

LAND RIGHTS NEWS

Volume 8, Number 2, September 2009



SIGN OF THE TIMES

The UN Special Rapporteur for Indigenous Rights inspects the prescribed area sign at Yuendumu...see page 3



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Land Rights NEWS

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COVER PHOTO

Left-right: Valerie Martin, Harry Nelson, Professor James Anaya and Peggy Brown at the sign announcing the 'rules' of the prescribed area, that is, all Aboriginal land.



Signs of protest in the Tanami Desert against the Intervention - see story page 3

CONTENTS

UN AT YUENDUMU.....	3	ELLIOT NATIVE TITLE WIN.....	16
POLITICS, POLITICS.....	4	NITMILUK MEMORIES - CHIPS	
LEASES STILL NOT SIGNED.....	5	MACKINOLTY	17
CENTRAL AUSTRALIAN PARKS		GARMA PICS	18
HANDBACKS.....	6	NEWS.....	19
IMANPA GETS ITS STORE.....	7	CATTLE IN THE CENTRE	20
BRINGING ANCESTORS HOME	8	NEW REP BODY.....	21
ABORIGINAL PARTY.....	9	CAAMA - WILLY TILMOUTH	
OUTSTATIONS - WHERE TO?..	10	TALKS	22
20 YEARS - NITMILUK	11	FOOTY - LIAM JURRAH.....	23
RANGERS.....	12	INDIGENOUS MUSIC	
RANGERS.....	13	AWARDS.....	24
CLC OFFICE OPENING.....	14		
ACTION AT ULPANYALI.....	15		

Alyawarra people ask UN to declare them refugees

People from the Alyawarra nation north-east of Alice Springs have asked the United Nations to have them declared refugees because they are facing a path of destruction through the denial of their basic human rights under the Federal Government's intervention.

The move follows the walk-off of Alyawarra people from the Ampilatwatja community in July in protest against the intervention.

A spokesman for the protesters, Richard Downs, said the walk-off aimed to remove them from the Ampilatwatja community, which is a prescribed area under the Northern Territory Emergency Response or intervention.

He said the intervention excludes Aboriginal people from the protection of the Racial Discrimination Act, subjects them to substantial and persistent racial discrimination and multiple violations of international human rights conventions.

"We believe we're standing up for our values and shouldn't be living under these controls," Mr Downs said. "It's got to the stage where enough's enough."

"What we're saying is we've seen nothing in the last two-and-a-half years of the intervention. What we see is them taking all our rights away, force feeding us."

"The current status of Aboriginal people is that we are refugees in a country we have called our own since time immemorial."

Mr Downs said the Alyawarra people handed the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Indigenous Rights Pro-

fessor James Anaya the hand written request to register the Alyawarra nation as refugees during his recent visit to the Northern Territory.

They want to be registered under the International Refugee Convention as internally displaced persons, thereby according them the international protections that status brings.

They've also asked that the UN ensures that the Australian Government is aware of and fulfils its obligations under the International Refugee Convention, the UN Charter for Human Rights, the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and other human rights covenants Australia is signed up to.

Mr Downs said the Alyawarra people want the Australian and Northern Territory Governments to work with Aboriginal people on a plan that will put measures in place for the next 20 to 30 years.

"The intervention has got to be abolished, they've got to come back to the table," Mr Downs said.

"We need to take ownership and be accountable for ourselves. We've made mistakes and the governments have made mistakes."

"We've got to start coming together. They're dividing us."

"We've got to come together," he said.

UN Rapporteur on desert tour



The United Nations Special Rapporteur on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms of Indigenous People has said the federal intervention into Northern Territory Aboriginal communities is discriminatory.

Professor James Anaya spent several days in Central Australia recently and will make a full report to the UN on what he saw.

He met with individuals and Aboriginal organisations in Alice Springs before spending a day at Yuendumu in the Tanami Desert.

More than 50 people turned out to welcome Professor Anaya to the community. They took him on an 'Intervention' tour of Yuendumu featuring sites locals say breach articles of the UN Declaration of Human

Rights. The first site was the universally loathed large blue sign announcing the rules of the 'prescribed area' under which all communities in the NT became subject to after the intervention.

The Rapporteur was then shown the GBM's office which had been built by bulldozing a family's camp under a tree before visiting a men's 'cooling off' room, a bleak and barred demountable surrounded by high wire. The locals said the facility, which cost more than \$100,000 is never used and nobody knows who has the key to the gate.

Both buildings were highlighted as the only buildings built in Yuendumu since the intervention.

A tour of the school made the point that bilingual education had been

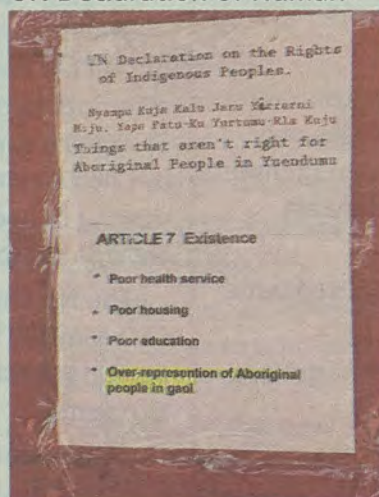
stopped and a visit to the shire office illustrated the loss of local governance.

A notice at the courthouse declared it a symbol of over representation of Indigenous people in jail.

Before leaving Australia Professor Anaya said the intervention's discriminatory measures such as suspension of the Racial Discrimination Act 'stigmatised the stigmatised' and should be repealed.

Above: the people of Yuendumu welcome Professor Anaya
Below: Yuendumu residents Harry Nelson, Valerie Martin and Frank Baarda show the Rapporteur the never used men's 'cooling off' compound.

Below left: the notice at the court house. All the sites had an explanatory notice attached to them detailing which article they breached.



CLC: rebuild community governance urgently



The Central Land Council says the need to rebuild community governance structures is urgent.

CLC Director David Ross says that he's extremely concerned about the cumulative impact of the dramatic changes forced on Aboriginal people in the last two years.

"I am seeing an increased sense of frustration in the bush and at our Council meetings," Mr Ross said.

"People may have different opinions about elements such as income management, but overall, they feel sad and disappointed about the direction of Aboriginal affairs and their children's futures.

"It's two years and more than a billion dollars since the in-

tervention began and really the only tangible outcomes are the big blue signs which are an outright insult to the many decent people out there trying to do the right thing," he said.

"The combination of the intervention and the new shire arrangements for Aboriginal communities has left them feeling utterly powerless.

"We have put forward this view to the Government very strongly in a submission on the future directions of the NT Emergency Response," he said.

The submission says there has been a drastic reduction in opportunities for Aboriginal people, both men and women, to play a role in

governing their communities. Many smaller communities have no representation on shire councils, and local boards are strictly advisory and operate at the whim of the shire.

"This vacuum in legitimate Aboriginal governance contradicts the obvious need to engage and support local Aboriginal leaders in building a future for their communities," Mr Ross said.

"Quite simply, it threatens the success of all NTER measures.

"All of these measures combined have resulted in deep disappointment, disillusionment and anger for Aboriginal people in Central Australia," he said.

Deal secures more time for Labor

A deal with the Independent member for Nelson, Gerry Wood, has given the Labor Party more time to sure up its government in the Northern Territory after it looked as though defecting member Alison Anderson might topple it.

Ms Anderson is the Member for MacDonnell in Central Australia and was the Labor Government's Minister for Indigenous Policy until she resigned from the party saying Labor was wasting millions under the \$672 million Strategic Indigenous Housing and Infrastructure Program (SIHIP).

instability and chaos – not 'peace, order and good government'," Mr Hill said.

"If Ms Anderson truly believes, as she has said, that the feds should come and take over governing the Territory, then she has no choice but to resign immediately. Full stop!

"She has been a minister of the Crown, presiding over Indigenous affairs, and in the Westminster system the buck stops with her, so she must take responsibility for not delivering Indigenous programs."

Mr Hill also criticised the Federal Government for taking too long to build houses under the SIHIP program.

"Not one house has been built under SIHIP in the two years since the Federal intervention," Mr Hill said.

The Federal Indigenous Affairs Minister Jenny Macklin has repeated her promise to build the 750 new houses and announced a senior government bureaucrat will review administration costs for the program.

In the deal with Gerry Wood, Mr Henderson agreed to several demands in order to retain power. They included the creation of a Council of Cooperation, which will be made up of six members of the legislative assembly, including two Labor, two Liberal and at least one Independent member.

The council will review important legislation.

Mr Wood said he'd support the Labor Government unless there was a case of corruption or maladministration or Mr Henderson lost the leadership.

The next Northern Territory election is due on the 25th of August 2012. Under the current balance of power, Labor has 12 members of Parliament and the Country Liberals have 11.

There are two Independents – Gerry Wood and Alison Anderson.



Above: Newly Independent MLA Alison Anderson

Her resignation from the party and decision to sit in Parliament as an Independent led to a motion of no confidence in the government being put by the Country Liberals.

That vote was taken in Parliament on the 14th of August, but the Chief Minister Paul Henderson's deal with Gerry Wood won his crucial support and enabled Labor to remain in power.

Former deputy Labor leader Marion Scrymgour's return to Labor also helped the party cling to power. Ms Scrymgour had resigned from Labor a few weeks earlier to sit in Parliament as an Independent.

The Country Liberals had hoped Mr Wood would back their attempts to claim government or at least support an election, but he rejected their pleas, suggesting support for Labor would provide more stable government.

The Northern Land Council's CEO Kim Hill called on Ms Anderson to resign from Parliament altogether.

"Ms Anderson's selfish actions and self indulgence has delivered

CLC saddened by Alice Springs death

The Central Land Council's chairman Lindsay Bookie has said the council is saddened by the shocking murder of a young man with a bright future in Alice Springs recently.

Mr Bookie said he hopes the town will never see anything like the murder of Kwementyaye Ryder again.

"I was shocked and sad to hear what happened," Mr Bookie said.

Mr Ryder was just starting a new job as a park ranger.

His family has made a huge contribution to the Central Australian

region through sport and culture, including the arts.

The CLC has had close dealings with the family, most recently through negotiations over the hand back and joint management agreements for parks in the East MacDonnell Ranges.

Five men have been charged with Mr Ryder's murder.

"We have all got to live together peacefully," Mr Bookie said.

"All of us, all people must work to ensure this can't happen again."

Leases - Macklin short on guarantees

The Federal Indigenous Affairs Minister Jenny Macklin has failed to give guarantees on housing during a visit to Central Australia to discuss town leasing.

Speaking at Ntaria (Hermannsburg) and Lajamanu in July, Ms Macklin was asked to explain why traditional owners and residents are being forced to accept long-term leases over their communities in order to receive new housing works.

The Minister was scheduled to also visit Yuendumu but cancelled at the last moment.

The three communities - Ntaria, Lajamanu and Yuendumu - are the only ones in Central Australia to be offered funding under the Strategic Indigenous Housing and Infrastructure Program (SIHIP).

The \$30 million SIHIP funds will be used to fix up existing infrastructure, construct new infrastructure, refurbish old houses and for SIHIP administration costs as well as the building of new houses.

Conditions

The catch is that no building or renovation will start until the Aboriginal landowners and affected local residents agree to sign over all the housing in the community to the government for 40 years, or to sign over the whole of the community in a lease lasting a longer period of time.

But while Aboriginal residents are subjected to this clause, it is not being applied to all construction. New Australian Government offices and houses for their staff have been built in the three communities without a lease being signed.

This has left locals wondering why the same rules are not applied to everyone ie: no lease - no funding for new buildings or homes.

Housing needs for the life of the lease?

One resident, who attended the Lajamanu meeting asked Ms Macklin, "If

we sign for a 60 year lease are they going to be building through that lease? Might be 60 or 80 years."

Ms Macklin's response suggested more houses would be built through the life of the lease, but didn't include a guarantee they would or that a new government or minister would be obliged to keep such a commitment.

"Can I make it clear we have the money to build houses now," Ms Macklin replied. "We don't have to wait until the end of the lease.

"We'll start building houses making sure that over the next 40 or 60 years more houses are built or repaired," Ms Macklin said.

Community involvement

At the Lajamanu meeting, Minister Macklin was asked: "Who have the power, the government or the Aboriginal people? Who is going to have the power for all that in the community?"

