



# Land Rights

## NEWS



**One Mob, One Voice, One Land**

Vol 3 No 6 June 2001



**INSIDE : Barunga,  
Batchelor, Warlpiri Triangle,  
Sea rights, Yuendumu**

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**Dolly Daniels Nampijinpa digging for bush potatoes on a recent trip to Newhaven near Yuendumu**

## Land Rights NEWS

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# CONTENTS

Larrakia development .....	3	Sea Rights, Study centre .....	16
New team at CLC - Chairman and Executive .....	4	Flynn's grave film .....	17
News - CLC takes on CATIA .....	5	Gurindji .....	18
Barunga - pics, pics and pics ...	6	Youth Summit .....	19
Central Australia - Self government still on the agenda.	7	Land Management - women's conference, Newhaven bird sanctuary .....	20
News .....	8	Social Page .....	21
Cooking up a storm - bush tucker and the art of cooking ...	9	Arts - book launch exhibitions .....	22
Batchelor pics .....	10	Obituaries .....	23
News .....	11		
Yuendumu aged care centre opens .....	12		
Tiwi and Merrepen Festivals...	13		
News .....	14		
People power - Warlpiri take the initiative on education.....	15		

### COVER PHOTO

**Teams came from all over the Top End to play basketball in the sports carnival at the Barunga Festival held over the June long weekend**

# Larrakia build on a developing future

**Larrakia people will be major residential developers in Darwin, following a landmark agreement with the NT Government.**

**The agreement settles a native title claim lodged in May 1994 by the Larrakia people. This was the first native title claim lodged in the Northern Territory.**

A Development Corporation will be established to oversee Larrakia plans to build low and medium density housing on a significant portion of the new suburbs of Rosebery and Bellamack in Darwin's satellite town of Palmerston.

Under a commercial lease, which will be acquired from the NT Government on commercial terms, the Larrakia will undertake the residential development of nearly 50 hectares of Rosebery. So far as concerns native title, the balance of Rosebery and Bellamack will also be available for development.

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

"This is a very exciting settlement which shows that the NT Government and the Larrakia can work together for positive developments in the Darwin region - without costly and protracted court cases," Northern Land Council CEO Norman Fry said.

"The agreement means that Larrakia people will be closely involved in development on their traditional lands, participating in the growth of the Territory."

The agreement follows on the success of the Kenbi Land Claim last year, the settlement of the East Arm Port development early this year, and foreshadows the Darwin area native title claim which will be heard by the Federal Court next year.

It is the result of intensive negotiations between the NLC, the Larrakia and the NT Government over the last two years.

The venture will open doors for Aboriginal employment during construction, as well as providing profits which will be held in trust and re-invested in other enterprises for the benefit of all Larrakia. These investments will ensure the long term participation of Larrakia in the growth and development of Darwin.

The Larrakia will also nominate the names for public places, including roads, in Rosebery and Bellamack.

The Larrakia are now considering how to win tenders for landscaping contracts,



**Looking at the development plans on the site of the proposed new sub division are Larrakia traditional owners (from left): Tanya Panuel, Rosemary Parfitt, Wayne Vowels, Suzanne Bailey, Donna Jackson, Yasmin Alley, Yolley Alley, Robert Mills, Matthew Reid and Pauline Baban.**

based on its blossoming bush tucker and gardening centre near the Royal Darwin Hospital.

A board of management for the project will include representatives from the Larrakia, NLC and experts in real estate development and financial management.●



**Larrakia traditional owners at the sign pointing to the Archer Sporting Complex (from left): Robert Mills, Rosemary Parfitt, Pauline Baban and Suzanne Bailey**

## Grog Restrictions in Alice Springs – a matter of time

**The decision to defer a trial imposing an alcohol restriction in Alice Springs is a huge blow to Aboriginal people and community bodies heavily involved in the campaign.**

The Northern Territory Licensing Commissioner, Peter Allen, last month said he could not support the trial at this stage because of the division in the community over the issue. Instead he has referred the matter back to the community to enable supplementary initiatives to be developed in tandem with the advertised restrictions.

His hope is that these tandem strategies will broaden community support for reform sufficiently for him to be able to introduce trial restrictions. Under its legislation, the Commission can only introduce trials if it believes there is sufficient support as well as need for it in the community.

The Commissioner says he was bound to base his decision on the response to the specific restriction proposals that were advertised, and not consider any previous

reports, surveys and correspondence regarding the alcohol problem in Alice Springs.

The ads proposed changes to all alcohol licences to restrict sales of takeaway alcohol to start at 2pm on Monday to Friday, and stop the sale of all wine and sherry in containers bigger than two litres.

The Commission received more than 2700 submissions, letters, petitions and form letters in response to his ads, many of which supported the changes. However, these were outnumbered by form letters that were collected at bottle shops at the point of sale by liquor licensees and sent into the Commission in bundles.

"There are pages and pages and pages of initiatives developed by community bodies like Tangentyere Council, Congress and even the government's own body 'Alice in Ten'," Central Land Council director, David Ross said. "They have been submitted to the Commission again and again. Where are they now? I say they have been deliberately buried by the Commission to enable this outcome."

The People's Alcohol Action Coalition

in Alice Springs (PAAC) has convened several urgent strategy meetings to decide on the best way forward following this report from the Commission.

Spokesperson for PAAC, Ms Donna AhChee, said "We believe the trial of grog restrictions in Alice Springs will happen eventually. It is only a matter of time. The Licensing Commission has not ruled out restrictions, it has suggested that the advertised restrictions alone will not work, and other initiatives need to accompany them. There are many successful programs and initiatives in Alice Springs, from rehabilitation services, youth education programs, Night Patrol and 'Return to Country'. PAAC has a comprehensive strategy, mainly based on these existing programs, and the big job now is to explain this strategy to the rest of the community and to the Commission, and thus widen community support for the reforms.

"The level of support for the trial of restrictions was very heartening. People know that reducing the availability of alcohol is the central plank in any strategy to deal with grog in this town. It has worked

in Tennant Creek, and it can work here.

"This is an important time. Aboriginal people need to talk up loudly about what should happen in Alice Springs. We need to work together to finish this off - we are so close to a victory." ●

### Impact of restrictions on alcohol sales

Prior to the Tennant Creek restrictions being introduced in August 1995, the per capita level of liquor purchases in the Barkly Region by persons aged 15 years and over was 18.4 litres of absolute alcohol per annum - 12% higher than the overall NT level of 16.4 litres, which was in turn considerably higher than the national average.

In the year in which restrictions were introduced (1995/96), the per capita level dropped to 15.7 litres, almost level with the NT average. In the years since then, the per capita rate of purchases has fallen to 13.8 litres, some 14.8% below the NT figure of 16.2 litres.

# New team at the CLC



**Victor Simon Executive member North West Region**



**William Brown Executive member Tanami Region**



**Richard Minor Executive member Western Region**



**Ron Hagan Executive member Anmatjerre Region**

**The Central Land Council has a new Chairman, Deputy Chairman and nine new executive members following an election at a Council meeting at Tennant Creek in March.**

Mr Kunmanara Breaden is the new Chairman. He replaces Max Stuart and it is the third time he has held the position.

Mr Breaden is a Luritja man and a respected leader who has been at the forefront of the struggle for land rights for more than 25 years.

He was born on Tempe Downs station south west of Alice Springs and lives at Wanmarra (Bagot Spring), a 'living area' excised from the Watarrka/Kings Canyon National Park.

Mr Breaden said he will work to ensure that Aboriginal people in the bush get a fair go.

"I'm still worried about all those people who didn't get their country back - I've been strong on that all the time" Mr Breaden said.

Mr Breaden said that he fully supported the Combined Aboriginal

Nations of Central Australia and its work towards self-government for Aboriginal people.

"I think the model they are looking at now is a really good one."

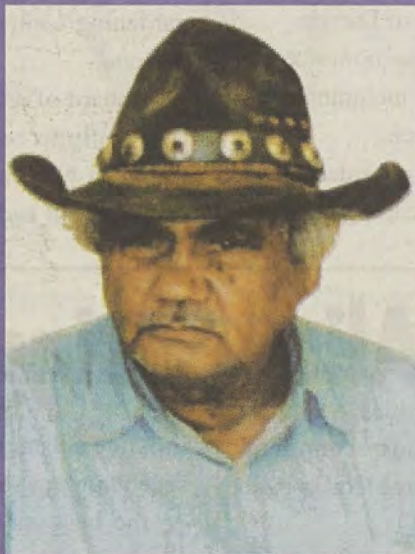
"I also don't want to see land rights change and get weaker like the Reeves Report wants to do. That one's no good. If we got 18 small land councils it would be weaker and land rights would fall over.

"I'm also worried for outstations and the small places which are really paddling hard.

"And I'm still strong on sacred site protection," he said.

The new Deputy Chairman Sid Anderson is also a Luritja man. He lives at Papunya west of Alice Springs.

76 delegates took part in the council meeting and voted in the election which was overseen by the Australian Electoral Commission and ATSIC.



**Kunmanara Breaden Chairman**



**Sid Anderson Deputy Chairman**



**Diane Stokes Executive member Tennant Creek Region**



**Mr Skinner Executive member Eastern Sandover Region**



**Graham Calma Executive member South West Region**



**Bernard Abbott Executive member Central Region**



**Anthony Petrick Executive member South West Region**



## Town campers banking on the future

**Aboriginal people in Alice Springs are finally getting help to use automatic teller machines.**

For many people who don't speak English as a first language or have low levels of literacy and numeracy, ATMs can be minefields which leave many people begging for help from strangers or giving up until a family member can help.

Tangentyere Council is running a bank pilot project prompted by Centrelink's move to replace cheque payments to Indigenous clients with a system involving depositing moneys into bank accounts. Initially 30 customers of the Tangentyere Bank Agency will be targeted for assistance.

Tangentyere CEO Willie Tilmouth said: "It's a process to understanding banking facilities, being taught to use electronic transfers and keycards in an environment that is Aboriginal and where people feel

comfortable.

