

LAND RIGHTS NEWS

Volume 4, Number 1, March 2004



INSIDE
plenty of music
kalytetye dictionary
twin falls
croc safaris
and lots more...

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ELECTIONS

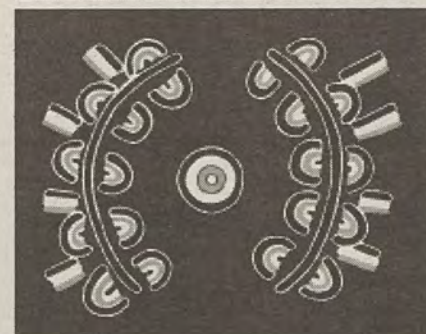
...ELECTION YEAR...

2004 IS AN ELECTION YEAR FOR BOTH THE NORTHERN AND CENTRAL LAND COUNCILS.

THE CLC'S ELECTION TAKES PLACE NEXT MONTH ON THE 14 APRIL AT THE TENNANT CREEK SHOWGROUNDS. NOMINATION FORMS NEED TO BE BACK AT THE CLC ON 2 APRIL.

IN THE NLC'S AREA, VOTING COMMENCES IN SEPTEMBER. NOMINATIONS FOR THE NLC ELECTIONS CLOSE ON 20 AUGUST.

FOR MORE DETAILS, CONTACT YOUR REGIONAL OFFICE OR HEAD OFFICE.



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Land Rights NEWS

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COVER PHOTO

cutting the cake to celebrate the publishing of the kaytetye dictionary at tennant creek earlier this year. see more pictures and our story on page 7.



THE VIEW FROM THE TOP OF THE FALLS

twin falls upgrade in time for 2004 dry

TOO MANY CROCS TO SWIM BUT FALLS TO REMAIN A BIG ATTRACTION

Kakadu National Park's Twin Falls will be re-opened to visitors in time for this year's dry season after Park management backed a plan to invest in upgraded visitor facilities including a boat shuttle service and a boardwalk.

Safety concerns over the ever-increasing numbers of large crocodiles in the Twin Falls area mean that swimming will no longer be permitted in the plunge pool, but more people will be able to gain access to the immediate Falls area under the new arrangements.

The Chairperson of the Kakadu Board of Management, Jonathon Nadji, said the risk of crocodile attack had reached the point where visitor safety could no longer be guaranteed.

"As traditional owners we not only have rights to the land, we also have responsibilities to the land," Mr Nadji said. "We have a duty to know about and care for our country, and to guide and look after visitors to our country."

"This is a place that truly encapsulates Kakadu's World Heritage natural and cultural values, and we will be working with Park management to make sure this is reflected in its management."

Park Manager Chris Haynes said: "The boat shuttle will give access to part way up the gorge, and from there visitors will be able to take a short board walk over a difficult access point close to Twin Falls."

He said it was expected the boat service would also include interpretation of the importance of the area to local Aboriginal people, and that

Aboriginal guides would be involved. He said the plan had been developed in consultation with the tourism industry.

Parks Australia also confirmed that there would be no charge for the boat shuttle service for at least the first year.

Paul Collery, general manager of AAT Kings and a leading tourism industry figure in the NT, said the new arrangements were "an example of how Parks Australia North, the traditional owners and the tourism industry can work together to add value to all".

"Projects like this that deliver better access for visitors, including cultural interpretation and understanding of traditional owners' relationship with the land, are critical to the tourism industry's future," Mr Collery said.

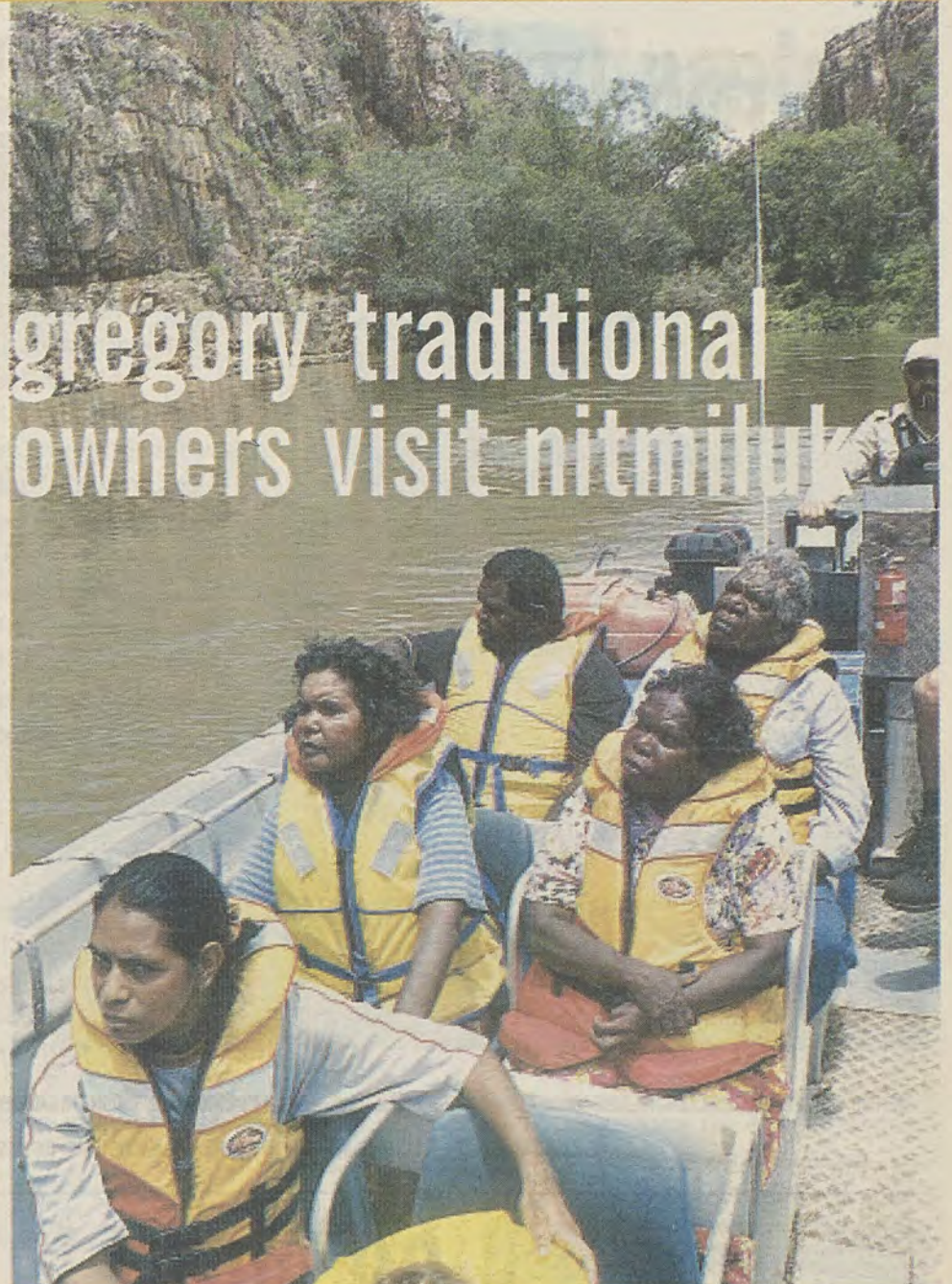
NLC Chief Executive Norman Fry backed the decision by Park authorities to change visitor management at Twin Falls.

"With the increase in crocodile numbers throughout the Park, traditional owners are right to be concerned about visitor safety," he said.

Mr Nadji rejected criticism of the decision to ban swimming at Twin Falls by some politicians and tour operators.

"Some people are whingeing that we are trying to stop people coming into the park but I have never heard a traditional owner say they do not want visitors in Kakadu," he said.

"This decision will increase access to Twin Falls for many who were not able to get into the area previously."



FIRST HAND LOOK AT JOINT MANAGEMENT SUCCESS

Nitmiluk National Park, near Katherine, is one of the Territory's big success stories, not only as an attraction for tourists, but also for the way its joint management arrangements with traditional owners have worked so well.

The Park is managed jointly between the traditional owners, Jawoyn, and Parks and Wildlife. The Nitmiluk joint management arrangements were developed under the previous government in a rare display of progressive thinking that has reaped rewards not only for traditional owners but also for the wider community.

It is no wonder, then, that traditional owners of the Gregory National Park, in the north west of the Northern Territory,

decided to visit Nitmiluk's traditional owners to hear about their experiences with joint management.

The traditional owners of Gregory, who are constituents of both the NLC and the CLC, talked to the Nitmiluk Board about what had worked and what hadn't in joint management. Discussions included tourism, employment opportunities, maintenance of cultural and sacred sites as well as land and visitor management. With over 15 years' of experience the traditional owners of Nitmiluk provided some significant insights to successful joint management of Aboriginal lands.

The Gregory traditional owners toured up the spectacular gorge to see first hand some of the park's main tourist attractions.

The Northern Territory Parks and

Reserves (Framework for the Future) legislation will return Aboriginal freehold title to the land (under the *Aboriginal Land Rights Act*) to the traditional owners of Gregory National Park - in return for including a significant area of existing Aboriginal land into the park. The arrangements will see the land leased to the Northern Territory Government for 99 years.

Both the traditional owners and the Parks will jointly manage the park on a similar basis to the highly successful Nitmiluk National Park.

Similar arrangements will be in place for the remaining areas of the West MacDonnell National Park, Esey National Park and the proposed Davenport Range National Park.

Other parks will differ slightly but all will incorporate joint management.

topless ladies outrage



DEFIANT AND TOPLESS...ATSI CENTRAL ZONE COMMISSIONER ALISON ANDERSON WITH LABOR MHR WARREN SNOWDON AT A GALLERY OPENING WHERE LADIES FROM PAPUNYA DANCED AS THEY HAVE ALWAYS DONE - TOPLESS

WHEN AN ALICE SPRINGS ABORIGINAL COMMUNITY POLICE OFFICER ORDERED LADIES FROM A PARK FOR BEING TOPLESS HE GOT MORE THAN HE BARGAINED FOR...

A group of ladies from Papunya, painting for ceremony without their tops on, were shocked to be ordered out of a park in Alice Springs by an Aboriginal Community Police Officer.

The incident caused outrage among Aboriginal leaders in the town and was further exacerbated by the NT Police declaring it to be 'inappropriate behaviour' as it was close to a children's playground.

ATSI Central Zone Commissioner Alison Anderson, incensed by the police action, declared she would be dancing topless that afternoon at an art gallery opening and encouraged media to film the event.

CLC Chairman Kunmanara Breden was also angered by the incident and called on the Alice Springs Police to apologise immediately to the women.

"This is part of our culture and thousands and thousands of people around the world have seen Aboriginal ladies dancing without their tops on television, theatres and many public occasions," Mr Breden said.

"And just a few weeks ago, the Warumungu ladies welcomed the train to Tennant Creek - dancing without tops on - and everybody loved it.

"Are the police going to issue the television stations with

infringement notices for broadcasting pictures of ladies dancing with their tops off?

"I have never heard anyone complaining about it before and I can't see why children would be offended. I think it's good for children to see our Aboriginal culture. Tourists like to see Aboriginal people practising their culture too, in fact, they pay big dollars to see our culture and everyone is happy about that.

"This issue needs some common sense and the Minister for Police should be ringing his workers now and telling them to stop being stupid and grow up," Mr Breden said.



CYRIL KALIPPA RIOLI WITH GALARRWUY YUNUPINGU

no more humbug

BEGGING AND HUMBUGGING NO LONGER TOLERATED SAYS YUNUPINGU

IF YOU'RE STUCK IN TOWN THE BEST THING TO DO IS PICK UP YOUR GEAR AND GO HOME ACCORDING TO MALA ELDERS

Stage three of the Mala Elders campaign to have itinerants in Darwin return to their homelands has been put into action.

On 22 January, backed by members of the Larrakia Nation Aboriginal Corporation, senior members of the Mala Elders gathered at the Karama Shopping Centre in Darwin to enforce the message that begging and humbugging people would no longer be tolerated.

Northern Land Council Chairman and co-ordinator of the Mala Elders group, Galarrwuy Yunupingu, hoped that the campaign would send a positive message to itinerants to return home.

"There is a problem with itinerants standing around begging, humbugging and hassling families," Mr Yunupingu said.

"Maybe the slogan is a clear-cut

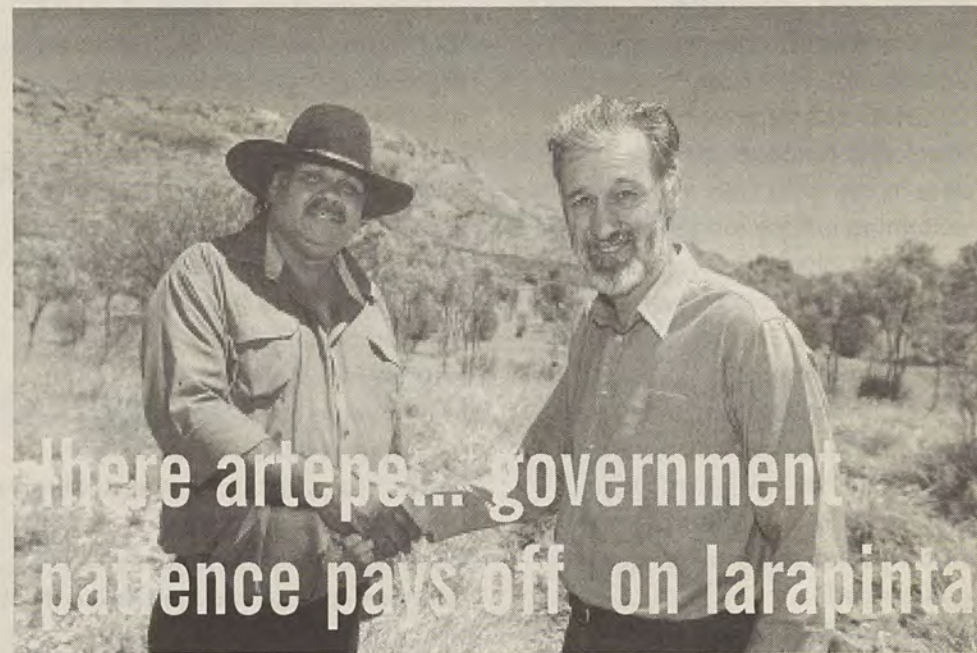
message to them that they will pick up and say: 'I must get back to my community where my relatives are, and where my land is.'"

Each year hundreds of people travel from remote communities to Darwin for a variety of reasons. Many become stuck, and as a consequence are forced to adopt an itinerant lifestyle.

The campaign is part of the Northern Territory Government's wider Community Harmony Project, which aims to return itinerants stuck in the Territory's major centres back to their communities.

Since its introduction in 2003, the Mala Elders program has so far persuaded more than 500 people to return to their communities and families.

"As Aboriginal people, it's quite embarrassing for us, and sad, but if we are serious about getting these people to go home, then we might as well get it right once and for all," Mr Yunupingu said.



CHAIRMAN BRIAN STIRLING WITH MINISTER FOR CENTRAL AUSTRALIA PETER TOYNE AT THE LARAPINTA SITE LAST YEAR

In a first for Australia, Arrernte native title body Lhere Artepe Aboriginal Corporation will sign an Indigenous Land Use Agreement with the Northern Territory Government for a number blocks in the suburb of Larapinta in Alice Springs.

The group made the decision in a final meeting last week and the agreement will now have to go before the National Native Title Tribunal to be registered.

Lhere Artepe will receive a Crown lease of approximately 40 blocks to develop as the form of compensation.

Chairman Brian Stirling said that he was grateful for the patience of the NT Government and to the CLC for its assistance. "It's been a lot of

work and it's taken up a lot of time for native title holders but we have achieved a real milestone with this agreement," Mr Stirling said.

"Native title holders fought for their rights for many years and it was a difficult decision for many to give up these rights in the subdivision area so the Larapinta development can go ahead.

"But the negotiations have made Lhere Artepe and native title holders stronger and more confident about similar projects in the future.

"We are very happy to have reached this agreement but there's still a lot of work to do in getting the ILUA registered and making decisions about the development itself," he said.

vanstone targets aboriginal legal services

PRIVATE FIRMS COULD TAKE OVER BUT WOULD THE SERVICE BE THE SAME?



Aboriginal legal services throughout Australia may be replaced by private law firms if changes proposed by Aboriginal Affairs Minister Amanda Vanstone are adopted.

