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The Central Land Council
27 Stuart Hwy
Alice Springs
NT 0870

tel 89516211
www.clc.org.au
email media@clc.org.au

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COVER



Southern Ngaliya Dancers from Yuendumu performing a Ngapa Jukurrpa (water dreaming) dance at the CLC's 50 year celebration. Photo by Oliver Eclipse

CLC MEETINGS

8–10 April
Council
Yulara

7–8 May
Executive
Alice Springs

18–19 June
Executive
Alice Springs

Eileen Bonney happy to see claim settled at last



"Happy for my children and all our families": traditional owner Eileen Bonney (left), with daughter Veronica and granddaughter Chanelle.

EILEEN BONNEY, the most senior surviving claimant to the land around Canteen Creek, has welcomed the resolution of the 44-year old land claim "while I'm still living".

On 28 November last year the Australian Parliament passed the law that settles the claim at long last.

Ms Bonney received the good news while undergoing dialysis treatment in Ampilatwatja, in a phone call from Central Land Council lawyer Tom Dews.

"It's happened at last. I'm still here. I was strong, now I got weaker. I'm still right," she told him.

"The traditional owners all wanted to get this done for a long time. Too many of us have died waiting for this day."

"I am happy to see this settled for my children and all our families."

Ms Bonney said the resolution of the claim means her daughters can now move to their homeland.

She had been waiting for that day since the CLC first lodged the Wakaya Alyawarre Land Claim in 1980.

Back then the traditional owners won only two small parcels of the land they wanted.

In June 1990 the CLC lodged the Wakaya-Alyawarre (Repeat) Land Claim No. 130 over the rest of the original claim area, including Canteen Creek.

"The traditional owners all wanted to get this done for a long time. Too many of us have died waiting for this day."

In April 2008 the Northern Territory Government offered to settle the claim if the traditional owners agreed to exclude the township area from the land claimed and to offer it to the community as NT freehold land. Three settlement offers and lots of consultations later the traditional owners asked the CLC in 2017 to negotiate an Indigenous Land Use Agreement with the government that surrenders their native title rights over the township area.

The agreement grants ordinary freehold title to some parts of the town to an Aboriginal land holding body, the Canteen Creek Landholding Aboriginal Corporation.

Under the agreement, the government also supports the granting of the remainder of the claim area as Aboriginal freehold land under the *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976*.

The agreement has the support of both the native title holders and the residents of Canteen Creek.

The CLC's elected members acknowledged the rigorous and inclusive decision making process by certifying it on 30 October 2019.

The claim was one of the CLC's last two outstanding claims under the Aboriginal Land Rights Act.

The Frances Well land claim near Chambers Pillar is now the only one still to be settled.

The traditional owners of that area are waiting for the National Indigenous Australian Agency to survey an area of public road that the government would like them to surrender as part of another Indigenous Land Use Agreement.

Our council – 50 years strong, with plenty of fire in the belly

THEY CAME from across Central Australia and beyond to celebrate all that has been achieved and vowed to keep the fire burning.

The Central Land Council's 50th anniversary celebration brought around 3,000 people together at the Telegraph Station/Bungalow in Alice Springs.

They came to honour five decades of work for land rights and Aboriginal self-determination by the thousands who came before them.

"All that work, all those elders laying down their law and culture to show their connection to country – that is what the CLC stands for and will continue to stand for over the next 50 years," MC Rachel Perkins told the crowd.

The film maker and daughter of the CLC's first chair, Charlie Perkins, led through a packed seven-hour program, kicked off on a sunny October afternoon with a panel discussion about the council's history.

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Riding high: Former CLC director Pat Dodson honoured the oldest living CLC chair, Bruce Breden.

CLC slams “dangerous” law undermining Aboriginal rights and culture



CLC chief executive Les Turner and chair Warren Williams discussed the proposed law at the December 2024 executive meeting.

THE CENTRAL LAND COUNCIL has condemned the Northern Territory Government's plans for a law that would stop people from protecting their land and culture.

The law would allow an unelected bureaucrat, called the Territory coordinator, to fast-track projects in consultation with the NT's chief minister.

Traditional owners have called the move "dangerous" and "unprecedented", and say it would hand the chief minister "extraordinary powers" to sidestep environmental approvals.

The CLC's executive committee joined the public outcry against the proposed law which would give the chief minister and the coordinator the power to ram through projects even

if they breach the NT's sacred sites, heritage or environment laws.

"This deeply anti-democratic law would give an unelected bureaucrat almost unlimited power to make up the rules on the run and ignore our elected representatives," said CLC chief executive Les Turner.

"Like Aboriginal people at the mercy of an all-powerful mission manager, this time all Territorians would have to submit to the Territory coordinator."

The CLC objects to the law because it "undermines normal assessment and approval processes under current laws" by allowing the chief minister to change 32 NT laws or by simply saying that they don't apply.

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Walungurru Rangers welcome long-awaited new hub

THE WALUNGURRU RANGERS finally have a proper base from which to protect country.

After years of working out of a shed and a shipping container, they now enjoy a purpose-built ranger hub with everything they need to do their jobs.

The whole community came together in February to celebrate the hub's official opening.

Rangers from other regions, government representatives and visitors joined the Walungurru (Kintore) community, 500 kilometres west of Alice Springs, for the big day.

Elders and school kids painted up and performed purlapa (ceremonial dancing) in 44-degree heat.

Everyone stayed cool thanks to the misters at the hub's large covered outdoor area and the rangers who hosed down the performers between dances.

Michael Wheeler has been a ranger since the group started in 2019. He is proud of what it has achieved.

"It was an old shed, the building at the start. A long time ago. A little tiny room. Plenty of room in this one here now. It's a good one now, lots more space to work," he said.

The hub includes a large shed, an office for up to 20 people, outdoor meeting spaces and a barbecue area. There is plenty of room for visiting rangers.

Ranger Marita Maxwell said the new shed makes a big difference.

"The other shed was okay, but it was hard to put things in as there wasn't enough space. The new shed looks great and has room [for people] to stay," she said.

Jeffrey Zimran, a member of the committee that guides the Walungurru Rangers, remembers the old setup.

"The shipping container had no room. It wasn't easy for them [the rangers] to work, especially moving stuff around," he said.

"The new ranger hub gives us much more space for equipment and meetings. The rangers can now do their work. We are really happy."

Mr Zimran wants young residents to join the rangers.

"It is really important to get the Pintupi people involved here in Kintore. Get the young people working, give them opportunities and a future.

"Teach them to carry on and pass it to the next generation. It's important to get out to country, learn and feel the land. Be part of the homeland and the songlines," he said.

Camilla Young, one of the four female rangers of the group, is thinking about the school kids.



"Plenty of room": Walungurru rangers Michael Wheeler and Danisha Gallagher in the spacious shed of the new hub.

"We want to teach the kids so they can grow up and learn to become rangers.

"We've been waiting a long time for this. Many, many years," she said.

The new hub makes it easier for the Walungurru Rangers to work with the neighbouring Anangu Luritjiku, Warlpiri and Kiwirrkurra ranger groups.

"Before, we went out to Papunya to do training. Now we have a new, bigger hub so rangers from other groups can come and work with us.

"Other ranger groups now have room to stay when they visit," Ms Young said.



High fluoride levels add to Alpururulam's and Nyirрпи's water woes

MORE REMOTE community residents are calling for safe drinking water after finding out the high natural levels of fluoride in their tap water could harm their children's development.

Nyirрпи and Alpururulam (Lake Nash) have been warned that fluoride levels in their water supplies are higher than the World Health Organisation's recommended limit of 1.5 milligrams per litre.

Nyirрпи's levels were highest in 2020, at just below 2.5 milligrams per litre, and both communities have had natural fluoride levels of 1.7 milligrams per litre since records began in 2008.

Research from the United States Department of Health and Human Services found water with fluoride levels above the recommended limit (the red line in the graph below) may cause problems for children's growing brains when they drink it for a long time. This means it could make it harder for kids to learn.

Nyirрпи teacher Michaeline Gallagher found out about these risks at a community meeting late last year.

"I got worried for the kids especially because at school they drink out of the tap," Ms Gallagher told the ABC.

"That was the first time I heard it, and we got a bit shocked."

"I got worried for the kids especially because at school they drink out of the tap."

But other scientists are questioning the US research.

They say that a little bit of fluoride is good for people's tooth health.

The US, Australia and many other countries add small amounts fluoride to drinking water because it is an easy

way to protect everybody's teeth from rotting.

Plastic bottles a short-term fix

The Power and Water Corporation is delivering bottled water to children under 12 years of age and pregnant women in both communities as a short-term solution.

It promised to work on long-term solutions, such as new water sources and treatment options.

CLC chief executive Les Turner welcomes this careful approach which buys time to look properly at the science.

"We urge the NT government and Power and Water to get more expert information, so that the residents of Alpururulam and Nyirрпи can make good decisions about what's best for their health."

For Alpururulam residents the fluoride news added to their long-standing worries about their poor

quality, bad-tasting water supply.

Many residents attended a community meeting with Australian and NT government staff last October. At the meeting NT chief health officer Christine Connors said the fluoride levels in Alpururulam had been too high since records began, more than 16 years ago.

"We urge the NT government and Power and Water to get more expert information, so that the residents of Alpururulam and Nyirрпи can make good decisions about what's best for their health."

Residents and local service providers in the community near the Queensland border asked how the Power and Water Corporation will distribute pallets of bottled water.

Calls for NT government to contribute to lasting solution

Mr Turner reassured the community about the land council's continuing support for Alpururulam's fight for healthy drinking water.

Since 2013 the CLC has helped the residents to put in place a permanent solution to their drinking water problems.

Through the CLC's community development program the residents have invested their community lease income in a water project that would involve pumping good water from the neighbouring cattle station to the community.

It's the same water Aboriginal people enjoyed for centuries, before the pastoralists pushed them off their country and away from the Georgina River.

The National Indigenous Australians Agency told the community meeting that it is close to signing a funding agreement contributing \$9 million from the Aboriginals Benefit Account to the project.

