



Land Rights

NEWS



One Mob, One Voice, One Land

Vol 3 No 2 July 2000



**INSIDE: Olympics pics,
Ngukurr, Rockhampton
Downs and more**



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Music at Minjilang (Story page 28)
Croker Island was alive with the sound of music last month. Pictured at the NTU award ceremony in Minjilang are (from left): Stephen Teakle (NTU), Caroline Tapera, Lucy Eames (NTU), Etita Tanua, Lou Tapera and Ralph Tapera.

Land Rights NEWS

Land Rights News is published by David Ross and Galarrwuy Yunupingu for the Central and Northern Land Councils.

Projected publication dates: March 2000, June 2000, September 2000, December 2000

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.

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COVER PHOTO

Stolen Generation member Hilda Muir, Jungkayi for Manankurra, at the Kangaroo Island hearing (story page 6)

Rockhampton Downs back at last



Above: Traditional Aboriginal landowners with the plaques commemorating the official handover of three parts of Rockhampton Downs station.

Top right: Kids with a Mangariji (Plains Goanna). Bottom right: Peppi Simpson, Mark Johnny Jungarrayi, Gina Smith, Chookie Graham Jungarrayi and Senator John Herron.

The Rockhampton Downs handback marks the near completion of a long and hard struggle for the Warumungu people.

Doreen Noonan chucked a Mangariji (Plains Goanna) on the ground in front of her and told everyone it was the dreaming for her country, the country

she was standing on.

Doreen was among 100 or so Warumungu traditional owners of all ages who turned out in force to celebrate the return of some of their land at Rockhampton Downs in June.

"I would like to thank everyone to come down here because I am Kurmturlpara and I'm glad that we get him back this handover because its language and dreaming now and I'm glad we can get him this handover back today because all our old men – three of them are still alive and my two aunties too."

The handback concluded another chapter in the long, hard story of the Warumungu Land Claim with the return of title under the Aboriginal Land Rights Act to three areas of land on the Rockhampton Downs Pastoral Lease, 145 kilometres east of Tennant Creek.

CLC Chairman Max Stuart said he had been looking forward to the handover because years before he had worked on pastoral properties in the area for 'five bob a week or maybe nothing at all' and it reminded him of the long struggle for Tempe Downs which was finally handed back last year.

'I'm very glad that you mob got all of your old country back. I've been thinking about it last night – how happy you mob are this morning and its good to see you, not only old people – look at all the little children, little ones that will grow up with this memory,' Mr Stuart told the crowd.

The Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs, Senator Herron delivered deeds of grant to the

Kalumpitja, Kalumpitja 2 and Kurmturlpara Aboriginal Land Trusts on behalf of the traditional owners.

Warumungu man Archie Allen said he felt proud and happy to be getting his land back, especially as a place to teach the children about Warumungu culture.

'This title recognises ownership of the land Aboriginal way. It feels good to get country back - somewhere you have grown up on, worked on and now live on. We got the land back Aboriginal way, but now we have to use white man's way to manage the land and make a living from the land,' he said.

The handback under the *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976* is the result of many years of negotiations by the Central Land Council to arrange a swap of the South Barkly Stock Route for alternate areas on the pastoral lease.

The pastoral company had argued that the handback of the stock route would be detrimental to the operation of the pastoral lease.

Central Land Council Chairman Max Stuart said that the Warumungu had fought long and hard for their country after they had been forcibly stripped of all their traditional land – in less than a century.

'These brave people were rewarded for their hard work on these pastoral properties by being turned off their traditional country. Now I feel proud to see them slowly winning it back,' Mr Stuart said.

The struggle for the return of their country from which they had been entirely dispossessed has been a long and courageous one for the Warumungu.

It is 25 years since the Rockhampton Downs Aboriginal community put forward the first land claim in the Tennant Creek-Barkly Region in a letter to the Aboriginal Legal Aid Service on 7 July 1975 – before the federal land rights legislation had even been passed.

The Warumungu land claim was then lodged under the

Land Rights Act in 1978. However, it was bitterly opposed by the Northern Territory Government which spent hundreds of thousands of dollars on unsuccessful Federal Court cases.

After being what has been described as once a strong and flourishing nation, by 1915 the Warumungu were reported to be near starvation; by the 1930s the last of the land reserved for them was taken for cattle grazing.

Under pressure from cattle and mining interests, reserves and missions set aside for the Warumungu in the 1930s, 40s and 50s were all abandoned one after another until finally the dispossession of the Warumungu was complete.

The last settlement for the Warumungu at Warrabri was established on land belonging to the Kaytetye and Alyawarre people, leaving the Warumungu nowhere to go on their own land.

Aboriginal Land Commissioner Justice Maurice was so moved by the plight of the Warumungu that he wrote explicitly about the injustices endured by them in his report on the Warumungu Land

“It feels good to get country back - somewhere you have grown up on, worked on and now live on. We got the land back Aboriginal way, but now we have to use white man's way to manage the land and make a living from the land.”

ARCHIE ALLEN

Claim in 1988:

'Australia should weigh in, recognising that the country as a whole has profited, and continues to profit, from the dispossession of these people and the use to which we put their lands. It is not simply a question of rectifying the wrongs of the past, as if the consequences of those wrongs had long ago been worked through: the simple truth is that they have not, yet as a nation we continue to enjoy benefits from them. Nor is it any answer to point to the moneys which may have been wasted on "welfare", for the recipients neither sought the conditions which occasioned this beneficence nor designed the programs which have been so disastrously inefficient.'

The three areas to be returned at the ceremony represent almost the last areas recommended for return to the traditional landowners as a result of the Warumungu land claim.



NLC and CLC Chairmen, Galarrwuy Yunupingu and Max Stuart

Land Council Meetings

The NLC

The GST, mandatory sentencing, land claims and native title issues were among the issues discussed at the Northern Land Council's 78th Full Council meeting held at South Alligator in Kakadu National Park in April.

The meeting was attended by 70 members, representing the interests of Aboriginal people throughout the Top End of the Northern Territory.

Land Trusts and royalty receiving organisations must register for an Australian Business Number (ABN) and the NLC told the meeting it would help them follow the news rules.

These new rules include the need to meet GST reporting requirements, how to distribute the royalties to traditional owners, and how to pay the necessary GST to the Australian Tax Office.

Members passed a strong resolution condemning the mandatory sentencing laws as racially discriminatory.

The resolution called for an immediate suspension of the operation of the laws to allow a detailed examination of alternative strategies.

The NLC Women's Committee, which met a few days earlier, looked at many issues including the lack of cultural education in the school system, problems enforcing the permit system and the need for the committee to network with other women's groups in the Top End. ●

The CLC

The Central Land Council held their second Council Meeting for 2000 at Yulara-Pulka Outstation.

The CLC Chairman, Mr Stuart and CLC executive member, Mr Calma, spoke about their trip to Sydney to attend the launch of the Reconciliation documents and walk across Sydney harbour bridge.

This sparked a lengthy discussion on the incredible show of support for indigenous people, the future of the reconciliation process, and the implications of a call for a national treaty.

Njalka Williams wanted to know the difference between reconciliation and a treaty, and which would be best for Aboriginal people.

It was agreed that reconciliation is a process that people undergo whereby differences between them are acknowledged and respected. A treaty would be a formal recognition of these differences and made in law. The Council agreed a treaty would be the most advantageous.

Strategic planning workshops about the future of the CLC were held, seeking input from the delegates about what CLC does well, what we should be doing better and other issues relating to mapping out the future activities of the CLC.

There was discussion on Local Government reform where delegates expressed concerns about the amalgamation process.

Other reports included discussion on the Olympic Torch relay and CLC's involvement in CAAMA's Centenary of Federation project next year. ●

Lugg told: "You're a despicable man"

Territory Education Minister Chris Lugg has been rebuked by the Chief Minister Denis Burke for insults he made in Parliament earlier this year against the Stolen Generation.

Mr Lugg launched his scandalous attack during debate time when he spoke of "the fraud regarding the Stolen Generation that has been perpetrated around this country."

He suggested young Aboriginal people largely were removed with the consent of their families and that the numbers were small.

He then went on to suggest that in many cases, the removal was urgent because, sometimes, mothers had tried to kill their children or had maltreated them, sometimes making them available for money sometimes for sexual purposes.

"You're a despicable man," MLA John

Ah Kit told Mr Lugg.

"You have no idea."

Chief Minister Mr Burke later said he had rebuked Mr Lugg, that the policies of removal were insensitive, and that it was important to make sure Mr Lugg's comments were not misinterpreted.

Looking at Hansard, it would be hard to see how such strong statements from Mr Lugg could be misinterpreted. They seem perfectly clear.

Mr Ah Kit said that Mr Lugg's apology the following week, presumably following the reprimand from his boss, failed to even mention the Stolen Generation and was not acceptable.

You would have no idea what he was apologising for," Mr Ah Kit said. "He made no mention of the Stolen Generation, did not correct the false statements he made, nothing." ●

Have your say on Stolen Generation - but only in Darwin

People in Darwin will have a chance in August to have their say about the Stolen Generation, when the Senate Legal and Constitutional References Committee comes to the Northern Territory.

Darwin is the only stop in the NT for the committee. The date is scheduled around 9-11th August.

The committee is looking into the Federal Government's response to the *Bringing them Home* report.

Former Senator Bob Collins told an ANTaR seminar in Darwin recently that he was concerned with the repeated assertions in the submission from the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs Senator John Herron to the supposedly "benign" nature of the policies and practices implemented in the process of removing Aboriginal children from their families.

This echoed the views of the Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation, which said the attempt by Senator Herron to deny the existence of a "Stolen" Generation had greatly harmed the reconciliation process.

The Government's refusal to adopt the recommendation in the report for

reparation has forced members of the Stolen Generation to go to the Federal Court for recognition and redress.

A final decision is pending on the compensation case by Peter Gunner and Lorna Cubillo, considered a test case for other members of the Stolen Generation who could start similar proceedings. ●

Yapa Kurlangu Video Festival

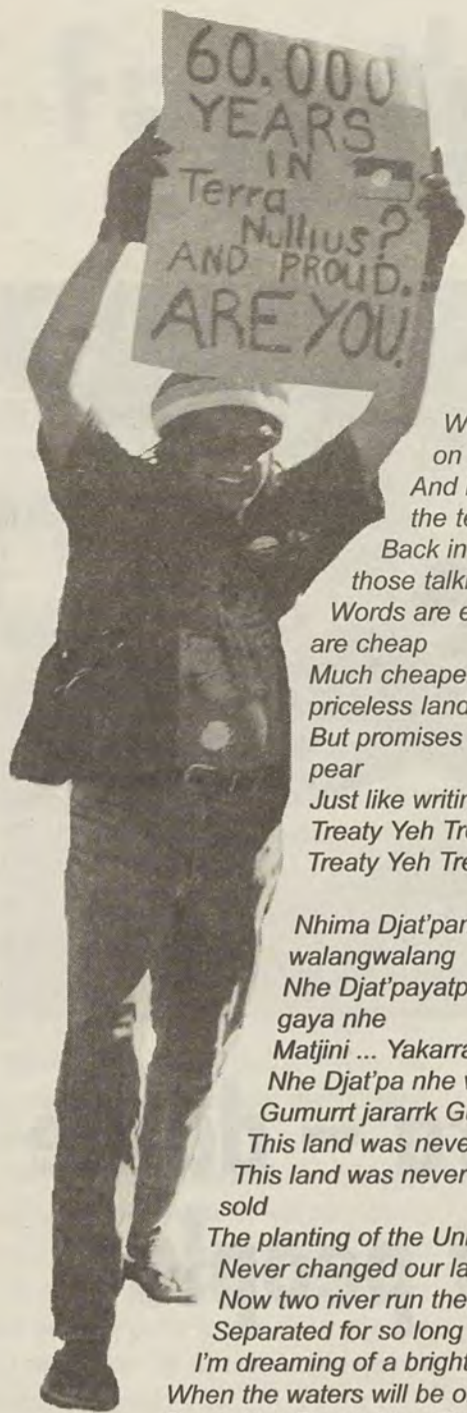
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YUENDUMU

Treaty... Yeah!

The idea of a treaty for Aboriginal people in Australia is not new – it just got overshadowed for a while. But the end of the formal 10-year reconciliation process earlier this year has put it back on the table.



Well I heard it
on the radio
And I saw it on
the television
Back in 1988, all
those talking politicians
Words are easy, words
are cheap
Much cheaper than our
priceless land
But promises can disap-
pear
Just like writing in the sand
Treaty Yeh Treaty Now
Treaty Yeh Treaty Now

Nhima Djat'pangarri nhima
walangwalang
Nhe Djat'payatpa nhima
gaya nhe
Matjini ... Yakarray
Nhe Djat'pa nhe walang
Gumurt jararrk Gutjuk
This land was never given up
This land was never bought and
sold
The planting of the Union Jack
Never changed our law at all
Now two river run their course
Separated for so long
I'm dreaming of a brighter day
When the waters will be one
Treaty Yeh Treaty Now Treaty yeh

Treaty Now

Yothu Yindi - extract from 'Treaty'

Record crowds show support for reconciliation

More than 250,000 people walked together over the Sydney Harbour Bridge in May in a symbolic gesture of support for reconciliation.

And the walks were repeated around Australia in Perth, Adelaide and Brisbane and Alice Springs where they all drew record crowds.

Central Land Council Executive member Graham Calma was at the march in Sydney. "It was just unbelievable and overwhelming the sense of support from Australian people. There were Indigenous people from all over the world. They were there just for one thing - they were there for Aboriginal people, they were there for reconciliation," he said.

