

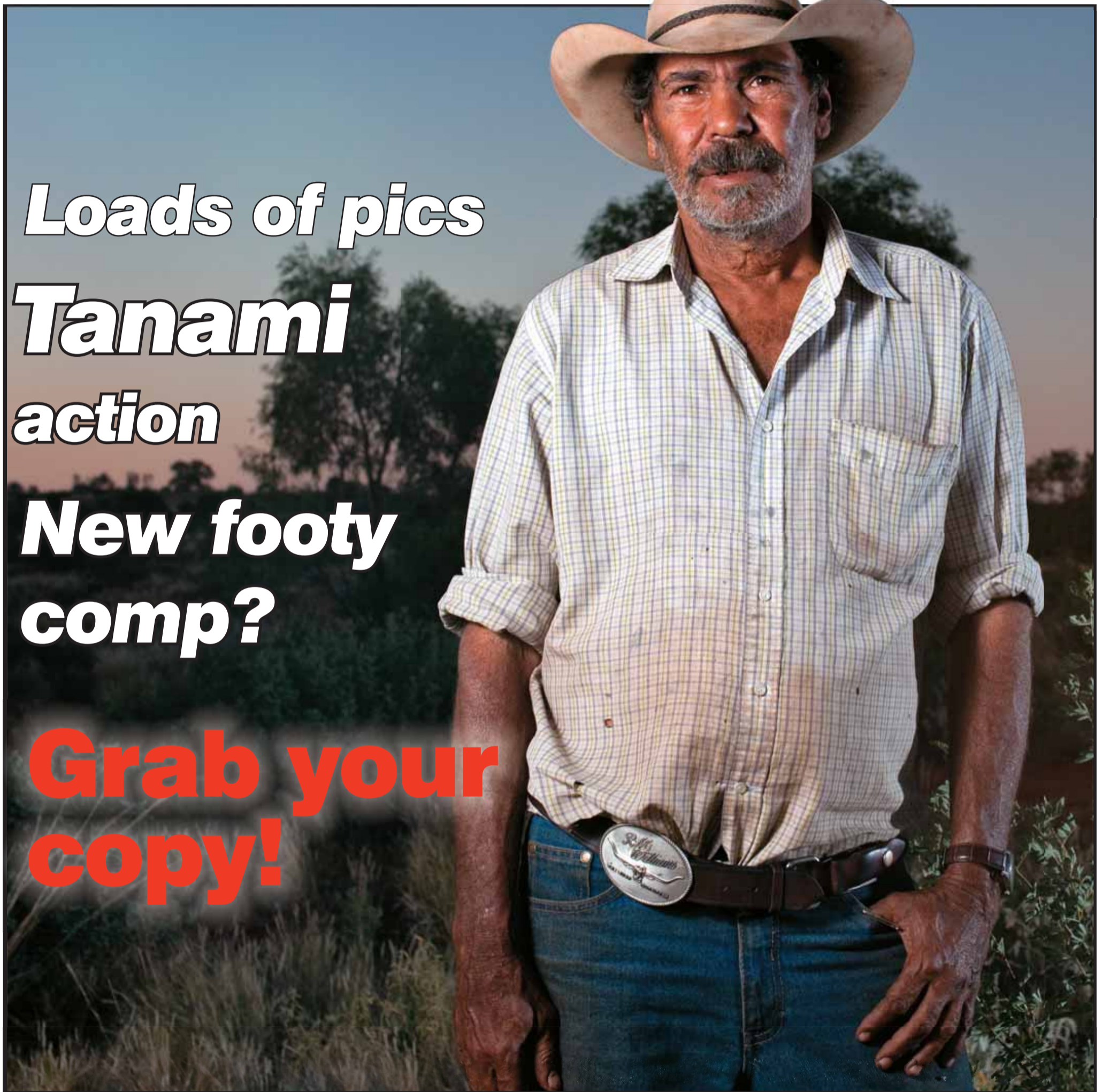
FREE

# LAND RIGHTS NEWS

August 2012

VOLUME 2. NUMBER 2.

## CENTRAL AUSTRALIA



*Loads of pics*

**Tanami  
action**

**New footy  
comp?**

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copy!**



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**CLC election p.3**



**Tanami IPA p.5**

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**EDITORIAL**

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**READER'S CONTRIBUTION**



Above: Suzanne Bryce sent in this picture of Kelly Petermann enjoying the first issue of LRNCA, which featured him in a story about the Petermanns

**READER'S CONTRIBUTIONS**



Dear Land Rights News: Hello I'm Julie and I'm sending in some photos. We all read the paper when we were waiting for the dinner to cook.

Left: Julie with family members cooking dinner. See baby Cornelius on our Babies page on p24

Below: Against troopie: Contributor Julie Brumby with Lydia; looking at paper, faces hidden l-r: Linley Watson, Trudy Brumby and Angelina Calma; extreme right: Winsome Newberry,



**We love your contributions ... here's a few tips!**

Try not to spend too much time making your story too fancy because we always need to chop it up and lay it out on our pages anyway...

Please send your photos separately.

Once they are sent as part of a Word file or PDF it makes it very hard to get good quality pictures so try and send them in emails as an attached image file.

JPEG or TIFF are usually the best.

If you have any problems or questions call us on

**(08) 8951 6211** and ask for **Media**.

**COVER PICTURE**

Keith Butler on a recent camel muster near Mt Leibig. Photo: Rhett Hammerton

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**BRIEFLY**

**2013 CONFERENCE FOR ALICE**

Alice Springs will host the 2013 National Native Title Conference, run by AIATSIS.

CLC Deputy Chairman Michael Liddle accepted the invitation to host the conference on behalf of CLC and the Lhere Artepe Aboriginal Corporation while he was at this year's National Native Title conference in Townsville in June.

**KIWRURRA HOSTS WOMEN'S MEETING**

Kiwirrkurra, just west of the WA border, hosted a five-day women's law and culture meeting that attracted more than 220 women from 28 communities.

The meeting was partially funded by the Australian Government and organised by former NPY Women's Council CEO Maggie Kavanagh.

**SINGING PRAISE**

Western Arrernte country music singer songwriter Warren H Williams has won the Australia Council's Red Ochre Award for his outstanding contribution to the music industry.

Warren plans to use his \$50,000 prize money to record an album in U.S. A. country music capital Nashville.

Williams has also featured recently on Winanjarra, a collaborative traditional language album recorded with song men from Tennant Creek.

Previous winners of the award are Jimmy Chi, Bob Maza and Jimmy Little.

# New Chairman for the CLC

**PITJANJATJARA/** Yankunytjatjara man Phillip Wilyuka finally fulfilled his ambition to become the Chairman of the Central Land Council when council members elected him to the position at a meeting in Tennant Creek on 23 May.

"Since I've been a delegate for Titjikala, I've been trying to get to where I am now because I knew about the Land Council since I was about 17 years old," he told the meeting after his election.

"On a black and white TV I've seen you mob go down to Canberra fighting for land rights.

"For this reason I wanted to be in this position because I've been to Darwin to get an education and I've lived in the bush and heard a lot of stories from my old man and he give me the time to go to school and learn."

Mr Wilyuka, 55, lives in Titjikala. He has worked in a number of jobs including stock work, building houses and as a teacher's aide. He is currently a Lutheran pastor at Titjikala.

"I do everything I can, with the best of my knowledge, to fight for our rights," he said.

Mr Wilyuka replaces Lindsay Bookie, who tendered his resignation on the first day of the meeting.

The following morning he offered to stay on, but members voted to hold an election for the position.

Fortunately the Australian Electoral Commission was in already in attendance to conduct an election for the post of Deputy Chair, vacated by Gina Smith some months before.

Mr Michael Liddle was elected Deputy Chairman. He is an Alywarre/Arernte man living in Alice Springs.

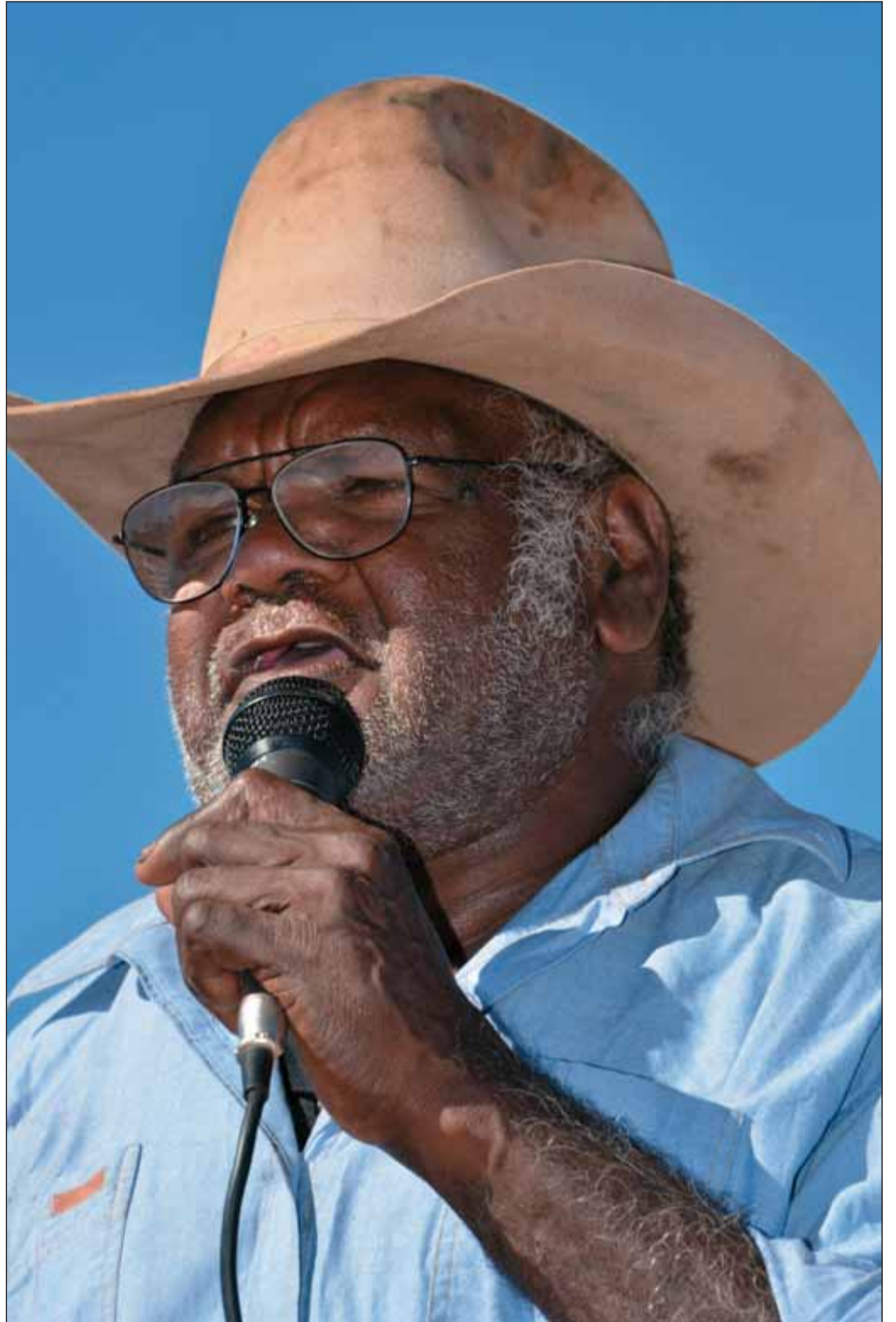
"I look forward to working with Phillip and

**"Since I've been a delegate for Titjikala, I've been trying to get to where I am now" Phillip Wilyuka**

the Executive and Mr Ross and people," he told the members.

"I'm here to keep people honest, and at the end of the day, we're here to help Aboriginal people move forward with what we've got."

A Council member said the outcome was a reminder of the need to maintain the CLC's bipartisan approach.



Above left: Deputy Chair Michael Liddle and Above: CLC Chair Phillip Wilyuka

## At last! Five year leases finished for good

**CONTROVERSIAL**

five-year leases that the Howard Government took out over all major communities in Central Australia will expire on August 18 this year.

The 'leases' were compulsory acquisitions for five years, taken without the consent of traditional owners, and strongly opposed by landowners and the Central Land Council.

They were a central part of the Howard Government's Inter-



Minister Macklin

vention or Northern Territory Emergency Response in 2007.

The ALP Govern-

ment kept the five-year leases in place but promised to pay 'fair' rent.

For the past two years the CLC has been negotiating with the Australian Government over the way this rent is being calculated, and this process is almost finalised.

In the meantime, most five-year lease communities have had one meeting with the CLC to discuss distributing and using the five-year lease money

for the benefit of their community.

The first payment of five-year lease money has been received and the CLC is hopeful that the next and final payment will be distributed around October 2012.

The Minister for Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, Jenny Macklin promised not to extend the five-year leases.



## Winter chill set to end

According to weather internet site Weatherzone it's been an unusually frosty winter for Alice Springs and Central Australia.

The clear and calm weather has apparently allowed it

to get colder and colder – the coldest it's been since 1977.

More than 30 days have been below zero and a few minus five degree mornings have been especially tough on campers and early starters.



# Land handbacks for traditional owners



SIZE didn't matter to the handful of Warlpiri and Anmatyerr traditional owners who travelled several hundred kilometres to a ceremony at Simpsons Gap near Alice Springs.

While other traditional owners were being handed back a national park and two pastoral stations, they were happy to get just 26 hectares of their precious country at Crown Hill.

Indigenous Affairs Minister Jenny Macklin also handed back the West MacDonnell National Park and pastoral properties Alcoota and Loves Creek, to the east of Alice Springs.

The land claims were lodged by the CLC before the 'sunset clause' came into effect in 1997.

CLC Chairman Phillip Wilyuka congratulated traditional owners.

"I know that their land is very special to their hearts and many of them have fought for years to have that ownership acknowledged," Mr Wilyuka said.

The Northern Territory Government handed back the West MacDonnell Na-

tional Park rather than face a drawn out legal battle.

The Tyurretye Aboriginal Land Trust immediately leased the park back to the NT Government to be jointly managed with its mainly

**"I know that their land is very special to their hearts and many of them have fought for years to have that ownership acknowledged."**

**CLC Chair, Phillip Wilyuka**

Central and Western Arnernte traditional owners.

The park's daily operation will not change.