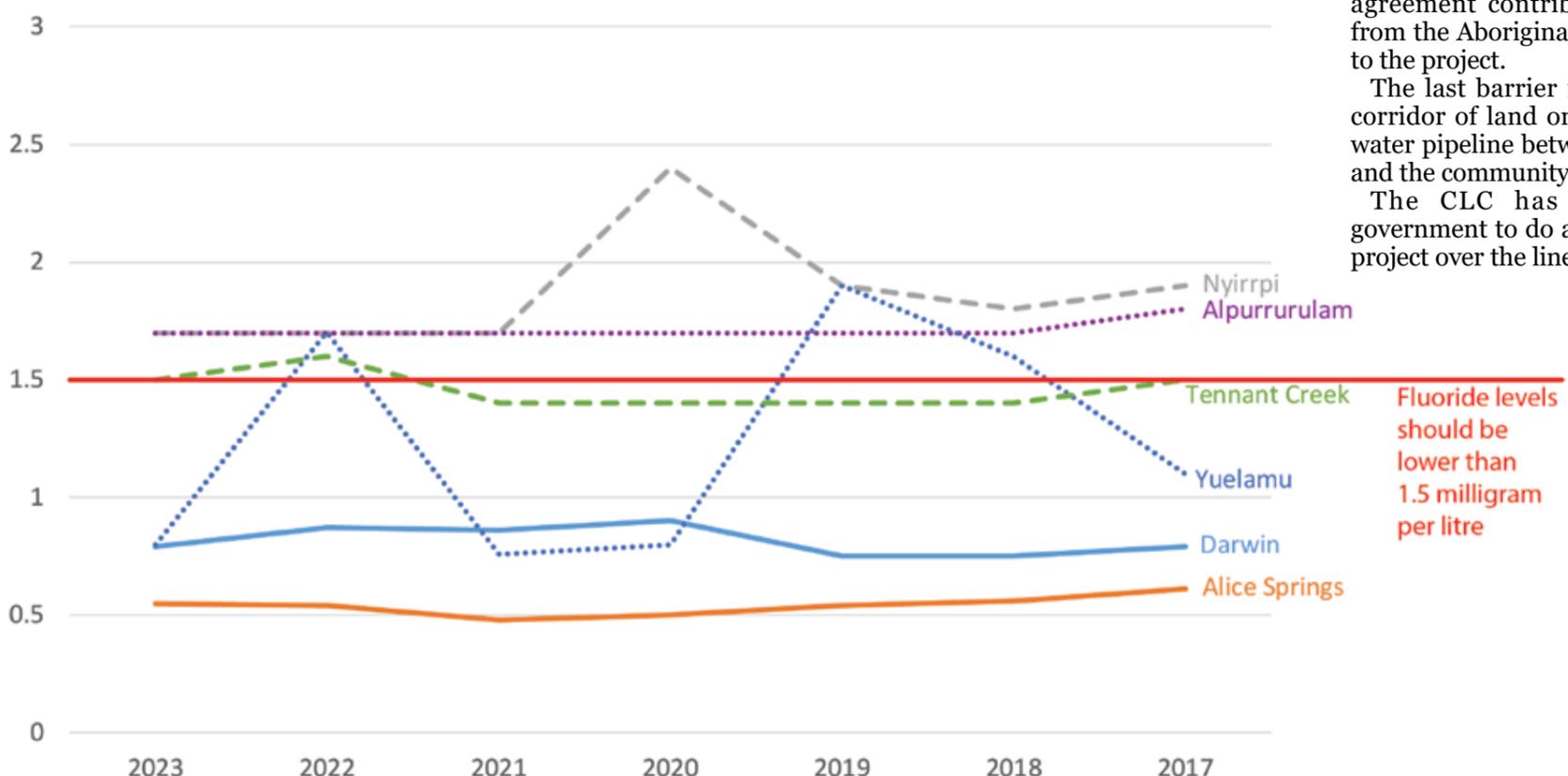
The last barrier is securing a thin corridor of land on the station for a water pipeline between the bore field and the community.

The CLC has urged the NT government to do all it can to get the project over the line.



"We got a bit shocked": Fiona Gibson, Alana Gibson, Michaeline Gallagher and Agnes Brown from the Warlpiri Education and Training Trust.

Fluoride levels – NT drinking water quality



NT court upholds Laramba tenants' water rights

TENANTS in remote communities have a legal right to get clean drinking water from their landlord, the Northern Territory Government.

The NT Court of Appeal ruling on 24 December that the government is legally responsible for clean drinking water came as a Christmas present for remote communities.

The ruling lays the foundation for a wider class action over remote

housing.

The residents' solicitor hopes the Laramba residents' successful case would support another class action against the NT's Department of Housing.

That class action in the Federal Court is being led by two residents of Gunbalanya in West Arnhem Land.

It is seeking compensation for rent, damages and orders for repairs

to housing they say is unsafe, uninhabitable and too expensive.

"We're hopeful that this decision, in combination with that class action, can result in change right across the territory in all of those communities," solicitor for Australian Lawyers for Remote Aboriginal Rights, Daniel Kelly, said.

Laramba's latest court victory follows a successful appeal in 2023 by five residents who initially took the government to court over extreme levels of uranium in their drinking water.

The residents first took the NT government to court in 2019 over the level of uranium in their drinking water, which was then three times above the Australian standard.

They lost that first case, but were successful in their 2023 appeal to the NT Supreme Court.

That year the former Labor government built a treatment plant to remove the uranium from the community's water, but before it lost office it challenged the Supreme Court decision in the NT Court of Appeal.

The government argued it was responsible only for housing itself, and it was the Power and Water Corporation's job to provide safe drinking water.

In rejecting the argument, Court of Appeal judges agreed that water quality was a "habitability issue", and

fell under the NT government's legal obligations to tenants.

"If the uranium levels in the water supplied to the premises posed an actual and appreciable risk to the health and/or safety of the tenants in their ordinary residential day-to-day use of the premises, then those premises would not be habitable", they said. They added that it didn't matter "whether or not the water is supplied by a third party with statutory responsibility for the supply of essential services such as water".

The Laramba residents are now seeking compensation for being forced to drink water that contained three times the recommended level of uranium.

Their lawyer will now have to convince the NT Civil and Administrative Appeal Tribunal that drinking that water was dangerous.

Mr Kelly said Laramba's treatment plant was much more impactful than the compensation they can expect.

"Certainly the amounts of compensation we're talking about are not life-changing, but what will be life-changing is ensuring everybody's got access to clean and safe drinking water."



"Life-changing": Laramba residents inspected their new water treatment plant in 2023.

NT government puts big business before water rights

THE NORTHERN TERRITORY Government has blindsided traditional owners with its approach to water extraction, failing to consult them about two major allocation plans which put sensitive waterways and sites at risk.

In the week before Christmas, NT water minister Josh Burgoyne quietly released the Mataranka and Western Davenport water allocation plans.

The Western Davenport plan increased the amount of groundwater that can be pumped up from 67,700 to 87,700 megalitres per year.

This is an increase of 20,000 megalitres per year.

The Mataranka plan doubles the amount of water that can be extracted from the ancient aquifer that feeds the Roper River system.

The land councils are deeply concerned about the plans and the risk they pose for the environment and sacred sites.

They also criticised the timing and manner of the announcement of these big changes.

"There was no warning and no effort by the government to speak to traditional owners," Central Land Council general manager Dr Josie Douglas said.

"With holidays looming and cultural activities in the region well underway, the CLC is unable to seek the views of those most likely to be impacted by the changes, the traditional owners of the region."

The native title holders for Singleton Station, part of the area covered by the plan, oppose large-scale water extraction.

They were so anxious about the potential impact on groundwater dependent ecosystems and sacred sites

by the station's massive water licence that they challenged the licence in the NT Court of Appeal.

They are eagerly awaiting the court's decision.

Dr Douglas said the CLC had been urging NT governments to consult Aboriginal people "appropriately and regularly" about water planning and decisions because "their future livelihoods, culture and sustainable living depend on water".

Northern Land Council chair Matthew Ryan called the Mataranka plan, which allows big business to extract more than 62,000 megalitres of water per year, an absolute failure.

"It's dismissive of the environment and our culture," he said.

"There was no warning and no effort by the government to speak to traditional owners."

"Both the previous and the current NT government have ignored the voices of traditional owners, who have repeatedly said that the health and viability of the Roper River and the springs at Mataranka are at great risk.

"Water is life. It is our most valuable resource and traditional owners have an obligation to take care of the land and areas of cultural significance."

Mr Burgoyne said the two water allocation plans would give certainty to the environment and water users and "have been developed using the best



Native title holders for Singleton Station oppose large-scale water extraction.

available science and a comprehensive understanding of the water resources".

He said the Mataranka plan would preserve more than 90 per cent of the dry season river flows.

"The plan protects the environmental value of the Roper River and iconic springs, providing water security to communities, and supporting economic development, including in the Larrimah agricultural precinct."

But scientists, environmentalists and economists have questioned these claims and the sustainability of the plan.

Professor Quentin Grafton from the Australian National University's Centre for Water Economics said it allowed businesses to take enough groundwater to fill 25,000 Olympic swimming pools per year.

"The big-time beneficiaries of the plan are the big end of town who have lobbied long and hard to get, for free, NT groundwater licences worth many

millions of dollars," he said.

"The biggest losers are the traditional owners from where the groundwater is being grabbed and the many tourists who come to visit the world-famous Mataranka and Bitter Springs, and on those who depend on their dollars for their livelihoods.

"The plan goes against published evidence of declining groundwater tables, submissions and testimonies of traditional owners about worsening water quality, and the precautionary principle, a hallmark of sustainable management."

The CLC plans to consult with traditional owners about the changes to the Western Davenports plan.

"The challenge for the new CLP government is whether it will govern for some, or govern for all," said Dr Douglas.

"The proof will be in their willingness to consult and be held to account for their decision by all Territorians."

Yapa artefacts return from Europe



Yuendumu men visited Frankfurt's Senckenberg Museum for the return of their ancestors' artefacts.

WHEN senior Yapa law men Banjo Tex and Jimmy Spencer welcomed an Austrian researcher and his son to Yuendumu in 1972, they never expected the artefacts they gave them to come home again.

Nor did they get to see any of the footage Professor Irenäus Eibl-Eibesfeldt, his then 18-year-old son Bernolf and assistant Dieter Heunemann filmed of them.

Fifty-two years later, Mr Tex' son Nelson looked on excitedly as the professor's son handed back sacred men's objects and everyday objects such as karli (boomerangs), wurlampi (knives), pikirri (spear thrower) and kurdiji (shields) to a group of Yapa elders at an emotional ceremony in Frankfurt, Germany.

Mr Tex had walked from the Warlpiri Ranger office in Yuendumu to the Pintubi Anmatjere Warlpiri Media (PAW) studio to watch a live stream of the handover ceremony at Frankfurt's Senckenberg Museum.

"I was really happy. Both happy and sad because my dad never told me anything," the CLC ranger said.

"I can't wait to see those things back in the community. I want it back."

The South Australian Museum's repatriation officer Jamie Hampton spent two years tracking the missing objects and footage to the other side of the world.

On Christmas Eve, two years ago, he called Bernolf Eibl-Eibesfeldt, who had inherited his late father's private collection.

The surgeon had never forgotten the access to their culture and community the elders had extended to his father and remembered a lot of the conversations they had with him.

"Bernolf had been caring for the objects since about 2015," Mr Hampton said.

"It was playing on his mind that the objects needed to go back to the traditional owners. So when I made contact he was so happy, so excited.

He felt a sense of relief."

"They mean much more to them than they mean to me," Dr Eibl-Eibesfeldt told the ABC.

"When they reconnected to the objects it was no question. It had to be done. I'm happy we did it."

During the ceremony the elders and Mr Hampton's father Karl performed the yala (bush potato) purlapa, having just seen the objects and some of the footage for the first time.

"They are not just objects. To us they are part of our ancestors."

Their return made Karl Hampton feel "complete".

"They are not just objects. To us they are part of our ancestors", he said.

Back at Yuendumu, there was much pride about the Warlpiri Project's latest success.

It was not the first time the project has been able to track down missing cultural treasures.

In 2023 Simon Fisher found in the South Australian Museum a kularda (spear) and pikirri his late father had given to anthropologist Norman Tindall.

Since 2021 the community's committee of the Granites Mine Affected Area Aboriginal Corporation (GMAAAC) invested almost a million dollars in the project.

Around \$220,000 of this helped to pay for the Frankfurt trip.

"It was just great to get the support from GMAAAC and from the elders

to make it possible," Jamie Hampton said.

"It was a good investment for GMAAAC and for a good cause. Some of these objects are more than 100 years old," GMAAAC chair Derek Williams told the ABC.

He said the objects are not only important for the future generations of Yapa, but wants visitors to see them as well.

"Because of truth-telling, tell the tourists what happened in our communities."

Yuendumu residents should be able to watch some of the many hours of historical footage of their ancestors "sometime next year", according to Karl Hampton.

Once the films have been professionally digitised the Warlpiri Project plans to make them available through its online archive and PAW Media.

The community will have to wait a bit longer to see the other objects.

They will be stored at the South Australian Museum, under the care of the Warlpiri Project, until they can be returned to the planned Yuendumu cultural centre.