Mr Calma said the support he, and CLC Chairman, Max Stuart received from the thousands of people walking over the bridge was extraordinary.

"A lot of people were stopping us and saying sorry and we kept telling them look you don't have to say sorry - you're here being part of this day, this day of history and a lot of people can feel proud and honoured that they were

Former Prime Minister Bob Hawke committed his Government to work for a negotiated Treaty with Aboriginal people at Barunga in 1988.

But calls for a treaty was sidestepped by the formation of the Council for Reconciliation and overshadowed by the Mabo judgement.

CLC Director David Ross talked about the survival of the idea to the crowd at the Walk for Reconciliation in Alice Springs recently.

"When the idea of a treaty was raised with Robert Tickner, the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs in the Keating Government, he said 'you can't call it a treaty'.

"So Galarrwuy Yunupingu said to him 'Well I've got one for you Minister - call it Kumanjayi'. Robert thought that was a fantastic name until someone told him what Kumanjayi meant," Mr Ross said. Kumanjayi is used as a substitute for a deceased person's name by some Aboriginal people.

Mr Ross says that there needs to be change at the most fundamental political level - constitutional change.

"This is not a frightening idea. Many countries have taken this step and negotiated agreements with their Indigenous populations. Australia is well behind on this score.

"The Reconciliation Declaration has its merits but at the end of the day it's a fluffy bit of paper because we already have a lot of rights which we are unable to enjoy. Native title supposedly gives us rights to hunt and fish

and camp on pastoral leases - its even in legislation. But how many locked gates do Aboriginal people encounter when they try and exercise these rights? A lot."

"We need to have an agreement incorporating constitutional change so that politicians can't keep changing the playing field."

Galarrwuy Yunupingu Chairman of the Northern Land Council said the Reconciliation Council had developed a stronger Declaration than originally anticipated and articulates many of the major issues which underpin Indigenous aspirations for a reconciled nation. But he too believes it does not go far enough.

"What happened to the Barunga Statement calling for a treaty? We were there and there was a lot of support for it from Aboriginal people and the Government," Mr Yunupingu said.

The Barunga statement called for a Treaty or Compact 'recognising our prior ownership, continued occupation and sovereignty and affirming our human rights and freedoms'.

Mr Ross said there were a number of issues to be decided by Aboriginal people all over Australia.

"It now needs to be decided who will negotiate a treaty. Will it be separate language groups or Aboriginal people as a whole? And if it is as a whole, who will negotiate it and represent Aboriginal people. These discussions have to be had," he said.

"The Prime Minister told us at a meeting we had with him recently that he is prepared to discuss it with us and talk it through."



The crowd of 2000 walk across the Todd River in Alice Springs

there," he said.

He said it was "like a journey, like being part of the healing process with all those people. It felt good like we were wanted, and not forgotten."

A spokesperson for the Central Australians for Reconciliation, Karl Hampton commented on the goodwill displayed throughout the city.

"I was doing some shopping in the city and a lot of shopkeepers were saying how they wish they could be there but obviously they couldn't - but they were hoping that it would be a good turn out and that a lot of people in Sydney would support it.

"Even the taxi drivers were talking about it and wishing us all the best and were saying how they supported

reconciliation," he said

The success of the Corroboree 2000 walk has demonstrated a powerful groundswell of support for reconciliation to the government and the whole of Australia.

The event has also put the idea of a treaty back on the table and given Aboriginal people and the general public inspiration to continue the commitment to achieving reconciliation by taking the process further.

Alice Springs also held their own symbolic walk across the Todd River where some 2000 people turned up to launch the reconciliation documents.

"I think it was the biggest turn out we've had for a long time," Karl said.



Land claim protects dugong

A traditional spirit dance, the brief presence of the "winter rain" Yijan (Dreaming) and a visit from the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs Senator John Herron marked the start of the land claim hearing in early June for country near Borrooloola owned by Yanyuwa and Garrwa people.

A flotilla of small boats – mostly people with fishing interests in the area – also arrived on the first morning of the hearing held on Kangaroo Island in the McArthur River, when they witnessed 30 women claimants dancing and two senior men singing the Kalwanyarra (The Spirit people) ceremony.

Over the following couple of weeks, the claimants, who mostly live at Borrooloola and surrounding outstations, fully explained their connections with the claim area – the intertidal zone from the area of Bing Bong Creek to the Robinson River mouth and the beds and banks of part of the McArthur River from King Ash Bay to its mouth.

The Yanyuwa people describe themselves as salt-water people, and speak of their ancestors as using bark and dugout canoes. Some Garrwa also have "salt-water" country they can access, but generally speaking they consider themselves as inland "freshwater people."

Until twenty years ago the McArthur River and the intertidal zone was mostly used by local Aboriginal people, a few local professional fishermen and short-term

travellers enjoying some recreational fishing.

Since then, however, large semi-permanent to permanent camp sites on King Ash Bay, an increased number of professional crabbers and barramundi fishermen and an influx of tourists has meant that both the river and its network of creeks and channels and the intertidal zone, are in constant use.

This has taken away some favoured camping sites for Aboriginal people and many feel that sites of significance, various fish species and the dugong population are suffering.

The Yanyuwa view of Cyclone Kathy in 1984 is that it was caused by tourists and fishermen visiting and disturbing dangerous sites on the Pellew Islands.

The traditional owners are hoping that recognised acknowledgment of their ownership of this country will help them protect their sites and be more closely involved in protecting the dugong.

A report will now be prepared by the Aboriginal Land Commissioner Justice Howard Olney, and handed to the Federal Minister for Aboriginal Affairs for consideration. ●

**Top right: The women dancers (from left) are: Topsy Pyro, Jemima Miller, Hilda Muir, Isa McDinny and Nancy McDinny
Centre right: (from left) Dinny McDinny and Pyro Diddiyalma - Jungkayi for the Spirit men - and Amy Friday
Bottom right: Traditional owner for Kangaroo Island Billy Miller
Bottom left: Young and old turned up for the first day's hearing**



Kalwanyarra – dance of the spirit people

Nyimbala-karra!

Kumba-janrijjimba akarriya

You look!

The Spirit People are indicating the way to travel into the east

Nyimbala-nyngkarriya

Kanilu-wundarra

Nangakulurru

You listen!

The Spirit Men are calling

They name the place of their departure

Nangakulurru

The claimants opened the hearing with a few key verses of a very important dance that celebrates the journey of the Ngabaya, or Spirit Men, who travelled far from the west to the claim area.

The song and choreography of the dance was composed by Jerry Brown Ngarnawakajarra, now deceased.

It is said that Jerry was made dumb by this Ngabaya (Spirit Man) Dreaming and given the song and dance as it is composed today.

People speak of Jerry Brown being lost to the world of immortal people for about two weeks.

He then returned to normal life but would not reveal the dance and song until he came to Kangaroo Island, to Wulkuwulku, the site of the present claim.

He then revealed the dance and lyrics in full to his close male relatives. This was around 1959. ●



From the Desert to the Red Sea

Five Aboriginal landowners from Central Australia now have a chance to develop potential projects for their desert homelands after a horticultural study trip to Israel.

The Central Land Council organised the trip to help landowners look at techniques for farming arid land with a focus on dates, citrus, grapes and vegetables.

The traditional owners came from Alekerange, Ti Tree, Willowra, Utopia and Finke, communities which all have substantial ground water basins capable of supporting horticultural projects.

Central Land Council Economic Projects Officer Toly Sawenko said the Israeli horticultural industry was a world leader on the use of technology for farming on arid lands.

"The Israeli agricultural industry have developed techniques for growing crops with recycled waste water or water that has high salinity levels," he said.

"The Aboriginal landowners were greatly impressed with the energy and skill of Israeli farmers in transforming an environment that is harsher than Central Australia.

"Most Central Australians would find the Negev Desert a harsh and forbidding place - it has less vegetation and ground water than we do. Yet dates and fruit grown there are among the best in the world and find their way on to tables throughout Europe," he said.

The CLC developed the Aboriginal Horticultural Development Plan in 1999 with assistance from the Indigenous Land Corporation. It involves developing commercial horticulture on Aboriginal land with ground water.

The Plan's objective is to provide economic development projects for Aboriginal people other than mining and tourism.

Richard Doolan, from Aputula, some 200km south east of Alice Springs, said visiting Israel had shown him future prospects for his community.

"It was really different to Aputula. We are hoping that something will come here. It would be good for doing proper things, our own things like they do in Israel," he said.

"I was looking at all the date trees and I was thinking we could grow a lot of dates. I know they grow them in Dalhousie - we could grow them out here."

"The Dead Sea was something like I've never seen before."

Mr Sawenko said that negotiations for a joint venture citrus project at Utopia 300 kilometres east of Alice Springs should be completed this year.

"When we have that project up and running we will be looking at project development on other water basins including two newly identified basins at Tennant Creek," he said.

The CLC group also visited historical cities such as Bethlehem and Jerusalem on their nine day tour of Israel.

Right (from left) Jeffrey Lauder, Richard Doolan, Patch Price, Israeli Cab driver, Mr Brown and Lennie Jones

Bottom (from left) Lennie Jones, Patch Price floats in the Dead Sea and the group at Jaffa near Tel Aviv



From little things big things grow

Forget the Big Sheep and the Big Pineapple - here's the Big Basket.

From little baskets it seems that very big ones can grow.

A weaving project begun five years ago by the Ngaanytjarra Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara (NPY) Women's Council just got bigger and bigger until it produced a basket five metres long and over two metres high.

And it was made in just three weeks. The enormous basket was made by 20 women from the Blackstone Community near the Western Australian border earlier this year for display at a world expo in Germany.

The basket used nine kilometres of string and weighed in at about 400 kilograms.

Naturally, a project of this size encounters some obstacles along the way - football and a funeral halted production briefly, the string ran out and the men on the community constantly eyed off the wood from the frame for their spears.

Finally, and after many transport difficulties, the basket got to Alice Springs and onto the Ghan train to be taken to meet the ship to Germany.

Chairwoman of NPY Women's Council Winnie Woods said she was very proud to see all the hard work the community members had done and how their work 'had grown from something very small to



something very big'.

NPY worker Thisbe Purich, who helped out with the basket, said "the women worked really hard and had a lot of fun in the process. Other people were constantly trying to work out if the basket was going to be a boat (since it was going overseas) or a wiltja (shelter).

"When the basket is returned in November it will be exhibited in several places around Australia before being sold so the women can receive some money for all their efforts," Ms Purich said.



Above: The women from Blackstone demonstrate just how big this basket really is!

Laramba benefits from CDEP



The community of Laramba, 200 kilometres north-west of Alice Springs, is leading the way with programs promoting healthy lifestyles for Aboriginal people.

And the introduction of CDEP – Community Development Employment Program – in May has boosted the community’s enthusiasm even further.

Pamela Lynch, the community’s town clerk, said everyone was excited about working.

‘It makes everyone feel like they are part of the community and that there is a long-term future for employment on the community. You can see it every day – people come to work clean and well-dressed and feeling proud,’ she said.

Some of the health promotion programs have been integrated with CDEP, such as – the ‘Strong Women’ program which focuses on nutrition, hygiene, health care, and soon, childcare.

The ‘Strong Men’ program, which includes working on the community’s vegetable garden and putting up the steel work for a new workshop, is supported by Centralian College.

Pamela said that people now use the garden’s pumpkins to make soup and damper, and take fresh vegetables from the

garden to eat on bush trips.

‘And with the ‘talking shelf’ labels on food in the store made by local children made as part of the National Heart Foundation’s Diabetes Project, people can make a choice about what they eat. Now they know the difference between bad food and healthy food. That has been really successful.

‘The ‘Strong Women’ project was aimed at all the skinny kids in the community and now they are much healthier.

‘As part of land care in our community, we have contracts with the clinic and the school to maintain the gardens. We also do the fencing around the community. Lecturers from Centralian College come out two days a week to teach horticulture and we also have a computer literacy program,’ she said.

Pamela said that having a number of agencies working together to integrate their programs had really improved the way things are run on the community.

Community events like the recent softball competition held to celebrate Women in Sport and Recreation had also helped.

‘That was held jointly with the Laramba Diabetes Project; Anmatjere women came over from Yuelamu and Pmara Jutjunta and everybody had a great time.’

Top right: CDEP workers in the community’s vegie garden.

Right: Aboriginal Health Worker Rachel Charles tests Laramba Town Clerk Pamela Lynch’s blood.



Danila Dilba is on the road



Danila Dilba Aboriginal Health Service, based in Darwin, is expanding its mobile service – reaching more communities and providing increased services.

With a new fully-equipped mobile clinic, doctors and Aboriginal health-workers plan to focus on health education and preventative care as they travel around the town camps and outlying communities to treat thousands of Aboriginal clients every year.

Champion Australian athlete and

Darwin Aboriginal identity Nova Peris Kneebone announced the launch of the new mobile clinic in May, pointing out that the new bus would help Danila Dilba expand its services, which currently reach about 3000 people a year.

‘The delivery of comprehensive primary health care on the ground where people live is one of the best ways to help reduce the high levels of illness in the Aboriginal community,’ she said.

The Pratt Foundation contributed towards the purchase and outfitting of the new bus.

Chairman of the Danila Dilba board, Mr Sutti Ah Mat said the mobile clinic travelled thousands of kilometres every year to reach people who found it difficult to access the general health system.

‘Thanks to the new equipment, people



Josephine Brinjen and Gertrude Cusack, Aboriginal health workers.

will be able to have a range of tests for such things as blood pressure and oxygen levels in the blood when the mobile clinic arrives in their community,’ Mr Ah Mat said. ‘Health education is also going to be a big part of our expanded service and educators will develop programs to

improve people’s awareness of health issues.’

