Labor was enough for Mr Howard to lose Bennelong.

Swing to Snowdon in the bush

Voters in Aboriginal communities have backed the sitting Labor member in Lingiari Warren Snowdon, who retained his place in parliament.

Lingiari takes in the whole of the Northern Territory except for Darwin and Palmerston. Critically, it includes each of the Aboriginal communities

affected by the federal intervention.

Mr Snowdon mostly received swings to him in remote booths, the greatest was almost 20 percent (98 percent of first preferences) in remote booths.

But he experienced swings against him, and towards the Country Liberal Party candidate Adam Giles, at urban

booths.

Overall though, Mr Snowdon won a 5.37 percent swing towards him.

He's represented the seat, in two goes, for almost 20 years and has been rewarded by the new Prime Minister Kevin Rudd who has made Mr Snowdon the Minister for Defence, Science and Personnel.

"What we will be doing is what we said we'll do ... reinstating CDEP and permits," he said.

Maurie Ryan Japarta who stood as an Independent, listed Snowdon last on his how-to-vote cards and gave his preferences to the CLP. Mr Ryan picked up only 2.57 per cent of the vote.



New chairman for the NLC



NLC Chairman Mr Wali Wunungmurra

The Northern Land Council (NLC) has a new chairman.

East Arnhem Land traditional owner, Mr Wali Wunungmurra*, was elected to the position at the NLC's Full Council meeting held at Lake Bennett Resort in November.

Mr Wunungmurra has a long association with the NLC, and was an interpreter during the Gove Land Rights case. He is also the last surviving signatory to the Bark Petition presented to the federal government in 1963.

With a significant background in community affairs, Mr Wunungmurra brings a wealth of traditional knowledge and experience to the Chairman's position. He will be ably supported by Mr Sammy Bush-Blanasi who has been returned as deputy Chair.

With their combined depth of knowledge and experience, Wunungmurra and Bush-Blanasi represent a solid leadership group for the NLC.

(* = pronounced... 'Wa-lee Wun-ung-murra')



Deputy Chair Sammy Bush-Blanasi

NLC Council and Executive 2008

Note:
Executive members marked in bold

Darwin/Daly/Wagait

Pauline Baban, Mona Banderson
Felix Bunduc, **Margaret Daiyi**
Betty Daly, Bill Danks
Calvin Deveraux, William Hewitt
David Kenyon, Wally Minjin
Alex Nilco, Eddie Shields
John Sullivan, Harold Wilson

Katherine

Bill Harney, **Samuel Bush-Blanasi**, Helen Lee, Preston Lee, Brian Manyita, Lazarus Murray, Robert Smiler

VRD

Duncan Bero, George Campbell, Peter Chubb, **Roy Harrington**, Jerry Jones, Shadrack Retchford

West Arnhem

Solomon Cooper, **Bunug Galaminda**, Dene Herreen, Jenny Inmulugulu, Conrad Maralngurra, Phillip Mikinj Mikinj, Matthew Nagalbin, Shane Namanurki, Leanne Payne-Alderson, Matthew Ryan, Helen Williams, Dean Yibarbuk

East Arnhem

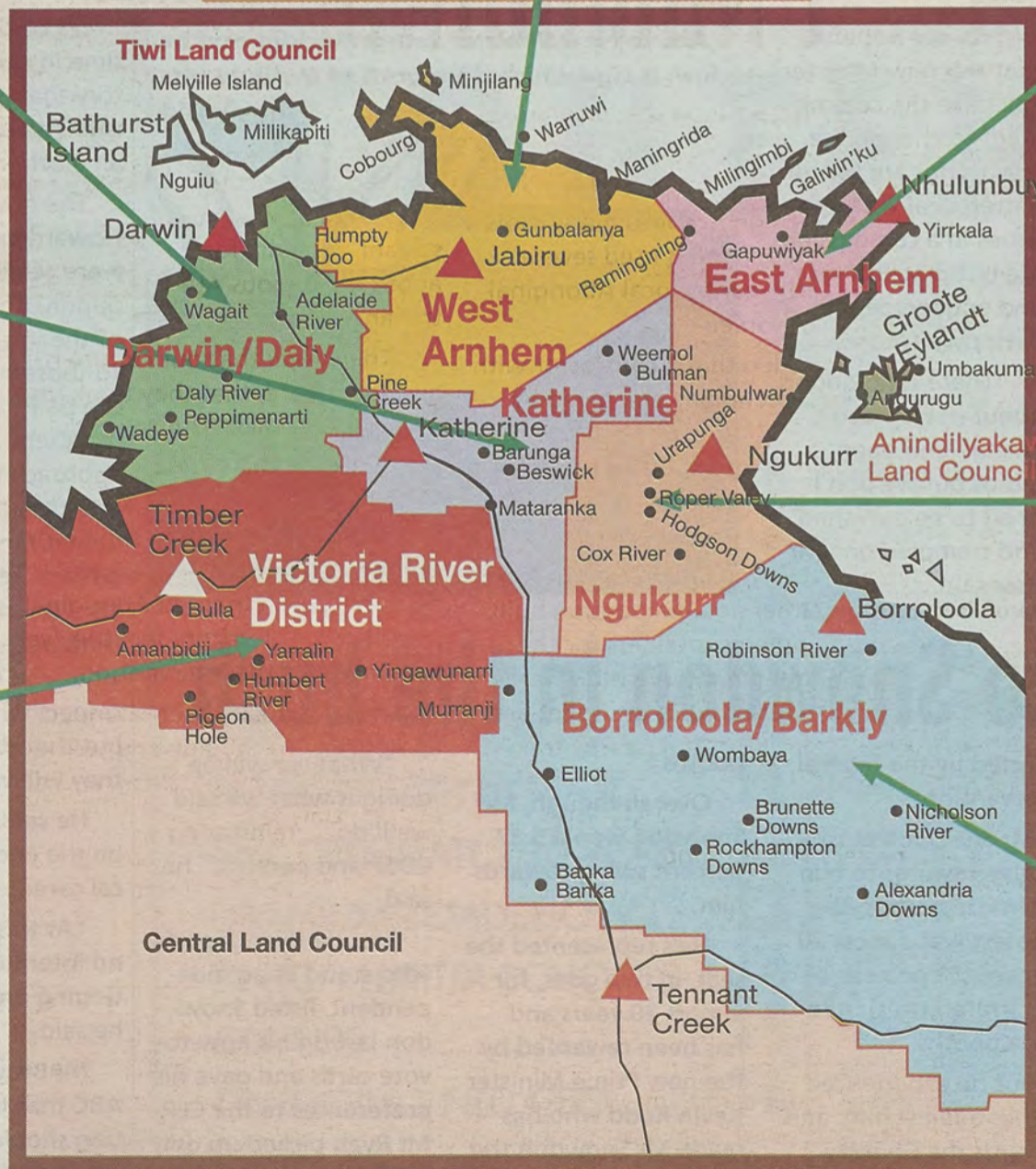
Wesley Bandi Bandi, Jimmy Burpur, Alfred Djawanydjawany, Richard Gandhuwuy, Ronnie Garrawurra, Jason Guyula, **Dhuwarrwarr Marika**, Witiyana Marika, David Marpiyawuy, Djambawa Marrawilli, Jack Munyarirr, Jonathon Nunggumajbarr, Don Wininba, Shirley Wunungmurra, **Wali Wunungmurra**, Dhundhana (Daniel) Yunupingu

Ngukurr

Daphanie Daniels, Davis Daniels, Joaquin Huddleston, Peter Larsen, **Jacob Larsen**, Paul Namamurdirdi, Edwin Bundurr, Rami Nunggumajbarr, Walter Rogers, Timothy Wurrarama

Borrooloola/Barkly

John Clarke, David Cutter, **Jeffrey Dixon**, Noel Dixon, John Finlay, Roy Hammer, Jack Hogan, Harry Larsen, Amy Lauder, Brian Limerick, Kevin Neade, Gordon Noonan, Leonard Norman



Martin quits, Henderson takes over and Scrymgour's promoted

Paul Henderson has taken over from Clare Martin as the Northern Territory's chief minister with Marion Scrymgour elected as his deputy.

Ms Martin and her deputy Syd Stirling resigned from their leadership positions in November saying the time was right for a change.

"You have to look at when the time is right," Ms Martin said at a press conference to announce their res-

ignation. "A new Labor government in Canberra is an opportunity to make that decision now."

She said the former Coalition government's intervention in Northern Territory Aboriginal communities had contributed to her decision.

"Every single day has been tough. With this job, you need to have a lot of energy, you need to have lots of ability to meet the challenges and that has been part of my

decision-making."

Both Ms Martin and Mr Stirling continue in parliament for the remainder of their terms.

Clare Martin led the Labor Party to power in 2001 after 27 years of Country Liberal Party rule. For the past six years, apart from being Chief Minister, she's also been the NT's indigenous affairs minister.

That role will now be taken up by Ms Scrymgour who also becomes the NT's deputy chief

minister. She's the first Aboriginal person to hold the deputy's position at state or territory government level.

"I often get bit offended when people just see myself as a black person and I only represent Aboriginal people because I've got brothers-in-law that come from many different cultures, that's Dutch, that's Chinese, so we call ourselves the Heinz variety family because it is a diverse mix of cultures and it

is about representing all of those cultures, not just my own," Ms Scrymgour said.

Paul Henderson said he hopes to move the intervention forward in a cooperative manner with the new federal Labor government.

He told ABC radio: "Well, look I don't think there is going to be any wholesale roll-back but what we do have to do is to move forward and to move forward positively."

"There are a few areas where we still disagree in terms of the previous government, particularly under (former indigenous affairs minister) Mal Brough.

"Let's move forward in a spirit of cooperation rather than intervention and let's engage indigenous people in these reforms, let's get some ownership of these reforms, let's get some commitment for the reforms."

Outrage as toilet is built on sacred site at Numbulwar

The digging of a pit toilet in ceremonial ground on the Gulf of Carpentaria has brought the Federal Government's intervention under investigation.

The toilet was dug as part of the intervention into the Northern Territory Aboriginal communities and is now being investigated by the Northern Land Council and the Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority.

Officials from the NLC and AAPA joined traditional owners from Numbulwar, about 600kms south-

east of Darwin, in documenting the alleged desecration site, located close to the 1000-strong community.

The sacred site is considered ceremonially significant to many clans in the region, and is used several times each year by local Aboriginal men and women

It's alleged that a contractor with NT Link, a company employed by the Federal Intervention into the Northern Territory, dug a pit toilet on a sacred site.

It is reported that the NT Link workers arrived late in October to put together accommodation built from shipping containers for the incoming team intervention workers, and were told to use toilet and shower facilities at a nearby training centre.

Traditional owner, and NLC project officer, Bobby Numggumajbarr, said the site was culturally significant, and off limits to local children.