The Minister has proposed that the services be put out to tender by private legal firms as a way of "ensuring that Indigenous people get value for money".

The idea has been floated for some time but the release on the internet of a document, "Notes on the Exposure Draft for the Tendering of Legal Services", by the Government came as a surprise to Aboriginal legal services around the country.

Central Australian Aboriginal Legal Aid Service Principal Lawyer David Bamber said that the proposal had serious implications for

CAALAS clients.

"The major point is that provision of legal services could not be profitable without a major reduction of service," he said.

"The introduction of means testing and reduction in the number of types of matter for which aid is granted, services such as our after-hours services, a lot of our field services and services to the bush would surely be cut."

If the changes suggested in the Government's document are followed, then people charged with trivial offences like drunkenness and traffic offences would no longer be represented.

These types of offences account for 62 per cent of Aboriginal people in the Alice Springs jail. If legal aid is removed for such offences it is likely the number of Aboriginal people in prison will increase.

The government document suggests that initial legal advice can be given face to face or by phone. Repeat offenders of certain categories of crime such as violence, assault or the breach of a restraining order may be refused representation altogether.

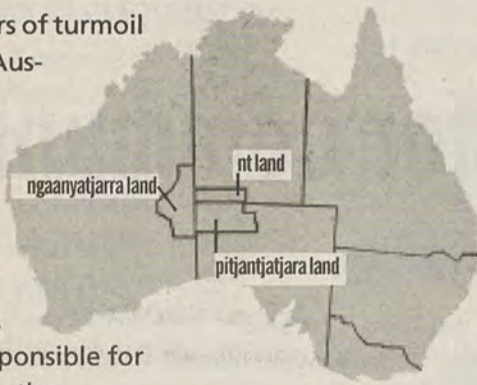
Ms Vanstone also wants to see means testing introduced.

sa government put in administrator for anangu pitjantjatjara

After years of turmoil, the South Australian Government has appointed an administrator to Anangu Pitjantjatjara, the body responsible for administering the Pitjantjatjara lands.

While the Government has turned a blind eye to lack of action by the executive over the years, the suicides of four young people recently finally prompted the Police Minister Kevin Foley to act.

Former police commissioner Jim Litster will oversee the Pitjantjatjara lands and the funding it receives from state and Australian governments. Petrol sniffing is one of the most pressing and



tragic of the land's problems and the recent suicides occurred in communities where no programs were in place although Anangu Pitjantjatjara had received more than a million dollars late last year to develop programs to combat the problem.

Ngaanyatjarra Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara (NPY) Women's Council welcomed the government's decision to intervene.

Chairwoman Yanyi Bandicha told ABC Radio recently that it would have been irresponsible of the SA Government not to intervene. She went on to say that the intervention will not impact on the Pitjantjatjara people's land rights or title to the land but it will make sure money is spent on useful programs and improving peoples lives.

Last year ATSIC suspended funding until the financial management of AP and the Pitjantjatjara Council was overhauled after an audit revealed that Anangu Pitjantjatjara spent more than a third of its funds without proper authorisation.

However these recent events may only

be a temporary hitch for an organisation which has had a long and worthy history.

The Pitjantjatjara people obtained freehold title to their land in 1981 after setting up the Alice Springs-based Pitjantjatjara Council Resource Centre in 1979.

Anangu Pitjantjatjara was set up to administer the new land title and the Pitjantjatjara Council acted on its behalf, administering permits, conducting negotiations over mining, providing professional services to AP Council, community organisations and Anangu individuals. However, in recent years the Pitjantjatjara Council transferred most functions to AP.

changing of the tide...

COMMERCIAL BARRA FISHERS GET A REPRIEVE



Commercial Barramundi fishermen have been granted an 11th hour reprieve allowing them to fish above the low-water mark after initially being pushed out to sea by a Northern Territory Court of Appeal's decision handed down in Darwin on 22 January this year.

Interim arrangements made by the Northern Territory Government on 2 March in response to the court's decision has allowed fishermen to continue netting above the low water mark until the matter can be fully resolved.

However, Aboriginal people living along the NT's coastline have expressed their concerns with the interim arrangements.

They've been troubled for years about Barramundi netting in their sea country, particularly the regular occurrence of illegal incursions into creeks and the discarding of by-catch such as turtles, dugong and crocodiles by fishermen.

The NLC has approached the NT Government asking it to explain what it intends to do about these issues, and how it will cater for the many concerns that saltwater people have in regards to Barramundi fishing.

Barramundi fishermen faced exclusion from the most productive fishing areas after the NT Court of Appeal restored a conviction against three men found illegally netting in a Bathurst Island creek in 2000. Northern Territory legislation prevents fishermen from netting "landward" of the coast, or inside creek and river mouths.

In handing down its decision, the Court also clarified the location of a "coastline," which previously had always been assumed to exist on the highest water mark. The Appeal Court's ruling changed this assumption by identifying that a "coastline" now exists at the mean low water mark of an ordinary tide.

This means that fishermen who set their nets between the once assumed "coastline" and the low water mark would have, prior to the NT Government's interim arrangements, been doing so illegally.

The news of the Appeal Court's decision landed like a bombshell just two weeks before the new barra season was due to commence on 1 February.

Not surprisingly, the NT Barramundi Fishing Association (NTBFA) voiced its concerns about the change.

"That is the most productive area because it is where the fish feed around the mudflats and mangroves," NTBFA Chair, Peter Manning said.

"What this has inadvertently done is knock-off 90 per cent of that area."

nlc sees benefits in crocodile safari hunting

"WE LIVE WITH THESE CREATURES DAILY. THEY ARE GETTING BIGGER AND BOLDER AND AFFECTING THE WAY WE LIVE OUR LIVES." DEAN YIBARBUK

The Northern Land Council has backed a Northern Territory Government proposal to trial a limited crocodile safari hunting program on Aboriginal land.

But only on one condition, according to NLC Deputy Chair John Daly: that there is a clear commitment made to provide traditional owners with an active role in such a program.

"It is important to remember that Aboriginal landowners are the major owners of most wetland areas that crocodiles inhabit in the Top End, and their cooperation will be essential for any safari hunting proposal to succeed," Mr Daly said.

The proposal, to remove 25 animals over four metres in length, would fit within the existing management plan quota that allows for 600 crocodiles to be legally removed annually for their skins in the Territory.

Mr Daly is keen for Aboriginal people to pursue more than just "passive benefits" from outside hunting operators.

"Aboriginal people have been hunting crocodiles in a sustainable way for thousands of years and this is yet another opportunity for us to play to our strengths, to

build up independent economic bases in our remote communities," he said.

Not everyone though is thrilled with the idea. Animal conservation groups have labelled the concept unnecessary and inhumane.

World renowned researcher and owner of Darwin's *Crocodylus Park* Dr Graeme Webb disagrees.

"Crocodiles are large and dangerous predators, that make some other 'pests' pale into insignificance," Dr Webb said.

"The wild crocodile population was on the brink of extinction in 1971, and is now some 60,000 to 70,000 strong - completely rebuilt," Dr Webb said. "Crocodiles are spread through every river, creek and swamp in the Top End of the NT, and the NT's conservation program wins the balance of local public support. A remarkable achievement in the eyes

of the world."

Mr Daly, Dr Webb, and others propose that a pilot scheme be introduced and that the scheme be conducted on Aboriginal land.

"There are existing Aboriginal organisations with significant expertise in crocodile hunting and harvesting which could be allocated safari licences," Mr Daly said.

Bawinanga Aboriginal Corporation at Maningrida and Murwangi Community Aboriginal Corporation at Ramingining are two locations that have indicated their willingness to participate.

"We live with these creatures daily. They are getting bigger and bolder and affecting the way we live our lives," said Dean Yibarbuk, Senior Ranger with Bawinanga's Djelk Community Rangers.

"Why shouldn't we be able to



Graeme Webb with John Daly at Crocodylus Park

benefit financially from crocodiles if we share our country with them?"

Bill Fordham, Manager of Murwangi Station, is another who runs the gauntlet each day when carrying out his daily functions. He believes the time is right to trail a program of this nature.

"We are having trouble here now crossing these creeks with our horse," Mr Fordham said. "We came across a fairly big croc on one occasion. My horse wouldn't go in, the other fellow's horse snorted at the water and this big croc took off. He was waiting right at the crossing for us to go in, in about two metres of water."

In separate submissions sent to the Federal and Northern Territory governments on 5 February in response to the NT Government's Draft Management Plan for saltwater crocodiles, the NLC clearly indicated that the crocodile safari hunting proposal fits in well with the multiple land-use philosophy of Aboriginal people.

Federal Environment Minister David Kemp is the man in the hot seat. A decision on whether or not to allow the proposal to go ahead was expected to be made sometime in March.

petrol sniffing an ongoing burden for communities

Central Australian communities continue to fight the problem of petrol sniffing by trialing activities to keep the youth entertained.

Petrol sniffing has a wave effect whereby numbers may escalate in one community and decrease in others at virtually the same time.

Although there are spurts of funding for communities to combat petrol sniffing, often this isn't enough. Many communities suffer from not just a lack of ongoing funding but also the right resources like a permanent community mem-

ber who is responsible for the running of programs for youth and keeping the local recreational centre under control.

Mt Liebig is one community where petrol sniffing numbers have dropped from 20 to three or four. This can be credited to a motorbike program which seems to be encouraging petrol sniffers to stop sniffing and kids to go back to school.

Mark, Mt Liebig Community Adviser, sees a lot of sense in providing these pro-

BUT GIVING KIDS SOMETHING TO DO DRAMATICALLY REDUCES THE NUMBER OF SNIFFERS



MT LIEBIG'S MOTORBIKE PROGRAM: EFFECTIVE, BUT FOR HOW LONG?

grams for young petrol sniffers but says there needs to be a person in the community dedicated to helping facilitate the duties.

"It's important the young mob have something to do so they don't get bored and keep active, or they fall back into

sniffing," he said.

"Ideally we'd like to get a team together and start entering the Finke desert race and motocross endurance racing where we can travel and compete but that's a long way away.

"At the moment I'd just like to keep the motorbikes going and renovate an old shed which can be a workshop area and offer some good tucker for the sniffers. A lot of the sniffers are just so fragile, they need to eat some good tucker and get strong again because if they fall off

the bikes they'll get seriously hurt.

"The motorbikes have had a good result with the young people. If they want to go motorbike riding they can't be sniffing petrol and the school faxes a list of kids' names who haven't attended school and they can't ride either. So we've had an increase in numbers at school which is great. But we need someone to help keep these activities going."

The motorbikes were bought through a Northern Territory Crime Prevention grant.



objects go back to warumungu

WURRMULAKI WUMPURRARNI KARI MANU KINA PURTAKIJI RETURNED HISTORIES TO ABORIGINAL LAND

A station owner's daughter has handed objects her father was given (when he was manager of Seven Mile Station) back to the

Warumungu.

John Weekes was given the objects by Aboriginal stockmen and friends on the property and they have been in storage at the Strehlow Centre in Alice Springs until they could be collected by a group of traditional

owners from Tennant Creek. The objects which include pirnmirri (clapping sticks), nyinkka (ornamental spiky tailed lizard), wananja (axes) and punu (coolamans) will be housed at the Nyinkka Nyunyu Art and Culture Centre.

holiday activities a hit

FROM MAKING VIDEOS TO FIXING BIKES ...KIDS IN CENTRAL AUSTRALIA HAD A RARE CHANCE TO HAVE SOMETHING TO DO ON THEIR CHRISTMAS BREAK

A variety of school holiday activities from fixing bikes to making sculptures proved to be a hit on remote communities throughout Central Australia over the Christmas break.

The Central Australian Youth Link Up service was also kept busy as they helped communities find the money to fund the school holiday programs.

Holiday programs were held at Imanpa, Yuendumu, Willowra, Nyirripi, Mt Liebig, Papunya, Mutitjulu and Larapinta Camp with support from Tangetyere Council, the Northern Territory Government and Warlpiri Media.

The activities at Yuendumu included helping fix bikes for the community, while Mt Liebig fixed motorbikes, Areyonga went on country visits, Larapinta camp had a visiting artist who helped the young people make a lizard sculpture and Nyirripi learnt about video production with the help of Warlpiri Media.

The activities also helped keep downpetrol sniffing numbers during the period.



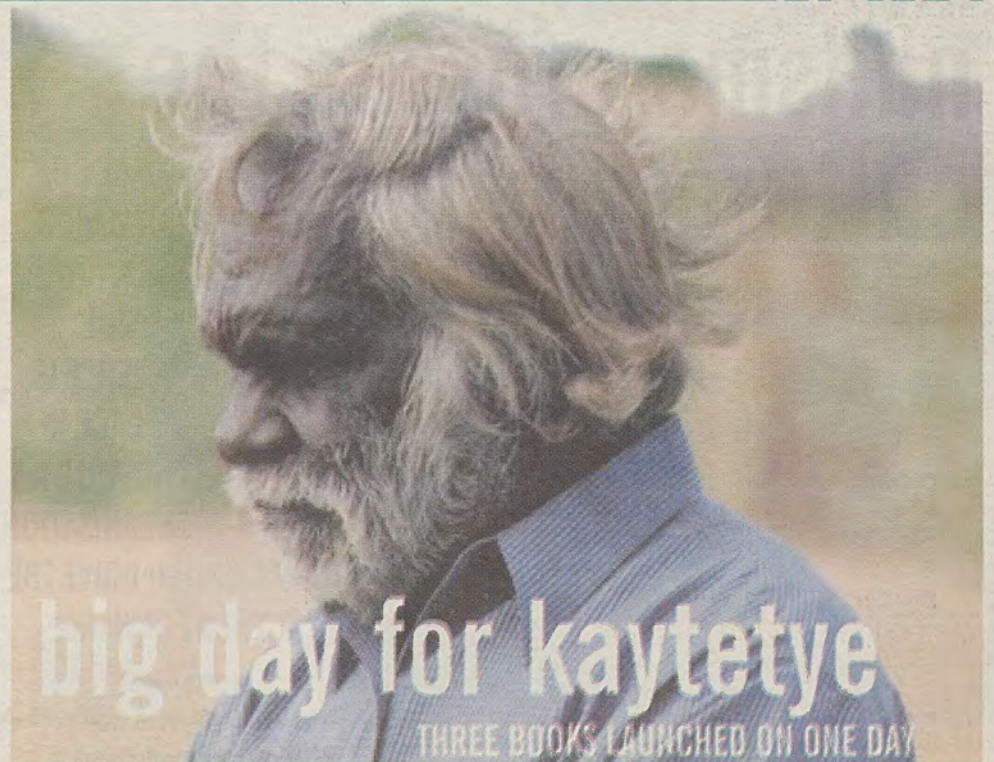
HOLIDAY PROGRAMS AROUND CENTRAL AUSTRALIA

TOP: PAPUNYA

MIDDLE: YUENDUMU

ABOVE: AREYONGA

LEFT: IMANPA



big day for kaytetye

THREE BOOKS LAUNCHED ON ONE DAY

It was a day of celebration as the Kaytetye people launched three publications at the Nyinkka Nyunyu Centre in Tennant Creek.

Kaytetye elder and renowned story teller Tommy Thompson was very proud at the launch of these Kaytetye publications, especially his book *Growing up Kaytetye*.

"The Dreamtime laid everything out like a blanket, even the Kaytetye people. River Red Gum leaves were laid out on the ground and then they were turned over. They were not ordinary leaves. They were laid out one by one, and each one was counted as it was laid out. First one girl - the eldest sister - then her young sister, then their younger sister, and then the youngest ones. They were groups of sisters related as aunts and nieces to each other. The leaves were decorated with their own ceremonial designs. This was how the Dreamtime laid them out."

Tommy Thompson *Growing Up Kaytetye*

Tommy Thompson invites readers into the poetic world of the Kaytetye people. He tells stories about the birth of the Kaytetye, early contact with European settlers, the dreamtime and football Kaytetye way.

The book is written in Kaytetye and translated into English with maps, photographs and illustrations to complement the stories.

Kaytetye teacher and linguist Alison Ross has played an important part in all three Kaytetye publications, which also include the *Kaytetye Picture Dictionary* and *Awelye Akwelye: Kaytetye Women's Songs from Arnerre*.

She worked extensively on the *Kaytetye Picture Dictionary* from 1997 and believes preserving the Kaytetye language is fundamental to keeping the language strong for the younger generation.