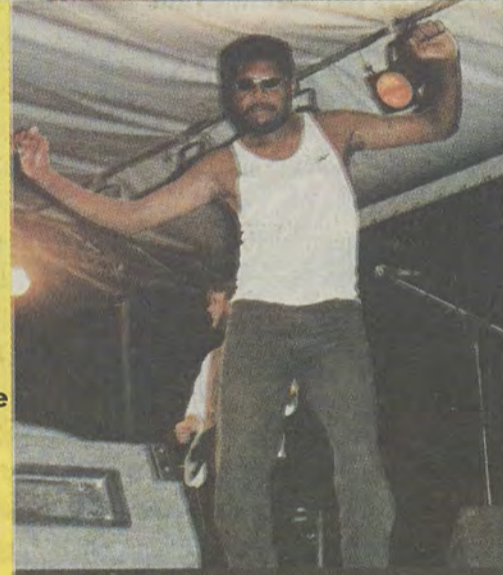
Mr Ah Mat said the collaboration with the Pratt Foundation and the corporate sector in general showed that Aboriginal people were genuine in the wish to seek alternative funding sources.



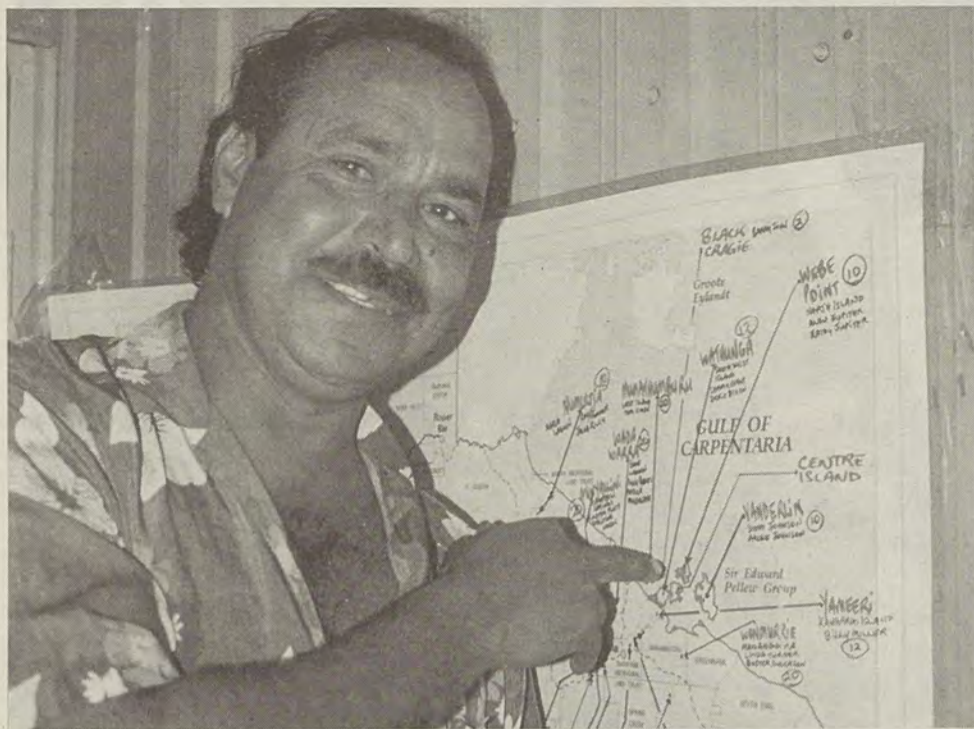
CAAMA TURNS 20

More than 1400 people danced the night away at Anzac Oval in Alice Springs to celebrate 20 years of CAAMA (Central Australian Aboriginal Media Association).

The progress of CAAMA has been astounding - thanks to the vision of the original founders Freda Glynn, Phillip Batty and John Macumba. It all began in the early 1980's with three volunteer workers, a second hand car, a borrowed office and a small assortment of equipment. Today it boasts full video and audio production facilities, radio station 8 KIN FM and the CAAMA shop.



Fishy stories from Borroloola



Samuel Evans, Chair of Mabunji Resource Association points to proposed oyster sites.

Local Aboriginal people are concerned about a trial project to harvest jellyfish at the mouth of the McArthur River at Borroloola.

The proposal has had no environmental assessment, there are no conditions attached to the development licence and there is no limit on the amount that can be caught.

The Department of Fisheries is merely going to “keep a close eye” on the returns submitted by the company undertaking the trial.

“We want to make sure that any business proposals to use the local seafood resources around Borroloola are sound environmentally, culturally and economically,” said Samuel Evans, chair of Mabunji Resource Association, which services 23 outstations in the region.

“If this trial is successful, we know there will be pressure for a full blown industry, but there has been no research into this at all, so no-one knows if what the company is doing is right or not.

“For instance, these jellyfish are tucker for turtles. If they harvest huge tonnes of jellyfish, how will this affect the turtle. No-one knows. And no-one knows anything about the life cycle of the jellyfish, or what they feed on.

“We also don’t know much about the drying process plant they have set up on shore, whether they use salt or chemicals or what. That’s another thing that needs to be examined.

“You just can’t be too careful when you start interfering with the environment in a big way, and it is fragile enough as it is, with the impact of recreational fishing out there.”

Maybe the jellyfish themselves have provided the solution. The plan was to scoop up the jellyfish as they gathered in the bends in the river – but the jellyfish have disappeared this year, and so far there has been no harvest at all.

Edible oysters

In comparison, a research project being conducted through the Mabunji Resource Centre, the Northern Land Council and the NT University into the potential for edible black-lipped oyster farming in the region is meeting stringent conditions that apply to the industry.

This could be a good time to explore the market because of the current shortage of edible oysters. Compared to areas down South, the waters around Borroloola in Eastern Arnhemland are relatively pollution-free.

The three-year trial, to begin before October, will look at spat collection from the wild and the grow-out into adults.

Three different types of spat collectors will be trialed in six different areas to find the best growing conditions, followed by an artificial propagation trial.

“We are abiding by the oyster-growing standards in place all around Australia,” Mr Evans said. “The environmental standards we have to comply with are fairly stringent in terms of levels of heavy metals, bacterial factors etc.

“We will be looking at the impact of the grow-out lines, for example, on the turtles in this area.

“We will look, not just at the environmental aspects of the standards, but also environmental concerns from a cultural aspect.”

BRIEFS

Festival funding

Four festivals in the Top End will receive grants to fund cultural projects as part of a Commonwealth Government program.

Brown Mart Community Arts, Jabiru Town Council, Katherine Town Council and Yothu Yindi Aboriginal Corporation have all been allocated grants to fund cultural programs at their festivals.

These grants are designed to give remote communities the opportunity to experience cultural programs, which they would not be able to attend or enjoy living in remote areas.

More information on grant recipients can be found on the Department of Communications, Information Technology and the Arts website: www.dcita.gov.au.

Black Magic

Black Magic is the title of a new promotional video released by the Australian Defence Force.

The video tells a story about the remarkable Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders who have helped protect our country since the First World War.

The video is an educational and promotional tool aimed at informing Indigenous youth about the contributions

and achievements their people have made in the defence force and where they see themselves heading.

The video uses extraordinary stories to inspire younger people about the career paths in the ADF, such as Len Walters, the first Aboriginal fighter pilot, who flew in the Second World War.

For more information or to get a copy of the video please call Major Mark Keynes on (02) 62668776

Bayagul

A new exhibition at Sydney Powerhouse Museum’s Indigenous gallery, *Bayagul: contemporary Indigenous communication*, showcases the diversity of Australia’s unique Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures.

The exhibition highlights the ways in which Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islanders choose to express their cultures and identities.

It looks at how Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures are communicating and developing their identities via western technologies and other new technologies.

The exhibition has various sections including tourism, fashion and textile, a media section, an interactive map of Australia and performing arts.

Keeping track of good health in mind, body & spirit



Have a well women's check every two years

For more information call
NT Women's Cancer Prevention
13 15 56



Students on the move



Ngukurr students on the move (from left) Trish Rogers, Conrad Murungun and Priscilla Roberts.

Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education students at Ngukurr have a lecturer in the community, course materials and a desire to learn - but no permanent classroom.

At the moment, students and their current community-based lecturer Sandra Darcy are using the old School of the Air building and space at the local school.

But this could all change. The community, the Northern Land Council and Batchelor Institute are currently looking at ways to establish a permanent location for students.

As the community-based lecturer, Sandra is mainly responsible for students undertaking the Certificate in Spoken and Written English, and also has a role to support students undertaking other courses with Batchelor Institute.

Priscilla Roberts (23), Trisha Rogers (23) and Conrad Murungun (20) all hope the Certificate course will help them get work.

"I left college in Year 10," Priscilla said. "I started the course because I wanted to be someone else. I wanted to be like people working at the shop and the clinic."

Conrad, who would like a job to do with sport, says he started the course when he realised he needed to know more to get a job he wanted, while Trisha

would like an office job doing computer work.

"We learn things and that is good and we get to see other people in other communities when we go to the workshops," Trish said.

"I like studying. I like writing and reading and I am now interested in all sorts of things. This has changed the way we think about things."

"I tell my friends that doing this thing is really good. Reading and writing giving me more confidence."

Priscilla agreed: "We always talk in English to each other - to practice. I want to be able to talk up for

my community, and I want to talk at meetings here too."

Improved confidence is one of the first benefits from doing this course, said Sandra, who comes from an Aboriginal community in northern Western Australia.

"A lot of people here think that because they can't pronounce some words properly that they can't get certain jobs and they are shy about talking up.

"They are used to white people in the community doing things for them and they just let that keep happening. It is great to see people develop confidence."

"I like studying. I like writing and reading and I am now interested in all sorts of things. This has changed the way we think about things."
CONRAD MURUNGUM



Store takes fresh approach

New scanning equipment and a fresh approach to selling fruit and vegetables are just two initiatives introduced by the Ngukurr General Community Store since the community and traditional owners in the area took it over three years ago.

"The shop is doing really well," chairman of the store and traditional owner Mr Phillip Bush said.

"We sell goods here cheaper than other nearby stores, and we also have taken a close look at what we offer to people.

"There is a high rate of blood pressure, cholesterol and sugar diabetes and, while some people still want junk food, we have introduced things like packing pieces of

fruit together.

"We do all our own packing - not only is it cheaper, but we can also have better control over the quality of the fruit and vegetables."

Following the floods earlier this year, which forced the community to fly in supplies, Mr Bush said a top priority was to build storage space to be prepared for that type of situation in the future.



Debra Murrungun, assistant manager of the Ngukurr General Community Store

Tapping into new solutions



Housing manager Alan Joshua inspects the garden taps.

The Ngukurr community has come up with clever ideas to solve common housing problems - paving the way for other communities to follow.

Housing manager Mr Alan Joshua said the solution was often to take the

environment and lifestyles of the community into consideration.

A simple drainage system under the garden taps, using a 40-gallon drum to collect dripping water had solved the problem of muddy patches.

Indoors, the idea of having the laundry area between the toilet and shower, with a tap and common drainage channel, also made it easy to clean this section by hosing it out, and a heavy-duty cover over the toilet cistern has vastly reduced damage reports.

Other solutions include having a lockable door to the kitchen, so people can cook safely without children running around, and the kitchens in the new houses also provide more space; installing special taps that help prevent over-tightening and subsequent leaks; and building an extra outside toilet and shower when renovating old houses to deal with overcrowding.

Action at Fregon youth week

"We're so happy to have had this week. We would like to see these activities happening more regularly on our communities. We don't have high schools on our lands, no youth workers, recreational facilities - there's just not enough things for young people to do. In the towns there's plenty of opportunities for young people, but not for us.

"That's a big reason why a lot of kids sniff petrol - they're bored, not enough to do. I'm happy the Women's Council is making people think about young people - we're the ones who will be the leaders in the future."

Young fella Jeremy Benson from Blackstone was speaking at the end of the hugely successful Youth Week 2000 at the Fregon community on the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Lands in SA.

More than 200 young people from 10 communities in SA, WA and NT showed up at Fregon to take part in football clinics, the national 3 on 3 basketball competition and other events - and to meet former Harlem Globetrotter Dwayne Cross



Left: The Blue Light disco run by the Marla Police had all the kids up dancing. Right: Winners of the 3 on 3 Basketball with former Globetrotter Dwayne Cross.



and former AFL star Nicky Winmar.

The week in June - organised as part of the NPY Women's Council Petrol Sniffing Project - was held to raise the profile of the needs of youth on our member communities.

Nicky Winmar was so impressed that he delivered an inspirational speech, telling

the crowd that coming to Fregon had meant more to him than playing in 250 AFL games. He urged the young fellas to look out for the smaller children coming up and be leaders to them.

Softball games, a drumming workshop, a blue light disco run by the Marla Police,

and a concert featuring local bands completed the week's events.

It was the first time the 3 on 3 basketball competition had been held in a remote community in Australia. The response was so positive that they hope to return next year.

Yipirinya School gets a new oval



Left to right: Louise Raggett, Geoffrey Shaw and Eli Rubuntja unveil the plaque

Renge Tywelkere (the white euro is resting inside the small cave) is the name of Yipirinya School's new oval.

Life Council members Eli Rubuntja and Louise Raggett - the Grandfather and Grandmother of Yipirinya School - un-

veiled a plaque to celebrate the opening of the oval and the achievements of Aboriginal Youth during National Youth week. The students of Yipirinya also organised sport, a fashion show, arts stalls, exhibitions and a concert for the week.

NPY Women's Council would like to thank the following for their financial support of the very successful Youth Week.