Ms Macklin didn't commit to community members

having any real power over the development and maintenance of houses. She replied: "It's important to remember that there will be a lot of consultation and the power and the responsibility will be shared between the government and individual people and the community. It's important to remember that as part of the lease there will be lots of consultation about the design of the houses".

Why is a long-term lease over housing needed?

The Minister was also asked why a lease was



Above: The Minister talks at a meeting on leases at Hermannsburg west of Alice Springs assisted by interpreting from Alison Hunt.

needed when new housing was constructed in the past without one.

"The reason is you didn't end up with the government looking after the houses," she said.

"The lease is an agreement between the people and the government to build houses and look after them for the next 40 years. In the past no one took that responsibility.

The Australian Government will hand responsibility for maintenance of the houses to the NT Government's Territory Housing under a long-term lease and management of rental agreements.

Although the NT Government has promised to supply the CLC with details of rental charges and the terms and conditions to be included in rental agree-

thing we can talk about," Ms Macklin replied.

"Very happy to talk about that."

The NLC region

There are nine communities in the NLC region which will receive SIHIP funding.

The NLC conducted consultations for four of those communities last year - being Wadeye, Maningrida, Gunbulanya and Galiwinku, and approved the leases at a Full Council meeting on 1 February 2009.

The NLC is presently processing the remaining five of those communities this year - being Yirrkala, Gapuwiyak, Ngukurr, Numbulwar and Milingimbi.

Those consultations have commenced and will be completed later this year.

For more information about SIHIP visit: www.housing.nt.gov.au/remotehousing/sihip

While the Commonwealth is holding up building houses for Aboriginal people - insisting that they first have to be given a lease - they are happy to go ahead and build lost of new office buildings and staff houses.

"This is all about making it clear that it's the government's job to keep the houses in order."

She attempted to reassure traditional owners that they have nothing to fear from the leases.

"This is not about taking ownership of the land.

"The title stays with you.

"We will negotiate this lease with you.

"We want an agreement with you about the conditions attached to the lease."

What are the new rules? Who will fix up the houses? What about rent?

ments with tenants, the Land Council has to date not received this information.

As Land Rights News goes to print, community members are still being asked to accept a lease without knowing exactly what doing so will mean.

A swimming pool?

At least one person attending the Lajamanu meeting was ready to move to the negotiation stage.

"Can we get a swimming pool too?" they asked.

"That's certainly some-

Generosity of traditional owners praised in parks hand back

"I want to offer my thanks to the traditional owners for their great generosity in agreeing to lease back their land so others can visit and share its beauty and significance."

The Federal Indigenous Affairs Minister Jenny Macklin was praising traditional owners during the hand back of parks and reserves in the East MacDonnell Ranges and south of Alice Springs.

The nine reserves and parks were handed back on the 12th of June.

Six of the parks and reserves involved in the hand back are Schedule One parks, which means that they are Aboriginal freehold land under the Land Rights Act. Three are Schedule Two parks, handed back as Park freehold land to be held by a park land trust on behalf of traditional owners under

Governments for the hand backs.

"This is another great moment for traditional land owners of these parks in the decades-long struggle to win their land back," CLC director David Ross said.

"I think many non-Aboriginal people can't fully appreciate what it means for traditional land owners to receive ownership of the land they had lost and to have a say in its future management.

The Central Land Council said the parks and reserves host many sites of cultural significance to traditional owners.

Under the lease agreement, the parks and reserves



care and protection," Mr Ross said.

Ms Macklin said the handovers are part of an historic 'Parks Deal' which covers a large number of parks and conservation areas across the NT.

"The Parks deal agreed between the NT Land Councils and the NT Government - formally titled "Frameworks for the Future" is significant for a number of reasons," she said.

"First, it represents a non-litigated, broad seek settlement of potential native title claims. Few people realise that the NT Government and NT Land Councils have led the nation in this regard.

"Second, it represents a win/win outcome which guarantees access to the Territory's parks for all Territorians - and indeed all Australians - for 99 years.

"Third, it guarantees a role in the ongoing management of these parks and reserves for traditional owners and their nominated organisations."

Ms Macklin said the parks deal represents a new pathway, which recognises and acknowledges Aboriginal ownership of country, but also the importance of finding ways to share country with non-Indigenous Australians.

The parks are: Trephi-



Northern Territory legislation.

All are subject to 99 year leases to the Northern Territory Government to continue to be used as national parks.

Park Freehold title is a new system of tenure in the Territory and means Schedule Two parks can only ever be used as a national park.

At the expiry of the leases over all the parks, traditional land owners and the Territory Government will need to negotiate a new lease.

The Central Land Council represented traditional land owners in negotiations with the Federal and Territory

will be jointly managed by the Northern Territory's Parks and Wildlife Service and traditional owners.

The joint management process started last year and is already bringing benefits to traditional owners. For example, under a flexible employment program, indigenous workers have cleared buffel grass from Ndhala Gorge to prevent wild fires damaging ancient petroglyphs.

"Non-Aboriginal people who have previously enjoyed access to these parks have nothing to fear from the hand back, but can be pleased that the custodians of these places now have a greater involvement in their



na Gorge Nature Park, Arltunga Historical Reserve, N'Dhala Gorge Nature Park, Corroboree Rock Conservation Reserve, Ewaninga Rock Carvings Conservation Reserve, Kuyunba Conservation Reserve, Native Gap Conservation Park, Dulcie Ranges National Park and Chambers Pillar Historical Reserve.

Top: Chambers Pillar handback
Centre right: N'Dhala park handback
Bottom right: Ewaninga-park handback
Centre left: Dulcie Ranges park handback
left to right Robert Rieff, Michael Rieff, Alan Dempsey and Lindsay Bookie

PINE HILL

Consent Determination



Anmatyerr people had their native title rights and interests over Pine Hill station, south-east of Ti Tree, formally recognised by the Federal Court of Australia during a ceremony at Desert Bore.

It was the first consent determination over a pastoral lease in the Northern Territory.

The Court handed down a consent determination to native title applicants Lindsay Bird Ampetyane and others on behalf of the Ilkewartn and the Ywel estate groups of the Anmatyerr people.

A consent determination means that all parties have agreed that native title rights and interests do exist over a particular area.

The Central Land Council lodged the native title application in 1999.

CLC Director David Ross said he was always pleased when land issues were resolved without costly court actions.

"I am extremely pleased for the traditional owners and congratulate them on this outcome which



Left: Archie Glenn and Lindsay Bird:
Top: Archie Glen and members of the Ywel group

protects their rights into the future," Mr Ross said

"It guarantees them a seat at the table in an area known for its horticultural development and extremely significant in the economic development of Central Australia," he said.

Mr Ross also paid tribute to the contribution and dedication of the senior traditional owners some of which were involved in the application from its inception.

The Ilkewartn group mainly live in the communities of Mulga Bore, Wilora and Alice Springs. Senior Ilkewartn traditional owner, Lindsay Bird, who now lives at Mulga Bore, grew up on the neighbouring Bushy Park PPL and walked all over his country on Pine Hill with his family collecting bush tucker and learning about his sites and law.

Traditional owners Dorothy Ampetyane, Bunny Ampetyane and Rosemary Ampetyane lived traditional lives at Desert Bore and also grazed sheep and goats.

The Ywel group live at Ti-Tree, Aileron and Laramba. Traditional owner Archie Glenn's father and mother worked at both Aileron and Pine Hill stations and the family visited their sacred sites on Pine Hill on the weekends.

Imanpa: new store ends saga



Above: Imanpa Store Association chairwoman Tanya Luckey with her daughter Lailarni Wiseman in the new store.

It had been a long, hard struggle and the festive atmosphere of the opening at Imanpa rightly reflected the community's major achievement of getting itself a new store.

No one had worked harder or felt more satisfied at the opening than Tanya Luckey, the Imanpa Store Association chairwoman.

After countless meetings and years of struggle, here she was standing before the community's shiny new store.

"Feeling happy," she said. "Our long hard work towards getting our new store is finally over and we celebrate the opening day today. The whole community's happy about it. I'm happy. So we don't have to go for more meetings. All we can do is deal with the store now.

"It's bigger than our old one. That's the main thing. We've got more storage space inside. We're going to get more variety of stuff in then," Ms Luckey said.

After all the hard work, Ms Luckey could be excused for wanting to put her feet up and taking it easy, but she's not satisfied yet. There is still more to be done.

"We've been battling for the store for a long time," she said. "Now that we've got that up and going, we're now going to be looking for assistance for the housing. That's our main priority from now on.

That battle is just getting started,

but the one just won is already bringing positive change to the community, including helping to bring more revenue through the store.

"We've got our staff from the roadhouse that come and shop here rather than them going into town and doing their grocery shopping, they come out here and do it," Ms Luckey said.

The store was mostly funded by money from the Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park.

Each year traditional owners of the park make decisions on how to distribute gate and rent money so it will bring lasting benefits for communities where they live.

Already the traditional owners have provided \$660,000 of park rent money to complete the new store.

They may soon provide another contribution to provide for a cool room at the store.

Other contributors to the store project have been the Federal Government with about \$220,000 and the Northern Territory Government with about \$30,000.

Ms Luckey said use of the rent money, negotiated by Central Land Council staff as part of the CLC's Uluru Rent Money Community Development project, is making a real difference in Imanpa.

"I reckon that's a really good idea using rent money," she said. "It's making the community stronger."

Pitjantjajara ngangkari receive rightful recognition



Left to right: Andy Tjilari, Professor Helen Milroy, and Rupert Peter.

Two ngangkari (traditional healers) from Central Australia have been awarded the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatry (RANZCP) Mark Sheldon Prize for 2009.

Andy Tjilari and Rupert Peter have worked as ngangkari for NPY Women's Council in Alice Springs for a decade providing traditional treatments for indigenous people in the communities of the cross-border areas of SA, WA and the NT.

The ngangkari focus on mental health problems.

The award acknowledges Andy and Rupert's lifelong work as ngangkari and their extensive provision of consultation, advice and treatment across Aboriginal communities.

It also recognises their commitment to educating health professionals about indigenous healing methods and cultural knowledge.

The award recognises outstanding contributions to Indigenous mental health in either New Zealand or Australia.

The prize was established in 2000 to honour the memory of the late Dr Mark Sheldon, a psychiatrist and Fellow of the RANZCP who

was devoted to the welfare of indigenous people in remote communities.

Andy and Rupert travelled to Adelaide to accept the award at the annual RANZCP College Congress earlier this year.

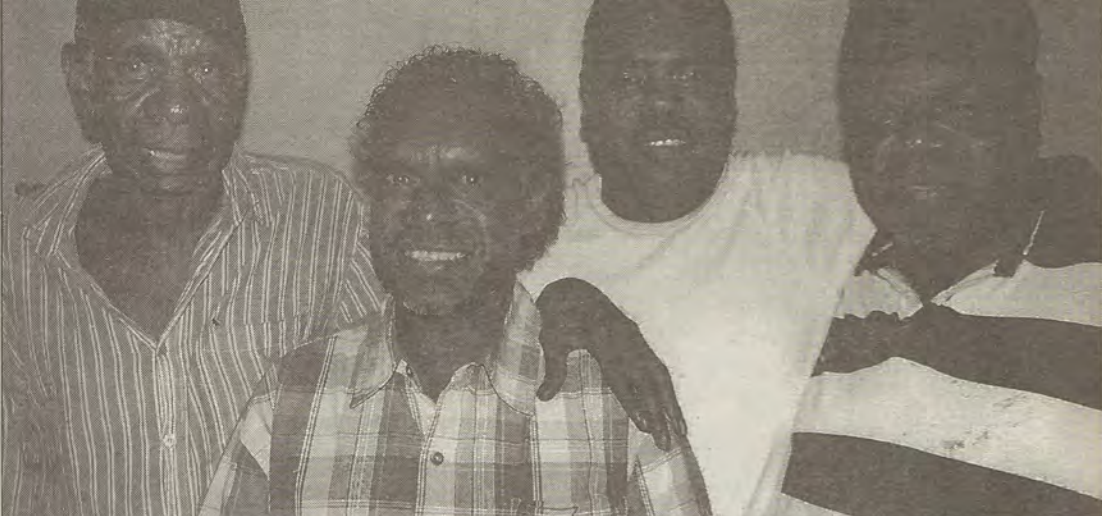
They said they were very happy and proud to receive the prize, and especially pleased that their work, and that of all ngangkari, is recognised as important to the well-being of indigenous people.

