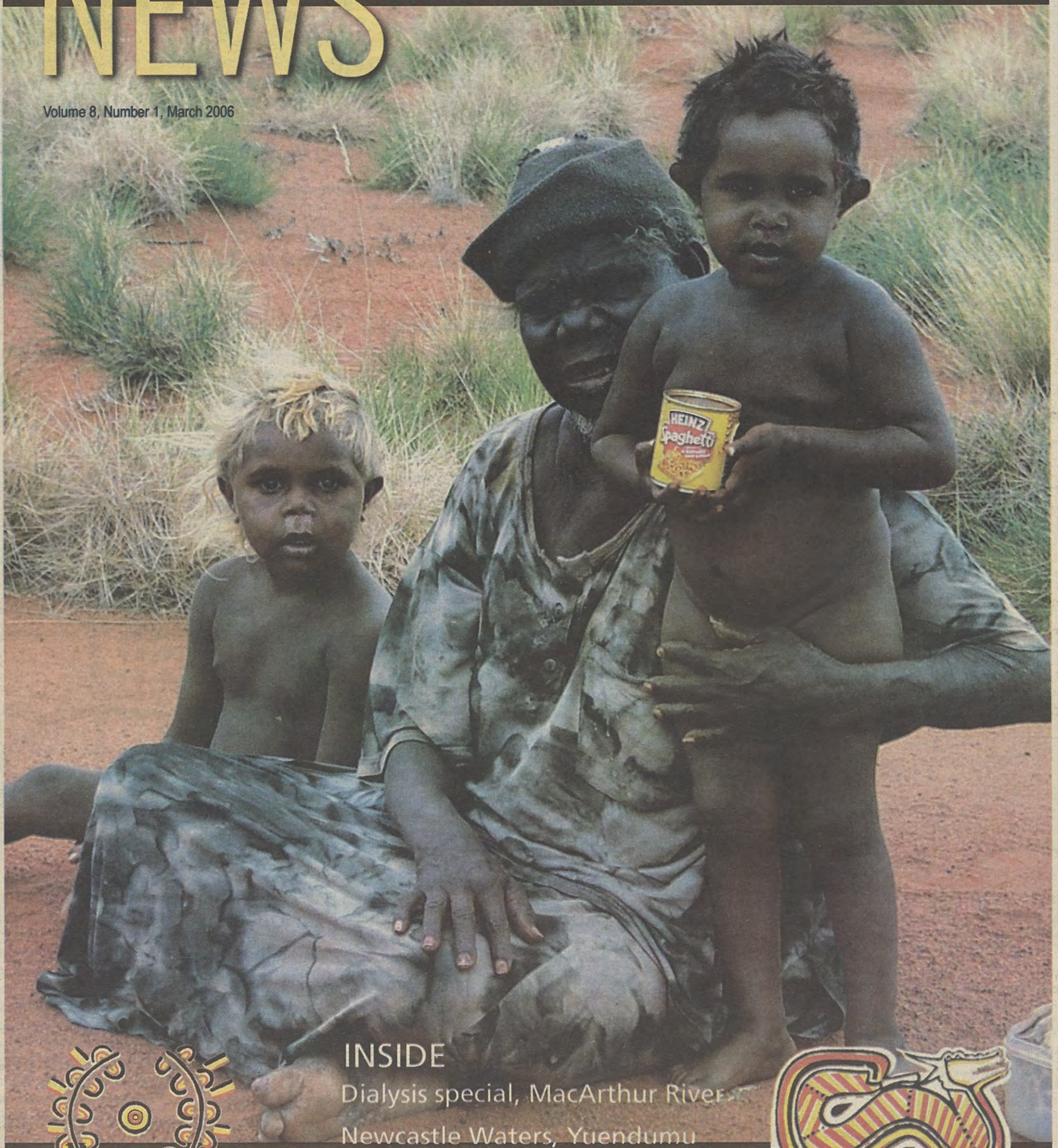


LAND RIGHTS NEWS

Volume 8, Number 1, March 2006



INSIDE

Dialysis special, MacArthur River
Newcastle Waters, Yuendumu
Safe House ...



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KEY EDUCATIONAL FORUM INDIGENOUS EDUCATION & TRAINING

“Indigenous Education and Training” will be the theme of the important national three-day Key Educational Forum at the 2006 Garma Festival - Australia’s major Indigenous Cultural Exchange event in August.

At a time when education and training of Australia’s Indigenous people continues to be a major issue and matter of concern, the Forum will be an important national gathering of Indigenous and non-Indigenous educators, policy makers, academics, students, trainers, cultural practitioners and government, corporate and community leaders.

The Forum will focus on past and present education policy and practice to examine ways to build non-Indigenous and Indigenous capacities to learn together. Please visit www.garma.telstra.com for more information on how to register.

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COVER PHOTO

Mrs Tolson and family on a trip home to Kintore
recently

Environmental assessment stalls McArthur mine

The proposed expansion of mining operations at Xstrata's McArthur River Mine near Borroloola in the Northern Territory (NT) stalled following the rejection of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) by NT Environment Minister, Marion Scrymgour.

Minister Scrymgour said her decision not to recommend expansion works was based on scientific assessments prepared by the government's Environmental Protection Agency.

"Based on the evidence presented to me in the EIS, I cannot conclude that the matters of national environmental significance have been addressed properly," Minister Scrymgour said.

"The assessment concludes that there are significant uncertainties over the long term environmental im-

pact associated with diverting the McArthur River and managing an open cut mine pit in the river flood plain."

Northern Land Council Chairman, John Daly, said:

"The scale of the expansion proposal put before the minister and its potential impacts were matters of serious concern for traditional owners because it poses considerable social and environmental impact risks."

Xstrata currently extract raw materials via an underground mining process. The \$35 million expansion proposed for the mine would see the operation moved above ground to open-cut extraction, but to do this Xstrata will have to make significant changes to the existing landscape.

This includes diverting the current flow of the McArthur River to a length of five kilo-



Yanyuwa traditional owners who are downstream from the mine site

metres.

A factor that has been the cause of concern for some traditional owners who are not only troubled by the prospect of altering a natural water-course, but also the potential destruction of sacred sites and the scenario of significant flooding during a major Wet Season deluge.

"The McArthur River is an extensive river with a diverse channel system. Impact

assessments of the current proposal have indicated that an alteration to its natural course may have an impact on traditional and commercial activities downstream of the mines operations," Mr Daly said.

NT Minister for Mines and Energy, Kon Vatskalis, will have the final say in any decision made about the mine's future.

In a late development, Minister Vatskalis said he had

spoken with Xstrata and has asked the company to address the outstanding environmental issues in its proposal for an open cut mine.

"The company needs to work with the Environmental Protection Agency to meet the outstanding issues," Minister Vatskalis said.

"The outstanding issues must be resolved to the satisfaction of both myself and the Minister for Environment and Heritage."

YUENDUMU SAFE HOUSE OPENS

"Plenty of beds but I reckon this is the last time I will get to come in here", one Yuendumu man says as he files through the door for the first look around the new Safe House at Yuendumu. He's right. After the opening of the Safe House in February no men will be allowed into the house.

The new house will provide a refuge for women from violent men. An extra high fence around the yard ensures that even the angriest bloke gets left on the outside.

Nonetheless, the opening of the Safe House attracted plenty of Yuendumu's male leaders to support the women and celebrate an extremely significant community initiative.

Women's Centre Coordinator Pat Malden says that the Safe House has been operating since last August.

"Unfortunately it has been used fairly consistently

since then. However about half the time it is used for preventative refuge. That is if somebody's husband comes home drunk from town the family will come down here before something happens. They know the signs, they know what's going to happen so they get out before it does," Ms Malden said.

The Safe House has six local workers who can be called upon to stay with the families while they are at the House.

The Yuendumu Men's Night Patrol make sure they keep an eye on the man involved as the community are extremely concerned that the men could self-harm from shame.

The Yuendumu Women's Safe House, will be available to all ladies (Indigenous and non Indigenous) living or travelling within the region, including ladies from Nyrripi, Willowra, Yuelamu, Alice

Springs, outstations and the Granite Mines area.

The decision to support the establishment of a community safe house was made by Yuendumu men and women.

A number of Yuendumu women travelled to visit other Aboriginal community safe houses (Ali-Curung and Lajamanu in particular) to investigate how they operate and to speak with male elders on other communities about their experiences in having and promoting the functions of a safe house within their community.

The Alice Springs Crisis Shelter have negotiated with the Yuendumu Community to act as a "big sister" to the staff at the Yuendumu safe house for as long as they require their professional support.



Above: Yuendumu ladies come out in style for the Safe House opening
Below: Lorraine Nungarryai speaks about the need for the Safe House in Yuendumu. Rex Granites Japanangka also spoke at the opening about the pressures the Warlpiri face in



DRY TOWN PLANS FOR ALICE

Mayor Fran Kilgariff says anti-social behaviour is on the rise, CLP MLA Richard Lim says it's anarchy in the streetsBut CLC director David Ross says it can be alleviated by substantial investment in education and infrastructure in the bush

The Alice Springs Town Council has called on the Northern Territory Government to use its new Anti-Social Behaviour legislation to declare the entire town a dry area in much the same way as Port Augusta in South Australia currently has.

Alice Springs Mayor Fran Kilgariff told ABC Radio that the problem of drunks in town was getting worse.

"We are very concerned that the perceived level of anti-social behaviour is rising in town. Certainly

there are more people in town and we hope to be able to reduce that with the Dry Area legislation.

CLC Director David Ross said that the CLC had fought for years against the number of liquor outlets in town.

"We've raised these issues for years and nothing has been done.

"Twenty years ago a large group of women came to town from the bush and marched down the street imploring the government to take action and close some liquor outlets. No-

body listened to them. They were laughed at.

"For years we made approaches to the Grants Commission urging for money to be spent in the bush on infrastructure and services until we sounded like a broken record.

