



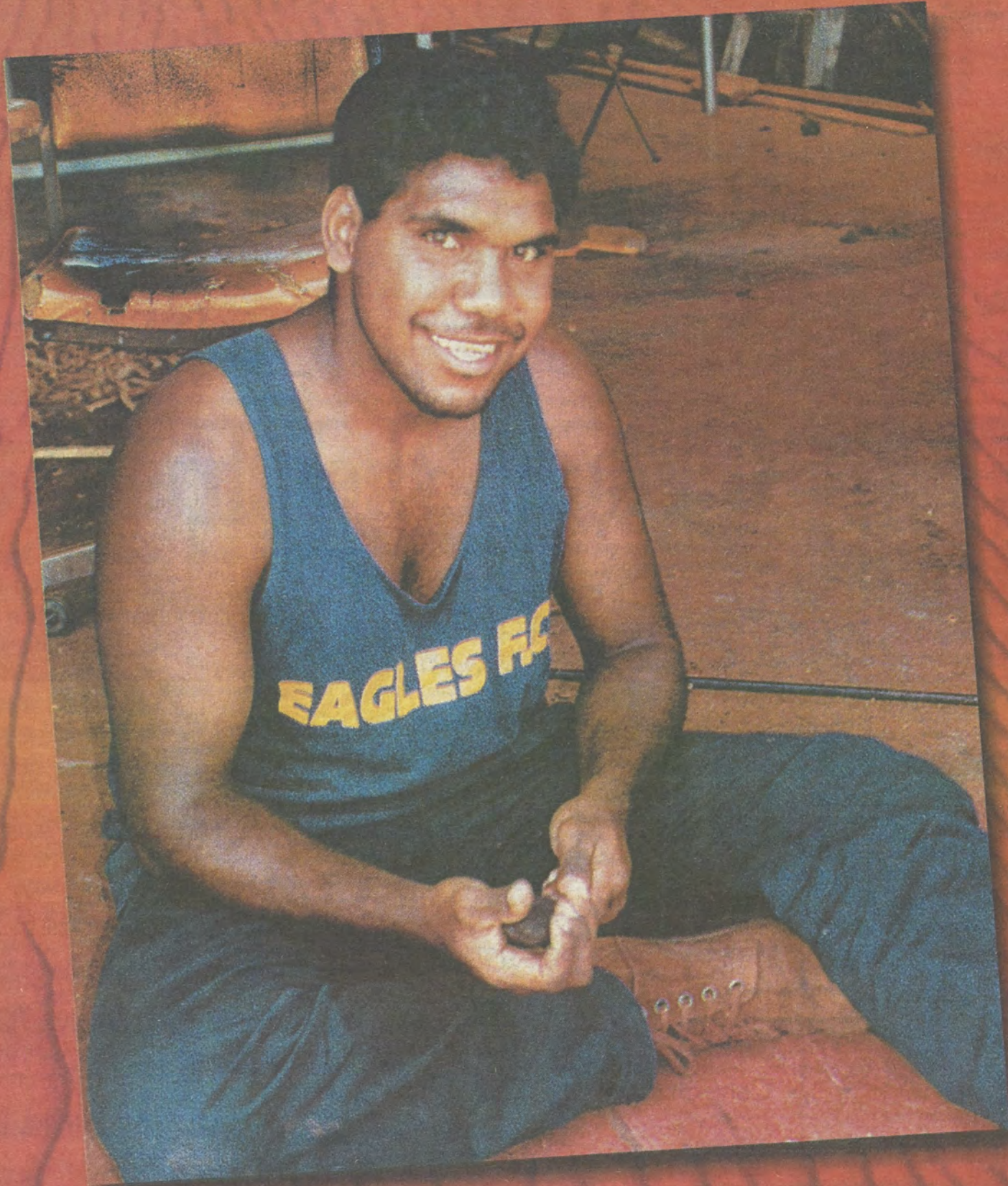
Land Rights

NEWS



One Mob, One Voice, One Land

Vol 3 No 5 March 2001



INSIDE: Treaty, native title test case, Stolen Generation office openings

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Federal Environment Minister Robert Hill with senior traditional owners Laklak Marika (left) and Dhimurru chairman Bawurr Munyarryun at the celebrations for the first Indigenous Protected Area in the NT

Land Rights NEWS

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COVER PHOTO
Jimmy Frank Juppurula with a stone knife made using spinifex resin.
See story page 15

Royalties investment buys airline

Central Australia has a new Aboriginal-owned airline, Janami Air, thanks to careful investment of gold mining royalties on Aboriginal land.

The members of the Kurra Aboriginal Corporation, which owns the airline, come from Lajamanu, Yuendumu, Tanami Downs, Ringers Soak and Balgo.

The well-established Alice Springs company Aboriginal Air Services will operate the airline.

"It's a good business for us," Janami Air director Mary Rockman said. "It'll grow slowly and we'll have something for our children."

The plane, a Cessna Grand Caravan is a 14 seater and can take up to 600kgs in cargo.

Its route will take it between Alice Springs, Yuendumu, Lajamanu, Kalkaringi

and Katherine twice a week.

Freda Jarra, from Yuendumu, said people were really happy about the new airline.

"It makes it easier for us to get to funerals and sorry business," she said. "More people should fly with us. It's faster and less bumpy than small planes and it's got air conditioning."

Rodney Hudson Jackamarra pointed out that Janami has many advantages. "The mail plane takes too long. The Janami pilot comes back earlier from Katherine. And it's a proper airline - the pilot explains everything like seat belts so you feel okay and not nervous."

"More people should fly with us and help us build our business," he said.

Central Land Council director David Ross said Janami Air was an important new service for Central Australian people and congratulated the traditional owners on their wise investment.

"It's obviously important that people



The directors Janami Air: left to right: Margaret Robertson, Mary Rockman, Irene James, Freda Jarra, Rodney Hudson, Peggy Rockman

invest for their future and I'm proud of them for that decision. Not only will they and their children benefit but it will allow

everybody who has business in the Tanami to have a quick and reliable means of transport," he said. ●

NT Government snubs Dhimurru IPA

Federal Environment Minister Robert Hill and representatives from Environment Australia were in Gulkula, near Nhulunbuy on March 15 to celebrate the official dedication of a vast tract of Aboriginal land to the national conservation effort.

They were there to recognise the significant contribution by the traditional owners who have agreed to manage the area, covering about 92,000 hectares of land around the Gove Peninsula and adjoining seas and islands, as part of Australia's National Reserve System.

The Yolngu community is advancing a significant gesture of goodwill in a climate of complex, competing interests.

This is the first Indigenous Protected Area dedicated in the Northern Territory to the system.

But the NT Government was conspicuous by its absence at the celebrations, with not one NT Minister attending, nor any senior staff from the NT Parks and Wildlife Commission.

It has been suggested that Commission staff were refused permission to attend.

The management arrangement for the new IPA - allowing traditional owners to continue to have strong control over what happens on the land - is supported by the

Commonwealth government.

But it appears that this arrangement is not acceptable to the NT Government.

Shortly after Dhimurru and the Northern Land Council initiated consultations with the traditional owners on the feasibility of establishing an IPA in 1998, the Parks Commission closed its office in Nhulunbuy and withdrew its rangers.

The NT Parks and Wildlife Commission and the NT Minister for Parks and Wildlife, Mike Reed, have refused to re-establish a ranger on the Gove Peninsula - even though it is one of the largest population centres in the NT and its sensitive and unique environments are subject to enormous pressure from tourism and other activities as well as other land and sea management issues.

This has left the entire Peninsula without ranger services.

The Northern Territory says a formal joint management agreement, which would give non-landowners voting rights in IPA management decisions, is a precondition for the re-establishment of a Commission ranger presence.

This position appears to be at odds with the Territory Parks own Masterplan.

And the problems which the NT seem to have with the concept, are obviously not problems for the Commonwealth, with whom the traditional owners have been able to forge a



Dhimurru Senior Ranger Mr Nanikiya Munungurritj has a word with Federal Environment Minister Robert Hill

progressive agreement.

While the NT obstructs, the traditional owners and the Commonwealth get on with the job.

Unfortunately, the position adopted by the NT is likely to mean that the broader northeast Arnhem region will continue to be deprived in the foreseeable future of any meaningful

delivery of services.

"We're very disappointed with the way the Northern Territory has responded to our IPA," said Mr Nanikiya Munungurritj, Dhimurru Senior Ranger.

"We've done a lot of good work together in the past without the kind of joint management arrangement they are now insisting on," he added. ●



Traditional owners want their rights recognised

More than a dozen traditional Aboriginal owners from the north of Australia travelled to Canberra in March to watch seven judges in the High Court listen to all the arguments supporting and opposing their native title claim over land spanning the NT/WA border at Kununurra.



Top: Ben Barney and Peggy Griffiths
Above: Button Jones and Jim Ward

Two years ago, the Federal Court found that the Miriung and Gajerrong people had substantial rights – but these were reduced drastically in an appeal the following year to the Full Bench.

Now the High Court has been asked to work it out – and the traditional owners may have an answer by the end of the year.

The application area covers 7,900 sq kms of land and water in the East Kimberley including Keep River National Park in NT and, in WA, vacant Crown land, Aboriginal reserves, pastoral leases, former pastoral leases, part of the Argyle Diamond Mine lease, Lake Argyle and other areas covered by the Ord Irrigation area, three small islands, and waters in the intertidal zone and mud flats.

The first judgement said the Miriung and Gajerrong people's rights included rights to:

- possess, occupy, use and enjoy the area, and make decisions about the use of the area;
- access the area and control access by others;
- use and enjoy the resources and control the use of resources by others.

This judgement also said it was very difficult to extinguish those rights.

But the appeal changed all that when the majority of the Full Bench (two judges) found that native title had been totally extinguished regarding the Ord River scheme, including crown land in Kununurra, and the Argyle diamond mine, and also extinguished on WA pastoral leases which have been enclosed by fences.

Whereas the first judgement was that native title is a right to the land itself, just like freehold, the Full Bench decided that native title was like a 'bundle of rights' and could be extinguished one by one.

At the time, CEO of the Northern Land Council, Mr Norman Fry said that this decision amounted to "bucketloads of extinguishment."

The High Court judges now have to consider two main questions: What is the extent of native title rights? And how easily can native title be extinguished?

The Miriung and Gajerrong people submit their native title has not been extinguished, and is equivalent to ownership, and want the High Court to recognise and acknowledge their full rights.



Media interviewing NLC chairman Galarrwy Yunupingu outside the High Court in Canberra

Australia's commitment to native title is on trial

All native title claims over pastoral leases throughout Australia will be affected by the High Court decision for the Miriung and Gajerrong people, said NLC chairman Mr Galarrwy Yunupingu.

"This case will determine how easily our native title is extinguished and what native title really means," he said.

"It will decide what crumbs of native title rights have survived 10 years of government interference since Mabo.

"What is really on trial in the High Court is Australia's genuine commitment to native title and co-existence."

Mr Yunupingu said it was ironic that, while many Australians still swallow the deception that their backyards are in danger from native title takeover, the reality is that Indigenous people throughout the country are struggling to retain any real rights at all.