Meantime, the elders will be able to carry out more research into the materials at the museum.

They are glad to have Jamie Hampton at their side.

"We put him there for a reason and he's done his family and tribe proud," Mr Williams said.

"He's really a big bonus for us."

Mr Tex plans to travel to Adelaide next year to see them for the first time.

"I'll have a look at those things of my father. I'll see my father in that video then. I miss my dad. I can't even wait. I want to go there."

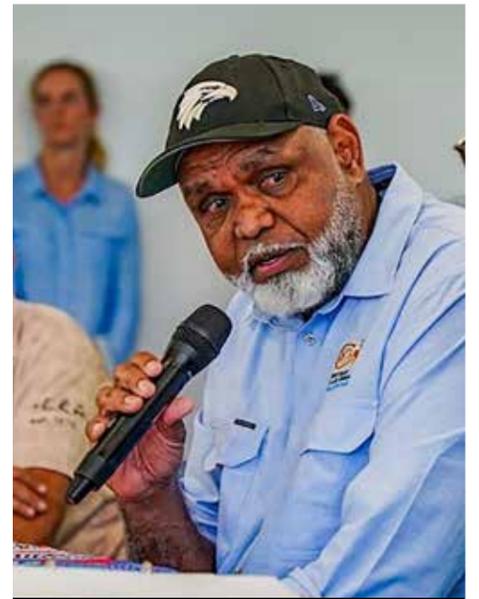


Warlpiri men danced at the handover ceremony in Germany.

CLC slams “dangerous” law undermining Aboriginal rights and culture



The CLC executive objected to the law at its December 2024 meeting.



NLC chair Matthew Ryan.

Continued from p.3

Under the draft law people cannot ask for a review of these decisions or appeal them in NT courts.

“There is a high risk that economic development is prioritised above environment and social outcomes,” the executive resolution from last December reads.

The CLC made a submission in January asking for changes – one of hundreds of submissions the CLP government has tried to keep secret.

In February the government came back to the parliament with changes that make the draft law even worse.

The changes take away limits on the powers of the Territory coordinator that were meant to protect Aboriginal people’s rights, interests and cultural values.

This means the coordinator could stop a place from getting heritage protection or decide what the Aboriginal cultural values of a place are.

chief executive of the Larakia Nation Aboriginal Corporation, said.

He called the bill as “an unacceptable step backwards”.

“The Territory Coordinator Bill 2025 threatens to override our ability to make decisions about our own country”

The traditional owners of Darwin came out strongly against the draft law, saying it risks cultural heritage and undermines Aboriginal rights across the NT.

“The Territory Coordinator Bill 2025 threatens to override our ability to make decisions about our own country,” Michael Rotumah, the

In its latest submission in February the CLC asked the parliament not to pass the law, but it also said that if parliament did pass it, it should make many changes to it first.

It asked for parts of the law not to apply on Aboriginal land or exclusive native title areas, or only with the consent of the relevant Aboriginal land

trust and native title holders.

It requested to take away the Territory coordinator’s power to allow people to enter Aboriginal land or exclusive native title areas.

And it asked for the Territory coordinator law to uphold all laws that protect Aboriginal rights, interests, cultural values and heritage places.

The CLC has been concerned about the coordinator law even before opposition leader Selena Uiobo tabled a leaked consultation paper in parliament last October, describing it as a “secret” proposal.

Northern Land Council chair Matthew Ryan called it “very dangerous for all Territorians”.

“Our people across the seven regions want to see the big decisions that impact us all made safely with real community consultation – not just rushed through this appointed boss,” he said.

Anangu workers and businesses wanted to build Uluru-Kata Tjuta walk

THE COMPANY building the first guided walking trail in the Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park is looking for Anangu labourers to help with construction.

The Australian Walking Company signed a 30-year lease agreement with the traditional owners of the park last October about the Uluru-Kata Tjuta Signature Walk, a fully guided walk between Kata Tjuta and Uluru.

The company is now ready to hire two Anangu with white cards in construction for casual handyman jobs.

The jobs involve fencing, rubbish collection, clearing the ground and shaping the trail, helping to design and build storytelling spaces and revegetating the construction areas.

Both jobs come with training.

The company also wants to hire four qualified Anangu carpenters or contract an Anangu business that can supply this service.

It is looking for other Aboriginal businesses to help build the trail and

accommodation for people doing the five-day walk.

The walk was developed in consultation with the traditional owners, the Uluru-Kata Tjuta Board of Management, Parks Australia and the Central Land Council.

A traditional owner steering committee has the project since 2020 and advises the company.

The committee is made up of equal numbers of minyma (women) and wati (men) from the communities of Amata, Imanpa, Utju (Areyonga), Kaltukatjara (Dockers River), Mutitjulu, Pukatja (Ernabella) and Yunyarinji (Kenmore Park).

It also includes representatives from the CLC and Parks Australia.

The walk is set to be launched next year.

For more information about the jobs call RN Employment on 0428 196 518, or the CLC’s Jackson Dulvarie on 08 89 516 211.



The traditional owner steering committee at the site of the future walking trail.

Not always stolen – a story from the Link-Up service

IT'S A lazy afternoon in 1963, two little sisters, Helen and Gwen, are running in and out of the old huts at Amoonguna, laughing and playing 'hide and seek'. They are being cared for by their grandmother.

A car pulls up and two women, Catholic nuns, get out and come over to the girls. They entice them with lollies to get into the car and drive them away. The nuns deposit the two girls at 'Mission Block', just near the Lutheran Church on Gap Road.

The girls are only five and six years old, and they don't know where Amoonguna is. If they did they would have run screaming and crying back to their grandmother.

Two weeks later, the sisters are flown to Darwin where they are separated for the first time in their young lives. It will be 13 years before they see each other again.

The story of Helen and Gwen Gillen is all too familiar. Almost every Aboriginal family in Central Australia was impacted by the government policy of the day, which removed children from their families and their community. Some children were put into homes and institutions far away. Others, such as Helen, were brought up by families that were not their own.

“Many people know that they were stolen and think of themselves as part of the Stolen Generations. Others were taken away and sent to boarding school or children’s homes and to other places away from their community, but have never considered themselves to be ‘stolen’.”

Since 2021, the Central Australian Aboriginal Congress has been supporting the Territories Stolen Generation Redress Scheme through the Link-Up service. Headed up by Tellisa Ferguson, Link-Up supports Aboriginal people in Central Australia who were taken away from their family and community as children.

The service employs case workers who assist people to apply for the schemes and undertakes family tracing. The Territories Stolen Generations Redress Scheme is one of several schemes available at the moment. It is open until 2028 and provides both remuneration and the opportunity for a personal acknowledgement for adults that were removed from their families prior to 1978.



Helen and Gwen Gillen were separated for 13 years. Photos by Sara Maiorino

Ms Ferguson explains that the team is encouraging and supporting people to apply for the scheme, but that some

siblings were forcibly taken away from their mother and put into the boarding house. She also found out that her mother had sought a job in the laundry at the same boarding house so she could be close to her children.

“It can be life-changing to find the truth,” Ms Ferguson explains.

“We’re trying to get the word out, that regardless of whether or not you think of yourself as ‘stolen’, you may be eligible for the scheme.”

The Link-Up office at 5/21 Leichhardt Terrace is open for drop-ins.

people still don't identify as 'stolen' even though they were taken away and therefore are not aware they may be eligible.

“Many people know that they were stolen and think of themselves as part of the Stolen Generations. Others were taken away and sent to boarding school or children’s homes and to other places away from their community, but have never considered themselves to be ‘stolen’. Some people are not even sure of the circumstances of their removal,” she said.

She describes how one woman had always believed that her mother had placed her and her siblings into a boarding house. Through the application process and research, the woman found out that she and her





Territories Stolen Generations Redress Scheme

Seeks to recognise the harm and trauma caused to Stolen Generations survivors who were removed from family or community in the NT, ACT or the Jervis Bay Territory.

Find out more at territoriesredress.gov.au or call [1800 566 111](tel:1800566111)



territoriesredress.gov.au



Australian Government
National Indigenous Australians Agency

CLC rangers share desert knowledge at World Ranger Congress

FOR BOYD ELSTON, ranger program manager at the Central Land Council and chair of the Indigenous Desert Alliance, the World Ranger Congress in France was an eye-opener.

Mr Elston, his colleagues Cleveland Kantawara and Lynda Lechleitner, and Kimberly ranger Sumayah Surprise from Bayulu, near Fitzroy Crossing, planned to share their land management knowledge and solutions with 400 rangers from around the world in the southern French town of Hyères.

It's as close to snow-capped mountain peaks of the Alps as Alice Springs is to Uluru, but the challenges of protecting threatened animals can be very different.

"We set camera traps to find rock rats in Central Australia, while over there they're climbing into the Alps to search for snow leopards," Mr Elston said.

He learned that in some parts of the world rangers live much more dangerously, especially when their work places them in the cross-hairs of armed animal killers and smugglers, also called poachers.

"The African rangers were especially impressive. Many are involved in anti-poaching efforts, risking their lives daily," he said.

"It really highlighted the huge difference in types of ranger work across the world."

The congress, a week of workshops and talks last October, was an opportunity to present a ranger world view from the desert.

The CLC team gave a talk about the work of desert rangers, particularly women, and the unique challenges of managing land in the Australian desert.

The CLC team had never been to France and made the most of the experience.

"It made me think 'how do we get that kind of global recognition and support for Indigenous culture and heritage?'"

After the congress, they travelled through the Mediterranean port city of Marseille and spent a day in Paris, visiting famous sites in the French capital, such as the Eiffel Tower and the Louvre museum.

Watching crowds line up to see the Mona Lisa painting, Mr Elston reflected on global attitudes towards culture.

"It made me think 'how do we get that kind of global recognition and support for Indigenous culture and heritage?'. When Notre Dame [an

ancient cathedral in the centre of Paris] burned down, they raised nearly a billion dollars in 48 hours. How do we build that kind of awareness for Indigenous land and culture?"

The World Ranger Congress happens every three years. A different team of CLC rangers travelled to the previous event in Nepal, with the help of the 10 Deserts project.

The Indigenous Desert Alliance and

Thin Green Line, an international ranger organisation, supported the rangers from Australia on last year's trip.

Who will get to go to the next congress in Argentina?

"We're hopeful to find funding to send more of our rangers in 2027. It would be great to keep sharing our knowledge and learn from rangers around the world," said Mr Elston.



Cleveland Kantawara, Boyd Elston and Lynda Lechleitner made the most of the experience at the World Ranger Congress in France.



The Indigenous Desert Alliance and Thin Green Line supported the CLC rangers to take part in workshops and talks at the congress.



Lynda Lechleitner (right) enjoyed meeting rangers from across the world.



CLC rangers shine and share at desert conference

CLC RANGERS collected many awards and sowed the seeds for new partnerships at the Indigenous Desert Alliance conference at Yulara.

The annual event near Uluru, Australia's largest gathering of Indigenous rangers, attracted more than 400 participants from all over the desert.

"I'm so happy to see so many different rangers from everywhere," Eunice Woods, from the Tjakura Rangers in Mutitjulu, said.

During the two-day event last November, Ms Woods and her team took rangers from Western Australia and South Australia on a tour of tjakura (great desert skink) burrows.

They explained how they track and trap feral cats and other predators that threaten the endangered lizard.

The conference awards night celebrated the rangers' achievements.

Daniel Dickenson, from the Muru-Warinyi Ankkul Rangers in Tennant Creek, won Male Emerging Ranger of the Year.

"It was unexpected. I was really chuffed to win the award," he said. "I've only been a ranger for about a year and three months".

Ms Woods took home the Female Ranger of the Year award.



