

# LANDRIGHTS NEWS

Volume 4, Number 3, November 2004



INSIDE  
CLC celebrates 30 years,  
NLC Elections, festivals, rangers,  
employment, youth and lots more...



ONE MOB ONE VOICE ONE LAND

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Central Land Council Chairman, William Brown (far right) with his father Jack Jangala Brown (middle) who is the oldest living Warlpiri man at more than 100 years old. Jack Jangala is a survivor of the Coniston Massacre (1928), and was in his mid thirties when he fled to the Coniston Ranges with his father to escape being killed along the Lander River. The photograph shows the Brown family visiting Jack Jangala at Hetti Perkins Aged Care Facility in Alice Springs.

## Land Rights NEWS

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**Editorial, Advertising:**

PO Box 3321, Alice Springs NT 0871  
Ph: (0889) 516215 Fax: (0889) 534344

PO Box 42921, Casuarina NT 0811  
Ph: (0889) 205100 Fax: (0889) 452615

**Subscriptions:**

PO Box 42921, Casuarina NT 0811  
Ph: (0889) 205100 Fax: (0889) 452615

**Accounts:**

PO Box 3321, Alice Springs NT 0871  
Ph: (0889) 516215 Fax: (0889) 534344

**email:** media@nlc.org.au  
media@clc.org.au

**web site:** www.nlc.org.au  
or www.clc.org.au

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## COVER PHOTO

Local Children seek out family and friends in the banner exhibition that formed part of the Central Land Council's 30-year celebrations recently on Anzac Oval in Alice Springs.

Photo courtesy of Steve Strike.



## land rights leader retires

Former Prime Minister, Gough Whitlam joined Galarrwuy Yunupingu at a tribute dinner acknowledging Galarrwuy's contribution to the land rights struggle.

The site - Gulkula, north east Arnhem Land, the occasion - the annual Garma Festival, the announcement - that Galarrwuy Yunupingu would retire as Chairman of the Northern Land Council in October this year.

Galarrwuy Yunupingu has been closely involved with the land rights struggle for more than 30 years.

A senior member of the Gumatj clan, Galarrwuy began the fight for land rights in the 1960's when his father Mungurrwuy, a Gumatj clan elder, was one of the Yolngu leaders who fought and lost the battle to stop a bauxite mine operating on his land.

Galarrwuy's involvement in the Gove land rights case as an

interpreter for his clan formed the foundation stone of a public life that has seen him tackle many issues.

"Galarrwuy Yunupingu is one of the founding-fathers of land rights in Australia," NLC Chief Executive, Norman Fry said.

"The Gove land rights case gave rise to the concept of *Terra Nullius*. Eddie (Koiki) Mabo contested this concept before the High Court of Australia - and won. From that,

Native Title was born. So, Galarrwuy has been involved in the struggle since the very beginning," Mr Fry said.

Galarrwuy joined the Northern Land Council in 1975. By 1977 the Land Rights Act had been passed, and Galarrwuy became the NLC's first Chairman.

In 1980, at the end of his first term as Chairman, Galarrwuy returned to his homeland to oversee family business interests. Though he continued

to hold an executive position with the NLC.

His re-election as Chairman in 1983 has been uninterrupted, until he announced his retirement in August this year.

During his tenure, Galarrwuy Yunupingu led the efforts of the land council to win back land for Aboriginal people, and has championed initiatives to help traditional landowners assert their rights to manage and control their land and marine resources.

He was never afraid to be outspoken when addressing issues of direct concern to Aboriginal people

Galarrwuy's contribution to political debate on matters of social; economic; and cultural significance for Aboriginal people is immeasurable, and has been met with praise and honour from political allies and opponents alike.

In 1978, he was honoured as Australian of the Year, and in January 1985, he was made a *Member of the*

*Order of Australia* for his services to the Aboriginal community.

In 1988 Galarrwuy was acknowledged as one of Australia's *National Living Treasures*.

While Galarrwuy's leadership of the NLC will be missed, his departure allows him to pursue other interests, especially economic development for Aboriginal people.

"The land claims era is drawing to a close,

and the challenge for the 21st century is to maximise development and employment on Aboriginal land," Mr Fry said. "I expect that Galarrwuy will remain at the forefront of these developments."

The proposed expansion of the Alcan alumina smelter at Gove will be on Galarrwuy's traditional country in north east Arnhem Land. It is one project that is expected to attract his attention.

Kenbi Dancers welcome Galarrwuy Yunupingu to the dinner



left to right: Charlie King, Galarrwuy Yunupingu, Maurie Ryan and Norman Fry enjoy the evening.



## kintore's dialysis dream a reality



A dream came true for the people of Kintore four years after their artwork was auctioned off to provide a dialysis machine for the community.

Plane loads of visitors flew in from all over Australia to share the community's joy when the dialysis room at the new clinic was opened on 11 November this year.

Among the

visitors were Sotheby's Tim Klingender, Minister for Central Australia Peter Toyne, Papunya Tula worker Paul Sweeney and numerous others who had all assisted the community to achieve the goal of treating kidney disease patients

at home in Kintore.

The day was a tribute to the work of the late Smithy Zimran, who began the project and worked tirelessly for it before he too became a victim of end stage renal failure. His family and many others spoke movingly of his involvement and determination to see dialysis patients receiving treatment at home.

Mr Zimran headed the movement which saw one million dollars raised at an auction by Sothebys of Western Desert art and began turning the dream to reality.

Western Desert Nganampa Walyta Palyantjaku Tjutaku Aboriginal Corporation

Chairperson Marlene Spencer said that the people of Kintore had tried really hard for the machine and now they looked forward to the future as dialysis patients who had formerly been in town were able to come home and enjoy their families.

Irene Nangala, recently elected president of Kintore, thanked the many visitors and the people who had made it work.

"We've been talking for the people and a lot of our families when they've been living in Alice Springs. We've lost them so that's why we've been talking really hard to get this machine here.



Kintore community members gathered to witness the opening of the dialysis clinic.

We're proud. Four years since we had that auction which raised a million dollars. Now we got that machine here. We want them to stay here close to us close to their children, close to their grandchildren," Irene said.

Patients are currently on a rotation basis, returning to Kintore for three

weeks at a time to receive dialysis before they are replaced by another patient.

Soon however, two patients will be able to receive dialysis at the community and it is hoped a second machine can be purchased to provide care to more patients.



Galarrwuy Yunupingu, (left), welcomes new NLC Chairperson, Binalany Gunbalga

## new nlc chairman

The Northern Land Council is pleased to announce that Mr Binalany Gunbalga (pronounced 'Binalang Goonbalga') has been elected to the position of Chairman of the NLC.

Mr Gunbalga, replaces long-serving Chairman, Galarrwuy Yunupingu.

Mr Yunupingu has served the NLC with distinction during his 30-year association with the organisation, 27 of those in the top job.

A Gupapuyngu man from Buckingham Bay in East Arnhem Land,

Mr Gunbalga has previously held positions with ATSICs Miwatj Regional Council in East Arnhem Land.

Mr John Daly, from the Daly River region was returned as Deputy Chairman of the NLC.

Members of the NLC's Executive Council include:

(VRD)

\*Dhuwarrwarr Marika - (East Arnhem)

\*Gordon

Nawundulpi - (Ngukurr)

\*Samual Blansi - (Katherine)

\*Bunug Galaminda - (West Arnhem)

\*Jeffrey Dixon - (Borrooloola/Barkly)

\*Margaret Daiyi - (Darwin/Daly/Wagait)

## tangentyere 25 years: 'hanging to the passion'



A smoking ceremony by elders and families from town camps around Alice Springs and a moving tribute to its founders set the scene highlighting Tangentyere's 25 years of struggle, recognition and celebrations.

This year marks 25 years since Tangentyere was incorporated to assist "Town Campers" to gain land, shelter, services, transport, firewood and garbage collection in Alice Springs.

The organisation has worked tirelessly to gain basic services for people living in town camps like housing, water and infrastructure and continues to be at the forefront of justice for Central Australian Aboriginal people.

Tangentyere executive director William Tilmouth said the anniversary is an important day to reflect on

the past and look to the future.

"The significance of the anniversary is to celebrate the founding members of Tangentyere Council, past and present, who have built up the strength to have the foresight and the wisdom to build Tangentyere to what we see today," Mr Tilmouth said.

"We support a lot of people who use Tangentyere because they have no alternative, where no other mainstream or Aboriginal organisations can cater for their needs.

Mr Tilmouth described Tangentyere as an 'amazing



organisation'.

"Aboriginal people find it very hard and frustrating to get services in the mainstream, so they all come to Tangentyere and access the services they need but whilst they are here you will identify other needs and we can try and help them fulfil those needs so they can have a sense of quality of life," said William Tilmouth.

A moving tribute between the present executive members and

the original founders was highlighted with a plaque listing the founders which will be permanently displayed on the Tangentyere building.

The day of celebration included one minute silence, blessing by Eli Rubuntja, Arrernte dancers and entertainment by Yipirinya School with displays placed around the organisation outlining the history and functions of Tangentyere.

## agreement settles wik native title claim

The Queensland native title claim that brought Australia's Indigenous people and pastoralist together to discuss co-existing rights, is nearing conclusion.

Wednesday 13 October will remain a memorable day for the Wik and Wik Way People of Cape York, Queensland, with the Federal Court of Australia recognising their native title rights and interests to more than 12,500 square kilometres of land in the region.

In the remote community of Aurukun, 590 kilometres north-west of Cairns, Federal Court Justice, Richard Cooper, recognised that the Wik and Wik Way Peoples do retain native title rights and interests, granting them access and rights to their traditional lands.

The determinations follow more than four years of negotiations with the state and federal government's, as well as other affected agencies and organisations in the region.

The two determinations build on the consent determination of 3 October 2000 that recognised the existence of the Wik and Wik Way Peoples native title rights to more than 6,000 square kilometres.

The consent determinations finalise the majority of the Wik and Wik Way peoples native title claim on Queensland's Cape York Peninsula. It follows the historic High Court decision in 1996, which found that native title may co-exist with some pastoral leases.

Welcoming the decision, the Wik and Wik Way People remain hopeful that their native title rights will be recognised over their remaining traditional lands in the near future.

# vanstone's 'mutual obligation' slammed

The reaction by Aboriginal leaders to a proposal by the Coalition Government to overhaul the welfare system as it applies to Indigenous Australians through a policy of 'mutual obligation' has been mixed.

Indigenous Affairs Minister Amanda Vanstone said she wants to end the current exemptions for remote Aboriginal communities to mutual obligation activities in the Centrelink system, is investigating the introduction of a 'smart card' for Indigenous peoples receiving Government benefits and is looking at an overhaul of the CDEP system.

Under the proposal, Indigenous people who live in remote areas would enter into contracts with Centrelink officers in 22 Indigenous Co-ordination Centres, representing all key departments in regional and remote centres, to improve service delivery.

In return for 'shared responsibility' agreements Indigenous peoples would be 'rewarded' for boosting attendance levels of Aboriginal children at school, with access to community pools, bikes, and 'movie nights'.

By the same token, sanctions have been proposed by the Government for parents who don't adequately care for their children or possible bans on children using community pools if

they do not attend school.

Other initiatives proposed include the introduction of a 'smart card' which is a payment card that can store information and set electronic limits on what Indigenous people can buy using welfare payments.

'Mutual obligation' would also apply to other areas such as repair work on public housing carried out only if the children of families who live there attend school.

In a leaked Cabinet document on possible future directions for Aboriginal Affairs, it was reported that 'smartcards reduce opportunities for coercion within and between families for food money to end up as grog money'.

Indigenous reaction has been divided, with some saying a radical approach to many of the deep-rooted problems facing Aboriginal people is much needed, while others have been highly critical saying the Federal Government is blaming Indigenous Australians for its own failure to provide effective services.

Former Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission (ATSIC) chairwoman

Lowitja O'Donoghue backed the plan saying 'radical measures really need to be taken to get communities viable once again'.

However, former Social Justice Commissioner Mick Dodson described the proposal as 'racially discriminatory'.

"You shouldn't violate people's rights, their human rights, their right to be free of discrimination in order to put in place some sort of social experiment," Dodson said.

Dodson's brother, and considered by many as 'the father of reconciliation', Patrick Dodson, went further in his criticism of the plan.

"This is not reform - this is social engineering at its worst," he said.

ATSIC Central Zone Commissioner Alison Anderson said the plan is a step back for her people, citing a failure by State and Federal Governments to police truancy in remote Indigenous communities.

The Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission (HREOC) has warned that the proposed plan could breach racial discrimination legislation if applied only to Indigenous peoples.



Mick Rangiarri and family enjoying the celebrations

# top year to celebrate gurindji freedom day

This year Gurindji Freedom Day was especially important as it was marked with an additional victory, as two excisions of land were finally handed back to traditional landowners.