"Aboriginal people are witnessing a gradual whittling away of our native title rights," he said. "This is all such a shame. There was a brief point in our recent history when things were looking a lot better – with Mabo and Wik.

"As it turned out, however, there was no commitment to native title at all. It turned into a disappearing trick."

This is the first time a native title claim over pastoral property has reached the High Court since Wik.

Mr Yunupingu said: "If we prove that our native title is strong and meaningful, let's not allow a repeat of the shameful response to Wik: the 10-point plan, amendments to the Native Title Act, and bucket loads of extinguishment.

"Let us as a nation make sure native title stays strong."

A Treaty - ATSIC starts the ball rolling again

The idea of a treaty between Aboriginal people and non-Aboriginal people continues to gain momentum.

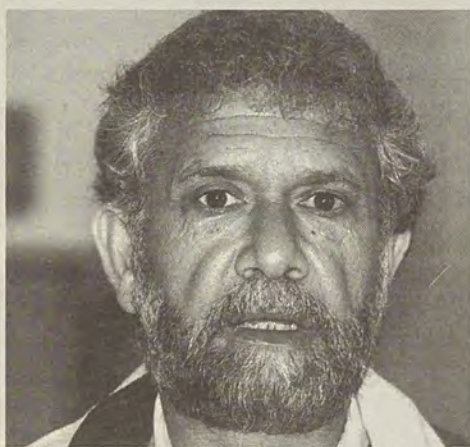
ATSIC Chairman Geoff Clark has, with the support of the ATSIC Commissioners, put the issue firmly on the ATSIC national agenda, an information and education campaign has begun and discussions within the Aboriginal community are taking place.

Following meetings of key Indigenous leaders, agreement has been reached to set up a National Treaty Support Group, convene a national think tank and encourage the setting up of a network of regional think tanks/ support groups.

ATSIC Central Zone Commissioner Alison Anderson told a recent treaty workshop in Alice Springs that people need to start thinking seriously about a treaty.

"We need to engage people in discussion. I think we need both an agreement between Aboriginal people and non-Aboriginal people and constitutional change. We need to remember the struggle we have had for self-determination. This needs grass roots consultation."

Why have a treaty?



Central Land Council director David Ross said he supported the idea of a treaty to enshrine Aboriginal rights in the constitution.

"We were not included as relevant parties when Australia was proclaimed a colony or when the Australian Federation was formed," he said.

"Up until now there has never been an agreement - mutual or otherwise - and all the rights that we have got so far are legislated rights - that is, determined by the government of the day.

"What can be given can be taken away very easily, as we learned with the Native Title Act.

"When the Coalition Government it wasn't interested in talking to people and went ahead and dismantled those rights that we had fought so hard for.

"The battle over our Land Rights Act is another example of how easily what we regard as fundamental is subject to political environments."

Northern Land Council chairman Galarrwuy Yunupingu also said he wanted an agreement that enshrines Aboriginal rights into a Constitution, and said just one

of the benefits could be to give security to native title.

"We need to talk about a treaty which can give our native title security in the Constitution, and create a basis for genuine co-existence," he said.

"I have seen the way the Balanda (non-Aboriginal) law can change from one day to the next, and I believe we must have stronger protection than that.

"We've seen Mabo and Wik whittled away but if we win the Miriung and Gajerrong High Court then we want those rights protected in the Constitution. That process could be part of a treaty.

"We need to secure our law from the politics of the quick fix."

"The process that began with the Bark Petition and the Barunga Statement has always been a struggle for a proper agreement between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples.

"We were left out at Federation, and the 1967 Referendum was only a small step towards the full recognition of the Indigenous peoples in the structures of power in Australia.

"For Australia to become a whole, we have to address this flaw in our national make-up."

What could a treaty mean in the NT?



Peggy Griffiths, Galarrwuy Yunupingu, Ben Barney and Frank Chulung at a press conference at Parliament House in Canberra

The Northern Territory is better placed than anywhere else in Australia to talk about treaties. The Bark petition, the Barunga Statement, the Kalkaringi Statement and the Batchelor Constitutional Convention belong to a tradition unique to the Northern Territory of Indigenous people negotiating the terms of their relationship with governments.

And, as the Northern Territory approaches statehood, now is the ideal time for Aboriginal people to have protection through a treaty or agreement enshrined in an NT constitution.

"We have done a lot of work on this already, and a good starting point is the Batchelor Strategy, which maps out a process to recognise and protect the rights of all Territorians," Galarrwuy Yunupingu, chairman of the Northern Land Council said.

CLC director David Ross says for a start we shouldn't get too hung up on the word.

"We should use the word treaty until we can come up with something better," he said.

"What we can do is start thinking about what a treaty or treaties could deliver to us at the local level as well as the national level.

"We've had native title decisions such as Wik and the recognition of the Arrernte people in Alice Springs as the traditional owners and a nation within themselves.

"The Warumungu and the Warlpiri and every language group in Central Australia are all nations.

"The Arrernte for example may wish to negotiate a treaty for themselves or they may prefer to be part of a treaty with other language groups in the region.

"And what could a treaty deliver to them if they decided they wanted one?"

"The Kalkaringi Statement set out a lot of things that people said they wanted.

"Taking control of education and justice issues was just one.

"Sharing power and governance was another. A treaty is a way of setting this out so that power is transferred across to Aboriginal people who have decided what they want and what they don't want.

"It is a way forward and time for us to really sort out what we mean when we talk about self-determination."

Mr Yunupingu agreed: "After all, the whole purpose of a treaty or agreement is to be able to bring everyone together on an equal footing to work things out fairly," he said.

- A treaty is an agreement between two parties who seek to have their relationship with each other spelt out.
- A national treaty does not stop Indigenous communities and other local, regional, state and territory stakeholders from signing treaties with each other at those levels.
- Canada, USA and New Zealand all have treaties with Indigenous peoples and it is time for Australia to reach for the same recognition of partnership.
- The time is right to talk about treaty during the Centenary year - even the word 'federate' derives from a Latin word meaning 'to make a treaty'.

Keeping Kaytetye language strong

Heavy rain could not dampen the day as the Kaytetye community celebrated the launch of two important new Kaytetye language resources.

"This is really good - it makes us happy to see our language written down and our kids watching language videos," senior Kaytetye man Tommy Thompson said.

"We want more books and there should be more videos.

"We got to have that dictionary too.

"We got to get our language written down, teach our young people their language in schools.

"We want to keep Kaytetye language strong. Young people got to learn, know who they are and where they come from."

The Institute for Aboriginal Development has been working with the Kaytetye community to produce resources to maintain and keep the Kaytetye language strong.

The Kaytetye Learners guide, initiated by the Kaytetye people, is part of the IAD's Kaytetye dictionary project, which began in 1995 when talks commenced with Kaytetye communities concerned about losing their language.

A three-part Arrkantele video series was also launched as a school resource. Arrkantele means 'fun' and that's just what the videos are about - making learning fun. The videos are influenced by Sesame Street television productions and received

a great response from the Kaytetye communities.

IAD director Richard Hayes officially launched the language resource materials at Thangkenhareng Resource Centre at Barrow Creek 300 kilometres north of Alice Springs.

"It is a long time coming for the Kaytetye people and the Kaytetye language," he said.

"This is a very positive and progressive step. It was an initiative developed with the communities at the grass roots level.

"It involves the skills and knowledge of the people here in these communities working with dedicated IAD which will ultimately result in the production of the Kaytetye Dictionary," Mr Hayes said.

Community members, Rebecca Numina and Janie Ampetyane spoke about keeping the Kaytetye language strong for the generations to come.

"Akgke ahene aynanthe mpwarehne, akgke aynewantheyenge Kaytetye. Eyntemaperte aynanthe elperterre akgke arrtyewethe artnwengeynengewe."

"This is an important book that we've made, it's our language, Kaytetye. We have to keep our language strong forever, for our children."

The IAD dictionary program began work on Central Australian languages more than 20 years ago.

Since then, IAD has completed seven dictionaries, a number of learners guides and other language resources, learners guides and has provided general support for language programs in schools.

The funding for the dictionary projects has come from ATSIC and AIATSIS. ●

Below (left to right): Tommy Jungala, Terry Casson, Ted Petyarr, Tommy Thompson and David Ampetyane



Top Photo: Kids enjoying the launch of the Arrkantele video. Above left: IAD director Richard Hayes and Tommy Thompson. Above right: Amy Ngaperle talking on the mic with Janie Ampetyane and kids

A Career in Kaytetye

Alison Ross, a Kaytetye woman who has been involved in developing Kaytetye language resources for some years is now employed full time at IAD to work on the Kaytetye dictionary project.

Alison is originally from Tara but moved to Utopia homelands in 1996 where she worked as a teacher for senior students.

She completed an Advanced Diploma in Teaching at Batchelor college last year and likes her new job working full time on the Kaytetye dictionary.

"It's different. When you're teaching you're on your feet all the time, here you are mostly working behind a computer. But I like the work.

"It's good 'cos you come across new words that are not being used today but are what the old people used to say.

"The language we speak now has



Alison Ross

changed from how it was spoken back in the old days."

Today the Kaytetye language is used as a second or third language and elders are concerned that soon the language will be gone.

Kaytetye is spoken by 250 people in the area to the south east of Tennant creek in communities such as Atarre, Thangkenhareng, Ilewerre and Ankweylwengke. ●

Stolen Generation offices for Central Australia



Left to right: Rosie Hunter, Maureen Hunter and Dawn Fleming at the Alice Springs office opening



Left middle and below: Tennant Creek women get into the swing of things at the office opening



Left top to bottom : Stolen Generation office in Tennant Creek; Connie Cole and Netta Cahill at the opening of the office in Tennant Creek; Traditional dancers at the Alice Springs opening; ALP MLA John Ah Kit cuts the ribbon opening the Tennant Creek office



Jobs on the Railway

(but hey - don't give up the search...)



NLC Executive member John Christopherson, Eurest Remote Managing Director, Mr Gerhard Poelzl and CLC director David Ross at the press conference announcing the joint venture.

The Central and Northern Land Councils are part of a joint venture aimed at making sure Aboriginal people get jobs with the Alice to Darwin railway project (ASDR).

The joint venture with Eurest Australia, the country's leading food services company, will tender for a \$10-12 million contract to supply catering, cleaning, retail, canteen, gardening and general maintenance services for a number of construction camps during the two-year construction phase of the railway.

The joint venture stems from two companies, Centrecorp involving the CLC and Eurest and NAADC (Northern Australia Aboriginal Development Corporation) involving the NLC and Eurest.

"This joint venture is a strategic alliance that can benefit everyone - Aboriginal people, the railway project and the Territory as a whole." NLC's CEO Mr Norman Fry said.

"The railway project is an opportunity we can't afford to miss in terms of helping Aboriginal people get jobs and benefit from the responsible development of the Northern Territory.

"It provides ideal circumstances, as it passes through remote areas and calls for experience in the bush and a whole range of skills that Aboriginal people can provide.

"ASDR aims to provide employment and training opportunities to Aboriginal people, in keeping with the railway consortium's responsibilities in fulfilling its obligations under the native title claim settlement for the rail corridor. This strategic alliance can help them achieve that aim."

"This joint venture fits perfectly within the overall employment and training strategies of the Land Councils," CLC director Mr David Ross said.