The handback of Alcoota to its traditional owners ended one of the longest land claims.

It is estimated it cost taxpayers more than \$2 million in legal costs when the NT Government unsuccessfully fought the claim.

The land claim hearing was finally completed in 2004 and it was recommended for grant in 2007. The Alkwert Aboriginal Land Trust accepted the Deed of Grant for Alcoota.

Loves Creek, 60 kilometres east of Alice Springs became inalienable Aboriginal freehold land under the Land Rights Act.

Loves Creek Station was

established in 1896 and has been used to run cattle for more than 100 years.

Despite this, its Eastern Arnernte traditional owners have maintained strong cultural links with the country. Some still work on the property.

The claim covers 3760 sq km, and more than 2000 cattle are currently agisted on it by the G&C Pastoral Company.

This arrangement will be formalised with a lease after the handback.

The Arletherre Aboriginal Land Trust accepted the Deed of Grant for Loves Creek and the Irrinjirrinjirri Aboriginal Land Trust accepted the Deed of Grant for Crown Hill.

**Traditional owners celebrate: (top) Alcoota mob with Jenny Macklin, the West MacDonnells are leased back to the NT Government (middle), the Bloomfield and Wilshire families celebrate the return of Loves Creek.**

**More pics page 25**





# Conservation zone biggest in the land

**HUNDREDS** of Warlpiri people turned up at a remote campsite in the Tanami Desert early in July to celebrate the declaration of more than 100,000 square kilometers of their country as an Indigenous Protected Area.

The declaration, at Sangster's Bore, made it the biggest protected area on the Australian mainland.

The Tanami Desert, to the west of Alice Springs, has some of the highest densities of Australia's most threatened wildlife species, including mulgara, bilbies and the great desert skink.

The IPA will be managed and maintained by the Central Land Council's Warlpiri Rangers and traditional owners, with funding from the Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities and the Nature Conservancy group.

The declaration also means the area will be managed to international standards.

It will create precious employment, education and training opportunities, and other social benefits for the three Aboriginal communities of Nyrripi, Yuendumu and Willowra, where most of the traditional owners live.

Traditional owner Lottie Napanangka Williams-Robertson said she felt "really happy" about the declaration.

"It is really important for us," she said.

"It's our land, our life and our law. That's where we get our culture from passed down from generation to generation. We need to be able to look after our country well because that's where our



Warlpiri traditional owners celebrated the declaration of the Southern Tanami Indigenous Protected Area

ancestral spirits people are still living today and we respect that.

"We are really proud of our young people, our rangers, because we can see they are doing a really good job looking after it now.

"When you look after the country it look after you."

Senior Warlpiri Ranger Madeline Napangardi Dixon said it was essential to use both cultural and contemporary methods to protect land.

**"It's our land, our life and our law. That's where we get our culture, passed down from generation to generation. We need to be able to look after our country well because that's where our ancestral spirits people are still living today."**

**LOTTIE NAPANANGKA WILLIAMS-ROBERTSON**

"For me as a ranger, going out bush with other rangers, we just feel really good, just going out," she said.

"Being on country we are trying to look after those endangered animals, get rid of the ferals, look after waterholes and manage bushfires."

Central Land Council Chairman Phillip Wilyuka congratulated the traditional owners, scientists and land management experts for the extensive work that led to the declaration.

"The traditional owners are pleased because they feel that this country

needs looking after both ways now, with difficult challenges like weeds and camels these days," Mr Wilyuka said.

He said that the declaration of the IPA was a valuable investment by the Australian Government and a boost to the Warlpiri communities.

"This is really good for the people who live there, and it gives them hope and support to stay on country when so many other things pulling their young

people away," he said.

"The ranger program is really popular and it's the job that most young Aboriginal people on communities want to do now.

"They all love it. It's real work and they get great training and lots of skills and it makes the old people really happy with them."

The Southern Tanami IPA is the single largest contribution to the proposed Territory Eco-link, a globally significant 2000 kilometre-long conservation corridor that will provide ecosystem resilience in a changing climate.

## More town camps get mail delivered

**THE DAILY** round for posties in Alice Springs is growing, with regular mail deliveries extended to another four town camps.

The first postal deliveries to a town camp were made to Morris Soak last October as part of the Alice Springs Transformation Plan.

Now postal services have been extended to Mount Nancy, Palmer's Camp, Karnte and Little Sisters.

Mt Nancy will receive door-to-door mail delivery, while the others have asked for delivery to clustered letter boxes.

Morris Soak received street names

and letterboxes when postal deliveries began.

The community named the streets after family members and people who had been an important part of their history at Morris Soak. They came up with the street names of Lechleitner, Miller and Glenmon.

## Big money for outstations in NT election promise

**THE NT GOVERNMENT** says it will spend \$300 million on outstations over the next ten years if it is re-elected.

Of that, \$200 million will come from the Australian Government.

The money will be invested in the management and maintenance of existing homeland infrastructure, including houses, roads, and essential services, at homelands across the Territory under

the Territory Government's new Homelands Policy.

Indigenous Development Minister Malarndirri McCarthy said that during 2012 the Government would work with residents and service providers to move to the new arrangements which will commence on 1 July 2013.

"Homelands funding includes \$200 million from the the Australian Government and at least \$100 million more

from the Territory Government," said McCarthy.

"Importantly, homelands will benefit from three-year funding agreements which will give certainty to both residents and service providers."

The minister said homelands dwellings used as a principal place of residence or for a recognised community program would be eligible for funding.



# Who will you vote for in the NT Election?

Land Rights News Central Australia rounds up the parties' policies for voters in the bush seats of Barkly, Namatjira and Stuart

## YOUR CHOICES



Karl Hampton  
Stuart

Gerry  
McCarthy  
Barkly

Des Rogers  
Namatjira

Bess Price  
Stuart

Rebecca  
Healy  
Barkly

Alison  
Anderson  
Namatjira

Warren Williams  
Namatjira

Valda  
Shannon  
Barkly

Maurie Ryan  
Stuart

### POLICY

### AUSTRALIAN LABOR PARTY ALP

What is your position on the Territory Growth Town policy?

Territory Growth Towns are a major plank in the Henderson Government's Working Future policy, which is our steadfast, long-term commitment to improving the lives of Indigenous Territorians.

How will you ensure that all communities in Central Australia receive funding to improve infrastructure and services?

Territory Growth Towns are becoming the economic and service delivery centres for their regions, including people living on outstations and homelands.

The Working Future policy provides the strategic framework to move from decades of neglect to decades of prosperity.

It involves putting in place the fundamentals for the development of our remote towns that have been in the 'too hard basket' for the last 30 years – town plans, lot boundaries, zoning maps, urban design plans, street names, infrastructure plans, secure land tenure – the foundations that other towns in Australia take for granted.

### COUNTRY LIBERAL PARTY CLP

Labor's Growth Town Policy unfairly selected particular communities to receive extra funding and new infrastructure.

This had the effect of disadvantaging every other community that did not achieve growth town status and meant that outstations were left without a secure future.

The Country Liberals recognise that each community needs a proper town plan that takes into account future infrastructure requirements and the appropriate delivery of services.

It is for this reason that we will be establishing a Planning Commission that will be tasked with creating town plans across the Territory.

### FIRST NATIONS POLITICAL PARTY FNPP

There are four growth towns in Central Australia – Yuendumu, Papunya, Lajamanu and Hermannsburg.

What about the rest of the region?

The First Nations Political Party will consult with the Land Council members traditional owners and respected elders.

To ensure that all communities in Central Australia receive funding to improve infrastructure and services, the FNPP will monitor the communities in Central Australia – accountability is utmost.

What is your position on alcohol regulation? How will you reduce alcohol-related harm in Alice Springs?

On the 1 July 2011, the NT Government implemented the Enough is Enough Alcohol Reforms.

These reforms provide a consistent response across the Territory to target problem drinkers who cause alcohol-related crime and anti-social behaviour in our community.

The Enough is Enough Alcohol Reform is a long term strategy aimed at breaking the cycle of problem drinking and the issues it creates by moving people into appropriate treatment and rehabilitation through investment in a five point plan

The Enough is Enough Five Point Plan includes:

- Banning problem drinkers and mandatory alcohol treatment orders
- A banned drinker register
- Alcohol Court reforms
- Increased rehabilitation services; and
- Awareness campaigns.

These are the most comprehensive alcohol reforms in the nation.

The Country Liberals recognise that there is a Territory-wide problem with harm that is related to alcohol consumption, and Central Australia is at the forefront of this problem.

We also understand that until individuals take personal responsibility for their actions and behaviour we will not see any significant improvement in levels of anti-social behaviour, alcohol-fuelled violence and other forms of alcohol-related harm.

Our plan to tackle this problem is to target those who are responsible for the violence and bad behaviour and to ensure that these individuals are held responsible for their actions.

People who have a serious problem with alcohol will be required to undergo alcohol rehabilitation treatment.

There will be extra funding and new facilities to provide this treatment.

We believe that this will give people with a serious substance abuse problem the best opportunity for recovery.

We the FNPP support the People's Alcohol Action Coalition. Alcohol regulations are created by those in power – in past years the CLP and ALP.

Make sure that hotels and suppliers of alcohol do not breach laws that have been created by elected Governments they should lose their licences and be charged if they do.

NOTE: These were the candidates before LRNCA went to press but some changes may have occurred before the closing date for nominations



**POLICY**

**AUSTRALIAN LABOR PARTY  
ALP**

**COUNTRY LIBERAL PARTY  
CLP**

**FIRST NATIONS POLITICAL PARTY  
FNPP**

What is your position on local government?  
How will you improve the Shires?

We will continue to support the Shire reforms to create a stable and reliable system of local government. This Government has listened to local people about views on shires and we have responded by reviewing the financial sustainability of shires, and appointed a nine-member taskforce to oversee the implementation of the 32 recommendations outlined in that Review.

Since Labor introduced the Shires in 2008 there have been major issues with financial sustainability, poor service delivery and a lack of community ownership.

The Country Liberals will work closely with communities to understand how these problems can best be fixed. Many people have said that they would like to see smaller councils where local people have a greater say on the future direction of their communities.

We have listened to these concerns and where there is a majority of support within a region and a clear business case for the establishment of a regional council we will support such proposals.

Regional councils will give local communities a real say in how money is spent in their regions and what services are delivered.

The FNPP would remove Shires throughout the NT and replace with community control with traditional owners, elected community members and respected elders. Checks and balances of financials done with statutory body like the land councils with a community elected body

How will FNPP improve the Shires?  
Replace it!

What is your position on bilingual education in NT schools?  
How will you ensure that children are given the best opportunities to learn during their early years of schooling?

The ALP values Indigenous languages in the Northern Territory and will continue to support the use of home language and culture as a crucial framework to support teaching and learning programs.

Following wide consultation and evidence-based research, the new Literacy Framework for Students learning English as an Additional Language policy provides clarity, ensuring all students in the Territory have access to appropriate structures for learning.

We actively encourage school communities to use school facilities and resources to promote and expand additional home language and culture programs.

For children to have the best chance in life, they need to go to school every day and be able to read and write in English so they have the best prospects as an adult.

The Country Liberals recognise that around 40% of all children in the Northern Territory do not speak standard Australian English at home, and this rate is much higher in remote schools.

It is our desire that all children in the Northern Territory become fully proficient in English, as this will allow for the greatest autonomy when participating in the wider society.

This aim will be achieved by making best use of first language speakers as assistant teachers in the classroom and developing curriculum that enables the use of first language in instruction.

This is especially important during the early years.

For this reason, we will be establishing an English as an Additional Language (EAL) Unit within the Department of Education for the purpose of developing appropriate curriculum for use in remote schools and for coordinating the induction of new teachers to remote schools.

Bilingual education is very important and the mother tongue should be taught in all schools in the N. The FNPP will not be part of violating human rights of speaking, learning and preservation of languages

Education is the key to the future of all Territorians through their children – early years of education is vital to children. There has to be the same curriculum for all children. The early years are vital to learn and receive the capacity to obtain and hold knowledge to solve problems. The FNPP will stop NAPLAN testing on our children in early years and do proper culturally appropriate testing on years selected by the Northern Territory Government

What is your position on improving outcomes in Aboriginal employment?  
How will you ensure that there are increased opportunities for employment, training and enterprise development in our communities?

Over the past five years the ALP Government has delivered a range of outcomes that benefit Indigenous people across the Northern Territory.

The Jobs NT goal of 3000 commencements for Indigenous workers has been exceeded, with almost 4000 commencements at June 2011. Of these, 44% are Indigenous apprentices.

The creation of real jobs in communities is a top priority for the Country Liberals.

It is our position that for every job that is performed on a remote community the first question that will be asked is – can this job be done by a local person?

If the answer is yes, then every opportunity will be given to local people to do those jobs and if possible this will be mandated.

The FNPP has suggested a compulsory National Service for our youth who have gone out of the education system because of Rite of Passage.

Under the scheme, they would receive training in the armed services - not to carry guns, but to learn a trade. Then some trained would become the trainers.

A priority of the FNPP is the creation of outstations and resources centres and the creation of employment and economic bases

What is your position on permits on Aboriginal land?

The Australian Labor Party respects the wishes and views of traditional owners. We support the permit scheme.

The Country Liberals understand that Aboriginal land is privately owned, and as such Aboriginal people have the right to grant or deny access to their land.

We also recognise that when there is a requirement for the delivery of services or for future economic development there is a case for increasing access for these purposes.

The Country Liberals will work together with land councils and traditional owners to ensure that any issues of access are resolved for the benefit of Aboriginal people.

Retain the permits system.

For breaches it's two strikes and a jail term.

# Rogue roadhouses refuse Opal

**THE FEDERAL** Government is under pressure to force roadhouses to stop selling 'sniffable' petrol in areas affected by petrol sniffing.

A Senate Inquiry held in Alice Springs last month heard that the roll-out of Opal fuel in Central Australia has led to a big drop in the amount of petrol sniffing in the past few years.

But some roadhouse owners are still refusing to stock Opal, claiming that it damages engines.

There have also been reports of problems with sniffing at the Lake Nash community, where young people have been going across the border to get sniffable petrol, and also in Western Australia.

Greens Senator Rachel Siewert introduced a bill which would enable the Government to force road-

houses to sell only Opal fuel in endangered areas.

Federal member for Lingiari Warren Snowdon said the law would provoke legal challenges and it would be better for states to introduce their own separate laws.