"Two years ago we wanted to restrict sales for one day for the CLC's 30th Anniversary and the outcry was overwhelming although we were successful in the end.

"The success of that alcohol-free event has become a model of good planning and

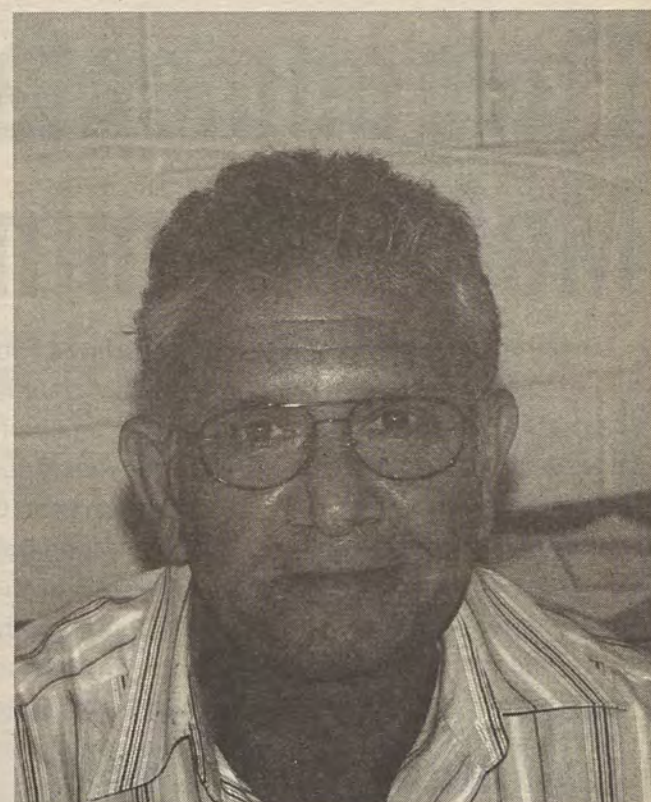
even the Government has acknowledged that.

"But we still advocate very strongly that investment in the bush in education and infrastructure will pay off.

"It's time to stop the neglect and invest soundly for the future although unfortunately Government policy appears to be doing exactly the opposite.

"Building the bush will, without a doubt, economically and socially benefit Alice Springs and everybody else.

"People should remember the con-



CLC director David Ross

siderable input to the local economy which Aboriginal people contribute in terms of Aboriginal art, mining on Aboriginal land and the number of Aboriginal organisations in town which employ hundreds of people.

"Furthermore, these organisations spend lo-

cally," Mr Ross said.

Welfare groups are sceptical about the impact of declaring Alice Springs a dry area, saying that it will just move the problem behind closed doors and domestic violence and disputes with neighbours will increase.

NLC visits Lucas Heights reactor

Members of the Northern Land Council (NLC) Executive have toured the Lucas Heights nuclear facility located on the outskirts of Sydney.

NLC Chairman, John Daly, said the visit to the Australian Nuclear Science Technology Organisation (ANSTO) allowed members to receive a comprehensive briefing regarding uranium related issues.

"We wanted to see for ourselves what impact, if any, a waste repository would have in the NT," Mr Daly said

"The NLC is determined to ensure that traditional owners are fully informed from a contemporary scientific perspective regarding uranium related matters."

The visit to ANSTO allowed the NLC executive

members to make their own observations, ask their own questions and form their own conclusions regarding the operation of Australia's only nuclear reactor, the storage of low and intermediate level radioactive waste, and nuclear medicine.

"The ANSTO presentation was comprehensive and informative, and will assist traditional owners when making decisions regarding uranium mining, exploration, or the location of a Commonwealth radioactive waste facility," Mr Daly said.

In 2005 the Commonwealth Government passed legislation to ensure that a national radioactive waste repository would be located in the NT by 2011, either at one of three defence sites or on land nominated by a Land Council or the NT Chief Min-



Above: NLC staff and Executive members at Lucas Heights in Sydney

ister.

The legislation overrode objections by the NT Chief Minister, Clare Martin, who opposed the national facility.

"Presently, the only sites proposed for the waste

facility are on defence land, and consultations with traditional owners are proceeding at Fishers Ridge near Katherine in the NLC's region," Mr Daly said.

"The NLC will ensure that comprehensive consultations

are carried out with traditional owners on any other site which may be proposed in the NLC's region."

PETROL SNIFFING IN THE NORTHERN TERRITORY BANNED

Northern Territory Family and Community Services Minister, Delia Lawrie says the Volatile Substance Abuse Prevention Act which was passed in February, will give communities the support they need to protect children and help their young people get back on track.

"Police, the courts and the community now have the powers and support they need to tackle petrol sniffing," said Ms Lawrie.

"The legislation gives police the power to seize petrol when it is being abused."

Intoxicated sniffers can be taken to a place of safety and compulsory treatment programs can be ordered.

"The legislation also includes some of the toughest penalties in Australia for illegal petrol trafficking. Communities will be helped to make decisions about the supply of petrol and

other volatile substances," Ms Lawrie said.

Tristan Ray, Coordinator for the Central Australian Youth Link Up Service says that there are many positive aspects to the new legislation.

"Police now have the power to step in and take petrol off kids. Most communities have wanted the police to do that for a long time and a lot of the good police used to do it anyway.

"It also allows communities to plan ahead and regulate what comes in and what doesn't and we will be consulting with them about this soon.

"And it allows people to do in traffickers and know that they will be anonymous.

"On the negative side we feel the Government should invest in the existing successful treatment centres out bush - they got nothing under this deal," Mr Ray said.

Opal fuel pump unveiled in Alice

The first Opal fuel pump has been unveiled in Alice Springs to coincide with the Territory's new petrol sniffing laws.

Opal is a new non aromatic fuel developed by BP which won't give petrol sniffers a high.

The Opal will be available at BP Alice City. While 52 Indigenous communities are now using the fuel, many submissions to a Senate inquiry into petrol sniffing on remote communities call for a more comprehensive roll out including major towns like Alice Springs and roadhouses.

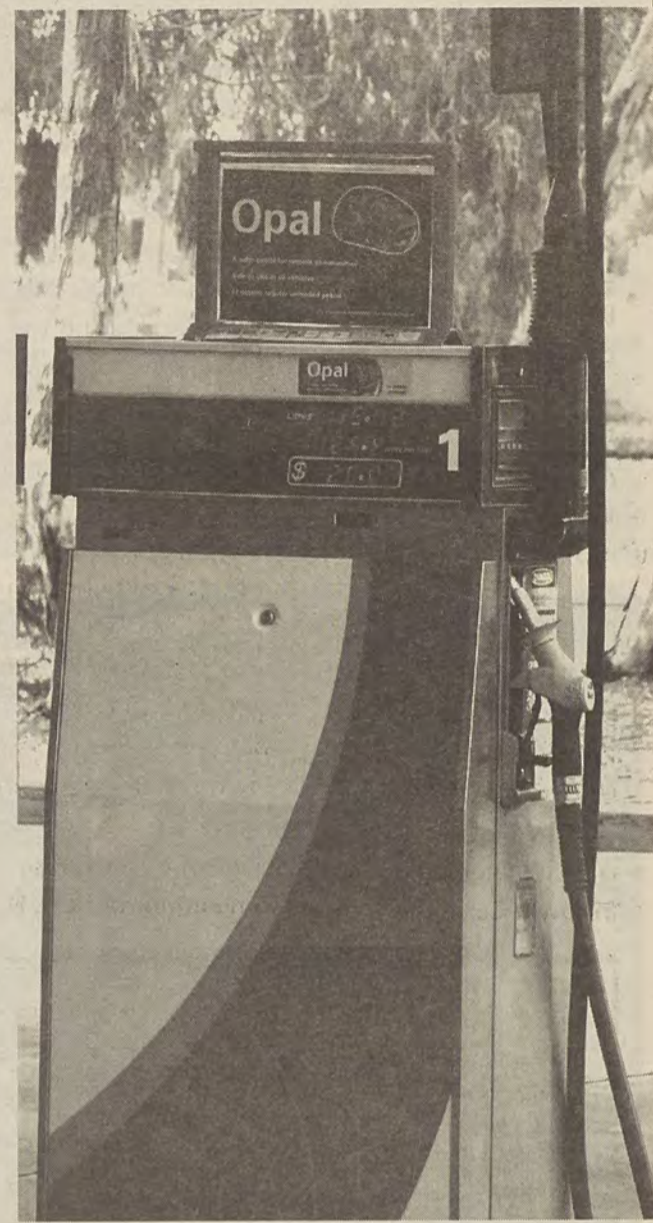
An extended roll out of OPAL fuel is taking place as part of the Commonwealth Government's plan to combat petrol sniffing

in the Central Desert Region of the Northern Territory, Western Australia and South Australia.

The eight-point plan targets petrol sniffing in the region through the introduction of OPAL fuel, education programs and rehabilitation services.

The Commonwealth has allocated \$6.5 million to the plan.

The roll out of Opal across the Territory was a key issue for a number of submissions to the Senate inquiry into petrol sniffing held in Alice Springs recently.



But Thirsty Thursday is gone

Thirsty Thursday in Tennant Creek has gone.

In its place will be a complete ban on the sale of port and take away outlets won't open until 2pm.

The new arrangements will be in place by April this year.

Executive Director for the NT Treasury's Racing, Gaming and Licensing Division Elizabeth Morris told ABC Radio that despite Thirsty Thursday, figures had shown that port was still a major problem in the town.

"There's been little

change over the past few years in relation to the sale of fortified wine and it was very high, compared to the national average, and certainly even compared to the Northern Territory average for the sales of fortified wine.

"Port, it appears, is much worse for you physically and mentally than cask wine. In banning port, we anticipate that there will be a switch from people who were heavy drinkers to cask wine.

