

FREE

LAND RIGHTS NEWS

July 2022

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CENTRAL AUSTRALIA



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EDITORIAL

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COVER



Expert tracker Jerry Jangala Patrick at a train-the-trainer workshop in Lajamanu in June.

CLC MEETINGS

20–21 July 2022
Executive
Alice Springs

23–25 August 2022
Council
Kalkaringi

**31 October –
4 November 2022**
Council
TBA

New CLC leaders back young people



Robert Hoosan, from Aputula (Finke), will lead the Central Land Council for the next three years.

YOUNG people are at the heart of the new leadership of the Central Land Council.

Not only did CLC members elect a youth worker as their chair and the leader of a local youth organisation as their deputy, they also welcomed the youngest delegate ever.

Twenty-year-old Ricardo Gallagher was elected by a huge majority of Nyirrpri residents. He cast his vote in the election for the new chair in Tennant Creek in April.

The winner of that election, new CLC chair Robert Hoosan, is a former CLC field officer, police officer, health worker and Uniting Church chair from Aputula (Finke).

He and other elders take young men out bush for weeks at a time and teach spear and boomerang-making at cultural healing camps “to fix our spirit up”.

“It makes me really proud that the community had the good idea to put young people on.”

He is proud of the many young people communities in the southern half of the NT have chosen to represent them on the land council for the next three years.

“It makes me really proud that the community had the good idea to put young people on,” he said.

“We’ve got good delegates and staff, both men and women, and we’ve got to work together. The land council’s future looks bright.” **Continued p.6**



Ricardo Gallagher (20) is the youngest CLC member.

Will Labor deliver real jobs in the bush?

REAL jobs, proper wages and decent conditions developed in partnership with Aboriginal people – that is how Labor politicians summed up their remote jobs plan before the party won the May election.

Central Land Council chair Robert Hoosan wasted no time to offer a hand to Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, incoming Indigenous Affairs Minister Linda Burney and the four Northern Territory representatives in Canberra – three of them Aboriginal women.

As he congratulated them on their election victory he said he looked forward “to help fast-track jobs in our remote communities”.

He said the Aboriginal peak organisations of the NT spent the last six years to come up with a strong and detailed proposal for the creation of real jobs.

This model, also known as *Fair Work and Strong Communities*, is what the CLC and 33 other organisations around the country want to take the place of the failed work-for-the-dole scheme.

It takes the best of the Community Development Employment Program

(CDEP) that finished in 2005 – part-time jobs, local control and support for Aboriginal organisations – and makes it work for today.

“The CDEP was not perfect, but it had many strengths when the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission ran it,” Francine McCarthy, the CLC’s manager policy and governance, said.

“The CDEP came without leave and superannuation, and it was often used to do things the government should be paying for anyway.”

“After the Howard government scrapped ATSIIC, the CDEP’s focus on community control, job creation and long-term community development disappeared and things went backwards with every government program that came after it.”

During the recent election campaign, Labor politicians talked a lot about simply bringing back the old CDEP, but things are not that easy.

“Eight years after ATSIIC finished up the NT Government abolished remote community councils, leaving Aboriginal people without Aboriginal organisations able to run a remote jobs program at the local and national level,” said Ms McCarthy.

“The CDEP also came without normal employment benefits, such as leave and

superannuation, and it was often used to do things the government should be paying for anyway.”

Before the Morrison government lost office it had begun to talk about trialling a new employment program in the Barkly and four other places around the country.

Even though the CLC is a major employer in the Barkly it was not invited to the first two meetings in Tennant Creek where the trial was discussed.

Shaw and Bush-Blanasi to lead new Aboriginal investment body

BARBARA Shaw, executive member and former deputy chair of the Central Land Council, and Sammy Bush-Blanasi, chair of the Northern Land Council, are the first leaders of the new corporation that will bring the Aboriginals Benefit Account under the control of Aboriginal Territorians.

The two interim co-chairs were elected at the Northern Territory Aboriginal Investment Corporation's first board meeting in Darwin in April.

Ms Shaw, a member of the ABA advisory committee, has long advocated for the ABA to be controlled by NT Aboriginal people, not the federal Aboriginal Affairs Minister.

She took part in all the joint land council meetings that set up the corporation – from Kalkaringi in 2016, to Barunga in 2018 and Alice Springs in 2021.

“The investments we make through the corporation will generate returns back to the corporation and create sustainability,” Ms Shaw said.

The name of the new commonwealth corporate entity is a mouthful, but it may change.

What won't change is that Aboriginal people will hold the power on its board.

Eight out of 12 board members are directly elected by the four NT land councils, and a further two board members will be appointed by the board.

The CLC delegates elected Ms Shaw and Alekarenge teacher Derek Walker to represent them on the board.

The Australian government also appointed two members.

The interim board is overseeing the setting up of the new corporate entity.

It will hire an acting chief executive officer, appoint two independent board members, form committees to consider risk, investments and audits, and make an investment plan.

Once the plan has been tabled in parliament, the corporation will get



CLC executive member Barbara Shaw and NLC chair Sammy Bush-Blanasi are the interim co-chairs of the new NT Aboriginal Investment Corporation.

\$500 million for investments.

It will also receive \$180 million during its first three years for grant funding.

The interim board wants to improve the existing ABA grants program.

Interim board member and chair of the Tiwi Land Council, Gibson Farmer Illortaminni, said it aims to get grants to communities more quickly.

The land councils have fought for more than 30 years to bring the ABA under the control of the people whose land earns the ABA's income.

The new corporate entity is an important step in this process.

Under the Aboriginal Land Rights Act it will get a yearly budget to employ staff and run offices.

Over time, the land councils want the corporation to control all of the

\$1.5 billion currently in the ABA.

It will start once the remaining two independent members and the investment committee are in place or on 13 December 2022, whichever comes first.

We will hold the new Labor government to its ELECTION PROMISES*:

- Implement the Uluru Statement from the Heart in full – voice, treaty, truth
- Hold a voice referendum before 2025
- Spend \$100 million on NT homeland housing and infrastructure
- Spread \$200 million on remote housing repair and maintenance across NT and three states
- Sign a new agreement about remote housing and homelands by next year
- Scrap the cashless debit card
- Co-design a real jobs program – jobs out bush with proper wages and conditions
- Double Aboriginal ranger jobs by 2029 and boost female ranger numbers
- Spend \$10 million each year on managing protected areas
- Give Aboriginal people a greater say over water
- Reform national heritage protection
- Hold a national meeting for action against deaths in custody

*Not all national health and justice promises are included

“From what we have heard the trial was not about creating real jobs with real wages,” Ms McCarthy said.

The Aboriginal Peak Organisations of the NT have invited Prime Minister Albanese and his ministers to take a good look at *Fair Work and Strong Communities*.

APO NT believe we need to get remote jobs right if we are to meet the employment and training targets of the Closing the Gap policy. All political parties support the policy.

CLC chair Robert Hoosan congratulated the three female Aboriginal politicians representing the NT in Canberra. “Marion, Malarndirri and Jacinta have campaigned hard for their victories and made history, I want to work with them on creating real jobs and building decent houses in our remote communities, and making our communities safe and healthy places for all residents.”



Senator Jacinta Price; Member for Lingiari, Marion Scrymgour and Assistant Minister for Indigenous Australians, Senator Malarndirri McCarthy.

Rivers of grog again?

ABORIGINAL health and justice groups have condemned the Northern Territory's new alcohol laws that will let people in dry communities get back on the grog from mid-July.

Alcohol was banned in most remote communities and town camps during the Howard government's 2008 Intervention.

The next governments in Canberra, both Labor and Liberal, kept the measures in place as part of the Stronger Futures laws.

These laws finish on July 17, and the Territory and Australian governments have been fighting over who will be to blame for what may happen next.

Just before the May federal election the NT Government passed laws forcing dry areas that had no grog restrictions before Stronger Futures to say yes ('opt in') to alcohol bans after July if they want to stay dry.

In the CLC region these laws affect 40 community living areas, 20 town camps and the Amoonguna community near Alice Springs.

If the land holding bodies don't tell the NT Government in writing before 16 July to keep the grog out of their communities it will flow freely again.

Keeping the alcohol bans in place for longer would buy time to plan how to protect old people, women and children when restrictions end.

It is a big decision – one most communities have not been ready to make because there has been no consultation.

Even Labor's new member for Lingiari, Marion Scrymgour, criticised the NT Government.

"I think they were lacking in consultations," she told the ABC.

North Australian Aboriginal Justice Agency chief executive Priscilla Atkins said the new NT law would "open up the floodgates".

"Our hospitals are full, our domestic violence rates are the highest in the nation and rising, and the justice system is clogging up," she told the ABC.

"What the NT Government has done will add to that harm. It's absolutely disgusting."

Aboriginal Medical Services Alliance NT chief executive John Paterson asked the government to make sure "no takeaway alcohol can be newly accessed" without a process of consultation and negotiation.

Danila Dilba Health Services chief Rob McPhee warned the changes were "a step in the wrong direction" towards the "devastating impacts of alcohol".

NT Chief Minister Natasha Fyles blamed the federal government.

"What the NT Government has done will add to that harm. It's absolutely disgusting."

She said the Stronger Futures legislation was "race-based policy targeting Aboriginal Territorians".

"The federal Liberal government, which is responsible for the Stronger Futures legislation, notified the Territory at the 11th hour that it would be walking away and leaving the NT Government to clean up its mess," she said.

"This government has accordingly acted quickly and responsibly to prepare for the commonwealth walking away."

"This government will not support continuing the mandatory restrictions and obligations of the intervention."

Former Local Government Minister Chansey Paech, now Attorney General, said banning grog "does not work".

He said it instead "encourages people to consider other harmful options such as drinking on the outskirts of a town, community, homeland or town camp near busy roads, or our people are driven to find alternative



sources of alcohol such as sanitiser or mouth wash".

Former federal Indigenous Australians Minister Ken Wyatt accused Ms Fyles of getting her facts wrong.