Tjakura ranger Eunice Woods and her team took rangers from Western Australia and South Australia on a tour of tjakura (great desert skink) burrows off the Lasseter Highway.



Ms Woods took home the Female Ranger of the Year award.

"I am deeply honoured and grateful to receive this award," she said.

"The school had a celebration for me and the kids were all happy for me. I was speechless.

This is good for the kids to see and learn, as one day they might want to be rangers too, to take care of their country".

"I'm so happy to see so many different rangers from everywhere."

Warlpiri ranger Alice Henwood won the Female Senior Ranger of the Year.

A master tracker and teacher, she mentors the next generation of trackers.

The Collaboration of the Year award recognised how well the Walungurru Rangers and the Warlpiri Rangers

worked together on the CLC's tracking project *Yitaki Mani*.

The project team took rangers from both groups tracking and hunting at the Newhaven Wildlife Sanctuary, north-west of Alice Springs.

"We were there for about three days. We worked with them, camping, each group sharing. Next time I'd like to

work with different rangers and with them again," Walungurru ranger Camilla Young said.

The IDA started in 2014 and the conference celebrated the alliance's decade of connection across the nation's deserts.



Fire training helps rangers protect country from buffel grass

ABORIGINAL RANGERS have carried out a controlled burn around the Desert Knowledge Precinct to hone their fire management skills.

The training event brought together more than 40 rangers from the Central Land Council’s Aputula, Akityarre, Anmatyerre and Ltyentye Apurte groups with the Tjuwanpa Women Rangers and the Centre for Appropriate Technology last August.

The training, part of the Batchelor Institute’s conservation and land management course, helped the rangers to upskill while ridding the site of invasive buffel grass.

When the weed burns in an uncontrolled way it increases wildfire intensity.

The weed comes back after such fires, but native plants struggle.

The result is even more buffel grass and fewer native plants – a deadly spiral that means both native plants and animals die out.

The Northern Territory Fire and Rescue Service supervised the first training day to make sure the burn was carried out safely.

By the second day, the rangers took the lead.



Tanisha Ungwanagka worked with a ranger colleague to control the fire around native plants.

“We’ve got four new rangers with us, and they’ve learned a lot, how to use the equipment, wear their PPE and work safely.”

They carefully protected native ironwood and corkwood trees using blower vacs.

“I learned to have the wind facing you, not on your back,” Keith Gorey, from the Ltyentye Apurte Rangers, said.

His favourite part of the exercise? “Being on the hose, putting out the fires.”

Akityarre ranger Darren Petrick also liked holding a hose.

“This training taught me to use the water trailer to wet down the trees, including younger ones, before and during the fire to protect them,” he said.

The training was especially good for newer rangers.

Sonya Braybon, who coordinates the Tjuwanpa Women Rangers, attended

the training to support her younger team members.

“We’ve got four new rangers with us, and they’ve learned a lot—how to use the equipment, wear their PPE [personal protective equipment] and work safely,” she said.

“Now they feel comfortable and are learning to burn on the right day, considering the weather patterns.”

The controlled burn was also about long-term buffel management by the Centre for Appropriate Technology.

“It also provided an opportunity for the CfAT team to return and spray the buffel regrowth,” Desert Knowledge Australia chief executive Jimmy Cocking said.

“Fire is not an end in itself in the fight against buffel grass wildfires, but if you can come back and spray it or remove it—it can give nature a chance to grow back.”

Desert Knowledge Australia, which manages the precinct, helped make the 73-hectare site a focal point for managing buffel grass, declared a ‘weed of national significance’ by the NT government last July.

Mr Cocking hopes to make this training a regular event.

“We want to hold annual training

sessions at the precinct to showcase this method and support the training of more rangers and land managers,

helping them use fire and other tools to protect nature.”



CLC rangers used blower vacs and drip torches to control the burn.



Rangers took part in all stages of the burn from lighting the fires to safely putting them out.



Nerissa Meneri, from the Tjuwanpa Women’s Rangers, and Michael Walters, from the Batchelor Institute, visited the site to see how the rangers had protected even the smallest trees.

Warlpiri Education and Training Trust wins national honour

THE WARLPIRI Education and Training Trust has won the prestigious 2024 National NAIDOC Award in the education category. The award recognises the trust's significant impact on Yapa communities.

WETT advisory committee members Sharon Anderson Nampijinpa and Maisie Kitson Napaljarri attended the ceremony in Adelaide.

"To go to the national award as a finalist was ngurrju (good), but to hear that WETT won ... I felt so overwhelmed, so proud," Ms Anderson said.

"I thought of the elders, educators and founding members who have been guiding us along our journey, and the four Warlpiri communities."

For Ms Kitson, a founding member of the WETT, it was an emotional moment.

"When we heard 'Warlpiri Education and Training Trust,' the three of us were hugging. I was feeling happy and proud, and my tears were coming down."

The Central Land Council set up the trust in 2005.

"To go to the national award as a finalist was ngurrju (good), but to hear that WETT won ... I felt so overwhelmed, so proud"

For nearly two decades, the trust has invested more than \$57 million in education programs, including support for children and families, language and culture in schools, youth development, secondary school support, and 'community learning centres'.

A 16-member advisory committee representing Yuendumu, Lajamanu, Nyirripi and Willowra advises the trust.

The Kurra Aboriginal Corporation, the WETT's trustee, works closely with the CLC to manage the trust funds.

"It's been a great achievement all these years, working with Kurra directors, community members and partners," said Ms Anderson.

"Everyone is getting involved in children's education. It's for all Warlpiri."

This NAIDOC award honours the trust's commitment to future generations.

In their acceptance speech, the WETT representatives thanked the Kurna people, the National Aboriginal and Islander Day Observance Committee and their elders and educators.

"We know what is best for our people and invest income from our lands wisely to support our families and communities. We help our people to help themselves," Ms Anderson said.

The women shared the trust's vision with the audience: "Our language, culture, and decisions will be respected. Our voices will be heard. We will have the same opportunities as everyone else. Our people will be confident, knowledgeable, disciplined, healthy, and respected. They will have good roles and jobs, as will the generations to come."

Another success of the CLC's community development program, the Granites Mine Affected Area Aboriginal Corporation, was a finalist in the 2024 Indigenous Governance Awards, standing out among 150 organisations across Australia.

While it didn't take home the top prize, making the final three was a huge win for Warlpiri leadership and self-governance.



Maisie Kitson and Sharon Anderson with the 2024 National NAIDOC Education Award.



Valerie Patterson, Barbara Martin, Fiona Gibson, Helen Morton, Maisie Kitson and Nancy Oldfield. The founding members of the Warlpiri Education and Training Trust.

MEET OUR RANGERS



Glenn Woods

What made you want to be a ranger?

When I was little I always saw my father get up early for work as a park ranger at Uluru. He has done it for over 20 years. I wanted to look after homelands, waterholes, to look after the animals and learn from the oldfellas.

What do you do as a ranger?

We do a lot of burning and trapping out at the homelands and waterholes. Sometimes we join up with Mala and Kalitukatjara rangers as well. We go and work with them, and they come work with us.

What are some of the hard things?

Our work involves travelling long distances, away from our community and in the heat. It's getting hot early. Learning new stuff is best. We do a lot of work with drones and iPads that we do mapping.

What is the best thing about being a ranger?

Being out on country with the old people and learning from them. We take the Mutitjulu primary school students out bush and teach them what we have learnt.

What do you like doing outside of work?

Being with family, going hunting and playing footy.

What languages do you speak?

I speak Pitjantjatjara.



Our council – 50 years strong, with plenty of fire in the belly

Continued from p.2

“I wanted every land claim to win,” recalled anthropologist and leading Melbourne University academic Marcia Langton, who researched some of the earliest CLC land claims and helped traditional owners prepare for the Federal Court hearings.

“Peoples’ understanding of their country, their knowledge of their country and their ability to give evidence was just astonishing, one of the great experiences of my life.”

“I think in my time, we lost one—I think I worked on about 20.”

Ms Langton gave a big shout-out to the Land Rights Act “the first time in Australian history” that Aboriginal land rights were genuinely recognised”.

The law that set up the four NT land councils will itself turn 50 years next year.

“[The Act] still today represents the highest point of recognition of Aboriginal rights in land,” she told the ABC.

Ms Langton was one of many passionate speakers, joined on the big stage by former deputy chair Geoff Shaw and the CLC’s first two directors, Pat Dodson and David Ross.

Mr Dodson presented the CLC’s oldest surviving chair, Bruce Breaden, with a portrait of the proud stockman riding high in the saddle.

The diversity of the CLC’s nine sub-regions was on display throughout.

Bush bands kept the crowd moving in-between dance performances from across the southern half of the Northern Territory.



Arrente dancers from Alice Springs, Warumungu Pujjali dancers from Tennant Creek, Southern Ngaliya dancers from Yuendumu and Pitjantjatjara dancers from the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara lands took turns performing with the Tjupi Band, PJ Reggae, Muti Band, MB Reggae and the Ltyentye Apurte Band.

“All that work, all those elders laying down their law and culture to show their connection to country – that is what the CLC stands for and will continue to stand for.”



Vincent Lingiari's granddaughter Rosie Smiler, all the way from Kalkaringi, read from Freedom Day, her children's book about the Wave Hill Walk Off.

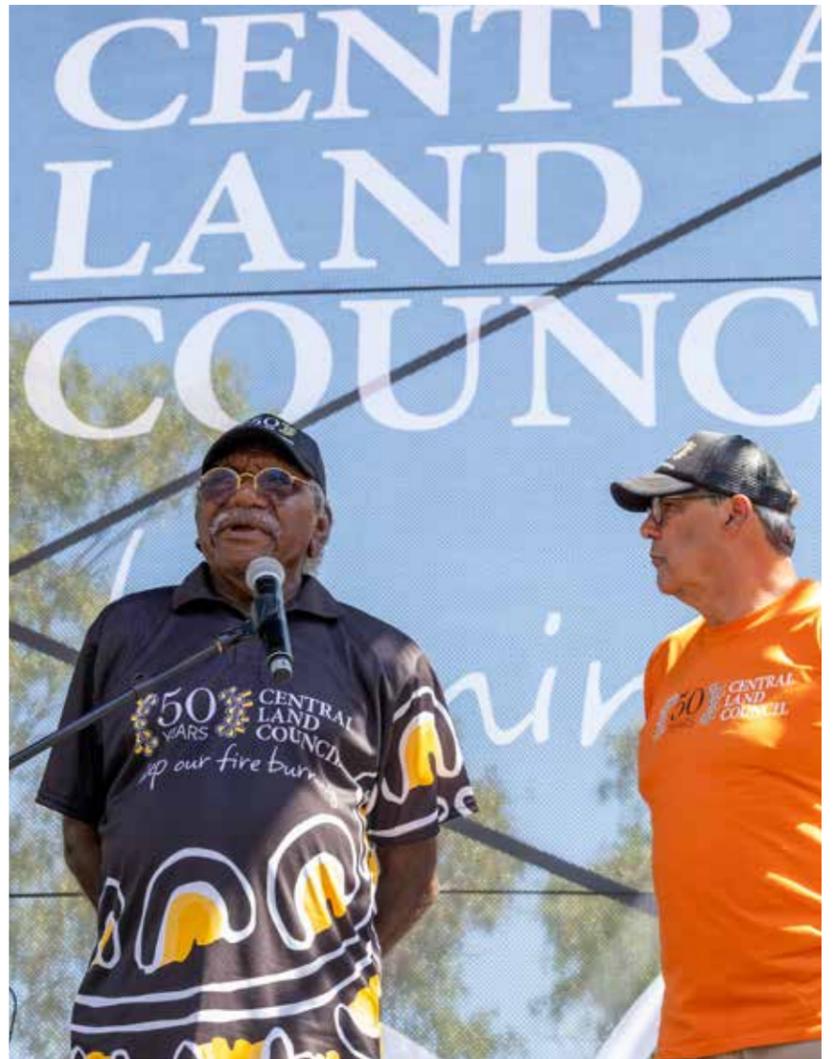
Eleanor Jawurlngali Dixon moved the audience with her otherworldly voice before a high-energy set by the Frank Yamma Band got everyone dancing the night away.