To prevent the anticipated switch to cask wine, sales will be

limited to two litres per person per day. Ms Morris said that enforcement will be done in several ways.

"One of the new conditions is in relation to surveillance equipment at take-away premises and licensed hotels, in relation to being able to view footage and retain footage of what's happening on a certain day," she said.

However it was unclear what measures will be taken to prevent people buying more grog at another outlet or whether busy

bottle shop staff would be checking surveillance tapes to catch multiple purchasers.

A key Aboriginal organisation in Tennant Creek is said to be 'disappointed' that Thursdays which acted as a 'respite day' were now gone.

Thirsty Thursday has been in place for 10 years. Thursdays were chosen because that was the day Centrelink payments were made and it was the worst day of the week for binge drinking. Centrelink payments are now made every day of the week

Alcohol court a case of too little too late

The Central Land Council says the NT Government's new legislation for an Alcohol Court is "a simplistic, unconsidered solution to the complex set of factors that underlie alcohol misuse by individuals," which does not have the serious commitment of the Northern Territory Government behind it.

"The CLC is unconvinced that there are enough treatment options currently available in Alice Springs to support a properly functioning alcohol court. The small amount of funding allocated by the NTG to service providers - \$560,000 per annum - will not meet the demand for treatment services," CLC Director David Ross said

"People living in areas outside of Alice Springs or Darwin will not have access to the alcohol courts and there are estimates that the two new clinical staff engaged to deal with clients before the Alcohol Court will be able to manage a case load of 80 clients a year but in 2003-2004 more than 2000 cases came under court jurisdiction," Mr Ross said.

Ntaria Rangers rescued from funding hole

Rangers at Ntaria (Hermannsburg) 100 kilometres west of Alice Springs have been temporarily funded under an arrangement between the Tjuwanpa Outstation Resource Centre (TORC) and the Central Land Council.

The Resource Centre came to the rescue with funding for a coordinator employed by the CLC and a troop carrier to revive the ranger program started last year.

The ranger program has widespread community support, especially among the young people who stand to gain work experience in the adjoining national parks under the new

joint management arrangements.

The rangers are the result of a positive partnership between Tjuwanpa Outstation Resource Centre, CLC, CDEP, the NT Parks and Wildlife Service and the Ntaria community as a whole.

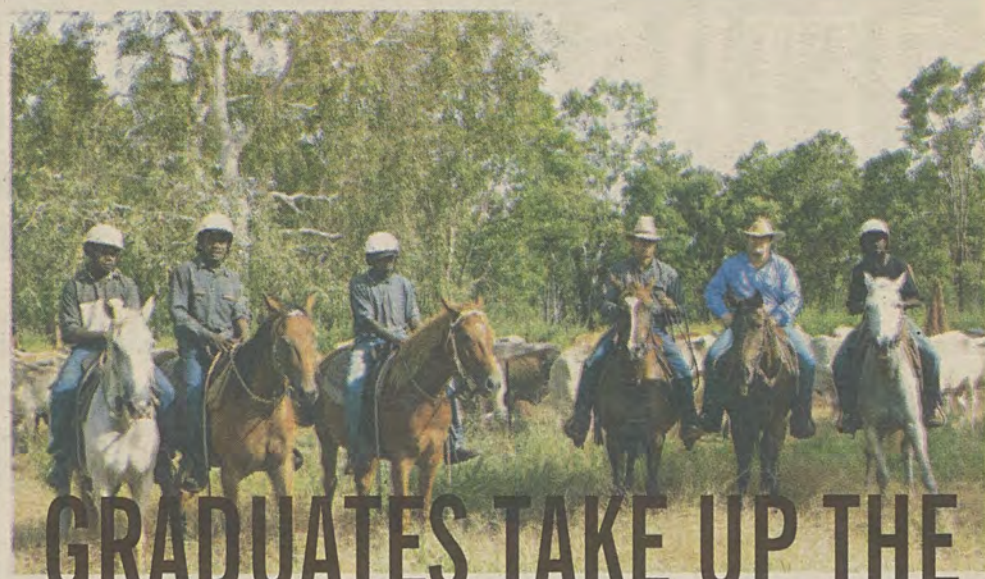
In addition to more conventional park work, people will use their traditional knowl-

edge and gain accredited training through the Batchelor Institute. Upcoming jobs include a possum survey, walking track maintenance, fencing and recording traditional plant use. People must be on CDEP to take part in the ranger program. People on CDEP with organisations other than Tjuwanpa are also welcome to participate.



Above: Clinton Katarinja preparing an end-assembly for campground fencing.

Below: Max Fejo digging a post-hole to install a gate at 8-Mile Gap.



GRADUATES TAKE UP THE PASTORAL TRADITION

The Indigenous Pastoral Program (IPP), an initiative of the the Northern and Central Land Councils, Indigenous Land Corporation, and the Northern Territory Government, has just graduated its first intake of Aboriginal stockmen.

The IPP has given nine young Aboriginal men an opportunity to kick-start their careers in the NT pastoral industry.

Following the 13-week course the group of nine have been exposed to all the necessary skills they will require to succeed in the industry, including basic horsemanship, cattle management, fence maintenance, as well as general mechanical and property maintenance.

"Commitment, responsibility and reliability. We try and drum that into their heads, because we have cattle stations that have committed themselves to taking these fellas on," course mentor and trainer Bill Fordham said.

Mr Fordham knows what it takes to be a good stockman, he's been involved in the Northern Territory (NT) pastoral industry for more than 50 years.

The properties that have agreed to take the graduates on include Helen Springs, Brunchilly and Banka Banka, all members of the S.K Kidman group of companies.

Located primarily in the Barkly region of the NT, the properties are close to the graduates' hometown of Tennant

Creek.

Mr Fordham said Aboriginal involvement in the NT pastoral industry had a long history, which the Indigenous Pastoral Program aims to tap into by providing access to a talented, ready-made workforce.

"They've got natural talent," Mr Fordham said.

"You can send them out anywhere in a paddock and they are not lost. They've got bush skills... they are there, they often live on or near the property, they aren't going to move back to Sydney or Brisbane once the season is done."

Sam Tapp, an instructor with the NT Rural College agrees.

"The Aboriginal stockmen kind of made the cattle industry in the early days so we try and tell them a bit of their history behind it so they can feel proud," he said.

Plans are already in motion to expand the program to include another five more courses in the coming months.

Above: Some of the group of trainees at Mataranka

Below: New graduate Clinton is heading to Helen Springs



Remote pools boost Aboriginal child health

With the possibility of swimming pools on the horizon for Yuendumu and Kintore, a comprehensive study into the impact of swimming pools in remote Aboriginal communities has found significant health and social benefits for children.

A research team from the Telethon Institute for Child Health Research has followed the health status of children from Jigalong, Burringurrah and Mugarinya Aboriginal communities since 2000 when the remote community pools were first opened.

At a special swimming carnival in Jigalong, Institute Director Professor Fiona Stanley today thanked the community for their participation in the study over the past six years.

Olympic Gold medalist Shane Gould helped to organise the carnival, leading the children in a range of fun activities as well as developing their swimming skills. "We now have firm evidence that these pools are a great investment

not simply for fun, but for a range of health and social benefits," Professor Stanley said. Professor Stanley said the study results showed a big drop in ear and skin disease when children are swimming for sustained periods of time.

"We know that extremely high rates of ear disease have caused many children to suffer significant hearing loss which disrupts their education and increases the level of disadvantage that these children face," she said.

"These pools appear to be an effective option that has real long term benefits for the children and the community as a whole.

"For these results to be sustained it is important that the pools remain

open for as long as possible each year."

Professor Stanley said that during the period 2001-2005 at Jigalong clinic there have been reductions of:

- 41% in antibiotic prescriptions
- 44% in ear disease
- 51% in skin disease
- 63% in respiratory disease when compared with the pre-pool rates.

Professor Stanley said the reduction in skin sores was important. Skin sores are associated with rheumatic heart disease and glomerulonephritis (kidney disease) the effects of which can be very debilitating or fatal.

"If we can stop young children getting skin sores, we may reduce the risk of kidney and heart disease later," she



Community kids at a swimming carnival in Alice Springs

said. "What this research has done is produce real evidence to support the importance of providing infrastructure in remote communities. "While the investment

in pools is significant, the ongoing benefits for the children and the community are much greater."

The pools are operated by the Royal Life Saving Society of Aus-

tralia (RLSSA). Qualified RLSSA instructors are teaching the children to swim using the "Swim and Survive" program.

Share the Fish Recognise our Rights

The Northern Land Council and senior traditional owners pushed for recognition of Aboriginal sea rights at the international Sharing the Fish conference held in Fremantle, West Australia in February.

Northern Land Council Seas Policy Officer John Christopherson asked to speak at the conference after noticing that the program almost completely overlooked Indigenous fishing rights.

He spoke to conference delegates about the importance of involving Aboriginal people in the management of activities that impact on their sea country.

"When the allocation of fish stocks in the Northern Territory is being considered, then there are a number of issues that arise with it," Mr Christopherson said.

He reminded the group of international experts that almost 85 percent of the Northern Territory coastline is Aboriginal land.

John spoke from his own experience as a traditional owner, as Chairman of the Gurig Gunuk Barlu (Coburg) National Park and as a spokesperson for the NLC, when he said; "traditional owners want to participate in the commercial side of things and also in marine and coastal management activities."

During the conference, traditional owners in-



NLC delegate Peter Pender and traditional owners Raylene Singh (Larrakia) and Graham Friday (Yanyuwa)

cluding senior Larrakia woman Raylene Singh and Yanyuwa traditional owner Graham Friday, heard about the way Maori sea rights are treated in New Zealand.

Maori fishing rights were acknowledged and preserved in the 2004 New Zealand Fishing Act.

Today, the Maori en-

joy a 70 percent stake in international seafood company Sealords and an income of more than \$66 million.