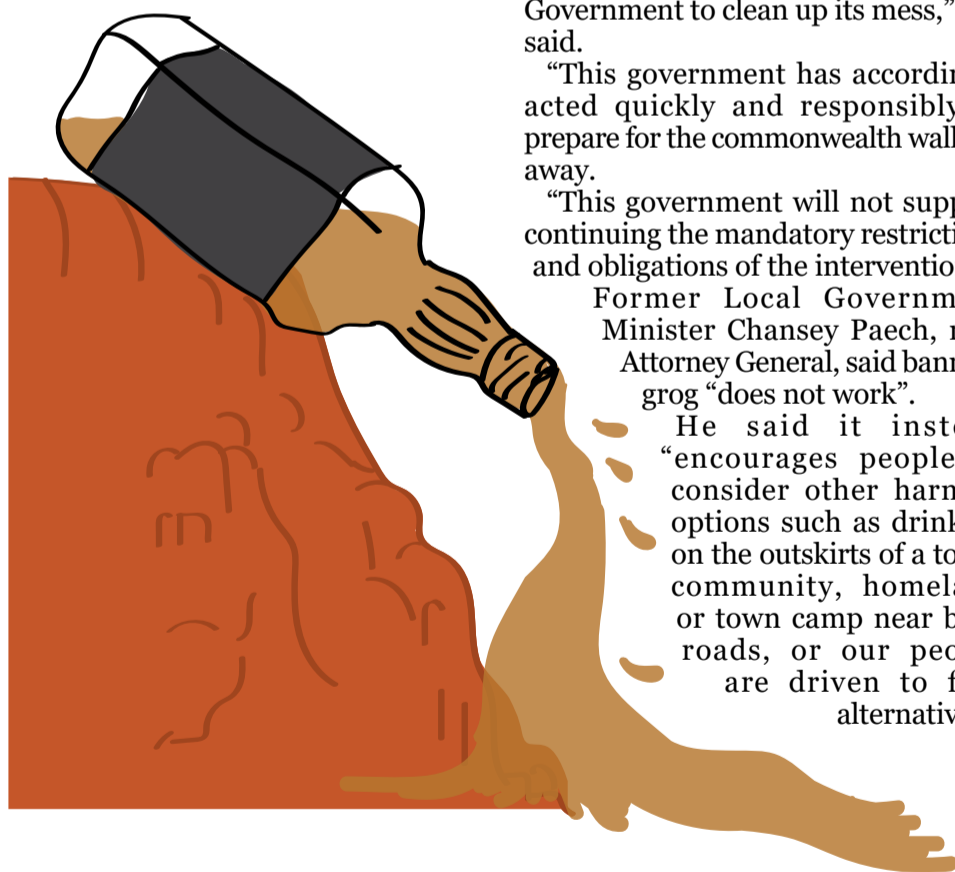
He said discussions with the NT Government about the Stronger Futures legislation running out began in April 2021.

News of the end of the alcohol restrictions came as a surprise to many delegates at the Central Land Council's April 2022 meeting in Tennant Creek.

Some delegates at the meeting echoed Mr Paech's views and called the Stronger Futures laws racist.

More than 100 remote NT communities are covered by other grog laws, the General Restricted Area provisions.

Those places were dry before the Intervention and their alcohol bans will remain in force after July.





CENTRAL LAND COUNCIL

LOOKING FOR WORK?



The CLC's employment support team helps job seekers to write resumes and job applications and to prepare for interviews.

We support employers to develop strategies to find and keep Aboriginal workers.

We also talk to schools and community groups about job opportunities.

Contact the CLC on 8951 6211 or employmentunit@clc.org.au

Researcher to speak with Aboriginal women in mining

WHY do so few Aboriginal women work in the mining industry in the Northern Territory?

A Charles Darwin University researcher is looking for women who can help answer this question.

Jodi Cowdery would like to hear the stories of women who work in mines such as the Granites and Bootu Creek, or who once did.

"It doesn't matter whether they worked as a cook, cleaner, driver or geologist, I'm interested in understanding their experiences," Ms Cowdery said. "I am hoping to understand some of the barriers and realities of their on-site work."

The project aims to help Aboriginal women who want to work in the mining industry.

"It will also provide land councils and traditional owners with academic data that they can use at the negotiation table," Ms Cowdery said.

"Mining is an industry where it is easy for those voices to not be heard or listened to. How do we make that better?"

Ms Cowdery would like her research participants to do a 20-minute survey

in English or their first language. They don't have to give their name.

They can find the survey online at bit.ly/IWIMNT-survey22 and call or email Ms Cowdery on 8946 6367, or jodi.cowdery@cdu.edu.au.

Laramba gets free, safe drinking water after eight-month struggle

LARAMBA residents can finally drink some free, uncontaminated water while they wait for work on a new water treatment system to start.

Since June each household can pick up two free boxes of water per day from the Central Desert Regional Council office, rather than drinking tap water with high levels of uranium.

Getting this far took eight months of relentless advocacy by Central Land Council members such as Ron Hagan.

Mr Hagan and CLC chief executive Les Turner spoke to the media about the NT Government's lack of response to the community's request last October for the delivery of safe and free water until a new water filtration system is in place.

CLC staff contacted the Northern Territory Government repeatedly.

Mr Hagan said two free boxes of drinking water a day is a lot better than paying \$12 for a box at the store "that barely fills two billies each".

He said residents cannot access safe water after 4pm or on weekends though.

"We can't get into the shire compound when it's closed," he said.

"I have asked them to leave boxes outside when they are closed so we can pick them up."

Mr Turner told *The Guardian* in May that residents were also still waiting for the details of the treatment plant, and when it would be operating.

"Minister Chansey Paech announced this filtration system in Laramba last October and told the community it would take 40 weeks," he said.

"Residents want to know why no work has started yet and why they still have no details about the technology."

Laramba learned from the media that the government had signed a \$5 million contract to treat the community's water supply by the end of 2022.

"Residents want to know why no work has started yet and why they still have no details about the technology."

The Guardian reported that engineering firm Clean TeQ Water had told the Australian Stock Exchange in March that it would build an ion-exchange water filtration system for the community.

The system binds uranium particles (ions) with a resin (glue) to clean the water.

The news report quotes the NT's



Ron Hagan (right) wants safe water to be available around the clock.

Power and Water Corporation as stating that this kind of system has been shown to work in a similar environment in remote Western Australia.

It also revealed that the corporation's staff had visited a 10-year-old ion-exchange water treatment plant in the Pilbara late last year.

In their March statement to the stock exchange CleanTeQ Water said that design of the system was under way and the "practical completion of the plant" was expected by mid-December.

But first, the NT Department

of Health and the Environment Protection Authority need to approve the treatment plant, including what happens with the uranium-contaminated waste.

Land Rights News does not know if these approvals had been given at the time of writing.

For Laramba residents the new system can't come soon enough.

Concentrations of uranium at Laramba are nearly three times the limit of Australian drinking water guidelines published by the National Health and Medical Research Council.

Review casts shadows of doubt over Singleton pipe dream

AN INDEPENDENT study of the Singleton Horticulture Project warns that it won't deliver the jobs and other economic benefits its backers have claimed.

The report authors, led by University of South Australia water economics professor Jeff Connor, analysed the business case put forward for Singleton by Fortune Agribusiness.

They found that claims the project would create 110 permanent and 1350 seasonal jobs, were exaggerated.

million and \$300 million plus.

Professor Connor said Singleton was one of a long line of irrigation proposals that promised more than it can deliver.

"It seeks the allocation of a large volume of water free of charge in return for employment benefits which are largely illusory, especially as regards the creation of full-time jobs for local indigenous workers."

The Central Land Council-commissioned report was peer

reviewed by Professor Quentin Grafton of the Australian National University who backed its conclusions.

Professor Grafton found the free water subsidy meant the NT is giving away "in the order of \$250m", which "is not justified from either a public interest or a cost-benefit perspective".

Central Land Council chief executive Les Turner said the report poses serious questions about the project's social, cultural and environmental costs.

"Not only has the project failed the economic benefits test, it has also neglected to account for the damage

it would do to Aboriginal communities and country."

Mr Turner said the CLC would continue to stand with traditional owners who oppose the government's decision to give Fortune 40 gigalitres of finite ground water every year for 30 years.

"We are talking about emptying Sydney Harbour twice, about giving away water worth hundreds of millions of dollars."

The report calls for an independent and transparent expert analysis of the total costs and benefits of projects that want to use precious ground water.

It finds the NT Government's lack of proper consultation with Aboriginal communities contradicts the government's own policies on *Closing the Gap* and the *Everyone Together 2019-2029 Strategy* and the government's obligations under the National Water Initiative.

Aboriginal people must be part of the decisions about water licences so they can make sure projects do not harm their land, sites, jobs and development prospects, the report recommended.

"Not only has the project failed the economic benefits test, it has also neglected to account for the damage it would do to Aboriginal communities and country."

The experts say Singleton would generate no more than 8 fulltime equivalent jobs for Aboriginal communities in the Barkly region and 36 fulltime equivalent jobs for other Territorians.

They said a realistic estimate of economic benefit to Territorians was between \$13 million and \$28 million a year, rather than the \$110 million claimed by Fortune Agribusiness.

By comparing prices paid for water on other Australian projects, the experts found that the value of the free water subsidy being given to Fortune by the NT Government is between \$70

million and \$300 million plus.

Professor Connor said Singleton was one of a long line of irrigation proposals that promised more than it can deliver.

"It seeks the allocation of a large volume of water free of charge in return for employment benefits which are largely illusory, especially as regards the creation of full-time jobs for local indigenous workers."

The Central Land Council-commissioned report was peer



Graham Beasley and John Duggie at the CLC's consultation meeting at Alekarenge about the independent economic analysis of the Singleton horticulture proposal.

CLC leaders back young people

From p. 2

Mr Hoosan has been a member of the CLC's 11-member executive committee since 2019 and was a delegate when he was younger.

He is also a board member of the Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority.

“I love to listen to people and try to guide them, and I need them to guide me too. We delegates, the remote communities, are the land council.”

“I love to listen to people and try to guide them, and I need them to guide me too. We delegates, the remote communities, are the land council.”

Mr Williams, the new deputy chair of the CLC, a former assistant school principal at Yuendumu, is the deputy president of the Central Desert Shire Council and chairs the Warlpiri Youth Development Aboriginal Corporation. He plans to advocate for young people.

“We get them out to Mount Theo, where they learn their culture,” he said.

“We’ve been asking for a school there for a very long time because they also need to learn to read and write.”

Mr Williams wants to act as a peace maker.

“I want to help people in our communities live in harmony,” he said.

The council also elected a new executive committee: Barbara Shaw, Charles Gibson, Valerie Martin, Martin Jugadai, Sandra Jones Morrison, Jackie Mahoney, Neville Petrick and Kim Brown.

The North West region delegates will confirm an executive member at the August council meeting.

The delegates took part in an induction to the land council.

More than 40 of the participants of this governance workshop were newly elected.

Many of the new members are younger than average. A quarter of all CLC delegates are women.

The re-elected delegates kicked off the workshop by talking about why they joined the land council decades earlier, while many new members spoke about their families’ CLC histories.

The members also road-tested the CLC’s new governance booklet and learned about their responsibilities as delegates.