"This ground is very, very important to us," he said. "It's a significant site for us, and that's where we practice our ceremony. We keep this one well away from most people, especially children."

Numbulwar Council chairman

Billy Gumana said the symbol of locating a toilet in the middle of a sacred site could be seen as how mainstream Australia feels about Indigenous Australians.

"They think that our culture is a toilet culture, that they think it's not real," he said. "But to us it's real, because we belong to this ground."

Former NLC chairman John Daly said the alleged desecration reflects how marginalised Aboriginal people in the Territory feel they've become since the intervention.

"We've actually been shunned and pushed to the side and we haven't been part of the process at all," Mr Daly said.

The Operational commander of the intervention taskforce Major General David Chalmers said if proven, the behaviour of the contractors is 'appalling'.

"If the allegation is correct, I think its thoughtless behaviour and it's appalling," he said.

The Territory's AAPA, which administers the Sacred Sites Act, is investigating the matter, and will



pass any evidence it finds onto the Justice Department to consider if any prosecutions are warranted.

Top: Numbulwar traditional owner and NLC project officer Bobby Numggumajbarr pictured beside the sign that warns of a sacred site where a pit toilet (above) was dug.

Blue Mud Bay High court appeal

A group of 80 traditional owners from across the Top End of the Northern Territory travelled to Canberra in early December to attend sittings of the High Court.

The reason? To hear evidence given in the NT Government's appeal against the Federal Courts ruling in the Blue Mud Bay native title case.

In March this year the Federal Court granted traditional owners exclusive access to waters in the NT between the high and low water mark. The decision impacts on the NT government's right to grant commercial fishing licences.

The Northern Land Council's acting Chief Executive, John Christophersen, said it was important for traditional owners to attend.

"This is the biggest case regarding Aboriginal issues in the Northern Territory since the Gove land rights case in the 1960's," Mr Christophersen said.

"It is important that people were there to listen to the legal arguments delivered to the court. But, it was also important for the court to see that Aboriginal people have a direct interest on issues that impact on their lives."

Since the Federal Court's decision

in March, interim arrangements have been made in regards to commercial and recreational fishing in the NT, allowing the status quo to remain.

"The interim arrangements were necessary to allow for people affected by the Federal Court's decision to be provided with some form of surety," Mr Christophersen said.

In the event of a determination in favour of traditional owners, Mr Christophersen said a 12-month amnesty will be enacted while a negotiated outcome is pursued with all effected parties.

"People have nothing to fear," Mr Christophersen said. "I envisage that consultations will commence that will allow for a win-win outcome to be achieved, and the NLC will work hard towards achieving this goal."

The High Court isn't expected to announce its decision until early 2008.



Left: the delegation walk to the High Court; Above, new NLC Chair Mr Wali Wunungmurra outside Parliament House

Yanyuwa launch sea country plan

Explaining the relationship between Yanyuwa people and the sea country surrounding the Borroloola township in the Gulf of Carpentaria is the aim of a new marine management plan launched recently in Borroloola.

The Yanyuwa Sea Country Plan is one of five pilot sea country plans by the Australian Government's National Oceans Office as a means to engage coastal Indigenous communities in marine planning.

The other four plans are: *Thuwanth/Bujimulli Sea Country plan* in south-east Gulf of Carpentaria; *Dhimurru Sea Country Plan* in north-east Arnhemland; *Kooyang Sea Country Plan* in south-west Victoria; and *Ngarrindjeri Sea Country Plan* in south-eastern South Australia.

Dinah Norman Marrngawi, Yanyuwa traditional owner explains the significance the relationship between the Yanyuwa and the sea:

Let me tell you something, the sea, the saltwater, the waves, they are my mother, the sea is my mother, it is her ancestral being. I know this, I have known this since I was small. Further I will tell you the sea has names, many names, names for the reefs, names for the sea grass beds, names for the sand bars, and the sea has boundaries, we know these boundaries, they did not come here recently. From the time of the Spirit Ancestors and our



human ancestors they have been there. Our songs and ceremony are also in sea, they are running through the sea both along the bottom of the sea and they also rise and travel on the surface of the sea. White people think the sea is empty that it has no Law, but the Law and the ceremony is there in the salt water, in the fish, in

the sea birds, the dugong and the turtle, it is there and we knowledgeable people are holding it."

Above: Stephen Johnston, Graham Friday, Steve Johnson, Damien Pracy and Thomas Simon jnr

NLC opens new office



Northern Land Council



The Northern Land Council has a new office building.

After more than a decade in the previous location of Casuarina, the NLC made the move to Darwin's Central Business District in July this year.

New details
 Street address:
 45 Mitchell Street,
 Darwin
 Postal address:
 PO Box 1222, Darwin NT
 0801
 Phone:
 (08) 8920 5100
 Freecall:
 1800 645 299
 Website:
 www.nlc.org.au

Top: Kenbi dancers at the office opening
Above: Timber creek dancers
Below l-r :Yula Williams and former NT Administrator Ted Egan cut the ribbon, Masked Timber Creek dancer, Mandawuy Yunupingu with musicians and dancers



New CLC office in 2008



Artists impression of the new building to be built opposite the CLC's current office on North Stuart Highway in Alice Springs

The first sod has been turned on the site that will become the new home of the Central Land Council.

The multi-million dollar building will consolidate the CLC's five Alice Springs offices in one purpose-built complex, leaving only the royalties office at a separate location.

Federal Government approval of the \$10 million construction follows seven years of negotiations and will bring many benefits for the community as a whole and the people the CLC represents.

CLC director David Ross said the new building will improve efficiencies for the council's operations.

"It means staff won't have to waste time and money

moving between the various offices and the time delays that brings will be avoided and our constituents needing to visit staff who had previously been located in different parts of Alice Springs will have just the one office to go to," Mr Ross said.

"It will also reduce running costs associated with the multiple locations and the building will achieve a four star green star design rating."

The green star rating system assesses the environmental performance of building designs. The new CLC building design has a four-star or "best practice" rating.

Construction work has already begun this month, with

CLC staff expected to move in before February 2009.

The project's funded from the Aboriginal Benefits Account as well as money raised through the sale of the CLC's current building on the Stuart Highway.

"This is a pivotal point in the Land Council's history," Mr Ross said. "We've struggled for this new building for so long.

"From originally holding land council meetings in the river bed, this new building represents how far we've all come in the struggle for representation of Aboriginal people in Central Australia and will be something the people we work for will be proud of," Mr Ross said.



Seeing clearly after the Fred Hollows blitz



Dr Tim Henderson checks Banjo Morton's eyes after surgery

About 50 people from Aboriginal communities around Central Australia have benefited from the Fred Hollows Foundation's latest eye surgery blitz.

The Central Australian Eye Health Program is coordinated by the Fred Hollows Foundation and involves the Central Australian Aboriginal Congress, Anyinginyi Health Aboriginal Corporation, the Eye Foundation and the Commonwealth and Territory governments.

The program's manager Chris Masters said the aim of the blitz is to catch up on a waiting list that sees 320 patients waiting on eye surgery at the Alice Springs Hospital. He said 80 percent of those people are indigenous.

"The program is essential because in past years there has been a failure to meet the demand for comprehensive eye health services in Central Australia," he said.

About 50 patients were treated during the latest blitz over five days in early November.

One of them was Banjo Morton from Ampilatwatja, north-east of Alice Springs, who had his left eye operated on after his right eye was

treated in an earlier blitz. Mr Morton said he'd encourage anyone to be treated.

"This one alright now. It's really good," he said. "I'll tell em alright. It change alright. I'd tell em operation ok. It don't hurt that much."

The head of ophthalmology at the Alice Springs Hospital Dr Tim Henderson says word is getting around to people in bush communities about the benefits of having the surgery.

"There's a natural reticence from people to come into hospital but it's getting easier,"

Dr Tim Henderson

"There's a natural reticence from people to come into hospital but it's getting easier," he said. "Banjo had his operations because his brother had the operation six to seven years ago."

Dr Henderson said many patients find the surgery improves their lifestyle greatly, including their sight when hunting.

"If you can get rid of the dense cataract and put a new intraocular lens in the eye, then very often the patient will get back to the level of vision they had when they were children or young adults," he said.

Dr Henderson says an operation isn't always required and sometimes patients simply need a pair of glasses to be prescribed.

Alarming dementia figures for the bush

Research in the Kimberley region by the University of Western Australia has found the prevalence of dementia among rural and indigenous people could be up to five times higher than for the rest of the Australian community.

The findings are outlined in the report: *Dementia - A Major Health Problem for Indigenous People*.

Alzheimer's Australia NT said the report found that 12.4 percent of people aged over 45 had dementia, compared to a rate of 2.6 percent in the general Australian population of the same age.

"Although more research is needed, there is now evidence to show that dementia and service provision are issues that need to be addressed in indigenous communities in the Northern Ter-

ritory," the executive director of Alzheimer's Australia NT Marianne Fitch said.

"This recent Kimberley study shows that we do have a dementia epidemic on our hands in the Northern Territory and we need to put services and training in place to meet the need," Ms Fitch said.

Alzheimer's Australia NT said about 800 Territorians have been diagnosed with dementia with another 200 new cases expected to be diagnosed this year.

It said a National Indigenous Dementia Forum last year recommended a national strategy to deal with the increasing number of dementia cases. Alzheimer's Australia NT also wants the Territory Government to urgently develop its own indigenous dementia strategy.

The power and influence of "think tanks" overflowing

A public medical health officer with the Aboriginal Health Council of South Australia has warned about the influence policy "think tanks" are having on government and business in Australia.

David Scrymgeour moved to Alice Springs 30 years ago to work with the Central Australian Aboriginal Congress and has lived and worked in many remote Aboriginal communities. Now in Adelaide, he's a lecturer at the University of Adelaide.

Earlier this year he presented a paper at the Public Health Association of Australia Conference in Alice Springs. Speaking after the conference - but before the recent federal election - Mr Scrymgeour warned the think tanks, which develop conservative policy and lobby governments had a great amount of influence within the former Howard Government.

"The neo-liberal think tanks, the

conservative think tanks based in Sydney and Melbourne, the Centre for Independent Studies and the Institute of Public Affairs and their associated organisation the Benelong Society they're well funded by corporate interests, particularly the mining companies, they have strong links with the media, particularly The Australian (newspaper)."

Mr Scrymgeour said the think tanks are in favour of moving people from small remote Aboriginal communities to larger centres.

"Health reasons have been given as one reason that there needs to be changes in land rights and where Aboriginal people should live with the suggestion that the Aboriginal health problem is largely confined to remote communities," Mr Scrymgeour said.

"This in fact is wrong. Aboriginal disadvantage is pretty widely spread across Australia.

Hurried Intervention erodes support in bush

Waking up one day to find a five-year lease has been imposed on your community and a new person, named a 'Business Manager', is wandering around your community is, unsurprisingly, another element of the Intervention which has caused anger and disbelief in the bush.