"Both land councils have officers dedicated to maximising Aboriginal participation in various activities in the construction phase for the railway. Apart from employment and training over the period of the railway construction, participants will be well placed to obtain jobs in future projects.

"We want to see as many Aboriginal people as possible gain employment with the railway, and receive training and on-the-job development at all levels. Eurest has a proven record in providing construction camp and catering services in remote areas."

Eurest Remote Managing Director Gerhard Poelzl said that Eurest was committed to developing opportunities for the local community and was delighted to be involved with the Territory's major land councils.

Central Australia mourns a true Tanami countryman

The Council and staff of the Central Land Council were shocked and deeply saddened at the sudden death late last month of long-serving CLC employee Kumunjayi Johnson Japanangka.

Kumunjayi Johnson, a Warlpiri man from Lajamanu 700 kilometres north-west of Alice Springs, was also the President of the Lajamanu Community Council and an ATSI Regional Councillor.

CLC director David Ross paid tribute to Kumunjayi Johnson as a "countryman in the truest sense of the word".

"For years, Kumunjayi Johnson travelled all over the Tanami and the knowledge he accumulated in that time was vast. Few people would have travelled through that country as consistently and as often as he had," he said.

"He played a pivotal role in mineral exploration in the Tanami as a CLC field officer and he worked tirelessly to ensure that mining and development were done in a way which protected sacred sites and minimised the impact on Aboriginal people.

"He was an immensely strong man who provided leadership to his community and a vital interface between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal culture.

"He was known for his fairness, his strength, his clear thinking and his good humour.

"The loss of this wonderful man and his knowledge will be acutely felt.

"All of us at the CLC extend our deepest sympathy to his wife and family and to the community of Lajamanu," Mr Ross said.

ABORIGINAL MEDICAL SERVICES ALLIANCE NORTHERN TERRITORY

AMSANT

Project Manager

Aboriginal Health Worker (AHW)
Career Structure Best Practice Initiative

The Aboriginal Medical Service Alliance Northern Territory (AMSANT) is a forum for community controlled health services in the Northern Territory to lobby for positive changes to the health of Aboriginal people.

AMSANT requires the services of a Project Manager, under a 12 month contract, who will have prime responsibility for continuing the central management of the Aboriginal Health Worker (AHW) Career Structure Best Practice Initiative. The successful candidate will be required to assist in the overall planning, management and administration of the Initiative.

Salary and conditions of employment will be negotiated with the successful candidate.

Copies of the selection documentation can be obtained from Ms. Sharon Laughton on 8936 1800.

Expressions of Interest should outline the knowledge, skills and experience of candidates, provide an overview of claims against the selection criteria and include the contact details of referees.

Expressions of Interest should be marked "Project Manager" and be forwarded to PO Box 653, Parap NT 0804.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders are particularly encouraged to apply.

AAP/AM677

The joint venture partners said that the railway tender was the first step in securing future projects in the Territory, such as gas and oil exploration, mining and other major construction projects.

Dialysis patients finally get to go home - for a night



Above: Trevor Tjupurrula, Parara Napaljarri, Amy Nampijimpa and Biddie Nungarrayi

Thanks to money raised by the Western Desert Dialysis Appeal, four renal disease sufferers were able to return to their community and family at Kintore early this month.

The Appeal will fund 15 Aboriginal people, who have to live in Alice Springs to receive treatment, for three trips home each within the next six months, while a newly appointed project manager investigates the options for getting dialysis machines to the Western Desert.

The patients will go on overnight visits to their communities at Papunya, Mt Leibig, Kintore and Kiwirrkurra.

Two large meetings were also held at Kiwirrkurra and Kintore and a Dialysis Committee was chosen by community members to direct the operation of the Dialysis Appeal. So far more than \$1 million has been raised.

Meanwhile, Tennant Creek, which also has a very high concentration of kidney disease sufferers continues to fight for its own dialysis machines, despite opposition from NT Health Minister Steve Dunham.

Mr Dunham told *The Age* newspaper in 1999 that "...Aboriginal people just get sick of living in town and want to go the bush to die" and told ABC TV recently that

if people were not willing to uproot themselves to access dialysis then, "the choice is theirs".

But as Barkly MLA Maggie Hickey rightly pointed out to the Minister in the NT Legislative Assembly this year, nobody wants to go and die and if there were facilities in Tennant Creek which would allow them to remain with family and on country then nobody would need to make the choice to go home and suffer.

The Barkly region has five new cases of patients requiring dialysis a year and 20 patients have had to move to Alice Springs to receive treatment. Katherine and Tiwi both have dialysis facilities and it is recognised that there is a need for them.

However, Tennant Creek has an equal if not greater level of need - one of the highest in Australia. It has been suggested that Tennant Creek has not received the facility because it is a Labor seat and that the Jawoyn were forced to trade off their native title rights for dialysis machines. ●

Community support for renal dialysis in Tennant Creek is strong. The Royal Order of Antediluvian Buffaloes recognised, as did all the service clubs in Tennant Creek, the need to have a unit in town. They held a fundraising night at the bowling club in Tennant Creek and raised \$11,000.

"I have never seen in my 16-17 years in Tennant Creek, such a well attended fundraiser for anything at anytime in Tennant Creek."

Barkly MLA Maggie Hickey

Maningrida: TB capital of Australia



Tuberculosis among people in Maningrida at the top of Arnhem Land, 350 kilometres east of Darwin, is 100 times higher than the national average.

And yet the Territory's Health Minister Steven Dunham says the Territory Health Service has TB in Maningrida under control.

And the Territory Health Service, which has cut back staff at Maningrida, refuses to replace the TB nurse who left the Maningrida community.

They are ignoring the views of Aboriginal health workers and people living in Maningrida who want a TB nurse and a proper preventative program to combat the highly infectious disease.

Health workers believe that the answer to dealing with the high rates of TB would be to have a TB nurse on the ground, who is well-known and trusted by the Aboriginal people, to perform the labour intensive duties of treatment for acute TB and test those in close contact with TB.

They feel the high incidence of tuberculosis is related to the lack of a proper treatment program for people infected and a preventative program for people in close contact.

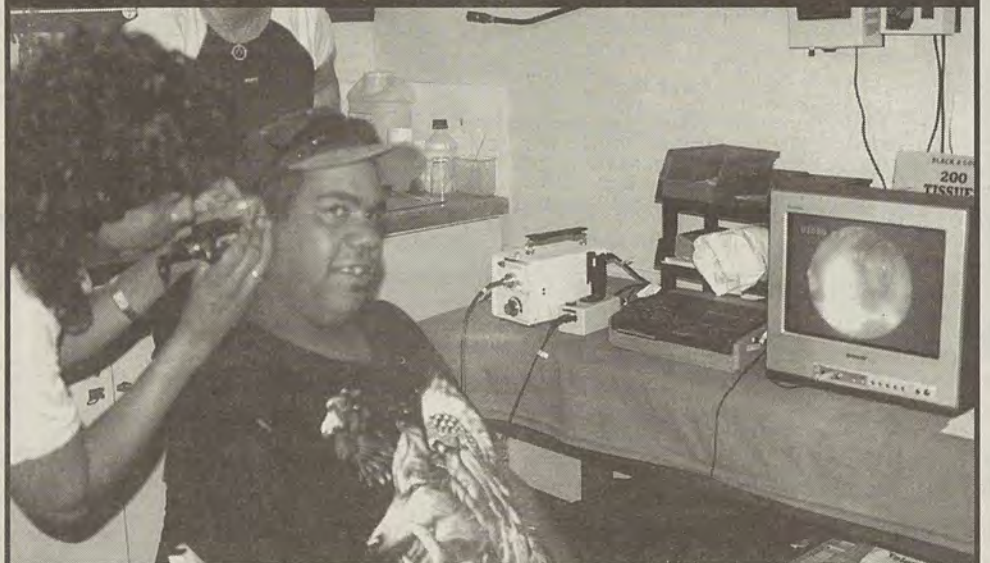
Overcrowding is another factor, but the housing shortage is unlikely to change, as the Maningrida Council has been told it will not receive any more money from the Commonwealth's National Aboriginal Housing Strategy until the next round of funding in five years' time.

While TB is thought to be all but eliminated in Australia, with the national infection average among the world's lowest at five per 1000,000 people, 12 acute cases were diagnosed in Maningrida last year, with 31 per cent of the population testing positive.

Federal Territory Labor MP Warren Snowdon has called the TB outbreak "a national scandal."

But Country Liberal NT Senator Grant Tambling says the outbreak is the community's fault. Tambling told *The Age* newspaper that the community was an "awful place" where people lived in "filthy conditions" and said the community needed to accept responsibility.

Congress launch new ear video camera



Leslie Luck gets a rare chance to see inside his own ear

Patients at the Central Australian Aboriginal Congress will now be able to see inside their own ears - thanks to a new video camera.

Congress ear-health worker Margie Lankin said the new equipment will help patients understand their ear problems.

"It lets the patients know what is wrong with their ears because they can see it on the screen," Margie said.

"We take photos and the next time we see them we can show them if there are any improvements. The photos

can tell us if the condition is improving or getting worse and if there is something we don't know we refer them to the ear, nose and throat specialist at the hospital."

"Ears are an on-going problem. Every second person you see seems to have an ear problem," she said.

The camera, known as an otoscope, was donated by the Pratt Foundation. ●



Grandmother Hazel Lalara with grandson Cambell



Grandmother Marianne Bara



Mandatory sentencing update

Mandatory sentencing continues to imprison people unjustly in the Northern Territory. And the promised juvenile diversion programs, part of a deal six months ago between the Territory and Commonwealth governments, appear thin on the ground. The deal included funding to the Territory in lots of \$5 million dollars a year over four years. NAALAS (Northern Australian Aboriginal Legal Aid Service) has looked at how the money has been spent.

One positive result of the deal is that the Aboriginal Interpreter Service (AIS) is well and truly up and running. This is welcome news.

The AIS provides services on request and is now providing regular services to the Royal Darwin Hospital, Aboriginal legal services, Darwin Magistrates Court and courts in remote communities.

It is not as easy to work out how effective the diversionary schemes have been.

In February, the Minister for Police, Fire and Community Services announced in parliament that the police had issued 650 warnings and cautions since September last year. The increased use of warnings and cautions is consistent with the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody. NAALAS welcomes the increased use of these alternatives.

However, part of the mandatory sentencing deal was to help set up formal diversionary programs and victim/offender conferencing.

In comparison to warnings and cautions there have been very few diversions into structured programs.

In November 2000 there had been only five diversions into formal programs and ten victim/offender conferences. We do not know how many children have been diverted into formal programs since then, but anecdotal evidence suggests that the numbers are still very small.

This is of concern to NAALAS. After more than six months, many have asked us at NAALAS: "Where did all the money go?" This question is a legitimate one that remains to be answered by the governments responsible for the mandatory sentencing deal.

If you would like further information about mandatory sentencing, please contact John Sheldon at NAALAS on 89815266

Rally commemorates a life



Speeches, floral tributes, music, messages sent from all over the country and a minute's silence marked a rally opposing mandatory sentencing, held at Raintree Park in Darwin on February 9.