"The Kaytetye dictionary is important because it's a way of preserving our language. So that we can keep it for the generations to come, so that the language stays as it is," Ms Ross said.

Ms Ross says there are about 150-200 speakers left with only 50 strong Kaytetye speakers.



"The young people use borrowed words from neighbouring languages so the dictionary may help them to speak Kaytetye strongly," she said.

The three publications are the result of work done by linguist Myf Turpin, Kaytetye communities, IAD Press and Papulu Apparrkari Language Centre.



TOP: THOMMY THOMPSON; MIDDLE: CLC DIRECTOR DAVID ROSS AND BLANCHE ROSS; BOTTOM: ALISON ROSS

nailsma crosses the cultural divide



JOE MORRISON WITH LISA BINGE

The North Australian Indigenous Land and Sea Management Alliance (NAILSMA) has joined with the Cooperative Research Centre for Tropical Savannas and its partners to assist people in caring for and managing country across north Australia.

NAILSMA Coordinator Joe Morrison - who also wears the hats of Project Leader and co-Theme Leader - says the move to ally NAILSMA with other organisations involved in land management activities is a natural succession leading on from the land rights struggle.

"People have got aspirations to look after their country and develop economic opportunities," Joe said.

"For NAILSMA, getting a seat at the table has possibly been the biggest outcome of getting involved with the CRC, and having a say on how research is being undertaken across northern Australia, because there has been lots of research with Indigenous people as research topics," he said. "We're slowly changing that around to having Indigenous people driving the research agenda."

This is set to firm up with a north Australian

forum to be undertaken later in the year bringing people from the Kimberley to Cape York together to talk about land and sea management.

Changing the focus also means developing new projects. No longer purely aligned with just land management issues, NAILSMA is also focused on caring for sea country and socio-economic issues to help people build sustainable futures on country.

"In terms of the marine environment, people are keen to get on with looking after that country regardless of the tenure, especially in places such as the Northern Territory, where up to 85 per cent of the coastline is owned by Indigenous people," Joe said.

NAILSMA is the expansion of a concept that was originally driven by former leaders of north Australian Land Councils.

"It follows on from an old gathering that was called the Northern Alliance," Joe said. "That was made up of directors of Land Councils getting together years ago to have one political voice, but NAILSMA takes a natural resource management bent to working across State and Territory boundaries."

THE IMPORTANCE OF USING AND VALUING INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE ALONGSIDE WESTERN SCIENCE IS GATHERING PACE IN THE TOP END, WITH A UNIQUE ORGANISATION HELPING TO DRIVE THE AGENDA FORWARD.

In the near future NAILSMA will be working on developing a strategy for the conservation and application of Indigenous knowledge (IK) into mainstream Natural Resource Management across the Top End. This project will play an integral role in developing a future investment package and help to better articulate IK for traditional owners on country.

NAILSMA is also working on a newspaper that will gather stories from the bush so that traditional owners can tell and learn from other countrymen and women facing issues of caring for country across north Australia.

At this stage it is hoped to have two issues of the newspaper per year.

Project Officer Lisa Binge will develop the newspaper and a leadership agenda for young people in remote locations.

These young people are potentially future managers of much of northern Australia.

Further information about NAILSMA can be obtained by contacting either the NAILSMA Coordinator Joe Morrison or Project Officer Lisa Binge on 08-8946 6754 or 0429 695 324 at the Tropical Savannas Cooperative Research Centre, Building 42, Charles Darwin University.

tangentyere chief blasts bank rip-offs

BANKING IS STILL CAUSING PROBLEMS FOR ABORIGINAL PEOPLE - PIN NUMBERS, KEYCARDS AND ELECTRONIC BANKING HAVE PUT PEOPLE FURTHER BEHIND IN THE FINANCIAL STAKES

Money management is becoming more and more difficult for Aboriginal people, says Tangentyere Council boss Willie Tilmouth.

Some of the problem appears to lie in the Federal Government's move several years ago to do away with cheques and to pay all Centrelink

corruption and we can't track them or find them," Mr Timouth said.

"The system now is less accountable, and while Aboriginal people have the right to know how to use these things, there are people out there who are preying on them and having them misuse accounts to their own detriment.

"So Aboriginal people are a lot poorer because of it.

"The banks, taxi drivers, and other people are encouraging Aboriginal people to give PIN numbers or keycards away.

"What's needed now is more of an awareness program that teaches people the pitfalls as well as the literacy that comes with it.

"At Tangentyere they can leave their card here at the agency and the staff know them and won't allow anyone else to use it.

"Our staff know who's related and they know where there's abuse happening.

"But really, the banks should be funding a program. They should be supporting local Indigenous employment, to employ people that know families and communities.

"If we can do it here at Tangentyere - and we are only an agency, not a full branch - then they can do it," Mr Tilmouth said.

Alice Springs-based youth service Reconnect coordinator Antoinette Carroll deals with banks on a daily basis assisting clients.

She agrees that the banks and Centrelink should be doing more.

"There are systems in place in some European countries whereby welfare recipients receive a card with an ID number which they can ring to check if a payment has gone in," she said.

"This would avoid accessing the bank all the time and running up debts."



payments into bank accounts.

"Now, not only do people have to have a bank account, but many of those who use keycards access the account up to 10 times a day to see if their Centrelink payment has gone in," Mr Tilmouth said.

These ATM account balance inquiries often attract a fee and customers can end up with a hefty debit to their account.

Tangentyere Council ran a pilot program to help improve people's knowledge of banking and financial literacy but, despite its successes, the program didn't receive further funding although the Council still has its own banking agency on its site in Alice Springs.

"One of the good things about the bank pilot project was getting people to learn about using electronic fund transfers.

"The sad thing about it is that now they've learnt that, (the funds) can disappear into the ethos of

first ghan north

**"I'VE MET THE QUEEN, GOVERNOR GENERALS OF AUSTRALIA, WALKED THE BRIDGE, WELCOMED THE OLYMPIC TORCH THROUGH OUR COUNTRY AND NOW TRAVELLED ON THE FIRST TRAIN NORTH SO NEXT I'LL HAVE TO TRAVEL TO MARS AND BACK"....
CLC OLDTIMERS MAX STUART AND CHAIRMAN KUNMANARA BREADEN GIVE THEIR VERDICT ON THE RIDE**



The atmosphere in Alice Springs was alive with excitement as The Ghan pulled into the local railway terminal destined for

Darwin.

Central Land Council Chairman Kunmanarra Breaden and CLC Council Member Max Stuart were among the high profile delegates to travel on the first passenger train north.

Mr Breaden said he hadn't been on a train for years since he was a young guy jumping on the smoky train from Finke to Alice.

"I been on the old slow train from Finke to Alice Springs. That train was proper slow and when it used to go up the sand hills we could jump off. We'd see bush tucker like alangkure (bush bananas) from the train and jump off and get them and eat them and then jump back onto the slow train. That's when they used charcoal in the engine so it was really smokey.

"This train is good and smooth. The track from Adelaide to Alice is still a bit bumpy but the new track from Alice to Darwin is so smooth, no bumps, nothing," Mr Breaden said.

Mr Stuart was equally impressed with travelling north and was happy

to be one of the first to experience such a historic milestone.

"I've met the Queen, Governor Generals of Australia, walked the bridge, welcomed the Olympic torch through our country and now travelled on the first train north so next I'll have to travel to Mars and back," Mr Stuart said.

CLC Director David Ross congratulated everyone involved in making the Adelaide to Darwin railway a reality, while NLC Chief Executive Norman Fry described the Ghan's first journey as a symbol of unity for all Territorians.

"The Alice to Darwin railway has had a significant impact on Aboriginal people in Central Australia and the Central Land Council's involvement has spanned over 20 years," Mr Ross said.

The railway runs through a number of Aboriginal Land Trusts and land where native title exists.

"Aboriginal people are keen to see the Territory develop and it is important to recognise the extensive consultations and negotiations which Aboriginal people participated in to grant access to parts of their land for the railway corridor," Mr Ross said.

"From our point of view, it hasn't always been an easy process but the Central Land Council put in a lot of hard work to resolve some difficult issues and we are pleased to have witnessed the first train north."



Larrakia welcome for first train into Darwin

RECOGNITION PAID TO ABORIGINAL TRANSPORT WORKERS



There were skydivers, performers, media hordes and a Melbourne Cup field of politicians on hand to celebrate the first freight train into Darwin on 17 January, but it was Larrakia woman Donna Odegaard who ensured there was a proper welcome to country.

Appropriately enough, Ms Odegaard delivered her welcome against the backdrop of Freightlink's Kurra Kurra locomotive featuring the Kenbi Kenbi (crocodile) artwork of Larrakia artist

Gullawun (Roque) Lee. As Prime Minister John Howard and NT Chief Minister Clare Martin looked on, Ms Odegaard paid tribute to the contribution Larrakia people – including her own father, Leo Odegaard – had made to the development of the Northern Territory's transport infrastructure.

"I am honoured at being asked to speak here today ... especially given my close connection to the pioneering development of the transport industry in the Northern Territory and South Australia through my father, the late senior Larrakia man Leo Odegaard who, along with many other Larrakia, shared a significant role in the transport industry and more recently the construction and completion of the railway," she said.

"This place where we are now seated (East Arm Port) is an important site. I remember my father telling me about the times when he would come here with Larrakia and enjoy greeting visitors to Larrakia country."

Ms Odegaard said the arrival of the freight train would bring economic benefits not only to Darwin but more specifically the Larrakia through the Larrakia Development Corporation's commercial land holding at the port. She extended a sincere 'thank you' to supporters of the Larrakia Nation.

"I will close by simply saying 'enjoy Larrakia country and all it has to offer' and congratulations on the successful completion of the railway.

"Gwalwa Daraniki and Mamak!"



ABOVE: DONNA ODEGAARD GAVE A TRADITIONAL LARRAKIA WELCOME TO THE TRAIN PAINTED BY LARRAKIA ARTIST GULLAWUN LEE

TOP RIGHT : ARRERENTE KIDS WELCOME THE TRAIN FROM JUST NORTH OF ALICE SPRINGS
LOWER RIGHT: IRRKERLANTYE LEARNING CENTRE KIDS TURNED OUT FOR THE ARRIVAL OF THE GHAN PASSENGER TRAIN INTO ALICE SPRINGS

racial cloud over aotearoa

A LAND AND SEA RIGHTS CLAIM HAS CAUSED A MAJOR POLITICAL ROW IN NEW ZEALAND OVER THE ALLEGEDLY FAVOURABLE TREATMENT THAT MAORI PEOPLE RECEIVE COMPARED WITH NON-MAORI PEOPLE.

Some have even been led to compare conservative Opposition leader Don Brash with Australia's far-right fringe-dweller Pauline Hanson.

The rancorous debate sprang from a decision in June 2003 by the New Zealand Court of Appeal, which found that the Maori Land Court had jurisdiction to investigate the ownership of the foreshore and seabed to determine whether it is Maori customary land.

This meant that if claimants were able to prove that areas of the foreshore and seabed were Maori customary land, then the Maori Land Court could be able to determine the owners and issue a certificate of title.

After the announcement of the decision, public concern was expressed at the prospect of freehold title being issued to Maori for the foreshore and seabed, and the effect that might have on public access. This is despite Maori publicly stating that public access would be guaranteed as it always had.

Notwithstanding

this, the Government proposed to legislate the ownership of the foreshore and seabed in the public domain with open access to all New Zealanders. Maori have opposed this and see it as further alienation of their property.

Treaty of Waitangi Fisheries Commission representative Maui Solomon said: "If the Government is going to extinguish or tamper with that right via legislation it should be done through a process of open negotiation with Iwi and with due compensation."

The ongoing debate over the ownership of the foreshore and seabed has seen many non-Maori bitterly oppose Maori rights and call for the abandonment of the nation's founding document, the Treaty of Waitangi (1840). The Waitangi Treaty guaranteed the Maori rights to their land, forests, fisheries and other treasured possessions in exchange for their chiefs' ceding sovereignty to Britain.

The messy and often racist debate quickly spilled over into other policy areas such

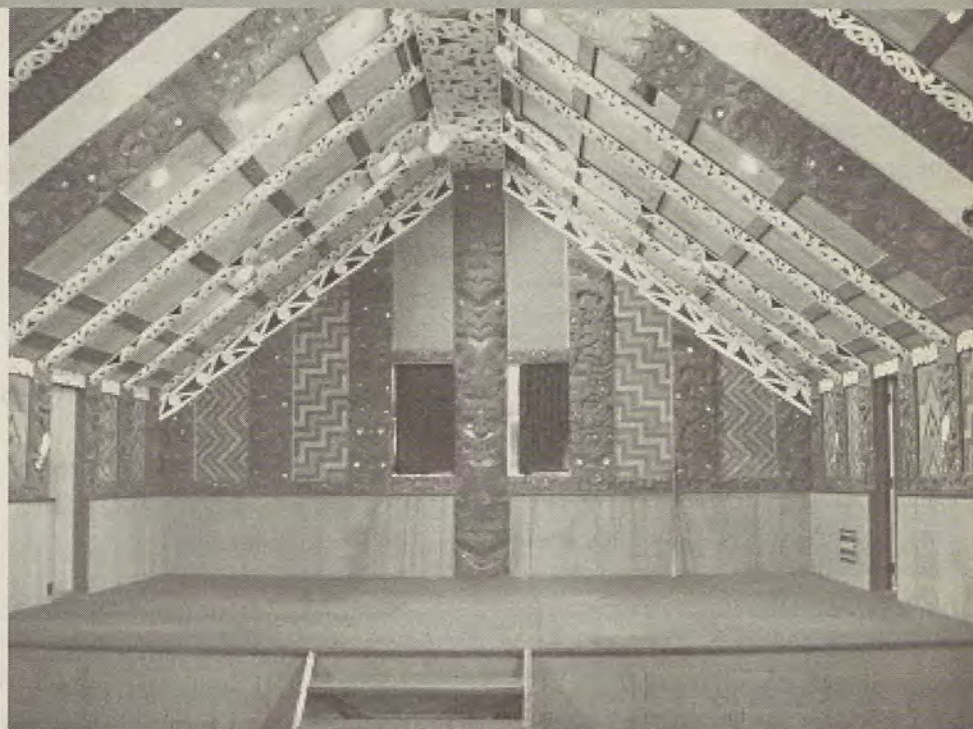
as health, education and local government where many non-Maori claim that rights accorded to Maori under the Treaty of Waitangi are simply racial privileges.

The debate has been a boon for the previously fading National Party, once one of New Zealand's two main political parties but which in recent years has been undermined by lacklustre policy platforms and factional infighting. A leadership coup last year installed past governor of the Reserve Bank Dr Brash as leader, and he was quick to seize the opportunity for media attention by leading an attack on Maori property rights.

In one of his first speeches as new Opposition leader Dr Brash touched a raw nerve in New Zealand's



FLASHPOINT: WHO OWNS NEW ZEALAND'S COASTLINE?



A MAORI WHARE TIPUNA (ANCESTRAL HOUSE)

mainly white non-Maori population when he promised to abolish what he called "special privileges" for Maori.

WHAT PRIVILEGES?

But despite all the rhetoric Dr Brash has failed to identify the 'special privileges' he says should go.

Welfare is not a race-based 'privilege' in New Zealand. Maori and Pacific Islander communities are overwhelmingly New Zealand's most disadvantaged peoples, therefore they receive welfare. As for rejecting the Treaty of

Waitangi, this is simply not something which is Dr Brash's to reject.

When the Treaty was widely flouted in the late 1800s a string of bloody land wars ensued which systematically stripped the Maoris of much of their land and resources including their traditional decision-making structures. A permanent Waitangi Tribunal was only established in 1975 to resolve outstanding treaty claims, and foster reconciliation.

It has been an arduous process but progress has been made. *The Treaty of Waitangi (Fisheries Claims) Settlement Act* is an excellent example which has seen Maori develop into one of the most significant players in New Zealand's commercial fishing industry. Maori now own 40% of the industry and are major decision-makers in the

management of the resource.

Added to this are the hundreds of scholarships, training opportunities, and jobs. At the heart of the fisheries settlement was the recognition of Maori property rights to marine resources. These are the same rights Maori hold in relation to the foreshore and seabed. They provide a further economic opportunity for Maori growth and development, which is good for all New Zealanders.

The key race-based question for New Zealand is when, if ever, the door can be closed on the wrongs of the past.