"We have three language speakers and they are assisting people in understanding and explaining the bank pilot project," he said.

"Once people feel confident about using keycards they can take the keycard with them or leave it with us, whatever they feel comfortable with. Once those 30 people have gained enough skill and have become self-reliant, they will be replaced by another 30 people."

The bank pilot project was launched in April at Tangentyere by the Federal Minister for Community Services Larry Anthony and the project will run with the assistance of Commonwealth Department of Family and Community Services, Centrelink, Westpac Banking Corporation and ATSIC. ●

## Larrakia resolve port claim

**The new port development for Darwin will go ahead, following the decision by the Larrakia people to withdraw their native title claim over the proposed development area.**

The Northern Land Council's Chief Executive Officer Mr Norman Fry said that the agreement reached between the Larrakia and the NT Government "illustrates how cooperation and good communication can successfully deal with native title issues in the Territory.

"It has brought to a halt the potential for protracted and expensive court cases," he said.

"The port development can proceed,

and all Larrakia people will benefit from the deal as it involves commercial opportunities for all."

Mr Fry pointed out that it was the lack of communication about native title – not native title itself – that can stifle progress.

"The Larrakia have always stated that they are in favour of good development – and this agreement paves the way for a project that will benefit all Territorians," he said. ●

# Central Australian Tourism Industry loses the plot

**The tourism industry in the Northern Territory needs a wake-up call, says CLC Director David Ross.**

Responding to controversial comments by the Central Australian Tourism Industry Association about alcohol restrictions in Alice Springs and the closure of the climb up Uluru, Mr Ross said the industry needed to be reminded that it owed much to Aboriginal people and culture.

"Acting against Aboriginal interests can only harm the tourist trade," he said.

"This is the 21<sup>st</sup> century and CATIA will find that ignorant, racist attitudes are not going to buy us a place in the global tourist trade. In fact those types of attitudes drive away tourists.

"I was heartened to hear that many members of CATIA share our perspective and I urge them to ensure their views are represented within their own organisation."

CATIA lobbied against liquor restrictions in Alice Springs, saying it was a "band aid solution" which would drive away tourists.

Furthermore, CATIA said it was acting on the advice of the Liquor Commissioner who had apparently told it that restrictions don't work.

"CATIA CEO Mr Catchlove appears to be concerned about liquor restrictions adding to tourist perceptions of Alice Springs being a town full of drunks.

"Serving up whopping big casks to the most disadvantaged group of the community is a sure way of ensuring that we do indeed become a town full of drunks," said Mr Ross.

"I hardly think a tourist is going to be inconvenienced by only being able to buy a two litre cask rather than a five litre cask."

CATIA also chose to complain loudly and publicly about the closure of the climb up Uluru out of respect for the death of an important traditional owner.

A study published in March 2000, partly funded by the Northern Territory Government, shows that 78% of international visitors to Australia are interested in Indigenous culture.

And a significant majority indicated interest in experiencing and participating in a living culture – meeting real people, learning about songs, dances and

ceremonies – rather than visiting Indigenous museums, art galleries or shops.

The Central Australian Tourism Industry Association's Craig Catchlove said some European tourists may demand refunds on their holiday bookings. But public opinion appears to be against CATIA and Mr Catchlove.

Most callers to talkback programs across Australia supported the move by traditional owners.

While some tourists at the rock were disappointed, many said they enjoyed the alternatives provided by Parks Australia and supported the closure as a mark of respect.

It wasn't only CATIA to weigh into the debate. Our Chief Minister Denis Burke was particularly vocal on the subject of the closure.

"People should understand that that tourism experience was put there by this Government, \$500 million worth of infrastructure," he told ABC Radio.

He said it should be remembered that Uluru was handed back to traditional owners as a gift from the former federal Labor government.

"There wouldn't be the royalties flying to those traditional owners only for the investment...[of] Territorians in the product, and to have no say at all is non-sensical and also to have to be criticised when I speak out on [behalf of] Territorians who have made large investments themselves at some risk, is unfair."

NLC Chairman Galurrwuy Yunupingu said it all felt rather like there was an election in the wind.

"Perhaps Mr Burke is playing the "race card" in an attempt to dissuade disillusioned Country Liberal Party voters from defecting to the newly established One Nation NT branch or one of the various ex-CLP independents," he said.

"If so, he needs reminding that times have changed, and elections can no longer be won by politicians going for the black punching bag, at the same time as damaging our valuable tourism industry, and bringing our nation into disrepute." ●

# THE BARUNGA FESTIVAL




Visitors to this year's Barunga festival in June enjoyed a cultural festival that blended traditional and contemporary activities.

The weekend program included footie, basketball, didj and spear throwing competitions, a fashion show, rap dancing and a screening of *Yolngu Boy*.

Former Prime Minister Bob Hawke with his wife Blanche D'Alpuget, Reconciliation Australia Co-Chair Fred Chaney and ATSI Chair Geoff Clark were among the speakers at the official opening, which featured traditional dancers accompanied by master didj player David Blanas from Beswick.

Daguragu won the football grand final, defeating the Arnhem Crows.

George Rrurambu, who lives in Barunga, won the spearthrowing competition. ●



# New leadership for Aboriginal self government

Aboriginal people in Central Australia are continuing their quest for self-government and have elected a new Chairperson and Executive of the Combined Aboriginal Nations of Central Australia (CANCA) to lead the way.

At a meeting hastily reconvened to Alice Springs after heavy rain in June made a bush meeting impossible, some 100 people showed up to discuss options for moving forward.

The CLC has been looking at options for moving forward, including going with the NT's local government model, attempting to form an Aboriginal Council under the federal Aboriginal Councils and Associations Act, or a Regional Authority, similar to that adopted by the Torres Strait.

All Aboriginal people at the meeting were unanimous in their opposition to the NT's proposed local government reforms which would combine many communities into large shires spanning several language groups.

An Aboriginal Council is politically virtually impossible, while a Regional Authority could deliver greater control to communities, and allow for direct Commonwealth funding. A Regional

Authority could sit under the ATSIC Act, or it could have legislation of its own. Participants at the meeting raised many of the questions that now need to be looked at. What would be the structure and boundaries of a Regional Authority, how would it relate to ATSIC and other existing organisations, and what functions would it undertake?

To answer these questions requires more research and it is hoped funding will be obtained to enable a thorough investigation of the possibility of setting up a Regional Authority in Central Australia. This will require extensive consultation with each community, and funds would provide for a team of local Aboriginal people to be employed to undertake these discussions in language.

The practical implementation of greater regional autonomy has probably most progressed in the Torres Strait with the establishment of the Torres Strait Regional



Authority (TSRA) in the early 1990s.

There is an ongoing debate about self-government for the Torres Strait Islanders and it is widely recognised that the TSRA is only a first step towards the establishment of self-government, or regional government, for them.

The desire for self-government in Central Australia has been gaining momentum since the early 1980s.

**Top: New Executive members: David Doolan, new Chairman Francis Kelly, Keith Jarra, Rosalie Petrick, Priscilla Williams, Margaret Kantawarra Yunipingu, Pam Lynch. Above left: New Executive member Jeannie Herbert Nungarrayi, Tennant Creek and the Eastern Sandover region were unable to be represented due to sorry business and other urgent commitments.**

**Left: Conrad Ratara.**



Some of the Central Australian women at the meeting. Above: Mt Leibig; Bottom: Anmatyerre.



## Women are looking for a stronger voice on the CLC

Women want better representation on the CLC.

That was the message from a recent meeting of some 80 women in Alice Springs in June.

They have established a committee of 18 women - two from each of the CLCs nine regions - to look at ways to get a better balance of men and women on the council and to find solutions to the problems many of their communities face.

The last CLC election in March put 14 women on the 88 member council and one

woman on the Executive but the women believe it is still a far cry from adequate representation.

Women said they want to explore issues relating to funding and how funds are allocated, particularly ATSIC and ABA funding.

They also want to ensure that the CLC uses every opportunity to provide young people with training and cadetships inside the CLC.

Below: Arrernte (left) and Warlpiri (right) mob.



# Scrap Mandatory Sentencing Back Brown's Bill

The spotlight is once again on mandatory sentencing, with Greens Senator Bob Brown introducing a new private member's bill to the Senate that would ban all mandatory sentencing for property crime for both adults and children Australia wide.

And for a second time, Territorians will have a chance to comment on mandatory sentencing through an inquiry by the Senate's Legal and Constitutional References Committee.

Laws of mandatory sentencing force magistrates and judges to jail offenders rather than consider the alternative of community service or rehabilitation. They take away the role of the courts in ensuring the sentence fits the crime, taking into account the offender's life circumstances.

It is not known whether the review committee will visit the NT during the inquiry.

The North Australian Aboriginal Legal Aid Service (NAALAS) is urging people

in remote communities to become involved in the inquiry – providing their comments either at any meetings held in the NT or through submissions to the committee.

This current inquiry follows a previous attempt by Senator Brown to introduce legislation regarding mandatory sentencing. The Howard Government's response to that first bill, to ban mandatory sentencing for children, but not including adults, was to make a deal with the NT Government, which Bob Brown among others feels has done "almost nothing to alleviate the draconian consequences of mandatory sentencing."

The deal includes funding from the Commonwealth to the Territory in lots of \$5 million a year over four years, with provision for diversionary programs.

NAALAS urges people interested in the mandatory sentencing issue to keep a lookout for advertisements about any meetings or calls for submissions. The chair of the review committee is Senator Jim McKiernan whose email address is [senator.mckiernan@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.mckiernan@aph.gov.au). The email address for the review committee is: [legcon.sen@aph.gov.au](mailto:legcon.sen@aph.gov.au).

# The NT justice system: It's falling apart

Chief Minister Denis Burke faces contempt charges in a legal case that has reached the Federal Court. The charges and the case itself have far reaching ramifications for the justice system in the Northern Territory.

The action, being taken by the North Australian Aboriginal Legal Service (NAALAS) seeks a declaration that the appointment of Chief Magistrate High Bradley is invalid because it was made for an "improper purpose".