Download from www.clc.org.au/governance-at-the-central-land-council/



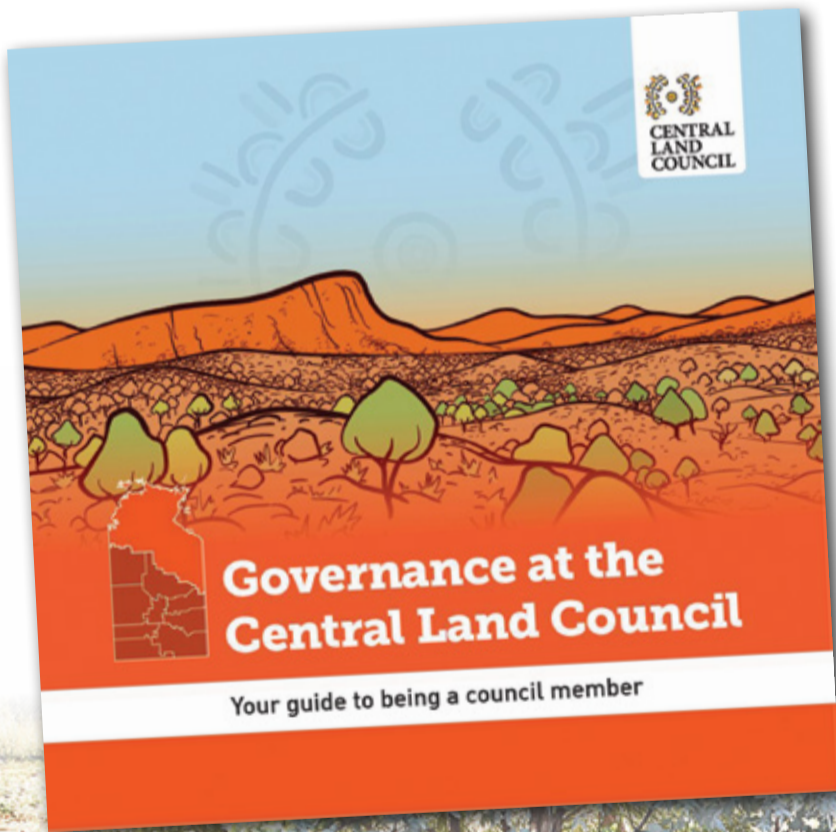
New CLC chair Robert Hoosan and deputy chair Warren Williams.



CLC delegates Sandra Jones and Annie Morrison used the new CLC governance booklets.



Region 7 delegates discussed the structure of the CLC during the governance workshop.



Flurona: new danger as COVID and the flu team up

THE CENTRAL Australian Aboriginal Congress has warned that the return of the flu is making the ongoing COVID pandemic even more dangerous.

“The flu was less of a worry while people were not allowed to travel and wore masks. Now that everyone is travelling again, the flu is back,” Congress doctor John Boffa said.

“It puts Aboriginal people at risk of getting very sick and even dying from this preventable illness.”

“Central Australia is already dealing with a large, early outbreak of flu and a third of the people who have tested positive so far have had to go to hospital. This is serious.”

As some people are already finding out, getting the flu and COVID at the same time is even worse.

“This combination is called flurona and is much more likely to make you very unwell and needing to go to hospital, and even intensive care. This is happening to some people here right now,” he said.

“Central Australia is already dealing with a large, early outbreak of flu and a third of the people who have tested positive so far have had to go to hospital. This is serious.”

The good news is that people can protect themselves against both the flu and COVID. Congress and other health clinics have vaccines that protect against getting very sick from these viruses.

The flu vaccine protects against the two types of flu that are currently circulating in Northern Territory communities.

To be fully protected people also need to get all their COVID vaccine doses.

- Children need two doses
- Aboriginal people between 16-50 need three doses
- People over 50, or those with risk factors, need three doses and an extra dose four months later

Everyone only needs one flu shot per year and can get it when they get their COVID needle.

“If you have had COVID recently you still need to be up to date with your COVID vaccines,” said Dr Boffa.

“If you are not sure what needle you are up to, don't worry. Ask your clinic how long you have to wait for your next COVID shot.”

The flu is here.

It's time to get your flu shot

The flu is in our community. It can make you very sick.

Every year we get flu shots to protect us and keep us well.

Check you are protected against COVID-19 and the flu.

Go to the clinic today.



Call Congress on 1800 142 900 or go to your closest health clinic

COVID vaccinations protect people even if they had the infection.

“Having the COVID infection helps with immunity, but nowhere near as much as having the infection plus the vaccine. We all need to be up to date with the COVID vaccine – even if we have been infected,” said Dr Boffa.

That's in part because COVID carries a lot of unknown risk.

“Apart from the initial illness, you may get ‘long COVID’ which can make you feel sick for months or years. Overseas studies have shown that people who have had COVID have a greater risk of heart and other problems, such as diabetes.”



Land councils: Get remote housing right

THE NORTHERN Territory land councils will hold the new government in Canberra to its election promise to invest another \$100 million in housing and essential services on outstations.

CLC chair Robert Hoosan said he wanted to work with Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and his team to speed up the delivery of “decent housing” in all bush communities.

The chair of the Northern Land Council agreed that the government must fast-track funding for remote housing and homelands.

“We urgently need to improve housing and infrastructure on Aboriginal land, particularly in remote communities and homelands,” Samuel Bush-Blanansi said.

“Overcrowding is still a problem. If we can get housing right that will have a huge impact on the health of our people.”

The construction of new houses and bedrooms in the federal electorate of Lingiari is a long way behind schedule, and that has fed voter dissatisfaction.

Labor’s Marion Scrymgour managed to hang on to the traditional Labor seat of Lingiari, but Labor’s vote went backwards.

Several mobile polling teams in Lingiari recorded

double-digit swings to the Coalition’s Damian Ryan, who campaigned heavily on NT Labor’s slow delivery on the remote housing partnership agreement.

Ms Scrymgour said bush voters were “cranky with the Labor Party” because they felt let down by the Territory Labor government and their lives had not improved.

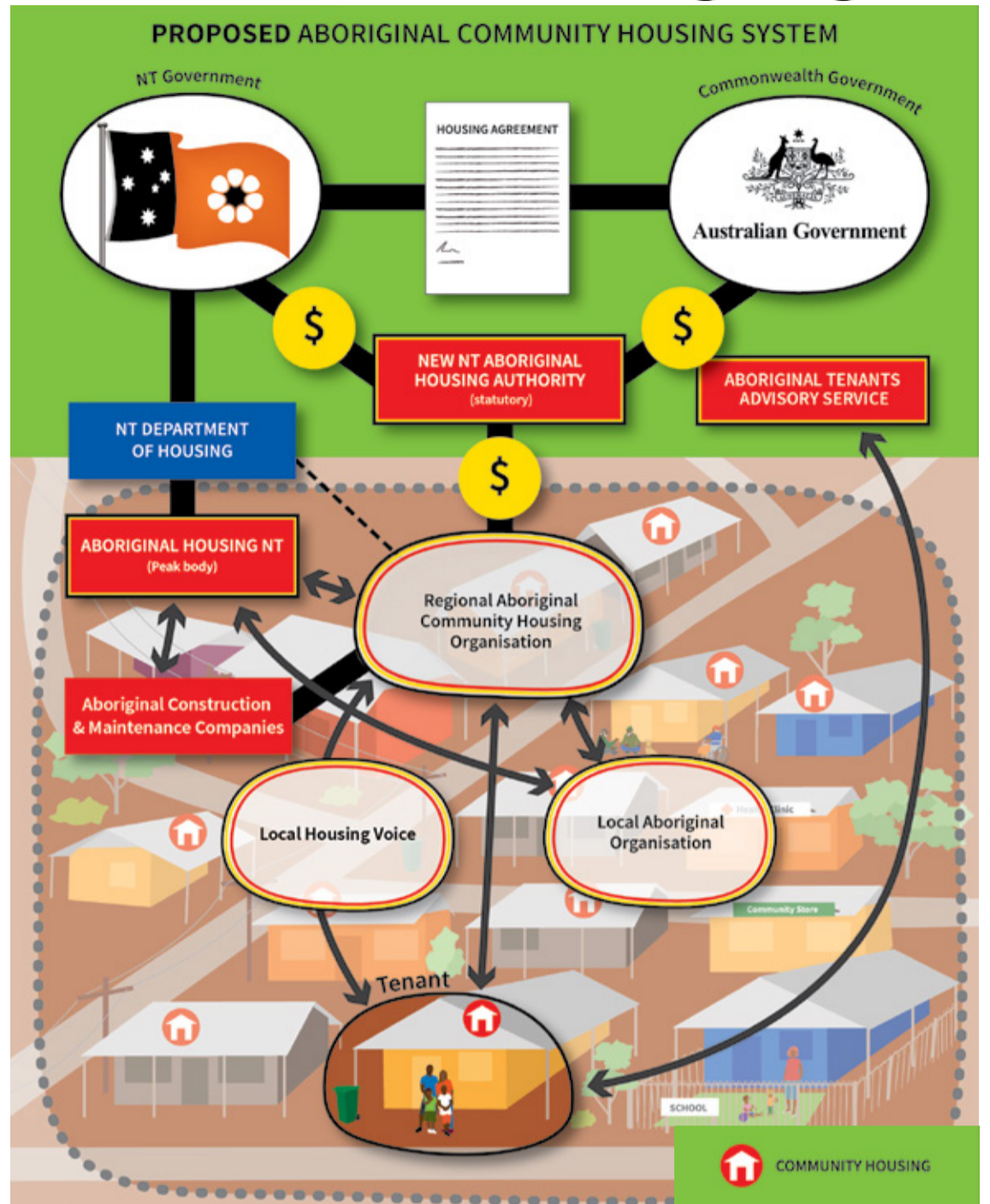
“A lot of people said, ‘Marion, 35 years and not much has changed for us. Overcrowding is still a really big issue ... (but) it’s not just housing; it’s jobs, the cost of living and people being impacted by all those things’,” she told *The Australian* newspaper.

She said “if the NT cannot deliver” on remote housing the new government in Canberra should look at alternative models.

The NT land councils have designed just such a model, following wide consultations.

They would like to trial it in at least four communities and will be asking the new federal Minister for Indigenous Australians, Linda Burney, and new NT Housing Minister Selena Uibo to co-fund the trials.

Meanwhile, Ms Scrymgour has urged Ms Uibo and the other Aboriginal ministers in the NT Government to “make a difference, not just be ministers in title”.



New Northern Territory rental rules raise concerns

REMOTE community tenants may be in for some surprises when the NT Government unveils its new rules for renters, and not all of them will be pleasant.

First the good news: remote tenants who had rental debts by the end of last December will no longer have to repay these debts.

According to a briefing by the NT Housing Department about its new Remote Rent Framework, these debts will be written off (cancelled).

The changes will also mean

tenants no longer have to pay a bond when they move into a new house. The bond used to be about the same as one week’s rent.

The Central Land Council also understands that tenants who are living in unsafe and uninhabitable houses won’t have to pay rent.

Once it has been worked out which houses are considered unsafe and uninhabitable, housing officers will decide whether to repair those houses or refer them for demolition and replacement.

The department told the CLC that the rent for safe and habitable houses will be \$70 per bedroom, and that no household will pay more than \$280 in total.

It also promised that no tenants will experience rental stress and to put in place a temporary safety net.