PY Media, Umuwa
OATSIH, Canberra
Aboriginal Services
Division of the Department
of Human Services,
Adelaide
FACS, Cooper Pedy
IAD, Alice Springs
Nganampa Health Council
Anangu Pitjantjatjara
Fregon School
Fregon Community
Irintata Homelands
Desert Sounds
A special thanks to the
Defence Forces
Indigenous Support Unit in
Canberra for their support.

LAND ENTERPRISE AUSTRALIA

MANAGER FOR A WEST KIMBERLEY BEEF PROPERTY

A manager is required to manage a 20,000 head Beef cattle property in the West Kimberley.

Applicants should be fully conversant with the practical, hands on management of all operations associated with the management of a herd of this size, including animal production, personnel and infrastructure management. The prospective applicants should be familiar with the requirements of corporate pastoral property management.

The station has comfortable quarters and there is access to primary and secondary education at the nearby regional centre.

A competitive salary package is available on the basis of a long term contract.

Applicants should apply in writing addressed to John Pembshaw GPO Box 652 Adelaide 5001.

LEA is an EEO employer. Indigenous people with the necessary skills are encouraged to apply.

The Wave Hill Walk Off

19-21 August 2000

Each year the Gurindji people mark the walk they made in 1966 from Wave Hill Station to Wattie Creek in protest at the terrible conditions they were forced to endure.

Gurindji Freedom Day is always a great occasion with plenty of action. Visitors are welcome.

Further information from Daguragu Community Council
telephone 89 750799



Above (from left): Donna Ah Chee, CAAC; Winnie Woods, NPY; Pat Miller, CAALAS; David Ross, CLC; Karl Hampton, IAD; and Merv Franey, CAAMA at a joint press conference on mandatory sentencing in Alice Springs earlier this year

Put mandatory sentencing back on the agenda

What has happened in the three months since the Prime Minister John Howard and the NT's Chief Minister Denis Burke made their deal over mandatory sentencing?

Mr Burke said after the deal that he was "moving on" and that he had more important things to deal with than mandatory sentencing.

But the \$5 million allocated for diversionary programs hasn't been allocated yet, never mind spent.

"We need to be able to see where all this money for Aboriginal people goes. It just disappears into the CLP's pockets and it never hits the ground for the people it is intended for," Central Land Council Director Mr David Ross said.

At the time of the deal in April, editorials acknowledged that the Burke-Howard deal was a political fix that didn't address the injustices of the regime and that more

needed to be done.

The NT Law Society described the deal as "a face saving deal which will sacrifice fundamental principles of justice for many people in remote Aboriginal communities." They said that children will be required to enter programs before their guilt has been determined, and that young people fearful of police will undertake diversionary programs when they didn't commit a crime to avoid the possibility of a mandatory sentence.

It is possible for the alternative mandatory sentencing Bills previously put up by Green's Senator Bob Brown and the ALP to be reintroduced in the next session of Federal Parliament in August.

Meanwhile, most of the regime that was severely condemned in the lead up to the deal, still applies.

Research into problems for itinerant people

A working group of local Aboriginal organisations are to work together to develop a comprehensive research program to address problems involving itinerant people in Darwin.

The research project is an attempt to understand the reasons for poor social behaviour that concerns local Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people.

The indigenous management group established to initiate and oversee this research project recognises there are no simple solutions and that the answer is not to be found by addressing just one part of this complex issue. A holistic approach to the range of social and cultural issues involved will need to consider a range of inter-related issues such as housing needs, health concerns, police and correction

services, local government policy, night patrols, and the reasons for visitors coming to town and not returning.

A workshop is proposed for later this year to bring together a range of groups to determine the most appropriate course of action for this long term research project, expected to take about 12 months to enable researchers to understand seasonal variations in itinerant groups and behaviour.

It is anticipated that an Indigenous Management Group comprising the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission (ATSIC), the NLC, the North Australian Aboriginal Legal Aid Service (NAALAS), the Aboriginal Medical Service Alliance of the NT (AMSANT) and the Larrakia Nation will report to a wider indigenous reference group and involve a range of Commonwealth, NT and local authorities in the evolving research project.

See Community Patrol story page 23

Education system fails Indigenous students

The Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission has called on state and territory governments to act immediately to improve education services in rural and remote areas, particularly for Indigenous students.

Human Rights Commissioner Chris Sidoti tabled his report on rural and remote education in Federal Parliament on 28 June.

The report found that Australia was not fulfilling its international human rights obligations to provide equality of educational services to all.

"We're not doing the best for the kids, we're not even providing a basic level of education for them," Commissioner Sidoti said.

Indigenous students are disproportionately represented among those rural and remote students who are being failed by the education system.

The Human Rights Commission Report has rejected state and territory governments' claims that the issue is a Federal responsibility, and has called for them to increase their spending on education for

the bush.

The Rural and Remote Education report was released just days after the NT Chief Minister Denis Burke called on the Federal Government to provide funds for the implementation of the Collins Review of Indigenous Education.

"I don't believe that the Northern Territory should take overall responsibility for what is a problem that affects Indigenous people right across Australia," said Mr Burke, who also claimed that the large proportion of Aboriginal people in the NT made the problem "more apparent."

The NT Government has been criticised for not implementing the major recommendations of the Collins Review, and for choosing to run a small number of pilot projects instead of instituting the structural and systemic change recommended by Collins.

Alice Springs to Darwin Railway

Expressions of Interest

are called for Aboriginal people and businesses interested in providing a range of services in connection with this major infrastructure project. Areas of expertise required include:

- hospitality
- camp catering
- cross cultural training
- labour hire
- liaison

In the first instance, please send expressions of interest detailing skills, experience and any other relevant information to:

Annette Laing
Northern Land Council
PO Box 42921
Casuarina NT 0811
Tel: 8920 5100 Fax: 8945 2633

Karl Hampton
Central Land Council
PO Box 3321
Alice Springs NT 0871
Tel: 8951 6248 or 0419813780
Fax: 8952 1590



Davenport - a good story will be told

A native title claim lodged in the Federal Court five years ago over the proposed Davenport Range National Park will be heard by Justice Mansfield in September this year – unravelling a fascinating history of the area in the process.

Justice Mansfield will go to Alepeyewenh, in the mountain ranges to hear the story from the Alyawarre, Kaytetye, Warumungu and Wakay people, who have been owners of that place since the Dreaming.

There are good stories to be told, for it is a place of wallaby, water and rain Dreamings, which cross and recross the land.

Following colonisation, many of the claimants spent much of their lives working for the mining and pastoral interests in the area at a time when harsh treatment of Aboriginal people was common.

The native title application covers the proposed Davenport Range National Park, which is on land surrendered from the Kurundi pastoral lease southeast of Tennant Creek in 1993.

The other area covered by the native title application is an area, inside the Anurrete land trust, set up for the township of Hatches Creek.

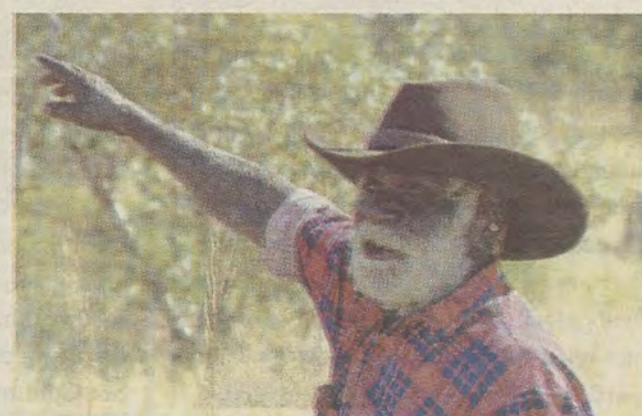
By 1953, when the town site was proclaimed, most mining had stopped in the area and no-one wanted to take up any land in the township.

Because areas inside town boundaries are excluded from claim under the Land Rights Act it was never included in the land trust, but it can be included in the native title claim.

Far right: (top) Claimants talk about their sites; (middle) Polly Pula; (bottom) Murphy Japanangka
Right: Albie Bailey
Below: the men pose for a group shot



Above: Jorna Murphy Nappangarti, Violet Barnes Apetyarr and Doris Kelly Nakamarra return to camp after collecting sugarbag (wild honey) nearby





Top right: Mutitjulu ladies celebrating the end of the Olympic Sports Carnival at the community
Middle: Members of the NAIDOC Week Committee at the Saltwater Band performance at Berrimah Jail
Above: Docker River mob at Mutitjulu
Top left :NLC Member Rodc, Friday speaks out about her Centre Island country near Borroloola
Middle (left): Senior men listen to Roddy's comments
Middle (right): Artist Judy Wilfred at Ngukurr
Left: Margaret Mary Turner speaking at the Walk for Reconciliation in Alice Springs

Aboriginal traditional way for Olympic

After months of planning, and watched by hundreds of journalists and millions of television viewers all over the world, the traditional owners of Uluru greeted the arrival of the Olympic torch into Australia on 8 June.



This page clockwise from top: Nicola Severino with ladies from NPY Womens Council; CLC Chairman Max Stuart, Brian Stirling and Johnny Stuart greeting the torchbearers in Alice Springs; Community members at Mutitjulu waiting for the torch; Imanpa schoolkids with their medals won in the Mutitjulu Olympic Sports Carnival; Tjamawa; Mutitjulu ladies at the community's celebrations the night before the torch bearers run around Uluru



Opposite page Small pics (top): Johnny Tjango presenting awards for the Sports Carnival and (bottom) Ernabella School win the Cup.

Mutitjulu kids at the awards ceremony and Nova Peris and Nicky Winmar catch up on Land Rights News after presenting awards at the community. Cartoon courtesy of Cathy Wilcox (The Age)



owners pave the torch...

Reggie Uluru, surrounded by his family, gave an official welcome in the Pitjantjatjara language, before it was handed to Nova Peris Kneebone, to begin the first leg of the torch relay.

Shortly afterwards, accompanied by children from Mutitjulu and other desert communities in the region and cheered by community members, Evonne Goolagong Cawley handed the torch to the first Anangu torchbearer, Nicola Severino, with a warm hug.

Other Aboriginal identities who carried the torch, including Ernie Dingo, Galarrwuy Yunupingu, Nicky Winmar and Andrew McCloud, shared the first legs of the relay with a team of 20 or so traditional owners.

But that was only the first Aboriginal welcome for the Olympic Torch.

Later in the day, senior Arrernte traditional owners of Mpartwe (Alice Springs) waited at Ntaripe (Heavitree Gap) to halt the entry of the Olympic Torch into the town – but only temporarily and symbolically.

In earlier times Arrernte Law prevented other groups from entering Alice Springs without the permission of the traditional landowners.

Traditionally, only senior men can ask for entry. The torchbearer on that leg of the relay was a young boy, so a SOCOG official was nominated instead to seek approval.

As CLC Chairman and Alice Springs native title holder Max Stuart agreed to let the torch pass through Ntaripe, a huge cheer went up from the 3000-strong crowd lining the Stuart Highway and the torch-bearers continued on their way. ●



“Nganana pukularinyi waru tjangi ngayuku mamku ngurakutu ngalya yankunytjala Ulurula, ka pukulpa pitjama nganampa ngura kutu. ka la pukularinyi pulkara, nganana kuwari kutju kulini Olympic Torch. Nganana waru tjangi iriti kanyiningi. Ka nganana uwankara pukulpa.

We are all very happy that the firestick has come to my father's place Uluru, and we would like to welcome you all to our country. We are very happy to be seeing the Olympic torch for the very first time. We have been using traditional firesticks since ancient times, and we are proud to welcome this special torch here today. Thank you and welcome.”

REGGIE ULURU

Nutrition the key to the future



Robert Lee, Director of the Jawoyn Association; Mike Lynskey, CEO of the Fred Hollows Foundation; Lisa Mumbin, Chair of the Jawoyn Association; Ray Martin, Chair of the Fred Hollows Foundation

The Jawoyn Association and the Fred Hollows Foundation have come together to develop a strategy to lift nutrition standards in communities in the Katherine East region of the NT.

The strategy will help the communities use their own ideas to better manage and control their own health. The main focus is improving the food and the services provided in community stores.

"This means access to healthy food – specifically fresh fruit and vegetables – at all times and at prices that are affordable," according to Olga Havnen, the Foundation's Program Manager for Indigenous Health.

The Foundation will provide at least \$250,000 each year for three years on the strategy and its main role is to help with community projects relating to food supply, food transport, food consumption and food nutrition.

Mr Robert Lee, Director of the Jawoyn Association and an NLC member, said nutrition was the key to the future of Aboriginal people in the region.

"Bad food, or not enough food, is the key to many of the problems we face," he said. "From the health of

pregnant women to that of our old people, nutrition is at the bottom of just about everything. From diabetes to heart disease, nutrition is what it is about."

The nutrition strategy is part of the Jawoyn Association's overall Nyirranggulong Health Strategy. Nyirranggulong is a Jawoyn phrase meaning "all together as one mob."

It emphasises the links needed between improved nutrition and initiatives such as store management, training of Aboriginal staff, the development of food policies, nutrition education in schools and revitalising interest in hunting and gathering.

It also emphasises the importance of coordination between stores, clinics and community groups, and the value of coordinating with sports and recreation programs.

The key is fixing those things that are known to make a difference in terms of raising nutritional standards. ●

“The most recent food basket surveys indicate that food costs at Barunga are 30 per cent higher than at Katherine, while at Wugularr they are 38 per cent higher. To place these in perspective, Katherine prices are in turn 13 per cent than Darwin, which itself has the highest costs of all Ausatralia’s capital cities.”