This is a complicated question but one that should not be confused with welfare, or valid programs to protect Maori culture and property rights.

oil explorers in first top end native title agreements

'MAJOR BOOST' FOR NT'S RESOURCES SECTOR, SAYS FRY

The way is clear for petroleum exploration to begin across a vast area of the Barkly Tableland after the signing of a native title petroleum agreement and the issuing of exploration permits.

United States-based Sweetpea Corporation received the EPs on 4 February in a ceremony at Darwin's Parliament House, which was attended by NLC Chief Executive Norman Fry,

Sweetpea Corporation President Tom Dugan and NT Mines & Energy Minister the Hon. Kon Vatskalis.

Both Sweetpea and another explorer, Pardi Pty Ltd, signed separate native title agreements with traditional owners late last year. Sweet-pea's three exploration permits alone cover an area of some 19,000 square

kilometres in the Daly Waters/Newcastle Waters region.

Mr Fry said the petroleum agreements – the first-ever in the NLC's region – would act as templates for other petroleum explorers interested in the search for hydrocarbons in the Top End's sedimentary basins.

"This is a major

boost for the Northern Territory's resources sector," he said. "The native title petroleum agreements are the first ever signed in the NLC's area and it is to both companies' credit that they wanted native title issues settled well ahead of exploration."

The native title agreements set out the parameters for both

exploration and production, and include important safeguards for the environment and sacred sites as well as benefits for affected traditional owners.

The agreements are also among the most complex negotiated in the NT, covering 13 main groupings of traditional owners from language groups including Mudburra, Jingili, Wampaya, Gurdanji, Mangarrayi



Norman Fry at the signing

and Yangman.

Mr Dugan said he was "excited" about the finalisation of the native title agreements.



MEMBERS OF THE SUCCESSFUL YNOTS PROGRAM; RICHARD SAGIGI, CRAIG BONNEY AND MICHAEL MARAWILI

indigenous trainers take out top honours at alcan

Two Indigenous trainers in Nhulunbuy, Michael Marawili and Richard Sagigi, have been recognised for their outstanding work with the YNOTS Indigenous training program by global mining company Alcan.

They have been presented with the company's top award – the Nathanael V. Davis Award – along with Alcan Gove General Manager of Community Affairs Klaus Helms and YNOTS Administrator Craig Bonney.

The YNOTS award was one of only four Nathanael V. Davis awards presented by Alcan this year. Other awards were won by teams and individuals from Brazil, Germany and Switzerland. The awards committee considered initiatives by more than 80 teams and individuals from Alcan's operations throughout the world.

Mr Marawili and Mr Sagigi are employed by Alcan Gove as trainers on the YNOTS Indigenous training program, which was established through a partnership between Alcan and Yirrkala Business Enterprises with funding support from the Federal Government.

The award not

only pays tribute to the team's personal commitment to YNOTS but also recognises the contribution that YNOTS is making to the community by providing training for Indigenous people and opening the way to employment opportunities. Since its establishment in 2001, 57 trainees have successfully completed the course and graduated with nationally recognised certificates and equipment operation licences. Mr Marawili and Mr Sagigi were among the first trainees and were employed as YNOTS trainers in the following year.

While the program was initially focused on training operators of mining and earthmoving equipment, it was broadened last year to include an office administration course, providing new training opportunities for women. As well as practical training, the 30-week course also covers literacy and numeracy, safety management, quality management, communication skills, drug and alcohol education and life skills.

The 2004 YNOTS program has recently commenced with 21 equipment operation trainees, while four business administration trainees will start next month.

employment and training drive gathers pace

AS THE NORTHERN TERRITORY STANDS POISED TO EMBRACE A NEW ERA OF DEVELOPMENT, THE NORTHERN LAND COUNCIL IS DOING ALL IT CAN TO ENSURE ABORIGINAL PEOPLE ARE WELL PLACED TO BENEFIT FROM AVAILABLE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES.

The signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Jobfind Centres Pty Ltd on 4 February in Darwin is yet another step towards ensuring Aboriginal people are job-ready.

The MoU formalises a relationship between the NLC and Jobfind that has been built up



GRADUATES OF THE NLC/TCA TRAINING PROGRAM BEGIN WORK AS APPRENTICES.

exercise.

"The Federal Department of Employment and Workplace Relations (DEWR) has made it clear that this will be a pilot program for capacity-building initiatives in Aboriginal communities not just in the Northern Terri-

The NLC is looking to build on an already successful program that has secured employment opportunities for Indigenous Territorians on the construction of the Alice Springs to Darwin railway, and a variety of Darwin-based projects.

"It was a natural choice to participate in the Arnhem Land project," Mr Fry said. "With the continued financial support of the Department of Employment, Education and Training (DEET), we are hoping to train a minimum of 150 Indigenous Territorians in areas such as engineering, general construction and hospitality by the end of this year."

Graduates of an NLC/Territory Construction Association (TCA) General Construction course run last year are currently working as apprentices with Darwin-based company Northern Territory Constructions Pty Ltd.

"Of the 21 graduates of that course, 19 have already been placed either in direct employment or apprenticeships," Mr Fry said. "Another three training courses are due to be run in partnership with the TCA in the first half of this year."

Stage one of the four course program teaching welding and engineering skills commenced in Darwin on 1 March, while a second course in



CUTTING TO FIT: APPRENTICES ARE TAUGHT ALL SKILLS ASSOCIATED WITH THE BUILDING TRADE

over the past two years, first with the provision of employment and training services in the Greater Darwin region, and now with the expansion of these activities into nine Aboriginal communities across Arnhem Land.

The communities of Galiwin'ku, Maningrida, Ramingining, Gunbalanya, Warruwi, Minjilang, Milingimbi, Gapuwiyak and Jabiru will all undergo a major capacity building

program throughout Australia," NLC Chief Executive, Norman Fry said.

Jobfind Chief Executive Con Kittos, said DEWR recognised that people in rural and remote locations often required "a more customised" approach to developing work opportunities.

"This contract provides for flexibility to deliver the perfect mix of services to the Arnhem Land communities," Mr Kittos said.

BELOW: DEPUTY CEO JOHN BERTO (SECOND LEFT), CEO NORMAN FRY (MIDDLE) AND JOBFIND CEO CON KITTOS (NEXT TO FRY) AT THE SIGNING OF THE MoU



General Construction kicked-off later in the month.

Extending its level of involvement, the NLC has also engaged itself in a vocational program through the Katherine region's *Rivers Region Youth Program* by offering to coordinate and assist schoolchildren to make the important transition from school to workforce.

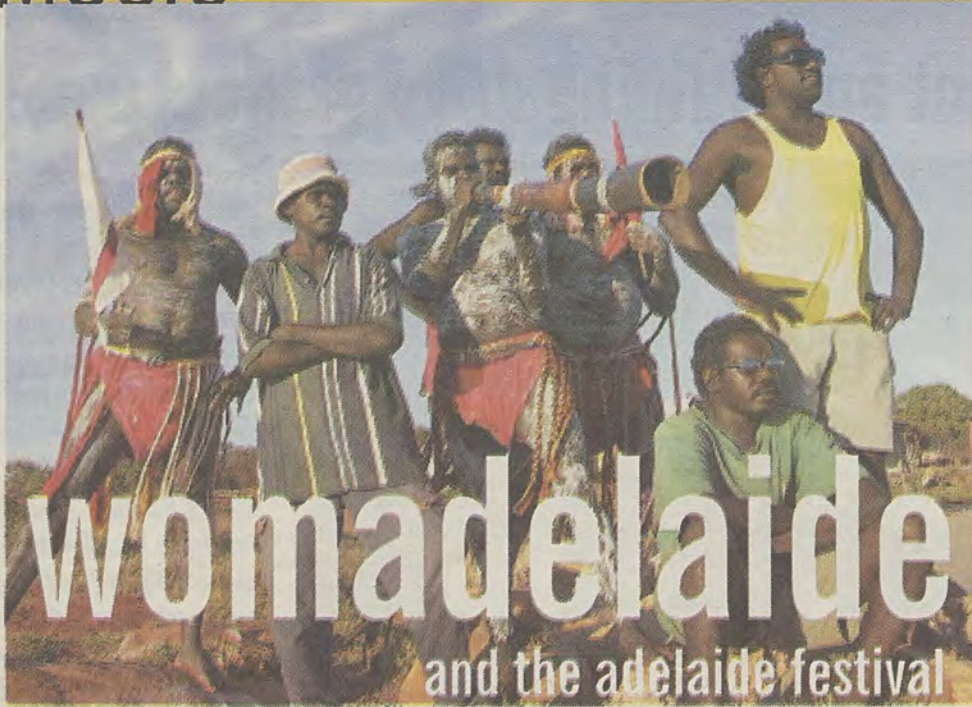
"The Top End is entering a new era of development and there will be many opportunities for Aboriginal people on projects such as the Army's new training facility at Bradshaw and the Trans Territory Gas Pipeline," Mr Fry said. "We are determined to ensure that our countrymen are job ready when these opportunities present themselves."

The program is funded by the Federal Department of Education, Science and Training. It starts at Year 8 level and focuses on providing further training opportunities – such as apprenticeships – to school leavers.

Meanwhile, the Larrakia Nation Aboriginal Corporation in cooperation with Batchelor College and the NT Government has announced an employment and training strategy that will see up to 10 Larrakia people involve themselves in wildlife and land management practices on their own country.



A FEMALE APPRENTICE GETS TO WORK



womadelaide and the adelaide festival

TOP END MUSICIANS AND PERFORMERS FEATURED STRONGLY IN THIS YEAR'S HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL ADELAIDE FESTIVAL AND WOMADELAIDE WORLD MUSIC EVENT.

The two festivals took place in March along with the Adelaide Fringe Festival and the Indigenous focus was a direct result of the first-time artistic direction of Bangarra's Stephen Page.

Bangarra was one of the Adelaide Festival highlights along with the premiere of Gulpilil, a one-man stage show of unparalleled power and humour chronicling the life of David Gulpilil.

Also featured as part of the festival was Body Dreaming, a traditional bunggul from east Arnhem presented by Banduk

Marika and Djakapurra Munyarryun.

Apart from the effective use of a live video camera projecting the image of two ceremonial body paintings (Dhuwa and Yirritja) on to a large screen, the bunggul was as close to the real thing as you could get in a public setting.

Banduk explained the importance of the ceremonies and elements of the performance between dances that were negotiated and agreed upon by the singers and dancers on the night.

Body Dreaming proved that embellish-

ments or collaborations are not necessary to create high art for sophisticated audiences.

Waak Waak Jungi's concert set at WOMAD demonstrated how collaborations can go wrong.

This long-time collaboration between Ramingining singers and musicians from Christmas Hills in Victoria (originally involving David Gulpilil in the early 1990s) looked and sounded dated and incongruous.

The over-use of new age electronic keyboard sounds and a scantily clad balanda

dancer detracted from the undeniable power and depth of the songmen, Bobby Bunnungurr and Jimmy Jimmy Djamunba.

It wasn't until the musicianship was pared down to a sound driven by Alan Murphy's familiar driving drum patterns that the combination gelled on the irresistibly danceable title song, Waak Waak Jungi (Crow Fire).

It is time this collaboration was revisited.

Yilila on the other hand demonstrated that new talent abounds in the Territory.

This Numbulwar band has a straight ahead rock sound backing one of the most exciting new talents in NT music.

Singer and frontman Grant Nundhirribala has a sensational voice, a vibrant personality and seemingly unlimited potential.

It is no surprise that Yilila were invited to join the All Stars session led by veteran Indian percussionist Zakir Hussein.

Hussein has worked with music legends such as John McLaughlin, George



ABOVE: DAVID GULPILIL, LEFT: YILILA

Harrison, Van Morrison, Tito Puente, Pharoah Saunders and Billy Cobham.

Future collaborations between Yilila and Hussein are now being discussed.

This will be an exciting opportunity for this young band to add new flavours to their existing sound and make its mark on the international world music stage.

THE FINAL EVENT IN THE INDIGENOUS CALENDAR AT ADELAIDE WAS GULPILIL. THIS WAS A TRULY REMARKABLE PRODUCTION WHICH WILL HOLD AUDIENCES SPELLBOUND AS IT BEGINS TO TOUR AUSTRALIA

Gulpilil is a consummate performer.

He is without doubt one of Australia's foremost physical actors and this production proves he is also a superb storyteller with an uncanny sense of comic timing.

This one-man show reveals Gulpilil in all his guises.

The first half shows Gulpilil at his embittered worst – spraying invective at a range of targets from government to Ernie Dingo.

This is edgy and uncomfortable theatre.

Gulpilil challenges any comfortable preconceptions the audience may bring to the venue.

By the time the second half begins, Gulpilil settles into a perfectly timed exposition of the chronology of his life.

Mixing storytelling with archive film, song, dance and yidaki, the troubled complications of his extraordinary life are revealed.

The bitterness and frustration of the first half is explained with candour and humour.

Gulpilil the stage-show is as Gulpilil the man: a flawed genius and an Australian icon.

gospel band hits a high note in tamworth

THE EPENARRA COUNTRY GOSPEL BAND PLAY EVERY NIGHT IN THEIR COMMUNITY AND THEY WERE REWARDED WITH A WARM RECEPTION AND APPRECIATION FOR THEIR MUSIC AT THE TAMWORTH COUNTRY MUSIC FESTIVAL

The Epenarra Country Gospel band and choir battled heavy rains and floods to perform at this year's Tamworth Country Music Festival.

The Gospel band's first visit to Tamworth proved to be a hit as they performed at the gospel tent and churches throughout the city and made the local newspaper.

The Tamworth audiences enjoyed the soothing sounds of their beautiful harmonies and expert guitar skills and were fascinated by their traditional language.

The group of six men and six ladies travelled hundreds of kilome-

tres over three days from Epenarra in Central Australia in two troop carriers to get to the event.

Gospel singer Ada Beasley said it was very exciting but a long trip.

"It was good. It was the first time for us and there were lots of other bands. We sang at four places in Tamworth and started singing in the gospel tent. There were lots of other gospel bands from all over, Broome, Alice Springs, and Darwin," Ada said.

The Gospel band released its first CD last year called *One Day Soon* with gospel songs performed in

RIGHT: SHIRLEY BEASLEY, JULIE PETERSON, ROSIE CAMPHOO, ADA BEASLEY AND CORAL BEASLEY AT THE BORDER ON THEIR WAY TO TAMWORTH.



English and their traditional language Alyawarr.

The Epenarra Gospel band and choir's trip to Tamworth was funded

through World Vision and Barkly Regional Arts through the Australia Council. To purchase *One Day Soon*, call Barkly Regional Arts: 8962 2799.

Jessica Mauboy's name goes up in lights

JESSICA MAUBOY HAS ALWAYS HAD A DATE WITH DESTINY - AND THAT DATE HAS DEFINITELY ARRIVED. WE'LL BE SEEING MORE OF JESSICA SINCE HER SUCCESS AT TAMWORTH

At just 14 years of age, the Darwin school-girl dazzled Australia's country and western fraternity by taking out this year's Telstra - Road to Tamworth Competition at the Tamworth Country Music Festival.

Born into a fam-

ily blessed with musical talent, from her early childhood Jessica idolised artists such as Michael Jackson, Whitney Houston and Mariah Carey for their strong voices and original sense of style, a style which she is now forging for herself.

Jessica and her four siblings were all encouraged to sing by their mother who also used to sing.

With an Aboriginal and Indonesian heritage, music has always been an integral part in Jessica's life - in fact she loves nothing more than to perform for friends and family on special occasions.

However, it took a performance in front of a crowd of 1,500 at Tamworth as part of the "Telstra - Road to Tamworth Competi-

Like any other 14 year old, Jessica enjoys hanging out with her friends, reading, swimming and riding. But above all else, Jessica just loves to perform as it gives her a sense of control and freedom.

Jessica has already written and

tr for the full potential of her talent to be recognised by the outside world.

Jessica dazzled the crowd and judges with her versions of "Blue" by Leanne Rimes, "How Do I" by Trisha Yearwood and Shania Twain's "From this Moment".

As a result, Jessica will now get to showcase her talent to a wider audience when she records a single and video (part of her prize) at the Tamworth School of Music later this year.

Despite her recent success, Jessica remains amazingly well-grounded and focused on her education and has no plans to move away from Darwin and her strong family and social networks.

performed her own song called "That's the way things go" with well known local performer Shellie Morris at the 2003 Harmony Day celebrations at her school, Sanderson High. For someone so young Jessica radiates a self-confidence and positive attitude well beyond her years.