The not-so-good news is that it is unclear how the safety net will work, who will benefit and for how long.

“Our original suggestion was that all rent should be capped at a quarter of the household’s

real income,” the CLC’s executive manager policy and governance, Francine McCarthy said.

“Now we are told that the rent will be based on the income that all adult household members together should be receiving, not what they are getting in reality.”

“Our request for a lower rent for old and rundown houses has been rejected.”

The CLC has been told that the department’s case managers will help tenants to assess what government payments they are entitled to and apply for that money.

The idea is that they will make sure the tenants get payments such as the dole, carer’s payment, the disability and aged pension.

“This plan is highly ambitious and could mean that very few households may be able to access the safety

net,” said Ms McCarthy.

“People also need to know about the safety net and ask about it. Many won’t ask because they don’t know.”

What is clear is that there will be no rent discount for houses that fail to meet the new legal standard of ‘reasonably comfortable’ houses.

“Our request for a lower rent for old and rundown houses has been rejected,” she said.

Another concern voiced by members of the CLC executive committee is the stress ‘house bosses’ or ‘head tenants’ face when trying to collect rent from the other members of their household.

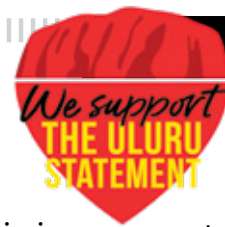
The CLC understands that while more than one person can be on the lease, only one person will be responsible for paying the full rent.

“The responsible person can be left severely out of pocket and without backup, especially when tenants move out or their circumstances change,” Ms McCarthy said.

The CLC has invited the boss of the NT Housing Department to the August council meeting in Kalkaringi to discuss the new rental rules with the delegates.



Jeremiah Butcher lives in a rented house in Papunya.



Voice. Treaty. Truth. What now?

THE FIRST thing the new prime minister did was to repeat a promise.

Facing the cameras late on election night, Anthony Albanese pledged to implement the Uluru Statement from the Heart in full – Voice. Treaty. Truth.

The second thing was to announce the first female Aboriginal woman to serve as federal Aboriginal affairs minister, Linda Burney.

Ms Burney said she would build broad agreement about a referendum that writes into the constitution a representative body, or voice, to advise the parliament on laws and policies affecting Aboriginal people.

“People need to be clear on the role of the voice,” she said.

She told the ABC that she would begin by discussing the referendum with the delegates who delivered the Uluru Statement five years ago.

Central Land Council chair Robert Hoosan is in favour of a collaborative approach.

“How can we solve these issues if we don’t have a voice? We just want to be heard on the issues that affect us.”

“Let’s all work together to finally get the Uluru Statement done,” he said.

“We have been ready for a long time, and now the country is ready too.”

Three quarters of Australians agree it’s time to write a voice to parliament into the constitution.

In May, 73 per cent of people surveyed by the ABC’s Vote Compass agreed that there should be constitutional change to set up a voice.

While Aboriginal leaders have suggested two dates for a referendum – May 2023 or January 2024 – there is no agreement yet what Australians would vote on.

Despite this, just over half of the 1,089 voters surveyed by an Essential poll in the same month supported a constitutionally enshrined voice to parliament.

This was an eight-point increase since 2017, when the question was last asked.

Religious leaders of all major faiths joined film maker Rachel Perkins in May in Sydney to sign a resolution in support of the voice.

They told the daughter of the CLC’s first chair, Charles Perkins, that their congregations cared about the voice.

With the opposition appointing Julian Leser, a supporter of the Uluru Statement, as shadow Aboriginal affairs minister, the next step is to talk about the question a referendum would ask.

Ms Burney wants to include all Australians in this discussion.

Her predecessor, Ken Wyatt, said he would vote ‘yes’ if he likes the question.

“I would support the right form of words,” he told *The Australian*.

While Mr Wyatt has called the Uluru

Statement “absolutely important”, newly elected NT senator Jacinta Price dismissed it as “a distraction” from the more pressing issues of women’s safety and alcohol management.

Mr Hoosan said Aboriginal people who are not politicians also want to put forward their own solutions to the parliament.

“How can we solve these issues if we don’t have a voice? We just want to be heard on the issues that affect us,” he said.

For the Victorian Greens senator Lidia Thorpe a treaty and a truth commission are higher priorities than the voice, but Greens leader Adam Bandt said the party would not block a referendum on the voice.

The NT’s former treaty commissioner Mick Dodson told CLC members last year that overseas experience showed that it could take decades for a treaty (or treaties) to be signed.

He said Canada’s British Columbia province took more than 10 years to make a treaty with its First Nations people.

The NT and Victoria have been working on a treaty process for around four years and negotiations have not yet begun.

Professor Megan Davis, co-chair of the Uluru dialogue, said people don’t have time to wait for a treaty. She told the *Nine Media* that a voice was more urgent.

“Most Aboriginal communities who

are struggling to provide adequate housing, and who have to go cap in hand every three years to beg for meagre resources, do not want to wait decades before they have a direct say in laws and policies,” she said.

“I trust it means something that the Uluru Statement was the first thing Mr Albanese talked about.”

Ms Burney supports a treaty but agreed it would take time.

“Treaties are complex,” she told *The Australian*. “We need to look at the states and territories that already have treaty processes under way and look at the structures in place.” She also said she would look at working on voice, treaty and truth-telling at the same time.

“Everything is on the table,” she told *Nine Media*. “Is it not possible to work on a voice and establish a Makarrata commission at the same time?”

She promised Mr Wyatt to build on what he began when he asked professors Marcia Langton and Tom Calma to design a voice.

“The work you have done in the last five years will not be jettisoned



On election night Prime Minister Anthony Albanese promised to implement the Uluru Statement “in full”. Photo by Wendell Teodoro/AFP via getty images.



The old and new Ministers for Indigenous Australians, Ken Wyatt and Linda Burney, with the special envoy for the implementation of the Uluru Statement, Senator Patrick Dodson. Photo by Alex Ellinghausen / The Sydney Morning Herald.



Pope Francis received a personal copy of the Uluru Statement from the Heart. Left to Right: Gweagal woman and Australian Catholic University lecturer Theresa Ardler, Professor Dermot Nestor, Jacqui Remond and Australia’s Ambassador to the Holy See, Chiara Porro. Courtesy: Vatican Media.

because it’s important,” Ms Burney told the ABC.

She hopes Mr Wyatt will be able to drag his party to what she has called “the right side of history”.

“I say to Ken: I need your support, brother.”

All this goodwill has fuelled hope that the referendum will go ahead.

“I trust it means something that the Uluru Statement was the first thing Mr Albanese talked about,” Mr Hoosan said.

“It gives me real hope that, unlike Bob Hawke’s broken treaty promise, this promise will be kept.”

Rock-bottom Lingiari vote “no accident”: Albo

PRIME Minister Anthony Albanese has called for a review of the record low voter turnout in the Northern Territory electorate of Lingiari.

Only two out of three voters in the NT's largest electorate cast a ballot in the recent federal election. That's an all-time low for the Territory and the lowest voter turnout in the country.

Voter turnout fell from almost 76 per cent in 2013 to almost 67 per cent in the May election.

To make matters worse, more than seven out of every 100 ballot papers cast in May were invalid and could not be counted.

Mr Albanese, whose Labor Party won the seat by the skin of its teeth, wants to know why.

“They think, 'Why should we vote? They make promises but they just don't keep them'.”

“We will be reviewing it with the Australian Electoral Commission,” he said, adding that the low turnout was “no accident”.

“There was a deliberate policy of the former government to restrict people voting in the Territory,” he said.

“They restricted the numbers of people who were working for the Australian Electoral Commission to get people on the roll. This was straight out of the right-wing [US] Republican playbook. It was an outrage what occurred and then there was a lack of resources to enable people to vote.” The opposition said his comments were “ill informed” or a “lie”.

The Australian Electoral Commission said it didn't know why the vote dropped further, even though hundreds of its staff visited around 170 communities.

Some blame cuts to the AEC, COVID-19, a lack of interpreters and racist enrolment practices, but others believe bush voters no longer trust the two-party political system after years of broken election promises.

2016

73.70
per cent voted

2019

72.85
per cent voted

2022

66.79
per cent voted

2013

75.42
per cent voted

Cameras capture rock rats in refuge

THE CRITICALLY endangered central rock rat survives all over the summit of the Northern Territory's second-highest mountain range.

That's the finding of the first systematic camera trap survey of Ulumbarru (Mount Edward/Belt Range) by a team of Anangu Luritjiku Rangers, scientists and staff from Territory Natural Resource Management (TNRM) and the NT Department of Environment, Parks and Water Security.

Smaller surveys in 2013 and 2017 had shown that some of the threatened animals were sheltering from feral cats and other predators on the top of the mountain range, almost 1400 metres above sea level.

Nobody knew how many, or how far they roam, partly because the summit is very difficult to climb.

To find out more, the team used a helicopter over three days in May 2021 to install 80 cameras on 20 sites along the length of the mountain range near Papunya.

Six weeks later they collected them again, and now the results are in.

The camera traps recorded photos and videos of central rock rats at 85 per cent of the sites.

The camera traps recorded photos and videos of central rock rats at most of the sites.

“When the results got back the rangers felt happy that the numbers of rock rats are rising and seeing from the cameras in which area on the range the numbers are,” acting ranger coordinator Cleveland Kantawara said.

TNRM's Dr Kelly Dixon processed the tens of thousands of photos from the cameras to identify the animals and gave the data to the CLC.

“To record rock rats across such a range is really significant,” she said.

“It is great news, and confirms the area is important for the species.”

TNRM funded the survey and asked the Central Land Council to help.

The CLC took the traditional owners of the Haasts Bluff Aboriginal Land Trust on a helicopter flight around the range to conduct a cultural clearance

before the rangers and the scientists chose the best spots for the camera traps.

Preston Kelly, one of the rangers who installed and retrieved the cameras, would like to know even more about the findings.

“We would like to see results come back to the rangers so that we can see the results of our work,” he said.

Dr Dixon has offered to visit Papunya to present her research findings to the rangers with videos from the cameras or photo booklets.



Preston Kelly retrieved a camera trap from Ulumbarru.

Expert trackers learn new ways to pass on ancient knowledge



Dione Kelly and Myra Herbert inspect a burrow during the workshop.

A GROUP of expert trackers from across the Warlpiri region has been learning new ways to teach their ancient knowledge to rangers and other younger Yapa (Warlpiri for Aboriginal people).

Senior knowledge holders, rangers and educators met at Lajamanu in June for a train-the-trainer workshop about animal tracking.

The workshop, part of Central Land Council's Reading the Country project, explored contemporary methods for the teaching of tracking and how to fast-track that process.

The project is in a race against time because the knowledge holders are not getting any younger.

One of the few surviving elders who grew up living off the land is Jerry Jangala Patrick (top right).