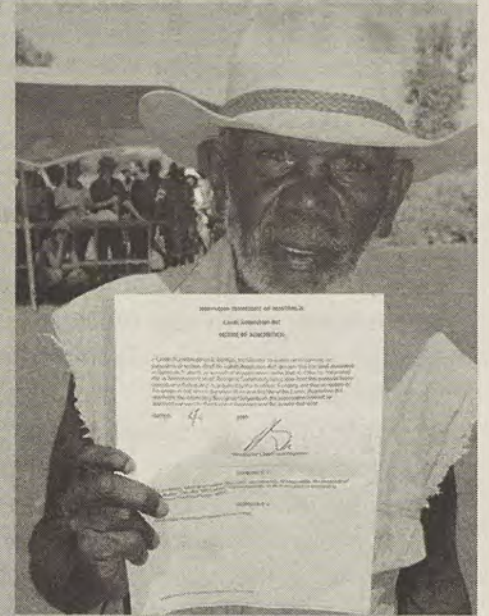
The celebration saw the parcels of land handed back to traditional owners by Federal Minister, Warren Snowdon.

The two parcels of land included Swan Yard and Blue Hole which are parcels of land on Limbunya Station.

An outcome from this agreement was initially stalled by the previous Country Liberal Party (CLP) Government, who resisted the granting of land to traditional owners.

The Central Land Council resumed discussions with the current NT Labor Government last year where a resolution was reached to grant the excisions back to the Djudngaridi Aboriginal Corporation and Jutamaling Aboriginal Corporation.

The traditional owners were happy for the return of their land at the Freedom Day celebrations



Spider Banjo Jurrama

and look forward to building houses on the land for their families.

The whole community joined in the celebrations of the 38<sup>th</sup> Gurindji Freedom Day Anniversary at the traditional spot near Victoria River where the celebration takes place every year.

This year the community shared in the retelling of this historic event and enjoyed a barbeque.

# new advisory council

Federal Indigenous Affairs Minister, Senator Amanda Vanstone, has announced appointments to the new National Indigenous Council (NIC).

The NIC has been established as part of the Australian governments revised governance arrangements for Indigenous Affairs, arrangements the government says is designed to focus efforts on providing a better deal for Indigenous Australians.

The NIC is expected to act as an advisory body to the Federal Government through the Ministerial Taskforce on Indigenous Affairs.

Appointments to the NIC have been made on the basis of expertise and experience.

Members include:

Magistrate Sue Gordon (WA) - Chairperson

Wesley Aird (QLD)

Dr Archie Barton, AM (SA)

Professor Mary Ann Bin-Sallik (NT)

Miriam Rose Bauman OAM (NT)

Joseph Elu (QLD)

Robert Lee (NT)

Adam Goodes (VIC)

Dr Sally Goold, OAM (QLD)

Dr John Moriarty, AM  
Warren Mundine (NSW)  
Joe Proctor (WA)  
Michael White (QLD)  
Tammy Williams (QLD)

The National Indigenous Council is expected to provide advice on matters of direct relevance to Indigenous Australians, although the government has indicated that the NIC will not be the sole source of advice on Indigenous affairs.

# arrernte or aranda?

Debate about the spelling system for the Arrernte language of Central Australia has been re-ignited by a recent article for national magazine *The Bulletin* which suggested that linguists had been over-sensitive and pedantic when they worked out the spelling for Arrernte words.



Veronica Dobson

To many people who read and write English, at first glance Bulletin journalist Paul Toohey appears to have a point, Arrernte in print does look very difficult.

"Take 'Ampilatwatja'," Toohey says in the article, "which describes a community north-east of Alice Springs. It's actually pronounced 'Um-blood-a-watch'."

But linguists and people who read and write Arrernte are outraged by Toohey's comments.

Mary Flynn who speaks, reads, and writes in the Arrernte language says people who are critical argue Arrernte should follow the same rules as English does.

"People who complain about Arrernte being difficult have no insight into language and literacy. They use English as the benchmark that everything has to hang off. They don't see that every language has [it's own sound] system and its own orthography" Flynn said.

Flynn says that, in fact, Arrernte is easier to learn and more regular than English and like becoming literate in any language, it needs to be learnt. "People forget that they actually had to learn to read and write in English," she says.

Veronica Dobson is an Arrernte woman who spent many years working on the Arrernte Dictionary published by the Institute of Aboriginal Development (IAD).

Dobson says that it should not be forgotten that it was the original speakers of the language, the Arrernte people, who decided on the spelling and that linguists have been taking the blame unfairly.

"The language was never written so we called a big meeting and got all the traditional owners together and all the people who had worked on the language and old people. Then we worked together with the linguists to get the spelling system," Ms Dobson said.

"And I think it's up to the people who own the language to decide how it's spelt."

Linguist Myfany Turpin says the English spelling system is just not adequate to spell Arrernte words.

"At least half the sounds in Arrernte simply aren't in English and vice versa. This means there are no English spellings for these sounds. It would be impossible to spell words based on English because English spelling is irregular," Ms Turpin said.

As for spelling the words phonetically or the 'way they sound', Turpin says that this too is a fiction of the English speaking mind.

"By this they usually mean writing things the way they sound to them. At first it's hard to pick up sounds that are different from your own language. This was a problem for the first Europeans who wrote down words from Aboriginal languages. They couldn't hear important differences, like the difference between the word for 'lice' *arreme* (which has a trilled 'r') and the word for 'look' *areme* (which has an 'r' like Australian English 'r'). Arrernte speakers can hear the difference; it's as easy for them as the difference between 'liver' and 'river' is for an English speaker."

Myfany Turpin's full article can be found on the CLC website [www.clc.org.au/our\\_culture](http://www.clc.org.au/our_culture)

# inmates build self confidence through family wellbeing



A group of Indigenous male inmates in Central Australia have shown enthusiasm and gained confidence in completing a counselling program designed to help them gain control of their lives while imprisoned at the Alice Springs Correctional Centre.

Nine inmates completed the five-month pilot of the nationally-accredited Family Wellbeing Program addressing physical, emotional and spiritual issues as well as developing the participant's skills to address life challenges.

Tangentyere Family Well Being lecturer, Kathy Abbott said she was very proud of the men who gained a lot from the course which will help their return to their communities.

"At first people didn't think they would complete the whole course but they proved them wrong with many developing ideas for when they return to their communities. Some talked about setting up men's support groups, petrol sniffing support groups and some wanted more training to become a facilitator," Abbott said.

"At the jail we don't judge the participants or ask them what they're in for. We just know they have the potential to be counselled, to look at themselves and deal with past hurts so they can get on with life."

Abbott said inmates were taught about

understanding their emotions, meaning of crisis, self-empowerment and leadership skills.

"At the prison we created a trusting and social environment, where we didn't put any expectations on the men and they could feel safe," she said.

"The feedback from the inmates was really rewarding with many of them really comfortable with us two women facilitating the program".

A special presentation ceremony was held at the jail for the graduates who received their formal qualification from the Institute for Aboriginal Development (IAD) in Alice Springs.

## new doors open at IAD

The Institute for Aboriginal Development (IAD) recently celebrated the opening of Stage One of its Campus Redevelopment on South Terrace in Alice Springs.

The IAD staff and students were excited about the opening with the chairman, Richard Hayes, proud of the new campus.

"The opening of these facilities gives a fresh face to Indigenous education and training in Central Australia and represents an important milestone in the Institute's 35 year history," Mr Hayes said.

"The IAD continues to play a crucial role in providing a "second chance" or "re-entry into education" opportunity for the many students for whom the formal education system has been a dismal failure - delivered in a supportive, culturally-sensitive and now modern learning environment."

The official opening of the \$2.6 million dollar building was designed by Tangentyere Designs and includes nine classrooms, a library, computer laboratory and canteen/common room, funded through the Australian National Training Authority (ANTA).

The opening ceremony included naming the common room buildings in honour of IAD's Founder, Reverend Jim Dowling and the new library was dedicated to IAD's first Aboriginal director, Yami Lester.



Rangers look for signs of life in mud dragged from the bottom of the waterhole

## careers on country

Like many places in the Northern Territory, Tennant Creek can be tough for young Aboriginal people.

But a group of young Warumungu men and women calling themselves the Muru-warinyi ankkul Rangers (meaning 'from the bush') have been hard at work fencing, monitoring wildlife and studying at Batchelor Institute in a bid to get themselves jobs and careers in land management.

The group assisted by the Central Land Council are now finding they are in some demand by mining company Giants Reef, the Heritage Commission, Parks and Wildlife and pastoralists wanting land management work done.

They are particularly proud of 17 kilometres of fencing around the Phillip Creek Mission block to keep cattle out of the waterholes.

The group are all Traditional Owners for this country.

"We did it together – us and the fellas," says ranger Anthea Graham.

"We had a camp at a waterhole for two months and it was great. We did the droppers and the fellas put the posts in."

Now that the cattle have been kept off the block the group are monitoring the return of wildlife and vegetation by what birds are living in the area and what small creatures are living in the grey mud at the bottom of the waterholes.

The rangers say the permanent

waterholes were clearer and had plenty of lilies and fish in their parents' day but are now muddy and lifeless after years of cattles using them as watering holes.

"Right now we are setting up photo points to see changes. We are hoping to see this country change next year. It looks better than it did," said Ingrid Williams.

The rangers have been busy on other projects also.

"We did some plants and weed surveys at Davenport Murchison National Park and and we did weeding at Muckaty Station," Williams said.

"We're doing studies at Batchelor in land management and conservation and we're writing a book on plants in our language (Warumungu)."

Graham said their group also did work for mining companies such as fencing and filling up holes with cracker dust.

"Maybe they will want revegetation next year. We also did some work looking for signs of Bilbys and digging trenches in the Tanami to look for marsupial moles. We are mainly looking for animals that are endangered or extinct," she said.

Other work has included fixing soil erosion problems at Kunjarra (Devils Pebbles), learning where and how to look for bush tucker with older people and landscaping.



Ramingining rangers: Solomon Ryan, Peter Gurrupkiil, Larry Yuwulkpuy, Charlie Ramandjarri

## new land and sea alliance

In a landmark meeting in the Northern Territory, Indigenous land and sea managers from northern Australia came together recently to formally endorse an alliance of Australia's peak Aboriginal land councils to further the interests of Traditional Owners and their communities in the maintenance of land and sea country.

Northern Australia Indigenous Land and Sea Management Alliance (NAILSMA) co-ordinator Joe Morrison said the meeting held at Innesvale Station, owned by the Menggen Aboriginal Land Trust, 145kms south-west of Katherine, represented a new alliance in the north of the country.

"We are coming together to form one voice for land and sea management for Northern Australia," Morrison said.

"There already exist over 30 ranger groups in the Northern Territory alone, focusing on local issues and this meeting is to develop an alliance in the formal sense, across state boundaries."

Morrison said the alliance between the Northern Land Council (NLC), Kimberley Land Council (KLC), Carpentaria Land Council, the Cape York-based Balkanu Aboriginal Corporation, Co-operative Research Centre for Tropical Savannas Management (CRC-TSM) and the Indigenous Land Corporation (ILC) would give Indigenous land and sea managers 'on the ground' a voice at a higher level when

negotiating with State/Territory and Federal Governments, and industry groups.

NAILSMA representative on the Tropical Savannah CRC committee, Peter Yu, said it was a historic time in Australia in relation to the future use, management and access to Aboriginal-controlled land.

"It's a new era, a watershed period, where there exists an opportunity to be better organised to assert traditional ownership and cultural knowledge," Yu said.

An issue repeatedly raised throughout the two-day meeting was the lack of adequate wages for Indigenous rangers, who mostly receive CDEP wages, or 'top-up' payments, coupled with a lack of recognised qualifications.

Another issue discussed were recent reports of 'overharvesting' of dugong and sea turtles by Traditional Owners, which, delegates said, failed to acknowledge the impacts on numbers from coastal development, irrigation run-off, and strikes by leisure and commercial sea craft.

To clarify and quan-

tify the issue, NAILSMA has secured \$3.8 million in funding to conduct dugong and turtle research across northern Australia.

Other issues discussed at the meeting included fire management, intellectual property, weed and feral animal management, aquaculture, coastcare, eco-tourism, sustainable use of wildlife and bushfoods, transfer of traditional knowledge from Elders to young people, fostering leadership amongst young people and customary use of native resources.

NLCs 'Caring for Country' manager Paul Josif said the job of land councils was to provide ongoing support for ranger groups, and to initiate partnerships between NAILSMA and bodies such as Australian Quarantine, Australian Customs, universities, and the World Wide Fund for Nature.

Organisers said membership is still open, and were expecting the Torres Strait Regional Authority (TSRA) to come on board in the future, as well as community groups who don't have a formal relationship with their respective land council.



The names of the people from the front: Anthea Graham, Fiona Plummer, Ingrid Williams, Jeremy Dawson, Ian Waistcoat, Sebastian Waistcoat



Gumurr Marthakal rangers weight and measure golden bandicoots

## Golden bandicoots thriving

A program in the Top End of the Northern Territory is paying substantial dividends for an animal population believed to be extinct on the NT mainland.