A High Court mandated trial into the circumstances surrounding the appointment by former Chief Minister Shane Stone was moved to the Federal Court in June this year to avoid a series of appeals and counter appeals that may have arisen in the NT Supreme Court and beyond due to alleged prior knowledge of the special conditions of the Bradley appointment by one or more serving and former judges of that court.

Chief Minister Denis Burke has described the action against the Bradley appointment as "an unacceptable witch hunt" by "enemies" of Mr Bradley, and in parliament said "the legal case is aimed at tearing apart the Territory's justice system" and that the Aboriginal legal service conducting the trial would be "bankrupted".

Claims by Burke made outside parliament that the legal action was "vengeful" led to the application for contempt charges against the Chief Minister.

The legal action arose from a 7.30 Report edition in March last year that revealed the secret nature of Mr Bradley's appointment.

It found that the chief magistrate received a special remuneration package, which gave him nearly \$30,000 above the publicly listed rate for an NT chief magistrate. At the time of his appointment in March 1998, Bradley's \$193,602 topped the \$171,000 earnings of the NSW chief magistrate who controlled 127 magistrates. Bradley administered only 10.

More importantly, the 7.30 Report queried the fact his salary package, plus increments, was fixed at two years, an anathema to the notion of an independent judiciary that is not subject to re-appointment based on potential performance-based acquiescence to the government of the day.

When the 7.30 Report broke the story, there was a night time meeting of all resident NT supreme court judges that

upped the ante.

In a letter signed by chief justice Brian Martin, they urged a "full public disclosure to put an end to the disquiet and ongoing damage to the institution of the judiciary".

Following this, NAALAS called on Mr Bradley to disqualify himself from hearing any cases that involved mandatory sentencing on the grounds of "apprehended bias" in comments he made from the bench on mandatory sentencing.

Justice Howard Olney, who heard the issue of "apprehended bias" against Bradley agreed that it "was at least arguable" there was a prima facie case against Mr Bradley: "on the face of it his judicial independence has been compromised".

By consent, Mr Bradley withdrew from the case in question.

In a subsequent action, specifically querying the validity of the Bradley appointment, Olney was to finally rule that he was unable to adjudicate. However, that decision has since been overruled on appeal, by three judges imported to the Territory to determine whether the validity of the appointment should be tried.

In November 1999 those judges, SA chief justice John Doyle, and NSW and Victorian supreme court appeal judges Priestley and Brooking, said a trial should proceed stating it was "arguable" that Bradley's 1998 appointment was made for an "improper purpose".

The decision to allow a trial was confirmed in May this year by High Court judges Kirby, Hayne and Callinan.

## Wadeye want a diversionary program to call their own

Wadeye wants community input into diversionary programs.

The Wadeye community wants to establish a diversionary program for young offenders and those at risk of offending which would enlist the support of a whole range of people who live and work among them.

The plan is for a Community Youth Development Unit which would be overseen by a committee including elders in the region, the local Council and people from various government and non-government organisations in Wadeye.


The Unit would tailor a program for each young person who was identified as needing support to learn life skills and build their self esteem, which could incorporate a mixture of measures such as sport and recreation activities, job skills that will assist toward gaining employment or schooling.

It has similarities with a program that has been running successfully in Tennant Creek for a few years.

"The community has come to us with this proposal and we are looking closely at it," said Senior Sergeant in charge of the Juvenile Diversionary Unit, Steve Edgington.

"The idea is that the community will identify young people who would benefit from being involved in the Unit.

"They may be offenders, and this would be an option to try and change offending behaviour, or they may be young folk identified as being in danger of offending, but it is important that the programs are available for all young people whether at risk or not. It has a crime prevention component as well as a diversionary component. It is a holistic approach and it certainly has merit."



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**GROG FREE  
FREE ENTRY**



# Cooking up a cultural blend

Meals like pumpkin soup with witchetty grubs and freshwater turtle bullion are now on the dinner menu in remote Indigenous communities in the Northern Territory.



Students at the Gunbalanya course held earlier this year display the pizza, bread and pasties they have cooked

It all started with a Back to Basics nutrition-cum-cookery course – but has developed into a culinary voyage. Locals are blending traditional bush tucker and contemporary supermarket staples to create exciting new dishes.

Teaching nutrition was the initial impetus for the bush cookery course designed by Northern Territory University lecturer Steve Sunk.

But Steve quickly found his students were keen cooks – and the lessons became a two-way adventure, with Steve learning all about finding and preparing bush tucker, and the students learning how to combine their traditional fare with foodstuffs bought from the local store.

The course has proved so popular and successful that Steve has secured Commonwealth and NT funding to take his Back to Basics program to 30 NT communities over the next three years.

Up to 450 students are expected to complete the Certificate 1 in Hospitality (Kitchen Operations).

Many are employed, or are looking for employment in their communities, such as in the school canteen, women's centres, Meals on Wheels, local hotels and tourism ventures.

"The program is successful because it is basically hands-on," Steve said. "It is not sitting up there and talking. The students are doing something and achieving. They are getting assessed every day."

"We don't go out there and tell them. We show them. We nurture them. We get them involved, and get the community leaders involved."



Yirrkala students cooking up a storm at their recent course

The Back-to-Basics "Food for Life" program builds student's self esteem and skills and improves health, hygiene, nutrition and employment opportunities in Aboriginal communities.

They learn the basics such as how to properly use the kitchen stove and how much food to prepare for a crowd.

The quality of food is a major issue in communities, so an important part of the course is to learn how to best use what is available in the local stores, and how to combine foods to create a nutritious meal, such as having vegetables and rice or pasta with their meat.

And this is where the creativity really gets going, with recipes that serve up traditional bush tucker in new ways.

Courses have already been held at Daly River, Gunbalanya, Lajamanu, Gapuwiyak and Yirrkala.

# From little things – big things grow



Women in the Naiyu Nambiyu community at Daly River are turning the little Red Lotus lily seed gathered from local billabongs into a blossoming new cottage industry.

They are vacuum packaging the seeds of the native water-lily and, with a colourful pamphlet that tells the story of the plant and the Daly River region, they are producing a product that lets people taste the tucker and learn a little bit about Indigenous culture.

The Daly River venture is a way of adding value to the harvesting of the seeds and the plan is to test the viability of this enterprise through the Merrepen Arts Centre at Daly River and various tourist and information centres in and around Darwin.

The cultural information in the pamphlet was provided by senior knowledge custodians from the MalakMalak, Matngala, Ngan'gikurunggurr and Ngen'giwumirri language groups.

MalakMalak people call the Red Lotus lily *yilik* and refer to the seeds as *numurru*. Matngala people call the lily *mirang* and the seeds *miyangmiyang*. The lily has special spiritual significance for Ngan'gikurunggurr and Ngen'giwumirri people, who refer to the lily as *miwulngini* and call the seeds *midamuy*.

The pamphlet explains that different parts of the plant are used. The seeds can be eaten fresh after peeling off the outer green skin, lightly roasted, or they can be



Pictured with the Red Lotus Lily pamphlet is Molly Yawalminy, whose family has been closely involved in the project

stored for the Wet Season when food is more difficult to gather. The shells of the seeds are cracked and they are soaked in hot water until they become soft.

The root system can be eaten after roasting and the large leaves are used for wrapping turtles to cook. The leaves are also a good sun hat and good camouflage when hunting Magpie geese.

The Daly River venture is part of a broader project being conducted at the Centre for Indigenous Natural and Cultural Resource Management (CINCRM) and the Key Centre for Tropical Wildlife Management at the NT University that is looking closely at the feasibility of Indigenous communities harvesting native plants on a small scale.

# Bush tucker heads for the supermarket

Indigenous communities are set to benefit from a new range of food launched by Coles Supermarkets.

Communities are being encouraged to become suppliers of native foods for the range, and Coles has started a fund to provide grants to help them get started.

The idea stems from the involvement of Coles Managing Director, Alan William, with the NT Aboriginal Development Forum, chaired by Galarrwuy Yunupingu and NT Chief Minister Denis Burke, which looks at

development opportunities for communities.

Coles contributes 25 cents per product to the fund, which is expected to reach \$100,000 in the first year. This money will be used for research into plants, horticultural training and irrigation to enable expansion.

The *Taste Australia* range was launched earlier this year by Yothu Yindi's Mandawuy Yunupingu.



# Batchelor Graduations



**Graduation ceremonies at Batchelor Institute combine European traditions with the cultures of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, graphically demonstrating the Institute's 'both ways' philosophy of education.**

While the graduating students at the ceremony at Batchelor in May wore the distinctive gowns, hoods and stoles of academic dress, many also combined this with traditional decorations and regalia of their culture.

The opening and closing ceremonies involved traditional dancing, this year with the Tiwi Island dancers, and many individual students were 'danced' to receive their award by family and community members.

Our photos show graduates waiting for the ceremony to begin (top) and celebrating their achievements (below).

Batchelor students (pictured left) who helped to capture the ceremony on video are Marie Brennan, Rhys Winter, Bunumbirr Marika and Kenny Bismark.



## Youth camps get the thumbs up

**Young Indigenous people are calling for more Youth Camps after a successful event recently at Batchelor.**

About 30 young people, aged between 12 and 20, enjoyed canoeing, kayaking and archery, and art and traditional cultural activities like painting and spearmaking, as well as sessions discussing current social issues.

John Christopherson, from the Men's Clinic at Danila Dilba Medical Service said: "They would have learned a little bit about their history and that there are people there to help them.

"They would have learned they are not dealing with issues by themselves."

Issues the youngsters talked about included sex and sexuality, substance abuse and sexual abuse.

"Many of the young people have asked for regular camps, and we'd like to do this," Mr Christopherson said.

"The next thing is a youth forum in Kings Canyon, in the Centre of Australia, prior to the AMSANT conference, in October, and we want people who are interested to come along - people who were perhaps at the youth camp or who feel they have something to contribute."

Mr Christopherson said the planned Men's Camp was cancelled through lack of interest.