Andy and Rupert said they enjoy working alongside doctors and psychiatrists, and that they were honoured to receive an award from respected colleagues.

Their work at NPY Women's Council is funded by the South Australian Health Department.

The ngangkari say governments should continue to support traditional medicine as a support to modern methods, and partnerships on Indigenous mental health need to be encouraged.

BRINGING ANCESTORS HOME



Above l-r: Donald Gumurdul, Joaz Wurramara, Thomas Amagula, Alfred Nayingul in the US

The return of ancestral human remains, originally taken by the American - Australian Scientific Expedition to Aboriginal North Australia in 1948, to the people of Gunbalanya and Groote Eylandt has been an emotional journey.

It all began in March 2008 when a meeting was held in Darwin about the repatriation of Aboriginal remains from international museums.

Laurey Richardson, FaHCSIA's International Director based in Canberra, had been leading negotiations and listening to the concerns of Aboriginal people about the need to bring the remains of ancestors back home.

In particular, the Darwin meeting talked about remains

from Gunbalanya and Groote Eylandt that were being held in a Washington DC museum.

"They were discussing about how we were going to go about it and get them back — how we were going to go across to Washington to talk to the Smithsonian Museum," Mr Thomas Amagula from the Anindilyakwa Land Council said.

"Four of us actually went to Washington — myself and Joaz Wurramara who is also from Groote Eylandt, and Donald Gumurdul and Alfred Nayingul from Gunbalanya.

We sat down with the Smithsonian bosses to convince them to bring all

of the remains back, all of them. But they wouldn't allow us."

Only those belonging to 13 people came back to Groote Eylandt.

"When we went to meet up with the Ambassador, the remains were waiting for us in the conference room," Mr Amagula continues. "And as we walked in we saw these remains and the four of

Eylandt and Donald and Alfred from Gunbalanya, sat together for the long flight home.

They were surprised to find their ancestors travelled in a similar way.

"As we were travelling back the four of us sat together and we said 'Did you know that all of our remains travelled together as an Arnhem Land family'?"

"We went towards the crate and talked to those old people, We're here and we're taking you home."

Thomas Anagula

"That's why the remains from both communities are very special to

us actually looked at each other.

"We went towards the crate and talked to those old people, 'we're here and we're taking you home'. We had a five minutes silence the four of us.

"We greeted the remains, we said hello and we told the people we are here to take them home, 'back to where you belong'.

"Before we left Washington, we went to see the other remains that are left behind and we told them 'we are coming back to bring you back home'. The four of us we were very, very upset for leaving them behind."

The four men, Thomas and Joaz from Groote

us now. As we left Australia we didn't know the four of us would link as families and the trip was a special trip.

"It's one of the best experiences I've ever had and it links Groote Eylandt and Gunbalanya together, bringing remains back to our own country.

"It's like the stolen generation to us.

"The families of those bones are still alive and the extended family are wishing that they all return and I want to see that happen."

The 1948 expedition collected more than 50,000 archaeological, ethnographic and natural history specimens from indigenous Australians.

ALCOHOL TEARS ALPARRA APART

Alparra store manager Alan Poole and his family had their permits to remain at Utopia immediately revoked at a community meeting in May after five young men, one as young as 15, admitted that Mr Poole's daughter Emily had supplied them with alcohol and gunja which they drank and used at her house.

Mr Poole also acknowledged drinking alcohol at his house at the community even though it is a dry area under the intervention legislation.

The meeting was called to address the behavioural problems stemming from the illegal supply of alcohol into the community and concerns about the behaviour of the store manager and his family.

While Alan Poole was recently fined for drink-driving in the Arlparra Community and his daughter Emily Poole fined \$2000 for transporting liquor, they continue to live and run the store at Alparra against the wishes of many people in community.

According to a letter sent by the Urupuntja Council to Indigenous Affairs Minister Jenny Macklin, the situation has worsened with children as young as 13 found "drunk and vomiting" while the police apparently do nothing.

While the store manager and his family were allowed to leave the community without being questioned, the police immediately took

the personal details of the youths involved.

The Urupuntja Council wrote to Minister Macklin: "This apparent inaction seems even more farcical when, at the same time, police have raided the premises of local Aboriginal people and invariably have them in court immediately after any offence. It appears to us that the application of the law follows a decidedly different course for our people.

"This all seems particularly ludicrous when the only significant capital expenditure in our area that can be attributed to your intervention is a new police station."

The Minister finally replied to the Council on August 6 suggesting that the store manager's behaviour may result in the store losing its license which would mean it would no longer be able to accept the Basics Card.

The whole affair, says the Urupuntja Council, has "deeply divided our people through intimidation, misinformation and what appears to be total defiance of key elements of (your) intervention."

FREEDOM DAY # 43

"Even now they play the Paul Kelly song. That puts that old man's name really big."

Robert Roy, the organiser of Freedom Day celebrations in Kalkaringi remembers the impact Paul Kelly and Kev Carmody's song 'From Little Things Big Things Grow' has had on maintaining the legend of Vincent Lingiari and the Wave Hill Walk Off.

The community recently celebrated the 43rd anniversary of the walk off, which is credited for the launching of the land rights campaign and equal pay for Aboriginal people.

Mr Roy said young people

in the Kalkaringi area have a strong awareness of the struggle and the benefits it brought their generation.

"The school has educational stuff on the land rights," Mr Roy said. "They've taken a bus out to the old station, Wave Hill station.

A survivor of the Wave Hill Walk Off struggle, Jimmy Wavehill, said it gave Aboriginal people a chance at a brighter future.

"Because the old people made it good for our future," he said. "We have a big celebration.

Neglect by major parties leads to creation of Aboriginal party

An Aboriginal activist and the deputy chair of the Central Land Council Maurie Ryan is creating a political party to represent Aboriginal people because the Labor and Liberal parties have failed to.

Mr Ryan said Labor and the Coalition nationally and Labor and the Country Liberals in the Northern Territory have all failed Aboriginal people.

"Ever since Cook landed here in 1788 to the creation of the constitution in 1901 to the present day there is no political party that represents the first nations people of this country," Mr Ryan said. "All the others are created for different reasons, for different people.

Mr Ryan said now's the time for Aboriginal people to take up representation of themselves in their own political party as other Indigenous peoples have done in other countries.

"If you look at other countries to the east of us you have the Maori, to the west of us you have the ANC and many other African nations, to the north of us many other Indigenous nations," he said.

"So why not an Indigenous party that represents all Austral-



ians over 18 years-of-age and on the electoral role?"

He said the party will be known as the First Nations Party and will have a focus on addressing the exclusion and displacement of Indigenous people in Australia, the intervention of their cultures and the sovereignty of their land, but will be open for people of all walks of life to join and participate in.

"I'm not saying I have the monopoly on it but I'm giving another choice to all Australians who call Australia home," Mr Ryan said.

"I don't care what race you are, what creed, what religion, it's open to anybody."

Mr Ryan said he's not the first to call for a political party to be established with the primary goal of representing Aboriginal people and rejects criticism from some quarters that an Aboriginal party is a racist step.

He said if none of the other parties will represent Aboriginal people fairly then they must do it themselves.

Mr Ryan said the political power struggles fought in Darwin in recent months haven't led to houses being built, the health of Aboriginal people improving or any other advances.

"You cannot compromise your Aboriginality, I am what I am, you are what you are, we are all Territorians and we are all Australians so I'm asking everybody or anybody who wants to join to join and go to the Australian Electoral Commission.

"It's exciting times and it will happen, it's just a matter of time."

Above: Maurie Ryan with the flag of his new party

More consultations for NT homelands

Another round of consultations is taking place over the Northern Territory Government's policies on homelands and regional growth towns.

They follow previous consultations conducted by Patrick Dodson and the release of *A Working Future* document in May that left most Aboriginal Territorians living on country angry and alarmed. It outlined plans to create 20 regional 'growth centres' and to retain existing funding to homelands and outstations.

Speaking on behalf of the Laynhapuy Homelands Association in North East Arnhem Land, Yananyumul Mununggurr said *A Working Future* showed the government had either refused or is unable to fully understand the cultural significance of homelands.

"Just days after there was the release of a ground breaking report outlining the major health benefits to Yolngu living on country, the NT Government announces a policy that relegates our homelands to third world conditions, if not extinction," Ms Mununggurr said.

"We see this as a major betrayal of the trust of our people.

"Where is the economic modelling, the data collection or cost-benefit analyses recommended by the NTG's own consultant, Mr Patrick Dodson, in establishing these new town centres?

"We've been engaged in 'consultation' that has yet again proved meaningless."

The Central Land Council was concerned about the lack of detail in the document and Director David Ross said the

motivation behind the policy looked to be about making life easier for the government rather than improving conditions in remote areas.

"There's some nice sentiments about school transport and roads mixed up with regressive strategies that herd people together into a couple of large towns," Mr Ross said.

All the evidence does not support herding people into larger centres if you're hoping for improved health and well being," Mr Ross said.

"The government carries on about evidence-based policy but there is no evidence that people will be better off by neglecting smaller communities."

The latest round of consultations are listed on the NTG website: www.workingfuture.nt.gov.au/consultation



The Northern Territory Government's *Working Future* policy document is burnt in protest during Blue Mud Bay celebrations.

Ngukurr agreement to improve police relations

Members of the Ngukurr community's Yugul Mangi Group of Elders entered into an historic agreement with Northern Territory Police in June.

Signed by Mr David Daniels and Deputy Commissioner Bruce Wernham, it commits the parties to better cultural understanding, respect for each other's laws and values and the shared aim of making the community safe.

This is the first time the Elders of a Northern Territory community and the NT Police Force have entered into an agreement to cooperate in community policing and mutually respect each other's justice systems.

The Mutual Respect Agreement follows a 2005 incident when Mr Daniels, a respected leader, was arrested by police at Urapunga outstation.

A statement from the North Australian Aboriginal Justice Agency said Yugul Mangi and police had been able to turn the unfortunate event into many positive outcomes for all stake holders.

Justice Sally Thomas was instrumental in brokering the agreement

which was made with the support of NAAJA.

"There has been a lot of work, from both sides, to get to this stage," NAAJA Chairman Norman George, said.

"I especially would like to congratulate the Ngukurr elders who never wavered in their desire for better relations with police, who continued to show up for meetings and negotiations and were united in their determination.

"The NT Police are also to be commended for their willingness to resolve issues with the Ngukurr people in a constructive way.

"NAAJA sincerely thanks Deputy Commissioner Bruce Wernham and Commanders Jeanette Kerr and Bert Hofer for their efforts in finding a solution that benefits the community and policing in the Northern Territory," Mr George said.

A traditional ceremony was performed as part of the signing at Ngukurr and Deputy Commissioner Bruce Wernham then presented two plaques with the Northern Territory police insignia.

One is for Mr Daniels and the other for public display.



Members of the Ngukurr community perform a traditional ceremony (above) during the signing of an agreement between Northern Territory police and the community's Yugul Mangi group of elders. (right) Deputy Commissioner Bruce Wernham and community leader David Daniels sign the agreement.



20 year anniversary for Nitmiluk

Mam-gun Munggay-wun
Ierr-nyarrang Nitmiluk



Sharing our Country

On the 12th September the Jawoyn people will celebrate the 20th anniversary of the handback of Nitmiluk National Park – Wes Miller, Chief Executive Officer of the Jawoyn Associations writes...

In 1989, following the successful land claim, the Jawoyn people were handed back parts of their traditional land, including land underlying what is now known as Nitmiluk National Park.

The land claim ensured an income stream to the Jawoyn people through park rental and concessionaire monies.

On 12 September we will celebrate 20 years of successful park joint management between the Northern Territory Parks and Wildlife Services (formerly the Conservation Commission) and the Jawoyn people.

Our joint management structure and operation has won praise from various quarters and has been held up as a model for



other Indigenous groups to emulate.

During the eleven years of the land claim process, many non-Indigenous people fought a bitter struggle against the Jawoyn claiming that we would close the Gorge and close the water supply to Katherine.

Neither of these things happened of course and Nitmiluk National Park, now more than ever, is an iconic destination for people from around Australia and around the World.

The Jawoyn people, in partnership with the Federal and Northern Territory Governments, have progressively built up the infrastructure in Nitmiluk National Park over the past 20 years and are proud of what has been collectively achieved.