The Northern Territory Government is currently considering declaring a marine park in parts of Raylene Singh's sea country.

"There are many sites in the area that

are significant not only to my people, but for various marine species as well" Raylene said.

"There is a turtle breeding ground close by. I know of a breeding area for Barramundi - that I will never tell about - and there is one particular island that is over-running with dangerous snakes.

"Protecting these

areas is something I would one day like to achieve," Raylene said.

For Raylene Singh and Graham Friday, who have stood on the shores of their ancestral estates and looked out over the sea, perhaps there is hope that one day they too can become legitimate players in marine management.

Newcastle Waters native title claim a 'test case'

A native title claim over a pastoral lease in the Northern Territory has been described as a 'test case'.

The Federal Court native title hearing sat recently at the historic township of Newcastle Waters, near Elliott in the Northern Territory to hear testimony from Aboriginal traditional owners, and pastoralists from the Newcastle Waters and Murrarji pastoral leases.

The court heard from senior traditional owners such as Pompey Raymond about their cultural connections to country, their experience with the cattle industry, and their rights under customary law.

Several site inspections to places such as Beetaloo and Longreach were cancelled due to wet season storms

The hearings will continue in Darwin in the first week of April.



Above: Federal Court native title hearing at Newcastle Waters in session.

Left: Jimmy Wavehill

Far left: Pompey Raymond

Lower left: Stuart Nuggett, Janet Sandy Gregory and Samuel Sandy

Below: Traditional owners Shannon Dixon and Jimmy Wavehill

Bottom left: Local women watch proceedings

bottom: Lizzie and Janie Dixon



Employment expo for Mutitjulu residents

An Employment Expo at the Mutitjulu community in February was a significant step to show local Aboriginal people what types of employment opportunities there were in the area.

Numerous employers from the area participated in the Expo, including Voyages Ayers Rock Resort, Nyangatjajara College, the Central Land Council, UKTNP, Anangu Tours, Anangu Job Network, Yulara Police and Fire services, Indigenous Business and Industry Services (DBIRD) and Air

Services Australia. Importantly the residents of Mutitjulu had the opportunity to talk personally with employer representatives and current Indigenous staff.

Harold Howard, manager of the CLC's employment program said several young men had registered for work at the Granites mine. Uluru and Kata Tjuta National Park also attracted interest.

"We got 15 people registering interest in working in various sections of the Park which is fantastic," Ms Liz

Davies, Recruitment Officer at UKTNP said.

Voyages Ayers Rock Resort Indigenous Employment Coordinator Ms Carol Stanislaus said the Expo was a great opportunity for both employees and employers to meet and network

"The Expo provided Anangu with an awareness of the other employers at Yulara and gained first hand experience from Indigenous staff who are employed by the various participating operators," Ms Stanislaus said.

Below: Nyangatjajara College at the Expo,

Bottom: Anangu ladies turned out to support better opportunities for their community

Right: CLC Employment Unit staff Yvette Hampton and Harold Howard at the CLC stall



COP SHOP FOR MUTITJULU

Mutitjulu will get its first police station by August this year.

The first sod was turned this month and construction will begin immediately.

The facility is a joint initiative between the Commonwealth and Northern Territory Governments, with the Commonwealth allocating \$1.9 million to construction and the Territory committing \$400,000

to construction and ongoing staffing and running costs.

"For the first time, there will be a permanent police presence at Mutitjulu, enabling police to respond more quickly to incidents in the community and work with the community in developing longer-term strategies to build a safer community for residents and tourists alike," NT Police Minister Mr Henderson said.

"The new facility will include a Police Post and two three-bedroom houses for two Aboriginal Community Police Officers (ACPOs) who will be stationed at the community.

"The ACPOs will be supported by police officers stationed at nearby Yulara, strengthening the police abilities to tackle key issues such as alcohol and petrol abuse and trafficking.



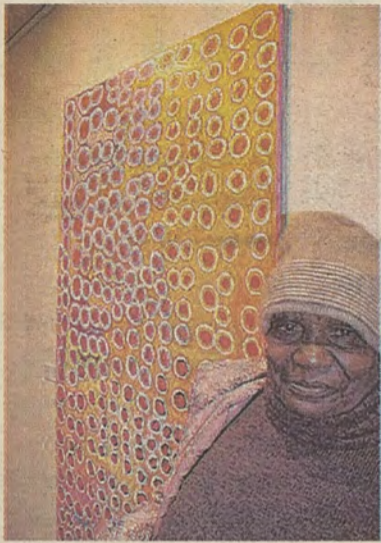
COMMUNITY CLEANUP? GET CARS CRUSHED FOR FREE

A feasibility study is being done by Alice Springs company Russ Driver & Co. to determine whether it would be economical to visit communities and recycle cars, aluminium, copper, brass, electrical wiring and other recyclables.

This will be a free service but communities need to register their interest NOW

call Rodger Hogben on
89521087

WARLUKURLANGU ARTISTS



Betsy Lewis in front of her painting

Warlukurlangu Artists at Yuendumu are making their own mark in the world of Aboriginal art.

While the provenance and values of paintings painted in privately-run sweat shops are currently under a cloud, community-run art centres like Warlukurlangu have an added appeal for art buyers - the buyer knows that the painting is authentic and the painter received fair payment for it.

This year three artists from the Warlukurlangu Artists Aboriginal Association went to an opening of the Warlukurlangu Collection at the Aboriginal Art Museum in Utrecht in the Netherlands.

The artists were Bessie Nakamarra Sims, Judy Napangardi Watson and Betsy Napangardi Lewis.

The museum is also exhibiting 12 of the famous original Yuendumu School Doors painted by Paddy Japaljarri Stewart, Paddy Japaljarri Sims, and the late Larry Jungarrayi Spencer and late Paddy Jupurrula Nelson.

The exhibition will be shown in Utrecht for six months and then it will travel to the Sprengel Museum in Hannover, Germany.

The exhibition also commemorates four hundred years of contact between the Dutch and Indigenous Australians. more information: [info@warlu.com]



Above: Warlukurlangu Artists in Utrecht, Holland

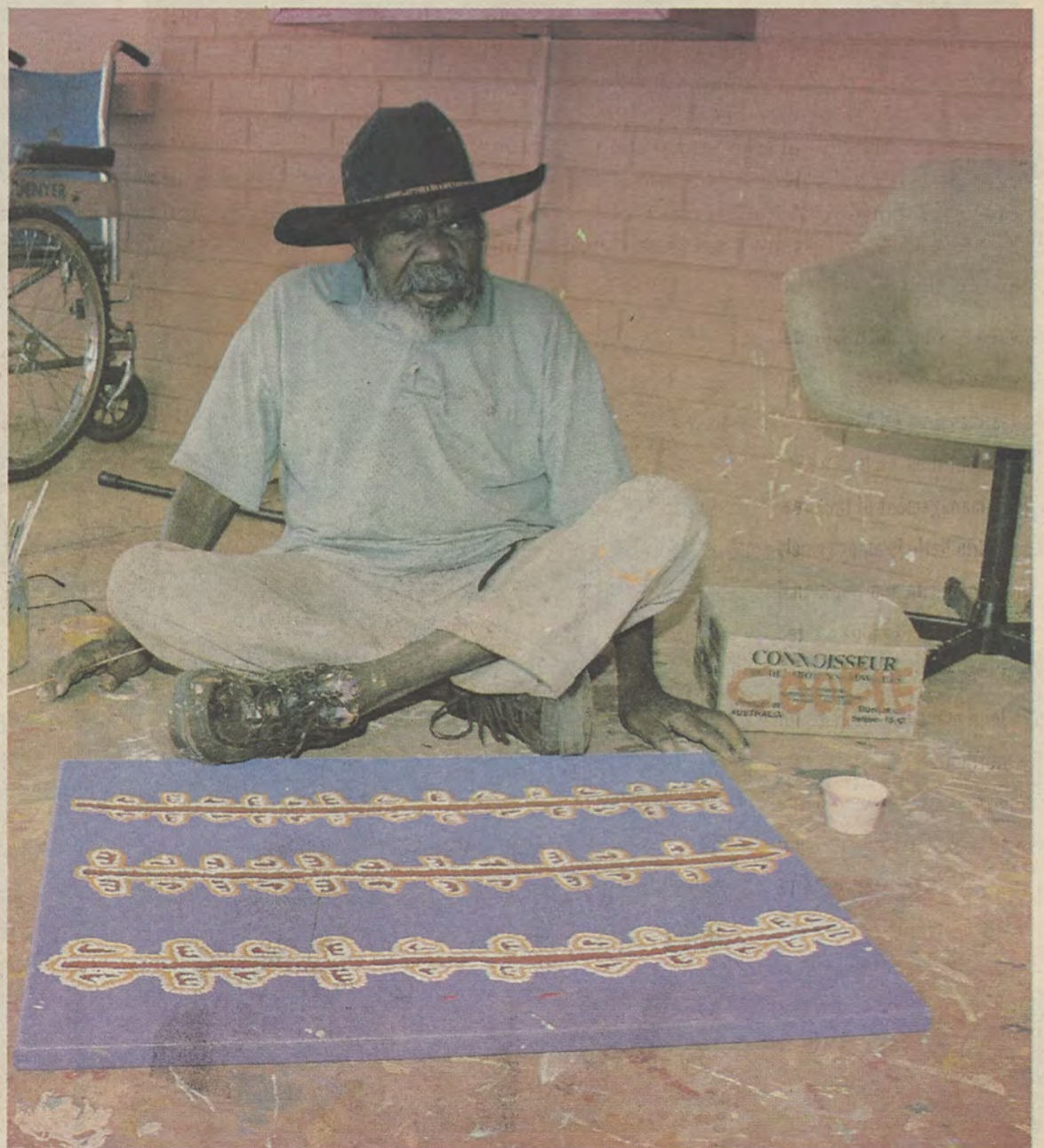
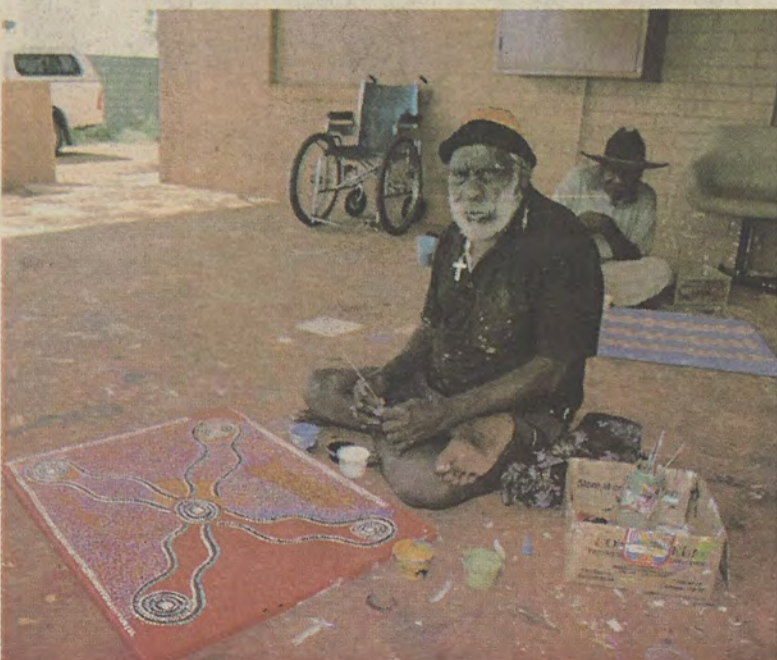