The gathering commemorated the life of the young Groote Eylande boy whose story, reported in the national and international media, has become a symbol of the critical impact of the mandatory sentencing regime in the NT.

It was held on the first anniversary of his death in the Don Dale Juvenile Detention Centre, where he was sent for 28 days' detention for stealing texta pens.

A brochure handed out to the crowd pointed out that mandatory sentencing was not succeeding in reducing crime. The number of offences that would attract a mandatory sentence have stayed almost static, the NT still has the highest rates of home burglary in Australia, home burglaries are on the increase, and the re-offending rates has not gone down.



Bill Risk and Bill Danks at the press conference to talk about their win

Kenbi claim offers planning choices

The Kenbi land claim in favour of the Larrakia people creates an opportunity for initiative and clever ideas in shaping the future of the Darwin region.

Chief Executive Officer of the Northern Land Council, Mr Norman Fry, pointed out that Kenbi provided an opening for more inclusive planning and development processes embracing Larrakia people.

He said that continued suggestions from the NT Government that planning and development around Darwin were threatened by the claim were completely unfounded.

"Aboriginal people in the Territory are just as keen to see Darwin and the NT grow and progress as any other Territorian," he said.

Larrakia Nation spokesperson Mr Bill Risk agreed: "There is no threat to development from the confirmation of our land rights.

"The Larrakia people have always made it very clear that we are not anti-development on our land, provided our rights are recognised and protected. We have already shown that we can negotiate win/win outcomes in our agreement over LNG plant at Wickham Point."

The Land Commissioner recommended that the major part of the claim area should be handed back to the traditional owners, but the NT Government has appealed on planning grounds.

The issue of planning has a long history with this claim. One of the first attempts was in 1979 when the government tried to gazette larger areas of land surrounding Darwin to deliberately try to prevent land claims.

"On three separate occasions, the High Court dismissed the NT Government's repeated attempts to thwart the Larrakia peoples' rights and subvert the legitimate

processes of the courts – all for political reasons," Mr Fry said.

"Our claim was fought tooth and nail by the NT Government, who simply did not want to acknowledge our existence for many years," Mr Risk said.

"At one stage they attempted to expand Darwin's town boundaries to the size of greater London just to wipe out our claim."

As recently as February, in Parliament, Chief Minister Denis Burke was still making misleading statements, making comments such as: "If the land becomes Aboriginal land, the area will not be available (for the future expansion of the Darwin region)."

On the contrary, says Mr Fry. "This is an ideal opportunity for real reconciliation to take place – for the NT to show the way.

"This could be an example of government and Indigenous interests working more closely together for the benefit of all.

"If we start working together now, we can iron out these issues before the final determination on the Kenbi land claim is handed down by the Federal Minister," he said.

"The Land Rights Act actually provides the processes for this to successfully happen.

"Those issues flagged by Mr Burke, such as development and planning issues, and other aspects such as access to beaches, waterways and parcels of land where people have interests, can be dealt with if there is a spirit of co-operation.

"A cooperative approach, instead of the old divisive tactics of past governments, will benefit all Territorians." ●

Larrakia recognised at last

The Larrakia people have finally been formally recognised as the traditional owners of the Cox Peninsula, across the harbour from Darwin.

"After more than 20 years of struggle, our rights have finally been recognised," Larrakia Nation spokesperson Bill Risk said.

"The Kenbi land claim has run for so long that many of our old people have passed away waiting for the result – so our joy is tinged with sadness as we remember all of those people who fought for our rights but died before the final victory.

"At least we know that their efforts were not in vain."

Mr Risk said the victory was good news for all the claimants.

Land Commissioner Justice Gray found that six claimants satisfy the stringent statutory test of "traditional Aboriginal owners" under the Land Rights Act, but said that all 1600 claimants would benefit, because they also have strong traditional interests in, and rights to, the land.

The final determination of who and how many Larrakia ultimately become recognised as traditional Aboriginal owners under the Act will be determined by appropriate Aboriginal decision-making processes after the land is granted.

While the NT Government continues to

oppose the claim on the grounds that it will hamper development, it has not questioned the Larrakia's claims of traditional ownership.

The Kenbi land claim has the potential to signal a new era for the Larrakia people, who have borne the brunt of colonisation and dispossession policies, made worse by the nature of Territory politics and division. They have a chance to rebuild their community and their links to the land.

"This is a great day for the Larrakia," Northern Land Council chairman Galarrwuy Yunupingu said.

"They have withstood the impact of colonisation and the full force of political attack and have not only survived but succeeded.

The test now is whether the NT and Commonwealth governments can accept the judges decision.

"The NLC will continue to work with the Larrakia to try to get all parties to forge new relationships which recognise Larrakia rights, to ensure that these are protected, and that they are incorporated into the long term-planning for the future of Darwin." ●



Above: Larrakia claimants celebrating at the NLC offices

Research study into itinerant lifestyles

A research study has begun in the Darwin and Palmerston region to gather information to respond to issues facing Indigenous itinerants and service providers.

The study, jointly sponsored by the NT Government and ATSIC, is supported by various community organisations.

"There are a lot of myths surrounding the issue of itinerants and we need to understand a lot more about lifestyles and services that are needed," NT Northern Zone Commissioner Kim Hill said.

Larrakia Nation spokesperson for the project Curtis Roman said that local traditional owners saw respect as a key factor in the study.

"Everyone has a right to live in Darwin," he said. "People can live wherever they want, but it is people's behaviour we are trying to address."

The health, well-being and social behaviour of people living an itinerant lifestyle in the region are long-standing concerns – and the effect their behaviour is having on themselves and the lives of their relatives and acquaintances living in Darwin.

The Management committee for the project consists of Territory Housing, ATSIC, Larrakia Nation, the North Australian Aboriginal Legal Aid Service (NAALAS), the NLC and the Aboriginal Medical Services Alliance of the NT. ●

Midnight deluge for Kiwikurra



Nearly 600 Central Australian Aboriginal people have been evacuated from their communities after severe flooding forced them from their homes.

Members of the Kalkaringi and Daguragu communities 800 kilometres north east of Alice Springs have been camped at the Katherine Showgrounds for several weeks after all of their houses went under water.

People at Kiwirrkurra, 500 kilometres west of Alice Springs were forced from their beds as a huge body of water came gushing through the community.

"It was midnight when it came in. The whole community woke up and you could hear everyone shouting, shouting everywhere from the bottom camp to the top camp," said Essential Services Officer and Environmental Health Worker Sidney Moody.

"It rained heavily all night. We all went to the recreation hall first but then that got flooded so we moved to the school.

"We were very lucky that one of the sand hills got washed out and a lot of the water went out that way. Otherwise it would have been over the roof," he said.

Kiwirrkurra Community Council President Jimmy Brown said that the people of Kiwirrkurra realised how lucky they had been to have escaped with their lives and were glad to be evacuated to Alice Springs where they camped in the Norforce quarters.

"We are lucky people. The helicopter came and got us and we are very happy to be in Alice Springs. The police and the army are working hard helping us," he said.

"We understand there have to be rules. My people are proud people. We don't want people to go out and have a drink. People can go out on the bus and do their shopping in the town and then come back

here so we got no trouble. We are all working hard to look after people here."

Sidney Moody said he would be returning to the community soon to check on the damage.

"I run the power and the water out there but we got too much water now. No worries about nothing in the tap. Looks like the Indian Ocean!"

"It's my job to go out and check out everything," Sidney said. "Make sure we got some dogs alive - that sort of thing.

"We can put down some and save a lot because we all worry for dogs - they are good company and we hate to get rid of them but we got to, you know. Save the best ones but the sick ones we'll get rid of."

**Top: Outside the shelter at the Norforce depot in Alice Springs
Below: Kiwikurra residents Charlie Ward Tjackamarra, Bobby West Tjupurrula and John Ward Tjapaljarri rest up at the Norforce depot after their ordeal**



Borroloolla wants better deal from emergency services

Cyclones Winsome, Wilbur and Abigail came to Borroloolla in February, causing flooding, evacuations and isolation for hundreds of people and the local police had nothing but praise for the way the community pulled together, helped each other out and coped with all the inconvenience.

But Aboriginal residents in town and in outstations are unhappy about lack of communication during the crisis, caused by three cyclones in two weeks, the lack of emergency shelter and health concerns.

They are calling for a new Emergency Plan to better deal with future situations.

Rocky Creek cut the town in two for a few days, forcing people to use barges to get from one side to the other, while people living at Garawa Outstation, normally cut off by the McArthur River for a couple of weeks, were isolated for two months.

Garawa and Police Lagoon were also

without power for three weeks, while about 60 people had to be evacuated from Ryans Bend and Devil Springs when Bottom Creek, a tributary of the McArthur River rose and caused flooding.

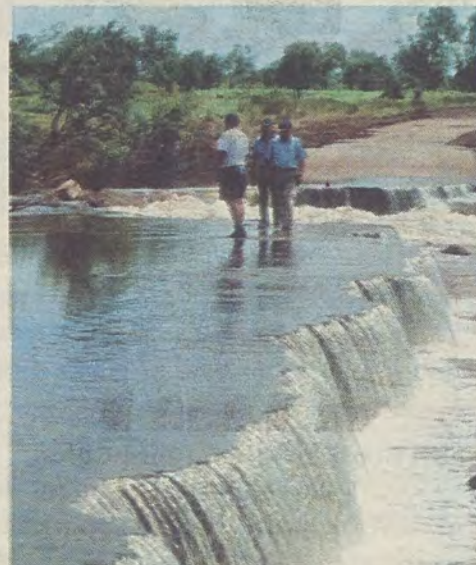
Extensive damage to Carpentaria Highway, the main supply line for Borroloolla, meant food supplies had to be flown into town at the height of the flood.

"The contributions made by the general population helped a lot," a police spokesperson said.

"People evacuated from outstations stayed with family, and we are pretty happy with the way things have gone.

"People just got on with the job of helping each other out."

He agreed, however, that proper shelter to be used for emergency situations should be considered."



Above: Getting tagged by the Red Cross.

**Top: Rocky Creek running through the centre of Borroloolla
Left: Road damage between Kalkaringi and Daguragu**

PHOTO: David Hancock Skyscans



Rosita Gallacher is the first in Gunbalanya to try out the new phone system.

Goodbye to phone bills

Households in Gunbalanya in Arnhem Land are putting a new pre-paid telephone service to the test for Telstra, to see if it meets the needs of remote Indigenous communities.

The service, also being trialed in Arunkun in Far North Queensland, is like the pre-paid system for public phones, but is linked to home phones.

It means that each person in a household can control their own phone expenses, as they each can have a PIN number to get into their own account.

They never get a bill, because they put money into their account in advance, and top it up when the money runs out.

When someone uses the phone, they key in their PIN number and they are told how much money is left in their account, before they dial the number they want to call.

People can also use their PIN number to use their account when they want to make a call from a public phone box or another private phone.

The system is similar to other pre-paid services offered in communities, such as electricity and fuel.



Geoff Booth, regional managing director of Telstra, with Gunbalanya residents



Lillian Kerinauia

Tiwi art on show

An exhibition of works from Nganuwajirri centre on Bathurst Island, exploring the significance of seafood for Tiwi islanders, started the year's program at the art gallery in the Coomalie Cultural Centre at the Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education.