Top: 2009 Jawoyn dancers at Barunga 2009 Below Jawoyn dancers celebrate handback in 1989

20 YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE HANDBACK OF NITMILUK NATIONAL PARK

INVITATION

Nitmiluk National Park near the boat ramp
4.30pm, September 12.

Traditional dancing

Welcome to Country and speech by the Acting
Chairperson of the Jawoyn Association.

speeches by:

the Chairman of the Northern Land Council
the Chief Minister Paul Henderson, and
Federal Indigenous Affairs Minister Jenny
Macklin.

FREE CONCERT BY MEMBERS OF THE CRITICALLY-
ACCLAIMED BLACK ARM BAND.

Remembering the old people

by Chips MacKinolty

Two days before the Handback of Nitmiluk—20 years ago—about 50 white businessmen witnessed an extraordinary event at one of Katherine's newest motels.

In a town that had witnessed a long and bitter land claim—in which black and white interests had been seen to be sharply opposed—they were to be addressed by two senior Aboriginal men about a radical break with the past. They had come to be told about big changes, a future which would see Aboriginal Territorians taking their place as major economic players on the traditional lands

from which they had been disenfranchised for many, many years.

The two Jawoyn leaders, Ray Fordimail and Bangardi Lee, were—they said later—as nervous as hell fronting what was probably the Territory's first business lunch of its kind, with blackfellas on the podium. Both had been involved in a land claim process that was over a decade old, as witnesses and as players in intense political stand offs—and later negotiations—with a largely hostile Territory government. They'd faced down a town's non-Aboriginal population that had been overwhelmingly—at times

viciously—confrontational over the Katherine Gorge land claim.

But this was different: an alien environment in which the men were telling the business world that not only did they want to be bosses of their own land—but bosses in commerce as well. They were asking for an economic relationship that was based on equity and partnership. Some of the businessmen present that day had opposed land rights in general, and the Gorge claim in particular.

They were very much in the lion's den, the big end of town ... little wonder they were sweating it out.

continued page 17

Filling the survey gaps in remote areas

The Petermann region remains one of the least surveyed areas of the Northern Territory for fauna and consequently, there is little data on the presence, abundance or location of significant wildlife populations.

The CLC is considering the establishment of an Indigenous Protected Area (IPA) for the Petermann and Katiti Aboriginal Land Trusts and that's given traditional owners important opportunities to fill in some of these knowledge gaps.

An IPA planning trip last year, involving Kaltukatjara Rangers and senior traditional owners, found previously unknown populations of two animal species that are vulnerable to extinction – the Mulgara and the Great Desert Skink.

The first of three follow-up fauna surveys planned for 2009 was completed in June. The focus of these surveys is to collect baseline data on

the distribution and abundance of threatened species to help the development of a management plan. The first survey was a collaborative effort between the Kaltukatjara Rangers, prospective women rangers, senior traditional owners from Docker River and Mutijulu, CLC staff, an environmental consultant and volunteer biologists.

The rangers surveyed fauna (using Elliot traps and pitfall lines), water quality testing, fire management, plant identification and recorded indigenous ecological knowledge. Eight mammal species were recorded during the survey including two threatened species - the mulgara and black-footed rock wallaby.

The trip proved to be very successful given the inclement weather which resulted in the abandonment of a bush camp in the middle of the night and a day spent digging vehicles out of mud.

A DVD is being produced about the trip for distribution to everyone involved.



Rangers and traditional owners (above) have helped survey the remote Peterman region in Central Australia where threatened species have been found (right).



Wulaign Rangers working with CSIRO and Bushfires NT

The Wulaign Rangers are from Lajamanu and work together with the Traditional Owners of the Northern Tanami IPA (Indigenous Protected Area) to look after country.

They are working with CSIRO and Bushfires NT on a project that looks at burning and measuring shrubs, trees, spinifex, smoke and fire. The project team is doing this to learn about global warming and to develop the ranger's skills. This story is about this project.

Aiden and Dylan said: "We set up the



Wulaign Rangers use a vacuum cleaner to survey the affects of a burn off near Lajamanu.

transect with a 100m tape and a picket at both ends. This was the first site our ranger group surveyed and it was along the Duck Ponds road". The rangers surveyed three different sites in the IPA. They did this survey to measure and record the amount and height of trees, shrubs, spinifex and litter before and after fire.

After surveying a site, the rangers burnt the area. Jefferson and Steven described how at one site they split into two teams, "Dylan, Jefferson, Steven, Jane and Gina went north and Edmund, Grant and Jocelyn went south. We used fire-torches to light the spinifex".

This burning was done so the rangers could go back to each transect and find out how much grass and trees burnt, how hot the fire was and work out the weight of the smoke.

Dylan said fires were lit "to see how much spinifex and shrubs burnt to make the smoke. The smoke was small, but as the fire burnt it got bigger".

The rangers explained that scientists think there is too much smoke coming out of factories, cars, planes, trains and helicopters. This helps warm the earth by putting too much carbon dioxide and other gases in the air. Fires are part of this story, and this project is trying to find out how our fire management can help.

After each fire the rangers counted the

trees, shrubs and leaf litter that was burnt, vacuumed up ashes and weighed them, and measured the height the fire went up the trees. The rangers also walked 25 steps and made a quadrat to see what was burnt or not burnt in that quadrat.

After the field trips the rangers used the data recording sheet to make the same pattern with coins that they saw in the bush. Aiden and Edmond discussed how they coloured the coins to show spinifex, non-spinifex, litter and bare ground. After making the straight line with the coins, they put the coins in piles according to colour and stacked them up to show the shape of the graph. The graphs show how much spinifex, ground and litter was at the survey sites and how much was burnt.

Scientists will use the information collected to better understand how country in the Tanami burns and if a bigger fire and greenhouse gas abatement project is possible in the Tanami. The scientists on this project praised the rangers for their data collection and said they'll contribute strongly to research in the future.

This story was written by the Wulaign Rangers (Jefferson Lewis, Dylan Gordon, Aiden Kelly, Edmond Kelly, Titus White, Steven Robertson) with Jane Walker (Northern Tanami IPA Coordinator), Miles Holmes (Anthropologist) and Jocelyn Davies (CSIRO).

Exploring the Territory's islands

The first ever systematic biodiversity survey of the Victoria River Islands has been hailed a great success by a team of local Indigenous rangers, Traditional Owners, Northern Territory Government scientists, and the Department of Defence.

The Department of Natural Resources, Environment, The Arts and Sport biodiversity scientist Terry Mahney said the recent expedition was the first in a series of surveys aimed at assessing the conservation values of islands located at the mouth of the Victoria and Fizmaurice rivers off the Northern Territory coastline.

"Australian islands have very high conservation values and provide an important habitat for threatened species away from the damaging impacts of fire, weeds, feral animals and other threats," Mr Mahney said.

"On this recent expedition to the Victoria River Islands we spent two nights on each of eight islands putting out 150 traps in addition to bird surveys, reptile searches and spotlighting.

"On the low-lying Quoin Island we caught large numbers of the native pale field rat, which corresponded with large numbers

of snakes benefiting from the rat numbers.

"On the rocky Entrance Island we found northern brown bandicoots in such abundance that every bare patch of soil was poked with bandicoot diggings.

"Overall we caught more than 200 small mammals from 10 different species including the small but ferocious marsupial planigale, brush tailed possums, common rock rats and chestnut mice," he said.

The Victoria River Islands project was undertaken in collaboration with the local Thamarrurr Rangers and Traditional Owners from Wadeye who participated in surveys on Daly River Land Trust islands, with support from the Department of Defence on islands that form part of the Bradshaw Training Facility.

More surveys are being planned specifically targeting islands that haven't been surveyed before or for which the current information base is relatively poor including Groote Eyelandt, Bickerton Island and nearby islands, which will be done in collaboration with the Anindilyakwa Rangers.

The project has received funding from the Australian Government's Caring for Our Country Program.



Thamarrurr rangers (above) used a helicopter to travel between the Victoria River islands during a biodiversity survey. The northern brown bandicoot (below) was found in abundance on Entrance Island.



Photo courtesy of Kym Brennan

Overcoming the battles to win the war

For Aboriginal work team manager Daniel Jones the day could have started better. First the tractor ground to a halt with a flat tyre.

Then the grader broke down forcing someone to drive to Kununurra, 180km away for a \$10 spare part. White ants got inside the camp fridge and ate out the wiring. Then one of the work crew lost the gate key, stranding everyone outside.

Daniel Jones - welcome to the world of business ownership.

Jones and 11 other Indigenous young men from the Timber Creek area, 700km from Darwin, are learning the hard way about operating a business for themselves. But judging by their track record, they'll overcome these annoying setbacks just as they have in the past.

The group formed the Bradshaw and Timber Creek Contracting and Resource Company to take advantage of service opportunities on offer in the sprawling Bradshaw Field Training Area

near Timber Creek. Already into their second year of work, the men have gone from working for the dole on CDEP to creating profits from their business enterprise and initiating real jobs in a remote area.

"When we started, we hired a tractor and we hired a camp demountable, but now we own it all," says Jones proudly. "We saved half our wages and put it back into the company."

The business started as a proactive effort by Defence, which operates Bradshaw from a long-term Indigenous Land Use Agreement between the region's traditional owners and the Australian Government Department of Defence.

Preferential tendering was a part of that partnership. The young men enlisted the help of the Northern Land Council's Bradshaw liaison officer Greg Kimpton. With the men having no experience in business and poor educational skills, it was Kimpton who helped them write their business plan and aided in the initial ten-



Bradshaw and Timber Creek Contracting and Resource Company workers are putting their own wages into the purchase of equipment such as quad bikes.

dering process.

"I told them that they have to run it, not me," recalls Kimpton.

Continued page 19

NEW CLC OFFICE 27 STUART HIGHWAY ALICE SPRINGS

More than 1000 guests turned out when the Central Land Council opened its new office in Alice Springs in June.

The building has 2,720 square metres of office space and will accommodate 140 staff members who were formerly spread around Alice Springs in five separate offices.

CLC Director David Ross said the growth of the Aboriginal population in Central Australia, the increased demand for land management and community development services, the increasing complexity of issues facing Aboriginal people and the growth of mineral exploration have led to an expansion of the CLC's staff.

"The organisation has grown enormously in the last decade and we are very proud that 90 of our 174 employees are Aboriginal," Mr Ross said.

The cost for design, construction and fit out of the building was about \$10 million dollars funded from the Aboriginal Benefits Account, the sale of the CLC's other properties and a refund of payroll tax after a successful court challenge.

"We tried extremely hard to ensure that most of that construction money was spent locally," Mr Ross said.

In addition, through goods, services and personnel expenditure, the CLC contributes more than \$15 million annually to the local economy of Alice Springs.

Aboriginal people receiving royalties from mining on their country spend nearly \$15 million on consumable items and services, almost exclusively in Alice Springs.

"They have opted to spend another \$15.5 million of their royalties on community development in their communities to make them better places to live and to bring up kids," Mr Ross said.

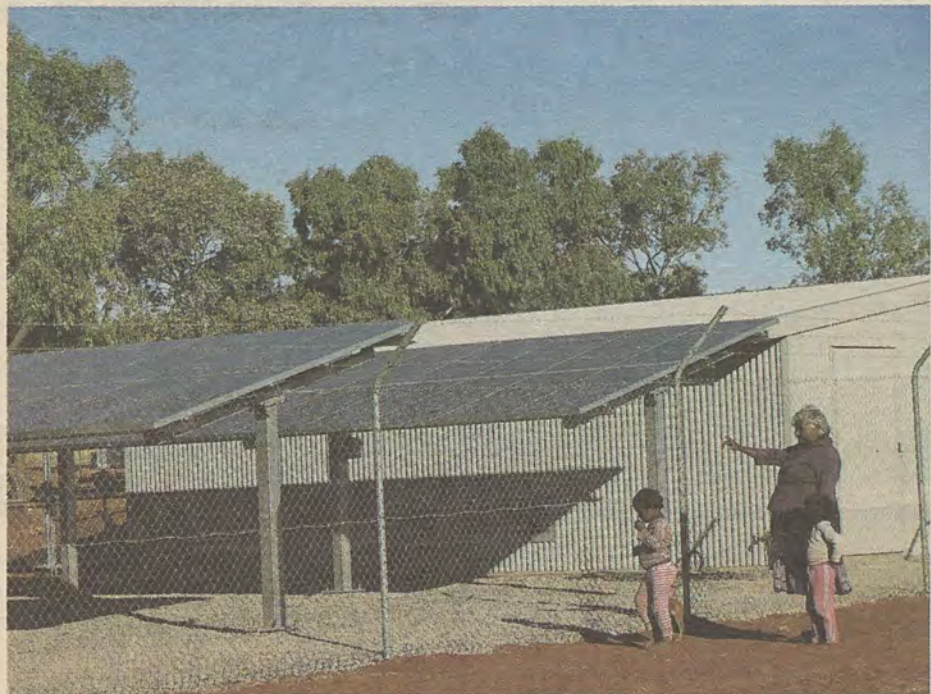
Former Federal Minister for Indigenous Affairs Amanda Vanstone approved the initial funding from the ABA and it was supported by subsequent ministers Mal Brough and Jenny Macklin.