But Senator Siewert said it would be confusing to states to introduce their own legislation particularly in the tri-state area of South Australia, the Northern Territory and Western Australia.

"To have a hotch-potch of laws would be very difficult," she told ABC radio.

She said people were concerned about how long it would take for the states to introduce legislation, and would prefer one law made by the Federal Gov-

ernment.

"The overwhelming message is could you please get on with it," she said.

Senator Siewert said the claims that Opal could damage engines had been proved to be "absolute nonsense" and accused some roadhouse managers of "pigheadedness" in refus-

**Senator Siewert said the claims that Opal could damage engines had been proved to be "absolute nonsense" and accused some roadhouse managers of "pigheadedness" in refusing to change to Opal.**

ing to change to Opal.

Tristan Ray from the Central Australian Youth Link Up Service in Alice Springs said that up until recently as many as 60 children had been sniffing around Warburton, WA, where for five years one roadhouse owner had refused to stock Opal.

He said the owner eventually left and after the new owner brought in Opal and stopped selling ordinary unleaded fuel there was a dramatic reduction in the number of petrol sniffers.

"If legislation had existed, we would be five years further forward in a community like Warburton," Mr Ray told ABC Radio.

"We've known for years that Opal works very well.

"Unnecessarily, these kids have been allowed to keep melting their brains for five years because the Commonwealth Government doesn't have the teeth to make sure this essential public health measure could be implemented in a region like that."

# Royalties spent to save lives

**LAJAMANU** is spending \$200,000 in compensation from the Granites Mine to improve emergency services and respond better to road accidents.

Northern Territory Emergency Services (NTES) will receive \$100,000 to build a training and storage shed for its Lajamanu volunteers.

The new shed will help make search, rescue and recovery operations

quicker and more effective.

The same amount has gone to the Centre for Appropriate Technology to install five reliable emergency hand pumps at outstation bores and roads in the Lajamanu region or to repair existing pumps.

The Lajamanu GMAAAC committee hopes both initiatives will add up to fewer deaths on Tanami roads.

# Royalties fund old peoples home



The vibrant colours of the Yuendumu Old Peoples Centre.

**MINING** payments set aside by Yapa are funding more and better facilities for the Yuendumu Old Peoples Program (YOPP).

YOPP began with Meals on Wheels and Community Care programs more than a decade ago and continues to grow with investment from the Granites Mine Affected Areas Aboriginal Corporation (GMAAAC) Project.

GMAAAC supports community-based committees using their 'affected area' monies flowing from mining for community benefit projects.

YOPP On Site manager, Julie Harvey said the centre's needs were "identified by the local people, built by the local people and still run by the local people."

In the past few years the centre has been funded for the painting of the interior and exterior of the building, landscaping of the grounds, bathroom tiles, boiling water unit and a Hilux Ute.

In 2008, GMAAAC funded a 10-seater bus

with wheelchair lifter, washing machine, fridge and freezer.

The latest GMAAAC supported project was to renovate the End Stage wing of the centre.

"There used to be a little tiny veranda all the way along - no glass, no cooling or heating, very unusable," Ms Harvey said.

"We had a situation here last year where there was someone already in for end of life and we didn't have the space for another patient so they weren't able to stay here.

"We had a cold little room with 30-40 people visiting their sick family member. Some family had to stay in other rooms or outside, but now they can all be together.

"We took the whole roofline out but didn't want to spoil the look of the building - it's quite historic.

"People normally like to see what's going on, so now they have light and windows all the way around."

**PHONE: 08 89514219**

**an opal story**

**It started with Ben's car**

**BEN LIVES IN ATITJERE. HIS CAR WOULDN'T START. HE THOUGHT THE PROBLEM MIGHT BE OPAL FUEL.**

**GREAT TO BE ON THE ROAD AGAIN**

**INTUNE MECHANICS CHECKED BEN'S CAR AND FOUND THAT A FUSE WAS MISSING.**

**THE MECHANIC PUT A FUSE BACK IN BEN'S CAR AND IT STARTED STRAIGHT AWAY. NO PROBLEMS FROM OPAL FUEL.**





### FAMILY PHOTOGRAPHERS

Beware of family photographers visiting your communities.

Some of these photographers say they are supported by the CLC.



This is wrong. The CLC does not support these businesses.

Some of these photographers charge very high prices like \$700 for just one photo.

Be very careful if you decide you would like them to take your family's picture because you may get charged too much money.

If you don't have the cash the photographers might ask you to sign an agreement to pay by Centrelink deductions. Paying that way could take nearly a year and you will not get any photos until after the last payment is made!

"If you do sign an agreement to pay for photographs you have the right to cancel the agreement within 10 days if you decide you don't want to go ahead. Of you do cancel it don't forget to tell Centrelink to cancel the deductions."

# Kungkas check out career paths

A HUNDRED young women from 13 communities came together with their teachers and senior women for the 2012 Kungka Career Conference earlier this year.

"I learnt to speak for myself and to be strong and proud," was a typical comment from women who took part in the conference, which has been run by the Ngaanyatjarra Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara (NPY) Women's Council since 1997.

The Kungka Career Conference takes a positive approach to some serious issues. It offers a big range of possibilities, opportunities and success stories.

During the conference, women heard from 12 different local Aboriginal role models and sampled some of the 70 different workshops on offer.

Aileen Shannon from Fregon community talked about starting up her own business and the importance of education and family in achieving goals.

Emma Stubbs from Amata first attended the Kungka Career Conference as a 12 year old participant.

Now 27 years old, Emma works for NPY Women's Council Domestic Violence Service and spoke at the Conference, encouraging other young women to think about their futures and believing in themselves.

"Being 'shame job' isn't the way to be - wiya kuntaringinyi- don't be shame!"



Above: All the kungkas, tjitjis and workers enjoyed the 15th annual Kungkas Career Conference.

she said.

Emma also delivered workshops on respectful relationships to small groups at the Conference.

Other workshops dealt with mental health, nutrition and cooking, sexual

health and looking after your body, job opportunities (including ranger work, making bush medicines and basket weaving with the NPY Women's Council Tjanpi Desert Weavers), understanding the law, sports, music and arts.

## Mutitjulu pool on the way



Above: Malya Teamay and Mario Giuseppe on the swimming pool site looking at pool designs with CAT Projects and CLC staff

SUMMERS are looking a bit cooler for residents of Mutitjulu, with the construction of the community's long-awaited pool to begin soon.

CAT Projects has guided the design devel-

opment of this multi-million dollar project, working closely with the Mutitjulu Working Group and the CLC's Community Development Unit.

The contract to build the pool is expected to be

awarded in August.

Traditional owners directed rent money from the lease of the Uluru Kata Tjuta National Park to the pool project, with more funding from the Aboriginals Benefit Account.

## Anamarra school gets a day out

by Jen Hamilton

### READER'S CONTRIBUTION

THE sound of giggling preschool children echoed through the bush, as they immersed themselves in a culture lesson.

The group was made up of the children of Anamarra, their teachers, a couple of mothers and me, the community engagement police officer at Papunya.

We headed out to a place I naively thought

was no different from the kilometres of bushland we passed on our way. To our experts, however, though we had arrived at Mother Nature's kitchen pantry.

The women disappeared, digging sticks in hand, into the mulga

bushes with a gaggle of children merrily following.

I was left with the important job of making the fire. I don't believe the children thought I was up to the task unassisted as they continued to check on my progress, bring me

handfuls of sticks and offer me advice on stick placement.

The hunters emerged from the scrub with their ample quarry of maku, (witchetty grubs). The great catch was cooked in the coals of our fire and the meal was enjoyed by



Jen Hamilton and the kids of Anamarra

LRNCA loves reader contributions no matter how big or small - send your pics and stories to us at [media@clc.org.au](mailto:media@clc.org.au)

### BIRDS EYE VIEW



This monitoring camera set up on a specially constructed watering point for camels caught more than the pesky ferals on film. Examination of the 1000s of photos taken by the camera showed dingoes, thousands of birds and even people using the water trough. This watering point was set up to lessen the impact of large feral animals on waterholes and soakages with significant cultural and biodiversity values



# MABO

## 20 year anniversary

The **ABORIGINAL LAND RIGHTS ACT** for the Northern Territory was passed in the Federal Parliament in 1976, but this was a law only for Aboriginal people living in the Northern Territory.

The other states and territories missed out.

So in 1982 **EDDIE MABO** took the Queensland Government to court because it didn't recognise that indigenous people had a system of law and ownership before British settlement.

Eventually a decade later in 1992, the **HIGH COURT** decided that indigenous traditional title to the land had survived British settlement and it was called **NATIVE TITLE**. Mabo died before the decision was handed down.

As a result of that decision, Mabo's people, the Meriam, had native title to their islands.

The **DECISION** meant that native title could survive anywhere in Australia so long as:

- Indigenous people had maintained Aboriginal law and customs on that land and,
- No other titles allowing ownership of that land had extinguished (or finished) the native title.

### ALICE SPRINGS NATIVE TITLE THE FIRST FOR A TOWN ANYWHERE IN AUSTRALIA

The Alice Springs Native Title decision in 2000 was a victory for the Arrernte people.

It marked the first time native title had been granted in an Australian town.

Nearly 130 years after European settlement began in Central Australia, the common law of Australia recognised the native title rights and interests that Arrernte people have exercised as the owners of the Alice Springs area for thousands of years.

It took six years from when the Arrernte people lodged a claimants' application with the Native Title Tribunal for it to be finally granted by Federal Court.

The Court heard from the native title claimants about how they and their ancestors had consistently continued to live in and around Alice Springs, hunting and gathering and looking after their country, and exercising their rights to make decisions about it.

In May 2000, six years and several hundred thousand dollars later, the Federal Court handed down a determination that:

- recognised coexisting native title rights and interests on most reserve, park and vacant Crown land and waters within Alice Springs;

- confirmed that native title is protected by the Native Title Act, and also that the "future act" provisions apply to all land use, land management and acquisition activities the Government might wish to undertake on reserve, park and vacant Crown land; and

- required the setting up of a native title body corporate to act as the agent and representative of Alice Springs native title holders. The Arrernte set up

Lhere Artepe to make those decisions about future land use in the town.

### KEATINGS FAMOUS REDFERN SPEECH



Koori Mail editor Kirsty Parker remembers being at Redfern at the time the then Prime Minister of Australia, Paul Keating made his groundbreaking speech which saw him push the Native Title Act through a difficult Parliament

"I remember sitting to the side of a stage in Sydney's Redfern Park on 10 December 1992, shooting the breeze with friends as PM Keating stepped forward to launch and officially declare 1993 as the International Year of the World's Indigenous Peoples.

Aunties and uncles sat patiently in rows of plastic chairs in front of the stage, girding themselves for what promised to be another dull political speech. About a third of the way through, all our ears began to prick up. Keating's words were so stunningly unexpected and so decently honest – unmatched to this day, in my opinion – that I feel impelled to include them here:

...It begins, I think with that act of recognition.

Recognition that it was we who did the dispossessing.

We took the traditional lands and smashed the traditional way of life.

We brought the diseases. The alcohol.

We committed the murders.

We took the children from their mothers.

We practised discrimination and exclusion.

It was our ignorance and our prejudice.

And our failure to imagine these things being done to us.

With some noble exceptions, we failed to make the most basic human response and enter into their hearts and minds.

We failed to ask: How would I feel if this were done to me?" (see reference \* below)



Top: Former CLC Chair Wenten Rubuntja presents a painting to Prime Minister Paul Keating and below delegates leave the CLC in Alice Springs on their way to join a convoy to Canberra in 1993 to discuss the possibilities of native title claims arising from the Mabo High Court decision

\* Reference: Parker, K. 2012, in Bauman, T. and L. Glick (eds) The Limits of Change: Mabo and Native title 20 years on' AIATSIS Research Publications, Canberra.

### AND THERE HAVE BEEN OTHER NATIVE TITLE WINS IN CENTRAL AUSTRALIA TOO

Since the Alice Springs claim, there have been a number of native title victories for Aboriginal people in Central Australia.

Tennant Creek became the first town in Australia to have a native title determination made by consent rather than litigation.

Part of the victory involved being granted freehold title to Kunjarra or the Devil's Pebbles, a site very dear to the Warumungu

There have been a number of other determinations in which native title has been recognised, including some pastoral leases where they once said native title could never be claimed. Singleton, Pine Hill, Newhaven, Ooratippra, Kurundi and Neutral Junction have all had determinations in favour of the native title holders.

These have been by the consent of all parties.

There are many places which have made agreements called Indigenous Land Use Agreements (ILUAs) under the Native Title Act, which have allowed the traditional owners to get some benefits where they might not have got any.





# New seatbelt laws and demerit points hit hard

**ABORIGINAL** people have been hit hard by recent changes to the seatbelt laws in the Territory.

With the demerit points system also in place, many CLC constituents are complaining of large fines and loss of licences.

Hermannsburg man Patrick Oliver lost his licence for five months.

"I was going back after the Alice Springs Show last year and I had five or six kids and five adults in a troopie," Patrick said.

"The adults got \$420



Patrick Oliver

lost my licence."

Mr Oliver said he didn't know anything about demerit points then.

"And I didn't know about kids in the back of a troopie not having seatbelts on. I thought it was different for troopies," Mr Oliver said

"My message to people



ew's car key from the police station.

"I showed my licence and he said "you are disqualified" because you haven't paid your fines.

"I didn't know that. So I went next door to the court and paid it. The fine was \$50 in 2003 but by 2010 it had gone up to \$150 All that time and I didn't even know ."

Above: CLC land management worker Tracey Guest with a group of ladies in the back of the troopie about to go hunting.

Tracy says a seatbelt saved her life recently after her troopie rolled on the Docker River Rd.

"I just broke my shoulder but it would have killed me if I wasn't wearing a seatbelt," she said. "I've learnt my lesson and I won't be letting people travel like I used to in the pic above."



## BIG FINES

- Driving a motor vehicle with children not wearing restraints or seatbelts - \$500.00 (three demerit points.)
- Drive without L/P plates - \$120.00 (two demerit points)
- Driving an unregistered/ uninsured motor vehicle - \$520.00 (no demerit points)
- Adult passengers not wearing seatbelts - \$420.00 (no demerit points.)
- Fail to produce/ carry licence - \$70.00 (no demerit points.)

Sergeant Conan Robertson from the Southern Traffic Operations Unit said that as a result of the changes to the law, it is now effectively a case of "no belt, no ride".