The Business Manager's accommodation was just constructed one day with no consultation with the community and, furthermore, he is apparently there to keep an eye on you and he's got power. Lots of it.

This was the experience of traditional landowners in Ampilatwatja who woke up recently to find builders erecting a building without any discussion with traditional landowners about where the building should be located, or the presence of sacred sites:

"They just arrived and put up a house and a fence and then there was a new man

Manager

"We don't understand the intervention, it came in too quick. "The community was blind, we didn't know it was coming. Parliament passed it really quick. They should have talked to leaders, they should have explained. The Minister should have come out here. They shouldn't just rush it through parliament" (Feedback from CLC Region 7, Nov 13).

"Yuendumu has a Business Manager but we don't know him or what he does." (meeting Yuendumu Oct 3).

"He should be informing us about the changes but he's doing

(Meeting Yuendumu October 3).

"We don't support this. Why should we lose our control when they just want to fix up the houses? They are welcome to build new houses without taking over our land" (Feedback from CLC Region 7, Nov 13).

Traditional landowners are extremely concerned that most of the current lease boundaries cover sacred sites and 'keeping places' for cultural objects that are often located on the edge of communities.

Traditional landowners have raised these concerns repeatedly with the CLC, in

"We don't understand the intervention, it came in too quick. The community was blind, we didn't know it was coming. Parliament passed it really quick. They should have talked to leaders, they should have explained. They Minister should have come out here. They shouldn't just rush it through parliament" (Feedback from CLC Region 7, Nov 13).

there. No one talked to the community at all", said one traditional owner.

Similarly, at Yuendumu building the Business Manager's accommodation caused significant problems. The team of workers who installed the accommodation bulldozed a humpie that someone was living in, and located the accommodation next to a sorry camp according to Yuendumu locals.

In some communities, traditional landowners and community members have been completely unaware that a five year lease had been placed over their community, despite the presence of a Government Business

nothing...He's just driving around" (Feedback from CLC Region 2, Nov 13).

Traditional landowners remain strongly opposed to the placement of five year leases across Aboriginal communities in central Australia:

"This lease is no good. The government is taking over and traditional landowners will be nothing...Government is going to be the traditional landowner" (Feedback from CLC Region 1, Nov 13).

"We don't like the lease. We want the red line off the map. The government has gotta explain what it is. The government is forgetting our rights"

a number of different communities:

"That boundary is too big. We men don't want that one...Its got cultural areas and mukka mukka [sacred sites] in there" (Meeting Ampilatwatja Oct 16).

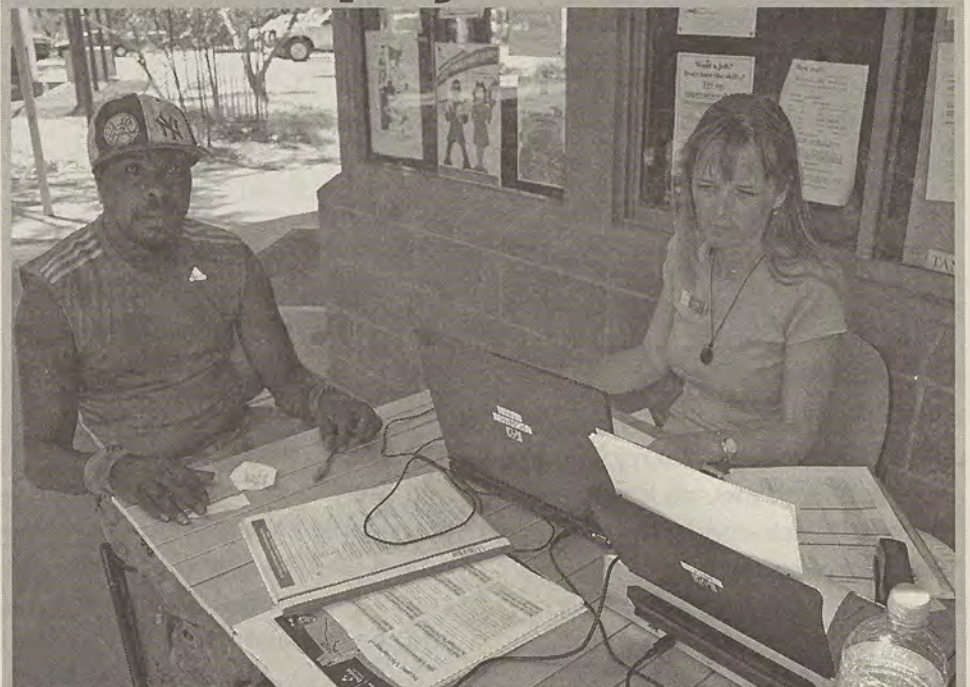
"This is terrible. There is ceremony grounds inside that line. The Government Business Manager shouldn't have authority over those areas" ((Feedback from CLC Region 8, Nov 13).

"The government got one thing wrong: they should target the perpetrators. Instead they have done everything because of the report and are targeting everyone." (Yuendumu community)



Above: Taskforce head General Chalmers makes a point to Valerie Martin at the Yuendumu store

Welfare payment chaos



Gabriel Pareloutja signs up to quarantine his payments with Centrelink at Tangentyere Council

Chaos has ruled the roll out of welfare reform in Central Australia by Centrelink leading to confusion, missed payments and people left destitute and unable to find their money.

The welfare reforms have already been rolled out in the first groups of communities including Mutitjulu, Imanpa, Finke, Titjikala, Hermannsburg, Areyonga, Wallace Rockhole, Santa Teresa, and Tjuwumpa.

Aboriginal people have told the Central Land Council, which has written a preliminary report on the roll out of the intervention, that they found the implementation too fast, too

complicated and unfair.

"The roll out happened too fast. They came and told us about the changes but we didn't know what they were talking about" (Feedback from CLC Region 1, Nov 13).

"Old people are finding the paperwork really hard".

"Some old people still haven't got their money. They are starving while that money is building up somewhere but they can't find it" (Meeting Titjikala Nov 6).

"The roll out happened too fast. They came and told us about the changes but we didn't know what they were talking about" (CLC meeting, Nov 13).

continued p16

Rangers vital for nation's security

Top End ranger groups say their future funding is crucial for Australia's 'bio-protection'.

A conference attracting about 200 rangers from across the northern regions of the Territory has heard that scrapping Community Development Employment Projects, or CDEP, would leave Australia open to the threats brought by diseases, weeds and feral animals.

The outgoing Coalition federal government had moved to scrap CDEP programs across the Territory as part of its intervention into communities, but the incoming Labor government has promised to return CDEP under a revamped structure.

The importance of CDEP programs in the Top End was emphasised at the conference near Borroloola on the Gulf of Carpentaria.

It heard that rangers help protect Australia's northern border from the scourge of diseases such as bird flu, dengue fever and Japanese encephalitis, as well as feral weed infestation, and providing feral animal control.

Ngukurr ranger Cherry Daniels says the work they do is essential for the future well-being of her traditional country.

"A lot of us, like me and my girls, we are very proud of what

we are doing, us rangers, because you know, it's caring for our country," she said.

The Northern Land Council has called on the Federal Government to maintain investment in its Caring for Country (CFC) program.

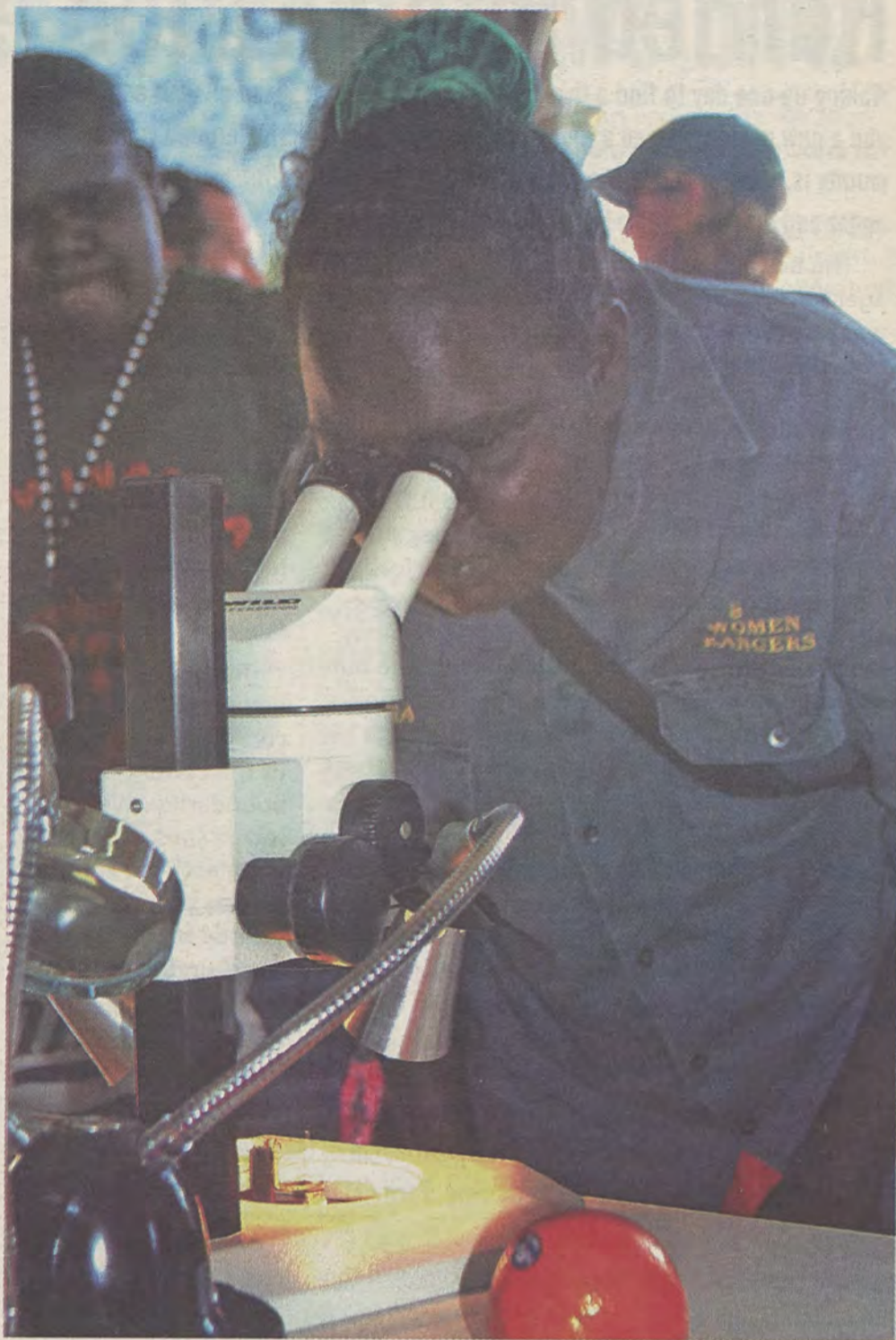
"The NLC's CFC program supports over 400 Aboriginal rangers, with most of the workers supported by CDEP," former NLC chief executive Norman Fry said.