More than 24,000 Aboriginal people speaking 15 languages live in the CLC's region.

Its 90 delegates come from all parts of Central Australia to represent their communities in a unique forum which obtains a broad consensus of Aboriginal people's aspirations and wishes.



Lights on at Ulpanyali



Solar arrays installed at Ulpanyali are part of a hybrid solar power system that is saving the community thousands of dollars.

An award winning hybrid solar power system has enabled the small community of Ulpanyali near Kings Canyon to save thousands of dollars a year on diesel.

The Centre for Appropriate Technology (CAT)/Bushlight hybrid solar community power system supplies power to five houses, three shelters, a workshop and an ablution block and will supply power to a newly renovated workshop/garage and an artists' studio.

The project has helped the Ulpanyali residents to save money, eat healthier and drink more water.

"Before Bushlight we used two drums (of diesel) per week. Now we use about one drum each month at most," resident Julie Clyne said.

"Now we spend less money on fuel for cars for shopping because we don't have to go to town as much.

"We know we can keep cheese and milk cold with the fridges on all the time.

"We don't have to buy ice from the (Kings Canyon) resort anymore- it costs \$5 a bag.

"Water from the taps is too hot in summer because the pipes are too close to the ground. Now that we have fridges all the time, the kids are drinking more cold water from the fridge," Ms Clyne said.

It has been a long standing desire of the community to have proper power.

Initially Ulpanyali was going to pay for their power supply from the electricity grid out of community development funds from the CLC's Uluru Rent Money Community Development Project.

In this project, Uluru Kata Tjuta National Park traditional owners dedicate about half of the money they receive in rent payments from the park to community development projects.

They agreed to allocate \$145,000 to the traditional owners who live at Ulpanyali to connect to the Kings Canyon grid.

The CAT/Bushlight system proved the cheaper and easier option, but it still cost more than the rent money could cover.

The Australian Government finally agreed to make a substantial contribution and an NT Government rebate kicked in.

The CAT/Bushlight system cost \$486,909, the Northern Territory Government Renewable Energy Rebate Program provided a rebate of nearly \$190,000 on the total cost and the Uluru traditional owners provided their \$145,000 to see the system installed and up and running.

The project has won has won an award at the recent ATRAA (Appropriate Technology Retailers Association of Australia) conference in Canberra.

Bushlight and the installer, Rede Ogden (Ogden Electrical), won a joint award for the design and installation of the system.

KURRPARRU TOURS



Tourists were given a taste of real home cooking by new tour company Kurrparru Tours.

The community of Ulpanyali, near the Central Australian tourist attraction, Kings Canyon, recently hosted three separate groups of young tourists on educational trips.

Led by Micah-Jo Laughton of recently formed Indigenous tour

company Kurrparru Tours, the tourists got a real taste of Aboriginal life in Central Australia.

Some had mixed feelings about killing and cooking a few unlucky echidnas and kangaroos. Nonetheless they enjoyed chucking spears and eating other bush tucker and they all enjoyed a culture camp

at the outstation led by family members.

Each group did the Canyon Rim walk led by Micah. The tours were such a big success that two groups are hoping to repeat the experience next year.

Contemporary tourism seen through the eyes of traditional owners

The aim of the first Thakeperte Tourism Development Forum was to explore Aboriginal tourism through the eyes of traditional owners of Central Australia.

Held north of Alice Springs over two days in June, the forum brought together traditional owners to discuss and plan for tourism development on their land.

Organised by the Central Land Council in collaboration with Tourism NT and consultant Paul Mitchell, 26 traditional owners attended the forum at the Thakeperte outstation of Stephen and Gloria McCormack and their family.

The forum discussed how tourism has developed on Aboriginal land and provided traditional owners with insights into tourism trends, market

expectations and the expansion of the local industry. The forum also provided the CLC's tourism development officers, who represent traditional owners with interests in tourism, with direction for the next year.

Training and capacity building programs have been identified for traditional owners along with planning assistance for clients in need of feasibility studies and clients developing business plans.

A feature of the forum was a session allowing participants to identify key principles that should underpin their tourism developments. It was also decided to try and attract more young people to tourism ventures and development forums.

The next forum will be held in September at the Lilla outstation.

Traditional owners of Elliott win native title by Consent



The Elliot native title holders on the day of the determination

In July the Gurungu Kulmintinti Group and the Jingili and Mudburra people celebrated receiving exclusive native title rights to most of the 143.9 hectares of their traditional country claimed in the town of Elliott on the Stuart Highway half way between Darwin and Alice Springs.

Elliott has a mostly Aboriginal population of approximately 800 people.

The Northern Land Council's Chief Executive, Kim Hill congratulated the Traditional Owners and now native title holders on their achievement and said it is the first time that a native title determination had been granted by consent in its region.

"This is a significant achievement for the Gurungu Kulmintinti Group and the Jingili and Mudburra peoples because it also means that, through the NLC, they have successfully negotiated with the Northern Territory Government on having their full native title rights recognised while avoiding a court battle," said Mr Hill.

"So I congratulate them for working efficiently with us, and with the Northern Territory Government, and with the Federal Court to ensure their native title rights are officially recognised.

"This determination includes most of the undeveloped land in Elliott which will ensure that the native title holders are equal partners in the future development of Elliott, and this is a good result for all Territorians."

Mr Hill also paid tribute to senior mangaya for the Gurungu Kulmintinti Group, Harry Bates, Heather Wilson and Christine Limerick; senior kulyungkulyungpi for Gurungu Kulmintinti Group, Lindsay Bostock and senior lawyer for the Jingili and Mudburra people Pompey Raymond.

"These people are important under Aboriginal law and custom and have played an important role in this claim.

"Others, including many who have since passed away, have also assisted in the progression of this claim and with NLC's work over the years," he said.



Above: Leon Puruntatameri doing his bit to reduce greenhouse gas emissions

Managing Tiwi fires for Greenhouse gas abatement

The economic potential of carbon is the focus of a new fire project, involving Tiwi Rangers and College students, on the Tiwi Islands, 80km north of Darwin.

Nearly half of the Tiwi Islands are burnt every year, resulting in the release of gases that contribute directly to Australia's Greenhouse gas accounts. Fire also affects the capacity of vegetation and soil to store carbon, but in ways that are not well enough understood to be included in the national accounts.

In a research partnership developed over the past two years, the Tiwi Land Council Rangers, the Tiwi College and CSIRO are working together to explore livelihood opportunities for managing fire to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, while maintaining biodiversity values of the Tiwi Islands.

Tiwi Ranger mentor, Willie Rioli, said there may be future jobs and money for fire management if reductions in Greenhouse gases can be properly measured.

"That's why we have partnered with CSIRO and that's why the Tiwi College students are involved," Mr Rioli said. "We need good science to help us measure the effects of different types of fires on carbon storage in the bush, and we need our kids to learn the science so they can look after country properly in the future."

Mr Rioli said the Tiwi people wanted to develop economic opportunities, and the emerging carbon market could present some exciting possibilities for future management of their lands. "However, we want to make sure that our burning also looks after our plants and animals," Mr Rioli said.

Tiwi College Principal, Peter McNamara,

said the College's partnership with CSIRO will help students to see the relevance of science to fire management. "It's an exciting opportunity for the students to be part of science in action," he said.

CSIRO ecologist, Dr Alan Andersen said studying the effects of different fire management options on carbon sequestration, greenhouse gas emissions and biodiversity is critical to quantifying the benefits from better fire management on the Islands.

"Our modelling indicates that there could be substantial increases in carbon stocks and reductions in emissions of greenhouse gases from reducing fire frequency. This could also have important biodiversity benefits," Dr Andersen said.

The Tiwi Carbon Study features a series of long-term monitoring plots that will be subject to different fire management options.

Thorpie fires a missile at Australia



Olympic swimmer Ian Thorpe had harsh words to say about Australia's treatment of its Indigenous peoples at the "Beyond Sport Summit" in London in July this year.

"The truth is for over 200 years Australian governments have neglected and patronized aboriginal people.

"The Intervention is unlikely to provide any lasting benefit to Aboriginal people because it tries to push and punish them, to take over their lives, rather than work with them," he told the summit.

Remembering the old people continued from page 11

Truth to be told, though, the businessmen were probably pretty jittery as well. Many had pushed an ideology that predicted that Aboriginal land rights would be the end of life as they knew it, and that places such as Katherine Gorge would be forever removed from the Territory's economy.

In fact Ray Fordimail's message was conciliatory, and sought common ground.

"All of us want just about the same things. We want our lives to be happy and prosperous, we want to leave something for our children and grandchildren. We have to work together to make sure our hopes and dreams come true," he said.

The Territory's first Aboriginal-sponsored business lunch was a quiet, almost unremarked success—despite the palpable nervousness of its hosts and the wary apprehension of its guests. A bank officer said after the lunch: "I never thought I'd see something like today in my life time."

Ray Fordimail was my first boss when I hit the Territory in 1981, but it wasn't a job working for the Jawoyn people. Nevertheless, the Jawoyn Land Claim was the source of corrosive undercurrents of tension amongst Katherine's then population of around 3,000. The issue was impossible to ignore—or avoid.

It was a period in which much of the anthropological work was being carried out in preparation for the land claim, lodged in March 1978; formal hearings for which began in February 1983. Led in large part by the then Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, CLP member Les MacFarlane, there were street demonstrations against the claim by groups called "Rights for Whites" and—shades of the late 1990s—"One Law One Nation". One evening of the land claim hearings a senior claimant—Sandy Barraway—had shots fired over his head, and racist cartoons adorned MacFarlane's elec-

torate office in Katherine Terrace.

So involvement was inevitable, not least because so much of my work was on Jawoyn land. Early in the piece I met up with Alice Mitchell Marnakolorlo, an irascible old woman with a wicked sense of humour who was, as well as being a painter in the old "Jawoyn style", was a leading witness in the land claim, with an astonishing knowledge of country and language. One of her paintings was to become the logo of the Jawoyn Association as well as Nitmiluk National Park; another for Nitmiluk Tours; another for the handbacks of Stage 3 of Kakadu and Banatjarl.

Sandy Barraway and Peter Jatbula—other senior claimants—would also become drinking and hunting mates, taking me through the Tindal Caves art sites, as well as a bit of illicit cattle duffing on the side. Occasional artists they, along with Nipper Brown Daypilama, were vital witnesses in the Jawoyn claim and were later key figures in the battle over Guratba, or Coronation Hill. One of the great injustices of the decision by Land Commissioner Kearney was the exclusion of their country from the successful land claim. By a matter of only a few kilometres, his ruling left out Jatbula's camp at Werenbun—the Jawoyn peoples' only permanent outstation.

Inevitably, out at Bamyili—now known by its traditional name of Barunga—were the matriarchs of the Jawoyn nation, Phyllis Wijnjorrotj and Sarah Flora, who called each other sister. They were formidable individually—as a pair they could be deadly. Phyllis, in particular, didn't suffer fools gladly, and was fierce in her assertions of kin and country. Much later she was to be part of a Jawoyn delegation to the new parliament house in Canberra. They were the first "outsiders" to meet with Bob Hawke and other ministers across the Cabinet table, with Phyl-

lis monsterring Hawke over Guratba. The then senator, Graham Richardson, passed a note across to one of the NLC officers present: "Phyllis. Best on Ground!" Sarah would later be the source of extensive knowledge about country that led to the successful acquisition of Banatjarl, south of Katherine.