"But we would like to bring it back on later on in the year and in particular want Stolen Generations to contact us if they are interested," he said.

Those interested in either camp can contact John Christopherson or Josh Thomas at Danila Dilba on 8936 1818. ●



**Mitchell Naralanbal (rear) and Ashwin Dolby making spears**

## Law student gets the ATSIIC prize



**Indigenous Law Graduate, Eddie Cubillo, has received the new ATSIIC prize for the most promising indigenous student who has graduated with a Bachelor of Laws at the Northern Territory University.**

The prize aims to recognise promising new graduates in law and their contribution to the community.

Eddie Cubillo graduated with a Bachelor of Laws Degree from the NTU in May 2001 and is currently employed as an articulated clerk at the Northern Territory Legal Aid Commission.

Eddie enrolled in the Indigenous Pre-Law program in 1997 and says the support he received from the Law School helped him successfully complete his studies.

"Pre-Law gave me the confidence to know that I could make the grade in a law degree. I met people in the program and we supported each other in our first year," said Eddie.

Although Eddie didn't find studying law hard, he did have difficulties in accepting the philosophy behind law itself.

"From the beginning I noticed that the legal system allows parliament to overturn a finding of the court," he said.

"This democratic principle does not protect the rights of minority groups such as Aboriginal people.

"Throughout my degree I can see this has occurred to the detriment of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Legislation such as the Native Title Amendment Act and the Hindmarsh Island Bridge Act were bitter pills to swallow as an Aboriginal law student," said Eddie. ●

## Mabunji condemns NT Government's high-handed approach

**The NT Government's proposed closure of the McArthur River for commercial fishing has been condemned by directors of the Mabunji Aboriginal Resource Association at Borroloola.**

"It's just another example of the government's high-handed way of dealing with Aboriginal people," Mabunji president Sammy Evans said.

"Those people chose not to go and talk to us at all, not one word.

"People are worried about a lot of things about the river, too many tourists, big fast boats, too much crabbing, no respect for sacred sites, dugong protection and looking after Aboriginal fishermen.

"This closure just looks after recreational fishermen and nothing else."

Two of the three commercial barramundi licences operating within the McArthur River system are owned by Aboriginal people.

The proposed closure shuts off the main fishing area and will make the licences practically worthless. This will threaten the businesses and the employment and training opportunities provided

for Aboriginal people by commercial fishermen who operate under agreement with Aboriginal people.

"We have fought hard for our rights and for Aboriginal jobs," Sammy Evans said.

"We accept that tourism is important for the area, but we expect them to respect our culture, our sacred sites and our Aboriginal enterprises."

The Mabunji Association has put forward a compromise proposal, reluctantly suggesting a partial closure of the McArthur River system at the mouth of the McArthur River, in return for some form of compensation.

Under the Mabunji proposal, commercial barramundi netting would be stopped close to the coastline, at the lines currently called the seven-inch net line.

"Even this much closure would hit us hard," Sammy Evans pointed out. ●

## More women wanted for NLC Full Council



**NLC member Debra Jones (far left) with the group from Kununurra, including Dora and Peggy Griffiths (fifth and sixth from left)**

**The NLC Women's Committee want a representative from the Keep River area on the Full Council.**

They have suggested that one of the five co-opted positions on the Full Council be reserved for a woman from that area, as it is currently unrepresented.

Peggy and Dora Griffiths from Keep River National Park were guests at a

recent workshop held by the Women's committee in Katherine, where they gave a presentation on the Miriuwung Gajerrong native title High Court case.

The workshop also considered ways to increase the number of women on the Full Council and agreed that more women needed to be encouraged and supported to nominate for the Full Council this year. ●



# Yuendumu seniors get to stay home

The old people of Yuendumu will now be able to remain in the community instead of being sent to nursing homes in Alice Springs, thanks to years of hard work by a dedicated group of locals.

Their new Aged Care Centre, a colourful and modern building now housing services to more than 50 clients, was opened in May by former Prime Minister Gough Whitlam.

"We've been battling really hard for this building," Lorraine Nungarrayi Granites, a Senior Worker in the Old Peoples Program, said.

"It's really important for old people so that they can stay here in Yuendumu. They don't want to go to Alice Springs. They need to stay here. Workers are happy and it's easier to do our job here."

In addition to Meals On Wheels which has operated in Yuendumu for many years, other outreach services available at Mampu Maninja-Kurlangu Jarlu Patu-ku (place for caring for old people) include day care and residential respite care to prevent old people being torn from country and families to receive care.

**“They were all volunteers and were quite remarkable in their tenacity. They never gave up and often said ‘our work’s not done until that buildings done’.”**

**KAY SMITH**

The emphasis is on training and skilling local community members to take on the tasks and already employs six full-time local people and a number of casuals.

The building is on a site associated with the Honey Ant Dreaming and resident Maggie Watson had the honour of cutting the opening ribbon.

About 30 Warlpiri and Anmatyerre ladies, caretakers of the dreaming, turned out in force to perform the dance associated with it.

Coordinator Kay Smith said that before the Old Peoples Program started, Yuendumu had the highest number of old people in nursing homes in Alice Springs than any other community. Now only two are in Alice Springs.

"The steering committee travelled to aged care centres in Docker River, Tennant Creek and Borroloola to look at ways that it might be done in Yuendumu.

"Four men and four women have worked really hard on this committee for the last six years," she said.

"They were all volunteers and were quite remarkable in their tenacity. They never gave up and often said 'our work's not done until that buildings done'.

"Harry Nelson Jakamarra volunteered his services early on to the ladies involved and that encouraged other men to be part of it," she said.

Mr Whitlam, accompanied by his wife Margaret was particularly delighted to have local man Francis Kelly assigned to look after him during his visit.

"I am very glad the person chosen to look after me is Francis Kelly because we met him in 1984 in Paris when we worked for UNESCO, and he was visiting as an artist," he said.



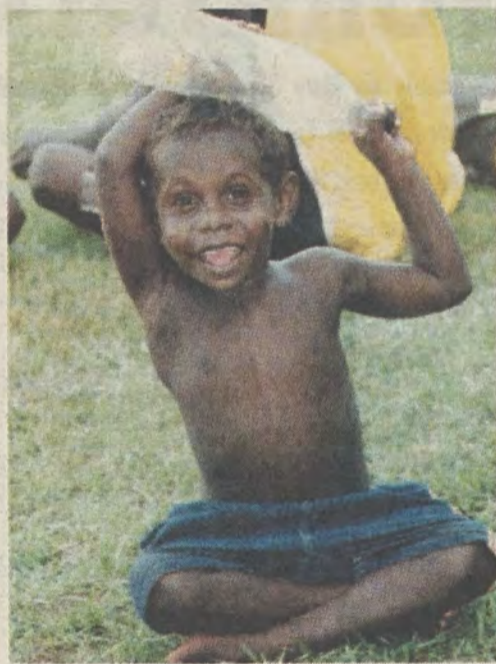
**Top: Ladies preparing to open the centre with dancing; Middle: Maggie Watson and others cut the ribbon; Below left: Yuendumu school kids; Right: Mr Whitlam and wife Margaret receive gifts from the people of Yuendumu**



# Top End gatherings

The photos above and right were taken at the Merrepen Arts Festival at Naviyu community, Daly River, in June featured the annual art auction of local paintings, traditional dancers from Palumpi, live music and bush tucker.

The four pictures below were taken at the Tiwi Island Football League grand final in May, when hundreds of spectators watched Ranku Eagle from Bathurst Island win their first grand final against the Milikapiti Magpie Geese from Melville Island.



# Courses leading to jobs in Kakadu

Young Indigenous men and women from around Australia are travelling to Kakadu – and getting a fresh employment start in the tourism industry.



Through the Indigenous Employment Program of the Department of Employment, Work Relations and Small Business, they are undertaking courses involving a mixture of

classroom work through the NT University plus work experience in Kakadu resorts.

And for Steve Amalfi, WA, Cedric Parsons, Victoria, Lisa Sharples, NT, and Wally Trewlynn, NSW, the course has turned into full time jobs.

For all four, the icing on the cake is the chance to work in a beautiful area and meet so many different kinds of people.

Steve now works in the laundry section

at the Gagudju Crocodile Hotel, along with Cedric, who is doing houseman duties.

“This is the best course I have ever done,” Steve said. “It has given me a fresh start. And Cedric agrees, saying: “It has been a very good learning experience for me working in Kakadu.”

For Lisa, her new job in the bistro at Gagudju Lodge Cooida Hotel/Motel is just what she was looking for, with the bonus of working in a World Heritage listed area, and Wally, who is working as a tour guide, reckons coming from the “Big Smoke” has been “the best move I have made in my life.”

The 12-week course is an initiative of Kakadu Tourism, owners of the two hotels. It involves three days in the



**Above:**  
Steve Amalfi (left) and Cedric Parsons in the laundry section  
**Right:**  
Wally Trewlynn and Lisa Sharples at Cooida

classroom a week where sessions are held on issues such as first aid and occupational health and safety regulations, while the two days of hands-on work a week gives the students a chance to experience all sections of the hospitality industry to help identify their chosen area of work. ●



**BACHELOR INSTITUTE**  
OF INDIGENOUS TERTIARY EDUCATION

## CONGRATULATIONS !

To all Graduates, many of whom received their awards at the Batchelor campus ceremony on May 3, and thanks to our sponsors for their continued support: Rotary International; ATSIC Yilli Rreung Council; Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu; NT Department of Education; NT Employment and Training Authority; Territory Health Services; QANTAS; Department of Local Government; Energy Resources of Australia Ltd; TEABBA; Corporate Express; Koori Mail.