The Gumurr Marthakal Rangers in Arnhem Land, along with the NLC's Caring for Country Unit and the NT Parks & Wildlife Service, have joined forces to ensure the survival of the Golden Bandicoot.

Though smaller than the more common brown bandicoot, the golden bandicoot was once widespread throughout the NT.

The species was last recorded on the mainland near Tennant Creek in 1952, but was "rediscovered" to science in

the 1990's when Traditional Owners and Parks & Wildlife officers were carrying out wildlife surveys on the Wessel Islands.

A recent survey on Martjinbar Island off the north east Arnhem Land coast has revealed that animals initially thought extinct on the mainland, are now thriving, despite the presence of introduced predators.

With the aid of Traditional Owners, more than 30 animals were trapped over a 10-day period, a healthy indication that the population was persisting on the island. It is likely that the island protected the bandicoots from introduced cats and foxes, which

are thought to have caused their extinction on the mainland.

But, an introduced dog population on Martjinbar Island looms as the major threat to the island's bandicoot population.

The Gumurr Marthakal Rangers will meet with Traditional Owners to determine the best solution to managing the island's dog population. Rangers are also planning to visit other islands in the region to search for signs of golden bandicoot populations.

The survey provided an opportunity for Traditional Owners to maintain their long association with Martjinbar Island.

# watch out for goannas in kakadu this wet season



Aboriginal people should consider lowering rates of consumption of goannas this wet season due to dwindling numbers caused by a cane toad invasion of Kakadu National Park.

Recent research shows that goannas have declined by about 50% since toads arrived in Kakadu in 2001, and may continue to decline further as toad numbers increase.

Park staff are asking Territorians to help goannas recover this wet season by hunting fewer goannas and by asking drivers to slow down on the roads where goannas cross.

Kakadu National Park Manager Glenn Meade said cane toads occur in large numbers, reproduce very rapidly and are toxic to many species of wildlife and also compete with or feed on many other species.

"At present there is no means of controlling them," Meade said.

"As has happened in Queensland, and

elsewhere in the world, toads will impact on some native species."

To try and better understand and manage the impact of toads in Kakadu, Parks Australia North are conducting studies in Kakadu and collaborating with the NT government conservation authorities, universities and other agencies, he said.

Of particular concern is the impact of toads on goannas.

"People all over the Top End have been worried about what will happen to goannas when cane toads arrive," he said.

"Aboriginal people in the Gulf country and in Arnhem Land have found that goannas became hard to find on their country once toads arrived."

Goannas have declined by about 50%

since toads arrived and may continue to decline further as toad numbers increase.

Meade said goannas are a common food source for many Aboriginal people on country and many people hunt them.

"If people are told of the goannas' problem caused by toads then maybe people might stop hunting them for a few years or so and give the surviving goannas a chance to breed up again," he said.

"Often goannas are killed accidentally on the road, so where possible, people need to slow down at places where goannas cross roads such as on the floodplain or near creeks and rivers then there is the chance that fewer goannas will be killed."

## PIGS DO FLY!

The floodplains of Gurrumurru thundered with the sound of a helicopter this week, accompanied by the unusual sight of flying pigs.

It was all part of an operation involving the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS), and Dhimurru, Laynhapuy, Marthakal and Parks and Wildlife Rangers and Laynhapuy Aviation.

The goals of the training workshop and survey, were to teach Yolgnu and ranger groups working in remote areas how to recognise diseases which may potentially enter Australia from countries further to our north. These diseases include foot and mouth disease, screw worm fly and swine fever.

Pigs and Buffalo were shot by quarantine staff using the helicopter and then slung back to a central area. As part of the training,

rangers were given a demonstration on performing post mortems on pigs, to systematically search organs for any unusual or sick looking tissues.

AQIS staff Ray Petherick and Emma Watkins recognise the value in training Indigenous ranger groups in these skills, as the Yolgnu rangers know their country best, and have many more opportunities to visit such areas than would otherwise be possible, especially when hunting animals for food.

Another aspect of the workshop was the completion of aerial shooting training for Walawirrtja Yunupingu, Senior Cultural Advisor for Dhimurru.

Overall, the program was very successful for all ranger groups involved, and it will be yet another way in which the ranger groups looking after the Miwatj Region are helping to protect not just the local area but also Australia's livestock industries.

## tracking turkeys



Bush turkeys are the favourite tucker of many Territorians, especially Aboriginal people, and the possibility that their numbers may be declining is devastating to many communities.

So when PhD student Mark Ziembicki needed help recently to study the

health, distribution and movements of the unique delicacy at Kidman Springs, 200 kilometres west of Katherine, the Wulain Rangers from Lajamanu were eager to be involved in his survey.

Mark needed the rangers to help him capture live turkeys, or bustards as they are more formally known, and attach a transmitter to them.

Catching these shy birds isn't easy.

But with a modified shot gun firing a net, rather than bullets, enough turkeys were

netted to track the home range of the birds over the next year and see what influences its movements.

Rangers involved in this field trip were senior ranger, Robert George and new rangers Vernon Lewis, Lincoln Cook and Dillon Miller.

Robert George found the experience very useful as it gave him the opportunity to practice skills he has been developing at Batchelor Institute studying Conservation and Land Management.





Laura Knowles and Gerald Morgan



Aunty Connie Cole



Maurie Ryan, Hal Hart, Tania Gaston and Sid Rusca

## 'we still clinging to the mission kids': croker island reunion

More than 100 residents of the Croker Island mission, north of Darwin, reunited recently to remember old times and reconnect with each other and their many descendants.

The family day, organised by the Croker Island Stolen Generation Association, and held at Jingili Water Gardens in Darwin, was part of a week's activities which included slide nights, photographic displays, and remembering the amazing trek by 95 Aboriginal children, and two missionaries, following the fall of Singapore and Pearl Harbour during the Second World War.

Aunty Connie Cole recalled her childhood at the reunion.

"I was taken from Kahlin Compound in 1937, moved to Bagot community, then to Pine Creek, and in 1939 went to Goulburn Island, and then in

1941 was taken to Croker Island," Aunty Connie said, adding that the 95 children removed from many remote areas of the Northern Territory were housed in four dwellings on the island dormitory-style.

Aunty Connie was one of the first group of Aboriginal children taken to Croker Island in 1940-41, and remembered a wartime exodus, which took the 95 Aboriginal children, on a nation-wide trek starting with a boat-ride to Kakadu, from there on foot to Oenpilli then to Pine Creek, by army transport to Alice Springs, by train to Adelaide, and then Melbourne, and then Sydney.

This was followed by a period picking cherries in Orange in NSW, and then finally by merchant navy boat from Brisbane back to Darwin, and eventually back to Croker Island,

when it was considered safe to return by the wartime authorities.

Prior to the bombing of Darwin, all European women working at Aboriginal missions on the northern coastline of Darwin, were evacuated to the mainland for their protection.

Unfortunately the authorities deemed that all 'half-caste' Aboriginal children were to remain on Croker Island 'until further notice'.

"We were there when the Japanese planes flew over to bomb Darwin, and we used to run into the jungle when we heard them going over," Aunty Connie said.

To ensure their safety, the Superintendent of Croker Island ordered that all the children collect large rocks, paint them white, clear some ground, and construct a huge white

cross to signify to enemy bombers that the island is home to a Christian mission.

The plan worked and Japanese planes ignored the mission and made their way to Darwin.

Others at the Croker Island reunion recalled their 'mission days' which for many generated mixed emotions.

Maurie Ryan, Central Land Council member, and former chairman of the Croker Island Stolen Generation Association, said 24 of their number went back to Croker Island recently, which closed its doors in the mid-1960s.

"The good thing about the reunion is seeing people again that you haven't seen for a long, long time, bringing back the memories, having fun and laughing, also a lot of tears, and a bit of sorrow over what we lost," Ryan said, add-

ing that over 170 Aboriginal children were removed from their families throughout the Northern Territory and taken to Croker Island during the time of the mission, which was administered by the then Methodist Overseas Mission, now the Uniting Church.

Ryan said with the abolition of ATSIC, and the mainstreaming of services, it was difficult to access funding for reunions, one of the key recommendations of the Bringing Them Home report.

"The history of Croker Island has to be embedded in the history books of this country," he said.

Brother and sister, Laura Knowles and Gerald Morgan, are still coming to grips with the fact that they and their two siblings were taken from their families, told their parents

had died, were split up, and sent to two different Missions, something they can't understand, and are still wondering 'Why?'

"I was split up from my brothers and sisters when I was four months old, taken to Garden Point Mission, and it was only when I left to go to Darwin when I was 22 years old, that I found out I had two sisters and a brother who grew up on Croker Island," Gerald said.

Laura's story is just as harrowing.

"The various governments have a lot to answer for, splitting up families like that, especially Aboriginal families, and I get very angry because I can't speak any of my own language."

Gerald said he is still angry that his culture was stripped from him, 'without any reason at all'.

## remembering the good and bad times



70 former Catholic Mission Aboriginal residents met recently to embark on a pilgrimage of sorts in 'retracing their childhood steps' to the Tiwi Islands, north of Darwin.

The Garden Point Catholic Mission, which closed its doors in the early 1960s, was home to

many Aboriginal children removed from their families as part of government policy, coming from Darwin and Alice Springs in central Australia, as well as interstate.

One of the event organisers Cherrie McLennan said the event was one of mixed emotions, but essential in the healing process.

"It is a very sentimental journey to go back to either

country or the place where they grew up as children because it is filled with happy and sad memories."

The week-long event saw many of the former residents, mostly in their 50s and up to the age of 75, 'go down memory lane' reconnecting with their favourite camping sites such as Wulawunga, favourite swimming holes, and tours to Fort Dundas, Ten Mile and

Goolumbini, all with the blessing of the local Tiwi Elders.

A focus of the event, the recording of a childhood song 'The Melville Song' and a documentary video of the week's activities by a TEABBA film crew, as well as previously unrecorded personal stories, meant this unique story will be saved for posterity for the children and grandchildren of the former residents.

The Garden Point Association also co-ordinated fishing trips,

hunting in the bush, a night with Tiwi Elders and dancers, line-dancing classes with Dottie Daby, sing-alongs around the campfire, a healing mass, and a dinner dance at the Aviation Club in Darwin.

As many of the members are advancing in age, McLennan said, the event this year was particularly poignant.

"This could be the final time that we all get together like this, that's why this event has been so important," she said.

## Darla: stage three and progressing

The Darla residential housing development project situated in the satellite city of Palmerston near Darwin, continues to set new benchmarks.

Work on this ambitious \$25 million, 390 lot, five-stage residential subdivision began in 2002. Now, two-years on, the project has moved into stage three, and is already ahead of schedule.

While the Larrakia Development Corporation (LDC) say that sales of Stage One exceeded their expectations - 57 blocks at an average of 600 square metres were sold - Stage Two has left them amazed.

A total of 59 blocks have either been sold or are under contract, with more than half of the lots settled within 30-days of the titles being issued.

Stage Three is a larger development project, offering some 72 lots at an average size of 700 square metres. Work on Stage three is expected to be complete by the end of November.

The LDC are proud of their achievements and believe that the Darla success is an excellent example of how Traditional Owners can successfully work with the greater community to develop business opportunities on commercial grounds.

## NLC endorses agreements

The Northern Land Council has endorsed a record number of agreements on Aboriginal land, with 44 separate proposals given the go-ahead to proceed across the Top End.

At its 87<sup>th</sup> Full Council meeting in Darwin, members consented to 14 minerals exploration agreements, and a broad range of other proposals, each of them opening the way for development and infrastructure projects in the Northern Territory.

Agreements included a Manganese mine agreement at Bootu Creek in the Barkly district, and a water easement project over the Kenbi Land Claim which will bring water to the Wagait Beach

region on the Cox Peninsula near Darwin.

A public boat ramp will be leased on the Daly River providing further access to recreational fishing areas, while a positive relationship with the Defence department continues with the development of a Norforce facility in Borroloola.

NLC Chairman Binalany Gunbalga said the new agreements pave the way for progress to continue in the Territory.

Other initiatives include further mineral exploration, mining and pastoral operations, community stores, education facilities, conservation projects, quarry work and the installation of utility sites on Aboriginal land.

## INDIGENOUS LAND AND SEA MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE

Hamilton Downs , Alice Springs , Northern Territory  
19 th – 21 st April, 2005  
Please note numbers are limited.

The Central Land Council will be hosting the Indigenous Land and Sea Management Conference at Hamilton Downs, 80 kilometres north east of Alice Springs from the 18th to 22nd April 2005.

The objectives of the conference include:

- Opportunities for improved partnerships nationwide
- Exchange of knowledge between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people about different land and seascapes
- Aboriginal land management in Australia
- Highlight differences and common themes
- Strengthening networks
- Explore training and employment opportunities for Indigenous land managers

This conference is a result of previous Landcare Conferences where participants voiced that a national Indigenous land and sea management conference was needed for all people involved in this area.