For chair Warren Williams, the celebration was a chance to look back at what "past comrades" fought so hard for.

"They left big shoes for us to fill. Now it's time for our young people to join the council and follow in our footsteps."

"They left big shoes for us to fill. Now it's time for our young people to join the council and follow in our footsteps."





Yuelamu residents plan water-saving gardens

SIX YUELAMU residents have shared plans for growing their own food in garden beds that use little water.

David Stafford, Shonelle Stafford, Lisa Cook, Glorine Singleton, Kathy Bagot and Juliet Morris took part in a four-day study tour to Alice Springs to find solutions for growing veggies in the water-stressed community.

They visited the Olive Pink Botanical Garden, Hidden Valley's community centre and other community gardens.

They learned about wicking beds

– raised container beds in which plants draw up their water from a reservoir below their roots – and explored making raised garden beds from recycled materials such as tyres and drums.

They turned their hands to composting, worm farming and growing plants from cuttings.

"I enjoyed going to all the gardens and visiting the Steiner School," Shonelle Stafford said.

"They are also planting bush

medicines, and I learned how important worms are for the garden, the plants and the soil."

The group discussed Yuelamu's hard water, which damages plants. They looked at options like the use of sand filters in their wicking beds to remove the calcium from the water.

"I learned how to use less water and make it clean for the garden," said Ms Stafford.

The group also explored training in horticulture and land management at the Batchelor Institute.

The visit included designing a training program tailored for Yuelamu.

At the end of the week the group returned to Yuelamu to put their learning into practice at a workshop with Rattlepod Landscapes.

Together they finalised a home food garden unit design featuring a wicking bed, shade structure and animal-proof screens.

The workshop is part of Yuelamu's food garden project supported by the community's Granites Mine Affected Area Aboriginal Corporation committee.

The project began in 2021, when residents asked for a central garden to provide fresh fruit, vegetables and gardening skills.

"The project is important because people want to know how to grow their own veggies. It's cheaper and healthier than buying from the shop," said Ms Stafford.

In the following year the GMAAAC

allocated \$28,000 for the project and contracted Rattlepod Landscapes to keep working with them.

"The project is important because people want to know how to grow their own veggies."

It's cheaper and healthier than buying from the shop."

The next step is building a trial garden at the Yuelamu Activity Centre.

If the trial is successful and any design flaws are resolved, the project will roll out to 10 households.

Ms Stafford hopes to expand the gardens to homes, helping families to grow their own food and become more self-sufficient.

"In the future, I hope everyone in Yuelamu can make veggie gardens at their own homes," she said.



The group visit the Westside Community Garden in Alice Springs.

Mutitjulu elders teach inma

MUTITJULU elders are keeping their culture strong by teaching inma (traditional song and dance) to young women and girls.

"We are concerned about the future of our children and the generations to come," Rene Kulitja, a member of the Mutitjulu community development working group, Central Land Council delegate and director of Maruku Art, said.

"We want to teach inma intensively to the young now, so they will have this knowledge for the future," she added.

The working group planned the inma project in June 2022 and funded it with \$38,000 of its Uluru rent income in

"I'm old now and want others to take my place in the dance. I want to teach and give them this inma, so they'll have it forever," he said.

The practice sessions started in May 2023 and wrapped up the following October.

The elders planned them with Maruku Arts and held them outside the art organisation's warehouse, at the Uluru Kata-Tjuta Cultural Centre and at the local school's Father's Day event.

The project employed 28 locals. Maruku staff said that everyone in community worked together, or "tjungu", to make the project happen.

Younger women took on many



Singers Beryl DeRose, Elaine Woods, Barbara DeRose, Rolley Mintuma, Pixie Brown and Tim DeRose rehearse for inma.

"I'm old now and want others to take my place in the dance."

I want to teach and give them this inma, so they'll have it forever."

February 2023. The project supported the locally owned and operated organisation Maruku Art, with work they were already doing to protect inma.

The project has helped young girls gain confidence and experience performing inma.

"The truth is that we learnt from the senior people. They taught us the inma," singer Pixie Brown said.

"We need the young girls and boys to be learning in the same way. Right now."

Rolley Mintuma feels the same sense of urgency.

responsibilities, getting back to a cultural way of organising, learning and teaching.

They supervised children, helped elders and prepared meals.

"The inma is really important not to lose," said Ms Kulitja. "It must continue into the future for the young people. They can hold it for generations to come."

Since the practice session some of the dancers and singers have performed at the 2024 DanceRites competition in Sydney, Australia's First Nations dance competition.



Alvina Riley, Janeisha Minutjukur, Jennifer (Lulu) Cooley and Beryl DeRose practice inma.

First year 12 graduate in a decade

AT JUST 18 years of age, Joyleen Butler has already achieved a big milestone: being the first person from Kaltukatjara in a decade to graduate year 12.

Ms Butler decided to leave her remote community to board at the Clontarf College in Perth, because she wanted a greater education challenge.

"I wanted to learn more because the school in my community wasn't challenging. I was at the boarding school for two years," she said.

The journey to Clontarf wasn't an easy one, but Ms Butler had been inspired by her family.

"My sister and my niece used to go to that school, and I got really excited to go there."

Traveling from Kaltukatjara to Perth saw her take the Bush Bus to Alice to catch a flight to the Western Australian capital.

"It was tiring to travel, but I'd take a lot of naps." At Clontarf, homesickness hit.

"It was hard at first because I didn't have any friends or family there, Ms Butler said. "But I stuck it out for a couple of months and then made three or four close friends."

"When I was homesick, I cried and rang my family, asking to come home."

"They always reminded me that education comes first."

Her new friends kept her going.

"My favourite moments were dancing and breaking it down in the common rooms with my friends, singing and sharing stories."

Graduating with her year 12 certificate was a proud moment for Ms Butler and her family.



Joyleen Butler

"I want to work with NPY Women's Council and youth services and maybe become a director someday."



Joyleen Butler was the first person from Kaltukatjara in decades to graduate year 12.

"My sister and the family who raised me were so proud. They supported me for the two years I was at boarding school and told me I made the community proud."

Small remote community schools struggle for funding and to find and keep teachers, and Kaltukatjara is no exception.

The boarding school program of the Ngaanyatjarra Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Women's Council offers a better way for many students.

The traditional owners of the Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park invested almost \$401,000 in the program in 2023. It supports students from Kaltukatjara, Mutitjulu, Imanpa, Amata, Pukatja (Ernabella), and Yunyarinji (Kenmore Park). Since 2017 the traditional owners have funded the program with more than \$1,600,000 of their gate money.

Ms Butler plans to give back to the program that has supported her.

"I want to work with NPY Women's Council and youth services and maybe become a director someday, but for now I want to work in the

recreation hall and on the boarding school project," she said.

She knows what she will tell young people who ask her about boarding school.

"Try your best, whether it's hard or easy. Just do it. You'll have a good future. And make sure your family supports you too."

"Try your best, whether it's hard or easy. Just do it. You'll have a good future. And make sure your family supports you too."

GET PAID TO STUDY

Did you know you can apply for a paid cadetship with the Central Land Council? Gain experience in your chosen field through a 12-week work placement at the CLC each academic year, and get paid all year round!

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WHO CAN APPLY?

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students can apply after they are accepted to study full time at a university in Australia.

Contact us on 08 8951 0660 or hr.training@clc.org.au





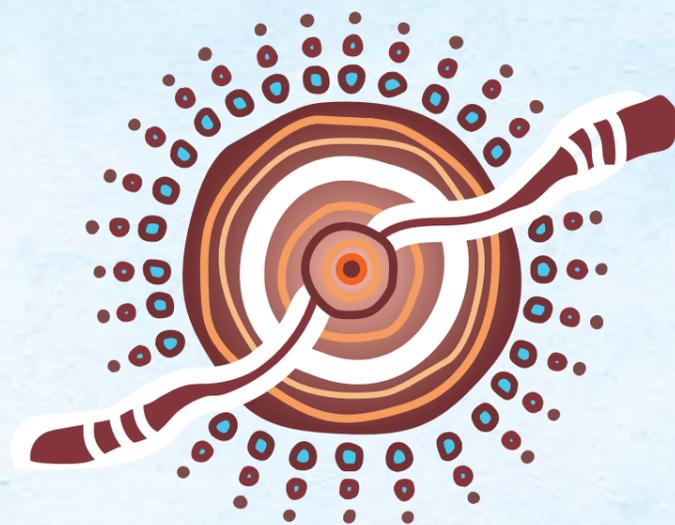
About the settlement of up to \$202 million for the Northern Territory Stolen Wages Class Action

YOU MUST REGISTER NOW TO BE CONSIDERED FOR ELIGIBILITY

The Commonwealth Government has agreed to a settlement of the Northern Territory Stolen Wages Class Action in which it will pay up to \$202 million including costs (depending on how many people register). The Court will need to approve the settlement before any money is paid out.

Ms Minnie McDonald brought the class action in the Federal Court against the Commonwealth Government on behalf of all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples who worked in the Northern Territory between 1933 and 1971 and were paid little or no wages.

A detailed notice giving information about the proposed settlement has been published. You can get a copy by contacting Shine Lawyers on the contact details below.



Why do you need to register for the settlement?

If you are part of the class action and want to get a payment from the settlement, you need to register by **31 August 2025**. If you haven't registered with Shine Lawyers already, or registered for your deceased spouse or deceased parents, or you aren't sure if you have registered, you should complete, sign and send a registration form in by **31 August 2025**.

You are part of the class action and able to register if:

- (a) you are an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander person;
 - (b) you were born before 12 November 1961; and
 - (c) you worked in the Northern Territory between 1 June 1933 and 12 November 1971 for little or no wages;
- OR
- (d) you are the spouse (married or de facto) or child of a person who fits the description in A, B and C above and has since passed away.

If you don't want to claim compensation, you don't need to do anything. But you will still be part of the case, and you will lose your legal rights and claims if the settlement is approved.

If you want to find out more about the case, the settlement or ask for a registration form, you can:

- Call Shine Lawyers on **1800 860 378**
- Email Shine Lawyers at **ntstolenwages@shine.com.au**
- Go to **shine.com.au/stolenwagesnt**
- Come to an information meeting at a town near you. You can call Shine Lawyers or visit the website to see the schedule of meetings.



1800 860 378 shine.com.au/stolenwagesnt

 **SHINE LAWYERS**

Solar cool room keeps food fresh for longer

THE URLAMPE homeland has invested in a solar powered cool room to keep its food fresh.

The cool room allows the family to store fresh food for longer, especially when rains cut it off from Alice Springs, six hours northwest of the outstation, sometimes for months at a time.

“This cool room makes everything better for the community,” resident Joshua Rankine said.

“We can store things better now, and it lasts longer. It’s brilliant. I’m even thinking of moving my swag in there!”

“Pumpkin, potatoes, onion – now with the cool room it’s given them an extra two to three weeks.”

High grocery costs and difficult road conditions, two of the biggest challenges of remote living, made food storage a priority for the family.

“You know, you do a big shop, and most of your food is going off,” Mr Rankine told the ABC.

The room brings the family closer to its goal of living on their homeland year-round.