"You can no longer have more people in the vehicle than there are seatbelts and if anyone is not wearing a seatbelt they are liable to receive a fine," he said..

"A child under 12 months must be in a proper and approved child restraint that must be installed correctly in the vehicle.

The law used to say that if the vehicle didn't have seatbelts then you didn't have to wear them. The new laws say everyone must have a seatbelt on.

on-the-spot fine each for not having seatbelts on and I lost three demerit points for each kid.

"You only have to lose 12 demerit points and you lose your licence.

"Also I had to go to Court and I got a \$1000 fine and a couple of days later a letter came saying I had

is make those kids wear seatbelts or else you'll lose your licence. Keep the kids safe. Wear your seatbelts.

"And if you don't pay your fine you lose your licence too.

"I didn't know I was disqualified only when I went to pick up my neph-

# Growing up in Drum Atweme

The beat goes on for Drum Atweme, eight years after it began opening new doors for children from Alice Springs town camps.

**DRUM** Atweme was set up to give town camp youngsters a chance to explore music and learn new skills, but as founder Pete Lowson says it's done much more.

"The idea was not to keep them as musicians but so they would have the confidence and social skills to be able to do a lot of things," Pete said.

Some of the original drummers, now in their late teens and still performing, seem to be living proof of the power of music in young people's lives.

"We've got 28 kids from Drum Atweme in colleges in Adelaide," says Pete.

"There's one girl who's

in year 12 and wants to go to Uni. She was the shyest kid in the group

"Even the school said she'd never get anywhere. When she joined eight years ago, everyone said: 'How can you be playing when you can't even talk?' She just said: 'The drum talks for me.'"

Drum Atweme has 50 members, 45 of them girls ranging from age six or seven to teenagers.

"We've got a lot of girls now who are mad drummers. Some of them have been doing it for seven years now and they love it, absolutely love it," says Pete.

"I never set it out to

happen that way but it did. The boys come in and out of it, but a lot of them are doing footy and other things - which is great."

Pete attributes the success of Drum Atweme to the fact that drums are more accessible than most instruments, and a great way of letting off steam.

"It's really therapeutic," he says.

"If you bang on a drum, you can get rid of a lot of frustration. It's easy to connect and put rhythms together.

"And when you're getting 20 kids together, drums are a lot more transportable than keyboards or guitars."



Above: The Drum Atweme group show the power of music and let the drums do the talking.

Drum Atweme has had great support from families in town camps, says Lowson.

"There's been this big connection with beat, and when you talk to the grandmothers and the families they absolutely connect to it. There's a very close connection to their culture. They've got a close connection about that rhythm and hitting it in to the earth."

The group performs as

many as 60 times a year, in festivals and special occasions in Alice Springs and interstate, with recent gigs including a performance for 30,000 people at the Adelaide Fringe Festival.

"Their self-confidence has grown tenfold and that has spread into their lives in general," he said.

"They're more confident about how they approach people, and things, and most importantly be-

ing able to say yes or no to a situation. Instead of everyone telling them what to do, they can start having the confidence to make choices."

Drumming has also helped kids with schoolwork, with teachers pointing to improvements in literacy and numeracy says Lowson.

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## Yapa funding Op Shop for cold snaps

THE COOL winter has heated up sales at the Yuen-dumu Women's Centre Op Shop.

GMAAAC funds about half of the wages of Yapa and Kardina op shop workers and pays for cheap clothes and blankets to supplement donations.

Profits from the business go back into the Women's Centre.

"With winter upon us, the sales of last year's winter donations have

been really high," said Women's Centre Manager Ann Putt.

The op shop has now begun to cater for the men too.

Men can use a side access to buy winter woollies and save money.

Meanwhile, the GMAAAC-funded bush garden at the Women's Centre is thriving with the bush tomatoes, bean trees, desert oaks and desert roses local women bought with the GMAAAC money.

## Pederson named advocate of people with disability

### RENOWNED

Aboriginal television and film actor Aaron Pedersen has been named Patron for International Day of People with Disability and the National Disability Awards for 2012.

Mr Pederson is an Arrernte and Arabana man who grew up in Alice Springs and is a passionate advocate for people with disability.

The star of *The Circuit* and *Double Trouble* is well-suited to take on the role of patron, having cared for his younger brother, who has cerebral palsy and a mild intellectual

disability.

His experiences were showcased in the 2006 documentary *My Brother Vinnie*, which followed the extraordinary relationship he has with his brother and his journey as a carer.

The National Disability Awards recognise organisations and individuals who make positive contributions to the lives of people with disability.

The award recipients will be announced on 28 November and the International Day of People with Disability is celebrated on 3 December each year.

## Bush TV back on air

THE FEDERAL Government announced funding for a new Indigenous satellite TV channel, to be carried by Central Australian Indigenous broadcaster Imparja.

Communication Minister Senator Stephen Conroy announced \$15.4 million in funding for the Indigenous Broadcasting Program (IBP).

The funding covered the creation of an Indigenous Community Television satellite channel on Viewer Access Satellite Television (VAST).

The IBP was established in 1987 and supports indigenous broadcasters across Australia through 55 broad-

casting projects, including those broadcast into remote Indigenous communities.

"These projects provide an essential service to Indigenous communities, helping to maintain Indigenous language and cultural development, as well as promoting important health and education messages," Senator Conroy said.

Meanwhile, the Federal Government is also funding SBS to carry National Indigenous Television.

"NITV will greatly expand the availability of indigenous information and content for all Australians," Senator Conroy said.

# Watarrka the last park handback



Above: CLC Chairman Philip Wilyuka, event MC Sid Maloney, Stephen Clyne and Minister for Central Australia Karl Hampton look on as ladies perform an Inma to celebrate the handback of Watarrka National Park.

LURITJA traditional owners are celebrating the handback of 1052 square kilometres of land within the Watarrka National Park.

The land, which includes world-famous tourist landmark Kings Canyon, was handed back by the NT Government at a cer-

emony in the Park on July 25.

The Watarrka Park Land Trust was granted NT Park freehold title under the NT Government's Parks and Reserves (Framework for the Future) Act 2003.

Traditional owners immediately leased back the land to the

Northern Territory Government for 99 years. The park will be jointly managed by the NT Parks and Wildlife Service and the Luritja traditional owners.

The park is visited by up to 215,000 visitors a year, attracted by its spectacular scenery and rich Aboriginal cultural significance.

Traditional owners will be involved in all aspects of management, especially the park's cultural heritage.

Parks and Wildlife Service will facilitate training, employment and commercial enterprise development for traditional owners with the support of the

Central Land Council (CLC) and the Northern Territory tourism industry.

CLC director, David Ross congratulated the Luritja traditional owners on their patient approach and mutually beneficial outcomes.

## Yuendumu art becomes a hit on fashion runways



Left: Janyinki Dreaming shirt and skirt, artwork by Ben Jangala Gallagher

THE YAPA-OWNED Warlukurlangu Artists Aboriginal Corporation has found a vibrant way to promote Warlpiri artwork in an art market that's gone colder than a desert winter night.

Warlukurlangu manager Cecilia Alfonso said the Yuendumu centre has had to explore and branch out as art lovers across the globe tighten their purses.

Ms Alfonso said the effects of the economic downturn were felt in the community.

"You can't eat art, it's a luxury item," she said.

"Tourism - which we rely on - is down and we're not doing as well as we have in the past.

"That means less money to give out canvasses, the activity levels are down, and the painters don't get as much income."

Despite the gloomy financial climate, the art centre won a Northern Territory Export Award (Arts and Entertainment category) last year.

After the awards, Ms Alfonso made contact with Indian-born fashion designer, Roopa Pemmaraju, who was interested in adapting Aboriginal designs to designer clothes.

"Roopa has worked in the past designing clothes using Indian traditional artisans, but now she's living in Australia she really wanted to work with Indigenous designs," she said.

Fashion designers and critics had raved about the clothing range.

Ms Alfonso said the images were licensed to the designer, with royalties going back to the community.

"People agree to their images being used, it makes them proud and it creates income for them," she said.



Above: A stunning sheath dress by Judy Watson



# Government finally pays rent to Aboriginal land owners

**FOR THE** first time, Governments are paying rent for buildings such as offices and houses on Aboriginal land – as they do elsewhere in Australia. Rent payments began when traditional owners agreed to lease areas to the Government for its buildings.

David Ross said he thought the leases were a good thing. “It’s really hard for people, because they see it as a land grab but really it brings everything into line with the way it’s done in the rest of Australia,” he said. “Why shouldn’t the Government have to pay rent for their

Centrelink office for example? In Alice Springs they would pay a lot for that lease, I think.” The Government has also said it wants traditional owners to agree to leasing land for housing before it will build any community houses on it. “A lot of communities are angry that

they are not getting new houses when they are so overcrowded,” Mr Ross said. “But they are still choosing to enter the housing lease in return for money to upgrade houses – around \$7000 in repair and maintenance money per house per annum, and housing management servic-

es.” Nearly all communities have had meetings to talk about whether traditional owners will consent to leases for NT and Commonwealth government infrastructure. So far, 13 communities have said yes to leases over Northern Territory Govern-

ment infrastructure, based on the Government agreeing to pay rent for the land. The only communities offered new houses in return for a housing lease were Lajamanu, Yuendumu and Hermannsburg. Yuendumu has only recently consented to the housing

lease, so construction has yet to start there. Construction at Hermannsburg is due to begin soon, while the new houses at Lajamanu are finished. Hermannsburg and Lajamanu have signed 40-year leases, with 26 new houses to be built in Hermannsburg and 17 built in Lajamanu.

# Willowra invests in families and learning

**THE** Willowra community is investing in the future with a new Early Childhood and Learning Community Centre. Construction began in June, and community members will help build the centre, which will include a training and computer space, a library, cultural materials storage, and a 15 place crèche with outside play area. The Warlpiri Ed-

ucation and Training Trust (WETT) backed the project after it was chosen by the Willowra community in 2006. The Central Land Council, as agent for WETT, has been working with the Willowra community since then to make the vision a reality. WETT Advisory Committee member and Willowra resident Maisie Kitson said the centre was essential for the

community “so the kids can see the history, culture and language of Willowra.” “It’s also to keep them busy and out of trouble,” she said. “We were waiting for so many years for this learning centre to be built.” Tangentyere Constructions won the construction tender and is employing community members and a builder with a history of working in Willowra to support and men-

tor them through the process. The directors of WETT, which uses royalties from the Granites Gold Mine to set up education programs within the Warlpiri region, have allocated almost \$1m toward construction, maintenance and operation of the centre over the next three years. The remaining funds were provided by the Aboriginal Benefits Account, and the Department

of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs. During a site meeting and celebration of the beginning of construction on 22 June, CLC Chairman, Mr Philip Wilyuka thanked the people of Willowra for “asking, asking, asking” and for spending royalty money “from mining from your country” on such a good project.



Above: WETT member Maisie Kitson and Emily from the CLC Community Development Unit look at a model of the future community centre

# Shannon wins 2012 Ranger of the Year



Above: Shannon with his award and NT Minister for Parks and Wildlife Karl Hampton

**CLC RANGER** Group Coordinator Assistant Shannon Lander is 2012 Ranger of the Year - Central Australia. The award recognises Shannon as a leader and mentor who works above and beyond the call of duty, travelling more than 2500km a month in his job. Ranger co-ordinator Jade Kudrenko said Shannon’s enthusiasm and commitment for the job affected everyone around him. “Many of the projects Shan-

non oversee involve hard manual labour, often in harsh weather over extended periods,” she said. “Regardless of the challenges, his colleagues always seem to walk away from the job with an immense sense of achievement and a drive to take on new challenges. “Shannon achieves this through his down-to-earth approach and an ability to treat all rangers as individuals, acknowledging each person’s strengths and weakness.”

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# NT roads deadly

**A NEW** report says the rate of serious injury from road accidents in the Northern Territory is close to double the national average. The Australian Institute

of Health and Welfare report found that nearly six per cent of people involved in road accidents in remote areas of the NT suffered life-threatening injuries.

# Despite economic growth, food insecurity lingers in Africa

**EVERLYNE** Wanjiku, a single mother of five, has earned a living selling vegetables in the sprawling Kibera slum in Nairobi, Kenya, for more than three decades.

Though her earnings were meagre, she was able to provide all her children with a tertiary education.

Now, she can barely support her family.

"On a good month, I would make over 6,000 shillings (67 dollars).

"But things are bad now," she says, pointing to the few vegetables outside her shack.

Such challenges are being faced by all Africans, as highlighted in a new report by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), which paints a gloomy picture of the food situation on the continent.

It finds that more than one in four Africans are undernourished.

"The spectre of famine, which has virtually disappeared elsewhere in the world, continues to haunt parts of sub-Saharan Africa," says the report.

The report blames Africa's food woes on poor governance.

"Sub-Saharan Africa has abundant agricultural resources. But shamefully, in all corners of the region, millions of people remain hungry and malnourished — the result of glaringly uneven local food production and distribution and chronically deficient diets, especially among the poorest," says the report.

It says that despite a decline in poverty in the 2000s, almost half of sub-Saharan Afri-

cans still live in extreme poverty, with famine affecting 9.5 million people in the horn of Africa last year.

According to Tegegnetwork Gettu, the head of the UNDP Africa bureau, governments must spend less on the military and more on agriculture.

"Why should Africans be unable to afford the technology, tractors, irrigation, seed varieties and training needed to be food-secure?" he asks.

The report calls for "smart subsidies,"

to encourage smallholder farmers to shift to high-yield crop varieties.



Zimbabwe: More than 70 percent of Africans – the majority of whom are women – rely on farming for survival. Credit: Marko Phiri/IPS

It also states that new energy and ideas attracting young Africans to participate in agriculture will bring innovation and profitable openings and enterprises along the value chain of a sector that enticing and profitable young people have come to denigrate as a backwater," it says.

## Back from New York UN trip

**THE CLC'S** media officer Steve Hodder attended the 10th anniversary of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII) in New York, USA in May this year.

The UNPFII is one of three United Nations (UN) bodies assigned to deal with Indigenous peoples' issues. It focuses on economic and social development, culture, the environment, education, health and human rights.

As part of its mandate, the Permanent Forum provides expert advice and recommendations on issues relevant to the UN.

It also seeks to raise awareness of information and promotes incorporation and coordination of activities related to indigenous issues within the UN system.