The up and coming conference will be attended by 300 people from around Australia and is sponsored by Newmont, Indigenous Land Corporation, Department of Environment and Heritage, Indigenous Land Management Foundation and the National Land Care Program.

If you are interested in attending the conference please call CLC Land Management Officer Sandy Marty on 89505013 or email smarty@clc.org.au.

Register your interest in attending the conference on [ILMC@clc.org.au](mailto:ILMC@clc.org.au) including your contact address.



### BLACKTIP PROJECT

Draft Environmental Impact Statement

PUBLIC COMMENT INVITED

As operator for, and on behalf of the Blacktip Gas Project, Woodside Energy Ltd is proposing to develop the Blacktip gas field located in the Joseph Bonaparte Gulf approximately 245 km southwest of Darwin in the Northern Territory. The Blacktip Field lies in Commonwealth waters near the Western Australian and Northern Territory border. The proposal is for an unmanned wellhead platform and 107.5 km export pipeline to shore, which will transport both condensate and gas. Once onshore the gas and condensate will undergo processing at a plant located 2.5 km onshore and approximately 10 km from Wadeye. Once processed, the gas will be exported by an onshore underground pipeline, which is subject to a separate environmental review process, to the Alcan Gove alumina refinery. The condensate will be exported by seaborne tankers via a subsea export pipeline approximately 3km in length. The plant will have the potential to process additional gas volumes and supply other NT customers subject to supply and demand requirements.

As part of the development process and in accordance with the provisions of the Northern Territory *Environmental Assessment Act (1982)* and the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act)*, this Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) has been prepared and is now available to the public for comment. In terms of the EPBC Act the matters protected for the Blacktip Project (EPBC reference 2003/1180) under Part 3 of the Act are Sections 18 and 18a Listed threatened species and communities, Sections 20 and 20A Listed migratory species, and sections 23 and 24A the Marine environment

The Draft EIS describes the project proposal, and addresses the potential environmental impacts and how these impacts will be mitigated. This document will be available for review from 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2004 until 18<sup>th</sup> January 2005 at the following locations:

- Darwin Public Library, Civic Centre, Harry Chan Avenue, Darwin, NT
- Casuarina Public Library, Bradshaw Terrace, Casuarina, NT
- Palmerston Public Library, Civic Plaza, Cnr University Avenue & Chung Wah Terrace, Palmerston, NT
- Litchfield Shire Offices, 7 Bees Creek Road, Bees Creek, NT
- Environment Centre, 3/98 Woods Street, Darwin, NT
- Thamarrurr Regional Council Offices, Wadeye, NT
- Wadeye Knowledge Centre, Wadeye, NT
- Palumpa - Nganmariyanga Community Inc, NT
- Daly River - Nauiyu Nambiyu Community Government Council, NT
- Peppimenarti - Peppimenarti Community Council, NT
- Northern Land Council Offices, 9 Rowling Street, Casuarina, NT
- Commonwealth Department of Environment and Heritage Library, John Gorton Building, King Edward Terrace, Parkes, ACT
- State and Territory Libraries:
- Northern Territory Library, Parliament House, Cnr Bennett & Mitchell Streets, Darwin
- Wyndham Library, Koolama Street, Wyndham
- Kununurra Library, Mangaloo Street, Kununurra
- State Reference Library of Western Australia, Alexander Library Building, Perth Cultural Centre, Northbridge, Perth

To support the public review process the Draft EIS will also be on display at Casuarina Shopping Centre on the 6<sup>th</sup> November between 9.30 am and 3.30 pm and at Palmerston Shopping Centre on the 20<sup>th</sup> November between 9.30 am and 3.30 pm. Members of the project team will be available at these times to address any questions that may arise relating to the Draft EIS.

The report can be examined for the duration of the public review period either on the Office of Environment and Heritage Internet site at: [www.lpe.nt.gov.au/enviro/](http://www.lpe.nt.gov.au/enviro/) or on Woodside's Internet site at [www.Blacktip.woodside.com.au](http://www.Blacktip.woodside.com.au). The Executive Summary of the Draft EIS is available free of charge and Volume 1 of the Draft EIS is available at a cost of \$40. These are available from the Woodside Darwin office at: 8<sup>th</sup> Floor, NT House, Mitchell Street, Darwin, NT, Fax No: (08) 8980 2710.

Persons wishing to comment on the Draft EIS are invited to make written submissions by close of business on 18<sup>th</sup> January 2005 to:

Roderick Johnson  
Office of Environment and Heritage  
GPO Box 1680  
DARWIN NT 0801  
Email: [roderick.johnson@nt.gov.au](mailto:roderick.johnson@nt.gov.au)  
Fax: (08) 8924 4053

## partnership recognised with PM's award



NLC and TCA staff receive the PM's Award for Excellence in Community Business partnerships from His Honour the Administrator, Ted Egan.

A cooperative working arrangement between two peak representative bodies has received national recognition in Darwin.

In accepting the Prime Minister's Award for Excellence in Community Business Partnerships, Northern Land Council (NLC) Chief Executive, Norman Fry, said the award recognises a collaborative arrangement between the NLC and the Territory Construction Association (TCA), that has continued to develop over the past three years.

"What initially began as an informal partnership in 2001 on the Alice Springs to Darwin Rail Link has expanded into an arrangement that has benefited many Indigenous Territorians in training and employment opportunities," Mr Fry said.

The award, in the Medium Business cat-

egory, recognises the Northern Indigenous Employment and Training Service, a partnership between the NLC and the TCA, that has consistently delivered employment and training services to Indigenous people in the Northern Territory.

The employment and training model developed has seen 350 Indigenous people participate in general training programs, with another 295 participating in accredited training programs.

"To date, the program enjoys a success rate of some 94 percent in terms of course completion, with 81 percent of graduates going on to gain meaningful employment opportunities," Mr Fry said.

"These are very encouraging figures, not only because of

the high number of participants, but also because of the high success rate of Indigenous people who come out of these training programs and into full-time employment."

The program has secured 100 employment positions for participants who have completed training in various vocations including general construction, engineering, business administration and hospitality.

The partnership has made strategic alliances with Job Network Members, Group Training and Registered Training Organisations, creating an holistic coordinated approach towards the development of a quality Indigenous employment and training service.

## gold and gas provide jobs



Gottlieb Rubuntja and Peter Abbott

An Aboriginal contracting company in Central Australia has been successful in tendering for contract work for a mining company.

Central Desert Enterprises (CDE) was awarded the open-pit mining contract for the Malbec West gold deposit by Giants Reef Mining Limited.

The Malbec pit is located near the open-pit Chariot Mine in Tennant Creek which CDE also successfully mined for the company.

CDE employs 19

people and 16 of those are Aboriginal including four traditional landowners of the country being mined.

At the recent anniversary celebration of Giants Reef first year of production, company operations manager Robert Gregory praised the work of CDE.

"To me Giants Reef proudest achievement comes in terms of Indigenous employment opportunities within the company. Not only is this a condition of landowners consent, it



is just plain good business. Our contractor for Malbec is Central Desert Enterprises ... (which) are operating with an 80 per cent Indigenous workforce and are doing a remarkable job," Mr Gregory said.

## gottlieb reckons its gas

The first Aboriginal man from the local community has begun work at the Palm Valley Gas Field west of Alice Springs.

Magellan Petroleum employed Gottlieb Rubuntja to drill a new gas well and so far he reckons life as a rig roustabout is "no worries".

Gottlieb described his job as general work around the rig,

manual handling and organising lots of equipment.

He works two weeks on and one week off in 12 hour shifts, and has found other young Aboriginal men interested in his experience working on the rig.

Magellan staff say Gottlieb's doing a top job so far, describing him as "very mechanically minded".

## Setting the Record Straight

'Pathways to your future and past' is the theme of a new initiative which encourages Indigenous Australians to consider careers in archives and records management.

The Indigenous Issues Special Interest Group (SIG) of the Australian Society of Archivists has produced a brochure that aims to spark an interest in recordkeeping careers

for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

SIG convener Loris Williams explained that "it is vital that our people become involved in archives and records

management, because we need to have a say in how our own history is documented."

The initiative is a direct response to the Bringing Them Home report recommendation that more Indigenous

people be trained as archivists.

"Indigenous Australians working as archivists and records managers can give Indigenous perspectives on the creation and long-term value of records, and can describe existing records about Indigenous Australians in a meaningful and respectful way," Ms

Williams said.

"We can also ensure appropriate care and management of cultural materials, provide culturally aware reference services and liaise with community groups about archives issues affecting Indigenous people."

As well as describing the work of records managers

and archivists, the brochure provides information about how Indigenous people can find jobs and get training in the field.

Most importantly, the brochure provides contacts with Indigenous people already working in the field. For copies contact Loris Williams on (07) 3272 1030.



### grog bans a success for celebrations

Feedback about the impact of the port ban for the Central Land Council's 30<sup>th</sup> Birthday has so far been encouraging.

The event was a great night out for families who were able to buy food and sit around on Anzac Oval enjoying the music and dancing without the humbug and violence of drunks. While police poured out 208 litres of alcohol, the event was peaceful with few incidents involving anti-social behaviour.

The Northern Territory Police said that they were pleased with the event and that they only had 36 call outs on the Friday night of celebrations - compared to an average of 90 call outs on a normal Friday night.

Members of the Central Land Council were pleasantly surprised when they requested the Northern Territory Liquor Commission to impose bans on selling port during the CLC's birthday celebrations. The Liquor Commission not only agreed to the request, but went one step further and decided that they would ban port and fortified wine products and four litre casks for three days.

The alcohol bans are still being evaluated.



# CLC 30th birthday celebrations

A crowd of 4500 enjoyed a free concert, traditional dancing and a photographic exhibition stretching back 30 years at the CLC's 30<sup>th</sup> Birthday celebrations on October 8.

The grog free event had a relaxed and friendly atmosphere as people enjoyed 200 traditional dancers from each of the CLC's regions, speeches and tales from former CLC Chairmen and music for all tastes.

In vintage form, and wearing the

most amazing yellow shoes, George Rurrumbu from the Warumpi Band had the crowd in his hand as they joined him in the Warumpi classics. Top End outfit Letterstick engaged a group of young Arrernte kids to drum which had the crowd jumping on stage to join in.



### clc digital archive

The launch of the Central Land Council's digital photo archive proved to be a hit at its 30<sup>th</sup> birthday celebrations in October.

CLC staff assisting users at the event reported queues of people to get on a computer and search for family members or community events.

The CLC has spent months digitising its photo archive and there are 2000 images now on the system. However the digital archive won't be taken to communities until several thousand more photos have been put on.

Next year the CLC will tour the archive and the 30 banners produced for the CLC's birthday around communities. Ten computers have been bought so that at least one computer will be left in communities within each of the CLC's regions.



Photographs of the 30th celebrations including photographic exhibition launch, traditional dancing and concert courtesy of the Central Land Council and Steve Strike



# beyond the partnership rhetoric: aboriginal rights and realities

**“Remember at the end of day – when the mill is shut down - and the miners go back to their country... it is Aboriginal people who will remain; we are the ones that have to look at the holes in the ground - forever; and it is Aboriginal people who will cry for their country....”**

The Central Land Council director David Ross recently spoke passionately about key partnerships working well between miners and Aboriginal landowners whilst slamming attacks made recently by the NT Minerals Council on changes to the Land Rights Act at this year's, Inaugural Global Sustainability Conference.

“The CLC's vision is for Aboriginal people to participate meaningfully in society, to be part of the wider economy, while keeping our distinct identities and culture strong,” Mr Ross said.

“In the CLC's area of operations there are many good examples of things working well for miners and Aboriginal stakeholders alike,” said Mr Ross.

Mr Ross spoke about a genuine and positive relationship built between the Newmont company and Aboriginal people through agreements under the Land Rights Act.

“The number of Aboriginal employees peaked last year, with 120 Aboriginal people working at Newmont Tanami operations – nearly a quarter of their workforce,” said Mr Ross.

“There are of course many issues that arise and the efforts of Newmont, working cooperatively with the CLC's Employment Unit have been aimed at providing support and mentoring to Aboriginal people beyond the initial training. This includes workplace literacy and numeracy with a teacher located on site.

Mr Ross spoke about these ongoing partnerships between CLC, Newmont and Aboriginal communities themselves to overcome challenges faced by a low retention rate of Aboriginal people employed at the mines.

“Aboriginal people from the bush face enormous disadvantages in moving between life on the community and, life in a world-class gold mine.

Education in remote communities remains the single greatest barrier to participation of Aboriginal people in the wider economy, Mr Ross said.

“I attended the inaugural meeting of the Advisory Committee of the Warlpiri Education and Training Trust. This is a trust that the CLC set up for traditional landowners to direct a portion of their negotiated payments from the mine – to be

used to improve educational outcomes in Warlpiri communities with respect to education and training. The WETT Advisory Committee brings together the CLC, Newmont, the Northern Territory and Commonwealth education and training departments, and community members. This is a huge endeavour and I commend Newmont for their part in establishing the benchmark for industry when dealing with Aboriginal land rights and the aspirations of affected Aboriginal communities,” said Mr Ross.