Shared between five households on the homelands, the three by four metre cool room and battery storage means they can have fresh food all year round.

“Pumpkin, potatoes, onion – now with the cool room it’s given them an

extra two to three weeks.

“The longer they last, the longer we can stay out there, not in town all the time.”

In 2022 the traditional owners of Urlampe allocated \$122,000 of their exploration compensation income to buy and install the cool room.

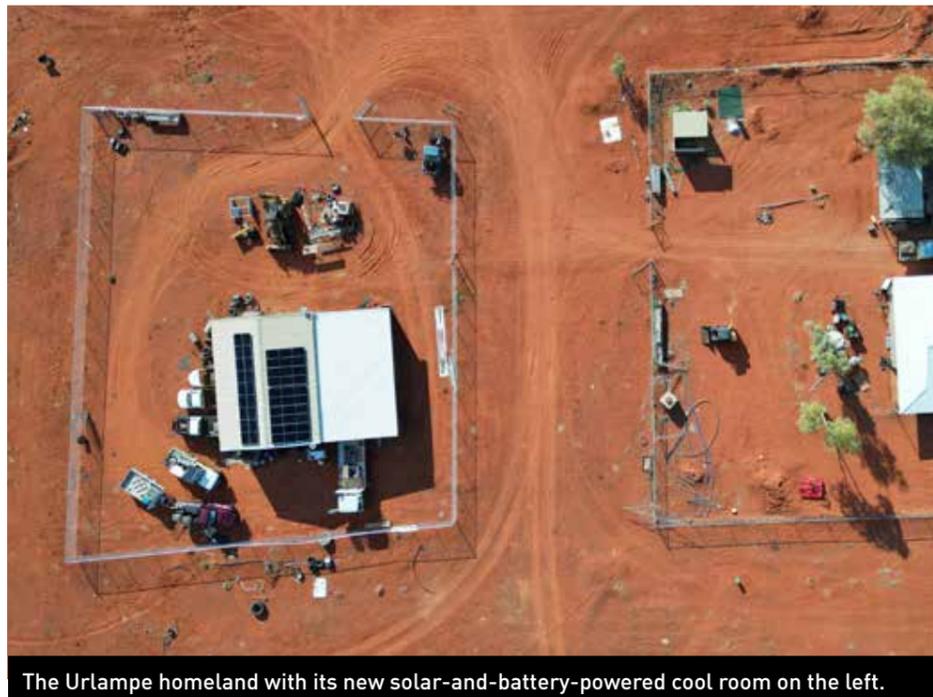
They also sourced a \$136,000 grant from the Aboriginals Benefit Account’s economic stimulus funding to connect the cool room to solar power.

The Australian government gave the CLC the ABA funds in 2021 to boost Aboriginal jobs and businesses after the COVID pandemic.

Despite delays due to bad weather and road conditions, Photon Solar completed the power connection to the cool room last August.



Joshua Rankine



The Urlampe homeland with its new solar-and-battery-powered cool room on the left.



Joshua Rankine’s parents Allan and Shirley Rankine in the cool room.

New-look church in Mount Liebig “nice place to worship”

MOUNT LIEBIG’S church has become much more comfortable inside and out following some big renovations.

Insulation and air conditioning made the space feel light, cool and airy, while new toilets and concrete footpaths add to the church’s appeal on the outside.

“It was difficult for us before, not having toilets here. We’d have to wait until after the service and go back home. Now it’s easier for us,” Mount Liebig community development working group member Audrey Turner said.

Rosalind Dixon, a member of the church congregation, agreed.

“Having the renovations will make the Sunday services better because people have better facilities. People who are visiting for sorry business can also use it,” she said.

The working group also funded loudspeakers, new chairs and a bubbler for the church.

In July, the community launched the upgrades with a barbecue and balloons in St Kilda footy colours.

“The community has come out, families and kids, to enjoy the barbecue and celebrate the opening,” Geoffrey Wheeler, another working group member, said. “We’re happy for these renovations.”

“My family comes to church every Sunday and every night we sing gospel. We wanted the church to be more comfortable. This change is good.”

The working group decided to put

\$366,000 of the community’s matched funds and lease income towards the renovations in March 2022.

Centre Build finished the work 15 months later, leaving working group members feeling proud of their achievement.

“Now, when people visit from other communities, they have a nice place to come and worship,” said Ms Turner.

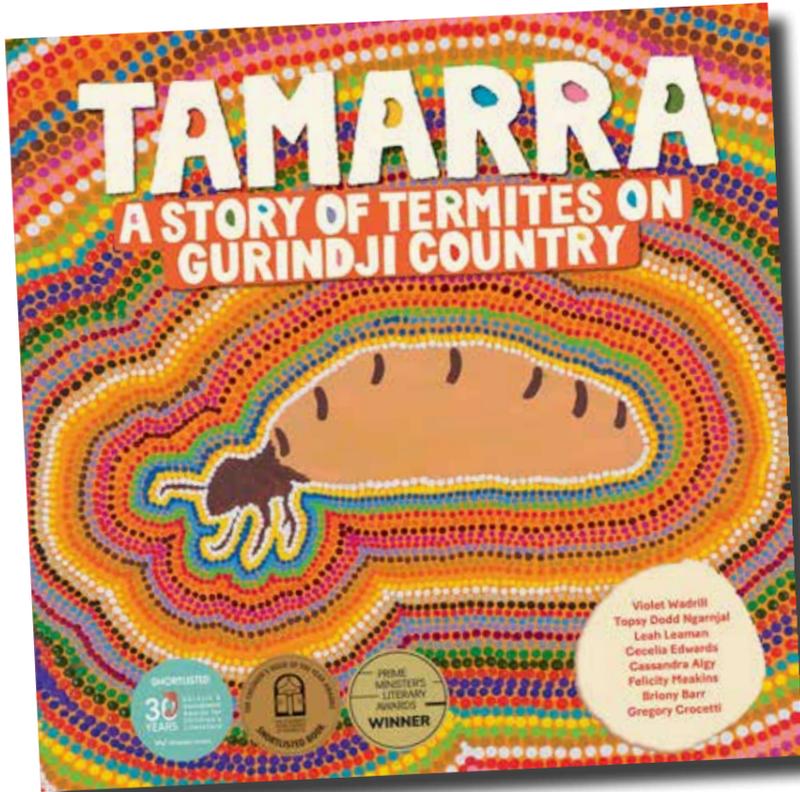
“We wanted the church to be more comfortable. This change is good.”



Tristan Robertson, Roderick Kantamarra, Jeffrey Wheeler, Marcus Wheeler, Neil Peterson, Carol Peterson and Audrey Turner from the community development working group.



Kalkaringi collective shares award for termite book



A TRILINGUAL kid's book about Gurindji termites has won the Prime Minister's Literary Award.

Tamarra: A Story of Termites on Gurindji Country brings local knowledge to life through stories and art, in Gurindji, Kriol and English.

The book teaches kids how termites eat spinifex and how grandmothers use a paste made from their mounds to strengthen babies' bodies and spirits.

They cook pieces from the termite mound on the fire, crush and mix them with juice made from gum leaves to make a warm paste and cover the baby's skin with it overnight.

The book's colourful illustrations show how termites, plants, babies, and grandmothers are all connected.

Leah Leaman, one of the directors of the art centre and a Central Land Council member, said the project wasn't just about writing a book — it was about bringing people together.

"It was collaborative work. It involved everybody, it was a community thing. We turned it into a school project, part of the curriculum actually, part of the science project," she said.

The book is also about passing local knowledge to the next generation.

A team of writers, artists, linguists and academics worked on the book for two years.

Ms Leaman, Cecilia Edwards and Karungkarni Art Centre manager Penny Smith travelled to Canberra last September to collect the \$80,000 prize.

"We were surprised when we won the Prime Minister's Literary Award," Ms Leaman said.

"Everybody was so proud. It was humbling for us. We've done this, as a people, as a community—take our knowledge and show it to the world."

She said *Tamarra* is a story about connection: to termites, to country, and to each other.

"Connecting to country, that's what keeps you grounded. That's what keeps you focused in your life."

Much of the project's success is due to the grandmothers. Ms Leaman calls them "our encyclopaedias".

"Our old people are the ones that hold that knowledge and I am so grateful for our elders that have helped us with this book because it wouldn't be possible without [them]."

"When you have an older person there, that has lived their life, that has the knowledge, it helps you

"Everybody was so proud. It was humbling for us. We've done this, as a people, as a community — take our knowledge and show it to the world."

"We wanted very much to revive, bring the knowledge back to our youth, because a lot of the old knowledge is gone," said Ms Leaman.

"I loved seeing the smile on the children's faces, the ladies, the old people. I loved how it brought everybody together. How everybody felt it was a part of them. It wasn't the project of a singular person. That book is a community, cultural, a family thing."

Whatever you want to achieve, they help you get there without too many hurdles. They light up the way."

With *Tamarra* Kalkaringi has created something special that kids and families everywhere can enjoy and learn from.



Leah Leaman said the project wasn't just about writing a book — it was about bringing people together.

Our new, easy-to-understand booklets that explain native title rights and opportunities.

'How to Claim Native Title' is about the claims process. 'Native Title and Mining' is about agreements with mining companies.

Find them at www.clc.org.au/native-title





Wangka Walytja exhibition about Papunya's bilingual program to travel

AN EXHIBITION celebrating the work of Papunya story tellers, illustrators, literacy workers and teachers is set to travel nationally.

The Wangka Walytja exhibition shows the remarkable collection of books, community newspapers and photographs at the community's literature production centre, along with a documentary film and animations.

Wangka Walytja can mean different things in Pintupi-Luritja—our family, our stories, our language and culture.

The community exhibition wrapped up at Papunya Tjupi Arts last November.

It is now showing at Libraries and Archives Northern Territory in Darwin and will travel to Alice Springs later this year, before heading to the National Library of Australia in Canberra in 2026.

Retired literacy worker and teacher Karen MacDonald helped to put the show together.

She said she was “proud of the exhibition and the important work that we did in the bilingual program at Papunya school”.

With its offset printer and darkroom, the school's 'lit centre' published 350 books in Pintupi and Luritja from the late 1970's to the early 2000s.

Bilingual education in the NT thrived in the 1980s and 1990s in more than 25 schools, but government funding cuts and staffing struggles saw many high quality local programs, such as Papunya's, close.

Its books and materials were packed away in boxes in the old darkroom.



Kulata Dennis Nelson standing with his work *Kukuawiyi, Miyiyiya*. Photo Jonas Disbray



The exhibition breathes new life into the collection.

In a documentary film about the centre, story tellers and former literacy workers Charlotte Phillipus Napurrula and Priscilla Brown Napurrula recall making books from recordings of the old people who came into the school to

teach the children traditional culture and history.

“We did some significant work there. At the literature production centre I wrote down the stories from the people who drew the stories,” Ms Brown told the ABC.

“I write it down in my language Pintupi and Luritja. Sometimes I would write it in Luritja and translate it into English.”

Eighty original illustrations from the books by Thomas Stevens Japangarti, Abraham Stockman Tjungarrayi, Kulata Dennis Nelson Tjakamarra and Douglas Multa were also on show in the exhibition.

“We learnt a lot from the old people, about the artists doing the dot painting back then,” Mr Multa said. “And we thought, oh, we'll do them a bit different than that one, draw the pictures. That's how we came to put the books out”.

Mr Nelson, the son of the famous artist Johnny Warangula Tjupurrula, began to illustrate when he was still at school.

He devoted his life to the literacy program, documenting his family's first contact with white Australians in his comic book style.

“I was making the pictures about our stories from a long time ago from when our people were living in the bush,” he said.