Above: This is the first time that the famous Yuendumu School Doors have been exhibited in Europe

Below left: Mopra Napangardi, Bessie Nakamarra and Rosie Napangardi

Below: Paddy Stewart Japaljarri

Below left: Paddy Sims



Aboriginal tourism gets kick start in the Centre

Aboriginal tourism in Central Australia is growing thanks to a successful partnership between the Central Land Council and the NT Tourist Commission.

CLC Director David Ross says the CLC has seconded an Aboriginal Tourism Development Officer from the Tourist Commission to plan and develop sustainable new indigenous tourism enterprises on Aboriginal land and jointly-managed parks and to support existing and emerging indigenous tourism operators.

CLC Director David Ross says demand for the service from the CLC's constituents is extremely high and already projects on the Mereenie Loop Road area and Lindsay Bookie's Bushtucker Tours near Bonya have benefited from expertise offered by the partnership.

"A number of existing indigenous operators are receiving further development assistance to consolidate their 'product' while a further 20 known interests are under some level of ongoing assessment or consultation.

"Aboriginal people and a number of Aboriginal organisations have clearly indicated that they are willing to invest their own money, where available, in major tourism infrastructure and activity on Aboriginal land and are willing joint venture partners where sound opportunities present themselves," Mr Ross said.

"Examples of this are Glen Helen Lodge, Kings



Canyon Resort, Anangu Tours.

"At least two groups have initiated their own planning and development processes to establish substantial new tourist facilities in the region, one in the vicinity of the Lasseter Highway/Luritja road junction and the other in the Camel Hump vicinity on the Haasts Bluff Aboriginal Land Trust.

"Whilst CLC has a statutory function to under-

Above: Traditional owner Conrad Ratara with Zac Drakic from NT Tourism in the West MacDonnells

Above left: Tour operator Lindsay Bookie

Above Mt Sonder in The West MacDonnell Ranges

take this work, we cannot do it on our own. And this partnership has delivered," Mr Ross said.

Right: CLC staff and traditional owners of Karlu Karlu (Devils Marbles near Tennant Creek) talk about their aspirations for joint management of the area.

Karlu Karlu is an extremely significant site and traditional owners have long wanted some say in how it is managed.

Joint management plans for Northern Territory parks are now being drawn up with the traditional owners input

see story page 12



WORKING TOGETHER

Traditional owners finally have their say in how the Territory's parks are run

Joint management planning for the Territory's parks has started. New Plans of Management are being written for Northern Territory Parks and Reserves with Traditional Owners, Parks and Wildlife staff and CLC working together.

This joint approach ensures the new set of rules for each place includes the cultural values and aspirations of its people.

Meetings to discuss new plans have been held at Rainbow Valley Conservation Reserve (Ure), Devils Marbles Conservation Reserve (Karlukarlu), East MacDonnell Ranges and the West MacDonnell National Park in Central Australia. In addition, six trainee rangers were taken on by the Northern Territory Parks and Wildlife Service at the end of last year.

This first intake of Aboriginal trainee rangers will train for 18 months before gain-



Above: CLC staff, traditional owners and NT Parks planning for joint management at Rainbow Valley

ing permanent employment with NTPWS.

Four of the positions are in Central Australia (three at the Alice Springs Telegraph Station and one at Tennant Creek), the other six are in the Top End (four at Larrakia and two at

Katherine).

Other traditional owners have been finding work through the Flexible Employment Program (FEP) which provides work experience and training for short term projects on parks and reserves.

FEP projects generally involve a mix of standard park management work and more traditional tasks for senior people to be involved in a cultural or advisory role.

FEP has provided employment and training for traditional owners at Wa-

tarrka National Park, West MacDonnell National Park, Devils Marbles Conservation Reserve, Davenport Range National Park, Rainbow Valley Conservation Reserve and the Finke Gorge National Park.

Cultural mapping has provided other traditional owners with some work.

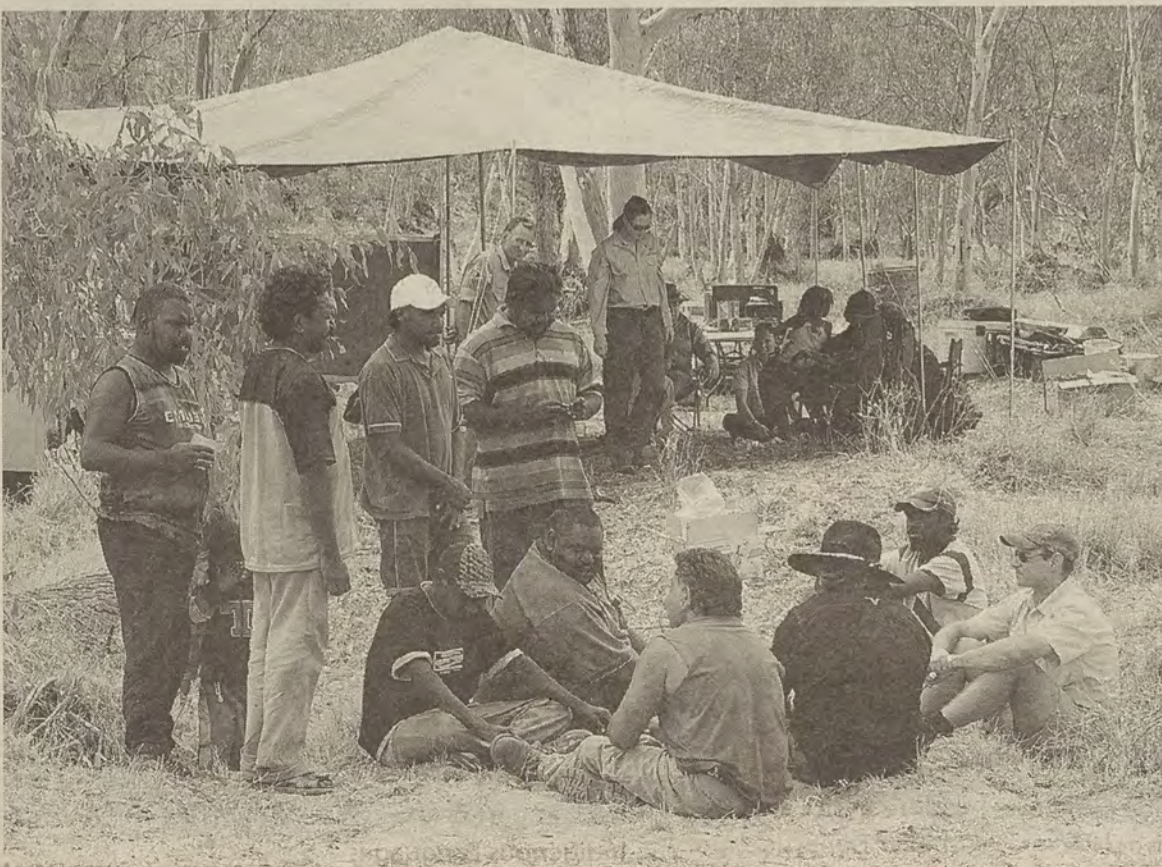
At the end of last year senior traditional owners were engaged to survey, assess, map and document cultural values for their country – including the East MacDonnell Ranges, Devils Marbles Conservation Reserve and the Davenport Range National Park.

This information will be used in park management programs and Joint Management Plans.

The reports can be found on the CLC's website at <http://www.clc.org.au/our-land/landmanagement.asp>

Right: Decision making time for the Rainbow Valley traditional owners

Below: Camp at Finke Gorge National Park to talk about joint management. The project has attracted enormous interest
Below right: A site visit at Rainbow Valley



Tanami rained out



Extremely high rainfalls in the Tanami Desert – said to be a 1 in 1000 year event – have closed the road for several months. While Yuendumu residents are able to come and go, the road past the Granites Mine to the WA border has barriers in place and penalties for foolhardy travel.

Bilinarra Woman Takes Indigenous Story Prize

Bilinarra elder Ivy Hector Nambijina took out a \$1000 cash prize when her story, 'Ngayiny Jaru Jarragab (My Story),' won the contemporary story category of the 2005 NT Indigenous Languages Story Writing competition.