"It is critical that investment is maintained into the CFC program to keep these workers on the job."

The NLC is concerned that the removal of the CDEP program would have a significant negative impact on the ability of the NLC's CFC program to continue to deliver environmental services on Aboriginal land and waters.

"Without a sufficient number of rangers in the CFC program, large land management tasks such as prescribed burning, feral animal control and the control of mimosa and other exotic vegetation can not be undertaken effectively or safely," Mr Fry said.

NLC executive member Bunug Galaminda, of Goulburn Island, said the CFC program gave Aboriginal people employment on Aboriginal land, healthier lifestyles, and promoted sustainable land and sea management.



Land and sea rangers in the Northern Territory's Top End provide vital monitoring and protection work guarding against the arrival or spread of foreign diseases, feral weeds and pests.



A dozen rangers from around Central Australia attended the National Land and Sea Management Conference in Queensland in October. The conference was held on Hinchinbrook Island and included a festival. Rangers from Tennant Creek, Lajamanu, Docker River, Yuendumu and Ntaria represented Central Australian ranger groups at the conference.

International research

Rangers from the Western Desert are helping preserve species for future generations.

The Kaltukatjara Rangers at Docker River in the south-west of the Territory are taking part in an international conservation program aimed at protecting the region's unique plant and animal species.

The rangers have been carrying out fieldwork for the Millennium Seed Bank Project, which is coordinated through the Territory's Environment Department, the Desert Park, Herbarium and Central Land Council.

The Millennium Seed Bank Project is an international conservation program that aims to collect 10 percent of the world's wild plant species within a decade. Priority is given to seeds from species that

are either endemic, endangered or have economic values. The collected seeds are then stored in another environment where they remain alive and usable for decades or even centuries.

The Northern Territory is aiming to collect 550 new species by the end of 2010. Recently, about 10 of the Kaltukatjara Rangers helped locate and collect approximately 25 species.

The Rangers are now working with the Greening Australia Water for Life project, fencing significant waterholes from camels and monitoring their recovery. These waterholes are significant for their cultural significance but crucially they are an important refuge for wetland plants and a source of water for desert animals.

MARION MAKES HISTORY

As the first Aboriginal woman in Australia to become the deputy leader of a government Marion Scrymgour now faces the daunting task of turning around the woeful state of the Northern Territory's Indigenous education system and achieving where others before her failed...

Marion Scrymgour learnt how to debate and fight for her rights while growing up as one of 11 children in her Darwin family. Firstly it was for survival, then it became fun and now it's her profession.

That Ms Scrymgour is now the deputy chief minister of the Northern Territory is more by luck than design she says. It wasn't a life-long dream.

"Not at all, not at all," she says, "but my Dad always said I was a little bit mad. I always wanted to have the last say and I was always the one who debated a lot of things so I think that came from living in a, growing up with 10 brothers and sisters you learn to become a bit of a hard head and to fight.

"Look I didn't enter politics to become the first of anything and I've often said that. I came in to make a change I often get a bit offended when people just see myself as a black person and I only represent Aboriginal people because I've got brothers-in-law that come from many different cultures, that's Dutch, that's Chinese, so we call ourselves the Heinz variety family because it is a diverse mix of cultures and it is about representing all of those cultures not just my own."

But intended or

not, Marion Scrymgour now has her own chapter in Australia's history as she's the first indigenous person to be elevated to the deputy leadership of a state or territory government.

Ms Scrymgour was elected to the Territory Parliament as the Member for Arafura in 2001, elevated to a parliamentary secretary's position in 2002 and promoted to the ministry as the Minister for Family and Community Services in 2003.

Her political career has included some controversy. As the Minister for the Environment last year she knocked back the proposed expansion of the McArthur River

"...we call ourselves the Heinz variety family because it is a diverse mix of cultures and it is about representing all of those cultures not just my own"

Mine near Borroloola on environmental grounds. It was later approved by the government, which passed new legislation overruling a court decision to ensure it was able to go ahead.

This year Ms Scrymgour came under fire from the former Federal Indigenous Affairs Minister Mal Brough for condemning his and John Howard's motivation in launching the intervention into Northern Territory Aboriginal communities.

"I'm a firm believer in putting out provocative statements to generate, look, a little bit of

debate doesn't hurt and sometimes my honesty and my talking like it is often frightens people," Ms Scrymgour said.

"I think people don't like the frankness or the honesty in that. I can't help that. I was reared to.

"That's just who I am. I'm going to come under fire, which I was a bit cranky with."

Now with the indigenous affairs portfolio, as well as the Family and Community Services and Education briefs, Ms Scrymgour herself has the power in key departments to make a difference to the lives of indigenous children living in remote commu-

nities.

The Territory's previous indigenous affairs minister, Clare Martin, was also the Chief Minister and she says she was worn down by persistent conflict with the former Coalition federal government, especially since the launch of the intervention.

Ms Scrymgour said she can work with the incoming Labor federal government and its indigenous affairs minister Jenny Macklin to make the intervention work.

"I think we've got a bit of work to do and certainly Jenny Macklin and I had a long discus-



Above: Marion Scrymgour in her office

sion about this," she said. "There are some positive measures in all of that intervention. Look the money needs to stay and I said that to Jenny Macklin.

"The intervention that's there, it's not going to go but we do need to make sure it's done in a more respectful way so that it works and it gets the outcomes because we've not seen one child protection (action).

"Kids are still sleeping in houses with 20 other people and that's the challenge that's got to be done."

A key to successfully raising the living standards in remote communities is improving the education outcomes for children.

Ms Scrymgour says changes need to be made to the way things have

been done in the past.

"All my discussions with the department since becoming education minister are that the pillars have got to change, you know, the silos have got to be knocked down," she said.

"I think there's some good people in the department. There's been people who have been wanting to be creative and think outside the square to get outcomes and certainly as a minister I want that change to happen and I've been articulating some of those changes to the CEO that certainly needs to happen to get that shift on the ground in communities."

Marion Scrymgour may have already

re-written the political history books, but she has vast challenges ahead of her to overcome the historic shortfalls in education and health standards for Aboriginal Territorians.

She says one of the keys to achieving this is to get Aboriginal families to value education like her family did.

"That was the basis in which we were brought up, that if you wanted something you had to earn it and you had to work for it and to do that you needed an education.

"So very strict parents in terms of school and making sure we stayed in school and that was what we were brought up with

NLC exhibition celebrates 30 years

An exhibition celebrating the struggle for land rights in the Northern Territory over the last 30 years was launched recently in Darwin Supreme Court.

'Land is Life' celebrates the 30-year history of the Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act, and was opened at the Supreme Court building in Darwin with traditional dancing by the Timber Creek dancers and a musical performance by Geoffrey Gurumal Yunupingu.

Former NLC chairman John Daly said many of the photographs featured on the panels had never been publicly displayed before.

"I look at this photographic exhibition and I see the enormous contribution that Aboriginal people have made to the cultural life of the Territory," Mr Daly said.

"I see the success of land rights – for land is life, land is language,



ceremony, music, painting, history and law."

The Commonwealth Parliament passed the Land Rights Act on a bipartisan basis in December 1976.

Since then, the Aboriginal people of the Top End have been through a long and arduous land claims process, which is only now coming to a close.



Above: the Mills Sisters perform at the 30 year anniversary launch at the Esplanade. Left and below: The banners



JACK COOK'S STORIES IN PRINT

Traditional stories about the land and culture of the Anmatyerr people have been published in a book and audio CD launched at Yuelamu in September.

Anengkerr angkety Dreaming Stories contains seven stories told by Anmatyerr elder Jack Cook Ngai.

Batchelor Press Manager Maree Klesch said the stories were compiled as part of a Mt Allan school project to record the lives and culture of the Anmatyerr people.

"Students from the Certificate courses in Own Language Work at Batchelor Institute created the artworks accompanying the stories

"These students are residents of Mt Allan and Laramba (Napperby) communities and many are close relatives of Jack and also teach in Anmatyerr schools," Ms Klesch said.

Alice Springs based linguist, Jenny Green, who also worked on the project, says the Dreaming stories in the book were told in the Anmatyerr language by Jack in 2004, as he remembers them being told to him by his grandparents when he was young.

"The whole process of recording and translating has taken time but the end result is a fantastic resource to share with a wider audience and will assist the elders to pass on the stories of their ancestors and keep their culture strong," Jenny Green said.

This book project involved close cooperation between the Institute for Aboriginal Development (IAD) and the Batchelor Institute.

The project was originally funded by ATSILIP (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Languages Initiative Program) with a grant to record community histories at Mt Allan. Other financial support was provided by Batchelor Institute.

Right: Back row: Caroline Stafford, Lisa Cook, Sharon Briscoe, Rowena Larry and Rosina Stafford
l to r front: Jack Cook and David MacCormack at Yuelamu



Traditional owners talk uranium

With an explosion in uranium exploration applications for the Northern Territory in recent years, traditional owners are likely to soon be thrust into the spotlight of the national uranium debate.

Booming world uranium prices have driven mining companies to frantically search for new areas to mine the controversial resource and with Central Australia rich in the mineral, it's receiving vastly more attention from mining companies.

The Central Land Council's mining section is currently working on more than 30 applications within the Northern Tanami region alone and 67 over the whole CLC region.

Given the controversial nature of the uranium debate, the CLC set out to inform traditional owners in the Tanami region, who are facing uranium exploration applications, of the issues.

The CLC's uranium roadshow was taken to Lajamanu and Kalkaringi and traditional owners from as far away as Balgo were brought in by CLC staff to attend the meetings.

The roadshow included presentations by Dave Sweeney from the Australian Conservation Foundation and Michael Angwin from the Australian Uranium Association.

Mr Sweeney is opposed to uranium mining because he says it's unsafe and Mr Angwin is in favour of uranium mining because of its economic value and he says its dangers can be managed safely.

The CLC's mining unit wanted to take both along so traditional owners in the Tanami region would be provided with both sides of the story – the arguments in favour of uranium mining and the arguments against it.

Mr Sweeney said the roadshow was an important event for traditional owners.

"It's been really positive, it's been an important trip and it's been an important opportunity at this time for both sides of the story about uranium and the story about its impacts on people and country to be told," Mr Sweeney said.

"Uranium mining's not like any other mining, that uranium's not like any other mineral, it's linked to the worst sort of waste, radioactive waste and that it's linked to the worst sort of weapons, nuclear weapons," Mr Sweeney said.

Mr Angwin also welcomed the



Above: Traditional owners at the Ranger site,

opportunity to put the uranium industry's views to people from the regions.