“[Our people] didn't know what a plane was, or the sound it made.”

In the lead up to the exhibition, Papunya children took part in digital workshops, colouring images from the books and learning about animation. Their work is incorporated into the animations on show.

Ms Phillipus, Ms MacDonald, Ms Brown, Roslyn Dixon, Priscilla Brown, Kulata Dennis Nelson, Vivien Johnson and Samantha Disbray from the University of Queensland developed the exhibition to share the bilingual collection, its history and its stories with the community and beyond.

The film and animations are available at <https://languages-cultures.uq.edu.au/project/Wangka-Walytja>



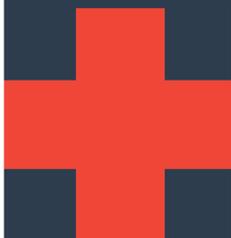
Co-curator Roslyn Dixon preparing works to hang in the exhibition. Photo Samantha Disbray



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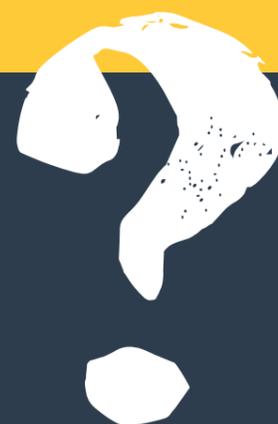
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Jupurrurla Long never stopped fighting for Yurrkuru

TEDDY PWERRERL LONG was an Anmatyerr man, known to many by his Warlpiri skin name Jupurrurla. He was born on his traditional country near Rrkwer (Yurrkuru) and Arrwek (Yarruku), on which Mount Denison and Coniston stations were established. Jupurrurla's father was Yaningi Jack Jakamarra, also from Rrkwer, and his mother was Lucy Napaljarri from Ngarnka, Mount Leichhardt.

Jupurrurla grew up in his traditional country around Coniston, Mount Barkly and Mount Denison, where he became a man. Reflecting on that time, he said that it was through a long period of learning "men's side", when he lived in the bush with "old people", that he gained deep knowledge of Jukurpa and law.

As a young man Jupurrurla worked as a stockman for Brian Bowman on Coniston Station. He also drove cattle for Bowman, travelling along the stock routes to Wave Hill, Elliott and Urandangi. After Coniston, Jupurrurla moved to Wirliyarrayi (Willowra), where he married and did station work. He was branding, mustering cattle, fencing, and fixing bores and stockyards. Throughout this period Jupurrurla played an active role in ceremonial life at Wirliyarrayi, eventually to become a ceremonial leader.

During 1992 Jupurrurla was president of the Willowra Council, and, over time, he took an increasingly prominent role in the land rights struggle. He was a member of the Central Land Council for 23 years, serving as member from 1997 to 2003 and from 2006 to 2023, and from 2012-2018 as executive committee member for the Tanami region.

Along with other traditional owners, in 1983 Jupurrurla gave evidence during the Mount Barkly land claim hearing. In 1985 title

to the land was granted to the Pawu Aboriginal Land Trust.

In 1991 Jupurrurla, along with other traditional owners, gave evidence before the Aboriginal Land Commissioner, Justice Olney, for the Yurrkuru (Brookes Soak) land claim. The land claim was to an approximately two square kilometre area of unalienated crown land encompassed by Mount Denison Station. The land had been set aside for a police station following the killing of Fred Brookes in 1928, an event that led to a series of reprisal killings that became known as the Coniston Massacre. Although the evidence of traditional owners was strong, and the land commissioner recommended the grant of the area to a land trust, bitter opposition from the pastoralists meant that no steps were taken to grant the land.

However, Jupurrurla never gave up the fight. In a long and arduous battle, he worked with the senior CLC lawyer at the time, David Avery, on a submission to the Aboriginal Affairs Minister to request the grant of the land to an Aboriginal land trust. Finally, after 22 years, during a ceremony at Yurrkuru on 8 September 2014, then minister Nigel Scullion handed the title to Jupurrurla as a member of the Yurrkuru Aboriginal Land Trust.

During the handback ceremony Jupurrurla said, "I am happy to have my grandfather's and father's country, even though it took a long time. It's important for ceremony and culture."

Jupurrurla believed that people should know their history and supported activities where Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people could learn about the Coniston Massacre. He hoped that interpretative materials could be displayed at Yurrkuru to tell the story of the massacre.

In 2017 Jupurrurla and the Wirliyarrayi community wrote to the CLC, asking the council to lobby the Northern Territory Government to create an annual Coniston Massacre remembrance day. Jupurrurla saw the day as building on the 75th anniversary of the massacre in 2003, when a memorial was unveiled near Yurrkuru to commemorate the many Anmatyerr, Warlpiri and Kaytetye people who lost their lives in the massacre. Coniston was the last massacre of Indigenous people in Australia, and it was Jupurrurla's hope that the anniversary would be declared a day of remembrance for all Indigenous people killed in massacres throughout Australia.

Jupurrurla's female relatives led the women's yawalyu (ceremony) group.

Jupurrurla felt that placing Yurrkuru on the heritage register would commemorate its historical significance. On 14th February 2024, the then Deputy Chief Minister Chansey Paech, wrote to Jupurrurla, informing him that the site had been permanently declared a heritage place.

In recent years Jupurrurla, along with other elders, has played a key role in the Wirliyarrayi cultural mapping project. The project was funded by Wirliyarrayi's Granites Mine Affected Area Corporation committee and supported by the CLC. Describing the project, he said:

"We are worrying about younger generations learning about country. With this project we can keep the knowledge strong, pass it on to generations. Young people can know their country. Old people with knowledge and young people coming together in the learning centre and going on bush trips. We've been

"I am happy to have my grandfather's and father's country, even though it took a long time. It's important for ceremony and culture."

During the Coniston Massacre commemoration on 24th August 2018, Jupurrurla acted as master of ceremonies, singing and directing male dancers, who performed ceremonies to celebrate Dreamings and ancestral connections to places where people were shot during the massacre.

going out with kirda and kurdungurlu putting all the soakage names, proper story and Jukurpa."

As an elder Jupurrurla took seriously his responsibility to share his knowledge and teach families about their traditional country.

By Petronella Vaarzon-Morel





Remembering the CLC's first female delegate

RAELENE SILVERTON was a strong leader and a knowledgeable traditional owner with a passion for her country and West Waterhouse homeland.

Mrs Silverton was a woman of many 'firsts'.

From the day in 1986 when she became the first woman elected to the Central Land Council there was hardly a council meeting where her voice wasn't heard loud and clear.

Five years later the delegates of the CLC's Alice Springs region voted for her to represent them on the council's executive committee in 1991 – the first female CLC executive member.

Encouraged to join the CLC by its former chair Wenten Rubuntja, her brother-in-law, Mrs Silverton became one of the council's longest-serving delegates.

During a governance training day in 2019 she lined up along with the other members in the order of the years they joined the council.

"I was the first lady and I'm still standing strong because I've got to protect my grandmother's story," she told them. This opened the doors for other women to stand up and have their say at meetings.

Mrs Silverton advocated strongly for land rights, education and alcohol policy, and always put her family first.

Their West Waterhouse homeland, between Alice Springs and Ntaria (Hermannsburg), was particularly close to her heart.

As a child she had explored the surrounding area on horseback with her parents, stockman Arthur Abbott and cook Katie Abbott, who were droving cattle for the Finke River Mission.

She learned the Arrarnta place names, stories and cultural protocols for the country as they passed through and cared for the family's sites.

During the outstation movement she took her children Sally, Jackie, Jane, Graham, Lynn and David to visit the Urana region while the children continued their schooling. By 1980 she and her husband Johnny moved to West Waterhouse permanently.

"Working towards independence for West Waterhouse outstation" and

"getting young people involved" were at the centre of her vision.

"I am following in the footsteps of my uncle Luther Ubutja," she said. "To be strong and looking after country."

Mrs Silverton established a business that offered cultural activities at her homeland to tourists, Muruntji Tours, and helped to set up the Ntaria-based outstation resource centre Tjuwanpa.

With her grandmother Numita she also explored her mother's country around Ikuntji, Papunya and the wider Western Desert region.

Living in town was never part of her plan.

"This land means everything to us," she once explained.

"Land is our home, whether we sleep under the stars, in a humpy, tin shed or a house. It is part of our language and culture. We don't want to be rounded up into suburbs, towns."

Her cousin sister Rosie Rice-Furber and Mrs Silverton helped register many sacred sites, particularly women's sites, in the CLC region. She took part in the protests and meetings against a dam near the Mparntwe Telegraph Station that would have flooded Junction Waterhole and destroyed sites of the Kungka Kutjara (two women) songline.

She represented the CLC on the board of the Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority and the former Aboriginals Benefit Account advisory committee and was a board member of the Central Australian Aboriginal Legal Aid Service.

In 1988 she joined the CLC protest caravan to Sydney to march against the bi-centennial celebrations. Since then she lent a strong voice to many CLC submissions.

Mrs Silverton was part of a delegation of women who took part in an international women's conference in China.

Her school days in Ntaria marked the beginning of a life-long passion for education. One of her first jobs after school was to cook and care for the community's school children at the Eating House.



Raelene Silverton, 4 June 1944 – 20 July 2024

With other residents she rallied for better education options for Ntaria and surrounding outstations and persuaded the education department to take on the community school. This meant fulltime teachers and normal school hours.

Later she fought against the closure of Yirara College, helped to convince the Finke River Mission to take on the school and joined the secondary college's governing council.

Mrs Silverton's family remembers her as a passionate softball player who once formed her own team with players from Ntaria to compete at the Yuendumu Sports Weekend and played in the Masters Games. She also performed with the Ntaria choir. Her love of hymns goes back to evening sing-alongs with her family, with the ingkata (pastor) enjoying the harmonies under the date palms at the Finke River bank in the evenings.

"This land means everything to us. Land is our home, whether we sleep under the stars, in a humpy, tin shed, or a house. It is part of our language and culture. It is our heritage. We don't want to be rounded up into suburbs, towns."

She also protested against the Howard government's Intervention in 2007. Five years later, when it had morphed into Labor's Stronger Futures policy, she urged former Aboriginal Affairs minister Jenny Macklin to stop the policy "once and for all". "Why drag us backwards when we are trying to go forward?" she asked.

She helped to raise the daughters of her surviving sister Marie, Jeanette and Norella. Mrs Silverton is deeply missed by her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, her extended family and friends.

She will always be remembered as speaking up strongly for her country and as a great advocate for Aboriginal people in Central Australia.





From Hamilton Downs to the Sandover, Eddie Foster's journey comes full circle in Mparntwe

EDDIE FOSTER was born in 1964 in Mparntwe (Alice Springs) and began his life journey at the Gap Cottages, one of Barbara Pepperill and Richard (Dick) Foster's six children.

When his dad joined the railways the family moved to the railway cottages, not far from the Nyewente (Trucking Yards) town camp. His childhood unfolded between the cottages, Truckies and Hamilton Downs Station. He went to Traeger Park Primary School and Alice Springs High School.

Football was a big part of his life. He was selected in the Northern Territory school boys representative side, no mean feat for a player from Alice Springs. Mr Foster, his brothers and nephews later played with the Truckies footy team, and even travelled to the Barunga sports weekend. After he finished his playing days with the Pioneer Football Club reserves he barracked for his son and nephews playing for Pioneers, Trucking Yards and the Titjikala Hawks.

Mr Foster grew up surrounded by a large and loving extended family, dearly loved by his brothers Robert (dec), Woe, Joe (dec) and sisters Ninnie and Marisa.

During the school holidays, his Grandpa Edgar McCormack would pick up all the town kids in his big grey truck to take them back to Hamilton Downs Station – always the best part of holidays.