The story, told in a mix of Bilinarra, Ivy's traditional language, and Kriol, the Aboriginal language widely spoken across the Top End, describes what life was like for Ivy and her family when she was a young woman working at Pigeon Hole cattle station, south-west of Katherine in the Northern Territory.

"It's an amazing story," says Justin Spence, a linguist working with Diwurruwurru-Jaru Aboriginal Corporation (the language centre for the Katherine



Ivy Hector Nambijina with Anna and Tom, two of her great-grand children

region), who helped Ivy write the story down and translate it into English.

"It gives a clear picture of what life was like for Indigenous people working on cattle stations at the time. There are so

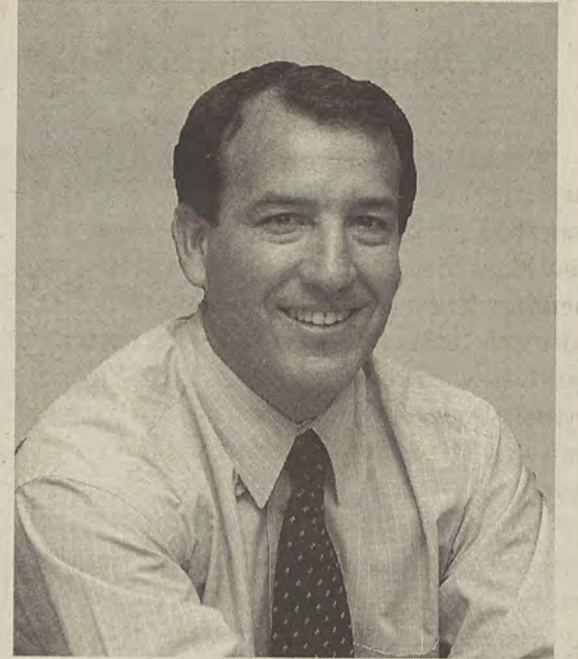
many people who had similar experiences, and it's important for these stories to be heard by a wide audience."

'My Story' describes how Ivy cooked and cleaned for stockmen on the station and how her family travelled

hundreds of kilometres on foot back and forth between Pigeon Hole and Victoria River Downs stations during holidays.

Now in its second year, the story competition, sponsored by the NT Department of

New Minister Mal Brough



meet the new Minister - Mal Brough

Mal Brough (pronounced bruff) has replaced Amanda Vanstone as Minister for Indigenous Affairs. Mr Brough, who reportedly claims Aboriginal heritage, was appointed Minister earlier this year.

Mr Brough, 44, is a former army officer who won the seat of Longman in Queensland in 1996.

He has served in several Ministries as Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Employment, Workplace Relations and Small Business, as Minister for Revenue and Assistant Treasurer and Minister for Employment Services.

The Minister announced \$1.57 million to fund projects put forward by the Northern and Tiwi Land Councils.

Mr Brough said \$1.49 million will be spent to support the Northern Land Council's Caring for Country program.

Local Aboriginal people are employed as rangers on land care activities, including controlling pests and weeds.

"This funding will provide equipment, materials and transport to make sure the NLCs program delivers the best possible results," Mr Brough said.

"Landcare projects are an investment in the future. We need to ensure that Indigenous people are able to care for their country so that Aboriginal land remains viable over the longer term."

The funding is provided from the Aboriginal Benefit Account (ABA) for the benefit of Indigenous people in the NT.

Employment, Education, and Training, contributes to the maintenance of Indigenous culture by promoting reading and writing in Indigenous languages.

'My Story' will be used as part of the Indigenous Languages

and Culture (ILC) program at Pigeon Hole School this year. DEET is considering publishing the story as an illustrated book that will be available to teachers around the Northern Territory.

HOMELESS AND HELPLESS LIFE ON DIALYSIS

Dialysis patients in Alice Springs are being discharged from hospital to live in creek beds and crowded town camps.

Those that apply for public housing face a long and obstructive process, while those who want to go to hostels to feel safe and get meals and showers, live by strict rules which can include no children, no family and even curfews.

The critical shortage of low rent accommodation in Alice Springs is no secret.

Public housing waiting lists are two to three years long and all hostel accommodation is waiting list only.

Private rental is out of the question for most.

As the number of renal patients arriving from remote areas increases it is becoming clear that this group have their own particular difficulties.

Many miss the close contact of family and find it hard to live by strict hostel rules.

Evictions from hostels are common and if a resident is evicted from some hostels then they cannot apply to return to that hostel, or any hostel run by that agency, for at least a year – no matter how dire their situation.

With options running out, some dialysis patients end up living in motels and paying up to \$500 per week for a bed.

The people who are able to pay that sort of money are usually known artists who get trapped into painting canvases for motel managers in order to pay off their growing debt.

Extracting somebody from this treadmill can cost thousands of dollars.



Western Desert Dialysis worker Georgie Stuart talks with dialysis patient Leo Peterson and his family at Trucking Yards camp. Mr Peterson worries for his family now he has had to move to town to receive treatment

THE STORY OF EVICTION

The long hard road of the public housing waiting list

Allan and Lorna's story (not real people but very real events) shows how quickly the situation in public housing can deteriorate:

Allan and Lorna have lived in six different places since they arrived in Alice Springs two years ago.

They had no choice come to Alice Springs, as Allan is now a regular dialysis patient.

Three weeks ago they moved into a two bedroom public housing after waiting almost two years.

They were very excited to have their own place and hoped to get some rest and stop there for years to come.

Pretty soon extended family started to visit on their way through town.

Allan and Lorna enjoyed seeing the grandkids, aunts and uncles, but Lorna struggled to keep the house tidy.

Allan couldn't help much as he was on the machine three days a week and felt very tired the rest of the time.

At Easter big mobs of family came in from bush to stay for the football carnival.

A couple of dogs, six adults and four kids were suddenly sharing Allan and Lorna's small unit.

Mattresses had to be moved outside and rubbish bags started to pile up. House keys were spread around with family coming and going at all times.

Soon, a worker from Aboriginal Housing came around to warn them about the visitors and rubbish.

She organised for Tangentyere CDEP to help collect the extra rubbish as they had no trailer.

The visitors were due to go home the next day but it was too late.

Neighbours had made two noise complaints to Territory Housing.

Allan and Lorna received their first written warning from Territory Housing.

Not long after, the couple's son turned up drunk, late at night shouting and demanding to be let in. Lorna ran out the back to a phone box and rang the police but he had already broken the front door lock with a crowbar.

Another noise complaint was made by neighbours and Lorna and Allan received their second

warning.

Six weeks after moving in, Lorna and Allan were on the verge of eviction.

One more warning and they would have to leave.

Despite their efforts to keep the house tidy, pay their bills and call the police and night patrol when trouble started, they already had a reputation as a 'problem' house.

Overstretched services like Western Desert Dialysis, Tangentyere Council and Aboriginal Housing had all tried to assist Allan and Lorna.

Territory Housing workers had also tried to keep an eye on things but without direct case-management the problems eventually overwhelmed them.

Many applicants for Public Housing get no support from any agencies and don't know where to go to get help.

Even with assistance, Allan and Lorna left the house with an accumulated damage and cleaning bill of \$8,000.

In addition, they had not been able to retrieve all of their house keys from relatives and were charged \$800 for a complete change of locks.

These debts will take a lifetime to pay off.

The long hard road of the public housing waiting list

Many people coming in from bush for dialysis treatment apply for public housing without realising the long, hard road ahead of them. These are some of the challenges renal patients confront when they apply for public housing

one social worker for more than 120 patients

Applications are very detailed and hard to do without support from a social worker. There is just one of these at the Alice Springs renal unit for more than 120 patients.

references

Although it is not legally necessary, applicants will be told to provide Territory Housing with two references from previous landlords or support agencies

letters

When appointments come up, Territory Housing sends applicants a letter. If they don't open the letter, or it is sent to an old address and they miss the appointment, they are struck off the waiting list.

These decisions can be appealed, but most Aboriginal people who haven't lived in town long are not confident enough to do this on their own. They may not even realise they are off the list until months down the track.

interpreters not automatic

If English is an applicant's second or third language they need to request an interpreter. It won't automatically be done for them.

There are many rules to agree to at sign up time.

Even with an interpreter it is a huge amount of information to understand and agree to in one session.

start up costs are high

Many housing applicants don't know that they can set up a Trust Fund with Aboriginal Housing at the time they apply for housing.

A little bit can be deducted from their pension or pay each fortnight so that by the time they reach the top of the waiting list they will have enough money.

Start up costs include half the bond plus two weeks rent, gas connection, furniture, washing machine, fridge, curtains etc.

If patients don't have the money for at least the bond, rent and gas connection, Territory Housing will delay the application for as long as it thinks is needed to raise the money.

need transport

Applicants need transport so that they can get income statements from Centrelink, collect references, sign up for Pension Cards for free power connection and power discounts, sign up for gas and power and water connections and to finally check out a flat and move all their gear.

Most dialysis patients don't have their own car and are too frail or ill to walk around town in the hot sun.



WESTERN DESERT DIALYSIS NEWS

courtesy: Western Desert Dialysis project

Anangu from the Western Desert Region of NT & WA raised their own money from an auction of paintings to get their family members back to country on dialysis.

In September 2004 people started to go back to Walungurru (Kintore) on dialysis. This is the first and only dialysis machine out bush in Central Australia. Anangu run their own organisation, and work hard to improve life for family on dialysis. In Alice Springs they run a dialysis house and employ two hard working part time patient support workers and a part time manager. Two nurses help people with their dialysis.

With the help of Papunya Tula Artists and Sothebys, a major fund raiser is being organised in London in June and with the help of the Indigenous Coordination Centre, committee are meeting to develop a comprehensive Shared Responsibility Agreement to assist with expansion of services.