"Look I think this has been a tremendously important experience for us all and I know there's a lot of good-will from everybody who participated because we know that the Warlpiri and the Gurindji have got to make some important decisions about how much they want to be involved in uranium mining and exploration," Mr Angwin said.

"I've said to people look everybody knows that there are risks that are associated with uranium but those risks can be managed and Australian mining companies and Australian uranium mining and exploring companies are very good at doing that and so people shouldn't have any concerns about uranium mining," Mr Angwin said.

The second part of the roadshow involved a visit to the Ranger uranium mine at Jabiru.

Traditional owners toured the mine to see how it operates, met with the Office of the Supervising Scientist, which monitors the mine and talked with the local Mirrar traditional owners to get their opinions of uranium mining.

A DVD is being produced of the uranium roadshow meetings and the tour of Ranger so other communities can be presented with the same information.

Members of the tour group said that the exercise helped them un-

derstand more about uranium mining and that they thought the Ranger mine was well managed but many said they still had concerns about what impacts uranium mining might have on the environment, including bush tucker, local water and people.

Michael Watson from Yuendumu said, "The trip was a good idea, we know how this mine is run now, we can make a decision for our country".

Pamela Simpson and Nellie Wayne, also from Yuendumu, said, "We didn't know about uranium before, but now we know".

Teddy Morrison from Lajamanu added, "We got the whole story now".

Many members of the group

said they were impressed by the work of the Office of the Supervising Scientist, which has bases in Jabiru and Darwin and monitors the impact of the Ranger uranium mine on the surrounding environment.

Below: the women's meeting at Lajamanu and bottom Yvonne Margarula talks with traditional owners from Central Australia



NLC signs MOU to boost Territory Aboriginal apprenticeships



Staff from the NLC and Group Training Northern Territory

Aboriginal labour is the greatest resource in the Northern Territory, and it is going untapped, according to former Northern Land Council chief executive Norman Fry.

Mr Fry made the comments at the signing of a memorandum of understanding between the NLC and Group Training Northern Territory to boost the number of Aboriginal Territorians in apprenticeships.

"I welcome the NLC and GTNT signing this MOU to increase the number of Aboriginal Territorians working in apprenticeships across all

sectors of industry and in all areas where the NLC delivers its services," Mr Fry said.

Mr Fry said the Northern Territory, whilst experiencing an economic boom, was suffering a severe skills shortage.

"This MOU has the potential to provide many Aboriginal people in the Top End the opportunity to undertake apprenticeships with realistic job outcomes," he said.

"It is agreements such as this that will assist Aboriginal Territorians to enter the mainstream economy."

Frances Creek iron gives 12 Aboriginal jobs

For the first time in 33 years, iron ore has been shipped out from the port of Darwin.

Extracted from the Frances Creek mine, 28km north of Pine Creek, the shipment - bound for China - is the result of a win-win agreement between traditional owners and Perth-based company Territory Resources.

"The deal struck with Territory Resources is a positive example of the achievement all

parties can make when they work together cooperatively," former NLC Chief Executive, Norman Fry said.

"Territory Resources had the foresight to enter agreements for the whole of the project, and I compliment them for a job well done through the negotiation process," Mr Fry said.

"This deal offers employment and business opportunities for Aboriginal people and

other Territorians in the region and elsewhere in the Top End," Mr Fry said.

The project has so far provided 12 jobs for Aboriginal people, with positive signs for further growth.

The agreement allows for the reworking of the old Frances Creek Iron Ore mine, 28kms north of Pine Creek, with the ore to be transported by rail to Darwin for shipping to China.

Our children need an education say Pintupi Luritja teachers



A recent workshop for Aboriginal teachers in Pintupi Luritja schools west of Alice Springs sent a strong message to education policy makers: our children need a good education in their own language and in English.

And furthermore, they say, kids need to be challenged.

"When I was at school, we were challenged by Pastor Murphy. He challenged us to read signs and notices in language. He put the translation at the bottom of the notice into English", senior teacher Linda Anderson from Papunya said

"They need more English too. We need to teach our children the 'three rs'. They are getting weak.

"Schools need to help our kids develop confidence to speak up in front of people. Now, today, these students are weak. What can the kids do? At Christmas concerts they aren't confident. At meetings they can't talk when they grow up.

"Kids need to learn to be in front of the crowd in public

speaking. Rather than seeing the Aboriginal leaders doing all the introductions at meetings, it would be good to see the young people doing that.

"What we learnt from old people made us feel strong. It taught us who we are.

"We want to look at the country and sites and listen to stories. Students need to learn that information

"You need to be critical and think about if the child is learning or not. We need to ask if they are giving us a good curriculum or is it poor?"

"Is it disadvantaging students? Staff are blaming parents, parents are blaming teachers. We don't know what's true," Ms Anderson said.

Mimila teaches pre-school at Kintore

"We are proud of the way our pre-

school is running," she told the workshop.

"I teach pre-school with my daughter. We team-teach. We do the preparation. The preschool operates in English and Luritja and then in the afternoon I teach in the primary school," Mimila said.

Mimila said that the Group School Principal for the area had watched them teach and read books in English to the kids and said he was very impressed with their work in Kintore and that it was "very, very powerful"



Top: the workshop at Papunya and above: Kintore pre school teacher Mimila

Celebrating the desert dancers and their dances



About 800 people turned out at the Telegraph Station in Alice Springs recently to celebrate the links between song, dance and country on display through the Desert Mob DanceSite.

Presented by Desert and Artback NT, the event included a symposium for art centres, a market place and the Desert Mob art exhibition.

More than 50 traditional dancers

took part in the DanceSite event from the Arrernte, Luritja, Pitjantjatjara and Ngaanyatjara lands.

Special guests included the Lardil Mornington Island Dancers from Queensland.

Host Rosalie Kunoth-Monks reminded the crowd of the significance of Indigenous and non-Indigenous people coming together to celebrate Aboriginal culture.



Kidney awareness in Kintore

For three years the Western Desert Nganampa Walytja Palyantjaku Tjutaku Aboriginal Corporation has been helping people home for dialysis in Kintore.

The WDNWPT is proud of raising their own money from the sales of paintings to fund the return of people back to country and family, but they're also aware more work needs to be done to reduce the incidence of kidney disease.

To do this an open day was recently organised at Kintore to the theme "Keeping our Spirit Alive and Strong".

It included screening and health awareness activities and a concert which included The Angels.



The WDNWPT committee with legendary rock band The Angels and Jimmy Little's grandson John Henry Little at the kidney awareness day in Kintore (above). Marlene Nampitjinpa checks for kidney disease during the open day (top).

Titjikala art centre broadens its appeal

Titjikala's growing reputation in the art world has received a boost with the opening of a new art gallery in the community about 120 kilometres south of Alice Springs.

The gallery was opened by the former Northern Territory Chief Minister Clare Martin in September.

It was a triple celebration with high profile buyers purchasing works by community members Chrystabelle and Johnny Briscoe.

One of Chrystabelle's paintings was bought by a woman who works at the National Gallery and a series of photographs taken by Johnny in the 50s and 60s has been bought by the National Gallery.

Johnny Briscoe said he was excited by the purchase.

"That's good. I had a camera my own a long time ago. I used to watch other people

taking photos. I learned from that one," he said.

He bought a camera after seeing other people using one and was soon taking photographs of the life he saw around him as a stockman.

"We can be proud of it, proud of our grandchildren, proud of brothers and sisters, they can do it the same way.

"The young school kids too, they can do it. One day they'll be good artists," he said

The coordinator of the art gallery Ali Cobby Eckermann said the gallery opening had helped lift the standard of works being produced by the community's artists.

"It's just been fantastic. I think the quality of the work has increased by about 30 per cent," she said.

The gallery has also launched a website to market

TJUWANPA RANGERS on the dole



Rangers at work on a contract installing bollards for Parks and Wildlife at Palm Valley this year.

"I am not going to do contract work for dole money" (Tjuwanpa Rangers Coordinator Report, 1 November 2007).

"We are the award winning Rangers, and now we're on the dole!" (Tjuwanpa Ranger November 1 2007)

Despite winning a Merit Award at the recent NT Landcare Awards for their land management achievements, the Tjuwanpa Rangers from Hermannsburg, west of Alice Springs, felt the blunt end of the Government's welfare reforms when CDEP was abolished on October 26 this year.

Central Land Council director David Ross says the CLC helped set up the ranger group after traditional owners called for more work opportunities to be created for their young people.

"The abolition of CDEP has severely impacted on these young people.

"This group, which once worked, are now on Work for the Dole. They are embarrassed and humiliated. They have to register with Centrelink, register with a Job Network Provider, have their hours restricted and have their

hard-earned income reduced and quarantined," Mr Ross said.

Not only did the Rangers have to go and register for Work for the Dole, but some had to go to Alice Springs and re-register when no payments came through. One ranger who has been working still hasn't been paid - four weeks later.

As a result, morale in the group has plummeted and some are no longer bothering to turn up to work for "rubbish money".

Under the new rules of Work for the Dole, they are confined to 15 hours a week but under CDEP this group frequently did far more than this when they were completing commercial contracts.

The pool of about 25 workers is drawn from outstations in the area surrounding the community of Hermannsburg west of Alice Springs.

continued from p9

Welfare payment chaos

Many Aboriginal people choose to voluntarily quarantine their payments through Tangentyere Council and support quarantining drunks and people who don't look after their children.

However, many are outraged at the blanket quarantining of payments and the discriminatory nature of the welfare reforms, in that they apply only to Aboriginal people.

As a number of Yuendumu men stated:

"What about our human rights, why aren't these measures national?"

"The laws are only aimed at us. The gov-

ernment is telling us to be quiet"

"You are treating us like convicts. But we are people, yapa people".

"We don't think these welfare changes are really fair- they get everyone" (Lajamanu community meeting Oct 10).

"This picks up people who are doing the right thing. It should be case-by-case like problem drinkers or gamblers. Then it might be ok, for the people that need it" (Feedback from CLC Region 7, Nov 13).

Many Aboriginal people in remote communities have told the CLC that they are

opposed to 'sit down money' and think that most people should work. However the Titjikala Council has been trying to move people who are able to work off 'sit down' money onto CDEP but then CDEP was taken away. As one Councillor said:

"They should have stopped sit down money and moved people onto CDEP but they just stopped CDEP.

"We want people to work for the community, we have been tough with people. People gotta sweat if they want sit down money" (Feedback from Titjikala community Nov 6).

Long serving NLC CEO completes service

The Northern Land Council's (NLC) longest serving Chief Executive, Norman Fry, has resigned.

After almost 12 years with the NLC, Mr Fry announced in November that the time was right to move on.

"My reasons for resigning stem from the sheer weight of time I've been there. I'm tired, I've got to rejuvenate and move on," Mr Fry said.

New NLC Chairman, Wali Wunungmurra, thanked Mr Fry for his leadership and dedication during some difficult times for the NLC.