Mr Hodder said the forum had one of the biggest Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander contingents to ever attend, with over 40 participants from across Australia.

"The Indigenous Peoples Organisations (IPO) Network Australia presented statements related to key issues raised by the forum, in-

cluding rights to water, food sovereignty, constitutional recognition, implementing the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples into domestic (national) law and addressing violence against women and children," Steve said.

"Seeing so much diversity of Indigenous peoples from across the planet interacting and sharing was an experience that I hope more Aboriginal people from Central Australia get to participate in, especially young future leaders.

"I'd encourage anyone, especially from out bush, to find out more about the diplomacy training offered by the University of New South Wales.

"It definitely makes you realise that while there are many ongoing problems in our country that need to be sorted out, we can take stock of knowing it's a lot harder for some other peoples.

"I'm not trying to excuse how much work is left to do, but more so to highlight that our peoples are pretty much leading the way for others in many areas including in health, law, land management, diplomacy and advocacy."

## South Africa: Pit toilets fertilise green crops

South African scientists have found a way to use waste from pit toilets to grow fruit trees and other plants.

Nearly 11 million South Africans have been served with basic sanitation since 1994, but by 2008, more than 13.3 million people still lacked simple toilets.

Meanwhile South Africa's pit latrines have been filling up faster than their expected design life, according to the Water Research Commission (WRC).

"Only one third of municipalities have a budget to maintain on-site sanitation," says WRC researcher David Still.

"If pits fill up, all the hard work that was done to address the sanitation backlog will be wasted. Why not use faecal sludge to address the growing problem of food insecurity by planting fruit trees? Or use the sludge to cultivate trees



Above: Smarter sanitation not more sanitation. Village ablution block, Kenya Credit: Isaiah Esipisu/IPS

for fuel or paper production?"

The result of these questions was a project called *What happens when pit latrines get full?*

Human excreta contains valuable nutrients such as nitrogen, phosphates and potassium and the average person excretes enough of this per year to sufficiently fertilise 300 to 400 square metres of crops.

But using it as a fertiliser can be hazardous because of the pathogens

it contains, especially if it is used for surface spreading and where edible crops are cultivated. There is also a risk it could contaminate groundwater.

Still and his team discovered that by burying the waste in pits and planting on top of it, pathogens were contained and eventually died off.

Lindiwe Khoza's house in Umlazi was selected as a test site. The sludge was buried in the

ground here and citrus and peach trees were planted on top.

"The fruit grows much faster and it seems to be tastier and juicier than fruit bought at supermarkets," Khoza said. "We now enjoy fruit from our own garden."

According to Still, providing sanitation is not about building more toilets.

"It is about managing sanitation smartly," he said.

# Energy plantations can power India

**A GROUP** of women working in a tree-shaded nursery in the arid southern Tamil Nadu state is helping to manage India's first biomass energy plantation.

About 20 women take care of daily maintenance work while another 45 work seasonally.

The women come in at daybreak and leave at 2pm, earning a decent 150 Indian rupees (approximately three dollars) for half a day's toil.

The women plant and tend saplings, make shade-nets and take care of other nursery essentials.

Grown with seven indigenous biomass-producing plant species, the plantation is one of the first of its kind in the world.

Controlled heating or "gasification" converts the plant

material into syngas (synthetic gas).

The power derived from burning the gas is considered to be renewable energy.

The 300-acre biomass plantation now has trees that stand seven metres tall on degraded lands that have been contoured for watershed conservation, with reservoirs constructed to enable drip irrigation.

"The groundwater has risen from 90 metres in 2007, when we started the plantation, to 25 metres now," says C. Lalramawia who manages technology at the plantation. "Rainfall has similarly increased from 250 mm annually in 2007 to over 800 mm in 2011."

India has 60 million hectares of degraded non-forest and forest lands avail-

able for tree growing, including biomass plantation.

The 'side effects' of planting for energy include improvement in the microclimate of the region and a regeneration of biodiversity.

The reservoirs have become watering holes for deer and birds on once degraded, arid lands.

"A small forest of this size, with its two Mw power plant, can power several of the cell phone transmission towers in the area," said Venkatesan, a former Motorola executive who oversees the plantation.

**Right: Women help run India's first energy plantation.**  
Credit: Keya Acharya/IPS



# El Salvador: constitutional recognition for Indigenous people

**AFTER** decades of struggle, Indigenous people in El Salvador are being recognised in the country's constitution.

The constitution will be modified to acknowledge native languages and other expressions of Indigenous culture.

"This country has ignored the existence of the Indigenous population, and as a result of that denial, all of the rights that they have as original peoples have been eliminated," Carlos Lara, an anthropologist at the University of El Salvador, said.

The prevailing view is that Indigenous people have disappeared or merged with the general population, he said.

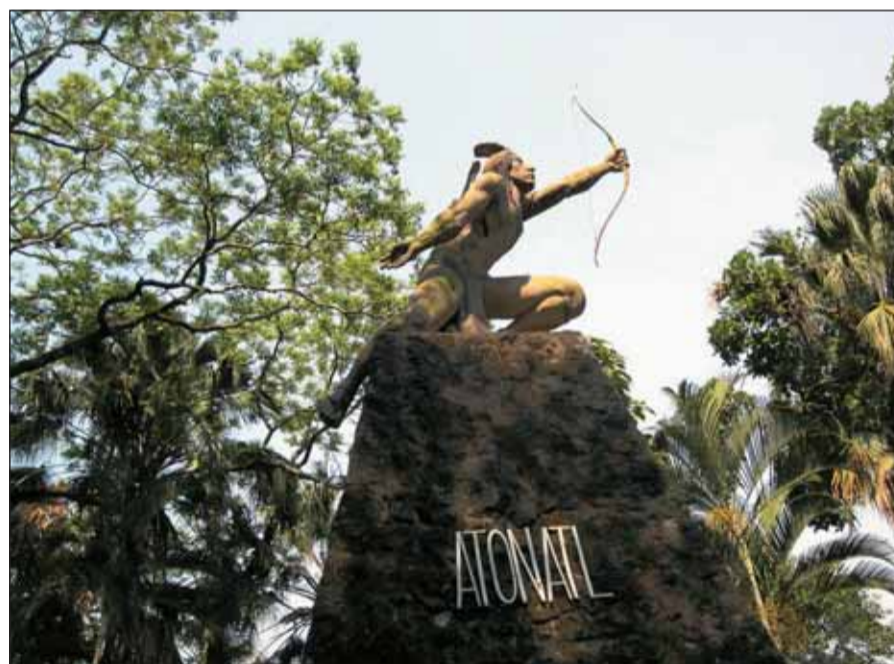
According to this view, El Salvador's population of 6.1 million is "mestizo" – an ethnic mix of Indigenous people and the descendants of the Spaniards who colonised this

territory starting in 1524.

However, the constitutional reform "puts things to right, because now El Salvador will define itself as a multicultural and multiethnic country," Lara said.

According to the 2007 census, native people represent just 0.2 percent of the population – a figure that was immediately rejected by Indigenous organisations and academics.

Indigenous associations cite instead a 2005 survey by the Economy Ministry, which put the proportion at 17 percent of the population, mainly Nahua-Pipil Indians in the centre and west of the country, and



**Above: El Salvador's native people, represented by this statue honouring a Pipil warrior in Atecozol Park, will finally gain official recognition.** Credit: David Stanley/IPS/CC

Lenca and Cacaopera in the east.

Native peoples were enslaved and exploited by the Spanish colonists and later by the "criollo"

– native-born white elites who governed the country after it gained independence in 1821.

"In the middle of the 20th century, recognition

of indigenous peoples as such began to be lost, and a false conception of 'civilisation' began to reign," Lara said.

"It was necessary to be very modern and civilised, and to be that, people couldn't be Indigenous."

In 1932, dictator Maximiliano Hernández Martínez crushed a peasant revolt in the west of the country, killing between 10,000 and 30,000 people.

After the massacre, indigenous people hid their roots, and stopped

speaking Náhuatl, their native language, which was banned by the dictatorship.

The poverty rate among native communities in El Salvador stood at 38 percent in 2009, compared with less than 19 percent among the general population, while 67 percent of native households had no piped water, against a national average of 39 percent.

Shandur Kutzín, president of the Union of Indigenous Communities of Guacotecti Cuscatlan, said that after native communities were officially recognised, they would begin to fight for real change, such as the recovery of their communally-owned lands.

The land taken from indigenous communities was used to produce export products like indigo and coffee, the foundation of the wealth of the criollo oligarchy of the time.

# Australia joins in global Indigenous ranger network

**PRIME** Minister Julia Gillard and Minister for the Environment and Sustainability Tony Burke today announced a new program to link indigenous expertise and modern technology to improve the way we manage our environment globally.

Australia has joined

with Brazil, Norway and New Zealand to form the Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities Land and Sea Managers Network.

The program will help share ancient environmental traditions with communities across the globe to create an interna-

tionally-focused network of Indigenous land and sea managers.

It will draw on existing networks, such as Australia's Working on Country program which funds almost 700 Indigenous rangers to use traditional knowledge, as well as cutting-edge science to

manage over 1.5 million square kilometres of land and sea country.

Mr Burke said it took Australia a long time to recognise that indigenous rangers were often the best-placed people in Australia to provide environmental management of land and sea.

"Over the past few years through Working on Country, the number of indigenous rangers has now built up to around 700, he said.

"That's 700 additional people engaged in environmental management with all the benefits of traditional knowledge."

"It's some of the best work our Environment Department is involved with and it's a credit to every ranger that this sort of expertise is now being recognised internationally." More information on the network can be found at [www.nrm.gov.au/indigenous/network](http://www.nrm.gov.au/indigenous/network)



**S**  
**J**  
**BE**



**DON'T SAY  
LADY**

**SAYS**

**DON'T GET**

**JEALOUS**

**PROUD**

# Alcohol plans CLC's horsemanship course offers life of adventure

TOWN camps and communities are looking at Alcohol Management Plans (AMPs) to control alcohol abuse.

AMPs are designed to address the serious health, social and economic effects of alcohol misuse.

They have been in place in Central Australia since 2007 when the Intervention (NTER) was launched, but were imposed without consulting communities.

The Federal Government has since admitted it needs to work in partnership with people and communities to understand and address the underlying causes of the demand for alcohol.

Government representatives have been asking residents of communities and town camps what they think are the problems and if they want to develop their own AMPs.

Five town camps and four communities (Titjikala, Laramba, Hermannsburg and Amooinguna) wanted AMPs.

Town camp resident and Aboriginal Rights campaigner

Barbara Shaw has helped develop an AMP for Mt Nancy with the NT Department of Justice

"Basically what we've done is put community safety first," Ms Shaw said.

She said the process had involved better community engagement.

"A government department talking to one person is not 'engaging with the whole community,'" she said.

"The difference with the Justice department is that they've actually come and sat in the dirt with us and engaged with the community members one on one.

"Even the heavy drinkers had their say with them, agreeing to certain conditions like allowing them to drink but only on certain days, not having kids around grog, drinking in your own yard.

"It helps everyone to be aware of it because they've all been part of setting it up and can really know and own the system."

Ms Shaw said it was up to the minister to sign off on the AMP.

- Territorians drink at 1.5 times, and Indigenous Territorians drink at 1.7 times, the national average which is the highest per capita consumption of any state or territory.
- 60% of assaults and 67% of domestic violence incidents are alcohol related
- Alcohol-related crime costs the Territory \$642 million a year – or around \$4,200 for every adult Territorian, compared to about \$950 nationally]

# CLC's horsemanship course offers life of adventure



TEN young men and women from around Central Australia lived a life of adventure on horseback for a few weeks on Aboriginal-owned Mistake Creek Station recently.

CLC Project Officers and keen horse riders Becky Mack and Gina Bennett took five young women and then five young men for two weeks each on the property.

"They were all awesome," Ms Mack said.

"The girls went up for a week of horsemanship and a week of work experience and they enjoyed it," she said.

"They had a lot of fun, took a lot of photos and had their own hors-

es that they had to look after while they were there.

"All the young women had jobs before they went, and it was just a look into the pastoral industry for them.

"Some do a lot of horse stuff at home and wanted to update their skills

"They loved it. They went to the yards and cleaned the troughs out, helped brand calves, bangtailed cows and took fences down and put them back up again."

The boys were all from Tennant Creek and enrolled in Certificate Two in Agriculture in their schools.

"They were all Clon-

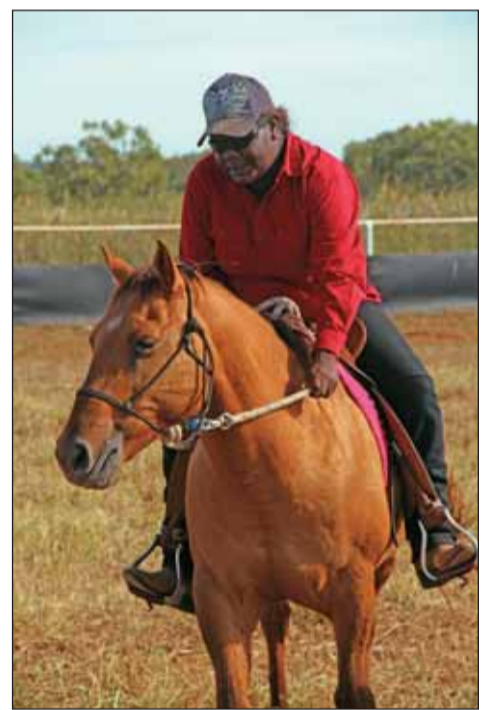
tarf boys, who were chosen because they were interested in agriculture and had good attendance," Ms Mack said.

"They loved it. They did five days horsemanship, three days low-stress stock handling with one of the top cattlemen in Australia and on the last day a muster on horseback.

"They were out all day, missed lunch and did it tough, but they were fine

"Now they are back at school and have promised us they will finish year 12."

Top: Boys week at Mistake Creek Station - visitors and station hands together



Above: Patria Conway from Santa Teresa

## CAAMA opens new studio

THE country's premier Aboriginal media organisation has celebrated the opening of new training facilities for young Aboriginal people.

The Central Australian Aboriginal Media Association (CAAMA) officially opened the John Macumba Media and Training Centre and launched the CAAMA Radio Mobile Broadcast Unit on 17th April.

