

Council NEWS



CLC Executive members chair the special meeting at Tennant Creek: (l-r) Geoffrey Barnes, Jasper Haines, Ngarla Kunoth Monks, Neville Petrick, Sammy Butcher, Philip Wilyuka, Francis Kelly, Vincent Forrester, Teddy Long and Michael Jones.

September 2014

Working together, hand in hand



CLC chair Francis Kelly (left) and deputy chair Sammy Butcher celebrate together following the Council elections.

New CLC chair and deputy chair

The Central Land Council's deputy chair of over a year, Mr Francis Kelly, was elected the new CLC chair at a special Council meeting in Tennant Creek on 17 September. The delegates voted for Mr Sammy Butcher as the new deputy chair.

Mr Kelly, a film maker from Yuendumu who has been a CLC delegate for the past 12 years, said his election clears the way for the CLC to once again focus on the needs and aspirations of Aboriginal people in Central Australia.

“Members have got to work hand in hand with staff to keep this land council strong into the future”, he said.

“Together, we must fight for our children to get a good bilingual and bicultural education, whether they live in outstations, communities or town. They deserve no less.”

“I want us to support outstation people to set up and run their own businesses and to lobby governments to put Aboriginal people in charge of services through their own independent outstation resource centres”, said Mr Kelly, who is well known for his film Coniston and the Bush Mechanics television series.

Mr Kelly will also represent the CLC on the Aboriginals Benefit Account (ABA) Advisory Board.

New deputy chair Sammy Butcher, former Warumpi Band member from Papunya, called the election a new beginning for the CLC and him personally.

“We can overcome our difficulties by all working together.”

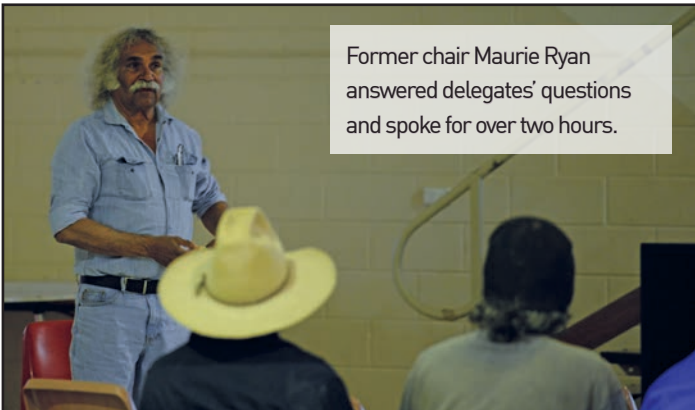
“Francis and I are both artists and role models and we'll support each other for the betterment of our people.” The 67 delegates present at the CLC's special Council meeting in Tennant Creek voted in an election conducted by the Australian Electoral Commission and observed by the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet.



ABOVE: Sandra Morrison has her say at the special Council meeting.



RIGHT: Veronica Lynch speaks at the Tennant Creek Civic Centre.



Former chair Maurie Ryan answered delegates' questions and spoke for over two hours.

Imparja board

Council chose Lhere Artepe delegate Michael Liddle to represent the CLC on the Imparja board until the end of the Council term.



Regional delegate meetings kicked off

The first regional meeting of CLC delegates was the region 5 meeting at Papunya on the 1st of September. CLC director David Ross, region 5 coordinator Robbie Kopp and policy staff, Jayne Weepers and Peter Donohoe, met with the region 5 delegates.

The delegates heard a report about CLC work in the region and were briefed on the work of Centrecorp. There was feedback from the July Council meeting in Tennant Creek and a lot of discussion about regional issues.

Regional meetings, a request from the July Council meeting, will also be held in the following communities:

- Yuendumu, 8 October (region 4)
- Alice Springs, 10 October (region 1)
- Tennant Creek, 16 October (region 6)
- Kalkaringi, 21 October (region 3)

More regional delegate meetings are planned after the next Council meeting.

New Council member for Dargaragu

Mr Michael George has replaced Mr Maurie Ryan as the new CLC delegate for Dagaragu and outstations.

Mr George was elected at a well attended community meeting at the Kalkarindji store on 9 September. He attended the special CLC

Council meeting in Tennant Creek and spoke to the delegates about the meeting at Kalkarindji.

He explained that the community wanted the leadership matter to come to an end so that the CLC could get on with its work.

The CLC Executive had asked that

Dagaragu community be informed of the reasons for suspending Mr Maurie Ryan as a delegate.

Executive member Geoffrey Barnes was at the community meeting in Kalkarindji on the 26th August that decided to hold an election for a new delegate.

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING:

Alpurrurulam/Lake Nash, 4-6 November 2014

NEXT EXECUTIVE MEETING:

Alice Springs, 13 October 2014