### ALEKARENGE

Ivy Downs  
Ronnie Jungari Larry  
**ALI CURUNG**  
Rayleen Carr  
**ALICE SPRINGS**  
Aaron Campbell  
Beverley O'Callaghan  
Carmilina McLean  
Caroline Barton  
Charmain Cox  
Damien Woodbury  
Daniel Kelly  
David Taylor  
Denis Maher  
Frank Kenny  
Garry McGuinness  
Gary Stevens  
Gordon Satour  
Gwendolyn Walley  
James Fielding  
John McGuinness  
Joyce Taylor  
Lillian Davis  
Maria Thompson  
Neville Satour  
Paul Ross  
Sally Axten  
Shane McMasters  
Skye Thompson  
Tony Howard  
Wendy O'Brien  
**ALPURRULAM**  
Ashley Toby  
Caroline Teece  
Jason King  
Nancy Smith  
**ALYANGULA**  
Shirlene Watson  
**AMPILAWATJA**  
Peter Qusted  
**ANGURUGU**  
Dawn Lalara  
Edward Wurrarama  
Elma Maminyamanja

Gayangwa Lalara  
Lilina Wurrarama  
Margaret Lalara  
**APUTULA**  
Caroline Coombes  
**AREYONGA**  
Agnes Jackatee  
Mary Dixon  
Priscilla Herbert  
**ARLPARRA**  
Alison Ross  
**ARTAREE**  
Eileen Mbitjana  
**ATTJERE**  
Priscilla Williams  
**BARROW CREEK**  
Amy Namballa  
**BARUNGA**  
Joanne Berry  
**BACHELOR**  
Annitha Ramsey  
Costa Bulsey  
Daniel Morrison  
Donelle Dingo  
Elaine Walton  
Josephine Wickham  
Kathleen Deveraux  
Kenneth Goldie  
Kevin Edwards  
Louise Anno  
Maryanne Alum  
Maxine Hart  
Patricia Ann Maree Djiagween  
Richard McLean  
Sally Butler  
Samut Garling  
Sandra McGinness  
Shane Gorry  
Sharna Raye  
Valmae Morrison  
Vernon Hill  
**BESWICK**  
Gloria Lane  
**BORROLOOLA**

Cherita King  
Marlene Karkadoo  
**BROOME WA**  
Annette Victor  
Henry Augustine  
Peter Sibosado  
Betty Laurie  
**BULMAN**  
Stuart Martin  
**CAIRNS QLD**  
Arnold Brown  
**COFFS HARBOUR NSW**  
Wendy Lange  
**DAGURAGU**  
Roslyn Frith  
**DARWIN**  
Aaron Mummery  
Annabell Clarke  
Cecelia McKenzie  
Chris Graham  
Christina Hampton  
David Simpson  
Donna Carne Mulholland  
Helen Couzens  
Jeannette Carroll  
Jennifer Peterson  
Kathy Paterson  
Kathy Tipungwuti  
Kenneth Stagg  
Leon Barlow  
Lynette Talbot  
Marlene Austral  
Narelle Rosas  
Rhonda Savo  
Robert Taylor  
Sharon Graham  
Steven Raymond  
Susan Sarioago  
Wilfred Clayton  
**DUNOON NSW**  
Ochre Doyle  
**GALIWINKU**  
Evonne Mitjarandi Wunungmurra  
Brando Yampalpal  
Bronwyn Roberts

Jeffery Wulawula  
Joan Dhamarrandji  
Jonathon Gurrurwuy  
Natalie Gurruwil  
Sandra Wuthangi  
Sarah Gilmirripiwuy  
Tony Gurruwil  
**GERALDTON WA**  
Les Hill  
**GORDONVALE QLD**  
Denalla Detourbet  
**GUNBALANYA**  
Jennifer Garnarradj  
Kathy Kerinauia  
Nellie Manaku  
Norma Namundja  
Rosita Gallagher  
Caroline Olsen  
Joanne Wood  
**HUMPTY DOO**  
Jason Cockatoo  
**INNISVAIL QLD**  
Miswhy Harris  
**IRRUNYTJA**  
Maisie Nelson  
Derek Anderson  
**KALANO**  
Chris Graham  
Sherrilee Hayes  
**KARGARU**  
Peggy Jones  
**KARLUJARRINGI**  
Ronald Morrison  
Sandra Morrison  
**KATHERINE**  
Dianne Lennane  
Dorothy Butler  
Gail Nicholls  
Gregory Peckham  
Kim Nielson  
Larteta Rosas  
Lorraine Dalton  
Lynelle Rankine

Marianne Smith  
Mary Dowling  
Phyllis Anderson  
Robert Campbell  
Sharon Johnson  
**KUNUNURRA WA**  
Brian Gundari  
Frances Chulung  
Glennis Galbat  
Jimmy Paddy  
Mark Rivers  
Michael Barney  
Patrick Bitting  
Steven Brown  
Susan Clarke  
**LAJAMANU**  
Doris Lewis  
Elaine Johnson  
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Marion Cebu  
Noel Cooper  
Roberta Jones  
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Karita McCarthy  
**MATA MATA**  
Doris Yethun Burarrwanga  
**MILINGIMBI**  
Gwen Boyukarrpi  
**MINJILANG**  
Joy Williams  
Nancy Marngaranmurk  
**MULUDJA WA**  
Helen Malo  
**MUTITJULU**  
Leroy Lester  
**N'TARIA**  
Betty Harris  
Emily Cox  
**NAUIYU NAMBIYU**  
Cheryl Zurvas

Henry Sambono  
Phillip Wilson  
Tessa Cubillo  
Vincent Sambono  
**NGUIU**  
Alec Orsto  
Charles Portaminni  
Elizabeth Puruntatameri  
Elsie Kerinauia  
Greta Kerinauia  
Gselle Tipungwuti  
Jeremiah Kerinauia  
Kelly Bow  
Leah Kerinauia  
Lois Mungatopi  
Marie Pilakui  
Marilyn Kerinauia  
Michaela Tipungwuti  
Nellie Punguatji  
Nelson Mungatopi  
Peter Kantilla  
Timothy Kerinauia  
Virgil Puruntatameri  
**NGUKURR**  
Aaron Joshua  
Clarry Rogers  
Helen Rogers  
**NHULUNBUY**  
Anna Smith  
Dorothy Djakangu  
John Morgan  
Elizabeth Presley  
**NUMBULWAR**  
Clinton Ngalmi  
Elvis Wurrarama  
Guyumiyagi Ngalmi  
Lawurrumbu Joshua  
Marangmuling Murrungun  
Ngala Wilfred  
Yambunija Nuggargalu  
Yidanga Ngalmi  
Yulki Nuggumajbarr  
**NYIRRIPI**  
Anita Fry  
Caroline Gibson  
Christine Curtis

Maria Turner  
**PEPPIMENARTI**  
Estelle Panquee  
**PIRLANGIMBI**  
Cecily Nixon  
Elizabeth Coombes  
Amanda Baxter  
Constance Puruntatameri  
Francesca Puruntatameri  
Irene Mungatopi  
Josephine Bourke  
Thecla Puruntatameri  
**PORT AUGUSTA SA**  
Clinton Dadleh  
Dean Hodgson  
Lynsey Cruse  
Marilyn Coulthard  
**ROBINSON RIVER**  
Beverley Morrison  
**ROCKHAMPTON QLD**  
Frederick Roberts  
**SANTA TERESA**  
Herbert Ware  
**SYDNEY NSW**  
Rodney Mason  
**TENAMBIT NSW**  
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**TENNANT CREEK**  
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Samual Albury  
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**UTOPIA**  
Marilyn Brown  
**WADEYE**  
Annunciata Dartinga  
Gerada Smiler  
Grace Dartinga-Dodson  
Brenda Maxwell  
Eileen Major

Jacqueline Reid  
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Glorine Martin  
Valda Granites  
**YUNGNGORA QLD**  
Sarah Muller

# THE WARLPIRI TRIANGLE

## People power is alive and well in Warlpiri communities in Central Australia

**Ideas about education and the future for Warlpiri children flowed thick and fast from more than 120 Warlpiri people gathered at the annual Warlpiri Triangle meeting, held this year at Lajamanu.**

If the Northern Territory Government had any doubts about the enthusiasm of Aboriginal people for bilingual education, then a visit to this meeting should have refreshed the most cynical departmental bureaucrat.

Warlpiri Triangle is a group of Warlpiri educators from Yuendumu, Willowra, Nyrripi and Lajamanu who get together once a year to share ideas and advance the issues facing bi-lingual education.

Workshops often ran late into the night as people grappled with some of the harder problems faced by Aboriginal communities in educating their children – kids not getting to school and parental involvement amongst others. All got an airing and a range of possible solutions.

Included on the agenda was the new NT Curriculum Framework for Indigenous Languages and Culture, developed in response to the Collins Review, and the first meeting of Warlpiri-patu-kulangu Jaru Incorporated (language belonging to Warlpiri people).

Chairperson of Warlpiri-patu-kulangu Jaru, Barbara Napanangka Martin said it was one of the best Warlpiri Triangles they had held.

"I think this year is really well organised and people are recognising it," she said. "We got old people involved, men, everybody, all Warlpiri speakers. We support each other, work together and share ideas together. I think this Warlpiri-patu-kulangu jaru was really good because we really got into it.

"For a week we got involved and went to those workshops.

"These workshops develop our confidence to talk up for ourselves and to show them that we are doing a good job for our kids too."

Barbara Martin, who is a qualified teacher at Yuendumu School, said that people went back to their communities with new and practical ideas.

"We got some ideas from Lajamanu about their attendance issues and we also got ideas from Willowra," she said.

"I did a parents survey in Yuendumu and we talked about our Parent Council. At Yuendumu we looked at where the parents and kids are – east, west camp and middle.

"Then we got all the parents from those areas to get the kids on the bus to come to school. Megan, the school liaison officer, goes round with the bus picking up kids. Night Patrol were also helping us every afternoon after school.

"They go around sending the kids home, telling them 'Go home and go to sleep early. If you keep walking around all night you won't be able to work well'.

"Lajamanu has breakfast and lunch programs and a system of 'traffic lights' to keep kids from getting too silly. There's red, orange and green. When kids get silly, its red and they go to the principal. Green - they are good kids.