The Youth Media centre and the Mobile Broadcast Unit launch were opened by Federal Indig-

enous Health Minister Warren Snowdon, with NT ministers Karl Hampton and Malarndirri McCarthy present.

A written statement read at the ceremony on behalf of the Prime Minister, Julia Gillard, acknowledged the significance of Indigenous broadcasting.

"Indigenous broadcasting is a critical tool that enables culture, language, music and local messages to be distributed effectively by Indigenous people," the Prime Minister said.

# Congress childcare graduates

FIVE local indigenous people have become qualified early childhood educators thanks to a mixture of on-the-job training and on-line distance education.

In a graduation ceremony held at Congress Childcare, students Erica Adams, Desmond McGrady, Narcissa Sailor, Ruth Furber and Rowena Corby were recognised for the successful completion of their studies in Certificate III in Children's Services.

Training was provided through a partnership between Congress and Coonara Community House, a non-profit, community-based Registered Training Organisation (RTO) based in Victoria.

The course emphasised practical skills and verbal interviews to share learnings and knowledge, rather



L-R: Coonara trainer Dani Campbell, Narcissa Sailor, Erica Adams, Desmond McGrady, Rowena Corby, Ruth Furber and Coonara trainer Lynne Gibb.

er than traditional workbooks.

For graduate Desmond McGrady, working in childcare was a career change he

hopes to continue. "I'd really like to be able to go on to further study from here," he said.

Graduates received a

year's membership to Early Childhood Australia, the peak industry body for childhood education and care.



# Camel musters in full swing

**ABORIGINAL** people in Central Australia are learning the skills they need to manage feral camels and stop the damage they are causing to their land.

After more than thirty meetings with traditional owners, the Central Land Council Feral Management Program is under way, targeting up to 250,000 camels on Northern Territory Aboriginal land.

People talked about how traditional owners could help the Government and the CLC to shoot camels from helicopters and reduce the numbers to what they used to be twenty years ago.

Already 15,000 camels have been shot, and the shooting might go on for another two years.

Aboriginal Rangers have also taken part in the first two musters of camels on their land this year, working with camels in areas where they can't be shot.

The musters were a training exercise to find the best way of organising musters in the future.

The first, at Haasts Bluff in April, led to the sale of 64 camels, but lost a lot of money, partly because of the cost of transporting so few camels 510km to Alice Springs.

In the second muster, 164 camels only had to be transported 240 km, and the project made \$3,873 from the sale after wages and expenses were paid.

The exercises showed musters can be expensive.

People can save money if they pick up camels quickly, keep the equipment needed on the communities and get just a few people to do the work.

But you still need luck to get plenty of camels into a yard without damaging panels or the camels.

Any money made from musters will go into a Land Trust muster account to keep the work going.

Other work done on Aboriginal land to control feral camels includes creating camel watering points and fencing off waterholes to stop camels fouling them.

In the future, CLC will work with rangers on:

- training in firearms and butchery skills for ground-based shooting with Wulain, Muruwarinyi Anukul, Ltentye Apurte and Atitjere rangers;
- Ground-based shooting to protect rockholes with Nyirripi Yirinti and Yuendumu rangers and Papunya Anangu Luritjuku rangers;
- mustering with Anangu Luritjuku and Kaltukatjara rangers;
- installing more water points in the Pmer Nyentyte, Petermann and Hassts Bluff Aboriginal Land Trusts;
- a trial of remote radio cameras to check when camels are on water.



ABOVE: A chopper takes on some reluctant ferals.

BELOW: Camels in the yards at the Undurana muster. RIGHT: Camel Cowboys near Mt Leibig



## Government boost to Jaru Pirrjirdi

Government has picked up the tab for a successful youth development program Warlpiri people have been funding with their mining compensation money.

Run by the Warlpiri Youth Development Aboriginal Corporation (WYDAC), Jaru Pirrjirdi started in 2003.

It used small government grants to strengthen the skills and confidence of young people and to support them to become leaders in Yuendumu.

Program participants have found jobs with the Warlpiri Rangers, the Yuendumu

Swimming Pool and the Yuendumu GMAAAC Committee.

In recent years Warlpiri Education and Training Trust (WETT) and the Yuendumu GMAAAC Committee have helped pay the wages of young Jaru Pirrjirdi workers.

"The program could not have achieved its successes without the extra WETT and GMAAAC funding," said WYDAC manager Susie Low.

This year, the government has boosted its funding for Jaru Pirrjirdi, allowing GMAAAC funds to be put to another good community project

## Winners of the Young People's Bush Stories Project

Remember back in our last issue of LRNCA we had a competition to win an iPad or a \$100 voucher for SportsPower donated by the CLC if you completed a survey by CDU researcher Josie Douglas?

Josie has finished her survey now and she got CLC Chairman Phillip Wilyuka to pull the two lucky winners names out of a hat. More than 200 young people responded to the survey.

**The winners are:**

**First Prize of an iPad: Theresa Drover from Hidden Valley**

**Second Prize: \$100 Sports Power voucher winner - Leeanda Ebatarinja from Trucking Yards**



# ABA grants - \$13 million to projects

**PROJECTS** aimed at boosting employment opportunities and improving health and education services in Aboriginal communities are among 34 new projects to share in \$13 million from the Aboriginals Benefit Account (ABA).

The latest round of grants from the ABA will be delivered to 28 Aboriginal organisations, with 34 new projects worth \$13 million.

In Central Australia Anyinginyi Health Aboriginal Corporation in Tennant Creek was granted \$220,000 to upgrade the Anyinginyi Sport and Recreation facility.

In Wadeye, a grant of \$465,000 will be used to establish the Wadeye Ngepan Patha (Strong Spirit) Centre, a dedicated community facility for local women. The centre will deliver young

mothers' support groups, mentoring and life skill coaching and mental health services as well as providing support to help local women get into work.

On the Tiwi Islands, \$497,000 will be used to support the Tiwi College "Growing Young Women" program, including purchasing new computers and sports equipment.

The Djabulukgu Association will receive \$2 million to expand the successful Lakeview tourist park in Jabiru.

The tourist park is Aboriginal-owned and run, and all profits go towards community development in the Kakadu West Arnhem Region.

The Larrakia Nation Aboriginal Corporation will receive funding of \$500,000 towards construction costs to upgrade its existing premises and

build two new training rooms for staff, such as rangers and night patrol workers.

The NT AFL received \$3,500,000 to establish The Michael Long NT Thunder Learning and Leadership Centre.

The next application process for grant funding under the ABA will open on 1 August 2012 and will include funding opportunities for large projects of more than \$250,000 and small projects of up to \$250,000.

More detailed information can be found at <http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/aboriginals-benefit-account-aba>

**ABA now has very short deadlines - applications close August 30!**

ABORIGINALS BENEFIT ACCOUNT APPROVED PROJECTS IN CENTRAL AUSTRALIA		
Organisation	Project	Funding (rounded)
Incite Youth Arts Incorporated	Mt Theo partnership to assist young people to reconnect with family, culture and country.	\$210,000
Arlpwe Artists Aboriginal Corporation	Extension to the Arlpwe Art Gallery	\$40,000
Anyinginyi Health Aboriginal Corporation	Anyinginyi Sport and Recreation Centre upgrade	\$220,000
Central Australian Aboriginal Congress Corporation Incorporated (CAACI)	Cultural leadership support program for men through Ingkintja Male Health and other branches	\$100,000
Arramwelke Aboriginal Corporation	Replacement Caterpillar 432E Backhoe for work in Bonya	\$183,500
Keringke Arts Aboriginal Corporation	Vehicle to support Santa Teresa artists	\$75,000
Apiwentye Pastoral Company Pty Ltd	Purchase stock for Atula Station to increase herd productivity	\$600,000
Gunamu Aboriginal Corporation (GAC)	Fuel bowser canopy at Timber Creek	\$48,100

## Give up the smokes and not too much fatty meat!



Healthy Lifestyle Team members taking part in the 2012 NAIDOC March. From left are Rohan Carmody, Jennifer Breadon, Lynnette O'Bree and Glenn Clarke.

**EVER** thought about quitting smoking or trying to get a bit fitter or healthier?

Congress's Healthy Lifestyle and Tobacco Cessation Program operates on a mantra of 'Live healthy, live strong!'.

It promotes healthy food choices, a more active lifestyle, health education, non-smoking, regular health checks, learning about chronic disease and prevention, and becoming aware of the effects of smoking on your children.

Throughout the year, the Healthy Lifestyle Team attends events across Alice Springs to spread the message of 'Live Healthy, Live Strong' and 'Smoking makes you sick'.

So far this year, they've held information stalls and activities at Braitling Primary School, the Centralian Middle School health expo, a mini-circuit at the VIBE 3 on 3 Basketball Challenge, the Alice Springs Show, and during Alice Springs NAIDOC Week celebrations. Programs that

promote good health are important in 'Closing the Gap' in indigenous health. Chronic diseases are often influenced by lifestyle factors, such as smoking, nutrition, obesity and an inactive lifestyle.

If you want to give up smoking or get healthier, call the Congress Healthy Lifestyle Team on 89584569 or 89584570.

Quitline is also available 24 hours a day, seven days a week by calling 13 QUIT (13 78 48).



# ATM fees gone for lucky ones

AUSTRALIAN banks have promised to provide free banking transactions at 76 ATMs in remote communities.

But ATMs run by independent organisations, widespread in bush stores, are expected to continue charging fees.

Under the initiative, 13 banks will work to provide free ATM transactions in very remote communities in the NT, Queensland, Western Australia and South Australia.

Consumer advocate CHOICE welcomed the banks' initiative but continued to call for the abolition of on-screen balance enquiry fees.

"If banks and the Government are serious about improving financial literacy, surely removing fees for let-

ting people know how much money they have in their account is the first place to start," a Choice spokesperson said.

Australian Greens spokesperson on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander issues, Senator Rachel Siewert said there are independent operators who are not yet party to the lifting of ATM fees in remote communities.

"The ATM Taskforce Report on Indigenous ATM Issues put the number of ATMs in remote communities as high as 600," she said.

"Of these 600, 80 per cent are independently owned and 20 per cent owned by banks. Doing the maths on the announcement that 76 ATMs will now be fee-free, it's clear that there is still a long way to go."

# NAIDOC Awards 2012

## Winners of NAIDOC Alice Springs 2012

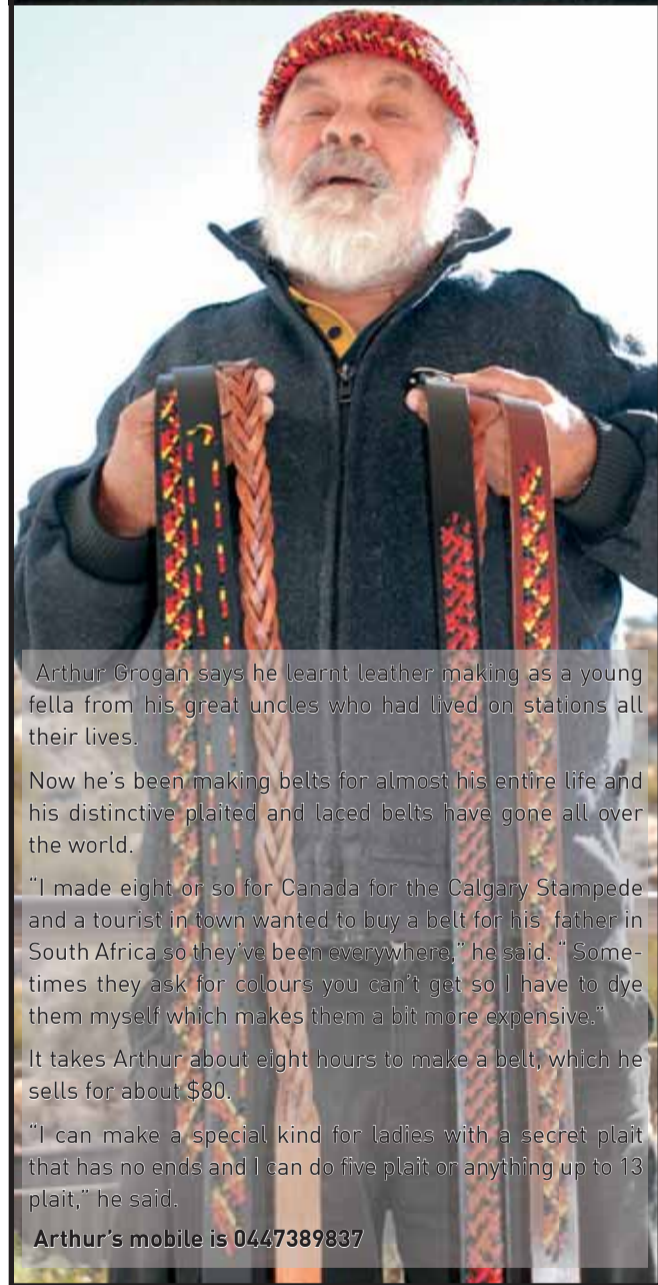
- Frank Curtis – Person of the year
- James "Jim" Bray – Elder of the year
- Jackie Foster – Youth of the year (senior)
- Woolworths Alice Springs – Employer of the year
- Mikaela Simpson – Trainee of the year
- Jaiden Preece-Forrester – Sports-person of the year
- Reggie Smith – Sports-person of the year
- Dylan McDonald – Youth of the year (senior)



Above: Employee of the Year Mischa Cartwright with CAT Chair Peter Renehan

- Denis Maher – Business Person of the Year
- Zita Wallace – Artist of the year
- Mischa Cartwright – Employee of the year
- Kathleen Wallace, Dawn Ross, Jennifer Mahoney, Marlene Doolan, Rita Nangala Dixon – Community Service Achievement.

## Belt up with Arthur



Arthur Grogan says he learnt leather making as a young fella from his great uncles who had lived on stations all their lives.

Now he's been making belts for almost his entire life and his distinctive plaited and laced belts have gone all over the world.

"I made eight or so for Canada for the Calgary Stampede and a tourist in town wanted to buy a belt for his father in South Africa so they've been everywhere," he said. "Sometimes they ask for colours you can't get so I have to dye them myself which makes them a bit more expensive."

It takes Arthur about eight hours to make a belt, which he sells for about \$80.

"I can make a special kind for ladies with a secret plait that has no ends and I can do five plait or anything up to 13 plait," he said.