Report by
THE CENTRE FOR ABORIGINAL
ECONOMIC POLICY RESEARCH (CAEPR)

Changes needed at Club

The Northern Land Council has welcomed a decision by Justice Finn of the Federal Court to dismiss legal action by the Gunbalanya Sports and Social Club against the Arnhem Land Trust and the NLC.

The Court action concerned a 'notice to quit' issued against the Club in October 1999. The Club's 1982 lease expired in 1997. This action was taken with the approval of the traditional owners after the NLC consulted with the Gunbalanya community.

The Club asked the Court to find that the Land Trust and NLC had acted wrongly in issuing the notice to quit. The Club also asked the Court to direct that a new ten-year lease, based on the old 1982 lease, be immediately issued to the Club.

Justice Finn dismissed the action on the basis that the Club's legal documents were "woefully inadequate", and were based on "propositions of law which are undoubtedly incorrect" and which "demonstrated a disregard of basic principles." The Court ordered that the Club pay the NLC's legal costs. The Court said the Club could fix up its documents before 14 July if it wished to start another legal action. In the meantime the Land Trust and NLC will not enforce the notice to quit.

The NLC does not want to close down the Club. But new lease conditions are needed to update the old 1982 lease. The traditional owners and the community need to have a strong say about how the Club should be run, and should now consider what should go in a new lease.

The NLC will work with the traditional owners, the community, and the Club to resolve issues, including finding ways to deal with the alcohol problem. The Kunbang Action Report by the Menzies School of Health regarding alcohol in Kakadu said that the Club should make changes and take steps to reduce alcohol consumption. It said that alcohol was a big social problem which needed to be fixed.

Everybody knows that this is the case. The Club is on Aboriginal land, and this means Aboriginal people can work with the Club to fix the problems and make sure that alcohol does not destroy their community. ●

Health screening is important



Esther-Rose Manson and Irene Ogilvie (sitting) at AHW's Casuarina Community Care Centre.

About 200 women attended the second Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women's health expo in Darwin in June.

"We wanted to provide indigenous women in Darwin with the opportunity to meet health staff, ask questions and access basic health screening while at the Expo" said Women's Cancer Prevention Project Officer Trish Kurnoth.

"Many indigenous women feel uncomfortable or embarrassed about having women's health screening. Some don't think they are at risk of developing women health problems and others are hampered by lack of social support or don't know where to go for a culturally sensitive consultation. Regular women's health screening can help prevent major health problems including cervical cancer."

The stalls on display included a range of services such as Palliative Care, Health and Community Complaints Commission, Sexual Assault Referral Centre and the Heart Foundation. Naturopaths and masseurs were also available for consultation.

Women wanting to know more can talk to Ms Kurnoth at the Women's Cancer Prevention Program at Territory Health Services by phoning 13 15 56. ●



A trip in May by traditional owners in the Tanami revealed water in Jiwanpa (Lake Talbot) for the first time since 1992. Jiwanpa is part of the nguwa-ngapa or rain and rainbow snake dreaming and is one of the longest dreaming tracks in the Tanami.

Above right: Roger King introduces his daughter to the place of her dreaming
 Top left: Bidy Nangala Wave Hill
 Above: Kumanjayi Leo and Joe Long catch up on Land Rights News
 Right: Peggy Wynbine, Polly Simon and Derek Jimmy

Registrar still refuses to be flexible

The Registrar of Aboriginal Corporations Mr Noreddine Bouhafs has refused to back down from his actions to wind up tiny, remote organisations that have fallen foul of his bureaucratic demands.

Mr Bouhafs said that the fact that the people running some of these organisations being liquidated could not read or speak English very well and did not have regular and effective mail delivery systems was no excuse for them failing to submit annual reports.

Four corporations in the NLC region and at least as many in the Central Land Council region, which have the sole purpose of holding title of land, are facing liquidation – because they have failed to comply with legislation.

Regional Manager of the Northern Land Council Ms Edna Barolits questioned Mr Bouhafs following his launch of a training video, in English, telling Aboriginal people how to run meetings, a publicity exercise that has been labelled by Federal Member Warren Snowdon as “an evasion of the issue.”

“I suggest that this video, which is part of an information and training package, is an admission that Aboriginal people are not fully informed or aware of their responsibilities,” Ms Barolits said.

“But it’s too late for those organisations that have already been targeted and Mr Bouhafs is not prepared to be flexible and help them.”

This is in spite of the guiding principle of the Registrar’s Service Charter which promises they will “do what we can to make the (Registrar’s) work...culturally appropriate.”

Ms Barolits said she was pleased to hear the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs Senator John Herron suggest that it would be a good idea to dub the video in local languages.

“After all, the reason some organisations have been getting into strife is because English is not their first language,” she said.

Ms Barolits said she was very disappointed with Mr Bouhafs’ attitude.

“He just kept repeating that many letters of warning had been sent to these organisations and that he had them all on



Edna Barolits has a quiet word with the Registrar of Aboriginal Corporations Noreddine Bouhafs

file, but refused to consider that perhaps these letters were never received or understood fully.”

A large firm of Queensland lawyers has been used by the Registrar to wind up corporations in the Supreme Court of Queensland – an expensive process and hardly an encouragement for Aboriginal

people in the Territory and elsewhere in Australia to take part in the proceedings. The money could have been better spent assisting Aboriginal corporations to comply with the Act.

The Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs John Herron has been informed but says the Registrar has his support.

Wayne’s story can inspire



Wayne Barbour checks traps for screw worm fly, Cobourg Peninsula

It’s been a long hard haul from the old Aboriginal Inland Mission on Bagot Road for Wayne Barbour, who now spends his working life as Technical Officer for the Northern Australia Quarantine Strategy combating the threat of exotic pests and diseases arriving on our shores.

He hopes his story can help inspire other young Aboriginal people to study and achieve their goals as he has done.

Wayne, whose traditional country is north of Alice Springs where many of his family are landowners, was brought to Darwin as a child to live at the old Aboriginal Inland Mission – leaving at 17 to pursue his ambition to be a cowboy.

Ten years later, he made the life-changing decision to enrol in a course at the NT University.

“I just realised one day that I wanted more out of life. I wanted a home and a family and a good future and this wasn’t going to happen unless I got some education,” Wayne said.

“The turning point really came for me at Batchelor College,” Wayne said. “I would recommend Batchelor College to any Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander who wants to improve their education and get a chance to make a real difference to their life and a contribution to their community.”

Further study by correspondence through Charles Sturt University has Wayne well on the way to completing a Bachelor of Science (Parks Recreation and Heritage) degree.

Wayne spent the past three years working with local Aboriginal owners to design a wetland management strategy based on both Aboriginal culture and western science for the northern part of the Arafura swamp.

His new job also involves working closely with Aboriginal communities in the Top End, where the chance of coming face to face with a serious exotic pest or disease is a distinct possibility.



From left: Students Leah Gaylwawa, Joel Daniels and Bradley Grambeau.

Students find new moth



Students at Waruwi School on South Goulburn Island were invited by the Northern Australia Quarantine Strategy (NAQS) to be involved in a regular

survey of the island to look for exotic insects and weeds – and one made an important entomological find: a new moth for the region.

Leah, Joel, Paul, Bradley and Sophia went out with insect nets and specimen jars – and Joel brought back a large and colourful species of moth, which turned out to be a *Praesos mariana*, a species which, according to the standard textbook on Australian moths, is known to exist only on Cape York and near Cairns.

NAQS considers the 20-kilometre coastal strip running from Cairns to Broome is the most likely place for exotic pests and diseases from countries to our north to first reach Australia.



Matthew Ferber and his mother, Rosie Ferber on the day they met the queen

Crown lands on Arrernte country

When the Queen came to Alice Springs last March it was the first time a British monarch had met recognised native title holders in Australia.

Five Arrernte traditional landowners presented the Queen with a painting by well-known Arrernte artist Wenten Rubuntja Pengarte depicting sites of traditional significance to the Arrernte people of Mparntwe (Alice Springs).

CLC Chairman Mr Max Stuart said it was a historic occasion for the Arrernte people.

"For the first time in history we have been recognised as the native title holders of this land by the Queen and given the opportunity to welcome her to our country. I felt really proud as a native title holder to be able to do this," he said.

"This occasion will be remembered by my people and become part of our history for our children to look back on in the future.

"The Queen seemed very pleased with Wenten Rubuntja's painting."

Native title delegation member Rosie Ferber said while she was delighted to welcome the Queen to her country, she would have liked to sit down and discuss issues concerning Aboriginal people in Central Australia.

"I'd like to sit down with the Queen for a lot longer and raise issues concerning Aboriginal people who live here in the Centre – issues concerning our struggle for land rights, native title, bilingual education and cross cultural issues.

"I used the Arrernte language to welcome the Queen so I could stress the importance of bilingual education and to show her our language and culture is still strong and that we haven't lost it because of European ways," Ms Ferber said.

Ngukurr goes under the spotlight

The information and knowledge being gathered by a research team based in Ngukurr over the next three years will be used widely to benefit the people and the community, according to team leader Professor John Bern.

The social impact planning project by the University of Wollongong is funded predominantly by mining company Rio Tinto, which wants to develop a relationship with the community and gather information to help smooth the way for any major development that they may want to undertake in the future.

The research is looking at all kinds of community aspects, from health and education issues to the local rock band scene and religious influences over the years.

The research project started about a year ago with a demographic study which will be released as a book, containing information on areas such as work, money, health, welfare and housing.

"Usually research is done when a development is planned," Research Fellow Dr Mary Edmunds said: "The idea here is the long lead time is expected to give people involved the chance to look at options very early.

"Without the pressure, it makes it more viable."

Ngukurr resident and research assistant Miranda Rogers has already conducted a Gudbala Laif survey in the community and has reported back that people are happy with the way life is at the moment and any changes proposed (by Rio Tinto or anyone else) will need to be fully considered by everyone who wants a say.

"People are pretty happy with the way things are," Miranda said. "Community relationships are most important thing in the community. We still have it. We still got it. That is how we want to keep it.

"If we want to make changes we want to make sure we still keep that community strong relationship and want to really make sure that everybody has something to say about any changes in the community."

Ngukurr rock band history

An examination of the rock-band history of Ngukurr is just one of the smaller research projects coming out of this initiative.

"I did a survey - where they started from and where is it now," said research assistant and local musician Keith Rogers.

"It has been a bit of a struggle for local bands," Keith said. "Never enough money, and it is difficult to travel and play outside the community to get more known.

"Money is the biggest problem, but not only money. There are issues with families, relationships: personal problems affect work too."

While the first bands played country music, the focus



Miranda Rogers



Keith Rogers

now was mainly rock and roll, country rock and reggae.

The first band, the Yugal Band, which started in 1969 playing mainly rock 'n roll, country rock and blues, still exists. Lynx in the 1970s played blues, rock 'n roll, hard rock and reggae while some of the songs by Broken English, formed in 1985, include *Live or Die* - about the misuse of drugs and alcohol and finding out the hard way, *Barefoot Girl* - about wishful thinking and *Distant shores* - about AIDS.

Current bands are White Rock, Davis Jnr Band, Yugal Band, Derek Wurrumurra Band and Yupangalla Band.

The music department at the NT University will visit Ngukurr in July to conduct music courses.



Traditional music, song and dance (top right and middle right) entertained visitors at the Merrepen Festival held on June 3-4,

While sport was a major feature of the Barunga Festival held on June 10-12 with the Norforce boys (bottom right) among the appreciative spectators of the basketballers (top left and bottom left).



Kakadu Community Patrol is up and running

The new Community Patrol service in the Kakadu region is up and running.

Two vehicles are on the road, a night shelter for 12 people is fully equipped and two full-time staff are busy training the first team of Community patrollers.

Already 43 CDEP participants (18 women and 15 men) are on the list to become involved in the program.

"People been waiting a long time to have the Community Patrol," liaison officer Cyril McCartney said.

"They heard about other communities, and wanting to do it here for themselves.

"Because Jabiru is a mining town, we have a real mixture and we will deal with both black and white people.

"It is going to make a lot of difference. People will be really surprised. You watch."

Cyril, who has extensive experience with the Night Patrol service in his own community of Barunga, where he also served as President of the Community Council, and the Community Patrol coordinator Valda Napurrula Shannon, who comes from Alekareng community south of Tennant Creek, have spend the past few months setting up the new Kakadu service.

Beginning with a Friday night patrol, the service will gradually extend to cover more nights and also day work.

It covers the town of Jabiru and the communities Manaburduma, Mudginbarri, Cannon Hill, Mamukala and Patonga District.

Valda sees training and development for night patrol workers as crucial for the success of these services and has already organised a number of courses.

Important training covers practical skills, such as radio use, first aid and maintenance, people skills such as counselling, conflict resolution, understanding alcohol and its effects, team development and aggression management, and administration skills such as knowledge of legal matters, evaluation and gathering statistics.

In her experience working for the Night Patrol at Tennant Creek and as the Community Development Officer with the Julalikari Council Aboriginal Corporation, Valda also recognises the importance of networking with relevant agencies, such as government agencies and community groups.

"Every community is different and we are working in with what the community



Community Patrol participants recently attended a certificated training course focusing on knowledge of alcohol and substance abuse to complement their role in assisting the community.

wants and needs," Cyril said. "It depends on the local people – what their priorities are. Every program is different."

Both Valda and Cyril have seen the massive benefits arising from Night Patrol services.

"When we pick up an intoxicated person, we can get them to the shelter and the next morning talk to them about what drink does to your body," Cyril said.

"If he is going to go into the shelter 10, 20, 100 times, that doesn't matter. Maybe one day he will give it up, listen to us and change."