**Above left to right: Warlpiri Triangle members Maisy Napangardi, Coral Napanangka, Beryl Nakamarra, Liddy Nakamarra, Nampijinpa, Nita Napanangka, Jeannie Herbert, Lily Nungarrayi**

Orange is a warning.

"If a kid comes to school every day for ten days, they get a reward - a family barbeque."

Lajamanu woman Jeannie Herbert said there was frustration at the way education had been heading but meetings like the Warlpiri Triangle made a difference.

"This Warlpiri Triangle was a really good one," she said. "A lot of people came. This is a real peoples movement and we want everyone involved – the men have got to be involved too," she said.

"Warlpiri people are doing educational research for a family literacy and language project.

"We've been interviewing yapa (Aboriginal) people and asking them what sort of things have they learned in the past and what they want for the future and their children.

"We asked what languages they learnt as a child, when and where did they learn English, and whether they learnt it at school.

"We asked 'should children learn to read and write in both English and Warlpiri?' They answered yes to both.

"People said it's very important to get kids off to school every day and they want their kids to go to school but they're saying its very difficult.

"Some of the reasons are maybe because there's no food program or some whitefella teachers aren't so good or maybe families are at sorry business or something like that. Some schools do have breakfast programs and that's good - children do go to school more. There's also lots of problems like drinking or social problems, moving away from home and constant travelling."

The meeting sent a strong message to the Northern Territory Government about the few remaining bilingual programs in Northern Territory schools, and the common comment was: 'If they take away our bilingual programs then we'll take our kids bush and they can put white kids in our schools'.



**Above: the UN funded language and literacy research group meet; Below: Chairperson Barbara Martin Napanangka**



# Action stepped up on sea rights

A Maritime Cultural Summit was held earlier this year on Thursday Island and a major Sea Conference is planned for Darwin later this year.

The Northern Land Council also supported the proposal to consider the establishment of a National Indigenous Sea Council, which could be the central body responsible for developing a national strategy and provide a clearing house for various regional groupings.

In addition, there has been extensive discussion in recent months about the value of a Treaty or treaties to enshrine Indigenous rights in the Constitution, and this could include sea/marine resource rights.

Indigenous groups are concerned about:

- not being able to carry out traditional hunting activities;
- the amount of exploitation and resulting depletion of marine resources that is occurring;
- the need for environmental sustainability; and
- Indigenous people not benefiting economically from industries and developments revolving around the coast.

**Indigenous communities and organisations around Australia's coastline are stepping up action to secure and protect their rights to the seas.**



**From left: Ben Ali Nona, NLC Deputy Chair Mary Yarmirr and Marundoo**

Indigenous people are also looking at how legislation is affecting their sea rights and how they can benefit from agreements with private enterprise, and constructive negotiations with government departments.

The planned sea conference would explore all issues involving sea rights, including traditional rights, commercial

fishing, sacred sites and marine developments.

In Aboriginal law, Indigenous people consider the land and the sea as one. There is no distinction in terms of ownership and connection.

"Saltwater people" have sacred sites on and under the sea, just as there are sites on

dry land. Different groups of Indigenous people "own" and "manage" the seas in the same way as they do dry land.

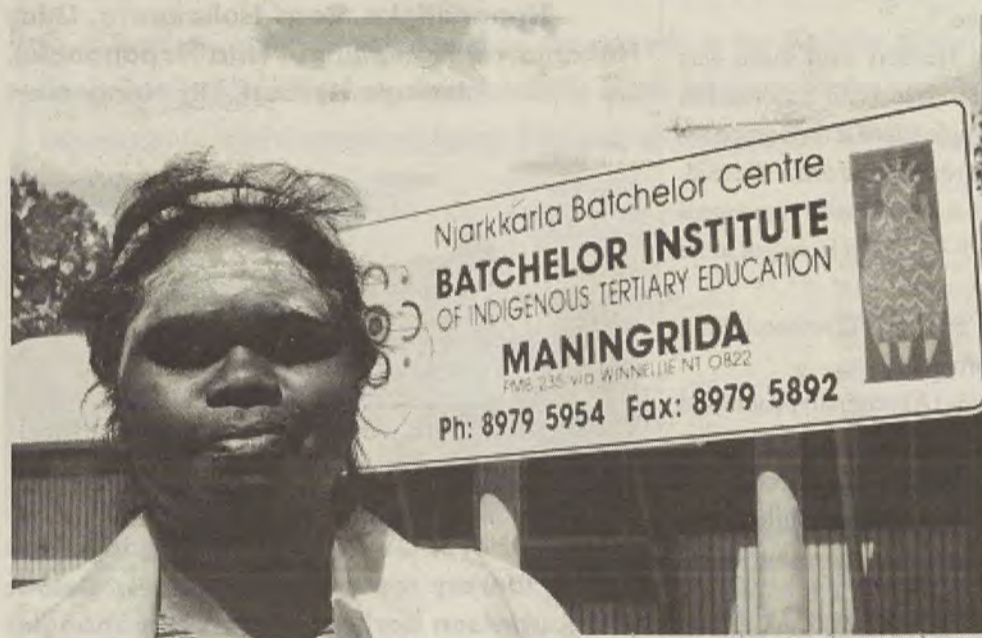
Over the years, governments have legislated and regulated the use and development of marine resources - with little or no recognition of Indigenous rights to the seas.

Indigenous people have not, as a rule, been consulted, involved in negotiations or included in agreements or arrangements involving leases or licences to operate.

Mary Yarmirr, who is the principal applicant in the Croker Island native title test case to determine in the High Court whether or not Indigenous sea rights are recognised as being exclusive and commercial, attended the Summit on Thursday Island.

She told the Summit: "The High Court case is crucial. It will affect everyone's sea claims. But I think experience has shown us that we need to go further to protect sea rights for our children, their children and their children's children."

"Whatever path - or paths - are chosen, Indigenous people throughout Australia must stand united in the fight for sea rights." ●



**Above: Batchelor student Marion Cebu at the official opening, after receiving her Diploma of Teaching (Primary)**



## Students finally get Study Centre

**Batchelor College students at Maningrida in Arnhem Land at long last have their own purpose-built Study Centre in the community.**

After years of lobbying for a permanent home, with up to 40 students from the community and surrounding homeland centres squeezing into temporary and small spaces, the new centre is geared to serve the growing demand for education and training facilities. And the centre design has won a Public Buildings award from the NT Chapter of the Royal Australian Institute of Architects.

It all began when the students sent a petition to Batchelor and the Department of Employment Education and Training some years ago calling for the "cramped, inadequate and unsuitable" facilities to be addressed.

The petition, attached to a sheet of bark

bordered with traditional designs, was headed "Listen Carefully to Us."

The petition stated: "We believe it is important for students to come together in one place so they can share ideas and knowledge gained from their study in other courses."

"It would help to raise the profile of Batchelor College in the eyes of the community and also be a positive response to the large number of Maningrida community members studying through Batchelor College."

As the years went by, the students who painted the border, Patrick Mudjana, Kathleen Bargitjbar, Rita Djitmu and Noel Cooper, have graduated and are teaching in the community and elsewhere, and Batchelor itself gained independence.

And on June 1, the community celebrated the opening of its new Study Centre, with local dancers performing and a number of current students receiving Statements of Attainment and Awards. ●

**Left: Traditional owner Reggie Wuridjal (right), who signed the petition as Community Council Chairperson all those years ago, shakes hands with local Helen Williams and NLC Council member Dean Herreen**



# Current NLC Full Council meets for the last time

The current Full Council of the Northern Land Council met for the last time in April, when members discussed a range of issues over the three-day meeting at Lake Bennett, south of Darwin.

Members were told about an equity deal which has been struck with the railway consortium, which provides traditional owners and native title holders of the railway corridor with 2.5 per cent of the operating profits which will be put in a trust.

The NLC is also looking at different ways to give local Aboriginal people a better chance to get jobs during the construction phase.

Just one day after the NLC Full Council voted to support amendments to the Heritage Act that would have given Indigenous heritage much more protection, they heard that the Prime Minister had vetoed them.

This was considered a very disappointing outcome after all the progress that had been made to make sure that sacred sites and heritage could be protected at both Territory and Federal levels.

Visitors to the Council meeting included the new Aboriginal Affairs Minister Philip Ruddock, a delegation from the Torres Strait discussing sea rights issues, ATSIC representatives, Veronica Arbon, the first Aboriginal Director of Batchelor Institute, and the group involved in the current study behind anti-social behaviour in Darwin.

Nominations for membership on the new Full Council, to meet later this year, close on August 18. ●



Above Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs Minister Philip Ruddock, NLC Chair Galarrwuy Yunupingu and NLC CEO Norman Fry at Lake Bennett

## Hopes dashed for Kiwirrkura people

The hopes of the Kiwirrkura community to return home have been dashed again following heavy rain in Central Australia.

The latest deluge has again flooded houses that were wrecked in the March downpour and roads in and out of the community are still under water.

In addition, the relocation of the entire community to the Moropoi pastoral lease near Kalgoorlie has caused extra problems for Kiwirrkura residents.

"It's impossible to know when they will be able to go home," general manager of the Ngaanyatjarra Council Paul Acfield said. "The Moropoi option was only intended as a short term solution and unfortunately alcohol is causing havoc, especially with very young people."

"We are going to have to review our options. There is a possibility of integrating into other Ngaanyatjarra communities as some people have already done."

"Others have talked about relocating to Jupiter Well which is about 130 kilometres to the west of Kiwirrkura."

"Flood mitigation measures may be an option at Kiwirrkura and relocating houses to higher ground." ●

## Flynn's grave film launched

'The Sacred Stones', a powerful story of reconciliation between white and black Australia involving the Arrernte, Waramungu and Kaytetye people of Central Australia, will be screened this year on ABC TV.

The documentary, made by charity group Oxfam CAA, had its premiere screening in Melbourne in June. It tells the remarkable and positive story of the return of the rock on John Flynn's grave in Alice Springs to its Kaytetye and Waramungu traditional owners.