Jessica's advice to other youngsters who have a passion for singing is to "follow your heart and sing wherever and whenever you get a chance because you never know who might be watching".

Watch this space: we will definitely be seeing and hearing a lot more of Jessica Mauboy in the future.



Yugul band rocks their socks off

It's been a long time coming - almost 40 years to be exact - but Ngukurr's Yugul Band has finally broken onto the national stage with a performance in front of 5,000 people at the Adelaide Festival of Arts.

Original band member Danny Thompson said ahead of the Festival performance that the band was "a little bit nervous but I reckon we'll pull it off".

"We'll be representing our community and our Territory in Adelaide," he said.

"We're gonna rock their socks off!"

Danny and current NLC Executive Member for Ngukurr Kevin Rogers started the band in the late 1960s. They built up a faithful following across a big stretch of country from Ngukurr through the Roper Valley and all the way to Katherine before breaking up in the late 1970s.

"We play a bit of rock, laid-back blues and country.

"We're all self-taught musicians and, when we first started, our studio was a tin shed," Danny said.

"No hand-outs back then - we had to work hard to buy our own equipment."

Despite what

sounds like hard times, Danny and Kevin have fond memories of growing up with 75 rpm records played on a wind-up gramophone record player.

"Back in the '50s we used to listen to all the local artists like Slim Dusty, Tex Morton, the Easybeats, the Twilights, Billy Thorpe and the Aztecs - all the old-time classics," Danny said.

Although the band members drifted into different groups during the late 1970s and 1980s - such as Broken English and NT Express - they kept in touch and were finally persuaded to reform by community pressure in 2001.

Danny and Kevin brought in Dudley Daniels (bass), Luke Turner (rhythm and Lead guitar) and Derek Wurrumara (drums) to complete the new-look Yugul Band line-up.

And when Stephen Teakle from Charles Darwin's remote music program visited

Ngukurr in 2002 and heard them play during a series of community workshops, he professed himself "blown away".

"They were so tight and so professional, it was just a revelation and we decided to put together a demo tape," he said.

"Then, with help from Skinny fish Music, we recorded the CD *Blues Across the River* in 2003."

"It's all gone on from there."

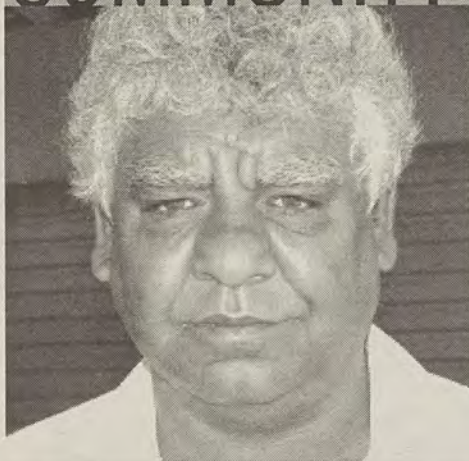
Stephen said Yugul Band had also set a positive example for other musicians in Ngukurr, where a flourishing musical scene has developed well away from the glare of publicity.

"There are at least three more bands in Ngukurr ready to go," he said.

"Bands like Tea Lynx, Lonely Boys and Tribal Vision."

"Australia's going to be hearing a lot more from Ngukurr over the next few years."





TANGENTYERE CEO WILLIAM TILMOUTH

tangentyere left to clean up footy mess

AFLNT 'SHOULD HELP' WITH SOLUTION

When the Collingwood and Port Adelaide footy teams came to Alice Springs, hundreds of Aboriginal people from remote communities came in to see the big game.

While the event itself was peaceful with few arrests, the aftermath was bad news for Tangentyere Council, says chief executive Willie Tilmouth.

"When large numbers of people from remote communities come to town, problems escalate," Mr Tilmouth said. "For the remote area people coming in it's a whole lot of excitement, but our workload doubles.

"Overcrowding, people becoming stranded within Alice Springs, family disputes over money, kids being pushed out and becoming homeless, substance abuse in relation to alcohol and petrol sniffing – everything increases.

"The AFLNT should contribute some of the profits back towards a solution and alleviating some of the problems. At the moment it's up to Tangentyere to clean up the mess of a town that's had a good time but can't handle the Aboriginal people once they've spent their money."

Mr Tilmouth drew the line at making these types of event alcohol free. "You can make them alcohol free but I tend to listen to town campers and what they said in the alcohol survey," he said. "I believe people who have the right to drink should be able to drink, and that's what town campers are saying, that they want people to just drink beer and not to mix it."

Only mid-strength beer was available at the Collingwood-Port Adelaide game and police reported few disturbances.

no work, no drink: new initiative encourages workers

The Daguragu Community is taking employment and education into its own hands thanks to a bold initiative aimed at improving the quality of life of its community residents.

The Acting President of Daguragu Community Council, Michael Paddy, says the Council has implemented a three-month trial whereby only workers or community members who are registered to work with CDEP will be allowed to drink at the local Kalkaringi Social Club.

"The council decided to start this trial because before Christmas the number of CDEP participants had gone down from 120 to 95 and the council wanted to get people back into work," he said.

"So we thought the first thing was the local social club because everyone enjoys it and likes to socialise there.

"There were a lot of non-workers



ACTING DAGURAGU COMMUNITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT MICHAEL PADDY WITH THE LOCAL POLICE AND STAFF

at the club so we came up with the idea of making the club for workers only.

"We do this with the school too because last year there weren't enough kids attending school, so now we ban parents from the club for up to three weeks if their kid isn't going to school.

"This year has started off good with attendance improving. There was one week where we had 100 kids turning up to school and it has been improving ever since.

"Everyone is really happy. We even get people who have been on Centrelink for years marching up to the council office and signing up for work.

"We got plenty of work around the community like fencing, plumbing, parks and gardens, collecting firewood, mechanics, helpers at school, locals working in the club as bar people, security, and training in hospitality and crèche work.

"We need our young men and women to work and to give something to our community. We don't want to be worrying about more social problems coming into our community in the future.

"Our young people need to learn to work."

The Council has received some criticism for trialing this policy but it is determined to improve life opportunities for the community's young people and for a better quality of life for all residents.

The Council reached the decision after consultations with neighboring communities like Lajamanu and talked to community stakeholders like the local police and the Katherine West Health Board.

"We hope to see an increase in our local workforce which will bring greater funds from our funding bodies. We want to use this funding to provide better work outcomes for our mob," Mr Paddy said.

footprints forward

INDIGENOUS EMPLOYMENT IN CENTRAL AUSTRALIA GETS ANOTHER BOOST WITH THE LAUNCH OF FOOTPRINTS FORWARD

It will be run by an Indigenous team of four people who will provide support to Indigenous employees and their employers.

Marilyn Smith, Footprints Forward Manager, says it's a great new approach to supporting young Indigenous people in the Alice Springs community.

"We will be encouraging young Indigenous people into employment and mentoring them through the stages of accessing jobs and remaining in the workforce.

"It may be through helping them with writing resumes, with interview



FOOTPRINTS FORWARD TEAM MEMBERS VICKY HADDON, SHARON BURNS AND MARILYN SMITH

situations or by just finding a job that suits them.

"We will keep in contact with these young people and see how they are going with their work and in the workplace," said Marilyn.

The team will also provide support for the business sector.

Footprints Forward is an initiative by the Alice Springs community through the Alice in Ten project as part of the Indigenous Employment Challenge.

The Footprints Forward challenge is to assist 100 young Indigenous

people to access full or part time employment and to ensure all Indigenous students who complete Year 12 have the opportunity to enter further study or full time employment within four months.

Footprints Forward is sponsored by the Northern Territory Government, the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations and Yeperenye Pty Ltd.

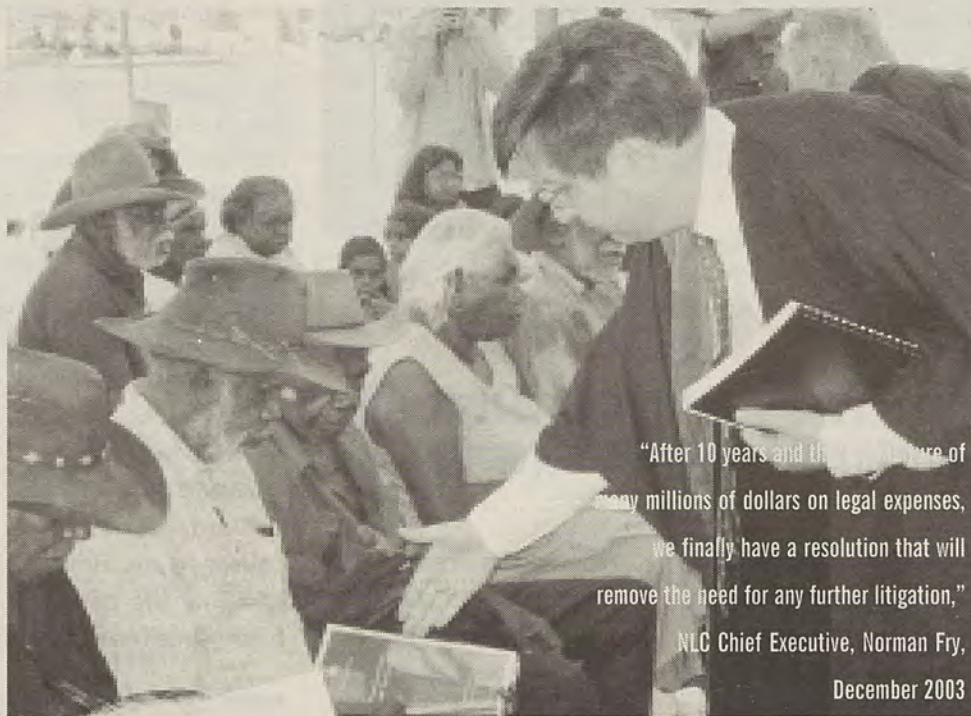
Footprints Forward is located at the CAAMA building, 101 Todd Street Alice Springs.

miriuwung, gajerrong celebrate native title settlement

AFTER 10 YEARS OF LITIGATION, THE MIRIUWUNG AND GAJERRONG PEOPLES HAVE FINALLY SETTLED THEIR CLAIM OVER A VAST AREA IN THE EAST KIMBERLEY REGION STRADDLING THE NORTHERN TERRITORY-WESTERN AUSTRALIA BORDER.

A full sitting of the Federal Court in Kununurra on 9 December handed down consent determinations enshrining the native title rights of the claimants over an 8,000 square kilometre area including Stage 1 of WA's Ord River development, Lake Argyle, pastoral leases and – on the NT side of the border – Keep River National Park.

The ceremonial court sitting was



"After 10 years and the expenditure of many millions of dollars on legal expenses, we finally have a resolution that will remove the need for any further litigation," NLC Chief Executive, Norman Fry, December 2003

attended by traditional owners, politicians and representatives of both the NLC and Kimberley Land Council, and was accompanied by celebratory traditional dance and song.

"After nine years and the expenditure of many millions of dollars on legal expenses, we finally have a resolution that will remove the need for any further litigation," NLC

Chief Executive Norman Fry said.

"The determinations allow traditional owners and other stakeholders to now work towards a cooperative and construc-

tive relationship for the future."

KLC Chief Executive Officer Wayne Bergmann said traditional owners were "relieved" to finally reach the end of the drawn out native title process.

"There was a lot of pain in relation to how Aboriginal people were treated during the development of Ord Stage 1," he said. "They were removed from their land and effectively marginalised."

"To have this matter settled by agreement is incredibly significant in the context of Australia's past, present and future. These determinations will set a major precedent for other native title claims."

Both the NT and WA governments were parties to the consent determinations, which recognise the principle of co-existence between native title and other interests.

The native title claim was begun in 1994 by traditional owner Ben Ward on behalf of the Miriuwung and Gajerrong peoples, and was first heard by Justice Lee of the Federal Court in 1998 who ruled in favour of the claimants.

A succession of appeals and counter appeals ended up in the High Court, which in 2002 found – among other things – that native title could co-exist with pastoral and mining leases but that it had been extinguished in nature reserves.

law changed 'in dead of night'

NLC CHAIRMAN GALARRWUY YUNUPINGU HAS CALLED ON THE NORTHERN TERRITORY GOVERNMENT TO REVOKE LEGISLATION WHICH REMOVES THE DEFENCE OF TRADITIONAL MARRIAGE FOR ABORIGINAL PEOPLE INVOLVED IN SEXUAL RELATIONS WITH YOUNG MEN OR WOMEN UNDER THE AGE OF 16.

Mr Yunupingu said the Government ignored the advice of its own Customary Law Inquiry, which recommended the Government engage in community consultation before making any changes to the Criminal Code as regards traditional marriage.

The Government's legislation amending the Criminal Code was passed at 3am on 26 November 2003.

"Attorney General Peter Toyne did not consult with anyone – instead passing the law in the dead of night hidden in an Act about homosexual law reform," Mr Yunupingu said. "The Inquiry made no mention of removing the traditional marriage defence, instead recommending community consultation."

"The Inquiry's report also noted that Aboriginal Inquiry members had serious concerns regarding government interference in traditional marriages."

Mr Yunupingu said that if the Government had consulted, it would have received clear advice that the traditional marriage defence should be retained while at the same time ensuring that the requirements for proving the defence were toughened up.

"This was the carefully considered recommendation of the Australian Law Reform Commission in 1986, after a comprehensive eight-year inquiry commissioned by Commonwealth Attorney-General Robert Ellicott QC and chaired by Justices Michael Kirby and Murray Wilcox," Mr Yunupingu said.

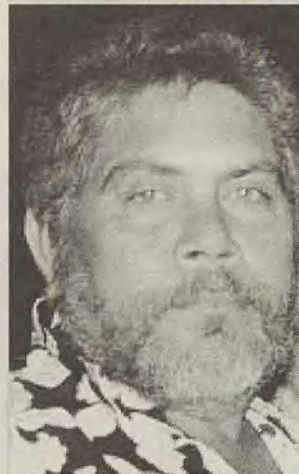
The NLC has written to Chief Minister Clare Martin on two occasions seeking a resolution of the issue, so far to no avail, although the Chief Minister has conceded that her Government "is not saying that every traditional marriage involves child abuse".

The NLC's position is that traditional marriages have occurred for tens of thousands of years under Aboriginal customary law and have been properly regulated by family members, a practice which also occurs in many other parts of the world. The effect of the Government's legislation is that in many cases a traditional practice is now criminalised and – even more alarming – made subject to mandatory jail terms.

It is important that all parties to the dispute now proceed with properly conducted consultations with affected communities to find a way forward – as recommended by the Government's own Customary Law Inquiry.

welcome to country for new chief justice

THE NORTHERN TERRITORY HAS A NEW CHIEF JUSTICE, JUSTICE BRIAN MARTIN, AND LARRAKIA ELDER BILL RISK WAS ON HAND TO WELCOME HIM TO COUNTRY ON THE OCCASION OF HIS FIRST SITTING IN DARWIN'S SUPREME COURT ON 2 FEBRUARY.



LARRAKIA ELDER, BILL RISK

This is what Bill said:

My name is Bill Risk and I am a senior elder representing the Larrakia people.

In that capacity I am honoured to be here today to welcome the new Chief Justice, Chief Justice Brian Martin, to Larrakia country and to the Northern Territory.

The Northern Territory Supreme Court is located on Larrakia country. The Larrakia are a saltwa-



CHIEF JUSTICE BRIAN MARTIN AT HIS SWEARING IN

ter people, and located on the foreshore near this court are a number of important Larrakia sites. The Northern Territory is unique in its cultural diversity and consequently the difficult issues which come before the Court are often unique. One such decision was that of Justice Blackburn in the 1971 Gove Land Rights case, Australia's first native title case. Although the Aboriginal claimants were unsuccessful the judgement was enlightened and provided a basis for the subsequent Mabo decision and land rights legislation – including

Larrakia claims in the Darwin region which I hope may soon be resolved.

Subsequent decisions by the Court have provided a practical basis whereby aspects of Aboriginal law may be recognised, for example in relation to sentencing. This recognition is important, and the Larrakia hope that it may continue.

On behalf of the Larrakia people, and with pleasure, I welcome Chief Justice Brian Martin to Larrakia country, and wish your Honour all the best during your time here.



australia honours bardayal

The 78-year-old west Arnhem land elder and the Yolngu elder Gawerrin Gumana, who was awarded the same honour in 2003, are the only Aboriginal Territorians so honoured. Since the orders were established in 1975 only 17 Territorians have received this award - the second highest civil order in the land.