Valda pointed out the benefits of having Aboriginal people deal with situations. "We know the person's upbringing and background," she said. "We know how we can work hard to get round to that person in an appropriate way through involving the family maybe."

The priority in Kakadu at the moment is to try and stop people ending up in jail, and to tackle domestic violence in the community.

"The big problem is alcohol. Children are being neglected and juveniles are just hanging around. We want to prevent juveniles getting into trouble," Cyril said.

"It is going to destroy Aboriginal life. Too much drinking and no corroboree. That is one big concern. In the early days,

used to be a lot of corroborees, dancing. Now that we start drinking grog, everyone forgetting about ceremony."

Valda already holds a Bachelor of Arts in Education (Primary School) and is completing a Bachelor of Applied Science in Aboriginal Community Management and Development through Curtin University in Perth. She would like to see Night

Patrols taken more seriously by government.

"We get a lot of praise for the work we do – but no money," she said. "I am sick of praise – where is the commitment?"

"The government needs to take us seriously. I want to look at how to make a strong case, through evaluation and research - to get government to take notice."

"We have our Night Patrol steering committee, which discusses issues and makes the decisions," Valda said.

"Public awareness will be a big thing for the next few months, giving presentations and talking to people about what the service means.

"We are here to teach and train local people," Cyril agreed. "It is all about self determination, self management – giving responsibility back to the people and equipping them to take that responsibility.

"We are hoping to be the best Community Patrol service in the Territory."

“We are here to teach and train local people. It is all about self determination, self management – giving responsibility back to the people and equipping them to take that responsibility.”

**CYRIL McCARTNEY
Liasion Officer**

BRIEFS

Grassy Landscapes

An array of speakers, field trips and an extensive social program will highlight a conference aimed to stimulate active participation in discussions involving the future of Australia's northern landscapes.

The conference aims to better inform people about production and conservation, enterprise and regional management, community action, participation and practical ways to support and sustain the uses of the northern grassy landscapes.

The conference will be held in Katherine on 29-31 August.

For further information visit the conference website: <http://savanna.ntu.edu.au/news/grassy.html>

Swimming Pools Video

A video aimed at identifying issues and the process a community needs to consider when planning a swimming pool has been launched.

The swimming pools video uses the Areyonga community as an example of how a community can best achieve their goals in planning, constructing, maintaining and managing a community pool.

For more information on the video and accompanying booklet contact: Genevieve Johns 89998477 or the Department of Local Government in your region.

Youth Envoy Scheme

To mark next years Centenary of Federation, 100 young Australians aged 15-16 years will be chosen to participate in major events around the country.

As part of the Youth Envoy Scheme, the young people chosen will share their experiences with peers and their local communities and also record their experiences for archival purposes - providing important insight into how young people see Australia's past, present and future.

For more information on how and where to apply visit the Centenary of Federation website: www.centenary.gov.au/youth.

Batchelor Institute

Do you want to study in 2001?

The Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education is holding an Information Week on 23-27 October to give you the chance to visit Batchelor Campus and meet academic staff to discuss courses offered next year. You can talk to staff about your choice of career pathways.

For information contact Batchelor Institute on toll free number: 1800 815 262



Graduates from Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education received their awards at a ceremony held on the Batchelor campus on May 4.

Pictured (clockwise from top left):
Edward Puruntatameri – Milikapiti;
Maningrida dancers;

From left: Trepkina Douglas - Darwin,
Kim Manbulloo – Townsville;
Theresa Milkirinydji – Milingimbi;
Agnes Page – Daly River;

From left: Aaron Joshua – Ngukurr,
Laura Kerinauia – Nguiu,
Jacqueline Puautjimi – Nguiu,
Theresa Lemon – Peppimenarti;
Concepta Orsto - Nguiu;
Sandra Darcy -WA.

Who is playing games?



The teenagers out at Gunbalanya in West Arnhem have no community centre, no drop-in centre, no indoor sports facilities, no cinema...and during the Wet season, the only way out of the remote community is by air.

So the advertisement calling for people interested in the job as Sport and Recreation Officer to coordinate and implement activities in the community sounds hopeful.

But the person appointed will need to have bucketloads of enthusiasm - as there is currently very little else to help set up and run programs and activities for the kids of Gunbalanya.

There's no money in the budget for this position or for equipment - all they have is a handful of footballs and basketballs in the locker. There also is no vehicle allocated for the job. All would have to be funded from grant money - currently being sought.



"It comes down to priorities. This is an important program and we want to do more but it is a question of how we divide the cake up," Jabiru Town Clerk, Mr Tony Tapsell said.

"The main thing is very much a hands-on person that we need, someone who is good at organising sporting activities."

But Cameron Belcher, who has resigned as the Sport and Recreation Officer, said the focus of the job ended up being one of writing submissions, seeking sponsorship, applying for grants and begging for donations.

"Until it becomes a priority of the Council to provide some support and

infrastructure, it is just a token position," he said. "I don't know where to turn. Without funding, you are very limited."

Leander Kentish, from Goomadeer River and with family connections in the area, worked jointly with Cameron in the position and is also calling it a day.

"Council should be supporting the community, providing things for the kids to do," she said.

"We all know that it helps when you give young people things to do and help get them motivated.

"There are so many children here - they need to be provided for. There has got to be a real focus here in the community." ●

From Gunbalanya to Germany

The Nabarlek Band, based at Gunbalanya, is off on its first overseas tour in July when they will play at the World Expo in Hanover, as part of Australia Week, followed by gigs in and around the German city.

This opportunity follows the band's highly successful appearance at the Adelaide Festival of Arts in March, where they played at the Festival Club, followed by a regional tour of South Australia and the Northern Territory.

Later in the year, they are booked to appear as part of the Olympic Arts Festival.

The band members have set out in the year 2000 to become a serious band on the Australian music scene - and they are certainly achieving that. ●



Local singer Eddie Nayilibidj is pictured here joining band member Leon Guymala in a jam session recently at Gunbalanya.

Ursula to carry Paralympic torch

A group of teenage girls from Gunbalanya are off to Sydney in October - representing the only remote Aboriginal community school in Australia to attend the Paralympic Games.

The adventure will be the highlight of two years of effort which started off as a pen-pal project to improve literacy skills and quickly escalated into a fund-raising campaign involving the whole community.

Gunbalanya Community School was the first school in the Northern Territory to join LEAP (Link Elite Athlete Program), a scheme designed to introduce students to the history and vision of the Paralympic Games.

The girls enjoyed sending letters to the captain of the Australian women's Basketball Team Donna Ritchie, Warren Lawton, an Aboriginal elite athlete who is visually impaired and plays goalball and NT



Paralympic torchbearer Ursula Badari

Paralympian Judith Green.

The girls then decided they would like to go to the Paralympics - and so began an adventure in fund-raising, which involved

exploring ideas for events and activities, looking for sponsorships and keeping a bank balance. Fund-raisers have included a lucrative market in producing videos of community football games to sell and discos for the local youth.

"School attendance has greatly improved and the whole project has helped the girls build up their self confidence and self esteem," said teacher Maree Timms who initiated the exercise.

The latest development is that one of the students, Ursula Badari (12) has been nominated to carry the Paralympic torch when it travels through Darwin in October - one of only 20 people in the Northern Territory to have the honour.

So far, the girls have raised nearly \$7,000 towards their \$15,000 target to take 15 students and two teachers to Sydney in October. If you would like to make a donation, please contact Maree Timms at the school on 8979 0181. ●

World Heritage hears of inadequate progress

The 24th session of the Bureau of the World Heritage Committee, meeting in Paris, has heard that the Australian Government has made no progress in undertaking cultural mapping at the Jabiluka minesite and no significant progress on the Cultural Heritage Mapping Plan.

The NLC's submission to the third extraordinary session of the World Heritage Committee also says that inadequate progress has been made in implementing the Kakadu Regional Social Impact Study recommendations.

"This progress has come at the price of further division amongst Aboriginal groups in the area," the NLC says.

A progress report on these matters was required by the World Heritage Committee following its last meeting in Kyoto when it agreed not to list Kakadu on its World Heritage in Danger list.

The Australian Government provided

Ranger Tailings Leak

Chief Executive Officer of the Northern Land Council, Mr Norman Fry, said he was pleased that ERA had accepted recommendations that the company needed to improve its environmental monitoring procedures at the Ranger mine site.

The recommendations are in a report from the Office of the Supervising Scientist, prepared following a leak at the mine site, which was discovered in April.

The report found that ERA had failed to properly observe the requirements for immediate notification of the leak, and made 17 recommendations for improvements.

Federal Resources Minister Senator Nick Minchin has said that while he will not pursue prosecution, he will ensure that ERA implements the recommendations.

"Traditional owners of the area and Aboriginal people living in the area need to feel confident that the water management and all other environmental management systems achieve world's best practice and that ERA can be trusted to maintain these standards and not ignore or withhold vital information," Mr Fry said.

"We have been calling for better monitoring and water management systems for some time. This report certainly vindicates our concerns that they have just not been good enough."

Mr Fry said that traditional owners and people living near the Ranger uranium mine would be relieved with the report's findings that the leak of tailings water had had no adverse ecological impact on Kakadu National Park. ●

the World Heritage Committee with a report in April this year, which the NLC has described as inadequate.

"The NLC continues to hold serious concerns regarding the environmental requirements that are likely to apply if the Jabiluka Project were to proceed," the NLC's submission states. The NLC also told the World Heritage Committee that the traditional Aboriginal owners of the Jabiluka and Ranger Project Areas are fundamentally opposed to the Ranger Project Area being used to mill ore from the Jabiluka Project Area.

A spokesperson for the Gundjehmi Aboriginal Corporation attending the Paris meeting claimed that the committee was planning to send another investigative team to Kakadu to assess the impact of uranium mining.

A World Heritage mission visited Kakadu in 1998 prior to the Kyoto meeting, and recommended placing the area on the World Heritage in Danger list.

Law degree is a family affair



Matthew Bonson was surrounded by family when he was handed his Bachelor of Laws degree at the NT University, becoming the first student who completed an Aboriginal Pre-Law Program to receive the award.

"And that was just right," Matthew said. "This is not just a personal achievement. It is a family achievement. My family takes great pride in this and they have played a major part in being role models to me – and I would like to acknowledge them, especially my mother Roseanné Brennan and father Robert Bonson, who have both

worked with Aboriginal legal services around Australia, and not forgetting my long-time girlfriend Mona."

Matthew's family is well known in Darwin. "They all struggled through hard times, and had hurdles to overcome, hurdles that were in many ways, bigger than I have had to face," he said.

"Both sides of my family have played important roles in setting the example that you can achieve something if you put your mind to it."

Matthew's grandmother on his mother's side is Daisy Ruddock, a Gurundji woman who was a member of the Stolen Generation – just one relative that Matthew wants to acknowledge.

"At the turn of the century, she was taken to the Kahlin compound, the site where the old Darwin Hospital was built. She went on to work in that hospital when she became one of the first Aboriginal registered nurses in the Northern Territory," Matthew said.

"I look at her and see someone who really came from nowhere and that really inspires you. When any hurdle is put in front of me, I remember my grandmother being taken away. She is 85 now and still going strong."

Matthew's uncle on his father's side, Don Bonson junior, is another important person in his life.

"The way he carries himself and the way he views things and his open-mindedness has provided me with a good role model," Matthew said. "He taught me to respect other people's views and, at the same time, make sure you don't compromise your own principles."

Matthew, currently working as an articled clerk with the Northern Territory Legal Aid Commission, coaches teenagers in football and basketball in his spare time.

"People before me helped me see where I wanted to go, so hopefully I am able to do the same for others," he said.

"With sport, it is an opportunity to give young people something to do and give them the opportunity in their teen years to mix with older people who have something to offer, something that teenagers can aspire to.

"Sport is also often an opportunity to mix with people from different cultural backgrounds. When you step into the field, everyone is the same."

Matthew has plans to combine his love of law and sport in future career moves.

Apart from hopes to work on native title and indigenous land rights, Matthew's longterm goal is sports management, providing legal services for Aboriginal elite sportspeople in areas such as negotiations, contracts and sponsorships. ●



Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976

MCARTHUR RIVER REGION LAND CLAIM NO. 184 (INCLUDING PART OF THE MANANGOORA REGION LAND CLAIM NO. 185) NOTICE OF INTENTION TO COMMENCE INQUIRY

The Northern Land Council, on behalf of Aboriginals claiming to have a traditional land claim to land in the Northern Territory, having lodged an application with the Aboriginal Land Commissioner pursuant to section 50(1) of the *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976* for the determination of their claim, the Aboriginal Land Commissioner intends to commence an inquiry concerning those parts of the claimed land as are more particularly described in the schedule hereto (the claim area) on Thursday 15 June 2000 on Kangaroo Island in the McArthur River.

All persons wishing to establish an interest in any part of the claim area, or who wish to contest the claim, or who claim to be adversely affected thereby, or who on any other ground wish to be heard by the Commissioner concerning the claim should, on or before Monday 5 June 2000 give to the undersigned written notice of their interest and a brief outline of the points which they wish to raise. At the same time they should provide a copy of that notice to the Northern Land Council, PO Box 42921, Casuarina, NT 0811 and to The Solicitor for the Northern Territory, GPO Box 1722, Darwin NT 0801. Only those persons who give notice of their interest in this way will receive further advice about the hearing of the claim.

Further information about the application and the procedures to be adopted for inquiring into it may be obtained from the undersigned.

SCHEDULE

(a) McArthur River Land Claim No. 184

(i) Intertidal Zone in the Bing Bong Creek region

All that land in the Northern Territory of Australia between the high watermark and the low watermark from the northern-most point of the western boundary of Northern Territory portion 4319, otherwise known as McArthur River Pastoral Lease, to where the eastern bank of the McArthur river meets the seacoast.