The return of the stone was made possible when the Arrernte people of Alice Springs found a suitable stone from one of their own sacred sites to replace it.

The issue of the stone on Flynn's Grave had long been a source of anxiety and distress to its traditional owners and the return ended years of negotiation.

Oxfam and CAA funded the return of the sacred stone from Flynn's Grave to Karlukarlu (Devil's Marbles) in September 1999. ●



Traditional owner Leslie Foster at the film launch in Melbourne



## Teaming up art and sport

Sport, recreation, art and cultural activities are getting a boost in Jabiru, Gunbalanya and outstations in East Arnhem.

Fred Graham, employed by the Djjabulukgu Association, and Georgina Wilson, employed by Jabiru Town Council, are working together to find out what the locals, particularly the young people, want.

"We are getting ideas from people, listening to what they think is missing," Georgina said. "We want to know what turns them on. At Gunbalanya, we are looking at the idea for an indoor facility and finding activities for the women, and in Jabiru, where the adults are fairly well catered for, we would like to see the youth have more of a voice."

Fred, who has played sport most of his life, is keen to expand the sporting activities in the region. He recognises that access and transport is a problem for people living in outstations. ●

# Through the lens of Mervyn Bishop



Above: Merv Bishop with his famous photo

Indigenous photographer Mervyn Bishop, probably best known for his image of former Prime Minister Gough Whitlam pouring soil into the hand of Vincent Lingiari in 1975, recently spent two weeks as Artist in Residence at Batchelor Institute.



That photograph, which has entered the collective consciousness of our nation and has become a symbol for indigenous land rights and national reconciliation, was the centrepiece, and the only colour photograph, of his

exhibition "In Dreams – Mervyn Bishop: Thirty Years of Photography 1960-90", launched at the Institute during his time there.

Images of an old man standing beside his humpy, clients enjoying their last sip of beer at the closure of the pub at Glebe and a group of women proudly showing off their newly baked cakes hung alongside portraits of prominent people, illustrating the diversity of his work.



Above: Victor Vincent and Paddy Doolak in front of the Gurindji banners.

## Gurindji banners off to Canberra

The son of Gurindji elder Vincent Lingiari, Victor Vincent, and Paddy Doolak, who took part in the historic Wave Hill Walk Off led by Lingiari in 1966, recently retold their stories at a display of the Gurindji Freedom Banners at Batchelor Institute.

The pair recalled the hard times, the lack of tucker as they stood in front of the banner, based on Mervyn Bishop's photograph, of the historic handback of traditional lands by then Prime Minister Gough Whitlam to Lingiari.

The 10 textile banners tell the story from the viewpoint of the Gurindji, Muburra and Walpiri people, who walked off the Wave Hill cattle station, demanding improved working conditions.

They trace the story from the living and working conditions for Aboriginal people working on the station through to the

handback.

Officially launching the banner exhibition on behalf of the local traditional owners, Speedy McGuinness recalled taking Vincent Lingiari to his land in 1981 after an operation by the late Fred Hollows to restore vision in one eye.

"I stopped at the boundary, he looked at the country and that one eye cried – and so did I," Speedy said.

"It was wonderful for that old man to see his country again."

The banners are heading to Canberra for display at the end of the year.

## Grand turnout for grandstand opening

All the school kids at Maningrida received a Centenary of Federation medallion as part of the opening celebrations for their new basketball grandstand in June.

The community turned out in force for the opening ceremony, organised by David Yirindili. They chose the grandstand for their Federation project, because of the importance of sport in the community, and many locals were involved in its design and construction.

Now spectators have a structure, specially designed to provide shelter and shade from the tropical sun and rain, which is reminiscent of traditional sleeping platforms used in Arnhem Land.

Pathways through the site lead to a mimi statue, designed by senior traditional owner in the area, Albert Wuridjal, which is the first bronze statue to be installed in Arnhem Land.



Above: Organiser David Yirindili.

Below: Everyone was a winner with these Centenary of Federation medallions.



# First Central Australian Indigenous Youth Summit

Some 250 Indigenous youth gathered at Ross River camping grounds, 80kms east of Alice Springs, recently for the first Central Australian Indigenous Youth Summit.



The summit was coordinated under the direction of the Central Australian Youth Committee and hosted by the Central Australian Aboriginal Congress.

One Master of Ceremonies for the three-day summit, James Breadon, who is also the deputy chairperson of the Central Australian Indigenous Youth Committee, said it was a great opportunity to ask young people about issues affecting them, rather than telling them what the issues were.

"We got a lot of feed back from the kids," he said. "We wanted to find out what the youth thought, find out what the problems were around town and find solutions for those problems."

James said education and keeping young people at school to learn to read and write was one of the important issues raised at the summit. Other issues included employment, health, juvenile crime, alcohol and substance abuse.

Congress Youth Summit project worker, Rebekah Kidney, said the summit was well received by young people from remote

communities in Central Australia.

"I think the most important thing is we provided a forum for young people to discuss what issues affect them, find solutions and make recommendations to agencies and departments that are going to be able to have an input," Rebekah said.

"We were able to show young people, that we recognise they're young and there are issues that affect them and that there are people of the older generation that really do respect them and want to provide them with the opportunity to take control of their own future.

The summit resulted from recommendations from the Nhulunbuy Health Summit held last year.

The young people who went to the Summit have asked that it be an annual event.

**Top: Tristan Kunoth, Marcus Neal, Gavin (Willy) Naylor, Joanne Peckam, Michelle Drover, Darryl Kunoth and Martha Abbott**

**Right: mural painting at the Summit**



## Back seat drivers no more



**Above left to right: Louise Payton, Valerie, Doris Lewis, Gweneth Poulson, Yvonne White and MK Lewis all got their provisional licenses through Batchelor in May**

**Unlicensed drivers in remote communities will soon be a thing of the past thanks to the initiative of Batchelor Institute.**

The Institute's "Training Business" program offers accredited driver training modules and employs driving instructors to teach Aboriginal people in a culturally appropriate manner on their community.

For many years, Aboriginal people living on remote communities have been disadvantaged due to a lack of professional driver training.

This has been a major contributor to high fatalities on remote and rural roads, and other social factors such as employment opportunities and extending vehicles' operating lives.

"Training Business" is part of the Batchelor Institute Community Education and Training Division

(CETD) which works exclusively with Aboriginal clients living in remote communities.

The training includes a theory component and a driving practical.

Batchelor Institute has designed the training to accommodate Aboriginal people who speak English as a second or third language.

The theory component is assessed orally with the use of board games and pictures to help participants.

Aboriginal people will benefit from this "one-stop-shop" approach, where participants are not expected to attend a motor vehicle registry in the major centres.

# Cows out - birds in



Newhaven native title holders consider a BHP exploration application

**Birds Australia have purchased Newhaven station 350 kilometres north west of Alice Springs and traditional owners are keen to be involved in running the new bird sanctuary.**

The traditional owners lodged a native title claim over the property in December last year to secure some say in future developments, and in particular to protect sacred sites from exploration activities

planned by BHP Mineral.

Since the claim was lodged the registered native title claimants have objected to a second BHP Minerals exploration licence application and an

application from Gutnick Resources.

Negotiations with Birds Australia regarding joint management arrangements, land management, employment and commercial opportunities have commenced.

The registered Native Title claimants are concerned to agree on procedures that will protect their sacred sites and will recognise their right to collect bush tucker and hunt.

They are also concerned about visitors getting lost because many of the bores are salty and the need for proper control over where visitors might travel on the property.

For many years, school children from the Yuendumu school have been visiting and camping on Newhaven and the claimants want this to continue because of the culture that continues to exist in this country.

They also welcome the interest of interstate visitors who come to Yuendumu on a regular basis.

Birds Australia have said they would like to work with the traditional owners in developing a strong management Committee and in drawing up a management plan. ●

## Soil conservation techniques for roads

**Families living on Iwupataka Land Trust near Alice Springs are busy constructing better access roads and banks to combat erosion and damage to their homes and land caused by floods and feral horses in Central Australia.**

Central Land Council Land Management Project Officer, Kenny Satour, who has been helping traditional landowner Elaine Pekham and her family use soil conservation techniques, said: "They were worried about the water coming off the slope.

"What it was doing was coming down and hitting the road and it was coming straight through the house."

The Natural Heritage Trust has funded the Iwupataka project for two years.

The work has also allowed Arrernte Council and Tangentyere to help with land care and construct environmentally friendly access roads on five blocks on the Iwupataka Land Trust. ●

# Women discuss land management

**Weed control, billabongs, sacred sites, packaging and marketing bush tucker products, fencing and tourism projects were just some of the topics discussed by more than 70 Aboriginal women at the first NT Aboriginal Women's Land Management Conference in May.**



Above: A group photo of the women at the conference site

They travelled from Ramingining, Beswick, Yarralin, Kakadu, Pine Creek, Kybrook Farm, Darwin and Palmerston for the three-day event.

The conference was hosted by the Wagiman women at the sacred women's site of Tjuwaliyn (Douglas) Hot Springs on their land, and they funded the event from royalties they receive from the public camp site nearby.

The Wagiman women, who attended Wuyagiba Aboriginal Rangers Land Management Conference last year, felt the need for an event especially for women to

get together to share ideas and to support and promote caring for country issues among Aboriginal women.

The conference gave the women the chance to share knowledge and information about what they were doing on different communities, and also gave them a chance to hear from invited speakers such as women rangers in Kakadu and women working within different government departments.

The Wagiman Women welcomed everyone and a special ceremony was performed so visitors would not

get sick while visiting Wagiman land.

People soon started talking about their plans for the future and what they were going to do. Many were inspired to further their studies and work on community projects, while others spoke about visiting their country to monitor tourists and to teach their children about caring for the land.

After the three-day conference, they left with lists of ideas and plans for their communities, such as plans to fence sensitive areas for protection and women



Above (from left): Brenda Huddlestone, Nellie Huddlestone, Theresa Banderson and Daphne Huddlestone

enrolling in land management studies.

Many Aboriginal women are already talking about future Land Management Conferences for women so from this beginning an annual event is likely to develop.