Wamud Bardayal's award was made in recognition of his service to the preservation of Indigenous culture as a senior traditional man and significant artist whose work documents the relationship of the land and its ancestral past via the Mimih Spirits of rock art.

LOFTY BARDAYAL NADJAMERREK'S GREAT CONTRIBUTION TO AUSTRALIAN LIFE HAS BEEN RECOGNISED WITH HIS APPOINTMENT AS AN OFFICER OF THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA

Bardayal's life is an extraordinary tale of experience in traditional Aboriginal culture in Arnhem Land as well as a great diversity of experiences working together with non-Aboriginal people from all walks of life.

He has spent much of his life travelling across the traditional walking tracks of western and southern Arnhem Land hunting, participating in ceremonies, trading traditional commodities and maintaining his extended kin networks. He is the only person alive with such great experience of that

country.

As a young man he worked in the tin mining industry and gave otherwise unrecognised service in the Katherine region with the military during the second world war. Bardayal's exceptional knowledge about places, their land ownership status, their physical peculiarities, available resources and religious significance as well as their history is truly awe-inspiring.

In his senior years Bardayal has worked as a consultant to anthropologists, art historians, botanists and a diverse group of other

researchers from both the social and natural sciences. He is also a regular speaker at regional land management conferences. He has taken on an important role as teacher to both non-Aboriginal people and younger generations of Aboriginal kin. He speaks Kundedjnen-ghmi (a Kunwinjku dialect), Dalabon, Jawoyn, Kriol and English.

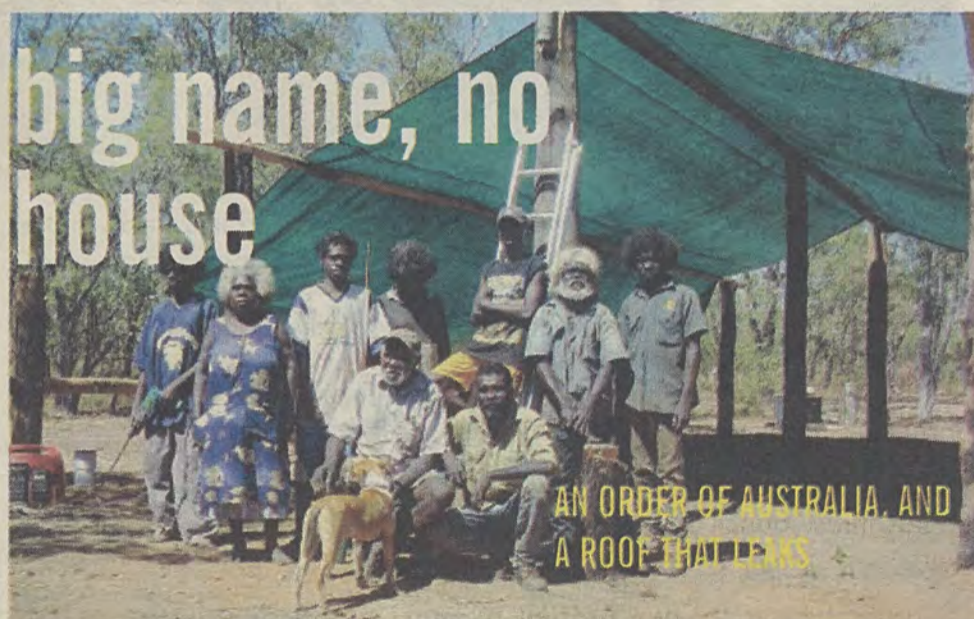
Bardayal is also one of the region's most important and loved artists. His works are held by most major state cultural institutions in Australia and overseas and he re-

mains a prolific painter of traditional themes from the Arnhem Land plateau. Bardayal is also known as the last Aboriginal artist to have painted works on the walls of rock shelters in western Arnhem Land. His knowledge of the contemporary significance of rock art in the region is unparalleled and represents a link with a particular way of life which has now changed forever.

Bardayal has encouraged his family to combine the best from both Aboriginal and

non-Aboriginal cultures and is presently engaged in the creation of a new community on his own country where *Balanda* and *Bininj* can come together to learn about the depth of traditional indigenous knowledge on the Arnhem Land plateau. Bardayal has also helped develop important partnerships between Aboriginal land managers and scientists.

Bardayal will receive his AO medal in a ceremony at Government House Darwin on 29 May.



Lofty Bardayal Nadjamerrek AO is without doubt the only Officer of the Order of Australia who lives under a leaky second-hand tarpaulin.

Two years ago he returned to his clan estate of Mankung Djang, or Sugarbag

Country, with an old Toyota troop carrier and not much else after years of helping other clans establish outstations back on their countries.

He is still there at his Kabulwarnamyo camp, leading his people back to their promised land in the

spectacular sandstone country of the west Arnhem Plateau.

The struggle is hard and made harder by the fact that despite large Government funding going into improving the lives of indigenous people nationally, almost none is trickling down to the

new pioneers on the plateau.

What exists at Kabulwarnamyo is largely a product of the effort of Bardayal and his family. Telstra has installed a satellite based telephone system and the Indigenous Land Corporation provided about \$10,000 which funded the only substantial building at Kabulwarnamyo, a 6 x 9 metre steel shed put up by Bardayal's family.

The Co-operative Research Centre for Tropical Savannas Management has provided funds to support Bardayal in passing on his special knowledge but instead of taking these funds himself, Bardayal has put the money back into the installation of a reticulated water

supply. Bardayal and his family own a Troopy but running a vehicle is costly on a track that hasn't had any maintenance for nearly a decade.

When Bardayal needs to go to town it's a half hour drive to the only accessible airstrip at Marlkawo, a walk through a flooded creek in the wet and then into a single engine charter plane that costs nearly \$1000 per trip to Kunbarllanjnja or Jabiru. Feeding the community, which ranges from about 10 to 40 people, isn't easy. But store bought items like sugar, bread, tea, weetbix and so on are not only twice as expensive in the bush as in Darwin but these and other essential

items often just aren't available. Demed Association, which runs a weekly aerial food service, is unable to fund more than one plane a week for its single outstation run, and with Marlkawo always at the end of the run it's often been "sorry we sold out of that, but we'll try next week".

So just what benefits has Kabulwarnamyo, officially Northern Territory Community 1007 since 2002, received from the giant apparatus of ATSI and ATSI? Apart from access to the CDEP work for the dole scheme and the weekly, but often disappointing, food plane service, the answer is not much.

at last...an arnhem land bushfires committee



ABOVE: MEMBERS OF THE NEWLY CREATED ARNHEM LAND REGIONAL BUSHFIRE COMMITTEE

THE BUSHFIRES COUNCIL OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY IS LOOKING FOR ABORIGINAL PEOPLE INVOLVED IN FIRE MANAGEMENT TO NOMINATE FOR MEMBERSHIP OF THE NEWLY CREATED ARNHEM LAND REGIONAL BUSHFIRE COMMITTEE.

The new Arnhem Land Bush Fire Council region comprises Arnhem Land, Kakadu and Mainoru Station.

Until early last year all this area was part of the Arafura Bushfire region which stretched

from Port Keats to Nhulunbuy.

Historically the Aboriginal part of the Arafura region received very little support.

Over the past five years community-based rangers and traditional owners from the region have been pressing the Government to establish a separate region, separately funded for Arnhem Land.

Last year the Martin Government announced it would create the new region

and provide funding at around the level given to other regions.

Late last year Aboriginal people interested in fire management met with Bushfires Council executive Officer Brent Williams at Djinkarr Ranger station to find out more about how the new committee can work.

Aboriginal people interested in fire management in Arnhem Land have until Friday 16 April to get an application to be a member of the regional committee back to Bushfires Council in Darwin.

The Minister will choose six people from those nominated to be on the committee. The chairman of the committee will also sit on the full council of the Bushfires Council NT.

If you need a nomination form ring Bushfires Council on 8922 0844 or the Caring for Country Unit on 8920 5162.

pantharrpilnhe bush seed packets

The Cavanagh family at Pantharrpilnhe outstation is passionate about promoting Indigenous involvement in the bush food industry.

Family members have started a new bush tucker business, Yalke (bush onion) Products, which is producing bush tucker seed packets, gift baskets and Ilketyerre (wattle seed) and Akatyerre (bush raisin) slices to tantalise people's taste buds.

Yalke is approaching the industry with an emphasis on producing information on bush tucker for other Indigenous communities, and wants to promote a lot more Indigenous people's involvement in the industry.

The Cavanagh family has a long history of working with bush tucker, and John Cavanagh last year was awarded Remote Area Horticultural student of the Year at Centralian College.

"It's important we do this because the young people need to know about bush tucker and this business will give the younger generation something



JOHN CAVANAGH CHECKS OUT HIS PLANTS

to do," he said.

"It's really important Aboriginal people are involved in this industry because a lot of bush tucker is grown on their land."

John has been studying horticulture for the past four years and has acquired a wealth of knowledge about bush tucker, mixing traditional knowledge with western research.

The Cavanagh family started cultivating and trialing different bush tucker plants in 2000 and now has over 250 bush tomatoes, bush cucumbers, bush bananas, wattle seeds (two types), yams and bush onions.

Currently the business is developing seed packs which will have the story of the seed, how to grow it and what its traditional uses are. Accompanying this will be posters with information on how to grow the plants and their lifecycle.

To order from Yalke Products, call or fax 08 8956 9464.

milingimbi sport and rec carnival



THE ARNHEM LAND COMMUNITY OF MILINGIMBI DEFIED WIND AND RAIN TO STAGE NOT ONE BUT TWO EVENTS OVER THE CHRISTMAS/NEW YEAR HOLIDAY PERIOD – A NEW YEAR'S DAY CARNIVAL AND AN AUSTRALIA DAY CELEBRATION.

New Year's Day itself was too wet so the resourceful organisers simply postponed it one day and went ahead on 2 January with a program of activities including sprint and relay races for all ages, piggy back races, sack races, soccer, football and target throwing.

The weather on Australia Day (26 January) was better, allowing a terrific game of football between the community's Yirritja and Dhuwa moieties.

The NLC backed up event organisers with a consignment of soccer balls, basketballs, footballs and tyre repair kits squeezed onto a flight from Darwin just before Christmas.

And with help from a plethora of other supporters, at the end of each day the community was the clear winner!

Arnhem Regional Bushfires Committee Vacancies

The Minister for Infrastructure, Planning & Environment is seeking expressions of interest from rural persons who have local knowledge, experience or skills in bushfire control and who can accept the responsibility for shaping the future fire management of the Northern Territory.

Established under the Bushfires Act are nine Fire Control Regions, each with their own Committee. A **tenth** region has recently been created, **The Arnhem Bushfire Control Region**. The new **Arnhem Region Bushfire Committees** role is to prevent and control bushfires in the **Arnhem Bushfire Control Region** outside urban areas.

The Regional Committee report and make recommendations to the Bushfires Council of the NT, which provides advice to the Minister on measures to be taken for effective fire management in the Territory.

Applications to the new **Arnhem Region Bushfire Committee** are now being sought. The Committee are appointed for a period of three years. Members are paid sitting fees and travel allowances.

Please contact the Bushfires Council in Darwin for further information or to obtain an application form.

Phone 8922 0844 Fax 8922 0833

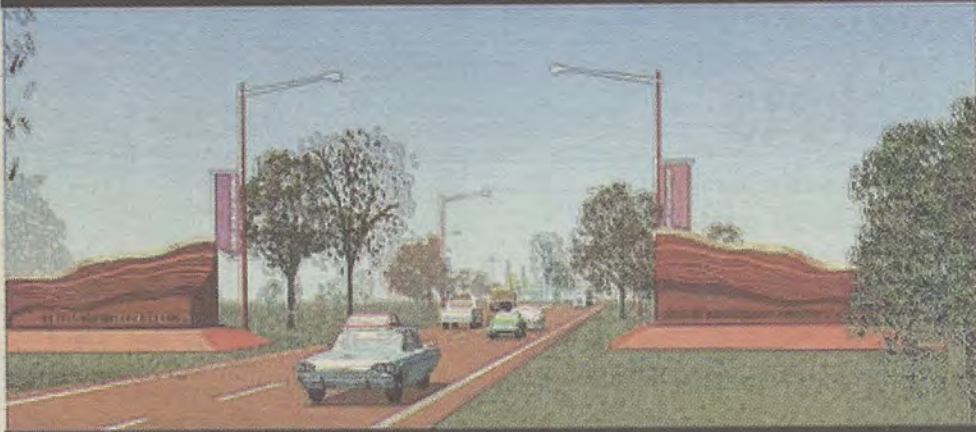
Email: leslee.hills@nt.gov.au

Or visit the DIPE web site <http://www.ipe.nt.gov.au>

Applications close on 16 April



from red centre to...



smart centre

GROUND BROKEN ON DESERT KNOWLEDGE PRECINCT

Alice Springs' largest new construction project is set to begin with the injection of \$27.8 million to the Desert Knowledge Precinct.

The Desert Knowledge Precinct has, until now, been a somewhat abstract project that talks about 'clusters of knowledge' and prefixes most things with the word 'desert'.

To demonstrate the progress made on the idea, the NT Minister for Central Australia, Dr Toyne turned a sod of real dirt at the site south of Alice Springs after the funding announcement.

Dubbed the 'Smart Centre', the precinct is set to change the local economy and certainly the landscape of Alice Springs airport road considerably.

The site will spread over 130 hectares, incorporating existing

agencies such as Yirara College, CSIRO, Parks and Wildlife and the Department of Primary Industry as well as new campuses for CAT and Batchelor College which will become part of the Desert Peoples Centre.

The second phase of the project will include a Living Desert Centre - which will function as a desperately needed contemporary cultural centre in Alice Springs - and will become the headquarters for Desert Knowledge Australia.

The Desert Peoples Centre will receive \$15.8 million of the cash. A Desert Knowledge Cooperative Research Centre and International; Desert Innovation Centre will also be part of the precinct.

DPC Chairman Harold Furber stressed that the Desert Knowledge Precinct was first and foremost

for people of the region.

"The precinct is there for desert people from Kalgoolie to Mt Isa, Eliot to Port Augusta

"It's for all people in that region. The DPC is specifically for Indigenous people - to provide a better service across that same region.

"There's been a lot of hard work going into the planning with the traditional landowners, various departments, the CSIRO and so on."

A Desert Knowledge Cooperative Research Centre and International; Desert Innovation Centre will also be part of the precinct.

The DPC will be open for business in January or February 2006.

The Central Land Council is a core partner in the project.

bulldogs come up trumps in nail-biter



WESTERN BULLDOGS' NT CONNECTION: STEVEN KOOPS TAKES TIME OUT TO POSE WITH SOME KEEN LOCAL YOUNGSTERS.

A Northern Territory Football League representative team went within a point of defeating AFL club, the Western Bulldogs.

Proving once again that the standard of Territory football is on the rise, the gallant Buffaloes threw everything at the Bulldogs but in the end they came up just short.

Played in damp, drizzly conditions on 6 February at Darwin's Football Park before more than 7,000 enthusiastic spectators, the Territory team pushed their southern opponents to the final siren. In the end time was their enemy, the Bulldogs holding on to win 5:12 (42) to 6:5 (41).

Senior players Scott West, Luke Darcy and Nathan Eagleton were driving forces for the Bulldogs. New recruits Farren Ray, Adam Cooney and Jade Rawlings showed enough to suggest that the Bulldogs will be a hard act to beat this year.

For the Buffaloes, local talent and Australian under-17 representative Richard Tambling proved he's on track for an AFL career with a lively display in attack. His performance prompted Bulldog officials to hold talks with him after the match.

Tambling's pace, wonderful ball skills and a keen work ethic was the springboard for many forward raids by the Territory team.

With support from Port Adelaide Magpie Corey Ah Chee, former Bulldog Shannon Rusca and NT captain and former Kangaroo, Shannon Motlop, Tambling and the NT

Buffaloes refused to concede to the Bulldogs.

Despite being sidelined by injury, former NTFL junior and now new Bulldog, Stephen Koops, knew exactly what the club could expect when they signed on to play the NT team.