Arthur's mobile is 0447389837



## ARID LANDS AND TABLELANDS REGIONAL NRM FORUM

TERRITORY NRM IS HOSTING A FORUM IN ALICE SPRINGS ON THE 11TH OF SEPTEMBER 2012.

The forum will focus on natural resource management projects across the Arid Lands and Tablelands regions.

- WHAT – ARID LANDS AND TABLELANDS NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT FORUM
- WHERE – CROWN PLAZA, SPINIFEX ROOM, ALICE SPRINGS
- WHEN – 11TH OF SEPTEMBER 2012

RSVP: Catering will be provided so please RSVP to [heidi.groffen@territorynrm.org.au](mailto:heidi.groffen@territorynrm.org.au) or [ilse.pickerd@territorynrm.org.au](mailto:ilse.pickerd@territorynrm.org.au)

Please come along and share your on ground project activities. The day will provide an opportunity to collaborate with neighbouring stakeholders and plan for future projects.



If you are interested in giving a presentation on the day, please contact: TNRM Arid Lands Regional Coordinator Heidi Groffen on 08 8951 9284 or [Heidi.groffen@territorynrm.org.au](mailto:Heidi.groffen@territorynrm.org.au) or



Tablelands Regional Coordinator Ilse Pickerd on 08 8951 9207 or [ilse.pickerd@territorynrm.org.au](mailto:ilse.pickerd@territorynrm.org.au) before 31st July.

A full program will be available in August.

## ADVERTISE WITH US

LAND RIGHTS NEWS CENTRAL AUSTRALIA goes to all remote communities in Central Australia  
Call 89516211 or email: [media@clc.org.au](mailto:media@clc.org.au)



# Smokes and beer out for US welfare

THE US state of New York will stop welfare recipients from spending their tax-funded benefits on cigarettes, alcohol, gambling, and strip clubs under a new law.

have already ruled social services can't be spent on items, from beer to guns.

"I understand that people need food stamps," said Republican senator Thomas Libousn. "What I don't understand is why they

need to go to strip clubs, buy lottery tickets, go to a 'racino' or buy alcohol."

President Barack Obama signed a law in February that will require states to restrict how the cash portion of social ser-

vices is spent, or lose five percent of Temporary Assistance to Needy Families funding. New York risks losing \$125 million next year.

Although the law had overwhelming support,

some senators questioned the need for the restrictions, saying they were a slap at the poor.

"It's a prejudice, I think, about poor people that we are seeing represented more than any statisti-

cal or study of behavior," said Senator Bill Perkins, a Harlem Democrat.

Income Management for Aboriginal welfare recipients was introduced to the NT in 2007.

## New pews make news



ABOVE l-r: Emily Schilling, Jeanette Ungawanaka, Hazel Ungwanaka and Daisy Campbell try out the new pews in Titjikala Church

RENT from the Chambers Pillar Historical Reserve has paid for some big improvements at the Lutheran Church at Titjikala.

Traditional owners decided to spend some of the \$18,000 a year they get from NT Parks

for the reserve on eight new pews, a new altar rail, a P.A. system and six new ceiling fans.

The new seats mean no-one will have to sit on the floor during church services any more.

"The traditional owners made a

good decision because the church is so important," said CLC chairman and Lutheran pastor, Phillip Wilyuka.

"We use it for church and funeral services, and families get together on singalong nights, praising our Father in Heaven

who watches over us everywhere.

"The P.A. system in the church will help people sitting outside to hear the good news."

Communities are required to spend rent money on community development.

## On track for Lajamanu dialysis service

LAJAMANU is the next Western Desert Community in line to get its own dialysis service.

Western Desert Nganampa Walytja Palyantjaku Tjutaku (WDNWPT) started planning for the service two years ago.

The Kurra Aboriginal Corporation is helping fund the service

with royalty money, and GMAAAC has followed Kurra's lead with \$78,000 towards the service.

The Aboriginal Benefit Account approved \$2.36 million for the Lajamanu Dialysis Project.

A recent donation of \$250,000 from the Lajamanu Progress Association gave the project a wel-

come boost.

New government funding for bores and rising mains in Lajamanu will ensure there is enough water for dialysis.

Thanks to the wonderful support from the Lajamanu Kidney Committee, it's now all systems go for Lajamanu.

## Lilla: Rotary volunteers lend a hand



ABOVE: Julie Clyne takes one of her prints off the press to show the Rotary visitors

MEMBERS of a suburban Sydney Rotary Club have given a helping hand to residents of Ulpanyali and Lilla, raising thousands of dollars towards community projects.

Ulpanyali had used Uluru rent money to turn old sheds into a car workshop and an art studio, while

Lilla decided to build an ablution block for visitors near the newly re-opened Watarrka school.

Carlingford Rotary Club members – among them the parents of former CLC anthropologist Rebecca Morgan – raised the extra money they needed for tools, art

equipment, school books and stationery.

Twenty-two volunteers brought the tools and equipment with them and helped to install the new gear at Ulpanyali.

Then they visited Lilla to deliver books and stationery to the school at Wattarka.



# Combined Women's Law and Culture meeting

The 20th CLC Women's law and Culture meeting will be hosted by the Alyawerr women of Utopia

9 SEPTEMBER-15 SEPTEMBER

Please make sure you arrive by Sunday 9th September 2012

There is very limited CLC and NLC transport available so everyone is encouraged to use their own community transport. Fuel will be available for community vehicles.

Please bring:

- Swag/tents
- Medication
- Cooking utensils - pots pans and billy cans
- Tarps/calico
- Water containers
- Shovels and rakes
- Knife, fork, spoon and pannikin

**FOOD WILL BE PROVIDED**

Call Gina at CLC for more information: 8951 6297



# The Western Desert walks!

by Kate Crossing

During the recent school holidays, families from Kintore, Mt Liebig, Papunya and Haasts Bluff joined staff and volunteers from Waltja Tjutanku Palyapayi on two long walks through country.

These community walks aimed to support both physical and cultural health, giving people a chance to spend time out on their country and to walk and be active every day.

Community leaders are worried about the levels of diabetes and other chronic diseases, and believe that activities such as this help people to stay healthy.

Each walk took around nine days, with people walking up to 10kms each day.

About 20 women and children joined the first walk near Kintore, and we had a crowd of around 60 people for the second walk, between Mt Liebig and Haasts Bluff.

As you can see from the photo, everyone really enjoyed themselves.

There were some blisters and aching muscles, but it was fantastic to see people getting stronger as the walk progressed. As people walked, they burnt country to encourage bush tucker, dug up



ABOVE: Ladies and Waltja staff on the walk

plenty of goanna and even did interviews with PAW Media.

Elders got lifts in the Waltja troopies and

walked as much as they wanted.

The afternoons were spent setting up camp, relaxing and collecting

more bush tucker. As well as goanna, people found maku (witchetty grub), honey ant and akatjirri (bush raisin),

and we even had bush turkey one night.

People cooked their own healthy meals from supplies handed out by

organisations - for helping to make these community walks such a great success!

Waltja – the flour drum stoves and woks were a big hit, as was roo tail night, of course.

At night we'd go to sleep surrounded by campfires, listening to young people chatting into the night or the ladies singing gospel songs.

Many thanks to the Australian Government's Department of Health and Ageing for funding this project through their Get Active, Live Longer campaign.

Waltja would also like to thank everyone involved – participants, volunteers and supporting organisations - for helping to make these community walks such a great success!

**2012 BUSH BANDS BASH**  
INDIGENOUS MUSIC FROM THE HEART

**6PM-MIDNIGHT FRIDAY 7<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER**  
**'THE HUB' ANZAC OVAL ALICE SPRINGS**  
**GOLD COIN ENTRY**  
**BUSH BANDS BASH IS AN ALCOHOL AND DRUG FREE EVENT**

**SUNSHINE REGGAE BAND (HAASTS BLUFF, NT)**  
**SOUTH EAST DESERT METAL (SANTA TERESA, NT)**  
**SANDRIDGE BAND (BORROLLOOLA, NT)**  
**IRRUNYTJU BAND (WINGELLINA, WA)**  
**CENTRAL REGGAE BAND (FREGON, SA)**  
**DESERT MULGA (NYIRRIPI, NT)**

**PLUS SPECIAL GUESTS:**  
**TJUPI BAND (PAPUNYA, NT)**  
**BLACKSTONE BAND (BLACKSTONE, WA)**

Alice DESERT FESTIVAL



Congratulations to proud parents Shekeisha Turner and Tosh Kunoth and to all the Turner and Kunoth families on the birth of their first grandchild, **Kitana Kunoth-Turner**. A beautiful baby girl born 10/5/2012.



**Taylor**, parents: Donna Damon and Robert Hart



**Cornelius Watson** having a bush picnic at Docker River with family.

# Bubs & CENTRAL Babies

We welcome your bubs and baby photos so just email them to [media@clc.org.au](mailto:media@clc.org.au) or call **89516211**. Don't forget to put in all the information, like names, age or date of birth, family and country or tribe.



Syd Maloney with granddaughter, **Layla Cole-Manolis** enjoy the Watarrka Hand Back ceremony.



Above: Lukas Punch holds son **Jayden**, Mum Lauren is holding daughter **Harper**. Below L-R: cute **Harper** and cool **Jayden**.



**Nahkayla Lee Michaeline Lankin**, born 29/2/2012 . Her mother is Khiani Payne (above) and her father is Tyrone Lankin



Beverley Impu and son **Duqwan** at the Watarrka Handback ceremony.



Proud mum, Kirsty Heffernan and grandmother Margaret Heffernan welcome **Kaishawn Antwuan Heffernan**.





Above: Traditional owners of Loves Creek with the Minister after the handback



Above: Crown Hill traditional owners finally get the title after 26 years.



Above, at right and below right: traditional owners of the Western MacDonnell National Park



Above left : The Watarrka National Park handback to traditional owners,

Right: signing the lease to the park back to the Northern Territory Government

Left: Dancers at the Southern Tanami Indigenous Protected Area declaration at Sangster's Bore

Below: Rangers and dancers at the event



# Namatjira star on the rise

**ACTOR** Derik Lynch looks back on *Namatjira* as the inspiring true story that lifted him to a new level in his career as a performer – but he’s not stopping there.

No sooner had the former town camper finished his last performance alongside Trevor Jamieson in the play than he was flying to rehearsals with the South Australian State Theatre Company for the musical *Pinnocchio*.

“I miss *Namatjira* very much,” Derik said. “I had a kind of family connection with everyone in that show. But this is something new and it’s something I can grow into.”

In contrast with his part in *Namatjira*, he’s the only indigenous member of the cast, and the musical has nothing to do with Aboriginal issues. In fact, Derik plays a fox.

He said performing in non-Aboriginal roles was “somewhere I’d like to go in my career.”

“I like collaboration and sharing, exchanging and sharing stories, and I’d like to be recognised as a performer, not for my colour or my race,” said Derik.

It’s not entirely new for Derik to play a wider range of characters. In *Namatjira* he took on an astonishing 15 roles – mostly women, including Albert’s wife Rubina, city socialites and even the Queen.

Derik raised gales of laughter from audiences everywhere with his outrageous female impersonations.

“It was the first time I’ve had to play women,” he said.

“It was very very challenging to begin with, but as performer I kind of grew into it and became more confident, and in the end I really really enjoyed it.

“It just came out naturally. I grew up with a lot of cousins and sisters in a big family so I know about female reactions and how they act, so I took a lot of what I’d seen growing up as well.”

Derik grew up between Apatula and the Old Timers camp, and from a very early age began using experiences from his life and turning them into performance.

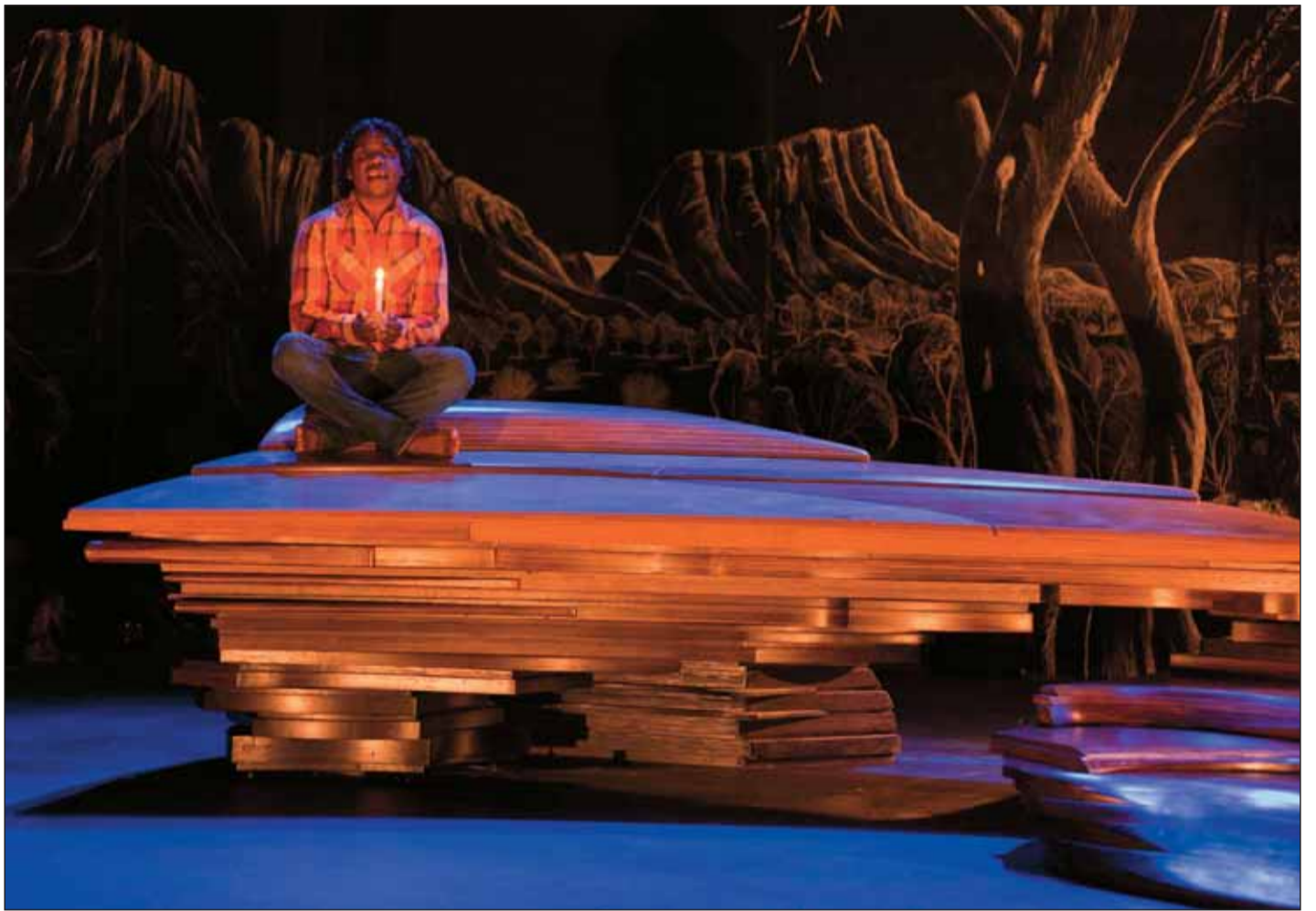
He’s been performing since he was five years old, singing and dancing in various roles even while he was at primary school.