We get a lot of enquiries from other communities where people are facing the same problems, forced to relocate to cities to receive dialysis, far from family and country. We try to tell them our story, to talk about what can be done to get people home.

Last year we caught up with Jimmy Little and his manager Buzz Bidstrup and friend Don Palmer. Jimmy was on dialysis and got a kidney transplant over a year ago. He has decided he wants to help remote communities to get their people home and is setting up a foundation to raise money. Jimmy came to visit us in Alice and then spent two days in Kintore talking to the mob, singing at the Christmas party and looking at our dialysis set up out there. It was a great trip and we send a big thank you to Jimmy Buzz and Don for making the time to come and see us.



Top: Jimmy Little meets the kids in Kintore
Middle: Mrs Tolson and Amy Nampitjinpa on a visit to country during a dialysis trip to Kintore
Jimmy sings for Kintore

Alice young people land themselves jobs and careers

courtesy Footprints Forward



Kris Davis was introduced to Mecair Engineering in Alice Springs through a school work experience scheme involving Charles Darwin University Pathways program and Footprints Forward Inc.

While he was at school, Kris would go to work two days a week to help out.

He enjoyed the work so much he stayed on.

Footprints Forward helped in the process of organising Kris and his school and mentoring Kris.

Grace Gorey, a fluent Arrernte speaker comes from the tiny mission of Santa Teresa, approximately 80 kilometres outside of Alice Springs and got her first start at employment prospects through the mentoring services of Footprints Forward.

Grace had just completed schooling in Darwin, returned to Alice, and walked

into the Footprints Forward Office in the CAAMA Building wishing to find work in the field of Social Welfare. With the assistance of a Footprints Forward Staff member, Grace was assisted in doing up a resume and putting together a job application. Grace commenced a cadetship last year with the NT Government and is now studying at the University of South Australia doing a Bachelor in Social Work while working for the Government on her breaks.

Cleaning gutters one day for Alice Springs plumber DJ Gould turned into a permanent job for Tony Howard. Tony is pleased with his new job.

"The blokes are a great mob to work with. David and the others have really taught me a lot. I am enjoying the work and appreciate the trust shown in me."

"It really gives me confidence in myself and my ability to learn about the plumbing industry," he said.

Anthony Ormond



did his schooling in Alice Springs and landed a trainee administrators job at the Granites Mine through the Central Land Council Mining employment unit and Footprints Forward.

"I would like to thank Footprints Forward, Central Land Council, and Newmont Granites for giving me a chance. I suggest to other young indigenous people to stay in

school or if you are not in school anymore to undertake an apprenticeship or do a course to go to your chosen field".

Ben Campbell is another Footprints Forward success story, having been introduced to Peter Nelson of Milner Meat Supply for work experience through Charles Darwin University Pathways program. Ben is now an apprentice at Milner Meats

top left: Ben Campbell, top right: Grace Gorrie
middle left: Anthony Ormond at the Granites gold mine
middle right: Kris Davis at Mecair
Lower right: Tony Howard at work plumbing

23rd Telstra National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Art Award



entries invited

Telstra Award \$40,000
category prizes \$4,000 each
entry for preselection closes
Friday 31 March 2006

All prizes including the Telstra Award of \$40,000 are non-acquisitive.

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



Museum & Art Gallery
of the Northern Territory



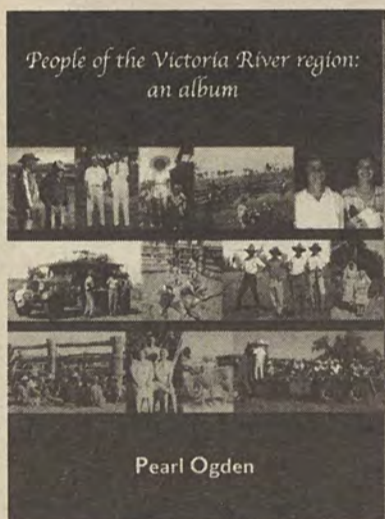
Army builds Borroloola houses

The Army are in Borroloola surveying and sorting out logistics in readiness for the construction of 15 new houses in the town. The houses are to be built as part of a new housing program for the community. The army will be building six new houses at Yanyula Camp to assist in reducing the current housing shortage for Aboriginal people.

Children from the Borroloola Community Education Centre were given a tour of the RAAF Hercules aircraft. The aircraft loaded up two vehicles and 15 men, to transport them back to their base in Townsville, a flight of about an hour and a half. The army expects to begin building works in April this year



BOOK REVIEW



People of the Victoria River Region: An Album
By Pearl Ogden
PO Box 39562
Winellie Darwin
NT 0821
Ph: (08) 8981 1236

Darwin-based historian Pearl Ogden has published a collection of photographs and accounts of working life of Europeans and Aborigines in the Victoria River region from 1935 to 1939.

Many of the photographs came from former workers and the book includes stories about drovers, stockmen, cooks, saddlers, drillers, boremen, fencing contractors and station staff.

Ogden looks at the early development of the pastoral industry and includes the effects it had on Aboriginal groups in the area such as the Ngarinman, the Bilinara, the Jaminjung, the Mudbara, and the Wardaman.

'The local Aborigines resented the pastoral intrusion into their land. Much of the violence between blacks and whites in those early days came as a result of increased cattle numbers. The cattle spoiled the water holes and when the Aborigines speared them, the Europeans retaliated. Aborigines also resented the loss of their land, the intrusion into and lack of respect for their traditional way of life, beliefs and Dreamings.'

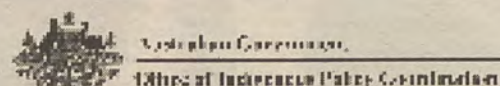
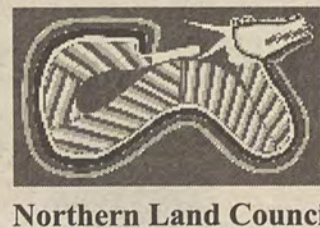
Native Title Conference – 2006

The Native Title Conference 2006: "Tradition and Change" is being co-convened by the AIATSIS Native Title Research Unit and the Northern Land Council

The Conference is being hosted by the Larrakia people in Darwin from **24-26 May 2006**.

Note the first day of the Conference is for NTRB/NTS representatives only, the Public Program is from **25-26 May 2006**.

Visit the **Native Title Conference 2006 website** for further details.



Subdivision a first for Aboriginal land

The land within Nhulunbuy, the mining town in north-east Arnhem Land, is associated culturally by Yolngu people with the 'sugar bag dance', a dance featuring the local delicacy and treasured sweet treat – honey derived from native bees.

So it was apt that the welcome dance for a new \$10 million building project on Aboriginal land featured local children representing bees as senior Yolngu woman Raymittja Marika explained 'the future generations will reap the benefits of this project'.

Malpi Village in Nhulunbuy will include 29 houses and units, is being financed from mining royalties from the Alcan bauxite mine, and is due for completion in July.

The NT Govern-

ment will lease 13 homes to house government staff, with training provided for Aboriginal apprentices.

Ms Marika said the development represented 'a sustainable benefit and income into the future'.

"This land is very special for the local people, the Rirratjingu clan, and we acknowledge that this land is important to other clans with linkages to this place," she said.

The Rirratjingu Association's investment company, Bunuwul Investments, is financing the development and has successfully tendered for other projects around Nhulunbuy.

Bunuwul Investments chairman Djuwalpi Marika said the development is historic as it is the first traditional Aboriginal-owned subdivision in Australia.

"This is a celebration

of a new initiative, an initiative by Bunuwul Investments, for the Rirratjingu nation of this country, particularly Nhulunbuy," Mr Marika said.

"It is a privilege to witness today's achievement and to recognise the challenges of our people entering the fast modern mainstream economy."

Mr Marika said a project like this would 'strengthen Yolngu people to enter the mainstream economy'. "It is a big investment for our people. I think it is better for our people to own projects like this one, and then rent them out to outside people. This is only the first, and it is only the start of our journey," Mr Marika said.

A Darwin-based building contractor, Wild Geese and Maintenance Group, has begun work on the homes.



Members of the Rirratjingu clan - Wendy Marika and baby Malpi Marika at the launch of Malpi Village in Nhulunbuy



NT Ministers Elliott McAdam and Syd Stirling, NLC executive Dhuwarwar Marika and NLC regional manager Edna Barolits



Djuwalpi Marika



Raymittja Marika and Lak Lak Yunupingu



Above and left: Local dancers welcome visitors to the Malpi Village launch

Town Camp task force

A special Task Force established by Minister for Local Government, Housing and Sport, Elliott McAdam has been consulting community organisations and town camp residents about the social conditions in Alice Springs town camps

"This task force will assess the current state of town camps in Alice Springs and identify the key issues of significance to the stakeholders," Mr McAdam said. "This includes town camp residents, service delivery agencies and the wider Alice Springs community. "I am keen to identify where and how conditions can be improved for people who live on the town camps in the Alice Springs area." Mr McAdam said the task force will focus on a number of areas, including:

- Assessing the impact of visitors and overcrowding on town camps;
- Identifying gaps in services and suggesting ways of improving services;
- Assessing the capacity of current service providers to provide relevant and sustainable services to town camps;
- Considering roles that other stakeholders and service providers might adopt to improve the livelihoods of town camp residents and communities;
- Assessing the potential for increased employment and

training opportunities for young adults living on town camps;

- Identifying strategies to improve relationships between people living on town camps and the wider Alice Springs community;
- Reviewing governance arrangements on town camps with a view to strengthening services and encouraging partnerships and development opportunities;
- Assessing the current state of housing on town camps.