He was born in the Tanami Desert more than 80 years ago.

"My mother and even my dad learn me everything, how to follow, whether it was goanna or lizard. My mother would find a track and follow it right way," he said.

Mr Patrick led a couple of day trips to sites around Lajamanu to find animal tracks and discuss how to teach the rangers to identify them and hunt down the creatures that made them.

He said it was important to ask questions that encouraged learners to "push deeper", to "maya wangkaya" (talk more), but "nati yirdi-manta" (not give away the answer) too soon.

"We talk about asking questions [so learners] give the right answer [to] get the right words into their hearts and minds.

"Learn the knowledge and put it in their mind to remember it."

Placing a picture of an animal next to a picture of its track helps North Tanami Ranger Dione Kelly (below right) to memorise what he needs to know.

Mr Kelly learned to track lizards, pythons, eagles, kangaroos, emus, bush turkeys, bilbies and hopping mice with his grandmother and his father.

"Big goanna is my favourite," he said.

For all his experience, Mr Kelly is still developing his tracking skills.

He said trackers may face lots of challenges, such as the "tricky tracks" made by a blue tongue lizard, which seem to go in two directions.

Another is soil firmness, with sand being easier to read than hard ground.

"On the laterite you can barely see anything ... you can only see the stones missing from a specific spot."

A seventy centimetre 'scratch mark' found in the soil on the second day of the workshop had the participants guessing.

Mr Patrick said a bird of prey left the mark as it swept down to catch its meal.

The project he instigated back in 2018 responds to another challenge – that of contemporary community life which offers learners many distractions and fewer chances to observe and practice tracking.

"It's a new project for all of us, it makes us feel proud, happy and confident to be able to read the country. It is interesting and exciting to be a part of developing this."

Expert trackers Alice Henwood (below left), Myra Herbert, Nelson Tex and Lorraine Granites, who joined Mr Patrick for the workshop, know only too well that these days more meals come from the community store than from the bush.



That doesn't mean tracking no longer matters to Yapa.

"It's very important, you know," Mr Kelly said.

"If I get stuck out [bush] with my family, I need to know what to look for. We become the next teachers to keep passing [the knowledge] down."

For his ranger colleague Helen Wilson, being able to track is a matter of pride and identity.

"It makes us feel proud, happy and confident to be able to read the country. It is interesting and exciting to be a part of developing this [project]."

Over the next 12 months Ms Wilson will help to develop a holistic teaching and learning plan with supporting materials that works for today's learners.

Meanwhile the expert trackers will continue to practise the methods with the CLC's rangers they learned at the workshop.

The project team hopes the plan will be ready to be adapted by other Aboriginal groups across Australia's deserts by the end of 2023.



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Farewell and best wishes – Geoffrey Matthews, Frances Claffey and Peter Donohoe have recently left the CLC.



Train-the-trainer workshop participants went on daily bush trips around Lajamanu with expert trackers.



What do you think about the Central Land Council?

We are the Australian National Audit Office (ANAO), an Australian government agency based in Canberra.

We help Australian government organisations to be open and answerable to the people.

Right now, we are looking into the governance of the land councils in the Northern Territory.

Governance is about how the land councils organise themselves to get things done with and for Aboriginal people. It means doing things properly, in line with the rules, cultures and laws.

Please tell us what you think about how the Central Land Council works, especially how it:

- manages its operations
- consults with Aboriginal people and traditional owners
- helps them manage and look after country
- reports back to them about how well it does what it said it would do (its performance)

Please tell us before **30 September 2022**. You can call us on 0476 249 221, email us at clc@anao.gov.au or comment at www.anao.gov.au/clc

**Anything you tell us is confidential.
We won't share it with anyone outside of the ANAO.**

We will write a report for the Australian Parliament to be presented next March. Our report may make recommendations on how to improve CLC's governance.



Ricardo Gallagher won the election in Nyirripi convincingly.



Jeffrey Zimran and Will Foster with Russel Brown on the way back from the council meeting.

Community development is women's business in Yuendumu and Ntaria

WOMEN across the Central Land Council region are making royalty, compensation and lease payments their business.

They are using income from land use agreements to look after themselves and their daughters.

A group of female elders in Yuendumu have funded a new women's keeping place at the community's west camp with compensation income from the Granites mine.

“It's a little space for just the women to have a yarn, to get away.”

The elders use the little red building with a water tank and a fence to safely store their ceremonial items and other important cultural objects.

“We've been waiting for this building,” Lorraine Nungarrayi Granites, from Yuendumu's Granites Mine Affected Areas Corporation committee, said.

“Thank you GMAAAC. This is the main one place for here for old people.”

Peggy Nampijinpa Brown said, “I'm happy now. All the elders gotta dance here”.

The GMAAAC committee spent more than \$316,000 on the project that also includes two shade shelters.

Ms Brown and Ms Granites are looking after the keys of the new keeping place.

The committee's chosen project partner, Rhebo Construction, handed the keys to the elders just in time for the last ceremony season.

A women's museum at Yuendumu's east ceremony ground is the next project on the committee's agenda.

In Ntaria it's women of all ages who are driving healthy change with their community's collective income.

The new Lukura (women's) gym in the heart of the community is still a brand-new empty space, but once the gym equipment is installed it is sure to get the blood pumping.

“The ladies talked about wanting a gym for our health,” Regina Ebatarinja said.

“We need a gym so we can go and have our exercise.”

Ms Ebatarinja is a member of the working group that makes decisions about the income Ntaria gets from organisations that lease buildings in the community.

She said the gym, near Ntaria's dialysis unit, is about more than exercise.

“It's a little space for just the women to

have a yarn, to get away. It's better than staying at home. It's a space to have a little break.”

The working group gave almost \$121,000 to the Central Australian Aboriginal Congress, for Congress and the Western Aranda Health Aboriginal Corporation (WAHAC) to build and manage the project together.

WAHAC board member Taren Williams is a big supporter of the women's gym.

“It was a long time coming. We always wanted one. Now, every time I look at it, it's something to be proud of.”

When the Ntaria lease money

working group started, in 2012, it had no female members. Now it has four women and three men.

Many of the working groups that plan projects with land use agreement income have equal numbers of men and women, for example many GMAAAC committees in the Tanami region.

The advisory committee of the Warlpiri Education and Training Trust, one of the CLC's earliest community development initiatives, has only had male members in recent years.

By contrast 18 of the 83 CLC delegates elected by the end of June are women.



Tess Napaljarri Ross, Peggy Nampijinpa Brown and Lorraine Nungarrayi Granites at the new women's keeping place in Yuendumu.

Bush medicine trip teaches Akarre-Akityarre

SENIOR women from Atitjere have taken a group of girls and young women out on country to share their knowledge of bush medicine and the Akarre-Akityarre language.

Maria Ross, Jacinta Bush and Andrina Williams took seven young women, aged 12 to 23, from Atitjere and Mt Eaglebeak on a day trip to collect bush medicine.

Back in Atitjere, the women and girls prepared, crushed and boiled the plants.

They then wrote down how to make bush medicine and created images using paints, pens and iPads.

Maria Ross, a director of the Atitjere Land Aboriginal Corporation that funded the excursion, wants young people to learn about culture.

“These days all our kids know is Facebook, Instagram, Tik Tok,” she said.

“We want to teach them about bush medicine and being on country. Kids are going to jail and getting in trouble. We want them coming home and learning culture.”

After the bush trip senior language teacher Carol Turner led an Akarre-Akityarre class and children's books workshop.

Ms Ross said young people need to learn in different ways.

“It is important that writing in language is taught as well,” she said.

“When us old people are gone, we need the young generation to keep the culture strong and pass it on to the next generation.”

More language workshops and bush trips are planned for later this year, as part of the Children's Ground's Atitjere Country Visits Project.

Last year, the Atitjere Land Aboriginal Corporation allocated more than \$28,000 of their matched funds income to the project.

Matched funds is a community development initiative of the Central Land Council and the National Indigenous Australians Agency that encourages Aboriginal groups to invest more of their income from land use agreements in community-driven projects.



Maria Ross wants young people to learn about culture and language.



Lessons for life in bilingual picture books

“STORIES are not just stories – they are lessons.” That’s how Brian Clyne, author, musician and story teller, explains why he and his family are taking their childhood yarns to a wider audience.

Mr Clyne and his family shared traditional stories *How the perentie and the goanna got patterns on their backs* and *How the echidna came to be* in Yankunytjatjara/Martutjarra and English at the Bilingual Story Time at the Alice Springs Public Library.

The two beautiful books have been produced by the Clyne Family from Ulpanyali, with Tangentyere Land and Learning. They are part of a bilingual resource project funded by the traditional owners of the Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park from their

“We didn’t have TV in the old days, we’d just sit around the campfire and it was told to me then when I was small, like all the children, like you are now.”



Rayleen Limbiari helped her uncle Brian Clyne tell his stories at the Alice Springs Library.



Rekeem and Vicky enjoyed Bilingual Story Time.

rent income.

Tangentyere has been working with Central Australian schools to facilitate bush trips and two-way science activities, producing bilingual books for children to read and learn traditional stories “through their whole body, mind, eyes, ears, hands, body, heart and feeling,” Mr Clyne said. “This type of learning gets inside you and stays forever.”

The stories about ngintaka (perentie), kurkati (sand goanna) and tjilkamata (echidna) “explain how they came to be and how we hunt them, and also told morals and meanings,” he said. “We used to thank

the ancestors, and we would thank them not to be greedy, not to take too much food and be thankful by what we had been given by our ancestors.”

“These stories were told to me by my grandfather, grandmother, mother and father. We didn’t have TV in the old days, we’d just sit around the campfire and it was told to me then when I was small, like all the children, like you are now.”

Mr Clyne’s YouTube channel is a great way to watch and listen to more stories.

Yeperenye traditional owners celebrate award for their trail

THE TRADITIONAL owners of the Yeperenye (Emily and Jessie Gap) Nature Park have won an award for planning, financing and building the walking trail between the two gorges.

The traditional owner group that makes decisions about the rent income from the park received the Territory Natural Resource Management Landcare 2021 KPMG Indigenous

Land Management Award in March.

The seven kilometre trail between Anthwerrke (Emily Gap) and Atherrke (Jessie Gap) in the East MacDonnell Ranges is helping to conserve and showcase the cultural and environmental values of the area.

“The reward is a fantastic recognition of the group’s efforts over the past decade and a huge win for all involved,

including our community development team,” said Central Land Council chief executive Les Turner.

The award acknowledges outstanding Aboriginal groups and individuals working towards improving land use and protecting an area on behalf of the community.



Grant Wallace constructed a bridge out of natural stone on the trail near Anthwerrke (Emily Gap).



Casimir Mineri, Andrew Alice and William Quall used crowbars to move rocks from the path.