Jane Tipuamanpumirri (left) and Lillian Kerinauia

The exhibition "Good Food - Seafood" (Pupunyi Yolnkitji Arimuwu Kapi Winga) highlights the development and achievements of artists with disabilities from the Centre.

Tiwi artists, Lillian Kerinauia and Jane Tipuamanpumirri, demonstrated their skills in painting on paper with natural ochres in the adjoining studio during the exhibition, which ran from 21 February-16 March.

The Gurindji Freedom Banners, a series of textile banners depicting the history of the Wave Hill Walk Off, will be exhibited in April.

The exhibitions are part of the Centre's

aim to promote Indigenous art and support cultural projects.

The Centre plays a major role in the cultural life of the Institute, and aims to encourage contemporary cultural practices among students and staff and in Indigenous communities.

The Centre also has a studio space for emerging and established Indigenous artists to create works of art, under its Artists in Residence program.

This program helps artists to profile their work - and gives students the chance to meet and exchange cultural knowledge and skills and see artists at work.



Amunda Gorey and Cassandra Stuart

Students lobby Howard over morning tea

Two young Aboriginal women from Central Australia were among a group of students who had a chance last month to voice their concerns with the Prime Minister about his handling of Indigenous issues.

Amunda Gorey from Santa Teresa and Cassandra Stuart from Hermannsburg were among the year 11 and 12 students at St John's College in Darwin to meet John Howard for morning tea.

The Aboriginal students greeted the Prime Minister in their local languages including Arrernte, Tiwi, and Yolgnu matha.

The issues they raised at the meeting included mandatory sentencing laws which need to be overturned, recognition of Indigenous land rights, school retention of Indigenous students and the stolen generation.

Whilst on a tour of the Top End, the Prime Minister took time to visit St John's college and gave a speech focused on petrol sniffing in Aboriginal communities.

"When the Prime Minister made his speech he seemed to get all fidgety when he made eye contact with us in the corner - it looked like he was shaking," Amunda said.

Amunda said she wasn't nervous when she greeted the PM in Arrernte, "but I was a bit (nervous) speaking in front of everyone," she said.

She presented him with a small gift and a letter outlining the concerns of the Year 12 Aboriginal studies class with current government policies in relation to Aboriginal issues.

They are still waiting on a response.

Both Amunda and Cassandra are completing year 12 this year.

"The school here is good because they help us mob who don't have our families around," Amunda said.

"At boarding school we study more and

Extracts from the letter:

"We are concerned about the unjust mandatory sentencing laws of the Northern Territory which discriminate against Indigenous people and only serve to tighten the vicious circle many of these people are in . . .

Land Rights for Aboriginal people should not be seen as a threat but as a form of reconciliation, which can only benefit all Australians in the future . . .

We are also concerned with the education system and how young Indigenous Australians fit into it.

More non-Indigenous students complete high school and go to Tertiary studies than do Indigenous students.

Help in the form of specialised programs is needed to encourage more students to stay at school until Year 12, which in the long term helps all Aboriginal communities."

keep up with work because they have set study periods which helps out so you don't fall behind," Cassandra said.

They would like to go home for a short break once they have finished school - but further studies are still on their minds.

"I'd like to go home and maybe work out bush or join the army or maybe become a mechanic - so I can fix cars," Cassandra said.

"I want to go back home and maybe become a primary school teacher - or stay up here for a while," said Amunda. ●

First Aboriginal librarian in Central Australia

The Central Land Council is lucky enough to employ one of the very few qualified Aboriginal librarians in Australia.

Amy O'Donoghue has worked at the CLC for seven years and has just completed a Graduate Diploma in Information Studies through the University of South Australia.

"I have spent over 20 years working in libraries in Aboriginal organisations in South Australia and the Territory and I've found it challenging, hard work and extremely rewarding," Amy said.

Amy said she began studying to gain confidence and become qualified as a librarian.

She began studying in the 1980s at Tauondi College (formally the Aboriginal community college) in Adelaide and has completed a Certificate in Library Studies (Library Technician) and an Associate Diploma of Business.

"I like working in libraries because I enjoy researching and I love books. When other friends studying were becoming teachers and receptionists, I wanted to do something different. It also meant I could work at school libraries and be closer to



Amy O'Donoghue

my kids when they were growing up," she said.

Amy was born in Mildura, Victoria but lived most her life in South Australia before moving to Alice Springs in 1991- which she now calls home.

She is a mother of three and has 12 grandchildren who she says are the loves of her life. ●

Enterprise chances for two communities

Communities from the Centre and the Top End have been selected for two projects to look at opportunities to create sustainable local jobs.

Chair of the NT Area Consultative Committee, Karmi Dunn, which advises the Federal Government on employment and regional development issues, said the projects were designed to link local skills and talent with opportunities to create sustained full and part time work for people.

The communities selected for the projects are Tjuwanpa Outstation Resource Centre, which supports outstations west of Alice Springs, and Gunbalanya, including people from nine outstations in the region.

Ms Dunn said the Employment and Enterprise Scoping Projects were expected to provide a basis for detailed regional economic plans, including training and employment strategies.

"Local understanding and commitment is essential to the success of any employment and enterprise development," Ms Dunn said.

The NTACC has funding for up to three more scoping projects this financial year.

Information and registration forms are available from the NTACC by phoning 08 8941 7550 or visiting the NTACC website at www.ntacc.com.au. ●



Karmi Dunn

Anyinginyi Sport and Rec Centre fills the gap



Jimmy Frank Jupurrula

Carving a future in Tennant Creek

"There's only one part of this job I hate - cutting the beautiful trees down. I feel sorry for them - they take a long time to grow. If I cut a beautiful tree down then I want to do a good job."

But young Jimmy Frank Jupurrula also recognises that he is transforming the wood from those trees into other things of beauty.

Jimmy believes the spirit of the trees continues on in the boomerangs, spears and woomeras he makes from them.

"I don't like to shine them up too much but I reckon if the old people had sand paper they would have done it too because the grain is so beautiful."

Jimmy has taken advantage of the use of a workshop attached to Anyinginyi Congress art centre in Tennant Creek to perfect his craft.

"I come here every day. I am doing a small business course through Congress and Julalakari Council so I can open a business selling artefacts," Jimmy said.

"We've got quite a few hard woods we can use to make things - mulga, dog wood, suplejacks, prickly tree, snappy gum and a few more - mostly all hardwoods.

"One day I didn't really have a job and I sort of just sat down with those old people and they showed me how to make boomerangs.

"But my uncle really taught me this - showed me how to carve a boomerang, make a spear. I made a woomera yesterday.

"I really like the job. I have classes coming in from high school and I show them how to make boomerangs.

"We start with the easy stuff like nulla nullas and clap sticks. They are very good," he said.

"When I was at school we never learnt traditional stuff and I never thought I would be teaching anything.

"I had never thought of that at all so I got a shock the day they came and asked me. It was a bit of a laugh for me."



Above (from left): Leigh Fry, George Butler, Jimmy Plummer, Scott Butler

Tennant Creek. The Centre runs a pick up service after school and in the holidays and employs several dynamic young Aboriginal people to look after them.

Jimmy Plummer (16) is one of them. He works at the Centre in his school holidays and after school. **Anyinginyi Congress Sport and Recreation Centre is a haven for about 80 town camp kids in**

"I look after them and play with them - basketball, cricket, whatever," he said. "Next year I finish school and I want to do biology and become a ranger or a scientist."

Scott Butler (15) works at the Centre and he also has plans that will take him away from home.

"I am off to the Gold Coast to try and make it into the Sydney National Rugby League teams," said Scott. "Last year I played with the North Queensland Cowboys for a week. Then the Northern Territory Development Officer asked me if I wanted to go to this School of Excellence at Currumbin on the Sunshine Coast to play rugby. So I'll go for a few years and come back for holidays."

Manager George Butler and Recreation Officer Leigh Fry are part of a team of six at the Centre and they have

plenty of plans in the pipeline.

The well-equipped gym and the under-16s disco are already great successes and now they are looking at a Youth Patrol funded by a NT Safe grant to keep a safe eye on the kids of Tennant.

"The kids are bored and they sit in the streets so a Youth Patrol could keep an eye on them and make sure they're okay and not getting hassled," George said.

Boxing is another activity they are hoping to get up and running as well as relocating the recreation centre to the middle of town to make it easier for people to get there.

New Clinic for Anyinginyi

Anyinginyi Congress will build a new state of the art clinic at the old Commonwealth Centre on the Stuart Highway in Tennant Creek.

The building has been bought and there are plans to have the new clinic operational by September this year. CEO David Morgan said that the new clinic will make Anyinginyi Congress one of the best Aboriginal health services in Australia.

The Anyinginyi Sports and Recreation Centre

- | | |
|-----------------|----------------------|
| Indoor soccer | Volleyball |
| Canoeing | School kids programs |
| Roller Skating | Holiday programs |
| Social evenings | Gym programs |
| Venue Hire | Windsurfing |

Under 18s discos soon

Activities for people with special needs

CALL 89621959



CLC deputy chairman Mr Breaden and chairman Max Stuart sign nine exploration agreements for the Tanami

NT Government actions over mining go to court

The methods used by the NT Government to advertise the batches of exploration and mining applications they are trying to push through the system will be examined by the Federal Court at the end of April.

The fortnightly advertisements are part of the actions of the NT Government to deal, in the space of 12 months, with four-years worth of exploration and mining applications on land subject to native title.

The advertisements do not comply with the requirement of the Native Title Act to provide appropriate notification, causing further disadvantage to native title holders.

The court action follows the failure to get any cooperation from the NT Government to find an alternative way of dealing with the backlog of more than 1000 applications in the Territory, rather than the current practice of swamping the system.

The NLC is managing to keep up with the fortnightly batches of applications, but is severely taxing resources.

But, in addition to the backlog, many more new applications are joining the list – including applications from De Beers and other companies covering nearly 90,000 square kilometres of land.

The NLC says it is clear that the NT Government's actions are geared to denying Aboriginal people their native title rights – and are not successfully dealing with the growing number of applications on the waiting list.

The NT Government's own figures suggest that their refusal to process applications for years has been detrimental to the NT economy.

Lack of activity cannot be blamed on lack of interest in the industry from Aboriginal people – as a list of exploration licences actually granted in the NLC area to date highlights.

The NT's own data shows that, because of the backlog, exploration activity has

shrunk to only 4,352 square kilometres on non-Aboriginal land. Meanwhile, Aboriginal people are getting on with the job, with exploration on Aboriginal land at 28,742 square kilometres.

It is a similar situation in the Central Land Council region, where the CLC recently signed nine more exploration agreements covering more than 6000 square kilometres of Aboriginal land in the western Tanami region in Central Australia.

“Aboriginal land is not the ‘no go zone’ for development that the Northern Territory Government would have us all believe – the traditional owners main concern is respect for sacred sites,” CLC director David Ross said.

“About 80 percent of the value of mineral exploration in the Northern Territory comes from Aboriginal land and more than 24 percent of Aboriginal land in the CLC's region is under exploration.”

The Tanami agreements between the CLC and five mining companies allow for the granting of 27 exploration licence applications, enabling the companies to explore the area for minerals, mainly gold.