The task force would be chaired by Olga Havnen,



Town Camp Task Force Chair Olga Havnen talks with Mervyn Rubuntja at Larapinta town camp in Alice Springs recently

from the Department of Chief Minister and would report back by the end of the financial year. more information: www.dcdsca.nt.gov.au/dcdsca/intranet.nsf/pages/Taskforce

[dcdsca.nt.gov.au/dcdsca/intranet.nsf/pages/Taskforce](http://www.dcdsca.nt.gov.au/dcdsca/intranet.nsf/pages/Taskforce)

Ngayiny Jaru Jarragab "My Story"

story told by Ivy Hector Nambijina in Bilinarra/Kriol

Ngandiba bin all the time working there langa Nijburru-ngga.

All the stockmen, stockmen-gu ngandiba bin all the time cookemat dan. gu kitchen-da. Ngayi-ma bin jidan gambarnub-gaji.

I bin all the time gambarnub dan.gu for all the stockmen.

An jalag la olabat, they bin all the time takem la olabat, stockmen-gu.

They bin all the time go musteremat buligi.

An, cleanim-garra kitchen, work, ngandiba bin all the time jidan, house-da cleanim-garra, room, everything for stockmen, clean up.

Mani-rra-rnayinangulu birrgab-birrgab, and cleanim-garra.

An work ba-rnalu garrinya-rra, yala-ngga-ma Nijburru-ngga-ma. Ngandiba bin habem manager-ma.

An, holiday time-ma ngandiba bin all the time going, futwok na garlu. Ngandiba bin all the time go Ngurrundarni.

Dirrib, Ngurrundarni-ngulu-ma Giliyanga. Giliyanga-ngulu-ma, Winingili. Winingili-ngulu-ma-rnalu yani-rra Mardbi.

Marbi-ngulu-ma-rnalu

yani-rra Wuyurl. Wuyurl-ngulu-ma-rnalu yani-rra gan-yjurra Black Springs, Winyji. Winyji-ngulu-ma-rnalu yani-rra ganimbarra, nganayi-rla, Cotton Creek.

We callem Cotton Creek gardiya-nginyi, but Dinbagarni im Aboriginal-nginyi.

Yala-ngga magin, yala-ngulu-ma-rnalu yani-rra Ngurrunggarni. Ngurrunggarni-ngulu-ma-rnalu yani-rra ganimbarra, nganayi-rla, gamurra-rnalu magin garrinya-rra.

Yala-ngulu-ma-rnalu yani-rra alibala-ma, garlu-ma, marru-nggurra-rni VRD-ngurra.

VRD-ngga-ma-rnalu work igin garrinya-rra, holiday-nginyi-ma ngandiba-ma. Work, VRD-ngga-ma, marndaj: clean up garra everything work, garrinya-rra-rnalu.

Garrwarni-rra garu-ma-rnayinangulu ganya-rra jarrwa. Nomo ngayiny garu, but ngayiny-gu sister-wu garu. Ngayi-ma najing yet, I bin jidan no garu. Nyila-ma, ngandiba bin all the time go back, sometimes ngandiba bin all the time get a lift, motika-ngga.

Sanford-ngarna motika, imin all the time go Sanford-jirri-ma. Imin all the time

takem ngandiba lun Nijburru-ngga.

Imin all the time go Sanford nyandu-ma, manager-ma Sanford-ngarna-ma. Ngayi-ma bin jidan garu-mulung yet.

Gula-rnayina garrwarni garu-ma ngayi-ma najing yet.

Lurrbu-ma work-gu-rningan. Work-ma-lu yani-rra dimana-yawung-ma. Gula-lu garrwarni helicopter-ma yet, najing.

Musteremat dimana-yawung-gurlu buligi-ma mijelb, nyarrurlu-rni. Ngayi-ma bin all the time cooking la olabat, gambarnub-gu dan.gu, kitchen-da work, helpemat cookie, washem plate everything.

Ngandiba bin habem marru-ma wan.gaj yet, tin house ngandiba bin habem. Nyila-ma today na, nyubalama house-ma.

English Translation

We were always working there at Pigeon Hole.

We would cook food for all the stockmen in the kitchen.

Me, I was a cook. I was always cooking food for the stockmen.

They took it out to the stockmen.

They would go out to muster cattle.

And we were always working, cleaning up the house and kitchen, the rooms, everything for the stockmen.

We used to make the beds and clean up.

We were working, there at Pigeon Hole. We had a manager there.

At holiday time, we went away, going on foot.

We would go to Ngurrundarni.

We would camp for one night, then from Ngurrundarni we'd go to Giliyanga.

From Giliyanga, we'd go to Winingili; from Winingili, we would go to Mardbi; from Mardbi, we went to Wuyurl.

From Wuyurl we used to go down to Black Springs, and from Black Springs we used to go downstream to, what's that place?... Cotton Creek. We call it Cotton Creek whitefella way, but Dinbagarni Aboriginal way. We slept there, and from there we'd go to Ngurrunggarni.

From Ngurrunggarni we would go downstream and sleep halfway there.

We'd get up early and walk from there to VRD station.

Back at VRD we were

working again after the holiday, cleaning everything up.

We would have a big mob of kids with us.

Not my kids, but my sister's.

Me, I didn't have any kids yet.

Sometimes we would get a lift and go back in a car.

The Sanford truck used to go back to Mt. Sanford.

It would leave us at Pigeon Hole.

The manager for Sanford, he was always going to Sanford.

I was still without children. I didn't have any kids yet.

We would go back to work again.

They would go to work with horses.

They didn't have any helicopters yet.

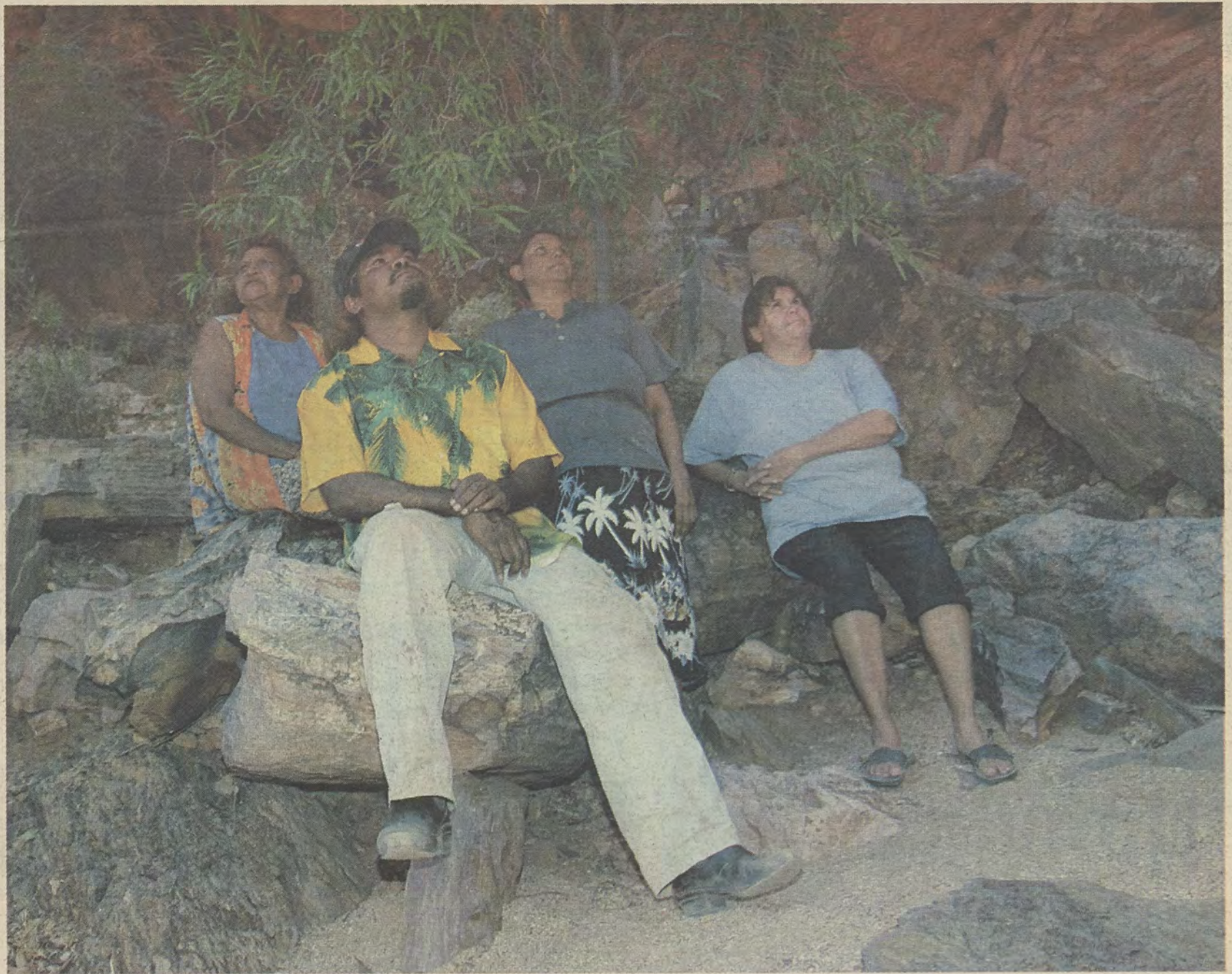
They used to muster the cattle themselves using horses.

I was always cooking for them, cooking food, working in the kitchen, helping the cook, washing all the plates.

We still had bad houses then, just tin houses.

Today, we have new houses now.

Right: Maureen Campbell, Lewis Campbell, Tessa Campbell and Elaine Campbell at a NT parks joint management meeting at Simpsons Gap



Above: Lachlan Jakamarra White, James Marshall, Roy Tjupurrula Curtis, Johnny Williams Japanangka, Warren Williams, Bandy Tjupurrula Long, Rex Granites Japanangka



Above: Barbara Martin and Nancy Collins with their class at Yuendumu school; Below: Rosie Nangala at Yuendumu

Right: Leo Peterson at Trucking Yards

Middle right: Lofty Katakarija preparing campground fencing

Below: Starting 2006 with enthusiasm - class at Yuendumu school