**“There are some commodities that the NT just doesn't have – iron ore, coal, nickel - and you can't blame Aboriginal peoples for that.”**

CLC DIRECTOR DAVID ROSS

“Giants Reef celebrated the first anniversary of its transition from explorer to miner - with over 50,000 ounces of low cost gold being produced during the year, all from Aboriginal land. Significantly, they have just issued contracts for their new open-cut at Malbec to an Aboriginal contracting company – Central Desert Enterprises. Of the 19 people working for CDE, 16 are Aboriginal, four of whom are from the traditional landowning group, whose only work experience was on Community Development Employment Program (CDEP), basically work for the dole.

We want to move forward in partnership with the industry. However beyond the rhetoric lies a stark political reality ...

The CLC has to remain vigilant and direct our attention and limited resources to dealing with threats posed by those who are driven by an outdated ideology – such as unfettered access to Aboriginal land at any cost. Even though the Land Rights Act has been the vehicle for establishing so many productive relationships, Aboriginal people's rights continue to be under threat.

Mr Ross went on to slam recent comments made by the NT Minerals Council, that there was a 13% reduction in exploration spending in the Northern Territory during the last financial year, due to land access issues and overcoming the Aboriginal Land Rights Act.

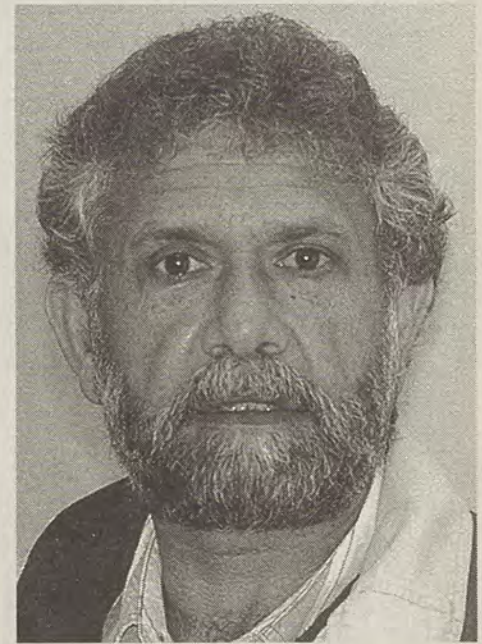
“A proper analysis would identify many significant factors contributing

to a decrease in exploration spending such as movement in commodity prices, improved remote sensing technology, globalisation of the mining industry, and the changing nature of financing exploration itself. Thankfully, the Minister for Mines in the Northern Territory, Kon Vatskalis said the NT Minerals Council is wrong and pointed out there were almost twice as many licences issued last year compared with the previous year but expenditure was down for a host of other reasons,” said Mr Ross.

“How can the NT Minerals Council purport to represent a modern and sustainable mining industry when it holds up Aboriginal people's rights as something to be ‘overcome’?

There is no use in mining companies espousing ‘a social licence to operate’ – when industry bodies, like the NT Minerals Council, are busy working the corridors of power – giving the message to government to ream-out the hard won rights of Aboriginal people! There are some commodities that the NT just doesn't have – iron ore, coal, nickel - and you can't blame Aboriginal peoples for that.

We in the Northern Territory know very well the destructive power of the politics of race and



Central Land Council director, David Ross

division. Over the last three years the CLC has worked collaboratively with the Northern Territory Government to try and mend the damage caused by 26 years of hostile politics,” said Mr Ross.

Mr Ross closed by saying the Northern Territory land councils and the NT Government have jointly agreed for a package of amendments that would increase the efficiency of the mining provisions of the Land Rights Act. These amendments are supported by the major mining companies in the Northern Territory and the package is currently before the Commonwealth for consideration.

## Indigenous Heritage Celebrated

**Indigenous knowledge and the rights of Indigenous peoples to protect their heritage were celebrated recently at a conference in Sydney.**

The conference brought together Indigenous people from around the world to share their stories and learn from each other.

The Northern Land Council facilitated the involvement of Aboriginal people Denise Williams and Freida Baker from Kakadu and James Marrawal from Goulburn Island, as well as staff member Michelle Higgins.

Speakers told a wide variety of stories - from experiences living as Indigenous people in North Dakota in the U.S.A., the misappropriation of Maori culture in New Zealand, to state, national and international development of conventions and laws to protect Indigenous knowledge.

Highlights of the conference included an impromptu speech by Denise Williams on traditional use of bush food and medicine in Kakadu and a talk by James Marrawal on bush medicine used on Goulburn Island.

“It was right to be there- people from all different nationalities and countries were talking together about Indigenous medicine,” Denise said.

“I think that bush medicine is better than *Mam* (non-Indigenous) medicine because I still use bush medicine for my kids, like lemongrass for my baby.”

“Some people today think that us Aboriginal people don't do traditional things anymore. In Kakadu we still do it- eat bush tucker, look after the land and use bush medicine.”

# mural amazes artists

A group of Eastern and Central Arrernte artists from Irrkerlantye Art Centre are amazed and proud of their contribution to the Alice Springs Hospital mural.

The mural measuring up to ten metres in length captures the public's attention as they enter the hospital

"It was the first time for us to work on a big mural. We have only been doing tiles and canvas, so it gave us an opportunity to do a big project. When we actually seen it all together on the wall we were really amazed with it," said Amelia Turner.

The artists were happy with the project but said it was physically hard painting for eight weeks, six hours a day but also great fun. The mural was launched at the hospital last month with family and friends attending to see the end result.

"The kids were amazed and couldn't believe that the old ladies like my mum MK and Queenie Kenny and Ruby Doolan could paint like that and so big. The teachers and kids and other family members were really overwhelmed with the mural," said Amelia.

"My family painted the second circle in the mural which represents inside the hospital ward. There is a white lady in bed and an Aboriginal man in a wheelchair who is coming to see how she is and a nurse. This is representing that the hospital is not just for one people but Indigenous and non-Indigenous.



Marlene Doolan and Denise Doolan painting part of the mural

"Each panel took a lot of talk, even the pattern around the circle has a lot of meaning with the red crosses symbolising the hospital and flowers symbolising people bringing in flowers for patients to get well," said Amelia.

The original drawing of the mural began in 2001 where the three Arrernte estate groups worked together on the drawing.

Irrkerlantye Art Centre Coordinator, Karina Menkhorst says the project needed a lot of infrastructure and that's why the centre was chosen to do the mural.

"Irrkerlantye already had a lot of the infrastructure like a crèche for the artist's kids, kitchen and transport. We even took a childcare person to the hospital where we worked to look after the kids while their mothers and grandmothers worked on the mural," said Karina.

Since finishing the mural project the artists are now gearing up for Christmas with tiles and canvases being done for local stalls.

# NYINKKA NYUNYU YOUTH PROJECT



Julalikari Council Aboriginal Corporation and the Nyinkka Nyunyu Art and Culture Centre in Tennant Creek have provided performing arts workshops to over 400 young people in the Barkly Region throughout the school year.

The Youth Performing Arts project has been funded by the Australian Government Department of Education Science and Training and ARTS NT.

The vision of the project is to encourage, inspire and empower young people to engage in education, training and employment within the arts.

There have been a

range of cross-cultural community performances combining traditional and contemporary dance, music, theatre and visual arts culminating in community performances at night under the stars at the Nyinkka Nyunyu Art and Culture Centre in Tennant Creek.

Indigenous artists involved in this years programs include Gaven Ivey (dance), Chantal Bates (dance), Barbra Drummond (dance), Natalie Copely (dance), Jason Campbell (break dance), Shellie Morris (singing, songwriting) Robert Smith (didgeridoo)

Non- Indigenous artists included, Chinta Reiss (percussion),



Shellie Morris



Youth get ready for their performance

Sophia Cowen (dance), Mandy Eccelston (singing), Mary Thorpe (theatre, drama, stilt walking, juggling) Margie Breen (theatre, drama, stilt walking) Craig Matthewson (script writing) Paul Cockram (video and film making) Byron Williams (hip hop) King Marong (African drumming).

# Mobility survey essential to service providers



Tangentyere research officers Eva Briscoe and Ricky Mentha discuss surveying.

A population survey of Alice Spring town camps and public housing may help answer questions about peoples movements and services needed to adequately service Aboriginal peoples needs in the region.

Tangentyere Council have been conducting the Town Camps and Public Housing mobility survey in collaboration with the Centre for

Remote Health to accurately map the movement of the Indigenous population of Alice Springs.

The project initiated by Tangentyere Council aims to base research on indigenous people firmly in the hands of local expertise. This involves all aspects of the research process from the development through to analysis and interpretation of data and the dissemination of the findings.

Centre for Remote Health Senior Economist Ilan Warchivker says the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Census does not deal specifically with Indigenous mobility.

"The ABS have their own means of estimating populations by doing a census every five years but in the census they don't deal very well with mobile populations and we wanted to alert them to issues of mobility," said Warchivker.

"To say look if there are so many

mobile people how come some services are not adequately funded to service the fluctuation."

The project also offers an opportunity to utilise the expertise and provide training to Aboriginal people who have cultural knowledge and language skills to become researchers.

The survey team includes nine Indigenous researchers who have been specifically trained for the research project, involving discussion on the development of the survey questionnaire, informed consent and interview techniques.

The project is funded for 12 months and includes four rounds of surveying.

Tangentyere Indigenous researcher Ricky Mentha has been part of the second round of surveying and says it has been a great experience.

"We go and sit down with them and it takes about 20 minutes, we get

permission from each household. All up we have done 235 with a target of 285 of households. Language is very important for the researchers because it helps get the correct story and so we are not getting distorted answers," said Ricky.

"We are finding that there are changes in town camps, and it might be cultural reasons, someone might have passed away and they had to move from that house and another family moved into that house. People move around depending on the time of year."

The results of the project will be compiled into a report, which will identify housing maintenance and other issues of town camps. It could prove a vital resource for many departments and agencies dealing with indigenous services especially in health, transport and education. This project has been funded through the Desert Knowledge CRC.



## yipirinya school fun day

A family fun day at Yipirinya school recently had a lot to celebrate with the official registration of secondary classes at the school.

Yipirinya School Council President and one of the founding members, Davey Inkamala was very happy and proud of the school.

"I'm really happy and it's taken a long time," said Mr Inkamala.

The Yipirinya School Secondary classes started earlier this year with 30 students attending classes in temporary demountables.

"The students are happy with the change, and with their new distinctive red uniforms which sets them apart from the primary students. The school has around 30 students attending secondary classes which fluctuates from time to time but has a core group of students regularly attending," said Yipirinya school principal, Mr Ken Langford-Smith.

Since registration, Yipirinya School has received some funding from the Commonwealth Government towards building two permanent secondary classrooms.

This could start sometime next year with the school already engaged in discussions on planning

and design for the future.

The Yipirinya School family fun day included cultural dancing, fun races, disco, childcare open day and sports clinics.



Yipirinya School Council President, Davey Inkamala enjoys the family fun day.



## tjuwanpa resource centre has a fresh look

Patrick Oliver proud of his paint job

The Tjuwanpa resource centre is looking vibrant thanks to the hard work and dedication of its community members.

The centre which is situated 120 kilometres south west of Alice Springs, decided on a new paint job to help with its presentation and create community pride in the centre.

Traditional landowner and member of the centre, Patrick Oliver, from Camel Hump outstation which is 134 kilometres west of the centre has been working at the centre painting the building including a new gallery and café for the last three months.

Patrick Oliver chose and designed the bright colours for the centre which has given community members real pride in the place which is just what the facelift set out to do.

A huge Aboriginal

flag was painted by Patrick on the roof of the centre as a strong political statement to all people that the centre is Aboriginal-owned and independent.

Tjuwanpa Resource Centre coordinator, Peter Byrne, said the centre really wanted to let people know that they are 100% Aboriginal-owned and independent from local government.

"The resource centre is Aboriginal-owned and independent from many organisations and agencies," Mr Byrne said.

"The community is really proud of the work done by Patrick and now they also want to paint their houses on their outstations which is a great step in keeping the houses maintained and looking good".



Hubert Pareroollja with his painting for the new gallery

The resource centre envisages more involvement in the tourism industry thanks to a new art gallery and café.

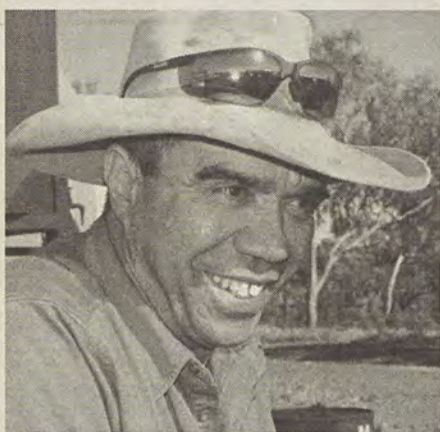
"The people from the outstations can use the centre for their benefit by displaying artwork done on their land at the new gallery," Byrne said.