“The CLC has now signed off on more than 230 of these applications over the years, covering an area of 93,864 square kilometres and the process is comfortable and uncomplicated for everybody,” he said.

Mr Ross has also called on mining companies to raise the level of employment opportunities for Aboriginal people.

“In Central Australia Aboriginal people make up close to 50 per cent of the population. I would like to ask why haven't we got half the jobs?” he said.

“It's one of those glaring inconsistencies which non-Aboriginal people just don't think about.

“The truth is that the NT Government has neglected the education of Aboriginal people and the private sector has virtually ignored us since it was forced to pay equal wages in the pastoral industry in 1966.”

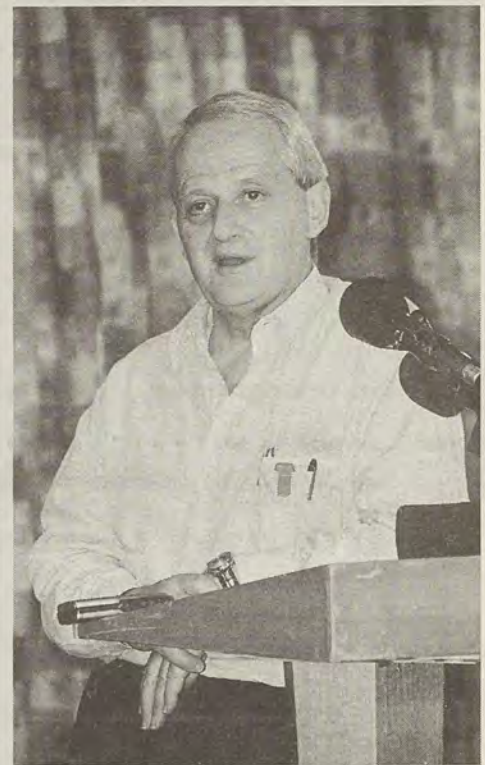
'Nobody has been sacked' - but we've got a new Minister

'Nobody has been sacked' the Prime Minister told ABC TV late last year. But the time was up for perhaps the worst-ever Minister for Aboriginal Affairs John Herron who had apparently 'retired', vacating the post for Philip Ruddock to add to his portfolio of Immigration and Reconciliation.

And now that Mr Ruddock has control of the affairs of all that is not white in Australia, what does he intend to do about the much maligned, and justifiably so, Review of the Land Rights Act?

Mr Ruddock, has basically said it's on the backburner for a little while longer – possibly while he deals with riots and allegations of brutality at refuge detention camps and the rest of the Government fights for its life in the wash-up of GST and rising fuel prices.

The Minister told a press conference in Alice Springs in February “the issue of reform of the NT land rights legislation has to be seen in a context of very different views all of which will influence ultimately the parties in the Australian parliament.



Philip Ruddock

“I can trundle legislation up into the parliament but if it is not going to be supported it really doesn't move matters on at all, so what I'm seeking to do is to maximise the areas of agreement for reform because everybody tells me there are areas that need reform so the discussions that I'm involved in are very important.”

Cane toads march on

Cane toads have reached Kakadu National Park – and could reach Darwin next wet season.

Last month, rangers found two adult cane toads and a number of juveniles in the southern-most area of the park.

While Federal Environment Minister Robert Hill said he would consider any proposal by the NT Government for a cane toad fence, if scientific evidence supported it, but said biological control appeared to be the best way of stopping the poisonous toad.

However, Adelaide University Associate Professor Mike Tyler fears it is too late to combat the pest in the NT, stating that funding should have been spent years ago on cane toad-resistant measures.

Cane toads were introduced by the Government in the 1930s to eat cane beetles in Queensland.

The problem is that Australia has no



diseases, parasites or predators to kill them so they breed quickly.

Toads are very poisonous and kill bush-tucker such as goanna, turtles, snakes and crocodiles.

If you eat an animal like a crocodile or python that has been poisoned by a toad you might get poisoned.

Cane toads have reached the Walker River and Doindji in eastern Arnhem Land, the upper Wilton (near Bulman) in central Arnhem Land, the upper Katherine and Mann Rivers in western Arnhem Land, Katherine and Nitmiluk. They have also extended south as far as Dunmarra.



The Ikuntji Gospel Band recording at the CAAMA studios in Alice Springs. Soon to be released CDs are *Rising Wind* from Yuendumu, *Titjikala* Band and the *Black Shadows* from Mt Leibig

Cyber Jukebox

A new benefits concert on the internet saves rainforests.

Many Aboriginal musicians such as Warumpi band, Archie Roach, Ruby Hunter, Native Ryme Syndicate, and the Stiff Gins have donated their songs to help save the rainforests.

Proceeds from the benefit will support rainforest conservation projects in Ecuador initiated and run by Australian volunteers from the Rainforest

Information Centre. Part of the money raised will also go towards the Mirrar people's struggle against the Jabiluka uranium mine.

By merely visiting: www.rainforestjukebox.org, web surfers will attract a donation from sponsors which buys two square feet of threatened rainforest and protects monkeys, jaguars, and the pink Amazon River dolphin.

BRIEFS

Find funding on the Internet

A new website has been launched to help Australia's 500,000 community groups find funding.

The website produces regular monthly newsletters detailing grants funding covering everything from money for local festivals to getting funding for computers, cash for buildings and extending services.

It will also allow community groups to list their details online to receive donations or volunteers and they will also provide a Price Watch - so community groups can find the cheapest possible price for products.

Check out the new website: www.ourcommunity.com.au.

Eyecare

The Fred Hollows Foundation and HCF Eyecare have joined forces to renew the fight against eye diseases in Australian Indigenous Communities.

HCF Eyecare will distribute a \$35 discount voucher to members with \$2 from each voucher redeemed donated to the Fred Hollows Foundation.

Aboriginal Art Exhibition Travels to Spain

A major international touring exhibition entitled 'Spirituality and Australian Aboriginal Art' will travel to Madrid, Spain in March to be exhibited until the end of this year.

The exhibition will tour 16 regional and central galleries throughout Spain with artworks which include acrylic paintings, bark paintings, ceramics and sculptures by 45 contemporary Aboriginal artists from throughout Australia.

Artists and communities exhibited include Barney Ellaga, Lorna Napurrurla Fencer, Hermannsburg Potters, Bessie Liddle, Peggy Napangardi Jones, Maningrida Arts, Papunya Tula Artists, Kathleen Petyarre, Angelina Pwerle, Michael Long and Ginger Riley.

This will give contemporary artists and communities the opportunity to exhibit their work in a relatively new and exciting global market.

The exhibition is part of the Sacred Art Festival organised by the Regional Government of Madrid.

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email: margie.west@nt.gov.au



Museum & Art Gallery of the Northern Territory



Sea rights in the spotlight

Aboriginal people in the Northern Territory are asserting their ownership and native title rights to the seas and waterways in the Northern Territory.

And their actions to get their traditional rights recognised and accepted are raising interest among a number of groups, including commercial fishing operations and amateur fishers.

Businesses, such as crabbers, pearlbers and seafood suppliers, want to make sure they can keep or get permission to use the marine resources.

Amateur fishers, who have always had land access to good fishing spots as a priority, are particularly interested in fishing rights in intertidal zones and in rivers.

For Aboriginal people, the focus is on getting an acknowledgment of their traditional rights - and a role in managing and protecting their sites, environment, assets and resources.

For all concerned, the outcome must ensure that activities are sustainable, that the resources are not over-depleted - and that the idyllic fishing spots that the NT is so renowned for, are not spoiled by over-use.

On behalf of the traditional owners, the Northern Land Council is currently trying to establish the extent of their rights to seas and waterways in a number of significant court cases involving both the Land Rights Act and the Native Title Act.

Meanwhile, traditional owners are reaching a growing number of agreements with commercial fishing interests on the use of resources in seas and waterways across the Top End, such as pearling, crabbing and aquaculture.

The result is that commercial interests gain secure access to areas of water and Aboriginal landowners get protection of sacred sites, protection of marine

environment and wildlife and economic opportunities.

However, the attitude of the NT Government, the Seafood Council and AFANT (Amateur Fishermen's Association of the NT) is not so co-operative.

The NT Government and the Seafood Council want to change the Land Rights Act to reduce Indigenous rights, and the NT Government has given AFANT a \$50,000 grant to fight land claims.

Aboriginal people have always made it clear that the seas and waters are a vital part of their cultural, spiritual and economic lives.

For most coastal (saltwater) peoples, their connection to land does not stop at the waters edge. The seas are an extension of the land, and there are many sacred sites and ceremonies associated with it.

Claiming their rights under either Act is not intended to create barriers to commercial or amateur activities. They are not a threat to the water supply, the fishing industry, the Territory lifestyle or any other valid interest in lands and waters.

In fact, anecdotal evidence suggests that recreational fishers face much more difficult getting access through non-Aboriginal pastoral leases to fishing spots, than they do getting permits to travel through Aboriginal properties, which is private land.

And the history of Aboriginal land and seas management, assisted by land rights, has ensured that much of the NT's most precious environments have not been spoiled or over-exploited, saving their pristine environments for current and future generations. ●

Rights to the seas

Traditional owners of Croker Island, 200 kms to the north east of Darwin, have gone to the High Court in Canberra to fight for their rights to the seas.

This is the first native title claim to the seas under the Native Title Act to reach the High Court, and the case has been dubbed the "Mabo of the Seas."

It will determine whether or not native title extends offshore, and what native title in the seas really means.

The Commonwealth Government has continually argued through the legal system that the rights of traditional owners end at the low water mark. This is in spite of two unanimous rulings in the Federal Court so far that state that native title rights do exist in offshore areas.

"The issue of native title rights to land went through a great deal of legal debate before the final High Court Mabo decision. The same scrutiny is being applied to rights over the seas," Northern Land Council CEO Mr Norman Fry said.

"We are confident that the High Court will throw out this latest appeal by the Commonwealth Government and everyone will finally acknowledge our rights.

"The connection to land does not stop at the water's edge and that fact is well accepted in other parts of the world.

"Rights to offshore areas is nothing new and has been recognised in England, for instance, for hundreds of years."

As well as the appeal by the Commonwealth Government over the existence of native title rights, the traditional owners themselves are trying to establish the extent of those native title rights.

They want legal recognition that they have exclusive rights to the offshore areas, whereas the previous decision granted non-exclusive rights.

"This does not mean that commercial interests will be banned. On the contrary, the claimants have always showed that they welcomed sensible and sensitive development," Mr Fry said.

"What it will give to native title holders is the ability to participate in management of the resources and protect their sites and environment." ●

Water tests are underway

Intertidal zones, beds and banks of rivers, bays and gulfs are all being examined to determine the extent of rights of Aboriginal people under the Land Rights Act.

It has been decided that beds and banks of rivers are claimable, and a number of claims have been lodged.

For those claims which have been heard and handed back to Aboriginal people, there have been no difficulties for other people getting access. For individual one-off visits, there is the permit system, and for commercial interests, agreements can be negotiated.

Rights to the intertidal zone, the part between the low and high water mark, are also being clarified.