(ii) Beds and Banks of the McArthur River

All that land in the Northern Territory of Australia being the beds and banks of the McArthur River from the mouth of the said river to where the said river meets the northern-most point of the eastern boundary of Northern Territory Portion 2087, otherwise known as Narwinbi Aboriginal Land.

(iii) Northern Territory Portion 3900

All that land in the Northern Territory of Australia being Northern Territory Portion 3900.

(b) Manangoora Land Claim No. 185

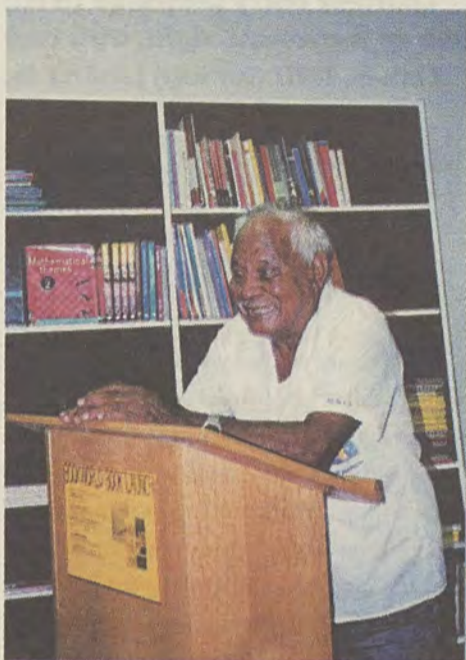
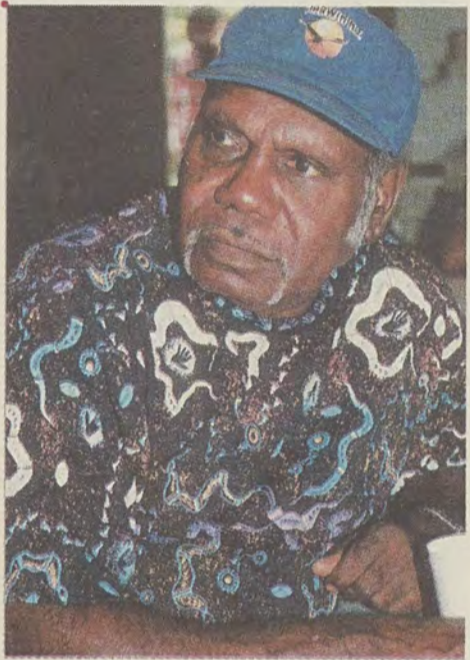
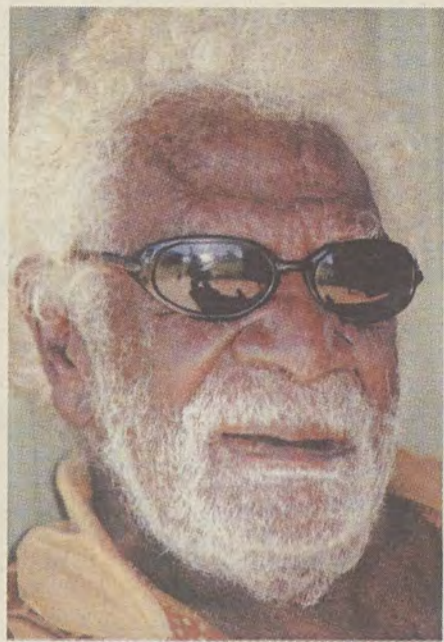
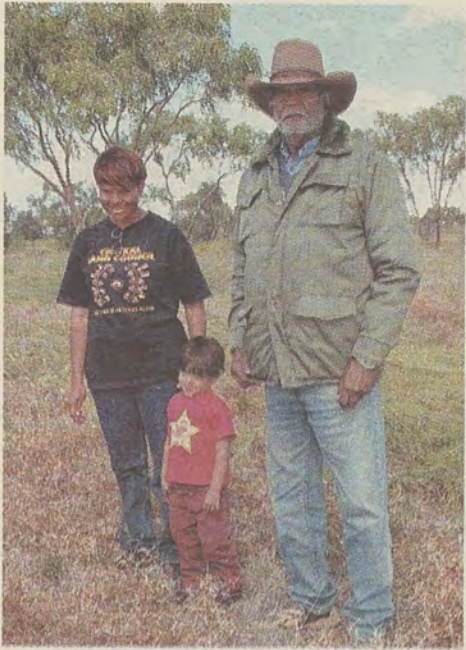
Intertidal Zone in the Manangoora region

All that land in the Northern Territory of Australia between the high watermark and the low watermark commencing where the eastern bank of the McArthur River meets the seacoast to where the eastern bank of the Robinson River meets the seacoast.

Dated this 15th day of May 2000.

Robert Bird
Executive Officer
Office of the Aboriginal Land Commissioner.

GPO Box 2289
DARWIN NT 0801
Tel: (08) 8981 1799
Fax: (08) 8981 3465



Clockwise from top right: NLC member May Albert (VRD);
 Founder member of CAAMA and Imparja Television Freda Glynn;
 Visitors at the NLC Full Council meeting 4-6 April, 2000;
 Women dancing at the hearing on Kangaroo Island (from left):
 Topsy Pyro, Dinah Norman, Annie Karrakayri, Isa McDinny and
 Thelma Douglas;
 Field Assistant Jimmy Madden from Balgo with geologist Maryanne
 Muir at the Otter exploration camp;
 Steve Long at Lake Talbot in the Tanami;
 Tex Cam Foo at the launch of 'Love Against the Law';
 Andy Andrew - Katherine NLC member; Abe Jangala from
 Lajamanu;
 Three generations at Rockhampton Downs handback from left:
 Gina Smith, daughter Kia and father Archie Allen.





Courtesy Barry Ledwidge (NTU)

Mary Yarmirr, deputy chair of the NLC (second left) leads the gospel choir at the award night, with Lucy Eames, NTU (far left) joining in.

Croker Island is alive with the sound of music

Music is a part of life for the entire population of Croker Island, where a major ceremony was recently held for the latest group of Contemporary Music students from NT University.

Beginners undertaking the Entry Level Music Industry Skills certificate and advanced students completing parts of the

Certificate 111 modules were recognised at the presentation function at Minjilang.

They are all training for work in the music industry as performers and recording artists.

The Entry Level course provides introductory training which can lead to a variety of career pathways and to further training within the entertainment industry.

“There are so many musicians,” course coordinator Michael Hohnen said, following his time teaching on the island. “The old men were constantly coming to us wanting to sing and record traditional songs. The gospel choir constantly grew in numbers, and the kids at school were writing song after song about their island, copying what was happening with the adult training.”

Saltwater Band go Black and Beyond



The NT's Saltwater Band ended up in Berrimah Jail at the end of its "Black and Beyond Top End Tour" – and couldn't be happier.

After a successful performance at Darling Harbour, Coroborree 2000, the band played a number of remote and regional communities in the Top End, ending with the special gig on June 17 for the inmates in the low and medium security sections at Berrimah.

Saltwater Band is being hailed as one of the best new indigenous talents in Australia, poised to go a long way.

Triple J's Tony Collins says the band's CD *Gapu Damurrun* provides “an exciting blend of saltwater reggae and island gospel romance with contemporary guitar whips from the unmistakably “Guru” (Jeffrey Yunupingu) sound.”

Daly River women sing with the Symphony



The Daly River Women's Choir showed dedication for their debut performance with the Darwin Symphony Orchestra in June.

The eight choir members, Suzanne Nurra, Louise Pandella, Patricia McTaggart, Beatrice Wumbunji, Miriam-Rose Ungunmerr, Bridget Kikatin, Domenica Mullins and Catherine Ariuu, twice made the four-hour return trip from their community to Darwin to rehearse with the orchestra at the NT University in

preparation for the big night.

And they wrote two songs in their local language Ngangikurunggurr specially for the occasion - one song a gospel song, while the other describes life in their community.

It describes the seasons, the things the people collect at different times of the year and the history of the place.

The Saturday night performance on the banks of the Daly River was a highlight of the annual Merrepen Arts Festival held on June 3-4.

Yawulyu Mungamunga: Dreaming songs of Warumungu women

The Warumungu women, from the Tennant Creek area have launched a CD of traditional songs from the Dreaming.



The songs on the CD belong to the women of the Warumungu language group and have been derived from spirit beings, the Mungamunga women, who passed on the songs - along with dances, body paint designs and ritual objects to be used whilst performing the songs.

The 23 tracks are all sung in the Warumungu language and were once restricted to women only, but have been opened up by the group who have performed the songs at a number of events.

However some ritual contexts in which the songs are used are still restricted to Warumungu women.

The Warumungu women worked closely with Sydney University music researcher Dr Barwick, Sydney University linguist Dr Jane Simpson and the Papulu Apparr Kari language and Culture Centre to produce the CD.

The songs were recorded on two occasions in Tennant Creek, in September 1996 and August 1997 and the women were actively involved throughout the project.

The CD was officially launched in Sydney at the Seymour Centre on 29 April and then in Tennant Creek on 24 May.

The Warumungu women hold copyright for the CD and all royalty proceeds will be returned to the community.

Money to be made from donkeys

Aboriginal landowners in the Kalkaringi region have signed an agreement which will see feral donkeys on their land trusts culled and used for pet meat rather than wasted – as happens on many pastoral properties in the Territory.

There is an estimated total of 60,000 feral donkeys and horses on the Daguragu, Hooker Creek, Malngin and Malngin 2 Land Trusts; and there has been increasing pressure from government agencies to eradicate them.

Central Land Council director David Ross said it should be recognised that this was responsible land management.

“In the past, many Aboriginal landowners have been reluctant to cull the animals unless they were put to some use.

“Aboriginal people often see the existence of feral animals in a quite different way from many non-Aboriginal people, who may think of them only as pests,” he said. “They would say that if an animal is there, then it has every right to be there. It is part of the nature of the spiritual

connection people have with country.

“But if they can see that the donkeys will not just be shot for the sake of it, then it is an entirely different matter.”

The Central Land Council was able to negotiate an agreement with a pet meat supplier whereby Aboriginal landowners would receive cash for each animal removed and also preference for employment.

The agreement will continue until late December this year, with options for the further removal of animals, which is mainly done during the dry season.

“This way everyone benefits – the landowners will make some money, the feral animals are cleaned up and hopefully some of the locals will earn some extra money and learn a bit about the meat processing trade,” said Mr. Ross. ●

Kungka Ninti (Girls are Clever)

A recent workshop to look at options for further study and careers for 15-18 year old girls in Central Australia particularly looked at current skill area shortages.

The ‘Kungka Ninti’ workshop was run over four days by the family-focused Aboriginal organisation Waltja Tjutangku Palyapayi.

Most of the girls said they were hoping to work in their own communities in the future.

However, the workshop did highlight the current lack of opportunities for employment and education for young people on remote communities.

Workshop funding was by DEETYA from the VEGAS program. ●

New gallery for Alice Springs

A new art gallery has opened in Alice Springs for Aboriginal artists in Central Australia.

Desart is an association of more than 35 art and craft centres representing 4000 arts and crafts people from communities of the centre.

The organisation’s main role is to

provide Aboriginal artists and art centres with the opportunity to participate in the mainstream market place while maintaining social and cultural protocols.

Desart has a gallery and exhibition space, a warehouse, a studio and a workplace for bush artists visiting town. ●

Real Legends



Cathy and David Mills

Cathy and David Mills are the first locals to be acknowledged in Real Legends, a series of family evenings to celebrate the strength of Aboriginal values and culture in the Darwin community.

The evenings will pay tribute to local Aboriginal legends who have helped keep cultural interaction and community development strong.

Cathy Mills was acknowledged as a

feisty advocate for her people, a founder of most Aboriginal organisations in Darwin, a cultural woman, and a health worker whose successful work on nutrition has brought new innovations to Territory Health Services.

Cathy and David are founders of the famous Mills Family singers, which also includes daughters Ally and June and son Bob. ●

Devils Marbles case lost

A number of the Central Land Council’s sunset land claims were resolved by a decision of the High Court which ruled to refuse leave to appeal the Japanangka decision of 1984.

The CLC had sought leave to appeal the decision which ruled that land alienated by the Northern Territory’s Conservation Land Corporation could not be claimed under the Aboriginal Land Rights Act.

The decision concerned land at the Devil’s Marbles

CLC director David Ross said that the action had been an important test case and would assist to resolve a number of other land claims.

“It wasn’t a costly exercise and we are obliged to pursue these avenues. Native title holders can pursue their rights on this land under the Native Title Act,” he said.

The Northern Land Council was

disappointed with the High Court ruling which affects a land claim over the Billengarrah pastoral station, near the Gulf of Carpentaria.

The High Court decision has clarified the law on this issue. The NLC is now considering advice regarding other options to challenge the Corporation’s title, which may apply to many outstanding claims.

“The Corporations are limited to one statutory function, namely the ownership of land,” NLC Chief Executive Officer, Mr Norman Fry, said.

“They do nothing else, and we consider the actions of the NT Government has created a very unjust situation.” ●



Land needs its people

A 120km trek across one of Australia's most remote and inaccessible plateaus has confirmed the Aboriginal view that "the land needs its people".

A party of 10 Aboriginal and two non-Aboriginal people spent 11 days looking at the ecological health of country along a traditional trade route.

The route was used to trade quartzite spear points made by Kunwinjku people from the Mann River for bamboo spear shafts growing in the country of the Gagadju people in what is now the World Heritage listed Kakadu National Park.