The fresh look was sparked by the centre's involvement with a small tourist operation who approached the centre as a place to changeover tourist buses into smaller 4WD vehicles on tours of the area.

Tjuwanpa Resource Centre Chairman, Jo Breden, Patrick Oliver and CDEP Coordinator, Mr Fly are really happy with the new look of the centre



## mistake creek cattle blitzing competition



Aboriginal-owned cattle company Bluegloss Pty Ltd has taken out the Overall Best Exhibitor for the fourth time at the Kununurra Show in WA this year.

The company, which runs cattle on the Malgnin Land Trusts in the north west of the CLC's region, also took out seven first prizes and three second prizes for their Brahmans, including champion Brahman and champion pen of export steers.

The company has consistently earned top prices for its live export steers in recent years.

The property was bought with the assistance of the Central Land

Council in 1991 and has gone from strength to strength.

From being a run-down cattle station badly in need of infrastructure and maintenance, it has since been transformed into a highly professional operation.

The property was expanded in 1994 when the traditional owners bought the adjoining land to the north (Brumby Plains) and converted that to Aboriginal freehold after reaching agreement with the Northern Territory Government in 1998.

Bluegloss has been so successful that a number of major improvements have been made to the property, a new homestead for the manager, new staff kitchen/mess and recreation room, new staff quarters, new equipment sheds and extensive new fencing to keep cattle from the rivers that cross their country.

Congratulations to the traditional owners, their staff and particularly to their Aboriginal managers Steven and Jo-Anne Craig.



## amanbidji moving forward

A cooperative lease agreement described as a "win-win" for all, is set to bring rewards for the Aboriginal-owned Amanbidji Station (formerly Kildurk), in the Timber Creek region of the Northern Territory.

Signed earlier this year, the agreements allow private pastoral companies to agist cattle on the station, while the Amanbidji Aboriginal Corporation (AAC) utilises other areas of the station to operate their own cattle enterprises.

The deal involves the payment of an annual

fee, with the private companies giving an undertaking to conduct maintenance work on infrastructure such as fencing, water bores and road grading.

In return, members of the AAC will muster, draft, and manage the cattle on a daily basis.

Northern Land Council Pastoral Development Officer, Mark Ashley, said the deals aren't passive agreements.

"The AAC have their own cattle, their own business, and are leasing country to private companies that they have been unable

to develop for financial reasons," Mark said.

"It's a win-win arrangement for everyone."

With the agreements in place and their skills base enhanced through a corporate governance training package, the AAC are aiming towards management of their own affairs.

"The AAC have developed a property plan that outlines what work needs to be done. They have also worked out a business strategy of selling cattle to fund station improvements and capital items," Mark said.

## daly river mob lobby for greater say on own land

Aboriginal Traditional Owners have resolved to continue with a process that will determine future land and water management in the Daly River region of the Northern Territory, following a recent pull-out of its members.

At a meeting Daly River TOs proposed to boost their numbers to ensure their interests are recognised in any future 'catchment management authority' covering the Daly River region.

The region includes the Daly River which has the largest flow of any river in the Northern Territory.

The catchment authority, when it is finalised next year, will determine all future land and water usage

in the Daly River region, including the 'final say' on such diverse issues as development applications, fire management, land clearing by pastoralists, recreational and commercial fishing, recreational boating, irrigation, water pollution, weed management, and biodiversity.

The meeting enabled over 100 Aboriginal TOs from the Daly River and surrounding districts to voice their concerns about the composition of a proposed 'Daly River Catchment Authority' to interim Community Reference Group (CRG) chairman Rick Farley and the



director of Conservation and Natural Resources Division with the NT Government, David Ritchie.

Membership of the CRG was decided by the NT Government and includes five members of the Daly River community (all non-Aboriginal), 12 organisations including Amateur Fishermen's

Association, Environment Centre NT, Nauiyu Community Government Council, Landcare NT, Katherine Regional Tourism Association, and the Cattlemen's Association of NT, and its chair, Mr Farley.

In recent months Daly River Aboriginal peoples have become increasingly concerned that TO representation

on the 18-member CRG, only stands at one – Northern Land Council (NLC) deputy chairman, John Daly.

In June, Daly River TOs pulled out of the initial process by disengaging with the CRG, citing their concerns about the lack of representation by TOs.

At the recent Daly River meeting TOs decided on their chosen representatives for a 7-member advisory group to the proposed Catchment Management Authority and also made a strong bid for at least half the membership of the final Daly River 'catchment management authority' board.

Their rationale, they

believe, is simple.

Aboriginal people make up 50 per cent of the overall Daly River population, and own and manage around 30 per cent of the area's land, and should be given greater control.

One suggestion from TOs raised at the meeting was the possibility of a '50/50' split between Indigenous and non-Indigenous members of the Daly River 'catchment management authority' board.

Daly River TOs resolved to continue with the process if their concerns over representation were addressed, and included in the draft report scheduled for release this month.



# FESTIVALS



With its popularity continuing to soar, the annual Garma festival has become one of Australia's most significant indigenous cultural events.

Held each year at the picturesque sight of Gulkula in north east Arnhem Land, Garma is more than just a music and arts festival.

Established by the Yothu Yindi foundation some six years ago, organisers anticipate that visitors arrive with a willingness to participate in the knowledge and cultural exchange that Garma has to offer, and that they immerse themselves in the cultural activities and practices that the Yolngu people of Arnhem Land have to offer.

"Garma has come along at the right time. When we, my brother, my family, decided to set up Garma, we looked at focusing on education to help people understand." Co-founder Mandawuy Yunupingu said.

"Garma is about celebrating our culture, our roots, our love for Rom (law)."

The festival, with this year's theme being; "Indigenous livelihoods and leadership", also featured music workshops, ceremonial dancing, art presentations, and an eco-tourism program.

For those seeking a more "hands-on" approach, workshops were held in spear, basket and yidaki - (didgeridoo) making. All activities consistent with the sharing concept Garma was created for.

As well as providing a conduit linking many cultures, Garma is also a ceremony within a ceremony.

"Garma is a boundary," co-founder Galarrwuy Yunupingu said. "Inside a Wukidi ceremony only the very senior people can step in. The Garma is the outside aspect of the Wukidi."

With their rich cultural heritage entwined with a willingness to share, future festivals will continue to maintain, nurture, and celebrate Yolngu cultural practices according to Mandawuy Yunupingu.

"Our culture is rich in song and dance. I am determined to see our culture and language preserved." Mandawuy said. "We hope that the work we do here is respected and adopted."



## nt indigenous music awards

Mills Sisters

Yothu Yindi, the Mills Sisters, Shellie Morris, George Rurrumbu and the Nabarlek Band have been mainstays in the Northern Territory's Indigenous music scene for many years, despite little or no play on mainstream radio stations.

Bands like Yothu Yindi have had sporadic success on the Australian charts, however, their music has more appeal to global audiences which some have attributed to a 'cultural cringe' when it comes to the consumption of Aboriginal music by the Australian public.

The market for this type of music exists largely in the hundreds and thousands of cassette tapes that are still predominately used in the car tape players or the 'beat boxes' of many Aboriginal people in the Top End.

While the 'word of mouth' marketing system operates widely amongst Aboriginal communities - as to when gigs are on, where certain artists and bands are performing, and what new release is out - recognition of this special and unique part of the Australian music industry with its ancient roots has been sadly lacking in recent years.

That's why non-profit organisation Music NT in association with the NT Government's Indigenous Arts Strategy saw fit to stage the inaugural NT Indigenous Music Awards, held recently in Darwin.

Yothu Yindi won the award for best act, while Warren H. Williams from Alice Springs, and Shellie Morris from Darwin, took out the best male and female artist awards respectively.

Yothu Yindi lead singer Mandawuy Yunupingu was also recognised with inaugural entry into the NT Music Hall of Fame, which was sealed with his hand-print sprayed with ochre.

One of the few downsides of the awards was the judges' concern at the lack of current releases from NT Indigenous artists, according to Music NT manager Britta Decker.

"The judges were very disappointed that there were so few CDs released by Indigenous artists this year," said Ms Decker.

"We really hope that these awards and showcase concerts in Darwin and Alice Springs will encourage more Indigenous bands to record and release their music."

The awards, which will become an annual event, included the entry into the Hall of Fame of Central Australia musician, Bob Randall.

For more information contact Music NT on (08) 8981 1995.



MC Heffa

Warren H Williams



## Festival of Pacific Arts



Never too young to learn: Children of the Pacific region enjoy their cultural heritage.

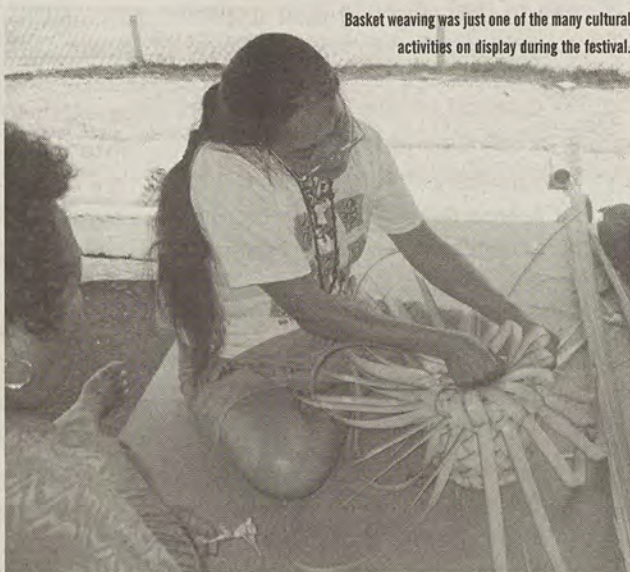
The newly independent nation of Palau has played host to one of the Pacific region's biggest cultural events.

Held every four years, the Festival of Pacific Arts is one of the few major gatherings of Indigenous people from across the Pacific.

This year more than 3000 people ventured to the tiny island that forms part of Micronesia to attend the 9<sup>th</sup> Festival of Pacific Arts. Held over a 10-day period, the Festival once again lived up to expectations, offering activities that included performances, workshops, readings and forums.

With a population of around 20,000 people, for the island of Palau - which only acquired its independence from the United States in 1995 - hosting the Festival was a significant achievement in their short history as an independent nation.

Given the size of the economic dependency of many Pacific nations, events such as the Festival are an important showcase of strength and unity, as well as a proud reflection of the regions cultural heritage and



Basket weaving was just one of the many cultural activities on display during the festival.



Pacific Islanders singing and dancing in ceremonial dress where a feature at the festival

maintenance.

The Australian contingent numbered some 30 delegates, and included representatives of Territory organisations such as the Elcho Island Knowledge Centre and the Association of

Northern Kimberley & Arnhem land Aboriginal Artists (ANKAAA).

The festival, which is held in a different Pacific location on each occasion, has continued to attract attention since its inception in 1972.



# onya gunbalanya

Competitors in the inaugural Gunbalanya Gift foot race

Over two thousand people headed to Gunbalanya (commonly known as Oenpelli) in Kakadu National Park in the Northern Territory to experience the culture of the several language groups that call the Aboriginal community their home.

Overlooked by escarpments and the rocky hills of Arrguluk, Injalak and Banyan, the community of Gunbalanya is situated in the north-west corner of Arnhem Land, about 300kms by road from Darwin, and holds an annual open day giving tourists and visiting Territorians a taste of their culture through dance, food, music, and the local obsession with Australian Rules football.

According to senior traditional landowners Donald Gumurdal and Jacob Nayinggul, the Gunbalanya Open Day began as a fundraising event for the local community school many years ago.

"Due to its popularity it evolved into a huge event and became too big for the local school to organise," they said.

In recent years the event has been combined with the nearby Jabiru Festival, but now the open day is organised by the Kunbarllanjja Community Government Council and Injalak Arts and Crafts Centre, which did a roaring trade in its quality artworks of bark paintings, paintings on paper,

Karrabarrda dancers perform at the Gunbalanya Community Open Day



didgeridoos, woven dilly bags and baskets.

In the open men's football, St. Johns College were too strong for Beswick, and in the girl's basketball Marrara Christian School were victorious.

Highlights of the day and night included traditional dancing by the Karrabarrda (Yam) Dancers, kangaroo fillet burgers, buffalo sausage rolls, and fresh barramundi burgers at the Demed Association food stall, and musical performances by Nabarlek Band, and Warick Band at the Gunbalanya Sports and Social Club.

The day also saw the running of the very first 'Gunbalanya Gift' foot race for the children of the community which organisers say will become an annual event.



Gunbalanya student, Kayla-Jane Nagurrpurba



Gunbalanya Gift winners



"Peace Bro", Gunbalanya student Roy



## kanak senators visit central australia

A delegation of Kanak Senators travelled thousands of kilometres from New Caledonia to visit the Northern Territory on a recent study tour.