Mr Foster and his brothers helped their grandfather with stock, fencing and bore work. They loved working alongside Nanna Maureen and many cherished aunties, uncles and other family members who had the time and patience to teach them bush skills, knowledge of country and how to cook and hunt.

School holidays on Hamilton Downs were not only fun, but turned out to be the best work experience. Mr Foster and his brothers got their first jobs as station hands there. They also helped the station manager at neighbouring Milton Park, and after a few years working on the stations they returned to Alice.

Mr Foster signed up with the Tangentyere Council. Between 1980 and 1991 he qualified as a carpenter and worked with Tangentyere Constructions on town camp houses and surrounding outstations.

Family always came first for him. His first child, Lana, was born in 1986. With his wife Janet Ungwanagka they also had Teresa, Calandra, Edward Jnr and Christine. Not long after Teresa was born, the couple moved to Titjikala, where he also became a father figure to Elaine, Josephine and Dora. They spent many wonderful years at Titjikala, enjoying camping trips, the Finke Race and school holidays with all the family.

Mr Foster trained many young men in carpentry and housing construction while he worked for

Titjikala's community development employment program. He returned to carpentry work at Tangentyere when his children were older. Living back at Trucking Yards, he was able to cheer on his daughters, sisters and nieces playing softball for the Truckies team.

Mr Foster's meeting preparation and feedback to his colleagues contributed to a culturally safe environment. Not one for elaborate comments, his advice was always appreciated. "Eddie's guidance out bush for those meetings was gold," is how one of his co-workers summed it up.

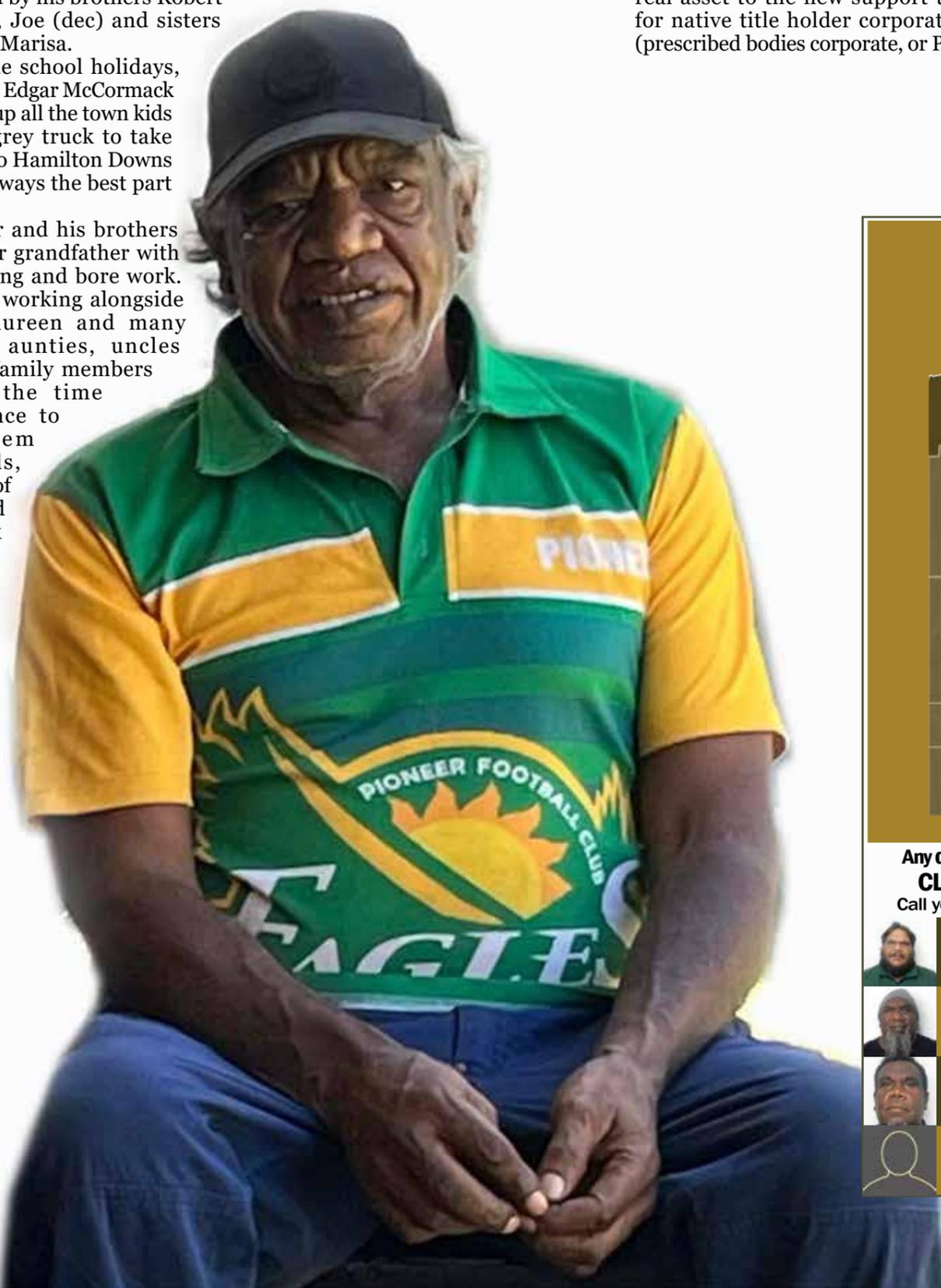
"Eddie's guidance out bush was gold."

Mr Foster was a warm and caring family man who loved his children, siblings, cousins and his extended Trucking Yards family. He will be remembered as someone who was always there to help family and cheer people up. You could count on him for a good laugh at any family gathering.

In 2017 he joined the Central Land Council's native title program. His wealth of personal relationships and cultural connections across Central Australia, knowledge of back roads and shortcuts and sheer love of bush work were a real asset to the new support team for native title holder corporations (prescribed bodies corporate, or PBC).

In 2021, he briefly worked as an assistant project officer with the CLC's Tennant Creek regional office, returning later that year to the native title unit as a PBC project officer. A year later, he became regional services officer for the CLC's Eastern Sandover region. His rapport with people, sense of humour and dependability made him popular with colleagues and constituents alike. They valued his willingness to support them, always sharing his knowledge and language skills.

Mr Foster passed away last June. He is sadly missed by his colleagues, friends and family, especially his wife Janet and his children.



Any questions about CLC business?
Call your region's office

	1. ALICE SPRINGS Shawn Foster 8951 6264
	2. SOUTH WEST Shane Stirling 8951 0577
	6. TENNANT CREEK Darryl "Tiger" Fitz 8951 0541
	3. NORTH WEST Daniel Palmer 8951 0627
	7. EASTERN SANDOVER Cyril Kunoth 8951 0606
	4. TANAMI Amos Egan 8951 0581
	8. EASTERN PLENTY Richard Dodd 8951 0622
	5. WEST Tristan Lechleitner 8951 0591
	9. CENTRAL Nathan Pepperill 8951 6339



Pelita Wakuri, Kerry Stockman and Punata Stockman celebrated the opening of the Walungurru Ranger hub.



Young dancers at the opening of the ranger hub in Walungurru (Kintore).



Enid Gallagher and Samantha Murray at the Indigenous Desert Alliance conference at Yulara.



The CLC stall at the Bush Careers jobs expo in Ntaria (Hermannsburg).



Josephine Young is part of the traditional owner committee that advises the Walungurru Rangers.



Shane Stirling, Joyce Taylor, Bishal Gyawali and Richard Hayes at the October 2024 council meeting at Ross River.



CLC 50 year anniversary celebration with Selina Kulitja from Kaltukatjara, Alison Carroll from Pukatja, and Altair Alim and Nyinku Jingo from Mutitjulu.



Danisha Gallagher and Maylyn Andy with a young dancer at the ranger hub opening.



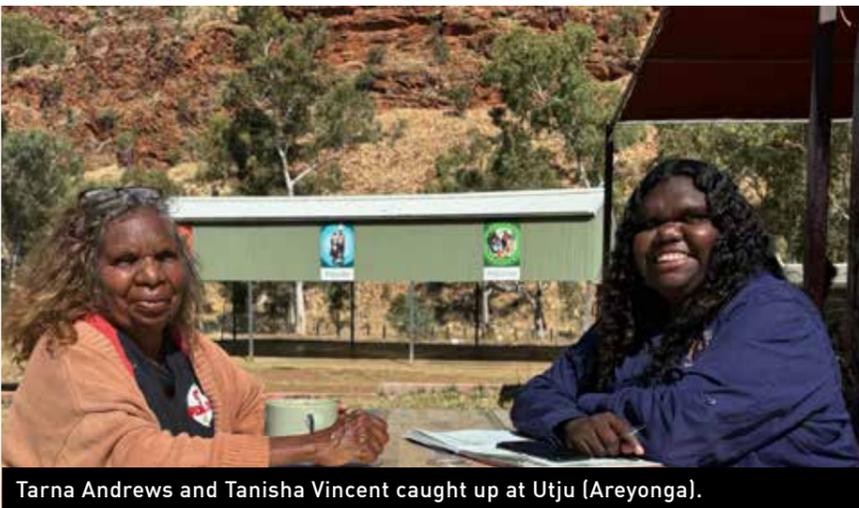
Jessica Bulger and Les Turner with Indigenous Governance Award judges Val Price-Beck and Belinda Duarte.



Kenny Ricky and Laura Ebeyer kept everyone fed.



Riley Major and Bundie Rowein at the ranger hub opening at Walungurru (Kintore).



Tarna Andrews and Tanisha Vincent caught up at Utju (Areyonga).



The Granites Mine Affected Area Aboriginal Corporation table at the Indigenous Governance Awards.



Jeffrey Curtis, Faron Peckham and Michael Nappa at the Indigenous Desert Alliance conference.



Dana Bohning wants you to check in on your friends and colleagues.

EVERY HILL GOT A STORY
is now back in print

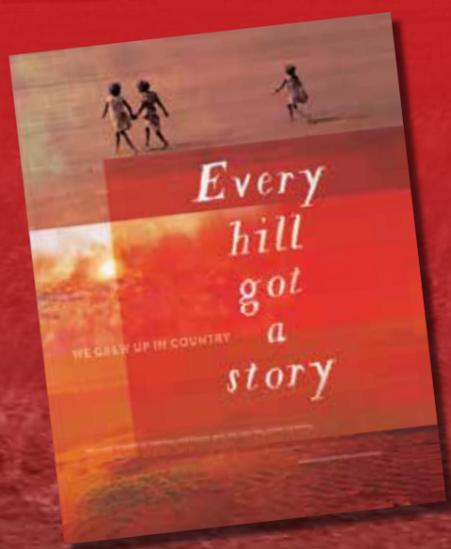
Take the words back to government



Tess Napaljarri Ross, from Yuendumu, at the Central Land Council's 50 year anniversary celebration.

Land Council, it is important for us to keep them going, keep them helping us. Because they are the ones who can repeat our words, take the words back to government, and they can bring their words back to us, repeat them. And we all have one voice. I think Land Council, they are working really hard with us, and they are getting permission from us. They're the ones that we want to talk to, they take back the information, what we really want them to take back, for us. We've got people who come out here and talk to us, face to face, and we let

them share our language. If there was no Land Council, maybe there would be a big war. But we are lucky to have these land councils working throughout Australia, not [only] in this Warlpiri country, but throughout WA and south, north and west. It's good to have one voice together, Yapa [Aboriginal people] and Land Council working together in one team, and sharing what's in the country now, today.



TESS NAPALJARRI ROSS

Excerpt from *Every hill got a story*

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

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