As I said, Ray Fordimail was my first Jawoyn boss. A reserved, sometimes stern sort of bloke, he also had a wonderful sense of humour—often directed against himself, and the absurdity of life. And life was absurd: much happier out bush on fishing trips to places such as Warreluk or Ngagatguliyn, he was bound by duty to spending much of his time living and working in Katherine township. In many ways he carried the Jawoyn people throughout the 1980s—certainly he was a critical figure throughout the dark days of attack by Paul Everingham, and negotiations with Marshall Perron's government later in the decade.

Bangardi Lee was my second Jawoyn boss. As he publicly admitted, Bangardi for many years was a long grasser and a drunk—no accident, for either of us, that we first met in the "Blacks' Bar" at the front of the Crossways Hotel in the early 1980s. He gave important evidence to the land claim and, as the reality of Nitmiluk under Jawoyn ownership approached, took a greater role in the affairs of his people from then until 2005.

Even as the day of the Handback approached, the Jawoyn people faced another battle—that for the protection of Guratba. In this case they faced the might of the Big Australian—BHP—and pretty much the whole of big business. Ironic that at the same time the Jawoyn were extending hands of friendship to the commercial world, the seriously big end of town was attacking them.

In February of 1989, the then-Hawke Labor Government had cleared the

way for mining in Sickness Country. Amidst the joy of Jawoyn people at getting back some of their traditional country, the opening shots were being fired over the heads of Jawoyn people yet again—in this case the potential destruction of important sites in Jawoyn lands to the north of Nitmiluk.

It led to a damaging split between pro- and anti-miners in the Jawoyn community. It was during this time that I had a major falling out with Ray and Bangardi. During the most pessimistic times of the battle for Guratba, I had started working on a "Plan B": negotiating positions for what I saw as the likelihood the fight would be lost. Both men were furious with me. For them—and Sandy, Peter and Nipper as senior custodians for Bulajang—there was to be no room for negotiation. Guratba was not to be mined under any circumstances, and there would be no weakening of the Jawoyn position.

And they were right. As one of his last moves in office, Bob Hawke blocked mining in Sickness Country. That part of country is now under Jawoyn ownership as part of Kakadu National Park and a section of the Arnhem Land Trust.

But it probably killed Ray. The proximate cause of death was TB—a disease virtually unknown in the rest of Australia, but common among Aboriginal communities of the north. After a decade of struggle and pressure it was, perhaps, the final blow for a great leader.

In the following decade and a half, Bangardi Lee took the mantle of Jawoyn leadership from his late brother. The period saw extraordinary consolidation for the Jawoyn people, especially with its interests at Nitmiluk National Park, which is 20 years old this month. The Jawoyn succeeded in winning Australia's first native title claim—more than a year before federal leg-

islation from the Keating Government—which led to the size of Nitmiluk growing by over 50 per cent, as well as the return of land at Eva Valley. Stage 3 of Kakadu was returned to its traditional Jawoyn clans. Economic enterprises run by Jawoyn at Nitmiluk—the stuff of dreams at the business lunch in 1989—have expanded and continue to grow.

But it has been at a cost. Bangardi Lee passed away shortly after the 16th anniversary of the Nitmiluk Handback—weakened, undoubtedly, by TB, the same illness that killed his brother. Many senior Jawoyn died before Nitmiluk was returned—Alice Marnakolorlo, for example, died in 1986. We have since also lost many of the old people who made it possible, including all of the Jawoyn men and women who I commemorate here.

Perhaps a final memory. We were at Maranboy—across the road on the hill above the police station, back then the final outpost of whitefella law and order till you got to Nhulunbuy, 700 kilometres across Arnhem Land. It was a week or so short of the Handback and we were filming with Phyllis Wijnjorrotj, by now a veteran of the long trench warfare of the land claim. Maranboy is an abandoned tin mining field: for Jawoyn and other language groups, a site of long and sometimes conflicted contact with whitefellas over many decades. An area, as well, of important dreaming sites—ironically also a red ochre mine, exploited for millennia for ceremonial use.

It was early in the day, and Wijnjorrotj appeared little interested in recording a doco. She was caressing, and talking to, a small stand of saplings growing in the mullock heaps of the old mine. "Nawalkwalk," she was calling them. Wasn't that the Jawoyn word for child? "Yes," she said. "They are all my children, like all the Jawoyn children, growing on my country. They will get old, like me, but for

GARMA 2009



Yolngu honours at Garma

The Northern Territory's Administrator, Mr Tom Pauling, attended Sunday's sunset bunggul at this year's Garma Festival to confer Australia Day honours on two outstanding Yolngu people.

One was renowned educator and linguist Dr Marika who died from a heart attack at the age of 49 in May last year. Her Member of the Order of Australia medal was accepted by her daughter Wanggawuy Mununggurritj.

Dr Marika was a Director of Reconciliation Australia, a Director of the AIATSIS and a former Territorian of the Year. Her honour was for: "Service to indigenous communities in rural and remote areas as an educator, linguist and scholar, through the preservation of

indigenous languages and the promotion of reconciliation and cross-cultural understanding".

Yolngu women then performed a rainbow flag dance in her memory.

"Having known Marika's father very well and several members of the family, that's a great personal thing for me to be presenting this award here today," Mr Pauling said.

"I hope people get a lot of happiness."

Mr Waninya Gary Marika received the Medal of the Order of Australia for service to the community of Yirrkala through cultural liaison.

He has worked with Yirrkala Health Centre since 2001 as an interpreter and educator.



Top left : red flag dancers,
Top right: Big Franks Missus,
Above left: Galiwinku dancers;
above right: the Chookie dancers ,
Right: There are always plenty of children dancing at Garma
Below right: Freddie timms the founder of Jirrawun Arts



Above top: TEABBA mob
Above: CLC delegates with NLC deputy Chairman Samuel Bush
Blanasi
Left Garrangali Band
All photos courtesy Francine Chinn Frangipani Freelance





Nanyi community leader Patricia Marrfurra McTaggart, CSIRO's Emma Woodward and Molly Yawulminy with the seasonal calendar at the Merrepen Arts Festival. Courtesy Michael Douglas,

Ngan'gi's seasonal calendar

The Ngan'gi seasonal calendar, developed by the residents of the Nanyi community, Daly River, and CSIRO's Emma Woodward was launched at the Merrepen Arts Festival and Open Day in late May.

The calendar, which was developed over 10 months of discussions with community members, represents some of the traditional ecological knowledge of the Nanyi community. Its development was driven by a community desire to document seasonal-specific knowledge of the Daly River and its wetlands, including the environmental indicators that act as cues for bush tucker collection. The calendar also addresses community concern about the loss of traditional knowledge, as older people from the language group pass away and younger people increas-

ingly using Kriol rather than Ngan'gi as a first language.

The seasonal cycle recorded on the calendar closely follows the cycle of annual speargrass (*Sarga* spp.), with many of the 13 seasons identified in the calendar named according to speargrass life stages. For example, the season known as 'Wurr wirribem dudutyamu' occurs when speargrass seed heads are swollen and hanging heavily. The term 'taddo' refers to the sounds of the seed heads knocking together and starting to open up and indicates that the rainy season is nearing its end.

Nanyi community leader, Patricia Marrfurra McTaggart, was a key partner in the project, providing both a wealth of information and invaluable linguistic and translating skills in documenting information from senior community members.

IBA SCHOLARSHIPS

Indigenous Business Australia (IBA) is conducting the first round of its Scholarship Fund aimed at providing mature-age Indigenous Australians who face financial barriers with opportunities to develop their knowledge and skills in business and finance.

It supports the study of courses related to business, commerce, accounting, financial management, tourism management and economic leadership.

The IBA Scholarship Fund offers tailored financial assistance to successful applicants who plan to attend educational institutions such as TAFE, university and other recognised providers.

Applications for the current round close 30 September 2009 and are open to Indigenous mature-age people looking to study in the first semester of 2010.

Further information is available at: www.iba.gov.au or email scholarship@iba.gov.au or call 1800 107 107.

Blue Mud Bay - Fishing Facts



On 30 July 2008 the High Court of Australia confirmed that Traditional Owners of the Blue Mud Bay region in north east Arnhem Land – together with Traditional Owners of almost the entire Northern Territory coastline - have exclusive access rights to tidal waters overlying Aboriginal land.

The High Court's decision is now the law in Australia.

The Court decided that Government licenses and permits to fish are valid, but they do not grant permission to the permit holder to go onto water overlying Aboriginal land.

The Court said that the water lying over Aboriginal land should be treated the same as the land itself.

Permits have always been required to enter onto and to visit Aboriginal

land – this now includes the intertidal zone and waters overlying Aboriginal land.

Entry into these waters without permission is an act of trespass.

An interim fishing licensing scheme is in place until 31 December 2009 to ensure that good faith negotiations can occur for all partners and stakeholders for the management of a sustainable fishing industry.

From page 13

"If the company was set up, they would run the works. They had to have the will to come to work."

They successfully bid on a contract to grade a 100km stretch of gravel road inside the training area and, having completed that, the crew was asked to tender on the removal of 340km of redundant wire fencing in advance of the upcoming Defence exercise, Talisman Sabre – 2009. "Fence lines and heavy weapons don't mix well," explains Caspar McDermott of the Australian Defence Organisation, who manages Bradshaw for the Australian Defence Force.

"What they achieved is removing a redundant fence line and scrapping it in a very thorough manner, in a specific time to a specific standard. They've done an outstanding job."

Camping out in a bush camp for weeks at a time, away from family and friends, is a difficult task,

but the men from Bradshaw completed their first contracts, putting half their wages back into the business.

With it they bought two tractors, plus fridges and freezers for their demountable camp, and other equipment. "These guys have to show Defence they are reliable and worthy of getting contracts on a commercial basis," states Kimpton. "If they build their own reputation there'll be ongoing works every year. The better skilled they get, the more organised they get, the better equipped they get, the more opportunities will come their way."

But pulling up fence lines on foot under the tropical sun proved to be demanding work. The men knew if they could get work vehicles they could pull up much more barbed wire in a day and it would take less out of them, physically.

So they applied for a grant from the NT Govern-

ment's Indigenous Business Development Program, which provides assistance and funding to Indigenous people looking to establish new businesses or develop existing business opportunities.

They were successful and awarded a \$33,000 grant for the purchase of four quad bikes.

But working for Defence on Bradshaw is seasonal work. Unable to carry out the work during the wet season, the crew's challenge is to generate work outside Defence to take them through the year. That looks to be accomplished by selling gravel off Aboriginal freehold land to Katherine-based contractors for government departments.

It is a prospect Daniel Jones relishes. "Getting up every day for work is easy if you got a big heart," he says. "You want the pay, you got to work."

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Cattlemen mustered in Central Australia

Dozens of Aboriginal cattlemen from across the Northern Territory gathered in Central Australia in August to learn about key industry initiatives aimed at improving their land.

The three-day workshop was held at Ross River Resort and on Loves Creek Station east of Alice Springs.

Cattlemen took part in practical demonstrations in the key areas of soil erosion, grazing land management, corporate and financial management, feral animal control and bush fire awareness.

The workshop was supported by the Central and Northern land councils, the Indigenous Land Corporation, Northern Territory and Federal government departments, the Northern Territory Cattlemen's Association and Elders.

It aimed help managers of Aboriginal-owned properties to increase the number of cattle stocked and turned off their properties, while improving grazing land management practises, bringing increased economic income and more jobs in remote areas.