Aboriginal knowledge at heart of new partnership to look after country

FOR TRADITIONAL owner Nigel Andy the signing of an agreement with the Australian Wildlife Conservancy to protect the plants, animals and sacred sites on more than 300,000 hectares of land near Karrinyarra (Central Mount Wedge) marked a new beginning.

“I’m excited and really happy for my families and this country. I’d like to bring kids out here and work among them. There are lots of jobs to be done – clean the waterholes, the springs, the roads and look after the sacred sites.”

Mr Andy, from Papunya, was one of a dozen traditional owners of the Ngalurrtju Aboriginal Land Trust who attended a signing ceremony in May at a stunning site overlooking Karrinyarra, 300 km northwest of Alice Springs.

“This is beautiful country and we look forward to working with the CLC and AWC to make Karrinyarra an even better place,” he said.

“I’m excited and really happy for my families and this country. I’d like to bring kids out here and work among them. There are lots of jobs to be done – clean the waterholes, the springs, the roads and look after the sacred sites.”

The land trust features many sites of cultural and spiritual importance, including a major ngapa (water) songline, which travels right through the middle.

“This songline is very important for us, especially the cultural side,” Mr Andy said.

The partners want to look after the unique cultural and ecological values of the land trust by sharing Aboriginal cultural and ecological knowledge, conservation land management practices and scientific research methods.

The agreement will not only create opportunities for mutual learning, it comes with a substantial employment and training package for traditional owner families.

CLC executive member and former Anangu Luritjiku Ranger of 10 years, Terence Abbott, is a kurdungurlu (manager) for the land.

“I grew up around here. I used to visit my grandfather on this country in the ‘80s,” he said.

“My role is to help my family get back here instead of being in Alice Springs. It’s more better out here, looking after country. I’ll be managing the country, looking after the animals and plants and working closely with AWC to share it with the rest of the world.”

The 323,000 hectare land trust in the Great Sandy Desert and the AWC’s adjoining 262,000 hectare Newhaven Wildlife Sanctuary shelter many rare

and endangered native plants and animals.

The AWC plans to manage threats such as feral cats, foxes, cattle, camels, horses and weeds with the traditional owners and the CLC.

“Together we will be establishing a template for collaborative conservation

in Central Australia,” AWC chief executive Tim Allard promised.

CLC chair Robert Hoosan told the traditional owners at the signing



The traditional owners want to protect the unique cultural and ecological values of the Ngalurrtju Land Trust with AWC.

ceremony the partnership had to be built on respect for their rights.

“It’s good to work with the AWC, but at the end of the day it’s your call as traditional owners to protect the animals, plants and sacred sites,” he said. “The best people to protect those sacred sites are ngurraritja (countrymen and women) and I’m here as chair to support you.”

CLC executive manager governance and policy Francine McCarthy reminded everyone that the area underwent much change since the late 1940s, “when white people first got grazing licences for what was always very poor cattle country”.

The Central Mount Wedge Station land was rundown and largely destocked when the Ngarlatji Aboriginal Corporation bought it in 1995.

Four years later the land was handed back to the Ngalurrtju Aboriginal Land Trust which holds the title on behalf of the traditional owners.

“That didn’t stop a neighbouring pastoralist from grazing his cattle here and pump up water without their permission,” Ms McCarthy said.



Kurdungurlu and CLC delegate Terence Abbott and AWC Chief Executive Officer Tim Allard signed the agreement to look after the land trust together.

“So when that same pastoralist, after paying court-ordered compensation, competed with the Australian Wildlife Conservancy for a lease over the land trust a couple of years ago, nobody should be too surprised to learn that the traditional owners turned him down.”

The AWC, on the other hand, had a positive 20-year track record of managing the adjoining Newhaven Wildlife Sanctuary with the help of the CLC’s Warlpiri Rangers and offered to work with the CLC’s Anangu Luritjiku Rangers to protect the land trust.

“The agreement with the AWC provides strong protection for the area,” Ms McCarthy said.

“But there are other benefits, including the establishment of a management committee.”

The partnership will be overseen by a steering committee that includes representatives from the four estate groups – Watlurpunyu, Karrinyarra, Yantjur and Yarrinki.

“This will go a long way towards ensuring that the area is managed in line with your cultural obligations and

knowledge,” she said.

In five years’ time the traditional owners will review the agreement and decide whether they would like to extend it for another five years.

“I would like the partnership to grow stronger,” Mr Hoosan said.

“I want the Newhaven mob to be in the same role as the Ngalurrtju traditional owners. The next step should be like on the land trust. The traditional owners there can tell Australian Wildlife Conservancy what to do and work with them, but the [Newhaven] native title holders, I hope they get the same agreement in the future,” he said.

“It’s called native title, but at the end of the day that land belongs to them. It’s all Aboriginal land, but it’s been taken away. In the future everybody has got to look at that.”

He would like the AWC to reach a land use agreement with the Newhaven native title holders.

Newhaven Sanctuary
262,000 hectares

Ngalurrtju Aboriginal Land Trust
323,000 hectares

Catch ya 'round cane toads: smelly traps do the trick



Dead adult cane toads were used as bait to catch tadpoles in home-made traps.

THE NORTHERN Tanami Rangers may have found a new way to tackle cane toads with home-made traps.

The rangers have teamed up with Lajamanu students and residents to test an idea to catch and kill the

poisonous pest, which threatens native animals.

"I heard about a form of trapping through the University of Queensland where they used dead cane toads as bait for cane toad tadpoles," Northern

Tanami Indigenous Protected Area co-ordinator Jonny Gnanapragasam said.

"So I contacted the professor who created it and he sent me the details to try out with the rangers and students."

It seems that the secret to success is the smell of rotting cane toad flesh. Cane toad tadpoles are attracted to the smell.

The rangers and students put dead cane toads into a large sealable plastic container with two funnels fixed at opposite ends. They placed the trap at the edge of the water where the tadpoles gather.

Mr Gnanapragasam said they first tried the trap at Turkey's Nest, a popular swimming spot near Lajamanu, but success wasn't immediate. Maybe there were no tadpoles or maybe the water was too deep.

A second attempt at a smaller billabong following early wet-season rain was more successful.

The rangers and the students set three traps and left them over night. "This time we were successful. Each

trap had around 1000 tadpoles," Mr Gnanapragasam said.

"Not only did we prevent 3000 cane tadpoles becoming adults, but we were also the first team in the Northern Territory to successfully carry out this method of control.

"We caught about a thousand tadpoles the second time."

"Native species have an opportunity to make a comeback."

Lajamanu elder Jerry Jangala Patrick said the trial was a great learning opportunity for the students.

"I'm glad the young ones are getting involved in these projects and learning," he said.

"They need to learn these things now so that it will help them when they grow up."



The CLC's Andrew Love and Jonny Gnanapragasam built traps with students.



Rangers strained the tadpoles from the trap into a sieve.

Tjuwanpa Rangers go digital with Ninti Training

SEVEN Central Land Council rangers from Tjuwanpa (Hermannsburg) have stronger digital skills after completing a training program.

"It's good to learn more. I would do it again."

Christopher Ungwanaka, Clint Wheeler, Dean Inkamala, Emron Campbell, Colin Joseph, Raphael Impu and Obed Ratara learned how to use digital devices in the 12-day 'Up your digital skills' course last year.

A small graduation event was held at Tjuwanpa to celebrate the rangers' success.

"We celebrated their attendance, commitment to training and achievement for having completed their studies," ranger training co-ordinator Kim Hauselberger said.

Mr Ratara said the group used computers, tablets, scanners, printers, measuring equipment and email during the training.

"We learned how to use these digital devices," he said.

"It's good to learn more. I would do it again."



Tjuwanpa Rangers Christopher Ungwanaka, Clint Wheeler, Dean Inkamala, Obed Ratara, Emron Campbell and trainer Robyn Ellis. Absent: Colin Joseph and Raphael Impu.

Mr Joseph said the training would help him become a better ranger.

"It's good to learn how to use email. You can talk to people from the office and help plan things.

"The training was organised really well and everything went smoothly," he said.

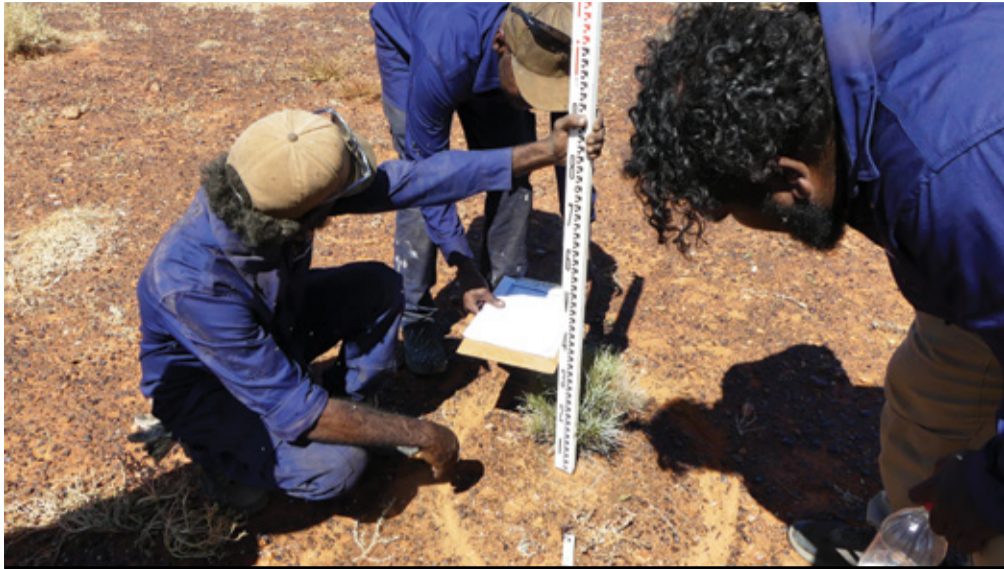
Rangers from Atitjere (Harts Range), Papunya, Kintore and Tennant Creek also completed the course and more workshops will be delivered over the next 12 months. The next session will be held at Muŋitjulu in August, for the Tjakura and Kaltukatjara Rangers.

The course was co-designed by

the CLC and Alice Springs training provider Ninti Training. It is based on accredited literacy, numeracy and digital units.

The Australian Government funded the course to improve the digital workplaces skills of rangers.

Talks underway to jointly manage rare waddy-wood trees



Gary Hayes, Matthew Allen and Barney Jack, from the Aputula Rangers, measured a small waddy-wood tree, which despite its stature, is estimated to be 40 years old.



Marlene Doolan talking to *Catalyst* presenter Dr Ann Jones.

TRADITIONAL owners of Akerre, on the edge of the Simpson Desert, are planning with Central Land Council and Northern Territory Parks and Wildlife Division (PWD) staff to look after some special old trees.

The waddy-wood, or acacia peuce, is a rare hard wood tree that grows only in three places across Australia: two in Queensland and in the Akerre area, about 300 km south east of Mparntwe (Alice Springs).