"Mr Fry's service occurred during some of the most difficult years for land rights in the NLC's history but his uncompromising commitment to both land rights

and economic development outcomes means that the NLC is well placed for the future," Mr Wunungmurra said

"Mr Fry's vision ensured that the NLC has sound relations at senior levels with both sides of politics, thus maximising outcomes for traditional owners."

During his tenure with the NLC, Mr Fry was instrumental in many major projects, including the proposed radioactive waste facility at Muckaty Station, the Blue Mud Bay seas case (High Court determination pending), obtaining Aboriginal equity in infrastructure projects such as the railway and gas pipeline, and the establishment of the Larrakia Development Corporation including the Darla Palmerston

development.

Mr Wunungmurra said the NLC would continue the strategic direction implemented by Mr Fry, and remains committed to supporting the rights of traditional owners to make their own decisions regarding development on their country.

"This includes supporting both the Ngapa traditional owners at Muckaty Station who have agreed to a radioactive waste facility, as well as supporting the Mirrar traditional owners who oppose uranium mining at Jabiluka," Mr Wunungmurra said.

"The NLC extends its appreciation to Mr Fry for his commitment, dedication and long service, and wishes him the best in his future endeavours."

Bronwyn surprised but happy

As manager of the secretarial section of the legal department of the Northern Land Council, Bronwyn Motlop is used to a lot of paper work.

One piece of paper she didn't expect was from the Rotary Club of Darwin North with the news that she had been nominated for the Pride of Workmanship Awards.

"Surprised but happy", was the response from the long-time employee of the NLC.

Bronwyn was excited to receive the award during the 30-year celebrations of the Aboriginal Land Rights Act (Northern Territory), which the NLC has commemorated with an historic photographic exhibition to tour Top End Aboriginal communities.

During her 22 years, she has worked variously as a secretary in reception, records, land management, mining and most recently in the legal department.

Bronwyn has recently been promoted from legal secretary to manager of the secretarial section of the legal department.



Pride of Workmanship Award winner Bronwyn Motlop.

NLC Principal Legal Officer, Ron Levy, describes Bronwyn as 'very competent, dedicated, reliable and enthusiastic'.



The Indigenous Education Council: Standing from L to R: Gary Fry, Pauline Schober, Donna McMasters, Mark Motlop (Council Chair), Patrick Anderson, Desmond Rogers, Catherine Anstess, Jocelyn Uibo, Simone Liddy Seated: Dawn Cardona, Ian Woods (Absent - Roderick Wason)

Education council starts school

The Northern Territory Government's Indigenous Education Council met for the first time in Darwin this month.

The council includes educators, employers and students who are charged with the responsibility of advising the Education Minister Marion Scrymgour on educational programs, teaching and learning needs across the Territory.

Mark Motlop will chair the council and he'd like to see more effort put into increasing attendance at school.

"I see kids around Darwin particularly and when I visit a lot of the communities around the Northern Territory in school times walking the streets. I think that's a priority that we need to identify what can be done to increase the attendance levels at schools," Mr Motlop said.

"There's been a lot of reports done and councils that just collect dust on the shelf now as part of my role as a chairperson I don't want that to be just another dust collector. I think we need to get things done," he said.

NITV strikes satellite deal

National Indigenous Television is now being transmitted to Australian regional and rural satellite customers on Austar.

The new deal adds to NITV's broadcast on terrestrial services in Queensland, the Northern Territory, South Australia, New South Wales, Victoria and Tasmania.

NITV was also scheduled to be broadcast to Darwin customers through Austar's cable service from early December.

The broadcasts will be available as part of Austar's basic package at no additional cost.

The NITV service is also joining the Austar for Schools program in 2008, which provides 16 of Austar's most popular educational channels to 2000 schools across Australia free of charge.

That move means NITV will provide indigenous and non-indigenous school children with educational indigenous children's programming including some in traditional languages.

NITV's CEO Pat Turner said the new partnership will help the service reach more Australians.

"We are excited to be a part of the Austar platform and welcome this opportunity as an important step for NITV," she said.

"We can now transmit Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander content to more Australians in rural and regional locations."

The CEO of Austar John Porter said adding NITV to its channel options broadens its cultural diversity.

"We are delighted to be adding NITV to our basic package as it will provide an important focus on Australia's indigenous languages and culture and is an opportunity for all Australians to understand more about each other in an educational, informative and entertaining way," Mr Porter said.

NITV is Australia's first 24 hour national Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander channel. It broadcasts arts, music, dance, cultural, historic, children's, drama and sports programs.



Nadine Lee from the NLC's Mining and Major Projects section gives the Territory's former administrator Ted Egan a warm welcome during his visit.

Administrator signs off with NLC

One of the final duties of the Northern Territory's outgoing administrator Ted Egan was to visit the new premises of the Northern Land Council in Darwin's CBD recently.

Former NLC chief executive Nor-

man Fry gave Mr Egan a tour of the building shortly before its official opening.

The ever-popular Mr Egan has been replaced by the Territory's former solicitor general Tom Pauling

CLC MEETING

IT'S A LONG WAY TO URLAMPE...

but rain, dust, wind and flat tyres don't deter CLC delegates



Top left: The dust storm terminates the meeting. Top right: The Australian Electoral Commission came to Urlampe to enable the delegates to vote



It took some delegates six hours from Alice Springs and it took some two days but nearly everyone made it to Alan Rankine's outstation near the the Queensland border in October for a CLC meeting.

The delegates were unfazed by 38 degrees in the shade on the first day but a dust storm and subsequent torrential downpour on the next afternoon had everybody running for their cars to exit before the mud made it impossible.

Above left: Who needs bumper stickers? Warlpiri man Francis Kelly's Toyota sets the new standard

Below: Kids beat the heat at the meeting by getting hotter



Above left to right: Joe James, Gina Smith

Above: Jeannie Egan who spoke passionately about the negative effect of the Intervention on the people of Yuendumu

Left: Chairman Lindsay Bookie with Lindsay Corby, Richard Minor and Sid Anderson



Native title first for Tennant Creek

Tennant Creek has become the first town in Australia to have a native title determination made by consent rather than litigation.

Justice Mansfield of the Federal Court handed down his determination in September at a special sitting of the court in Tennant Creek and an Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA) was signed immediately after the Federal Court's determination.

The ILUA between the Northern Territory Government and the native title holders allows for native title recognition as well as extinguishment and compensation over some areas and enables native title issues to be dealt with over the entire town. It will benefit some 200 Warumungu native title holders from the Patta estate group.

CLC Director David Ross congratulated the native title holders and the Northern Territory Government for their common sense in coming to an agreement.

"There have been no lengthy and costly court battles and a consent determination and an ILUA forged with goodwill is the best outcome anyone could expect from the native title process," Mr Ross said.

"The ILUA recognises that past acts may have extinguished native title and allows large areas of the town to develop without any further negotiation - there are 100 residential and 60 industrial allotments which have been dealt with by agreement," he said.

"In return, the Patta Aboriginal people finally get Aboriginal freehold title to certain land, including Kunjarra or the Devils Pebbles which is an extremely significant site to them.

"While they already have NT freehold title, they want the area scheduled as Aboriginal land to protect it against mining activity which has caused such immense damage and distress to the custodians in the past.

"The native title holders have agreed to enter good-faith negotiations regarding the management arrangements for Kunjarra and they have guaranteed that visitors will continue to enjoy free access to the area," he said.

"Compensation for native title holders will also give them an educational trust fund for the benefit of Aboriginal school students in the town, some residential and industrial blocks in Tennant Creek and support for the prescribed body corporate - the Patta Aboriginal Corporation - which will act on behalf of the native title holders in the future," Mr Ross said.

Mr Ross paid tribute to the many claimants who passed away during the process.

"Many of them fought in the Warumungu Land Claim and went on to fight for justice within the township. They spent a good part of their lives battling so that the young people of Tennant Creek today can enjoy a better future," Mr Ross said.



Native title: Larrakia lose and Timber Creek win

The Northern Land Council has condemned a decision by the High Court refusing application by Larrakia for leave to appeal regarding native title in the Darwin region.

Former NLC chief executive Norman Fry described the decision - where the High Court refused to grant special leave to the Larrakia to appeal against the Federal Court's decision that there is no native title in the Darwin region as a disgrace.

"This outcome makes no sense because every Chief Minister, including Clare Martin, has publicly accepted that the Larrakia are the traditional owners of Darwin," Mr Fry said.

Mr Fry also said the decision was nonsensical 'because in 2000 the Larrakia won the adjoining

Kenbi Land Claim over the Cox Peninsula on the other side of Darwin Harbour'.

Timber Creek traditional owners have been granted exclusive access to vacant Crown land in the town area.

Justice Robert French delivered the decision, upholding an appeal against an earlier native title judgement granting traditional owners non-exclusive access.

The matter first went to the Federal Court when Ngaliwurru and Nungali traditional owners objected to the Northern Territory Government compulsorily acquiring land for commercial tourism development.

The government now has to decide whether to proceed with a High Court appeal against the decision.

Top: Mrs Fitz and Evelyn Crafter cut the cake with former Chief Minister Clare Martin and CLC Director David Ross
Middle: Signing the deal with NT Minister for Local Government Elliot McAdam, former Chief Minister Clare Martin, CLC Chairman Lindsay Bookie and Executive member Maxie Ray. CLC lawyer Steve Quinn helps with the paperwork
Above: Mrs Fitz receives congratulations from Justice Mansfield

Alone on the Soaks wins HREOC Award

Stolen Generations survivor and storyteller Alec Kruger, writer Gerard Waterford, and Indigenous Publisher IAD Press have won the 2007 Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission Non-Fiction Book Award for *Alone on the soaks*.

In the late 1920s Alec Kruger was stolen from his family and country into the institutions of Kahlin, Pine Creek and the Bungalow in Alice Springs.

From there he was taken again, to the cattle stations of Central Australia, where he was expected to display all the inde-

"As a child I had no mother's arms to hold me. No father to lead me into the world. Us taken-away kids only had each other. All of us damaged and too young to know what to do. We had strangers standing over us... Many of us grew up hard and tough. Others were explosive and angry. A lot grew up just struggling to cope at all. They found their peace in other institutions or alcohol. Most of us learnt how to occupy a small space and avoid anything that looked like trouble."

Alec Kruger "Alone on the soaks"

pendence and ingenuity of someone much older.

In isolation, Alec faced possible death, until the arrival of Old People from country saved him, taught him and culturally made him strong.

As a young adult, Alec spent years droving and roaming throughout the Territory and Queensland, finally finding a sense of belonging and somewhere to call home through having his own family and with the emergence of groups such as the Central Australian Stolen Generations and Families Aboriginal Corporation engaged in the struggle for recognition, reconciliation and recompense.