Traditional owners' objectives in this case have been to improve the protection of marine resources and allow Aboriginal people to play a greater role in the management of the fishing industry on their land. For example, the activities of crabbers operating illegally

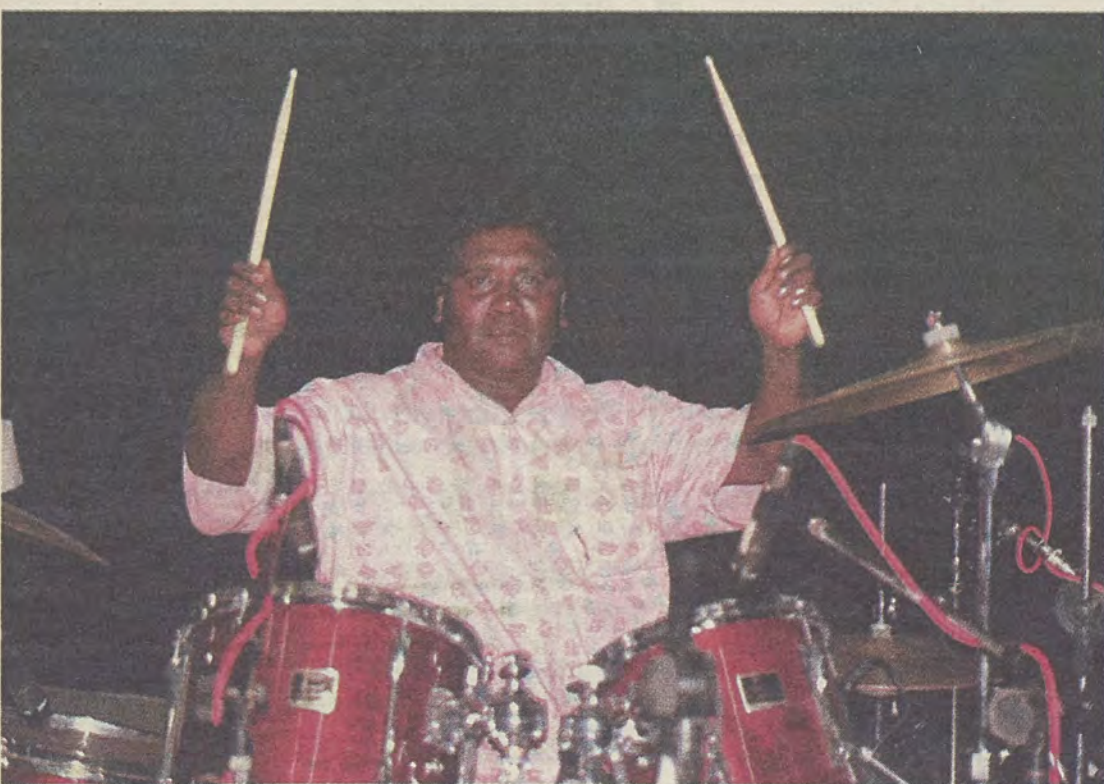
in estuaries on Aboriginal land have had devastating effects on the food stocks and environment.

While a Federal Court decision last year found that fishing interests could enter and fish in the intertidal zone, but not tidal rivers next to Aboriginal land, the Full Bench of the Federal Court this year said that could not be upheld. Traditional owners are considering the implications of this latest outcome.

The status of sea-beds in bays and gulfs within NT's internal waters is also before the courts. In the meantime, people wanting access to the seabeds, such as pearlbers, are entering good-faith negotiations with traditional owners and reaching agreements. This issue does not affect commercial fishing. ●



Controlled access can avoid the fishing nightmare illustrated in this U.S. photo



Top: Warumungu ladies dance at the opening of the Tennant Creek Stolen Generation office.

Middle (from left) Dennis Williams, Karl Hampton, Philip Watkins, Harry Nelson Jackamarra and Duncan Brown at the ATSIIC Treaty workshop in Alice Springs

Above: just one of the drummers from the Ikuntji Gospel Band from Haasts Bluff

Top: Margie Lankin with her painting of the ear story for the Central Australian Aboriginal Congress Ear Clinic

Above: Kiwirrkura men Charlie Ward Tjakamarra (front) and Kanya Tjapangati at the Norforce depot after their community was flooded.



Naomi, centre, with two other conference-goers in Sydney

Give youth a voice, says Naomi

Last month, young Darwin woman Naomi Anstess participated in the ATSI-organised Youth Treaty Conference and the International Indigenous Peoples Racism Conference in Sydney as a Youth representative of the Yilli Rreung Region.

She was one of about 45 other young Indigenous people from around Australia, and people as far away as America, Canada, Hawaii and New Zealand.

She describes the experience as "unforgettable, emotional, fiery and inspiring," and said exposure to experiences like this "are essential to give insight into the political workings of the societies and world we all live in."

"As Indigenous young people, such experiences and exposure are of paramount importance to our success as a people," she said.

"As a young person who has had the opportunity to participate in such events and has a keen interest in being an active member of what I term the 'Indigenous movement - success and freedom', I took many ideas and interpretations away from both conferences.

"Constantly young people are talked of as 'the future' - the key to success and changing of ways, and this was definitely evident at the conferences.

"However there were no guest speakers who were 'Youth', nor were there any workshops run by 'young people'.

"Myself and a number of other young people got together and seriously discussed the issue.

"What came out was a wonderful display of passion and emotion and the feeling that instead of being talked at and spoken for by 'adults' (which most of us technically are anyway), we would be able to serve our communities and our people better by speaking for ourselves.

"So what did I get from the Sydney Conference?"

"I was given hope - because there were other young people, like myself, who want to make a real difference and believe passionately that we have the power to do so.

"Now, I am home, back in Yilli country - Larrakia country (my greatest respect for the traditional owners) and I am looking to create a Youth Group whose focus will be - "Youth for Youth - Making a Difference by taking Responsibility".

Large crowds for Yeperenye Federation Festival

Alice Springs is set to host the largest cultural gatherings of Indigenous people since colonisation.

In September this year, thousands of Indigenous performers from across Australia will gather in Alice Springs, or Mparntwe, on the traditional lands of the Arrernte people as part of the Yeperenye Federation Festival 2001.

The event, organised by the Central Australian Aboriginal Media Association, will involve traditional elders, dancers, artists, singers, and musicians from across Australia.

CAAMA chair Paul Ah Chee said that festival organisers will take care to establish and observe all the correct cultural protocols, particularly with reference to the event being held on Arrernte Land.

Organisation for the festival has taken several years.

During a year that sees Australia mark its first hundred years of Federation, Yeperenye Federation Festival 2001 will celebrate the 'First Federation': the network of relationships, laws, kinship and dreaming tracks that unite diverse Indigenous cultures across Australia.

Further information is available through the Festival office on 08 8952 3531 or Freecall 1800 113 211; website: www.yepfest.com

NLC ELECTIONS - SEPTEMBER 2001

Nominations close August 17th
Get involved and keep our people strong

For more information about how to become a member please contact Annette on 8920 5118 or your NLC regional office

Women at Wadeye building up their community

The efforts and enthusiasm of women at Wadeye to build a strong community have been recognised with two lots of funding.

The Wadeye community was chosen as a targeted community under the Federal Strengthening Indigenous Communities Pilot, and will get \$250,000 over the next three years to conduct a pilot project aimed at increasing indigenous social and economic participation in the community.

The project aims to support the expansion of the women's centre and associated family and parenting support programs. The women's centre at Wadeye is managed by local Aboriginal women who, with the help of a community development worker, will develop programs and activities to address a number of local community issues.

The types of projects the women have identified include: provision of secure emergency accommodation, screen-printing and other arts and crafts production, bush seeding propagation and family/clan good tucker gardens, time-out camps for elder women to teach younger women and children about good parenting, health and relationship skills, tribal history and cultural values.

The Wadeye Strong Women Strong Children group has also gained \$12,000 to build a shelter and barbecue area for the women who maintain a 24 hour vigil to protect their community health clinic from further vandalism. The NT Safe Committee allocated this funding as part of their crime prevention projects which is an initiative to reduce crime.

Batchelor students to graduate

Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education will celebrate another year of significant student achievement on Thursday 3 May at its main annual graduation ceremony on the Batchelor campus.

About 250 students have qualified to receive accredited awards this year, ranging from certificate to post-graduate level.



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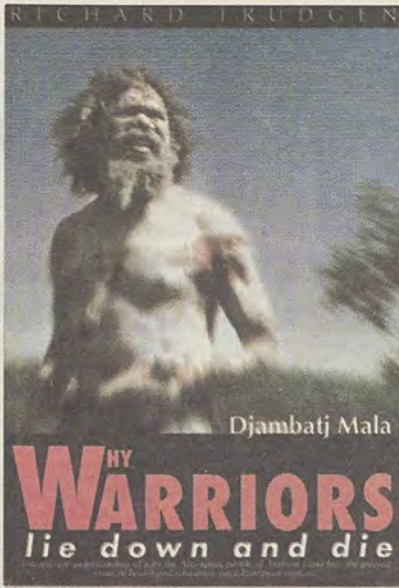
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BATCHELOR INSTITUTE offers other courses for Indigenous Adults. ENROLMENTS are now open for SECOND SEMESTER 2001 in some of the following areas:

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Why Warriors Lie Down and Die

Richard Trudgen

In *Why Warriors Lie Down and Die* Richard Trudgen attempts to link loss of individual self-control over local issues and poor communication with the present-day physical and mental health problems of Yolngu in north-east Arnhem Land.

The book gives a brief overview of the historical contacts, conflicts and trade over the last fifty years in areas of north-east Arnhem Land, and discusses some of the external influences that could have had an influence on Yolngu authority structures in the last fifty years. One section of the book builds on the issue of control of one's own understanding of knowledge beliefs and perspectives on why Yolngu health is in crisis today.

Communication is a key theme: difficulties in communication between the dominant Balanda (non-Yolngu) world view and Yolngu world view; various problems associated with communication between English speaking peoples and Yolngu that do not have English as a first language; and communication between different socio-cultural groups. Trudgen uses several examples between Yolngu patients and health staff to illustrate his point of view.

The book attempts to highlight some of the differences between the dominant health perspective and the Yolngu understanding on the control of knowledge, traditional knowledge in health and healing systems. Another issue is the mental health issues associated with inter-cultural stress and environment changes that Yolngu people are dealing with today. Trudgen also highlights some of the issues associated with socio-economic control over present day resources and welfare dependency.

One section of the book discusses intellectual property and the controls, uses, and integration of new knowledge by Yolngu people. Trudgen criticises the present policies of self-determination and self-management, suggesting that these policies are failing to meet Yolngu expectations of self-control in their contemporary living environment.

Trudgen emphasises the need to understand Yolngu culture and language and to review existing programs and basic legal issues to truly empower Yolngu people.

The book itself is a good compilation of Yolngu cultural aspects for non-Yolngu, that would assist them in their day to day understanding of wider Aboriginal issues. ●

Yolngu Boy



From left: Sebbie Pilakui, Stephen Johnson, Nathan Daniels and Sean Mununggurr

Darwin dressed up in style for the world premiere of *Yolngu Boy* in February – but it was the 'world, world premiere' of the film on the football oval at Yirrkala in Arnhem Land, in front of family and friends of the cast, that was a highlight for the film's director, Stephen Johnson.