The Senators' spent three days in Central Australia talking with Lhere Artepe members on native title issues in Alice Springs and visited the Central Land Council to talk about issues concerning Aboriginal land.

The aim of the tour was to find out how Aboriginal authorities and communities deal with land issues such as land claims (land and sea), land development management programs, joint management projects and mining on aboriginal land.

Customary Senate of New Caledonia Secretary General Regis Vendegou was happy to be talking with Aboriginal people of central Australia.

"We have the same culture. We want to know how you manage your land, your traditional lands. How many square kilometres you take back or you already have. What are the technical means and moral means, and financial means? How do you do this because we have some similarities with our culture and we want to get this information to take back home and tell our people its like this - that's how our brother Aboriginal people do things and look for some methods to manage our lands," said Regis Vendegou

The Kanak are the

Indigenous people of New Caledonia, which is an island situated 1,722 kilometres, north east of Sydney in the South Pacific.

New Caledonia is a French province and part of the French Republic. The population is around 300,000 and the Kanak people, the Indigenous people are 42 per cent of the population.

The island was explored by James Cook in 1774 and become a part of the French Republic when it became an overseas territory in 1946.

The group visiting the NT are part of the customary Senate which is the third institution of New Caledonia, along with the Congress (parliament) and the Government of New Caledonia. The customary Senate is composed of 16 senators representing the Kanak indigenous people from the eight customary councils (language or cultural areas) in which New Caledonia is divided into.

Customary Council Secretary General, Reybas Waka-Ceou, spoke to Land Rights News about issues concerning Indigenous people in their country.

"Another big initiative is to set up the customary land survey and this is why we have come to Australia to see how once the land is given back to the traditional owners, how are boundaries set and how you manage



CLC director, David Ross with members of the Kanak Customary Senate on their visit to Alice Springs.

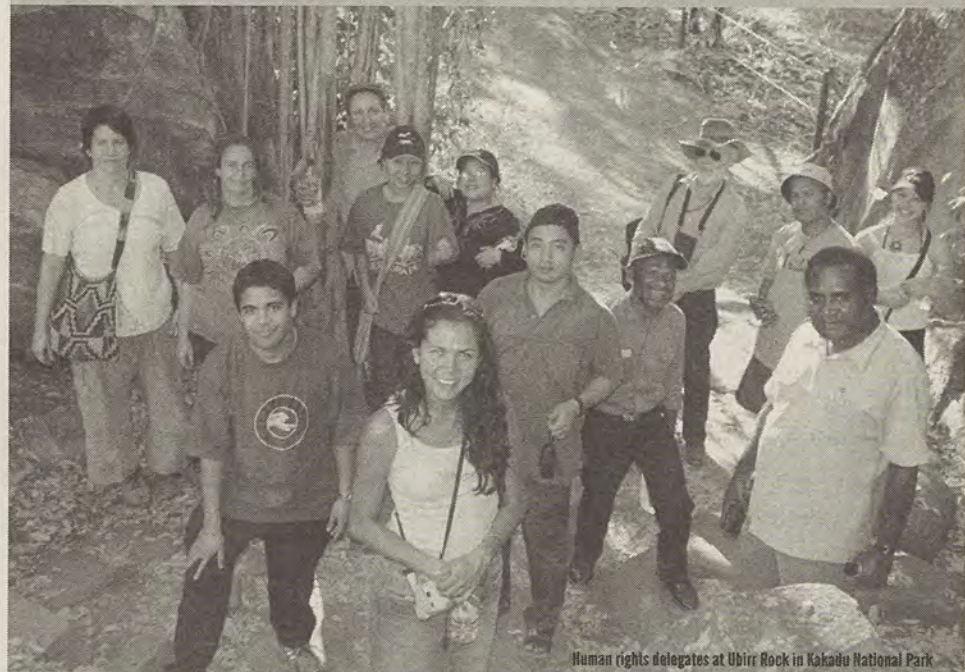
Left: Lhere Artepe Chairman, Brian Stirling and head of the Kanak delegation and other members.

it," Mr Waka-Ceou said

"We have our traditional land, the reserve land but we never stopped claiming back more and more land because the entire country is our land, so we are claiming more and more and we thought the way you start developing your land would be the proper example that we should look at because there are similarities in the methods because we are Indigenous peoples."

Waka-Ceou said his country is also working on setting up a Kanak language academy, which will be the centre for reviving but also officialising the kanak languages.

"The Kanak has 28 languages and often one kid would speak two languages because of the mother and father and they can be from different language areas. But prior to teaching languages at school we need to teach teachers. We need to find the proper words. This is why the senate is working on establishing the academy in which the proper language will be set up, dictionaries will be written, teachers will be educated. We speak a language that is evolving. We don't want to introduce French words like 'telephone', we need to find a word that will name that. We want proper kanak words to describe everything," he said.



Human rights delegates at Ubirr Rock in Kakadu National Park.

## indigenous rights a focus for DTP

Indigenous peoples in the Asia/Pacific region should continue to lobby international bodies to highlight human rights abuses, despite active opposition to their plight by their respective governments, according to delegates at a human rights training conference in Darwin.

Over 20 Indigenous advocates and human rights workers from Bangladesh, Thailand, India, Aotearoa (New Zealand), Papua New Guinea, and West Papua, as well as delegates from across Australia graduated from an intensive 10-day training program to gain the skills and tools to become better advocates for Indigenous peoples in the Asia-Pacific region.

The Diplomacy Training Program (DTP), of which the Northern Land Council (NLC) is a partner, was held at Charles Darwin University (CDU)'s School of Australian Indigenous Knowledge Systems in Darwin.

Both the NLC and the Central Land Council (CLC) had representatives to graduate including Elaine Glen, who works in the mining section at the NLC office in Jabiru, Todd Condie who works in the media section of the NLC office in Darwin, and Graeme Smith, manager of regional services with the CLC.

Delegates were taken through various United Nations processes and how they relate to human rights and the rights of Indigenous peoples, as well as applying that to role-playing exercises that focused on actual case studies of Indigenous peoples fighting, in some cases, for their very existence.

Elaine Glen said the process was invaluable in making partnerships with other Indigenous peoples, especially people from mine-impacted areas.

"It was terrific to meet so

many inspiring Indigenous people from Australia and overseas and try to put our collective minds and experiences together to try and address issues in our communities," Glen said.

Graeme Smith said the DTP was challenging, but worthwhile.

"The DTP course was terrific. It shows that here in the Northern Territory, we are well advanced in comparison to other parts of Australia, and indeed Australasia in terms of land rights and the

management of these lands as a direct result of the Aboriginal Land Rights Act (NT) 1976," Smith said.

"Our struggles have been hard fought over many years to obtain these rights by tremendous Aboriginal leaders."

Director of the Western Australian Aboriginal Community-Controlled Health Organisation (WACHHO) Darryl Kickett said his umbrella organisation is facing funding cuts, a situation that was focused on as a case study, from an action plan all the way to the tabling and reporting of the situation to the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

The graduates are in illustrious company with the first graduating class including NT Minister John Ah Kit, CLC director David Ross, former ATSI Commission Josie Crawshaw, and Central Australia's Tracker Tilmouth, with East Timor's Jose Ramos Horta a driving force of its establishment.

# colouring books launched



The Eastern Anmatyere, Alyawarr and Kaytetye colouring books are a celebration of Aboriginal culture for both bush kids and city kids.

The colouring books are the works of students from the Batchelor Institute for Indigenous Tertiary Education (BIITE) who have been studying certificate I and II in Own Language Work.

The students in collaboration with IAD Press worked together to get these beautiful illustrated books published.

The pictures include all sorts of fun things: kids swimming in waterholes, and hunting for bush tucker, and there are dingoes and goannas and kangaroos too. Children can do their own exploring and learn lots of new things and new words whilst colouring in the pictures.

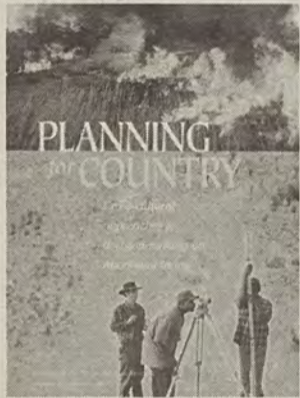
IAD Press Publisher, Josie Douglas says that "the colouring books reflect the lives of the people who created them and who will be using them. Projects like these are important for the communities."

The colouring books include key words in language with example sentences and English translations.

IAD hopes the books will be used as literacy tools in bush schools and by children all around Australia to enjoy and learn about Aboriginal language and culture.

For more information contact IAD Press on 08 89511334 or email sales@iad.edu.au

# Planning for Country – wins excellence award



planning in Australia contained in a substantial report, book, thesis, article or piece of research. It was also runner up in the coveted Planning Ministers Award for an example of best practice in planning.

Central Land Council director, David Ross says the organisation is very proud of the book and thanks the people who worked on publishing it.

"I thank the researchers Fiona Walsh and Paul Mitchell for the hard yards they did on this. It was on-the-ground work, helping traditional owners in our area to learn about the possibilities that land management and planning could open up for them. The key to much of our work is

ensuring that traditional owners have the tools to understand and make decisions for themselves. This is what this book successfully sets out to do - it's a guide on how to transfer the necessary skills - and they've done a good job on it," Mr Ross said.

In making the presentation, the Judges commented "this is a very special text which presents, in an accessible and attractive fashion, an excellent guide to involving Aboriginal communities in a range of different contextual circumstances. This book should be compulsory reading for all students of planning and for all planning practitioners."

An Institute for Aboriginal Development (IAD) Press and Central Land Council book has won a Planning Institute of Australia (SA) award for excellence in planning.

The joint publication "Planning for Country: Cross cultural approaches to decision making on Aboriginal lands" won the 'Planning, Scholarship, Research and Training category,' which recognised an outstanding contribution to issues relating to rural/urban

# whispers of this wik woman

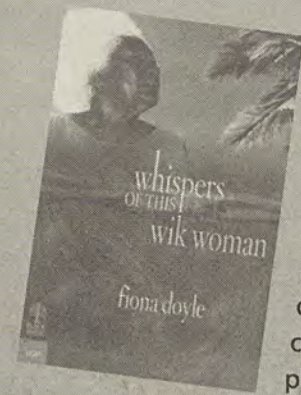
By Fiona Doyle  
Published by the University of Queensland Press

Last month the Wik and Wik Way peoples of Cape York finally had their native title rights recognised over 12,530 sq km on the west coast of Cape York Peninsula.

Given this historic recognition of Indigenous rights it is timely that this edition's book review is the latest publication from University of Queensland Press (UQP).

'Whispers of this Wik Woman' by Fiona Doyle is a deeply personal account of Cape York activist Jean George Awumpun.

Written from the perspective of her grand-daughter, Fiona Doyle,



an accomplished dancer and choreographer, the

book provides an 'inside account' into Aboriginal activism and Western law.

As Doyle says in the introduction: 'One of the motivators to complete this book has been the 'Wik' issue but my main motivation is because Nana is an exceptional woman.'

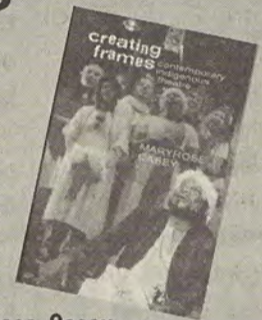
# creating frames contemporary indigenous theatre

Since the late 1960s there have been hundreds of theatre productions of scripts by artists who identify as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders.

From isolated attempts to achieve production in the 1960s, collective action created Indigenous theatre companies in the 1970s.

From these beginnings, the 1980s saw Indigenous playwrights established on national and international stages.

Building on these achievements in the 1990s, Indigenous theatre



By Maryrose Casey  
Published by the University of Queensland Press

practitioners have positioned themselves as an important part of Australian theatre practice.

People interviewed for inclusion in this book include the late Bob Maza, Jack Charles, Gary Foley, Justine Saunders, Wesley Enoch and John Harding

# new release: tjupi debut album

This debut album echoes songs about the land and dealing with issue's affecting communities today such as grog, drugs and domestic violence.

The "Tjupi Band" members includes legendary Warumpi bass player Sammy Butcher, Barnabas Daniels, Jason and Jeremiah Butcher, who all come from Papunya, a remote Aboriginal community 200 kilometres west of Alice Springs. The songs are sung in Luritja and some in Warlpiri.

The first debut single called "Kunyi" is sung in Luritja and is the first time the band have combined their talents.

Sammy hopes this album will help guide young people on communities in the right direction and see that there is more for

them to strive towards for a better future.