Alec was in the vanguard of claimants who first took their need for recognition to the High Court, testing the legality of the assimilation legislation that allowed authorities to forcibly remove Aboriginal children from their families throughout the 20th century.

Alone on the soaks was developed with Alec's

Alice-Springs-based writer and friend Gerard Waterford from years of storytelling, travelling, writing and review.

Revisiting the past through stories was an aid to wellbeing; a process that gently elicited Alec's feelings for peo-

ple, events and experiences.

These recollections are distilled into a powerful biography that ranges over eighty plus years of living and battling.

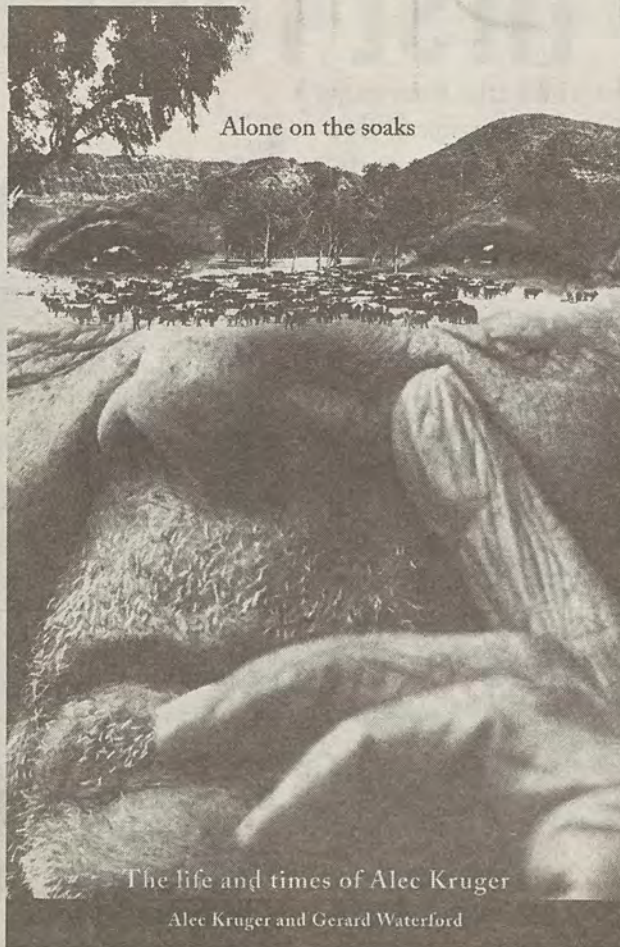
Readers have been moved by Alec's intimate stories, his resolute understanding and personal acceptance of his history, and his indomitable will to keep on.

Presented in a compelling original voice, this book enhances our understanding of the diverse journeys of Australia's stolen generations.

Sorry Day 2007 marked the 10th anniversary of the 'Bringing Them Home' report that presented the findings of the Royal Commission into the separation of Aboriginal children from their families.

Alec was also a key informant to this landmark report.

Alone on the soaks was introduced to a



The life and times of Alec Kruger
Alec Kruger and Gerard Waterford

national audience in May this year during the official 'Bringing Them Home' 10th anniversary event at the Great Hall of the Federal Parliament in Canberra hosted by the Stolen Generations Alliance (Australians for Healing, Truth and Justice) and attended by prominent Aboriginal elders and federal ministers.

Above: The cover of *Alone on the Soaks*

Below: Alec Kruger at the launch of his book earlier this year.



NLC wins 2007 Human Rights Community (Organisation) Award

The Northern Land Council has won a 2007 Human Rights Community (Organisation) Award.

The award was accepted by newly-elected Chairman, Mr Wali Wunungmurra, at the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission's Human Rights Medal and Awards ceremony at the Sheraton on the Park Hotel in Sydney on 10 December.

The NLC was established as an independent statutory authority in 1973 to advocate for Aboriginal people of the Top End.

It assists Aboriginal people in the northern region of the Territory to acquire and manage their traditional lands and seas and provides its services to over 40,000 Aboriginal people (70 per cent of NT Indigenous population), and has been at the forefront of many struggles to protect sacred sites as well as economic and political interests.

Among its other achievements have been the West Arnhem Land Fire Abatement Project which won the Australian Museum's inaugural Eureka Prize for Innovative Solutions to Climate Change; and the Carpentaria Ghost Net Project, which aims to rid the Gulf of lost or abandoned fishing nets, for which Aboriginal sea rangers, supported by the NLC, won a Banksia Award.

Additionally, during 2006-07, the NLC placed 80 Aboriginal people in full-time employment with secure career prospects.

"Today the NLC's employment program is widely regarded as the 'best practice' Indigenous employment program in the country - we are proud of that achievement," Mr Wunungmurra said.

The judges felt the Community (Organisation) Award should go to the NLC because of its dedication and hard work to overcoming Indigenous disadvantage and to achieving outcomes that will enhance the human rights of traditional Aboriginal owners.



MILPIRRI

LAJAMANU



The Milpirri Festival was conceived by Steve Jampijinpa Patrick, a Warlpiri man from Lajamanu to empower and educate Warlpiri people. Patrick gained the support of Tracks Dance Company (Tracks Inc) and the Lajamanu Community Education Centre, to bring Milpirri to life.

Milpirri is based on Mr Patrick's family's dreaming.

"The raincloud spirit saw the smoke from a large fire in the distance and liking the smoke, he travelled to it. When he arrived he joined with it to make the big rainstorm cloud which brought food to the community," Mr Patrick said.

He says this dreaming is a metaphor for the potential interaction between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people, when 'two different things come together to create something different and something that is so precious'.

Milpirri began in 2005 with the creation of a community perform-

ance in Lajamanu, which involved everybody living there as either performers or audience. The people of Lajamanu explored ideas of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people working together and of traditional and contemporary cultural influences on the community.

In 2007 Milpirri celebrated the Warlpiri Kurdiji Ceremony, a young man's initiation ceremony, which tells the story of mothers and their sons. The story was told in segments that featured both traditional and contemporary elements and involved performers from Lajamanu and Yuendumu.

The Warlpiri people involved with Milpirri say they want to create a unique desert festival in the centre of Warlpiri country (the Tanami Desert).

With strong support from the community, Rio Tinto Aboriginal Fund, Newmont and the NT Government, Milpirri is well on its way to achieving its future aim.



Following Garkman: the totemic frog in north-east Arnhem

An exhibition curated by Dr Valerie Boll - South Australian Museum, Adelaide, from the 14th December 2007 to the 3rd February 2008

Bridging the gap between natural and social sciences, *Following Garkman* introduces the Dhalwangu people of northeast Arnhem Land, revealing their sophisticated system of living and their philosophy, as well as presenting the story of their region's environment and biodiversity, through beautiful works of art, photographs, videos, maps and natural history specimens.

This journey, following Garkman, the totemic frog, will take the visitor through Dhalwangu (Yirritja) country, traditions and beliefs, combining the ancient time, the present and the future.

Dr Valerie Boll, a French visiting anthropologist at the South Australian Museum (Adelaide), has done extensive research on the distribution and

ethnozoology of frogs in Northeast Arnhem Land and spent 12 months working with Dhimurru Land Management Aboriginal Corporation and Yolngu people in and around Gängan, Gapuwiyak and Nhulunbuy.

"Amphibians are of value to humans in many ways among their scientific, cultural, ecological and aesthetic worth, and they play a critical role in the world's ecosystems," said Dr Boll.

She fears that fragile indigenous knowledge and art works might disappear if steps are not taken to protect and nurture them.

"Yolngu people have much to teach us about the environment but a rich compendium of ecological knowledge is under threat.

We have to recognise the value of

traditional knowledge and the practises of Aboriginal peoples and incorporate this knowledge and these practices in biological diversity research, conservation and educational programs," she added.

The exhibition will present over 40 stunning bark paintings and cultural artefacts featuring Garkman, the frog.

Such an event will also allow Dr Boll to bring something back to all the Yolngu people she met and worked with, and will provide an opportunity to extend understanding of Yolngu culture, expand knowledge of the diversity among Indigenous culture and contribute to reconciliation.

The South Australian Museum hopes to tour the exhibition in 2008/10.

Wagaman school model



Former Chairman John Daly and former CEO Norman Fry with the students and their model

Ever wondered what the Darwin coastline may have looked like prior to settlement?

Well wonder no more! Thanks to the students of Wagaman Primary School in Darwin, the Northern Land Council now has a life-size, 3D-model on display in their main reception area.

Donated to the NLC by Wagaman

Primary, the model is the culmination of several weeks of hard work and research by students.

Working together, students planned, organised and constructed the model as a requirement of their 'Indigenous Studies; Local Indigenous People' module. This module is aimed at raising student awareness of

the culture and heritage of Darwin's traditional land owners - the Larrakia people.

The model represents Darwin before the settlement of Goyder, and was created using primarily paper mache and sandstone.

There are over 2000 trees on the model and includes campfires and dug-out canoes made from paperbark.

Aboriginal names for CDU indigenous centres

Charles Darwin University has given its indigenous centres in Casuarina, Palmerston and Alice Springs Aboriginal names.

The centres house the Indigenous Academic Support Units. Coordinator Roz Angeles said the centres aimed to show that CDU is a culturally safe environment where indigenous students who are studying at either higher education or VTE levels could receive appropriate support.

The Casuarina cen-

tre was named Gurinbey (GOOR-in-BAY), which is the Larrakia name for Rapid Creek. The name means "elbow" and refers to a bend near the mouth of the creek.

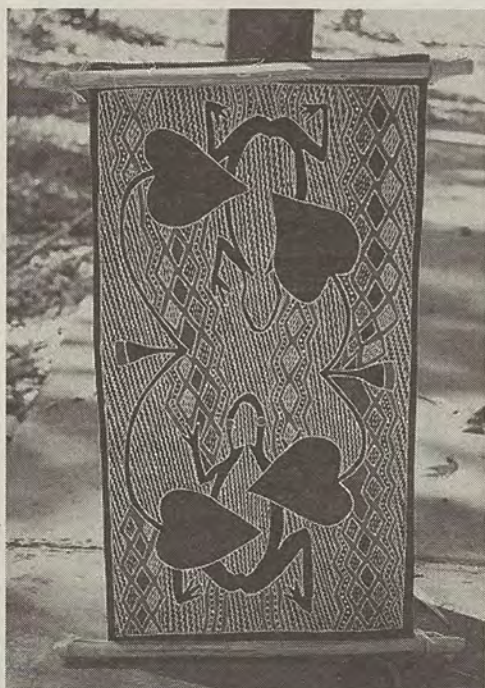
The Alice Springs centre will be known as Akaltye (A-cul-CHA) which is the Arrernte word for "learning" or "to gain knowledge".

The Palmerston centre takes the name Duwun (DOO-wun), which is the name of an island on the western side of the Cox Peninsula, a place where Larrakia people were educated by

their elders. It's also the name for one of the largest Larrakia families in the Darwin region.