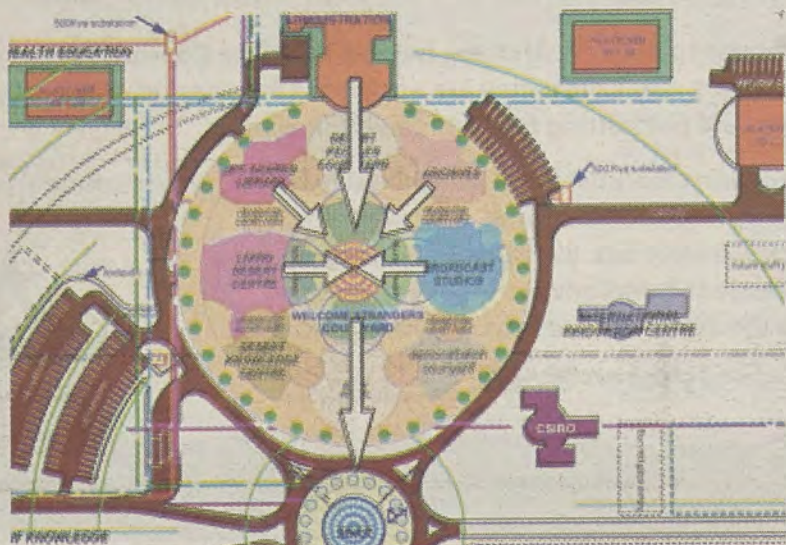
"I certainly told the guys they had their work cut out because these guys, they're playing for the pride of their State," Stephen said. "It means a lot for these players from the Territory to play against AFL players."

"The amount of Indigenous talent out there on display tonight from the NT, the skills they displayed, was just outstanding in the wet conditions, and one of our young players, Cameron Faulkner, also displayed a bit of his talent as well."

Koops, a versatile player who can play almost anywhere on the field, is enjoying his new environment. He's hoping the off-season move from the Fremantle Dockers to the Western Bulldogs will reignite an AFL career that has so far spanned 78 games.

In a move designed to expand the popularity of the game, the Western Bulldogs have agreed to play one home game a year for premiership points over the next three years in Darwin.

Based on the NT's reception of the club during their February visit, their popularity appears certain to soar over the coming years.





sorry...we may get it in the end

GILBERT MCADAM, LABOR MP WARREN SNOWDON AND LABOR LEADER MARK LATHAM AT THE FEDERAL CLUB IN ALICE SPRINGS

NEW FEDERAL LABOR LEADER, MARK LATHAM, HAS REAFFIRMED A PROMISE MADE IN MAY LAST YEAR BY THEN SHADOW POPULATION AND IMMIGRATION MINISTER, JULIA GILLARD, THAT A LABOR GOVERNMENT WOULD APOLOGISE TO MEMBERS OF THE STOLEN GENERATIONS.

Speaking at the Victorian Labor Party Conference in Melbourne in December 2003, Mr Latham said a Labor government would not dispute the existence of the Stolen Generations.

"We need to be big enough to say sorry to the Stolen Generations," Mr Latham said.

"My old mate Peter Costello, he talks about tolerance. John Howard, he's always talking about family

values.

"How about some tolerance and understanding for the Aboriginal families that were torn apart? How about some tolerance and understanding for them?"

Labor has given a commitment to consulting with Indigenous Australians on the appropriate form of the apology and the appropriate form of ceremony to mark the apology.

klc in native title funding crisis

FORCED INTO 'EXTREME MEASURE' OF SUSPENDING LEGAL REPRESENTATION OF TRADITIONAL OWNERS

The Kimberley Land Council has pulled out of native title litigation for the time being due to lack of funding.

KLC Director Wayne Bergmann said the KLC was being "denied the resources needed to secure justice for our people", and has requested an urgent meeting with Indigenous Affairs Minister Amanda Vanstone to discuss the problem.

"We have requested additional funds to meet our litigation process but without success," he said.

"(We have) four native title matters now before the courts, all of which have been proceeding for some time and are close to finalisation ... we are concerned that these cases will be jeopardised, and incur further unseen costs," he said.

"But without funding in place, the KLC has no option other than to ask the courts for adjournments.

"Until further resources are secured, Kimberley traditional owners will be left unrepresented."

atsic wants an end to family violence



ATSIAC COMMISSIONER ALISON ANDERSON TALKS WITH THE MEDIA IN ALICE SPRINGS

ATSIAC'S CENTRAL ZONE COMMISSIONER, ALISON ANDERSON, HAS CALLED FOR PEOPLE TO STOP TURNING A BLIND EYE TO COMMUNITY LEADERS INVOLVED IN FAMILY VIOLENCE.

Speaking at the launch of the Garruk-Jarru Regional Council Domestic Violence strategy for the Katherine region during February, Commissioner Anderson said the time had come to take action against these people. "Start saying you are no longer a leader of my community,

you're no longer a leader of my people, you're no longer a leader of our law - you're a perpetrator of violence," Ms Anderson said.

Garruk-Jarru Council Chair Michael Berto said the strategy was part of ATSIAC's national plan to reduce the shocking levels of violence in communities.

upheaval at atsic a threat to progress: jonas

CRISIS 'LIKELY TO WORSEN' OVER NEXT DECADE

The final Social Justice Report tabled by outgoing Social Justice Commissioner Bill Jonas says the crisis engulfing ATSIAC has undercut a sense of optimism that government initiatives were now heading in the right direction.

"For a range of reasons that are outlined in this report, there is not sufficient commitment by governments at any level to do whatever it takes to progressively improve the life chances and opportunities for Indigenous people," Dr Jonas said.

Democrats Senator Aden Ridgeway said the report showed that the Government's 'practical reconciliation' had "failed on the ground".

He called on the Government to respond to the report's findings.



TRADITIONAL OWNER, MICK WAAKE, SIGNING AGREEMENT

100th ilua signed at barrow creek

The traditional owners of an area around Barrow Creek had the unique opportunity to sign the 100th ILUA in Australia. The agreement

was signed by the CLC and the traditional owners with mining companies Newmont and Normandy to allow exploration and mining on their country.

Museum & Art Gallery of the Northern Territory

entries invited

21st Telstra National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Art Award

Telstra First Prize \$40,000

Plus \$16,000 worth of category prizes

Submissions for Preselection close –
Thursday 8 April 2004

Contact: Marie Hodsdon, Award Coordinator
Museum & Art Gallery of the Northern Territory
Tel: (08) 8999 8203 Fax: (08) 8999 8148
Email: natsiaa@nt.gov.au

very big journey

HILDA JARMAN MUIR,
PUBLISHED BY ABORIGINAL
STUDIES PRESS, RRP: \$29.95

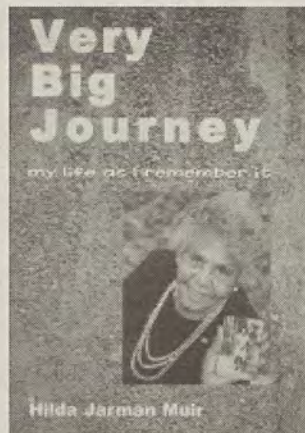
"One thing I learnt in life is this: it's no good complaining. You've just got to take what happens and make the most of it. And that's what I've done all my life really. You mightn't always have what you think you might want, but there's no good kicking up about it."

These are remarkable words for a woman who was stolen from her Aboriginal family, brutalised by the Kahlin Aboriginal Compound for 'half-caste' Aboriginal children and suffered the tragedy of losing her husband to Cyclone Tracy.

Aunty Hilda, as she is known to many Territorians, has experienced first-hand the racist underbelly of Australian life but refused to be cowed by it, growing instead into one of the main instigators of the fight for recognition of the Stolen Generation.

You get the sense from this deeply moving book that no-one is more amazed by the transformation from shy 'bush girl' into fearless fighter for the rights of the oppressed than Aunty Hilda herself. For she was a true bush girl, born at Manankurra on the Wearyan River on her Yanyuwa mother's country near Borroloola in about 1920.

Although her father was a white man there was no effort to remove her from her family until the first of many misfortunes hit in the form of the murder of her uncle and aunt by an Aboriginal man called Gilprey in 1927.



As part of the police investigation all the witnesses were forced to travel to Darwin. But when the court case was over, Aunty Hilda was transferred to the Kahlin Compound.

Thus began her dark journey into adulthood, with her culture and language forcibly stripped from her. It was after leaving Kahlin that Hilda met the love of her life, the effervescent Billy Muir, with whom she eventually had 10 children. Much of the burden of rearing and caring for them fell on Aunty Hilda due to Billy's long absences on war service and subsequently for his work.

Despite all Hilda and Billy made a happy home in Darwin until the terrible night of 24 December 1974, when Cyclone Tracy literally blew her world apart. In many ways it is the most moving part of the book.

The loss of Billy brought enormous changes to Aunty Hilda as she adjusted to life on her own and began her quest to rediscover her roots. She was already aged in her 70s when she was chosen to take part in the first Stolen Generation test case to reach the High Court in 1995.

The book ends with a chapter written by anthropologist John Bradley, who witnessed her return to country in 1999, her acceptance by her Aboriginal relations and her subsequent participation in a land claim over Gulf country.

The power of self-belief in Aunty Hilda's life is a lesson for us all.

north of capricorn: the untold story of australia's north

HENRY REYNOLDS,
PUBLISHED BY ALLEN & UNWIN, RRP: \$49.95

IMAGINE WHAT AUSTRALIA WOULD HAVE BEEN LIKE TODAY WITHOUT THE WHITE AUSTRALIA POLICY. IT'S NOT TOO HARD – JUST LOOK AT TODAY'S TROPICAL NORTH, WHERE THE MIXTURE OF ASIAN, EUROPEAN, ISLANDER AND ABORIGINAL PEOPLES PROGRESSED TOO FAR TO BE UNDONE BY THE RACIST POLICIES ENACTED JUST OVER 100 YEARS AGO.

This is the world explored by historian and prolific author Henry Reynolds, who traces the development of Australia's tropical towns and the unique multiracial societies that arose before the paranoid fantasies of southern white supremacists took hold. Reynolds starts with Mackay and travels north-west through Townsville, Cairns, Thursday Island and Darwin before finally arriving at Broome on the other side of the continent.

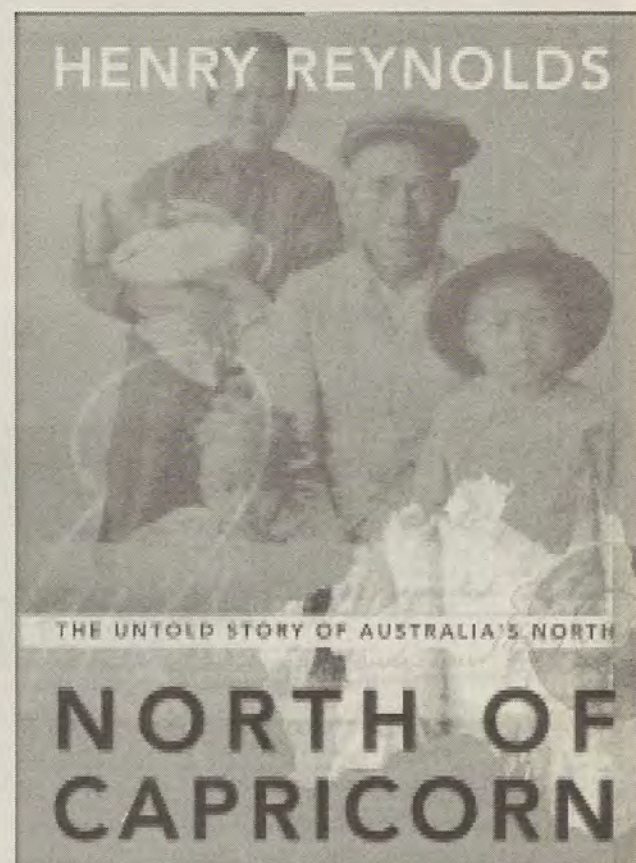
In the process he peels back the onion skin layers of Australian history to reveal the vibrant multi-cultural societies that arose around our northern coastline in the late 19th century.

Reynolds writes: "At the turn of the century Aborigines, Europeans

and Asians lived in close proximity right across North Australia, although mining towns such as Charters Towers and Herberton were more like southern communities, much 'whiter' and more dominated by Europeans than was common in the region. The year 1900 may have marked the moment when Aborigines were most involved with white people."

So much for what could have been. With Federation in 1901 came the first sitting of a sovereign Australian Parliament in Melbourne which, freed from the oversight of colonial masters in London, rushed to erect the first pillars of racist legislation that eventually coalesced into the White Australia policy.

Reynolds documents



in excruciating detail the clampdown on Asian immigration that followed and the consequent emptying of Chinatowns across the north. More relevant to Aboriginal readers was the unexplained 1906 ban on Macassan praus that had been visiting Australia's northern shores for many hundreds of years. With the end of the trepang trade came the disruption of kinship networks and coastal economies, and the marooning of untold numbers of Aboriginal people and their families in distant Macassan ports.

Yolngu people had no idea why the praus failed to arrive in the 1907 wet season. Reynolds quotes fellow author Richard Trudgen

to explain their reaction:

"There were stories that some Macassan captains had said in previous years they might not be able to come in future because the Balanda out of Port Darwin would not let them land...But many Yolngu dismissed these stories. They said, 'Who are these Balanda? They have no say in the legal agreements between our clans and the Macassans'.

Unfortunately for the Yolngu – and all other Indigenous inhabitants of the tropical north – it would be at least another 70 years before their rights were given legal recognition. For Top Enders in particular, and Australians in general, it meant 70 years of stagnation and lost opportunities.

molly's voyage ends

A woman behind one of the most remarkable feats of endurance has died at her home aged 87.

Molly Kelly, the subject of the award-winning film *Rabbit Proof Fence*, passed away in her sleep at her home at Jigalong, Western Australia on 13 January.

Molly Craig (as she

then was), her sister Daisy Burungu and cousin Gracie Fields will best be remembered as the trio who ran away from the Moore River Mission in 1931 and travelled 1,600 kilometres to their home in the East Pilbara. The long journey home took nine weeks to complete, though Gracie never made it.

apology

The article run on page 21 of the *Land Rights News* (December 2003) titled 'Uncle helps spread the word' did not mention that the program is funded by the Commonwealth Department of Family and Community Services and was actively developed by the Alice Springs Reconnect project.

Land Rights News apologies for any distress this may have caused.

soft harmonies of saltwater band



THE SOFT SOUNDS AND HARMONIES OF THE SALTWATER BAND ARE ON FULL DISPLAY ON THEIR LATEST ALBUM DJARRIDJARRI (BLUE FLAG), AN EXTENDED LOVE SONG ABOUT COUNTRY AND THE YOLNGU WAY OF LIFE.

Led by former Yothu Yindi member and all-round musical genius Geoffrey Gurrumul Yunupingu, the band contains another seven members all from Elcho Island.

While the music is western, the songs are mostly in language with many of the words taken from ancestral chants.

The album – which was two years in the making – opens with the haunting *Djilawurr*, which captures the calling and crying of two orange footed scrubfowls as they return to their mound.

As with the designs on Aboriginal paintings, the song is terrific in itself but contains layers of meaning

about these two totemic figures that only local Yolngu would have access to. And so it is with the rest of the album, which constantly tantalises the listener with the sense that so much of each song's meaning is hidden from public view.

The title song for the album, *Djarridjarri*, was written by the band's other songwriter, Manuel Dhurrkay. Backed by a latino rhythm, its theme is the blue flag totem of Manuel's grandmother.

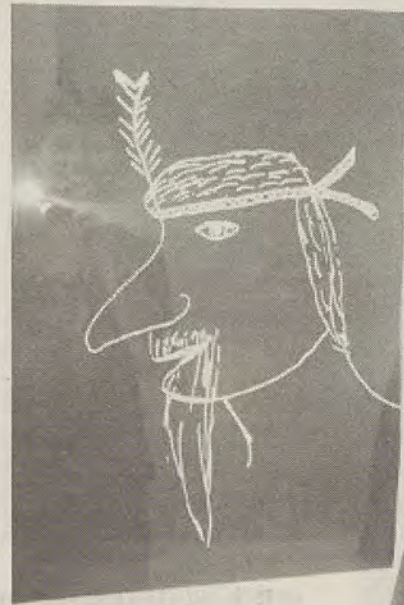
Other songs on the album explore different styles of music, ranging from reggae (*Reggae Music*) and jive (*Elcho Island Boys*) to the big anthem sound of *Let's Work Together*.

The album finishes up with *Wata* (Healing Wind), a traditional chant featuring singers Kevin Djamina Gurruwiwi and Barry Gutitjawuy Garawirtja.