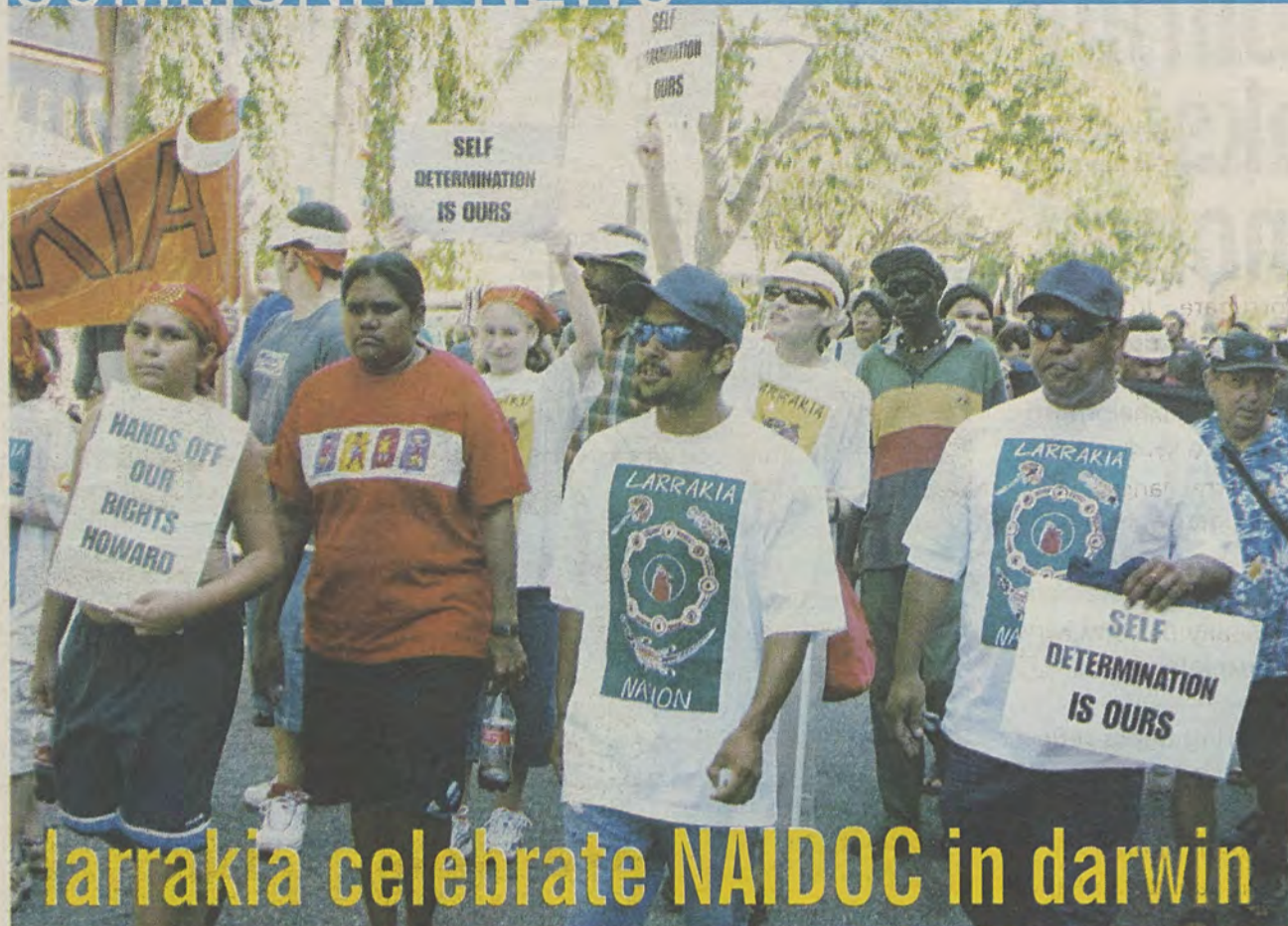
Barnabas is an original band member from the Black shadow Band and brings fabulous vocals to the album.

Jason Butcher is the original drummer from Spinx and Jeremiah Butcher is following in his fathers and brothers footsteps by performing in the Yirara college band before getting the opportunity to work with his father and brother on this album.

Tjupi titled album is out now in CAAMA Shops and all good music stores.

CAAMA Shops, 101 Todd ST, Alice Springs, NT 0870

Tel: 08 8951 9711. Fax: 08 8951 9718 www.caama.com.au



## Larrakia celebrate NAIDOC in Darwin

Hundreds hit the streets of Darwin in July in celebration of Aboriginal and Islander week, commonly known as NAIDOC Week.

Darwin's traditional owners the Larrakia Nation took a leading role in the activities featuring a march through the CBD to Parliament House, with many holding placards and chanting, 'Who are we? Larrakia! What do we want? Native title! When do we want it? Now!'

On the steps of the NT Parliament speakers were highly critical of the Federal Government's decision to abolish the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission (ATSIC), effectively 'mainstreaming' the final platform of services under the control of Indigenous Australians.

Yilli Rreung ATSIC regional chairman Kimberley Hunter said the abolition of ATSIC would be judged by 'history'.

"We should have the right to self-determination, we should have the right to provide services for Aboriginal people," Mr Hunter said.

ATSIC Commissioner Akarriyuwu Hill warned that land rights were 'under threat'.

"The good work of our old people is under threat," Mr Hill said.

Despite this, Hill said, NAIDOC is time for celebration and a chance to express pride in being the First Australians.

"We have few times to celebrate, usually we only meet collectively at funerals, so let's make NAIDOC matter," he said.

Darwin Torres Strait Islander representative Doug Bon agreed saying that Indigenous Australians had to unite to fight for their status as the oldest continuous human culture in the world.

Minister John Ah-Kit, one of two Aboriginal ministers in the NT Labor Government, said despite these being 'trying times', Indigenous Australians had to continue to be 'fiercely proud of who you are'.

"Don't give up the vision, go forward and encourage your children to have what the old people never had," Minister Ah Kit said.

After a flag-raising at Parliament by



Belyuen/Larrakia yidaki player at Karawa Park

Larrakia representative Rosie Fejo-Parfitt, activities then shifted to the Larrakia Nation Aboriginal Corporation (LNAC)'s Karawa Park where Indigenous service providers held information stalls, dances were performed by the Belyuen/Larrakia Nation dancers, the Mer Peiberi dance troupe, and Samantha Chalmers, a fashion parade featuring clothing designed by LNAC delighted the crowd, and musical performances by John Kelly Country with Batchelor students on yidaki, Horace Wala

Wala, of the Sunrize Band, Mandy Garling, Shellie Morris, the Mills Sisters, and Wildwater.

Rickelle Parfitt and Brandon Parfitt with Rosie Fejo-Parfitt at the Darwin flag raising.



## all stars get green light

The Australian Football League (AFL) has stood by an earlier commitment, and given the green light for the Aboriginal All Stars match to go ahead in Darwin next year.

Organisers have circled February 5<sup>th</sup> as the proposed date, with the Western Bulldogs emerging as the All Stars likely opponents. Not surprisingly, the match has attracted attention from every Aboriginal footballer in the AFL.

"The level of interest from players has been great," AFL Indigenous Programs Officer, Michael Long said. "There's been enough interest to field two teams. It's our state of origin."

With the keen interest shown by the players, Michael Long is confident that all AFL clubs will be understanding, and release their players to participate in the match.

"AFL Chief Executive, Andrew Demetriou, will be meeting all clubs to discuss player availability. It is an AFL sanctioned match, so we don't expect that there will be too many objections," Michael said.

With player availability not an issue, the difficult decision will come in deciding just who will coach the team.

"There are some quality candidates who fit the selection criteria very well," Michael said. "So, obviously, it's a difficult choice to make."

"This year's focus is national, and selectors are keen to ensure that, in regards to coaching staff, that all states and territories are represented where possible."

The successful candidates are expected to be announced on the 24<sup>th</sup> of November. While the final make up of the All Stars team won't be known until early next year.



# entrapment

The journey of an Aboriginal man entering a sacred area without permission is the theme of a new production held recently in Darwin in the Northern Territory.

'Entrapment' represents the first locally-produced work of renowned choreographer, artistic director and dancer Gary Lang who has returned to his hometown of Darwin to impart some of his extensive industry knowledge to local dancers.

"I want to give local dancers the benefits of my experience in the dance industry over many years and in many places here in Australia and overseas," Lang said.

"This production has enabled myself and co-artistic director Juliette Hubbard to get

a committed core group of Darwin dancers together, which hopefully will lead onto other shows."

'Entrapment' played over three nights recently at the Nightcliff Community Centre in Darwin drawing good audiences, and praise from the local arts community.

Lang and Hubbard incorporated intelligent use of light and texture, maximised the use of the limited space of the community hall, and fully exploited the grand and sometimes eerie sounds of The Tammel Quartet Music

in Darkness.

Lang said the production couldn't have gone ahead without the support of the NT Department of Community Development, Sport and Cultural Affairs, Corrugated Iron Youth Arts, and Ausdance NT.

Lang has a long history in dance from touring with the Bangarra Dance Company, and the Aboriginal and Islander Dance Theatre Company performing throughout the world, including the United Kingdom, the United States, Egypt, India, China, Germany, Indonesia, Korea, Brazil, Japan and Papua New Guinea.

He has also toured extensively within Australia, working with companies and artists in New South Wales, Queensland, Western



Australia and the Northern Territory.

During his time spent at Bangarra and NAISDA Dance College, Gary was given the opportunity to participate in educational trips to Ernabella (SA), Yirrkala (NT), Lardil Mornington Island (QLD), Tiwi Islands (NT), and Murray Island and Moa Island (Torres Strait).



Gary Lang (bottom) and (top) with some of the dancers

## Namijinpa Daniels

Yuendumu recently lost one of its most important senior people with the recent passing of Namijinpa Daniels.

CLC Chairman William Brown said she would be greatly missed.

"She was one of the leaders, a woman's voice in the community. We were really honoured when the family rang us to tell us that they would still like her photo

displayed on a banner at the CLC 30th anniversary," Mr Brown said.

Nampijinpa led an active and community focused life.

As Chairwoman of the Womens Centre, she was instrumental in implementing child care for younger women.

Daughter Cecily Granites said her mother always supported her and other young women.

"She was a really good mother and she grew up a lot of grandchildren when their mothers went off drinking. She also helped me bring up my two

children and four others I looked after," she said.

Nampijinpa taught cultural studies at the Yuendumu School, was a member of Night Patrol and, as an artist, travelled all over the world.

Returning from New York some years ago she was heard to remark on the plight of beggars there - "asking, asking, asking

and nobody give 'em. Here at Yuendumu we give 'em".

This generosity of spirit was typical of Nampijinpa and she has left a precious legacy by sharing and handing down her cultural knowledge.

Cecily Granites says her mother passed an immense amount of knowledge to her and to many Warlpiri women.

Tributes flowed in at her funeral and some mourners flew from overseas to pay their last respects to a woman who led by example.

**"This generosity of spirit was typical of Nampijinpa and she has left a precious legacy by sharing and handing down her cultural knowledge."**

## INDIGENOUS CATTLEMEN'S WORKSHOP REMINDER

This workshop is designed to give you useful practical tips on running a cattle enterprise. You will come away with key points on all topics as well as contacts for further information.

### TIME AND DATES OF WORKSHOP

8am- 5pm 24<sup>th</sup> of November

8am- 5pm 25<sup>th</sup> of November

8am- 1pm 26<sup>th</sup> of November

On the 26<sup>th</sup> there will be a free BBQ at 1pm.

Guest Speakers Include the Following:

- \*Landmark- Preparing Animals for Market
- \*Elders- Marketing of Animals
- \*Watershed- Managing Water
- \*Littlefish- Money Story and governance
- \*Bush Fires Council- Fire Management
- \*CLC- What is Required to Run Cattle on Aboriginal Land
- \*DBIRD- Animal Husbandry, Infrastructure, Horse and Grazing Management

Workshop Will be held at the Arid Zone Research Institute located on the South Stuart Highway

If you are interested in attending please register by contacting: Tony Freshwater on 0428 580 060



*Lunch and Smoko will be provided at the workshop on each of the days*

# 21st telstra indigenous art awards



Gulumbu Yunupingu



Three memorial poles by an East Arnhem Land artist from the Northern Territory has taken the top prize at this year's 21st Telstra National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Awards, held in Darwin.

The work, 'Garak the Universe', by Gulumbu Yunupingu won the \$40,000 first prize.

Ms Yunupingu, the eldest sister of Yothu Yindi's Mandawuy Yunupingu and the former Northern Land Council chairman Galarrwuy Yunupingu, works on a variety of media, including painting on bark, weaving pandanus mats and didgeridoo.

There were 336 entries for this year's art awards, shortlisted to 100 choices for the judges.

The other winners were: \$4000 Bark Painting Award – Kay Lindjuwanga for 'Buluwana at Dilebang'; \$4000 General Painting Award – Spider Snell for 'Kurtal Jila'; \$4000 Works on Paper – Brook Andrew for 'Tensio'; and \$4000 Wandjuk Marika Three-Dimensional Memorial Award – Timothy Wulanjbirr for 'Lorrkon Hollow Log'.

The 21st Telstra National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Award will be on display at the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory in Darwin until November 7.



Art prize 'danced up' by Tiwi dancer



Spider Snell