A booklet recording the issues discussed at the conference will be circulated among Aboriginal communities, and a video of the conference is also underway for communities and women's groups across Northern Australia, promoting landcare to many more people than those who attended the Conference. ●



From left: May Rosas, Tex Camfoo and Nellie Camfoo



From left: Nancy Julinba, June Nadjamerrek and Mandy Muir pictured at the NLC Full Council meeting



Jeannie Andrews Nampijinpa



NLC member Bidy Lindsay



Above: Peggy Brown Nampijinpa cooking damper for breakfast at West Camp at Yuendumu



Clarry Rogers from Ngukurr



Above: Students from Yirara College in Alice Springs catering at the Deadly Mob career mentoring launch at the Gap Youth Centre

Right: Yarralin women (from left) Sally Hector, Nora Williams and Elsey Snowy at the Women's Land Management meeting at Tjuwaliyn (Douglas) Hot Springs

Left: Rosalie Riley, Lawrence Hayes and Daisy Ward at the opening of 'Bush Women Bush Food' at Desert in Alice Springs



# Indigenous memories of Darwin

A new book giving an Indigenous perspective of life in Darwin over much of the last century is filled with poignant stories about meeting family after years of forced separation, triumphant stories of sporting achievements and stories of fun times and hard work.

Peg Havnen reckons collecting the stories from elderly Aboriginal and Islander people in the Top End for the book *Under the Mango Tree* has been one of the most valuable and rewarding experiences of her life.

The oral histories paint a picture of a multi-cultural, multi-racial town where most of the population was descended from Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander, European, Chinese Filipino and Japanese, with white people in the minority.

"What we find is a hard-working, socially and culturally unique group of people who made a major contribution to

the NT," Peg says in the foreword.

"Ironically this was achieved despite predictions by the advocates of 'racial purity' who foresaw only the direst of consequences from the 'mixing of races'."

The stories illustrate lifestyles that incorporated the importance of hunting, the preparation of Asian style food, the fascination with gambling and the love of sport.

Peg points out that many interviewees were part of the Stolen Generations or were impacted on by the process.

"The result was women who were determined that none of their children



The Launch of *Under the Mango Tree* at the NT Parliament House. Author Peg Havnen is pictured back far left.

would ever be removed from them," Peg says. "Hence they worked for years at tiring and demanding jobs, making sure their children were well provided for and safe from forcible removal.

People in the book who tell their stories are Jane Christopherson, Gerry Blitner, Maria Tomlins, Don Bonson, Doug Bon, Mary Lee, Terry Lew Fatt, Vicky Bonson, Jim Souey and Patricia Raymond, with Norman Fry telling the story of his mother

Nana Peckham and Esther Carolin telling the story of her mother Daisy Ruddock.

Peg Havnen was born in Alice Springs of Aboriginal and Chinese descent. She is a BA graduate of James Cook University and has a particular interest in Aboriginal Studies/History.

*Under the Mango Tree* is available from local bookstores and libraries and can be ordered through the NT Writers' Centre on phone/Fax (08) 8941 2651.

# Larrakia have designs on local artists



The Larrakia Nation is encouraging local artists to create logos and designs that can be reproduced on T-shirts, bags and posters for sale.

Initially, the merchandise will be sold through the Larrakia Nation office at Alawa – and ultimately through the new cultural facility planned for Bullocky Point, near the existing Darwin High School.

"We want people to encourage their family members to bring in their designs," Larrakia Nation Co-ordinator Kelvin Costello said. "Through our CDEP program, people can learn new skills, both in design and in transferring their work onto merchandise."

Larrakia artist Linda Hill, whose work has been featured on brochures, bags and name tags at numerous conferences and events, brought samples of her work into the Nation office recently to help inspire new artists.

Linda is a senior health worker, so much

of her work features health and nutrition messages. "It is such a wonderful way to get the health message across, through art," said Linda, who has also developed attractive floor games using traditional bush tucker themes with contemporary good food guides to spread the message of eating well.

A design for the Public Health Association of Australia conference in 1999 illustrates Linda's aim to also spread the cultural message. Featuring a crocodile, which is Linda's totem, *dangalabba*, Linda points out that it represents a time when it was decided to protect the animal after years of being culled, so they could survive. "Why can't the government make a similar decision that our people also should be allowed to live again happily on country?" she asked.

# Bessie Liddle

Well recognised Central Australian artist, Bessie Liddle, has opened an exhibition show casing her new style of painting at the Alcaston Gallery in Melbourne.

The title of her exhibition "Ngurraritja" is the Luritja name for

traditional ownership of country.

The paintings in this exhibition are autobiographical, in an animated and narrative style.

The artwork depicts Bessie's memories of living on the country as a traditional woman and working on cattle stations up until the 1960s.

Bessie Liddle is one of the traditional owners to Urrampinyi Iltjiltjari Aboriginal Land Trust, south west of Alice Springs.

# Bush Women Bush Food



Exhibitor Roseanne Ellis

'Bush Women, Bush Food', an exciting new exhibition by Arrernte women, was displayed at Desert Gallery in Alice Springs last month.

The exhibition showcased work by emerging and established Arrernte artists working at Irrkerlantye Learning Centre.

The collection of artworks was based on visits to country, which dramatically reflect women's daily lives like collecting foods, teaching young girls their culture, cooking around fires and painting up for ceremony.

The Irrerlantye Learning Centre is a partnership between Centralian College, Tangenyere Council and Ngkarte Mikwekenhe that works with Eastern and Central Arrernte families in providing programs for the community.

# Uluru loses an old fighter

**The death in May of Pitjantjatjara man and senior Uluru traditional owner Kunmanara - the only remaining original member of the Uluru and Kata Tjuta Board of Joint Management - shocked Aboriginal communities in Central Australia.**

CLC chairman Kunmanara Breaden said Kunmanara was well known for his leadership, his gentleness and his deep commitment to his traditional responsibilities.

"I'm glad the climb up the rock has been closed for a bit," Mr Breaden said. "It's the proper way to show respect for that old man."

"He fought for the return of control of Uluru to Aboriginal people after the area was made into the Uluru and Kata Tjuta National Park in 1977. We got a really hard time for that struggle, especially from the Northern Territory Government but Kunmanara always stayed gentle," he said.

The struggle for Uluru was finally won when the Hawke Government agreed to amend the Land Rights Act in 1983 to enable the area to be returned to Aboriginal control. In return the traditional landowners agreed to lease back the area

to Parks Australia under a joint management arrangement.

As a new park board member Kunmanara said: "Now we are working together. Now we're level. Anangu are happy for the whitefella to come here but they have to obey the (Aboriginal) Law."

Mr Breaden said that Kunmanara continued to play an active role in joint management of the Park until his death.

"He was a really nice bloke who worked hard around that park and did a lot to help his community in other ways. He was also a good Christian man as well as being strong for Aboriginal law," Mr Breaden said.

Kunmanara spent many of his early adult years at the Pitjantjatjara community of Ernabella. "On behalf of the Central Land Council I extend our deepest sympathy to his family and the community of Mutitjulu," Mr Breaden said. ●

# Tribute to a community man

**The Chairman, Executive, Members, Chief Executive and staff of the Northern Land Council were saddened by the death of Mr Punch from Borroloola in May.**

Mr Punch had been a member of the NLC for a decade and was a highly respected community leader.

Mr Punch was a Wakaya man from the Barkly area, but lived at Borroloola for most of his adult life and was very active in local affairs. He was the leader in a local out-station, Kulminyini.

Mr Punch was instrumental in the establishment of many Aboriginal organisations, including the Katherine Aboriginal Legal Aid Service. He was extremely dedicated in his role as council member of the NLC. He thought deeply about the issues and was scrupulous in ensuring that he kept the community and landowners informed about Land Council business.

Yanyuwa traditional owners spoke at his funeral of the work he had done for people of the region and how proud they were to have him buried on their country. A large delegation of staff from the Northern Land Council also attended in recognition of his respected role on the Council. ●

# Veteran of the Warumungu land claim passes away

**A veteran of the Warumungu Land Claim, one of the longest and most bitterly fought land claims in the history of the Land Rights Act, passed away in Tennant Creek in May.**

CLC Director David Ross said senior Warumungu man Winjiburtu Frank had a remarkable knowledge of his culture and he played a vital role in many areas relating to Warumungu country.

"Mr Frank played an instrumental role throughout the Warumungu Land Claim and continued to play an active role in all issues involving Warumungu land and culture," he said.

"He had academic excellence in terms of Warumungu culture and a great interest in keeping Warumungu culture strong and at the forefront of many issues.

Mr Frank was a senior traditional owner for Purrurtu country which includes Phillip Creek Mission Reserve and to the north of Tennant Creek station.

"He was a strong committed family man who took great pride in how much knowledge he passed onto his children," Mr Ross said. ●

# NAIDOC

activities will be held throughout the Territory from July 8-15

## Darwin

*Larrakia Country - Treat it with respect* is the theme in Darwin, with a family day, sports and open days, a film festival, exhibitions and a dinner dance organised by the local NAIDOC committee.

## Alice Springs

In Alice Springs, the Institute for Aboriginal Development (IAD) is coordinating NAIDOC activities for the Centre, including sports and family days, a march and rally and children's activities.

## Nhulunbuy

A Miwatj health open day and a barbecue in town are planned for Nhulunbuy celebrations, as well as activities in remote communities.

## Jabiru

A youth art award on the national NAIDOC theme *Treaty - Let's Get It Right* is happening in Jabiru. Indigenous youth in the region who are under 21 are invited to submit a poster reflecting the theme as well as issues and culture of the Jabiru region. The winner of the competition, run by the ATSIC regional Council, will receive a trophy and \$1000. Contact Mia on 8981 5522 for more information.

## Katherine and Tennant Creek

In Katherine, the Kalano community is planning activities for NAIDOC, while the local NAIDOC committee in Tennant Creek is preparing activities for the following week (July 15-21), to avoid a clash with the local Show.



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