The slow-growing waddy-wood trees are part of an Arrernte story that teaches young people about the law and how to respect and look after country.

Traditional owner Marlene Doolan learned the story

from her mother, who lived and worked at Andado Station near Akerre.

“She used to tell us kids bedtime stories. But they’re sort of maps as well,” Ms Doolan said.

Many waddy-wood trees were chopped down for fence posts before the area became a reserve.

The joint management plan for the area, also known as Mac Clarke Conservation Reserve aims to protect the remaining trees.

In April the traditional owners and members of the CLC’s emerging Aputula Ranger group met with PWD and other CLC staff at Akerre to plan how to protect the trees.

“The traditional owners indicated they wanted the Aputula Rangers to work together with Parks rangers,” CLC land management officer Tom Ruggles said.

First the rangers checked and repaired the fences in order to keep cattle and camels out.

Scientists then showed the rangers how to measure the tree growth and health.

“We will also look at how to improve the condition of the reserve, and develop a fire management plan to prevent a major wildfire following a high rainfall year,” said Mr Ruggles.

The ABC’s *Catalyst* program filmed the meeting for a TV series about rare trees that will go to air on ABC TV on 16 August, at 8.30pm.

Ms Doolan told the program about the waddy-wood story.

She said that two eagles had come from the south to the east where they saw two “pretty ladies – two rainbow serpents” – and took them away, hiding them at Ltyentye Apurte (Santa Teresa).

This angered the wangkangurru (name of another tribe) who came looking for the girls, but they were in someone else’s country and they lost their way.

“And so this [the trees] is them. Their spirits still remain here.

“With the trees coming from the east and the eagles coming from the south, it is like a map of country.”

A \$98,000 Australian Government grant will fund the development of a five-year conservation and cultural plan for the site.

The plan will be developed by the traditional owners, the CLC, PWD and the Commonwealth Science Industry and Research Organisation.

It includes a visitor management plan, animal surveys and monitoring of the trees and the surrounding reserve.

MEET OUR RANGERS

What made you want to become a ranger?

I became a ranger to look after country and traditional owners. Being a ranger means to me to care for our tjukurpa (dreaming). It’s up to me and I love doing it, keeping our culture healthy and strong. I sometimes would worry about my country. Now I am learning cultural side and piranpa (whitefella) side. Great things happened in my life since becoming a ranger.

What do you enjoy doing outside of your ranger work?

I used to be great footballer and was also teaching those youngfellas how to win trophies. These days I’m doing a bible study course to be a community leader. I’m also the deputy chair of Kaltukatjara Community Council (Aboriginal Corporation). I’m a painter and director at the art centre, I even have an exhibition in Fremantle. My old football team and elders look at me and they are proud of me and what I’m doing.

Why do you think being a ranger is so important?

This country needs rangers to do good things for the community, and supporting traditional owners with taking them out on country to learn tjukurpa (dreaming) from them. Us rangers learn how to use tools correctly, so that we can protect our ngura (country), like from wildfires. There is lots of buffel

grass here causing us Anangu big problems, destroying our mai (food), like kampurarpa (desert raisin), arnguḷi (bush plum), wanari (mulga) and muur-muurpa (bloodwood).

What is the best part of your job?

The best part of my job is leading. I want to be a leader. I’m a leader in my community but I want to do more. I want to teach the kids more about their culture and teach them the piranpa way too, that will keep them out of trouble. I enjoy going to the school teaching them about our people, our community, our work, and two-way learning. About looking after outstations and how we can help traditional owners to look after their homeland. It gets the kids supporting us, so that they may help us in the future with newer and bigger projects.



Bernard Bell



Jobs in pipeline for Ranger Works

CENTRAL Land Council rangers have undergone intensive field training to help keep the Amadeus Gas Pipeline in Central Australia safe.

Anangu Luritjiku Ranger Cleveland Kantawara and Tjuwanpa Ranger Obed Ratarata did the training as part of a project to inspect 850 kilometres of pipeline corridor between Ntaria (Hermannsburg) and Tennant Creek to ensure the pipeline alignment is accessible and clearly marked.

The job is part of Ranger Works, a new program that will see CLC rangers everywhere carry out fee-for-service work for companies and agencies outside the land council.

Ranger Works supervisor Craig LeRossignol said they would look for problems, record details and report matters of concern to the APA Group, which manages the gas pipes in the Northern Territory.

“A large part of their training involved learning how to enter data on a computer tablet with field map software,” Mr LeRossignol said.

“We went out bush the other day with several staffers from APA to the pipeline between Ntaria and Tnorala (Gosses Bluff) as a learning exercise and to see how everything fitted together.

“I think everyone learned something new. Cleveland and Obed learned a bit of digital technology and the APA crew learned a bit about bush tucker as we travelled along the track.

“At one point we found some bush bananas, so that gave me an opportunity to give them a taste of something they hadn’t tried before”.

He said the program benefitted the land and the people who belong to the land.

“It gives our rangers an opportunity to upskill into the digital world, which improves their employment longevity.

“The heavy summer rains were a game changer in some places. We came across an erosional ‘sink hole’ on the edge of the track, which could be trouble if it gets any bigger.

“A number of branches have fallen across the corridor; in some places the vegetation obscures the pipeline signs, and the spread of weeds is another concern.”

Mr LeRossignol said the corridor passed through several land trusts and cattle stations, which could lead to vehicles and machinery spreading weeds over long distances.



Ben Riley, Cleveland Kantawara, Ross Larsen, Obed Ratarata and Craig LeRossignol inspected some minor erosion along the Amadeus pipeline corridor near Ntaria.

“Our rangers will be on the lookout for weeds such as Athel pine, Parkinsonia, and Rubber bush.”

Mr Kantawara said he always enjoyed working on country.

“It feels good. Any day working on country to make it feel and look better is a good day,” he said.

APA’s Ross Larsen contacted the CLC a few years ago about how the company might be able to partner with the rangers.

“We were hopeful that they might carry out regular patrols along the pipeline, to assist with its protection

and to afford us access when necessary.

“The patrols are now more comprehensive with the addition of the weeds survey.”

Mr Larsen said the opportunity for fresh training had strengthened APA’s relationship with the rangers.

“We’re always looking for ways to work better with communities, particularly indigenous groups, whether it be as an employer, or to work alongside them,” he said.

“It was great to have five APA representatives here this time to really get to know the rangers. It’s been so valuable for us learning more about their backgrounds, work, and relationship to country.”

The income Ranger Works generates will flow back to the ranger groups to build their capacity and employment prospects.

“The heavy summer rains were a game changer in some places. We came across an erosional ‘sink hole’ on the edge of the track, which could be trouble if it gets any bigger.”



Craig LeRossignol and Brooke Forsyth practiced data entry on the tablet computer.

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A strong community leader in a mainstream way and a cultural way

KUMANJAYI Patrick will be remembered as a formidable community leader, a personable family man and a handy sportsman who could make people laugh.

He was a Central Land Council executive member (2016–2019), a Central Desert Regional Council president (2009–2012) and a man who knew his cultural heritage and kardiya ways.

CLC members and staff valued Mr Patrick as a strong supporter of community-driven development who believed that ‘two-ways’ education has the power to change lives.

He was an outspoken member of the committee that has invested the community’s mining compensation income in initiatives such as school nutrition and the production of bilingual teaching materials.

He sadly passed away in Lajamanu in May 2021. He was only 55 years old.

Wife Tracie Patrick said she would always remember him as a good friend, a good father and a good

speaker who would always fight for his community.

Wanta Jampijinpa Patrick said his brother always had a lot of energy.

“He was always going to a meeting somewhere; in Alice Springs or Darwin or Katherine. He never seemed to tire until the latter days when he became crook.”

“He met (former Prime Minister) Julia Gillard while he was working for CLC and he was a big supporter of the Uluru Statement.”

“He was a strong community leader in a mainstream way and a cultural way, a strong talker and a straight talker.”

Wanta Patrick said his brother was opposed to the Intervention and in particular the unfair way Aboriginal people were labelled paedophiles.

“He was always calling it out, always trying to get the story right.”

Kumanjayi also strongly supported Lajamanu’s Milpirri celebration.

The community stages the event every two years to teach children about living in traditional and contemporary worlds.

“There’s the hot air that rises (one culture) and the cold air

that descends (another culture) and where they meet there’s a lot of activity – thunder, lightning and cloud formation. But the end result is rain, which transforms the dry desert into lush growth (a richer culture),” he said.

“I miss him now, we liked having him around. He was there for all the ceremonies. He was a bit of fun and could make people laugh.”

Earlier in his life Mr Patrick trained to be a teacher and went on to become a good leader in the school, where he “helped the kids a lot”.

“He respected people and we respected him.”

Mr Patrick also remembers his brother as a good footballer, who played for the Lajamanu Blues and the Swans.

“He was pretty good. He loved to kick the footy and to coach the young blokes. He played full forward; could take an overhead mark and he kicked some goals.”

“He also coached the Blues in a Lightning Carnival in Alice Springs, which they won. Everyone was very happy when they won the carnival.”

Andrew Johnson remembers growing up with his “young uncle” before Kumanjayi went to Yirara College for his senior schooling. Later, he would play lead guitar with country music outfit, the Bush Ranger Band, and he played A-grade football in the 1980s.

Indeed his contribution to football is embodied in the Norbert Jampijinpa Patrick Memorial Trophy, which was awarded for the first time to Wulain for their win at the Lajamanu sports weekend last year.

Further evidence of his footballing pedigree is son Liam who played for the Gold Coast Suns from 2011–2013.

“That made him happy and he wouldn’t stop talking about his second son,” Mr Johnson said.

“I was so proud of Kumanjayi. He became one of the main leaders for the Lajamanu region and for Warlpiri. He stood up for his people and he’d look at things in a positive way.

“He respected people and we respected him.”

CLC senior community development officer Rebecca Humphries agrees.

“When I went to Lajamanu for the first time, Mr Patrick immediately made me feel welcome,” she said.

“At the time he was a member of the CLC executive and the Lajamanu Granites Mine Affected Area Aboriginal Corporation committee.

“In the time that I had the privilege of knowing Mr Patrick I saw him work tirelessly for the benefit of his community, which he did with humility and character.

“I will always be grateful for his kindness and the guidance he showed me and my colleagues. He is greatly missed.”

Mr Patrick is survived by wife Tracie, his adult children Liam, Martin, Wayne and Kylie, and “a lot of grandchildren”.