Ms Angeles said it was important for indigenous students to be able to identify with a place on campus where they could receive help for their studies.

"The opening of the new Indigenous Centres will encourage our Indigenous students to draw on the services we provide and allow us to focus on expanding our support programs," Ms Angeles said.



Green tree frog (*Litoria caerulea*, Gängan) Garkman, the frog (Bark painting, Yinimala Gumana (V. Boll collection).

The promises Labor has made

The demise of the federal Coalition Government and the election of the Labor Party was seen by a range of indigenous people in the Northern Territory as a chance to change many of Mal Brough's Intervention measures for Aboriginal communities.

Below is a list of promises the Labor Party has committed to.

Northern Territory intervention

- Restore the permits system, which was due to be axed on February 18, 2008. Labor's changes would restore the permit system but exempt government workers and journalists from requiring permits, but if the Coalition blocks the changes in the Senate and the legislation isn't passed by February the 18th then all permits will be scrapped until it is.

- Bring back CDEP in a modified form, but still quarantine payments. The new government has said it wants to reform and improve CDEP, converting those positions into properly paid jobs.

It says it believes that all levels of government must pay proper wages for government service delivery in communities.

Under Labor's reforms, CDEP payments in prescribed Northern Territory communities will be eligible for income quarantining.

- Review all other elements of the intervention, including welfare and five year leases in 12 months time.

Health and Education

- In a pre-election promise, Labor said it would pay for 200 extra remote area teachers to cater for at least 2,000 Aboriginal children, who aren't currently enrolled in school, across the 60 prescribed communities in the Territory.

- It says it will build three new secondary boarding schools, upgrade remote health clinics and create four two-person sexual assault counselling teams to respond to cases in remote communities.

Part of the funding would come from money in the Aboriginals Benefit Account - which receives mining royalties - and the Indigenous Land Fund.

Rangers

- Federal Labor says it will invest \$90 million over five years to train and employ up to 300 additional Indigenous rangers on Indigenous

lands and waters to undertake environmental services specialising in noxious weed and feral pest eradication, fire management, fencing and vegetation restoration and the protection of endangered species.

Training will also be provided for rangers using a nationally accredited land management qualification, supported by local knowledge.

Apologise to Stolen Generations

- The new Prime Minister Kevin Rudd says he'll consult with Aboriginal leaders over the precise wording of the apology.

"The content of it will be real, meaningful, substantive," Mr Rudd told ABC Radio soon after his election. "I want to be very clear with our friends in Indigenous communities in the country as to a form of that. It's really important to get it right."

- The new Government says it will spend \$10 million to build a Remote Enterprise Centre in Alice Springs to advise fledgling Aboriginal businesses and to promote Indigenous enterprise - including horticulture

- An Indigenous Federal Police Recruitment Strategy, which is part of \$200 million AFP Federal Policing Plan.

- A \$260 million plan to provide comprehensive child and maternal health, and early education to help close the 17-year gap in life expectancy for children being born today.

- Support for a trial linking family and welfare payments to school attendance and the proper care of children in four communities in Cape York.

- Universal preschool for all Indigenous four-year-olds.

- A Healthy Kids Check for every Indigenous child starting school and an early development check for every Indigenous child starting school.

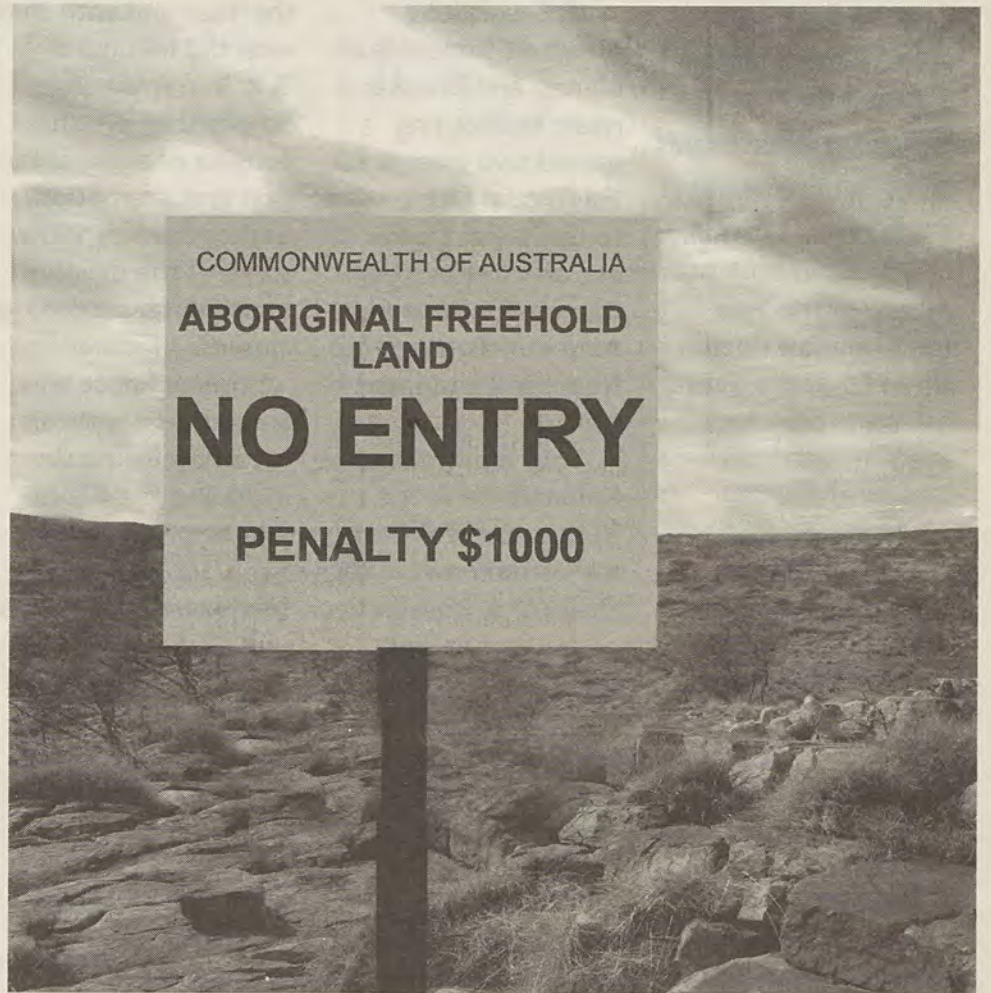
- Provide \$15.7m over four years for extra Bringing Them Home Counsellors and link-up services.

- A Remote Enterprise Centre costing \$10 million would be built in Alice Springs to provide advice to fledgling Aboriginal businesses.

Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

- Endorse Australia becoming a signatory to the International Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

The declaration is about the international community expressing its support for Indigenous people



Although the Labor Government has promised to restore the permit system for entry to Aboriginal communities in the Northern Territory, it remains to be seen whether its changes will be passed through a Senate that's still dominated by the Coalition, before the permits are due to be scrapped in February.

and their children having an equal chance at life.

Housing

- Additional funding for remote housing had already been provided in this year's Budget for the next three years, and the Rudd Labor Government says it will ensure this additional funding for housing is delivered in a way that builds construction and maintenance skills, leading to increased employment for Indigenous people.

- Federal Labor will deliver the \$1.6 billion committed to Indigenous housing through the Australian Remote Indigenous Accommodation (ARIA) program, and will ensure that appropriate investment to increase and maintain the stock of Indigenous housing beyond 2012.

Federal Labor says it will ensure tenders and contractors provide training and employment for local Indigenous people.

- Labor will involve Indigenous communities in the design, building and maintenance of their homes. Tenants will need to understand and comply with normal rights and obligations under the tenancy laws

and this may require the development and provision of specific educational initiatives.

Home ownership

- In 2006-07, the Commonwealth Government committed \$107.4 million over four years towards a Home Ownership on Indigenous Land program to be administered by Indigenous Business Australia. Most of this money remains unspent. Labor will examine how this program can be improved, including through better use of private investment to deliver home ownership opportunities for more Indigenous Australians.

Indigenous Protected Areas

- The Government says it will boost funding to a total of \$50 million over five years to expand the Indigenous Protected Areas Program within national reserves.

It says it will also provide opportunities for Indigenous participation in carbon markets by establishing the legal framework for the creation of carbon credits from altered fire management and providing \$10 million to research, build local capacity and develop partnerships.

NABARLEK clean up NT Indigenous music awards

Nabarlek Band has been the overwhelming winner of the 2007 NT Indigenous Music Awards taking out five awards at a gala event in Darwin.

The band took out Album of the Year for 'Manmoyi Radio', Film Clip of the Year for the Brown Bird song, Artwork and Design of the Year for Manmoyi Radio, People's Choice Song for Country award for Manmoyi Radio, and Nabarlek frontman Terrah won Song of the Year for Little Journey to Manmoyi.

The Northern Land Council sponsored the Song for Country award, and the Traditional Music award, both commemorating 30 years of Aboriginal land rights in the Northern Territory.

NLC executive members Samuel Bush Blawasi and Dhuwarrwarr Marika presented two awards for Traditional Music - one to the Kenbi Dancers, and one to Kevin Djimarr for Wurrurumi Kun-Borrk: Songs from Western Arnhem Land.

They also presented Nabarlek Band the NLC-sponsored Song for Country award for their song 'Bushfire'.

Australian Idol finalist Jessica Mauboy took out the award for Act of the Year and joined the Warumpi Band on stage for their finale of 'My Island Home' together with Shelli Morris and Leah Flanagan.

Flanagan, a Darwin local, took out the Emerging Act of

the Year and with that won the inaugural G.R. Burrarrawanga Scholarship, which consists of a presentation and promotion package worth \$5000 towards the development of her promising career.

The audience was treated to a wide array of performances including the Kenbi dancers, Ngarakuruwala, Jessica Mauboy, Mandawuy Yunupingu and Geoffrey Gurrual Yunupingu, and a full concert by major winners, Nabarlek.

Paul 'Djolpa' McKenzie, frontman of reggae band Wildwater and a music teacher at the Maningrida CEC School, and Steven Tranter, a sound engineer, tour manager and album producer with CAAMA



Music, were both recognised for their contributions to their communities and the NT music industry.

A stand-out performance was the G.R. Burrarrawanga Memorial Concert as a tribute to the memory of the late and great singer of the Warumpi Band.

The line-up featured many past members and family.



Above: Nabarlek scoop the awards
Middle: Hall of Fame, Central Artist - Barry Benning

Above left: Special Contribution Award Paul 'Djolpa' McKenzie,
Above middle: Act of the Year, Jessica Mauboy

Above right: Warumpi Band
Below left - right: Traditional Music Award, the Kenbi Dancers, Member of Ngarakuruwala, Terrah Guymala with award, Tiwi woman with clapsticks