This is a very sophisticated and well-produced album, and much of the credit must go to Darwin-based Skinnyfish Music which has laboured for many years to bring the sounds of Aboriginal Top End bands to a wider audience.

Saltwater Band, like so many other Indigenous acts in the Northern Territory, is virtually unknown down south.

Let's hope that with this album they finally achieve breakthrough.



it's all about kinship

PUNTTU EXHIBITION TELLS HOW IT WORKS FOR THE WARUMUNGU

Warumungu traditional owners travelled to Alice Springs recently to open 'Punttu', a Warumungu skin exhibition being exhibited at the Araluen Cultural Precinct.

The exhibition was opened by artists Michael Jampin Jones and Betty Nakamarra Morrison who gave speeches explaining how the kinship system works, capturing the interest of visitors and increasing the exhibition sales.

The Punttu exhibition was put together by the local Warumungu community to explain to visitors the contemporary kinship system of today and how it works, since it is an important part of Aboriginal culture.

The Nyinkka Nyunyu Art and Culture Centre has also produced a short film as a teaching resource with local Warumungu people explaining the kinship system.



TOP: ARTIST IAN WAISTCOAT JAPANANGKA NEXT TO HIS PORTRAIT ABOVE: MICHAEL JAMPIN JONES

Letterstick : new album

THE LONG-AWAITED SECOND ALBUM FROM THE LETTERSTICK BAND HAS HIT THE STORES WITH THEIR NEW RELEASE *DIYAMA*.



An-Barra Clan on the coast near Maningrida in north-east Arnhem Land.

Their new album is a tribute to two of the original band members.

Recent performances include the biggest Indigenous gig held at the Alice Springs Convention Centre called the 'The Big Night Out'.

At that gig Letterstick proved to be the star attraction.

Dyama is available through CAAMA shops and all good music stores.

The Letterstick band is truly a unique group.

Their songs are sung in the Burrarra language but the group has many influences from the Gypsy Kings to Jose Feliciano, which is well illustrated in this album.

The Letterstick band comes from the small

focus on indigenous stats

The new *2004 Year Book Australia* put out by the Australian Bureau of Statistics has made a point of recognising Indigenous Australia.

Beginning with the front cover, which features the specially commissioned painting *Janganpa Mungapunju Jukurrpa* (Native Possum Dreaming at Mungapunju) by 35 artists from Yuendumu, the book contains a wealth of detail about Indigenous Australians.

Unfortunately, much of it makes for pretty depressing reading. To pick some

examples, the book shows that 20% of Indigenous Australians are unemployed compared with just 7% of other Australians.

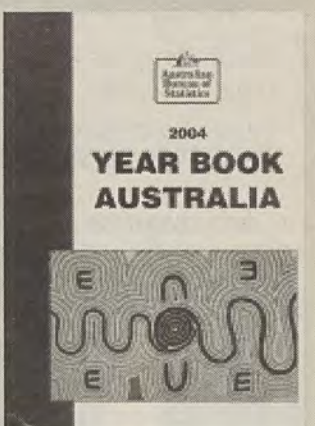
Similarly, Indigenous Australians have a mean gross household income of \$364 per week, compared with \$585 for non-Indigenous Australians.

In terms of health, the Indigenous rates for diabetes were nearly four times higher than the non-Indigenous rates. This translates into reduced life expectancy for Aboriginal people, with only 3% of Indigenous Australians aged over 65 years in 2001 com-

pared with 13% of non-Indigenous Australians.

However, Indigenous women have higher fertility rates than non-Aboriginal women and this is likely to see the Indigenous population continue to increase at a faster rate than the non-Indigenous population.

Most shocking of all are the statistics for imprisonment, which show that Indigenous female prisoners made up 25% of the total female jail population in 2002 despite Indigenous people representing just 2% of the overall Australian



population. Male prisoners account for 20% of the male jail population.

If there is a bright spot in the stats, it is that more Indigenous students are being retained through the secondary school level over the five years to 2002. However, the gap in retention rates between Indigenous and non-Indigenous students is still wide.

sandover artists run their own show

BRIGHT FUTURE FOR NEW GALLERY

Artists from the Sandover region of Central Australia have opened their own gallery in Alice Springs.

The artists of Ampilatwatja and Utopia each formed corporate entities and joined together to start the new enterprise called Sandover Art.

Being wholly Aboriginal owned the gallery will be able to directly benefit the artists by providing an

outlet in Alice Springs and by organising exhibitions locally, nationally and internationally.

Sandover also aims to build good relationships with ethical and responsible dealers and galleries, and to encourage and assist artists with workshops and other developmental activities.

Sandover Art Pty Ltd now has temporary premises at 13 Gregory

Terrace Alice Springs.

The Central Land Council assisted the artists after they experienced some difficult times with their own art centre.

The *Land Rights Act* allows the CLC to provide some ongoing assistance to the new enterprise in performance of its general economic development function under section 23(1)(ea).



ABOVE: THE GALLERY OPENING IN FEBRUARY

LEFT: BANJO MORTON, JULIANNE MORTON KNGWARREY AND MICHELLE HOMES APWERL.

BELOW RIGHT: FRANKIE HOLMES AKEMARR.

BOTTOM RIGHT: NELLIE RUBUNJA (MORTON) APETYARR.



in the steps of Namatjira



Ngurratjuta Pmara Ntjarra Aboriginal Corporation also opened its own Alice Springs gallery in an effort to get a fairer price for their artwork.

The Corporation was established in 1985 as an association of all the communities and groups affected by oil

and gas mining at Mereenie and Palm Valley receiving royalties under the *Land Rights Act*.

The art centre is for Western Arrernte people, many of whom are direct descendents of Albert Namatjira, and many of the watercolours bear his style. However, traditional dot painting is well represented by a solid band of old ladies.

THE WEBSITE IS WWW.NGURART.COM.AU

CLC CHAIRMAN KUNMANARA BREADEN (FAR RIGHT) WAS AMONG THE CROWD THAT TURNED UP TO CELEBRATE THE OPENING



WITH HIS SHARP MIND, ROGUISSH SENSE OF HUMOUR AND ZEST FOR LIFE, MR MUNUNGURRITJ COULD HAVE TURNED HIS TALENTS TO ANY FIELD OF HUMAN ENDEAVOUR.

Mr Munungurritj

13/7/1954 – 31/1/2004

However, it was in the field of natural resource management that this proud Yarrwidi Gumatj man made his mark, both for his on-the-ground efforts and for his contribution to the expansion of scientific knowledge.

Born at Gulurunga on Rirratjingu clan land at Port Bradshaw, he spent his early years helping his father manage a market garden and it was perhaps here that his interest in botany and the environment first awoke.

In 1976 he married the gifted linguist and educator Raymattja Marika at Yirrkala, where they continued to live and raise their four children and three adopted children.

Mr Munungurritj's abiding interest in environmental management led him to become the first Yolngu from north-eastern Arnhem Land to undertake formal study in natural and cultural resource management at the Batchelor Institute of Tertiary Education. On his return to his homeland he became increasingly concerned with the threats posed by the Gove bauxite mine, the expansion of the Nhulunbuy township, illegal fishing and the impacts of tourism.

Finally in 1991, in league with Greg Wearne and Banduk Marika and with the backing of 17 land-owning Yolngu clans in the region, he commenced the initial planning that led to the formation of the Dhimurru Land Management Aboriginal Corporation in 1992.

With the initial support of the Northern Land Council and Environment Australia, Dhimurru has

grown to be an outstanding example of an Indigenous-controlled natural and cultural resource management agency, underpinned by commitment to Indigenous and western knowledge traditions. Mr Munungurritj was a central and binding figure in Dhimurru's success.

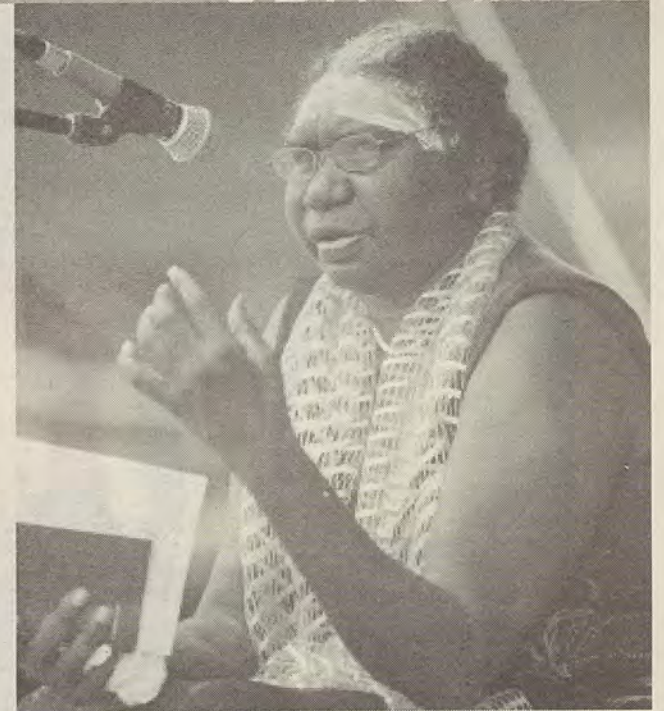
He had an extraordinary ability to work across cultures, and through his life demonstrated his belief in the need for Indigenous and non-Indigenous people to work together.

Mentored by the senior Yolngu leader and outstanding naturalist Djalalingba Yunupingu, and with the support of successive non-Indigenous executive officers Greg Wearne, Kelvin Leitch and Steve Roeger, he built partnerships and collaborations in the region and the Northern Territory as well as nationally and internationally.

In 1995 he became Senior Ranger in Dhimurru, and in 1999 he succeeded to Djalalingba's role as Senior Cultural Adviser.

In 1996 he became actively involved in marine turtle management and conservation in association with the Centre for Indigenous Natural and Cultural Resource Management at NT University.

He also played a big part in the research and consultation that led to the establishment of the Dhimurru Indigenous Protected Area in 2000, which in many ways was his crowning achievement. It was - and still is - the only IPA in the NT, covering an area of some 98,000 hectares.



RAYMATTJA MARIKA ADDRESSES MOURNERS AT THE FUNERAL SERVICE ON 12 MARCH
PICTURE COURTESY DHIMURRU

In 2001 Mr Munungurritj headed Dhimurru staff when Dhimurru was the joint winner of the highly acclaimed Banksia Award for work on marine debris management, and in 2002 when it was the winner of the NT Alcoa Landcare Award.

He was also the only Indigenous community representative on the committee responsible for drafting the Commonwealth Marine Turtle Recovery Plan.

Mr Munungurritj also made an important contribution in other areas, being Chairman of the Dhanbul Community Council from 1985 to 1987, Vice-Chairman from 1999 to 2001, and a Councillor up until his death.

The NLC offers its deepest condolences to Raymattja, her children and her grandchildren.

Kumantje Ferber (nee Rice) Ampetyane 1948 - 2004

Mrs Ferber (nee Rice) was a strong Arrernte woman who was instrumental in protecting Aboriginal culture and sacred sites in the Alice Springs area.

She was grounded in her Arrernte culture and law while at the same time understanding whitefella and contemporary ways.

She was a great facilitator of the two cultures and always acted in good faith to try to achieve a win-win outcome for all people.

Mrs Ferber was one of the key witnesses to the successful Alice Springs Native Title claim which proved native title existed in a majority of places throughout Alice Springs.

Her testimony, along with her family's, gave a social history of the Arrernte people and their relationship with the town.

She was a leader in her community who inspired the younger generation and the whole community to work together.

Mrs Ferber was instrumental in helping set up many Aboriginal organisations in Alice Springs, including Yipirinya school.

She was also a member of the group that developed Yipirinya School's two-way (Arrernte and European) approach to education.

Due to her efforts Yipirinya School Council was at the forefront of Aboriginal education for many years.

The Council lobbied governments, generating much-needed debate over education and health issues.

Today Yipirinya School stands as a testament to the hard work done by the group that included Mrs Ferber.

She led many women in the fight to protect sacred sites in Alice Springs and especially *Werlatye Atherre*, an important part of the Two Women Dreaming which extends north and south of Alice Springs connecting different language groups throughout Central Australia.

Mrs Ferber played an active role

in stopping the Alice Springs dam and continued the fight to keep the site safe and untouched.

Mrs Ferber was born on Yambah Station, north of Alice Springs, in 1948 to Willy Rice Ngale (dec.) and Hilda Rice (nee Stephens) Kngwarraye (dec.).

" TALKING ABOUT SACRED SITES WAS LIKE TALKING ABOUT 'PART OF MY ARM, MY FINGER . . . CUSTODIANS EXPECTED THEIR SITES TO BE SAFE AND PROTECTED, JUST LIKE A PERSON. IF A SITE IS HURT, WE FEEL LIKE THE PUBLIC AND THE DEVELOPERS ARE HURTING US.' "

(Mrs Ferber-Rice, *Alice Springs News*, 25 October 2000)

Through her father, she inherited traditional rites as 'apmereke atweye' (traditional owner) for

Mpweringe (Harry Creek through to Burt Creek area) with traditional association as 'kwertungerle' (custodian) to *Mparntwe* (Alice Springs) through her mother.

She moved to the Bungalow (Alice Springs Aboriginal Reserve) with her parents in the 1950s as it had become compulsory for Aboriginal children to attend school.

Her family then moved to Santa Teresa, where Mrs Ferber finished her schooling.

At 16, Mrs Ferber undertook basic studies in teaching and linguistics.

This training was to play a major part in Mrs Ferber's future activities. After qualifying, she returned to

teach at Santa Teresa.

She later worked in the kitchen and trained in domestic science.

With an open heart and mind, Mrs Ferber and her family were at the forefront of many activities that have brought positive changes to Central Australia.

Mrs Ferber's work with the Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority (AAPA) was outstanding.

Through her extensive work with AAPA she helped clear land for development and the town grew. It was a difficult balancing act, meeting the land needs of an expanding urban population, while at the same time protecting the cultural integrity of the Indigenous peoples.

She played a key role in many major reconciliation events, including her participation in returning the sacred rock from John Flynn's Memorial to Warumungu and Kaytetye people and replacing it with an Arrernte stone.

She also welcomed many high-profile delegates onto Arrernte country including His Holiness Pope John Paul in 1986 in Alice Springs, the Royal Family, Prime Ministers, Commonwealth and Northern Territory Ministers.

Mrs Ferber's integrity and generous spirit will always be remembered by all the community.



anangu tours takes out tourism win

Sammy Wilson, senior Tour Guide with Anangu Tours collected a Tourism Hall of Fame Award at the National Awards in Perth on Friday night.

Mr Wilson celebrated the win with other NT tour operators and personalities including the Mayor Fran Kilgariff.

Anangu Tours, the Aboriginal-owned tour company based at Uluru, was officially inducted into the Australian Tourism Awards "Hall of Fame" at this year's National Awards in Perth.

This award came after winning its third Aboriginal and Torres Strait Tourism Award for Excellence in a row in 2003.

It was its sixth national award since the company started in 1995.

"We are training our young people to take on good work," Mr Wilson said. "We don't use government grants, we do it by ourselves.

"Visitors tell us daily that our tours are a very special experience.

"They tell us how much they appreciate the understanding they gained of the real Uluru and Aboriginal people on our tours."

ABOVE LEFT TO RIGHT: LINDSAY BOOKIE (SIMPSON DESERT BUSH TUCKER CAMP), MICHAEL JAMPIN JONES (NYINKKA NYUNYU CULTURAL CENTRE TENNANT CREEK), ERNIE DINGO, SAMMY WILSON (ANANGU TOURS, ULURU) AND MANYALLALUK (KATHERINE).

the big men fly - more action from the bulldogs vs nt match



"GOING NOWHERE": NT PLAYERS JOIN FORCES TO WRESTLE A BULLDOG PLAYER TO THE



FOOTY ACTION FROM THE NTFL VS WESTERN BULLDOGS MATCH ... SEE STORY INSIDE PAGE 10



LEFT: CLC CHAIRMAN KUNMANARA BREADEN AND MAX STUART HADN'T CAUGHT THE TRAIN SINCE THEY JUMPED THE "SMOKY TRAIN FROM FINKE TO ALICE". READ WHAT THEY HAVE TO SAY ABOUT THEIR TRIP ON THE FIRST TRAIN NORTH...PAGE 9. FAR LEFT: RED SANDHILLS SCHOOL KIDS WERE AMONG HUNDREDS WHO TURNED OUT FOR THE BIG DAY