"We spent a lot of time workshoping with the young people in Arnhem Land, and that is how we created this story," Stephen said.

"We also had wonderful support and assistance from elders in the community.

"It is wonderful that the stars are young and talented Aboriginal boys – but, you know, this film is not an Aboriginal story: it is a universal story. It highlights the plight of teenagers all over the world.

"It is about friendship being put to the test. It is about young people and youth culture.

"What this particular story does is take us on a journey, offering an insight that perhaps has not been seen before. It is a voice that needed to be heard.

"The film makes you think, and we need to think about these things. I also think that the ending offers a lot of hope. A lot of positive things are looked at. It is an honest look."

Yolngu Boy, the first full-length movie produced by Burrundi Pictures, and starring teenagers John Sebastian Pilakui (Lorrpu), Sean Mununggurr (Botj) and Nathan Daniels (Milika) has been released nationally. ●



From left: (back) Bakamumu Marika, Stephen Johnson, Denis Burke, Dr Patricia Edgar, Galarrwuy Yunupingu and (front) Mangatjay Yunupingu

CD launch



Singer-songwriter Shellie Morris launched her first CD to a packed crowd at Beachcombers in Darwin in February.

Shellie, who is in constant demand at Darwin venues, credits her confidence to pursue her musical career with the discovery of her Top End family.

Adopted as a child, Shellie came to Darwin from Sydney a few years ago to find relatives she had never met.

At the time, she said "Finding who I was helped me to be a little bit more confident," so it's no surprise that the acknowledgments on her CD include her Mum and Dad and "all my Aunties".

Songs on Shellie's self-titled CD include "Open and Bleeding", "I Remember" and "As the days go by". ●

The Pintupi lose a hero

Kumantjayi Zimran 1949-2000

**By David Ross Director
Central Land Council**



"The Old Man Tjilpi left me at Tjilkamarta where I turned into a porcupine. In the Dreaming I fell off a rock at Tjiturrur after having been left there. Then I grew sulky and took off north of Tjiturrur across the sandhill. My mother then tracked me down, she caught me – a real porcupine – that was me. She then killed me and ate me. Eventually my parents went to Pinarri where I was born."

Kumantjayi Zimran 1997

Just before Christmas in 1956, Kumantjayi Zimran walked into the Haasts Bluff Ration Depot, 250 kilometres west of Alice Springs with his parents and brothers and sisters as part of a small group of Pintupi from the Western Desert.

They were, with about 200 Pintupi remaining in the desert, the last Indigenous Australians yet to make contact with white people.

Forty four years later, Mr Zimran's extraordinary life ended as one of the most revered and influential Aboriginal political leaders in Central Australia.

The work of this Pintupi intellectual, philosopher, visionary, educator, one time pastor, politician and community leader reached far beyond his homelands in the Western Desert.

Guided by his vision and leadership, the Western Desert Dialysis Appeal recently raised \$1 million towards the purchase of kidney dialysis machines to assist the many sufferers of renal disease on his country.

He longed for his homeland and family but, like many Aboriginal people from bush communities, was forced to tolerate living in Alice Springs in order to receive regular dialysis.

Others have chosen death on their own country over separation from land and family. For Kumantjayi Zimran this right

of choice and control over his life and land became the motivating force in his political activity.

Unfortunately in the end he was only able to have them expressed in his decision to release himself from the entrapment of a dialysis machine.

As a Pintupi, Kumantjayi's life was, in a sense, an eternal exile and a relentless and endless adaptation to the forces of change.

The Pintupi started moving out of their homelands in the 1940s to clear the way for the rockets fired across their country from the Woomera rocket range and over the next 30 years the Pintupi gradually emerged to be assembled on the ration stations set up by missionaries.

The lack of water at the Haasts Bluff Ration Depot prompted government authorities to relocate the groups of Arrernte, Luritja, Pitjantjatjara and Pintupi people to Papunya in 1959.

It became a place of misery, disease, desperation and longing for country.

Despite this, it was here that Mr Zimran, through his intellect and efforts, gained the skills and knowledge he later cleverly exploited to bridge the cultural gap between his world and that of non-Aboriginal Australia.

Mr Zimran joined the exodus from Papunya, Haasts Bluff and other settlements back to the Pintupi homelands to establish the community of Kintore in the early eighties.

They (Kumantjayi Zimran and his family) were, with about 200 Pintupi remaining in the desert, the last indigenous Australians yet to make contact with white people.

Political change as well as cultural longing facilitated the move when the Aboriginal Land Rights Act had, in 1976, returned some autonomy to the Pintupi for the first time since contact with white Australia.

He provided leadership to many Aboriginal organisations such as the Walungurru Outstation movement, the Haasts Bluff Association, the Pintupi Homelands Health Service, the Walungurru (Kintore) Community Council and the Combined Aboriginal Nations of Central Australia (CANCA).

He had a worldliness and political



The Kintore mens painting sold at the Sotheby's art auction last year which helped to raise more than \$1 million for the Western Desert Dialysis Appeal.

astuteness which was outstanding for someone who had spent his childhood in the desert and it enabled him to translate the complexities of the new white dominant culture to his people.

It also enabled him to communicate the aspirations and desires of his community back to the advisers and bureaucrats, many of whom were entirely ignorant of the culture with which they were dealing.

Aboriginal self-government, and more specifically Pintupi autonomy, was his

"This is the start of a new era. You have been scattered all over the Territory and you have not been as one voice.

"This statement has made you one group as the indigenous people of this country.

"You are signing this as one.

"We got east mob, west mob, south mob and north mob. Pitjantjatjara people, Pintupi, Luritja, Warlpiri, Arrernte, Gurindji, Warrumungu, Alywarre, everybody - you are now one.

"We go into the future as one tribe and one family."

It wasn't all politics. Kumantjayi Zimran was also busy with family, and with friends from all walks of life.

He featured in almost every book and film about the Western Desert in the last twenty years and many sought out his superb translation skills.

As a young man he was preoccupied with the typical pursuits of a Pintupi youth – hunting, ceremony, marriage and music.

His recording made with the Central Australian Aboriginal Media Association in the 1980s remains one of the benchmarks of Aboriginal gospel.

Demanding, maddeningly persistent, brave, generous, forgiving and funny, he was a friend and inspiration to many.

Kumantjayi Zimran is rightly regarded as a hero for his people by all who knew him well.

dream.

His leadership of CANCA resulted in the Kalkaringi Statement in 1998, which set out the conditions of governance required by Central Australian Aboriginal people prior to any agreement to statehood for the Northern Territory.

It became a political landmark and influenced the almost unanimous 'no' vote by Aboriginal people at a statehood referendum later that year.

His speeches were often moving and always eloquent.

He told the 800 people at the end of the two day Kalkaringi Convention:

Northern Territory Election Aboriginal candidates

Seven Aboriginal people have been preselected as candidates for the next Territory election.

There are three Aboriginal candidates from Central Australia: Labour candidates Harold Furber will stand for Macdonnell and Elliot McAdam will contest the seat of Barkly, whilst CLP candidate Ken Lechleitner will run for the seat of Stuart.

In the Top End, Marion Scrymgour has been preselected for Labour to contest the seat of Arafura, whilst CLP candidate Marius Puruntatameri will also be standing for the same seat.

Cliff Thompson has been preselected by the CLP to contest the seat of Arnhem against the current sitting member John AhKit.

Labour candidate Marion Scrymgour is a local Darwin woman who has been an active member of the community in the fields of health, sport and community development.

Marion has worked extensively in the field of health with organisations such as Wurli Wurlijang Aboriginal Corporation, Commonwealth Department of Health and Family Services, Territory Health Services and Katherine West Health Board.

Her expertise lies in the field of remote health services and her concerns include improving the effectiveness of the delivery of health services, education services and other essential services to the electorate.

John AhKit has been the Member for Arnhem since August 1995 and will run for his third term.

He is currently Shadow Minister for

Regional Development; Transport and Infrastructure Development; Resource Development and Territory Ports.

Previously he has been Executive Director of the Jawoyn Association, Director of the Northern Land Council, Executive Director of the Katherine Kalano Association and Katherine District Officer, Department of Social Security.

John was born in Alice Springs and completed his secondary education in Darwin. He has worked in various occupations such as a ringer, labourer and truck driver.

He is an active member of the community and gets involved in local and regional community affairs, culture and sport.

Elliot McAdam has been involved in the establishment of many essential services for Aboriginal people and has played an active role in the Tennant Creek region.

He played a leading role in achieving alcohol restrictions in Tennant Creek, developed and implemented innovative employment and training for Aboriginal people, initiated small enterprise projects including the nursery, poultry farm and Tennant Creek main street maintenance projects and is a public advocate on a range of social and economic issues which affect the remote and rural communities.

Harold Furber has been employed at the Central Land Council for six years after completing a Bachelor of Arts in

Administration, sub majoring in Public Policy at the University of Canberra.

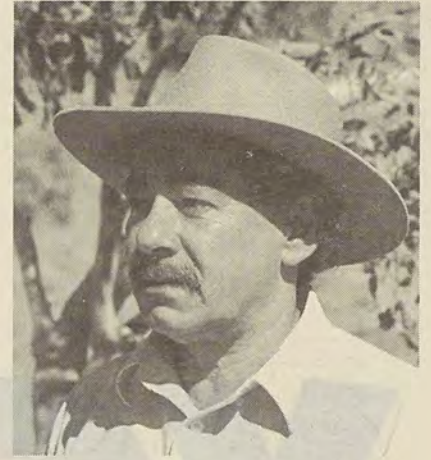
Harold is Chairperson of the Central Australian Stolen Generation and Families Aboriginal Corporation, a qualified cabinet maker and has worked in many organisations in Central Australia such as Congress, Yirara college, Centre for Appropriate Technology and Yipirinya school.

CLP candidate, Ken Lechleitner is from Alice Springs and has worked in various areas such as Department of Social Security, Office of Aboriginal Development, the Chief Minister's Office and the Department of Health and Community Services.

He is currently studying for a Bachelor in Communications.

Marius Puruntatameri is a Tiwi Island man whose expertise lie in the areas of teaching and health. He began teaching in the 1970's at Pirlangimpi school and then became a health worker which has led to him being a member of the Tiwi Health Board and Aboriginal Development Advisory Committee.

Cliff Thompson is well known in the south east Arnhem region and is a senior member of his clan. He has combined a high school education and management skills in various CDEP building projects with his traditional responsibilities as a senior member of Aboriginal communities in his region. ●



ALP candidate Elliot McAdam



ALP candidate Harold Furber



CLP candidate Marius Puruntatameri



ALP candidate Marion Scrymgour



ALP sitting member John AhKit



CLP candidate Cliff Thompson



CLP candidate Ken Lechleitner

First Indigenous Woman in Parliament

Labor candidate, Ms Carole Martin became the first Indigenous woman to be elected to any Australian Parliament after claiming a landslide victory for the seat of Kimberley in the recent West Australian election.

Ms Martin was a counsellor for the Nirrumbuk Aboriginal Corporation before resigning to concentrate on her campaign.

As a social worker she began a Masters degree in Indigenous Research and Development, and will now be helping people in the vast area of the Kimberley, a seat the size of Victoria.

When the Northern Territory election is announced make sure you are able to vote

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