Any questions about CLC business? Call your regional officers	
	1. ALICE SPRINGS Aaron Kopp 8951 6264
	2. SOUTH WEST Wayne Clarke 8951 0577
	6. TENNANT CREEK Darryl "Tiger" Fitz 8962 2343
	3. NORTH WEST Charlie Hodgson 8951 0627
	7. EASTERN SANDOVER Vacant 8951 0591
	4. TANAMI Vacant 8951 0591
	8. EASTERN PLENTY Richard Dodd 8951 0622
	5. WEST Amos Egan 8951 0581
	9. CENTRAL Michael Turner 8951 6250



Remembering Lena Pwerl – standing strong for country

FAMILY and friends are mourning the loss of Lena Pwerl, who passed away in Alice Springs in March. She was a strong woman who was well-known, much-loved, and respected for her knowledge of country, her leadership, her beautiful batiks and paintings, and her language work.

Pwerl was born around 1934, and she lived her long life in small bush communities in the Utopia region and on neighbouring cattle stations. In her younger years she travelled around with her family, living on bush foods, and occasionally rations exchanged for work. As a young woman Pwerl worked at Waite River and at Alcoota, looking after sheep, goats and cattle.

“[At Alcoota] we used to milk the cows, and we worked in the kitchen, cleaning all the floors. And we washed the whitefellas’ clothes and washed the plates. Then we would yard the goats and sheep. There was no money – we just used to eat bush rations with old Alf Turner. We learnt a bit about that sort of work there, then we would go back with our mothers and fathers to the bush, travelling to different places. We sat down in the bush, hunting for goannas and perenties in the scrub. That’s how I used to live.”

Things changed with the purchase of the Utopia pastoral lease by the Aboriginal Land Fund Commission in 1976, and the subsequent land claim in 1979. Many families returned to their country and set up small outstations. When the Urapuntja Health Service was established in 1977, Pwerl was one of the first Aboriginal health workers.

In 1976 many of the Utopia women participated in literacy, sewing, and fabric printing classes at the school caravan near the Utopia

Station homestead. The Utopia batik movement grew out of these classes, and Pwerl was one of the first to take on this new artistic medium. Batik provided opportunities for artists to journey far beyond their homelands. In 1994 Pwerl was one of 10 women to travel to Yogyakarta in Indonesia to learn more batik skills with expert Indonesian batik artists Agus Ismoyo and Nia Fliam. In 1996 she was invited to represent Australia in Western Samoa for the Festival of

“The country that we hold onto is our country now, and today we are still holding onto it.”

Pacific Arts. Despite having trouble walking following a stroke, Pwerl was an enthusiastic participant in a five months batik workshop at New Store in 2007. Several of her batiks are in Territory, State and national art gallery collections. Her art was inspired by plants and animals from her country:

“What I was painting there was the goanna. I painted these things carefully, and that’s what I learnt, right from the beginning. I was painting the goanna and the goanna fat as well. I keep on thinking about that one properly – I keep on going with that goanna and anker-anker, that medicine plant which grows in the [Sandover] river ... I keep on painting

the goanna which came from my father’s father’s country. I’ll never give up that goanna – I’ll always paint it because it’s my Dreaming.”

Pwerl spoke Eastern Anmatyerr and other languages from the Sandover region. She was one of the main contributors to the Anmatyerr dictionary, and one of her arlewatyerr (goanna) batiks is on the cover. She also joined in projects recording songs and stories with the Batchelor Institute, linguists and musicologists.

Pwerl was a strong supporter of the Central Land Council over several decades. She gave evidence in both the Utopia and the Alcoota land claims, where she spoke up for her father’s country Ahalper and for Atarrkert, her mother’s country. In 1995 she travelled with other CLC delegates to Beijing in China to attend the United Nations 4th World Conference on Women. Between 1999–2015 she was a board member of the Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority. As one of the longest serving AAPA board members Pwerl was regarded as an authority on women’s site issues. Until the end of her life she held onto her songs and ceremonies and her belief that they had the power to achieve change, justice and recognition.

“The country that we hold onto is our country now, and today we are still holding onto it. We spoke in front of the judge, and then painted ourselves up with awely (women’s ceremony) designs, and got the land back. We got our country back. Now Utopia belongs to Aboriginal people and we’re living happily on the land.



Lena Pwerl at Apengakert, 2011. Photo: Margaret Carew

The land claim got it back for us – one way – and now we’re living in the bush. We got the land back with our awely ceremonies, and held onto it. Us fabulous women astounded them with our performance – turning from side to side as we danced.”

By Jenny Green

*The quotes from Pwerl are edited and translated from Anmatyerr recordings made with her by Jenny Green and Jeannie Devitt between 1992–2010. Thanks also to David Moore.



Women’s literacy classes at Ankerrapw, Utopia Station, 1977. Photo: Toly Sawenko



Women gave evidence in the Utopia land claim hearings, Irrwelty, 1979. Photo: Toly Sawenko

Batik workshop at New Store, 2007. Photo: Julia Murray



First Desert Mob review triggers changes



Marisa Maher



Hetti Perkins

DESERT MOB, the annual celebration of desert Aboriginal art movements and culture at the Araluen art centre in Alice Springs, is undergoing some exciting changes in its 31st year.

Now owned and managed entirely by Aboriginal-led organisation Desart, the September event is adding *Art Centres on Screen*, a powerful collection of short films with artists speaking about art, community and culture.

The trademark Desert Mob exhibition will be curated by two Aboriginal women for the first time in the event's history.

“It is a time for artists to come to Mparntwe and gather and share with family and the public. A show full of experimentation, the body of works represent new and old ways.”

Senior curator-at-large at the National Gallery in Canberra, Hetti Kemerre Perkins, and assistant manager of the Iltja Ntjarra Many Hands art centre in Mparntwe, Marisa Maher, are joining the Desart team to present the exhibition.

Mr Watkins had called for the review because he wanted to grow Desert Mob's brand and opportunities.

“Desert Mob needed to grow and strengthen its position within the wider Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander calendar of events,” Mr Watkins said.

The Northern Territory Government-funded review made 10 recommendations designed to drive greater independence, flexibility and innovation.

“The Desert Mob exhibition is always a vibrant and true statement of what's happening right now in art centres,” Mr Watkins said.

“It is a time for artists to come to Mparntwe and gather and share with family and the public. A show full of experimentation, the body of works represent new and old ways.”

Opening on 8 September at Araluen, the exhibition will feature hundreds of new, innovative artworks from emerging and established artists. It runs until the end of October.

The Desert Mob MarketPlace on 10 September brings together paintings, punu, ceramics, tjanpi weaving, sculpture, clothing, jewellery, textiles, and homewares from across the desert.

Artists also teach visitors about their culture and community through masterclasses and demonstrations.

Ms Perkins, the daughter of first Central Land Council chair, Charlie Perkins, has 30 years of national and international experience working in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander visual arts.

Marisa Maher has curated works for Iltja Ntjarra's 22nd and 23rd Sydney Biennale shows, and the 2019 Tarnanthi Exhibition in Adelaide.

This is the second time Desart has worked with the pair in key curatorial roles.

“Last year, Hetti and Marisa worked on the Vincent Lingiari Art Award, a political art prize developed in partnership with the Central Land Council and Tangentyere Artists. Hetti was also engaged on the judging panel,” Desart CEO Philip Watkins said.

“This year Hetti will bring her experience and vision to the Desert Mob exhibition and will continue to mentor Marisa leading this event into the next stage,” he said.

The changes are the result of the first review in the event's three-decade history.



George Tjungurrayi at work in Papunya Tula's remote studio in Kintore / Walungurru, Desart Art Centres On Screen project 2021. Photo by Desart.

Alice Prize makes Adrian Jangala Robertson happy



Alice Prize winning painting *Family in Yalpirakinu* of Adrian's mother and father.

WHEN you come from an artistic family, finding your own style can be quite a journey.

Adrian Jangala Robertson's Alice Prize winning painting *Family in Yalpirakinu*, is testament to the artist's long quest for his very own visual language. "When Adrian was a young fellow, he started painting, he was doing dot paintings. He is doing beautiful painting with a brush now," his cousin Henrietta Marshall said.

His late mother, well-known artist, Eunice Napangardi, taught Mr Robertson to paint.

He also learned to carve spears and boomerangs from his father, Jampijinpa.

Twenty years ago Mr Robertson, who is non-verbal, joined the Bindi Mwerre Anthurre Artists, a studio dedicated to Aboriginal artists with a disability.

Mr Robertson works every day at Bindi, and paints the mountains, ridges and trees of his mother's country, Yalpirakinu. The Aboriginal land trust near Yuelamu, more than 200 kilometres northwest of Mparntwe, has yuparli (bush banana) dreaming.

A few years ago Mr Robertson also started to paint portraits of his family. *Family in Yalpirakinu* shows his parents and was bought by the Araluen Art Centre.

The Alice Prize is the richest art prize in Central Australia. The \$30,000 prize has been awarded every two years since 1970 and celebrates contemporary art.

Ms Marshall said her cousin was chuffed about the award.

"He give me this big smile. He showed me that paper with 30,000 on it. He was so happy when he won the Alice Prize."

Mr Robertson is proud to add this win to his growing list of awards, including the Telstra General Painting Award in the 2020 National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Art Award.

His work is on display at Bindi's online gallery bindiart.com.au/artists



Adrian Robertson's cousin Henrietta Marshall has been a great support for the artist.



Mr Robertson has painted at the Bindi art studio since it first started.



Review of Part Five of the Aboriginal Land Rights Act

THE ABORIGINAL Land Commissioner, John Mansfield, is reviewing the part of the Aboriginal Land Rights Act that says what the commissioner can do.

The act says that the main job of the commissioner up to now has been to listen to Aboriginal people's stories for land claims and tell the Minister for

Indigenous Affairs who the traditional owners are.

The former minister has asked Mr Mansfield to do the review because soon there will be no more land claims for the commissioner to hear about.

When there are no more land claims the commissioner may do other work

that helps people with Aboriginal land.

He wants to hear from people and organisations about what work that may be.

To tell him your ideas and to find out more people can visit the website <https://www.niaa.gov.au/indigenous-affairs/>

land-and-housing/aboriginal-land-commissioner. They can also email AboriginalLandCommissioner@official.niaa.gov.au or call (08) 7872 4237.

EVERY HILL GOT A STORY
is now back in print

You ain't my boss



There was no drinking at the station, no alcohol. Six months or for however long you were working there, no alcohol. It's just the way it was. When people drank – I remember my uncle went back after the [Alice Springs] show, he was drunk. We were all frightened – this is just before I drank, when I was a teenager working. My uncle went back drunk and he terrorised us. We were running from him round and round the house. We even went and got the boss. 'Oh Boss, old uncle gone, he's mad there.'

And uncle had a bit of argument and we thought, 'Hey, this old man is talking back to the boss.'

'You ain't my boss,' he said to him. He was drunk himself, anyway, that old boss bloke, Leo Murphy.

He never ever sacked my uncle, but he gave him a job out in the bush with him and his wife. They had to work cutting timber for the stockyard, posts.

DOUG ABBOTT

Excerpt from *Every hill got a story*



For more information go to clc.org.au/every-hill-got-a-story



Photo: National Archives of Australia NAA: A1200/18, 7913408.

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