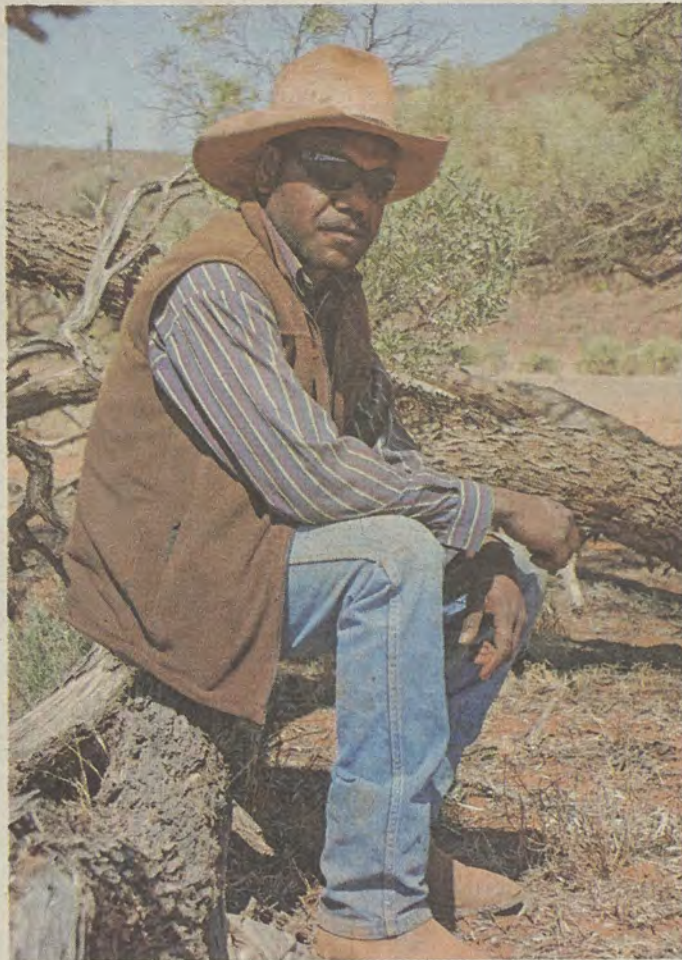
Dale Mulladad, from Santa Teresa, works on Atula Station north-east of Alice Springs. He said the participants learn from each other when they come together at a workshop.

"What I've seen here and I'll try and get that thing running over there," he said.

"You meet new people, get to see different things. It's good. It's good to see blokes from other places."

A traditional owner of Loves Creek Station, Damien Ryder feels the demonstrations on treating soil erosion will be useful for his country.

"It's a few ideas you sort of get at these sort of things," he said. "When you head back to the station you might see erosion there and you might make



Dean Pepperill from Ti Tree Station at a cattlemen's workshop on Loves Creek Station.

it better so the water can run freely to the dry areas.

"Looking at the grass to see how it grows after that soil erosion program. See if water runs in there or stops it making gutters or drains sort of thing."

Dean Pepperill is the head stockman on Ti Tree Station and also works at Willowra and Loves Creek. He said he can see how the workshop will be useful in his day-to-day tasks.

"Cattle work, bore and fencing," he said. "Especially with this soil erosion site. It makes a lot of difference looking after the land and all that."

"A bit like using them in jobs like fencing and roads. Maintaining roads, fence line and dams."

Dean said the workshop is useful for cattlemen of all levels of experience.

"Even for the other young fellas," he said. They see people working and young other fellas doing things. Yes, that'd be pretty good I think."

Des Grainer is the manager of the cattle enterprise on the Wagaman Land Trust on the Daly River.

The workshop offered his team the chance to pick up some new ideas for their country.

"It's good when other groups come together. You learn from each other and during the presentation they do something a little bit different then you pick up a new idea and that."

"It's good to see what's happening because your way may not be the right way."

Upgrades continue at Tanami Downs



An open day in October will provide traditional owners of the Mangkururpa Aboriginal Land Trust with an opportunity to inspect the improvements that continue to be made at one of Australia's most isolated cattle stations.

Tanami Downs is in the Tanami Desert north-west of Alice Springs.

Development of the station is continuing well under new managers, Ken and Linda Satour, who have been in the job nine months.

They've overseen the upgrading of station infrastructure including the homestead, single quarters and surrounds.

More importantly for the cattle business, a large amount of work has been carried out on bringing the watering points back to a reasonable standard to ensure a reliable supply of water for the stock.

Yards have also been repaired and improved and the fencing around most of the holding paddocks has been repaired.

The station has carried out two rounds of mustering and further mustering will be carried out in the weeks ahead.

Herd development has also been a priority with a number of Red Brahm bulls purchased from Queensland

recently.

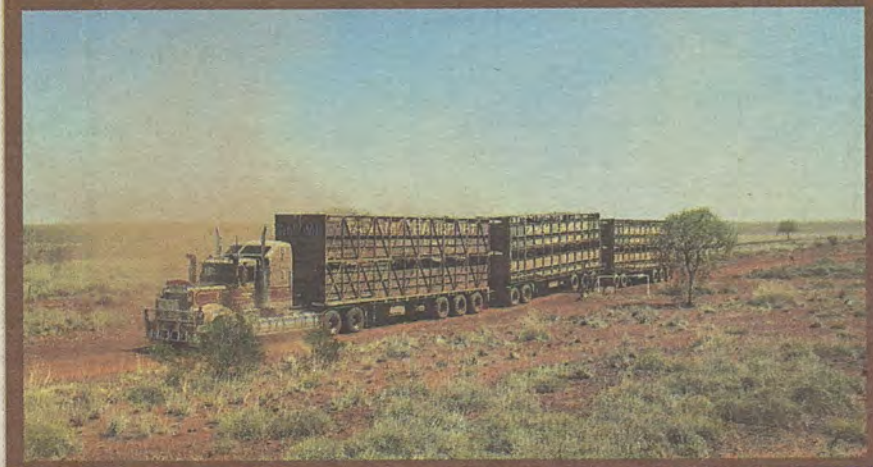
These bulls have gone to both Tanami Downs and Mistake Creek Station. Linkages between these two Aboriginal-owned stations have steadily developed in recent times.

Further work planned for the next year includes the construction of new paddocks and the installation of VHF radio repeater towers to provide greater communication and safety for station employees.

The Central Land Council is assisting the station with the organisation of the open day for the traditional owners of the Mangkururpa ALT on which the station operates.

This will provide traditional owners the opportunity to see how the development of the station, which has been helped by the investment of their own funds, is progressing.

Above: it was long days in the yards for Kenny Satour's small team before they could truck off cattle to markets thousands of kilometres away (below)



Brahim takes over ABA reins

The general manager of the Jululakiri Council in Tennant Creek, Pat Brahim, has been appointed the new chair of the Aboriginal Benefits Account.

Ms Brahim chaired her first ABA meeting in Darwin in August. She says her long service with the Commonwealth Government and working for Aboriginal people in the Barkly region will help her in the role.

"Probably where my strengths lie is I've worked 35 years in the Commonwealth Government and so knowing the system fairly well and then working with an Aboriginal organisation on the ground so, the last 10 years, so you're getting a balance in your understanding, being able to work in the two worlds stuff and challenge both and not feel have to be protective of where I sit in all this because I am independent," Ms Brahim said.

Ms Brahim said she'd like to see some reform in the way those involved in the ABA decision-making process approach the work.

"I think as well as working with the community, the government department staff to think laterally as well, because they're conditioned in the systems of bureaucracy and the way Aboriginal people work a lot of times is with emotions and spirit whereas bureaucracy talks of tasks and intellect and it's getting the balance between the two groups and do the talking around that so the learnings have got to be for both not just our mob, it's the bureaucracies as well," she said.

Getting the message to interpreters



Warlpiri interpreter Tess Ross recently completed her first day of court interpreting. An increasing number of Warlpiri people are becoming interested in taking on the vital role.

The Aboriginal Interpreter Service in the Northern Territory has opened new offices in Maningrida in the Top End and Yuendumu in Central Australia.

Tess Napaljarri Ross is a Warlpiri woman who did her first day of court recently at the Yuendumu Bush Court. The first court was a Community Court, sometimes called a Circle Court. In this type of court, community elders make recommendations to the magistrate about what should happen to the accused.

"That was first time for me interpreting with the Justice Group," Ms Ross said.

"The magistrate spoke and I put the words he spoke into Warlpiri. Some of the elders already understood but some only understood a little bit. I helped them really understand.

"It is good to have an interpreter for old people or when young people get into trouble because they have to understand both Yapa and Kardiya law.

"We are trying to help them and having an interpreter helped this young fella take what we were telling him," she said.

New Indigenous rep body plans announced

A plan for a new Indigenous representative body to replace ATSIC has been proposed by a steering committee led by Social Justice Commissioner Tom Calma.

The new body would be independent from government, have an equal number of men and women in leadership roles and rely on strict ethical standards.

In an address to the National Press Club, Commissioner Calma said Australians could be on the cusp of great change.

"Today is a day when, as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, we begin a new journey and express our determination to put our future in our hands," Commissioner Calma said.

"This model is about a way

forward, that is focused on the future and flexible enough to adapt to new or emerging priorities.

"What we are proposing today will be radically different from anything we have ever seen in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander affairs. It will certainly not be 'business as usual'."

Commissioner Calma was asked by Federal Indigenous Affairs Minister Jenny Macklin in December 2008 to convene an independent Indigenous Steering Committee to undertake phase two of consultations and develop a model for a new national Indigenous representative body.

He said the new representative body should be a private company limited by guarantee and should be funded by the Australian Government on a recurrent basis for

an initial five-year period, subject to negotiation thereafter.

The proposed body would have four main components including: a National Executive led by full-time male and female co-chairs; a National Congress that would be the primary accountability mechanism for the National Representative Body to set national policies and priorities through an annual congress; an Ethics Council that would apply a merit-based process to shortlist candidates for election as members of the National Executive and to develop and maintain the ethical standards of the organisation; and an administrative or Executive Support Unit.

"This model we are proposing today is a rare opportunity for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to work together with governments, industry and

the Australian community to secure the economic and cultural independence of our peoples, and to enable us to truly experience self-determination, for the first time in this country," he said.

"We have proposed a body that will exhibit the highest standards of ethical conduct and will set a new benchmark for gender equality in national organisations - which all Australians can learn from."

The final model is contained in the report, "Our future in our hands" - Creating a sustainable National Representative Body for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, available at www.humanrights.gov.au/social_justice/repboddy/

The report has been handed to the government for consideration.

ALICE

Alice town camps: Tilmouth hits back

This is an edited version of an interview by CAAMA Radio's Steve Hodder and Tangentyere Council CEO William Tilmouth defending his organisation's conduct in the town camp lease saga.

Hodder: what do you say to claims that Tangentyere is unaccountable?

Tilmouth: Those people who have a bent against Tangentyere obviously don't realise we are audited to the enth degree.

We are totally accountable for every cent we get.

If we had spent one cent out of place the government would have had every reason to take over Tangentyere.

We hold meetings we are informing people, we hold more meetings than as per our constitution and we're totally accountable.

For those people who have criticisms for us in favour of the Northern Territory Government do not realise that our accountability is better than anyone else's and I'm saying that in relation to the Northern Territory Government who has shown that their accountability is appalling.

They do not account for the monies that they get from the Commonwealth and they do not account to the people that they're supposed to serve.

Hodder: what about about claims that town campers are over consulted?

Tilmouth: There's no such thing as over consultation. It's very hard to take conceptions and legal conceptions to people whose only struggle in life is to get a feed that day or shelter that night.

It's very hard to get people to understand these legal terms, the jargons that they use. I don't think the consultation has gone far enough. Everything is a variation of what's gone before and this is just another variation to something we find very hard to comprehend. Why? Because the colour of our skin people feel like they can do what they like to do with us.

Hodder: Do you get sick of the same negative questions being asked year after year?

Tilmouth: What we do here at Tangentyere is stand up for the rights of our constituents.

We try forever and a day to get the best deal possible for our constituents so the damage is not as great.

We know the damage is going to be done, the closing of the gap as I said before is not about kicking people's heads in, it's about fixing up people's lives and if you've got to fix up people's lives by kicking them in the head then that's wrong.

You approach them and the consultation process has to happen at every level in order to get the work done.

You don't just come in and say well I've got an idea I want you to live by it now.

Why don't we just let Aboriginal people be Aboriginal because that's all they want.

Hodder: In the past couple of weeks we've seen the debate of some more controversial by-laws proposals in Alice Springs.

They seem to reflect that push of people being frustrated at not being able to solve issues but would rather use a stick than a hand up. Do you see it that way?

Tilmouth: I see it totally that way. For a society that lacks answers and solutions, their only solution is more of the same.