The last such trading treks took place about 50 years ago as the last Aboriginal people remaining in the rocky uplands were persuaded to leave their traditional estates and move to Government settlements and church missions.

"Since then the country has been empty without anyone left to carry on traditional management," says Dean Yibarbuk, chief ranger with the Djelk Aboriginal community rangers, an Aboriginal group trying to integrate conservation and development in central and western Arnhem Land.

"In particular we saw areas that have been severely damaged by late dry season wildfires. That would have been prevented if people were still there carrying out traditional fire management."

Aboriginal traditional burning begins at the end of the wet season with many small and relatively cool fires lit as grassy fuels dry out. The mosaic in space and time of burned and unburned areas creates effective breaks against the catastrophic wildfires which can burn out tens of

thousands of square kilometres when fuels accumulate over several seasons without any fire.

A major indicator of the change in fire regime observed on the trek are the many stands of dead native cypress pine.

"Aboriginal people have been living here for more than 60,000 years and the Cypress has clearly been able to live well with traditional burning over that period," Dean said. "But now we are seeing it dying out and it seems obviously associated with the depopulation of the plateau and the subsequent changes in fire."

Dean also believes the changes in fire are also affecting populations of animals like emu, which depend on bush fruits that are also badly affected by late and hot wild-fire.

"We saw only a few emus over the 120km but elsewhere on the plateau where people are living and burning in a traditional way populations of emus are much larger," he said.

Feral buffalo, descended from Timorean buffalo brought to Australia in the 1820s are also badly affecting the fragile uplands; damaging springs and causing erosion. Adding to the range of invading exotic pests are feral cats, pigs and even the European honey bee.

Working collaboratively with the Northern Land Council and the Federal Department for the Environment, Dean Yibarbuk and other Aboriginal land



Top: Mike Redford, Djelk ranger standing at 1100ft, preparing to walk down to the valleys of the East Alligator system. Photo courtesy

Bottom: Along the route early burning was carried in areas where landowners had given their approval. Dean Yibarbuk follows the edge of the fire along with Denis Buckley (NTU) coming behind.

managers are now developing strategies to get people back into the "wilderness" and bringing back traditional management along with control of feral animal populations.

"Short of spending big money on helicopters, footwalking is the only way to get into this country. Perhaps over time we will develop eco-tourism as a way of funding more management trips like this," says Dean Yibarbuk

CLC Gets Another Award

The Central Land Council received a commendation in the Prime Minister's Environmental Award, announced on World Environment Day, June 5, 2000. There were over 400 entries in the Award.

The CLC's Land Assessment and Planning Unit entered its seven year program for land use planning with Aboriginal landowners in the Natural Heritage Trust Award for Rural and Regional Leadership category.

The program allows landowners to develop plans which incorporate their local knowledge and meet their local needs and relies on active participation by landowners for its success.



Aboriginal landowners have been actively involved in planning projects related to burning, cleaning rockholes and managing bush foods and medicines, as well as cattle and tourism enterprises. This work is taking place on the North Karantijpa Aboriginal Land Trust, Petermann ALT, Hooker Creek and Central Desert ALTs, Loves Creek Pastoral Lease and other places.



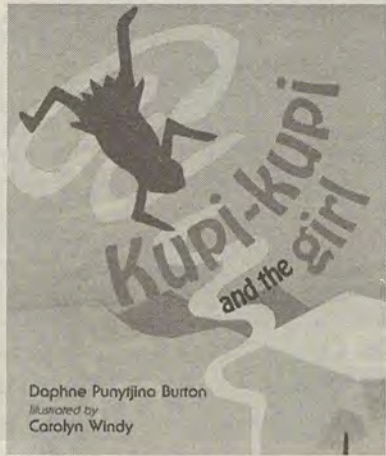
Kupi-kupi and the Girl

Kupi-kupi and the Girl
By Daphne Punytjina Burton
Illustrated by Carolyn Windy
Magabala Books
RRP: \$14.95

Magabala Books has once again hit the mark with their latest illustrated children's book.

"Kupi-kupi and the Girl" is deceptively simple in its storytelling and illustration, but there is much in the story for the young mind to think about.

This tale of a girl taken from her country by a kupi-kupi (willy willy) and then rescued by a witch doctor from a sleeping wanampi (watersnake) guarding the girl offers the full range of emotions and drama of the very best storytelling.



The illustrations are clean and simple; they both complement the storytelling and stand as fine illustrations in their own right.

Both the author, Daphne Punytjina Burton, and the illustrator, Carolyn Windy, are Pitjantjatjara speakers from the Areyonga (or Utju in Pitjantjatjara language) community, 240 kms south west of Alice Springs. Both are involved in teaching Aboriginal culture and producing material for the Literacy Production Unit at Utju School. Their experience and joy of teaching their culture shines through on every page.

The book is written in English and Pitjantjatjara, and is accompanied by a pronunciation guide, an introduction to the Pitjantjatjara language and a comprehensive wordlist.

Highly recommended. ●



Reconciliation

Reconciliation
Edited by Michelle Grattan.
Bookman Press, Melbourne.
RRP: \$24.95

This anthology of forty essays represents the views of Aboriginal leaders, politicians and social commentators including Geoff Clarke, John Howard, Henry Reynolds, Evelyn Scott, Kim Beazley, Pat Dodson, Paul Wand and Lowitja O'Donoghue.

Reconciliation is amongst the most powerful concepts of the recent past, and such a book is timely.

It contains personal accounts of the varied experiences that inspire people to work towards reconciliation.

Lowitja O'Donoghue explains how being taken away from her family influenced her decision not to have children. Authors Henry Reynolds and Peter Jull (Queensland academics) wisely place reconciliation in an international context and in relation to the political agenda of indigenous self-governance and decolonisation.

Paul Keating's memorable Redfern Park speech is fittingly reprinted in this volume to add a sense of history to reconciliation.

Many differing versions of reconciliation appear in this book. John Howard's chapter confirms his diminished role in Australian politics for advocating a qualified 'practical' reconciliation and refusing to recognise the need for an apology.

A chapter on recent polling for the Council for Reconciliation supports pessimism about reconciliation's prospects. Many Australians still hold contradictory

mean-spirited views about Aboriginal people and their place in the nation. Over 80% agreed they were treated harshly historically, but only 41% thought them currently disadvantaged, 52% did not. While over 70% accepted the need for government to tackle disadvantage, 60% said that Aborigines received too much assistance, and 70% believed they did little for themselves. The surveyors conclude 'although the majority are in agreement with the notion of formally recognising the past, the majority are not prepared to apologise for it' (p 34).

The hostility to Aboriginal people recorded in this chapter is depressingly similar to surveys done for the Hawke government.

As Hugh Mackay suggests, there is clearly enough negativity and indifference to comfort politicians and others who believe apologies are unnecessary and processes such as treaty negotiation are divisive.

In 1992, Keating urged Australians to try to imagine the Aboriginal view believing it couldn't be too hard (p.64). A central objective of reconciliation and the work of the Reconciliation Council was to generate this understanding in society, an ambitious task and clearly one that needs more time and effort.

The survey results, and many reflections on the course of reconciliation in this book, point to the urgent need for education and for locally generated acts of reconciliation.

These are needed to draw people together so that the 'politics of apologies' which bore or anger some, become meaningful, personal and urgent.

Reconciliation is a fascinating collection of views on arguably the most important social issue facing the country. ●

NAIDOC WEEK Darwin

Tuesday July 4

10am-2pm Danila Dilba Open Day and Opening of Men's Health Centre

10am-4pm Kid's Basketball Knockout Competition at Marrara Stadium

7pm-12am Karaoke and fashion parade at St Mary's Club

Wednesday July 5

10am-2pm Static displays at Raintree Park; TSI Keriba Wakai dancers

10am-2pm Minbani Child Care centre

12noon-3pm Juninga's Bush Tucker lunch

5pm Golden Oldies Footy Game at Marrara

7pm-12am Sporting Legends, AFL auction, Kantilla's Marrara

Thursday July 6

9am-2pm Commonwealth Law Court Open Day at TCG Building, Mitchell Street

10am-2pm Darwin Prison art exhibition and art displays at Raintree Park

10am-2pm Static displays at Palmerston shopping centre

7pm-1am TSI Night 'Kapa Mauri' at Wanderers Club

Friday July 7

7.30am-9.30am Breakfast at Silas Roberts hostel

10am-12noon March from Parliament House to Raintree Park;

12noon-2pm Nightcliff Renal Unit BBQ lunch

2pm Palmerston Town Council Reception & Speakers

8pm-1am House Party at Airport Hotel

7pm-1am NAIDOC Ball at MGM Casino Poetry & NAIDOC Awards

Saturday July 8

10am-5pm Family Day at Dripstone Park: BBQ, bush tucker,

12noon-2pm Palmerston Pool Day - free entry & BBQ

6pm-9pm Palmerston U18s disco at Palmertson High

7pm-2am Music Concert at Wanderers Club

Yapa Kurlangu Video Festival

Following the success of last years Walungurra video festival at Kintore, Yuendumu will host it this year in conjunction with the legendary Yuendumu Sports Weekend on 3,4 and 6 August.

Yapa Kurlangu is a video festival showcasing the new productions of indigenous media video and film makers.

Entries are accepted from indigenous film-makers throughout Australia but the main focus is on remote areas.

Endorsed by the Yuendumu Community Council, it is an opportunity for Aboriginal people

people to view the productions of other communities.

The first two days will show videos from film-makers throughout Australia.

The 'Best of the Fest' will be held on Sunday afternoon, 6 August, showing the best films from the weekend followed by the awards.

No permits are needed for the weekend and everyone is welcome.

It will be an alcohol free event.

The festival is still seeking entries.

For information or help with editing call Warlpiri Media on 8956 4024.

YAPAKURLANGU

2nd REMOTE NATIONAL INDIGENOUS
VIDEO FESTIVAL

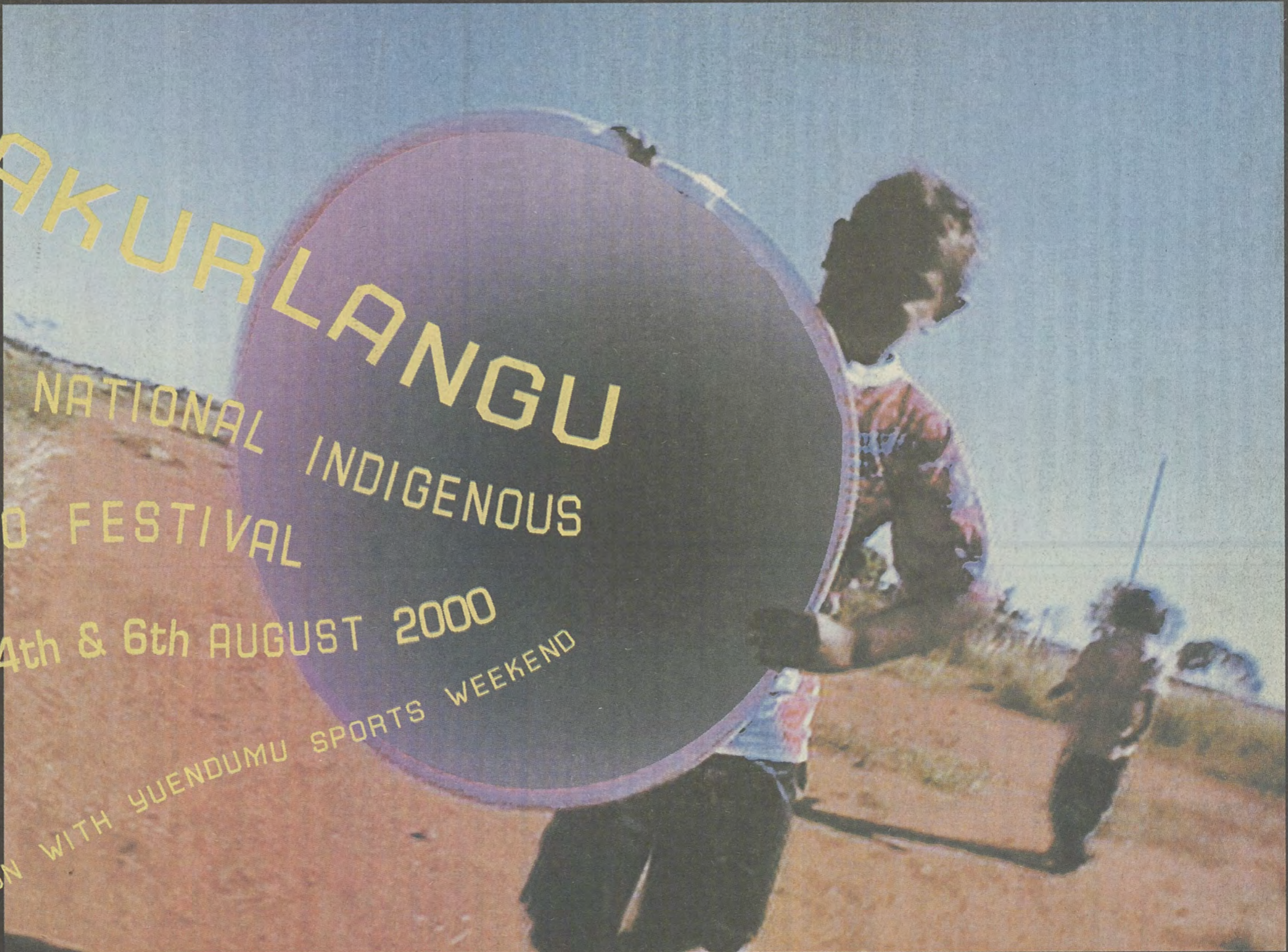
3th, 4th & 6th AUGUST 2000

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