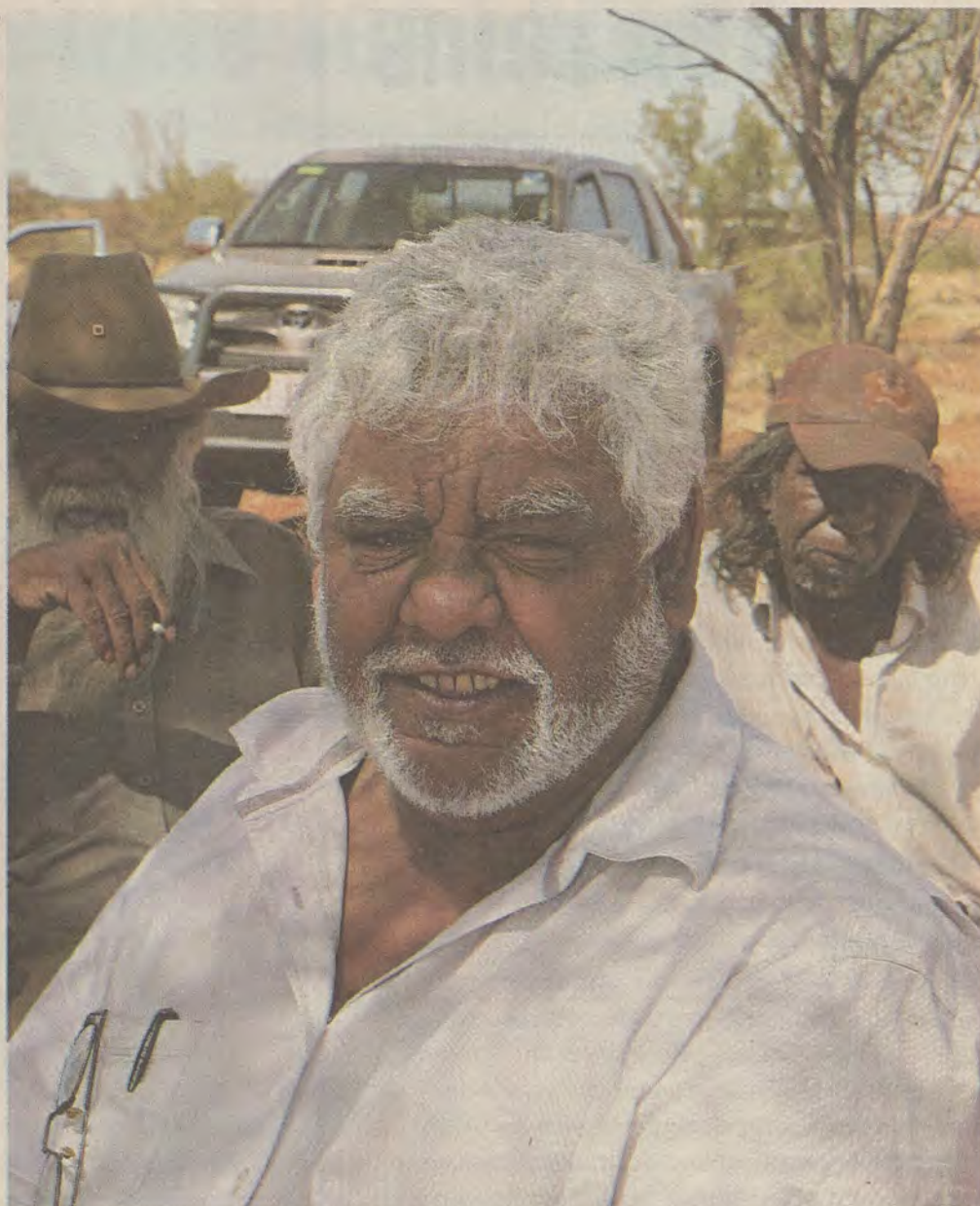
It's draconian, punitive action that they take.

We will fine people who are begging who are poor \$300. If people have \$300 they would not be begging.

This punitive approach to Aboriginal people to the Aboriginal problem is just resulting in possibly more jails being built in order to accommodate these people.

The jails are full. We have so many draconian, racist laws that govern Aboriginal people's lives in this town without giving them the freedom of choice.

Australia's quickly becoming known as the pariah state that South Africa was a few years ago and it's not something that I subscribe to but this is what's being driven because people who are in power who don't have the answers are just resorting back to the same old tried and tested approach of locking them up, getting them out of sight, putting them in jail, putting constraints on their lives that at the end of the day gives you every reason to drink.



Above: William Tilmouth at a CLC meeting at Titjikala in April

You are totally powerless in a world that is yours it's in a country that is yours, you are totally rendered powerless, every ounce of responsibility that you have in relation to your income in relation to your family, in relation to where you can drink, in relation to where you live, every responsibility is taken off you.

Hodder: Do you think that removal of the RDA – Racial Discrimination Act – and some of the policies involved in the current political climate actually do encourage a lot more racial tension?

Tilmouth: No doubt. I mean the attacks on Aboriginal people, the attacks on the way that Aboriginal people live and where they live and how they live and all that.

This just lends itself to the serious crime that happened recently, last week I believe in relation to a hate crime, which I think has the hallmarks of a hate crime.

Once you start lending and giving license to people to act the way that they see fit to act and take the into their own hands then at the end of the day all that legislation, all those policies give licence to that behav-

our and I think it's wrong and those people who are in power should realise the repercussions and the consequences of their decisions and say listen we're taking this country down the wrong road.

Let's not go down that road. Let's stand up and treat people like human beings and with dignity. Let's not be this pariah state that South Africa was.

At the end of the day the eyes of the world are watching Australia and we will be judged for it and Australia will be judged by history.

If someone is living in the creek because they are homeless that is the only place they have.

There is no accommodation for those people, there is no-one going along and lending a helping hand or offering something to those people.

All they get is criticism and criticism to the extent that their possessions, their blankets, their pillows, the only possessions that they have, they come back in the afternoon and their stuff is all gone, it's been dumped, it's been burnt, it's been taken away.

Warlpiri Wizard casting spells in AFL



Photos courtesy of Slattery Media Group.

Former Yuendumu premiership player Liam Jurrah continues to create national headlines through his achievements in the Australian Football League.

Jurrah made his debut for Melbourne against Essendon in round 12 this season and his eye-catching performances since then have included a Rising Star nomination in round 15.

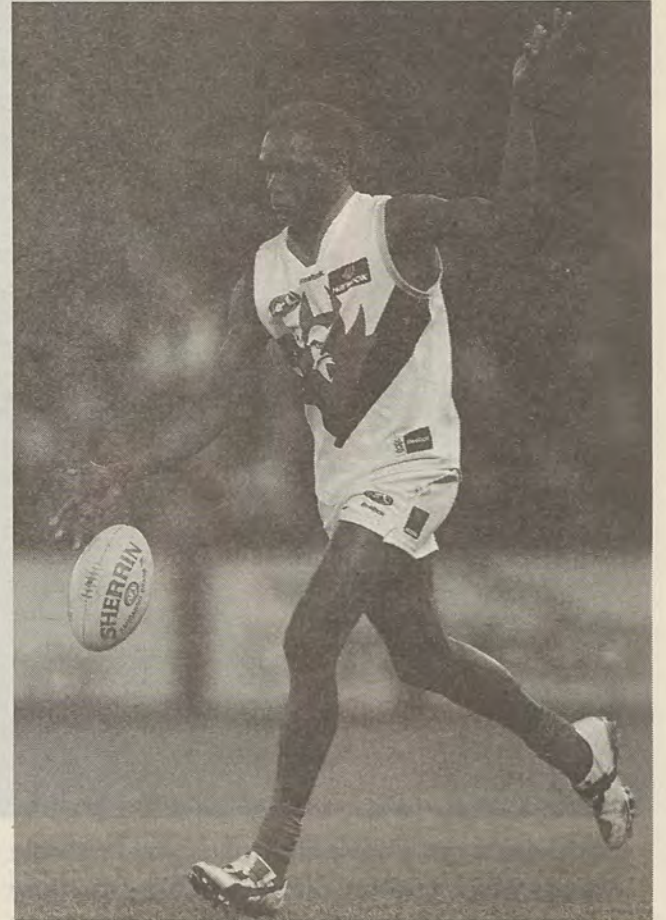
A promising young player is nominated for the rising star award after each round of the AFL. The overall winner at the end of the season receives a personal investment folio and a dedicated personal banker provided by the National Australia Bank.

Jurrah was recruited by the Demons with the first selection in the 2009 AFL preseason draft.

The 20-year-old has been dubbed the "Warlpiri Wizard" by his Melbourne teammates and the media for his spectacular marks and goals and for his cultural background as a Warlpiri man from Yuendumu in the Tanami Desert north-west of Alice Springs.

He was a key player in Yuendumu's win in last year's AFL Central Australia grand final in Alice Springs. That performance helped attract the interest of the Demons in the lead up to the draft.

His success has aroused more interest from AFL scouts in what other talented players might be playing the game in the remote Aboriginal communities of the Northern Territory.



(Above left and above) Liam Jurrah from Yuendumu in Central Australia has been a hit in the AFL this season.

AFLNT dumps 'Dreamtime at the G' community match

The AFL has said it's disappointed its equivalent governing body in the Northern Territory has decided it won't send a community football side to play in a curtain raiser to its "Dreamtime at the G" match on the MCG next season.

In recent seasons the winning Northern Territory community side at the Darwin Umpires' Carnival has played a Victorian Aboriginal community as a curtain raiser to the Essendon versus Richmond Dreamtime at the G match.

The match is part of the AFL's Indigenous round honouring the contribution Indigenous players have made throughout the history of the game and promoting reconciliation.

Imalu from the Tiwi Islands and Ltyentye Apurte from Santa Teresa south-east of Alice Springs have both participated in the game.

However, the AFLNT has said that it's too expensive to send a community side to Melbourne to take part in the game and instead, two community teams will be invited to play at Darwin's Marrara Stadium as a curtain raiser to an AFL game next season.

The AFL's Indigenous Programs Manager Jason Mifsud said it's unlikely any footballer could ask for a bigger thrill than playing on the MCG.

"It's probably as big a highlight as any community team could get," he said. "That's probably the A grade opportunity."

"We think the curtain raiser is a great showcase for community footy."

"It's unfortunate the NT won't be taking up the opportunity. We'll continue to provide that opportunity for community teams."

Mr Mifsud said the AFL had held a brief discussion with the AFLNT about the cost of taking a community side to Melbourne for the game, but believes it already provides plenty of financial support to the Territory in administration and operational support.

"It's above and beyond what it would cost to bring the side to Melbourne," he said.

Mr Mifsud said the AFL was disappointed that the AFLNT won't be taking up the opportunity that it's been given, but that chance will now be offered to a community side from another state.

"It's probably as big a highlight as any community team could get."

Bush sides win through to AFLCA football finals

Two Central Australian teams from Aboriginal communities have won places in the AFL Central Australia finals.

After Yuendumu won the first premiership of the AFL Central Australian league that combined the town and country competitions last year, MacDonnell Districts and Anmatjere are through to the finals this year.

Federal finished on top of the ladder, with Pioneers second, but MacDonnell Districts strong form in the second half of the season that included a win over Federal pushed it up to third place. Wests was fourth and Anmatjere just beat Ltyentye Apurte into fifth place.

MacDonnell Districts includes players from Papunya and other regions further west including Kintore. Anmatjere includes players from regions around Ti Tree and Mt Allan.

Unfortunately for Anmatjere, the Cowboys were eliminated in the first week of the finals.

The 6th annual INDIGENOUS MUSIC AWARDS



Clockwise from above right: Sammy Butcher; Mandy Muir, Shelley Morris, Sammy Butcher and Leslie Major; Geoffrey Gurrumul Yunupingu; Mandawuy Yunipingu receives a special recognition award from NLC Chair Wali Wunungmurra; the Tjupi Band and Jessica Mauboy

Photos courtesy of Francine Chinn and Glen Campbell

AND THE WINNERS ARE...

ACT OF THE YEAR

Geoffrey Gurrumul Yunupingu

ALBUM OF THE YEAR

Been Waiting / Jessica Mauboy

EMERGING ACT OF THE YEAR

Pott Street

SONG OF THE YEAR - Song / Album / Act / Songwriter

Audius Mtawarira, Sean Ray Mullins

DVD/FILMCLIP OF THE YEAR

Senor / Dunganda Street Sounds

ARTWORK AND DESIGN OF THE YEAR

Geoffrey Gurrumul Yunupingu / DDA release Gurrumul Album

TRADITIONAL MUSIC AWARD

Dunganda Street Sounds / Ramingining Artists

PEOPLES CHOICE AWARD - SONG OF THE YEAR

Voted nationally on DIG Music
The Turn Around / MC HORA

HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

Sammy Butcher
Tableland Drifters
David Asera