“A town camp is not always a very safe place to grow up in,” said Derik. “You grow up with a whole lot of drama happening around you.

“But I got to see the good side of life as well, in a dry community.

“Seeing the two sides made me stronger in my performances, and I learned to see the funny side of things.”

As he grew up, Derik’s talent and determination to succeed as a performer became stronger.



Above: Derik Lynch played many roles in *Namatjira*

As a student at Yirra College he formed a musical mentor to other Yankunytjatjara men and band, sang in the gospel helped teach traditional

**I wanted to break away from that scene and become a better person and a successful person and make use of myself instead of going down the drain and ending up in the cemetery too young**

choir, took part in drama performances, danced in community events and travelled to Sydney to join in the Spirit of Australia Choir.

He has acted as a mu-

inma on the APY lands.

But while he has strong ties to his family and culture, Derik is determined to follow his career and “break the cycle” he has seen other people

trapped in.

“I wanted to be different, instead of following what I had seen all my life,” he says.

“I wanted to break away from that scene and become a better person and a successful person and make use of myself instead of going down the drain and ending up in the cemetery too young.”

Derik believes the pitfalls facing Aboriginal artists like *Namatjira* are still there, but the people of today have a greater choice to determine how

they want to lead their lives.

In one scene in the play, Derik plays a drunken relative of Albert’s, humbugging for money from the artist. It’s a scenario he’s well aware of.

“I do get humbug, but I stand my ground,” he says.

“I tell people I did this on my own, by getting an education, learning all I could learn, going on to the next stage to do what I wanted to do – and that’s what you need to do.”

## Smash hit of the Centre

**NAMATJIRA** earned standing ovations from Alice Springs audiences as the play about the famous Western Arrente watercolour painter finished its round-Australia tour in May.

*Namatjira* was written and developed at the request of his relatives and descendants, who helped write the script in workshops held at Hermannsburg.

Western Arrernte people played a major role in the touring production, with members of the Hermannsburg Ladies Choir singing and artists Elton Wirri and Kevin Namatjira chalking up a blackboard backdrop of

the western MacDonnell ranges Albert made world-famous.

The story-telling was left to Trevor Jamieson, of Ngapatji Ngapatji fame—who also played the key roles of *Namatjira* and his mentor Rex Battarbee.

Former town camper Derik Lynch performed alongside him, playing many of his 15 roles for laughs and belting out a few songs with his powerful voice.

Lynch often had the audience in stitches as he sang and danced his way outrageously into various female roles, from Albert’s wife Rubina to Queen Elizabeth.

Much of the first half of the play is

about Battarbee, who, we learn, was shaped by his childhood friendship with an old Aboriginal man and his traumatic experiences of World War One.

Battarbee was left for dead on the battleground with debilitating injuries that led him to take up watercolour painting as a career.

Jamieson skillfully switches back and forward between the roles of Battarbee and *Namatjira*, who, meanwhile, is balancing the demands of traditional life with the influence of the Lutheran missionaries.

The paths of the two men cross when Battarbee visits Hermannsburg and em-

loys Albert as his cameleer.

Albert is intrigued by Rex’s art and begins to see painting as a skill he could learn and perhaps provide an income from for his growing family.

He proves to be a quick learner and before long his skill and ambition bring him fame and money, but not fortune.

Albert’s cultural obligations to his relatives and the expectations of the Australian public place huge and conflicting demands on him.

They lead to a sad ending to the *Namatjira* story, when Albert is imprisoned for sharing alcohol with his countrymen. He is taken out of jail to spend the rest of his



Trevor Jamieson in *Namatjira*

sentence in Papunya, but not dies not long afterwards.

The play shows how *Namatjira* broke new ground for generations of indigenous artists, whether

watercolourists or the “dot painters” who came after the success of the Papunya Tula artists in the early 1970s.

The story of his life is brought to the

stage by Big hART, a Tasmanian based company which works in art and social change.

# CONISTON

## now a new film...



**MORE** than 80 years after the brutal slaughter of 100 or more Aboriginal people in Central Australia, the families of those who were there have told their story in a new film, *Coniston*.

More than 200 Anmatjere and Warlpiri people watched the first local screening of the Territory-produced documentary at Yuelamu in June.

Known as “the last massacre”, the punitive expeditions that set out in August 1928 mowed down innocent people across the traditional lands of the Warlpiri people and their neighbours.

The motive was to avenge the killing of dingo trapper Fred Brooks at the hands of a Warlpiri man, Bullfrog, who found Brooks taking liberties with his wife.

But as the Warlpiri people and their neighbours tell the story, it's also a tragic tale of Australian contact history: dispossession by pastoralists and the struggle over resources in a drought-afflicted land.

*Coniston's* stories are often painful and violent. The last survivor, Johnny Nelson, tells of his father's brutal slaying. The son of tracker and horse taylor Alex Wilson, who accompanied Constable George Murray on the killing raids, tells of his father's involvement.

Family members relate that the memories of those times are so disturbing that they have never been able to return to the country where the killings took place.

But there are also

stories of survival and resilience in *Coniston*.

The strong underlying theme is of pride in the ongoing strength of people's culture and traditions.

Bullfrog's son describes his father's escape, and others recall Bullfrog's use of powerful magic to elude capture. Another survivor tells how, when he was a baby, his mother hid him from attackers in a coolamon.

A co-production by Indigenous production house PAW Media and Rebel Films, *Coniston* brings together the past and the present through the story-telling of the

Warlpiri, Warlamungu, Anmatjerr and Kaytetje people.

It was co-directed by David Batty and Frances Kelly, who worked together on the film *Bush Mechanics*.

With the use of re-enactments, historical footage and showing the community preparing to make the film and shooting it, *Coniston* concludes that the injustices of the past must be acknowledged as part of the healing process.



*Coniston* debuted at the Sydney Film Festival on Monday 11 June, has been screened at the Melbourne Film Festival and will screen on ABC television later this year.

Direct from sold-out seasons at the

Sydney Film Festival and Melbourne International Film Festival, PAW Media and Rebel Films present *Coniston* at the Araluen Centre, Monday 27 August at 7pm.

Directors David Batty and Francis Jupurrurla Kelly will

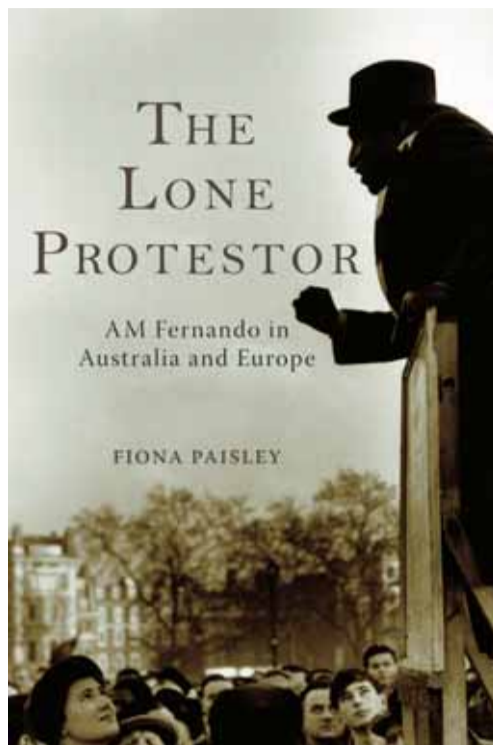
introduce the film at this special one-off screening in Alice Springs.

**TICKETS: \$18 FULL, \$12 CONCESSION.**

Pictured: scenes from *Coniston*.

Inset: Frances Kelly

# The strange tale of Martin Fernando



Author: FIONA PAISLEY  
 Publisher: Aboriginal Studies Press  
 Price \$34.95

**AN ABORIGINAL** activist who protested in London more than 80 years ago, wearing a cape sewn with tiny skeletons to symbolise the exploitation of indigenous Australians, is the subject of

a new book.

*The Lone Protestor*, by Fiona Paisley, tells the little-known story of Martin Fernando, the first Aboriginal person to protest conditions in Australia from the streets of Europe.

Fernando was born to an Aboriginal mother in Sydney in 1864, and died in an aged care facility in Second World War London.

He claimed to have been taken as a child into a home of a white family who denied him a real education and treated him as little more than a pet.

In later life, writes Paisley, he complained bitterly about the mission system, describing its settlements as little more

than 'murderhouses'.

He proposed in their place an Aboriginal state in North Australia, free from British interference and managed under the mandate of a neutral European power.

According to an ABC radio program broadcast in 2007, historians believe Fernando went to Europe in the early 1900s, after being excluded from giving evidence in the trial of white men accused of the murder of Aboriginal people.

There he believed he might confront the British, whom he accused – through the Australian Government – of “systematically exterminating” Indigenous people.

His life of protest overseas also included leafletting pilgrims in Rome in 1925 and an appeal to the Swiss people in the pages of a Berne Newspaper.

Fernando was a consummate traveller in an era when even middle-class Anglo-Australians considered a visit to Europe the trip of a lifetime.

During his 40 years overseas, Fernando, a devout Catholic, was at vari-

ous times an itinerant street trader, a labourer, a manservant and cook, an internee, a prisoner on remand, a hospital patient and a strident commentator on modern affairs.

On behalf of Aboriginal people, he promoted self-dependent reserves, the end of violence and access to education. Critical of the British Empire, Fernando compared the Aboriginal situation with that of Indian nationalists and Palestinians who were struggling for self-rule.

*The Lone Protestor* is published by Aboriginal Studies Press.

You can hear the ABC podcast about Fernando at <http://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/away/fernandos-ghost/3669326>

Right: Raj Naji's portrait of Aboriginal man Anthony Martin Fernando, who stood outside Australia House in London during the 1920s while wearing a coat made of skeletons to protest.

There were no photos of Martin Fernando.



# The vexed world of Aboriginal child abuse



Our Greatest Challenge  
 Aboriginal Children and Human Rights  
 Hannah McGLADE  
 RRP \$39.95 incl. GST  
 June 2012

**INDIGENOUS** people need to develop their own strategies to fight child sexual abuse, according to a new book by Noon-gar human rights lawyer Hannah McGlade.

In *Our Greatest Challenge*, Aboriginal Children and Human Rights, McGlade reminds us how child abuse is widespread in both Aboriginal communities and the broader Australian community.

She uses actual cases to show how conventional legal approaches to child sex abuse often favour offenders and force children to go through the trauma of reliving their sufferings in court.

When abusers are acquitted, children suffer even more and others are discouraged from taking action.

Herself a victim of child sex abuse, McGlade says the needs and voices of Aboriginal women and children are being ignored, and the Aboriginal rights agenda has been dominated by the views of Aboriginal men

McGlade stresses that not all men guilty of sexually abusing children are Aboriginal and that not all Aboriginal men are abusers. She says Aboriginal child sexual assault is linked to colonisation, racism and paternalism.

Examining the Northern Territory Emergency Response, the so-called Intervention, McGlade agrees with the view that it was intended to support the right of Aboriginal women and children to be safe from violence.

She also supports the continuation of some of the measures of the NTER “in a modified form and consistently with human right standards.”

But McGlade says that although there has been an increase in reporting of child sexual abuse since the NTER, the intervention has made the issue itself “too political”.

She says that critics of the intervention have downplayed the importance of identifying and fighting child sexual abuse and suppressed the subject because of “anti-racism.”

She gives the example of the submission of the Indigenous Doctors Association concerning the NTER, “which repeatedly stressed the social and emotional harms said to have resulted from Intervention measures.”



Author Hannah McGlade with her mother and grandmother in Albany, WA in the sixties

McGlade said the submission, however, “made no acknowledgement of the grave harm of child sexual assault” and appeared to minimise the issue by saying that one year after the NTER was announced only three people had been convicted of child abuse.

But, she says, the Government’s monitoring showed “significant increases” in both the reporting and conviction of child sex offences.

McGlade emphasises, however, that Aboriginal self-deter-

mination needs to be included in child protection strategies, with models that “respect Aboriginal culture and affirm victim survivors.”

She looks at models developed in north America, such as the Community Holistic Circle Hearing program of Hollow Water in Canada, in which people charged with sexual assault are offered the opportunity to participate in a ‘healing program’ which may take several years.

If they agree to acknowledge their guilt, they are given immunity from jail.

The program was developed by survivors of sexual assault, and only two of the 107 offender who have agreed to take part in the restorative justice process have reoffended.

But critics say the system promotes leniency to offenders, who are themselves treated as victims, while not enough attention is paid to the harm they have caused to the children or women they have assaulted.

McGlade also looks at models developed by native Americans in the USA

These involve improved investigation and prosecution of child sex abuse cases, bigger penalties for offenders and comprehensive therapy and help for victim survivors from Native American counsellors and healers.

One such program, the Navajo Child Special Advocacy Program, was formed by the Navajo people in 1990 after revelations of abuse of children by teachers at the Hopi Reservation.

The *Honouring Nations* project praised the Navajo program: “Recognising that effective self-governance requires tribes to confront even the most highly stigmatised and difficult social problems, the Navajo Nation acted upon its solemn responsibility to foster a safe and healthy environment for its most vulnerable citizens, its children.”

McGlade says Australian Aboriginal communities need to work with the criminal justice system to decide on more effective ways of dealing with sexual abuse.

In particular, she says, the voices of children who have been abused need to be heard by authorities for the first time.

McGlade quotes Professor Larry EchoHawk, an advisor to President Obama and a strong advocate of Native American tribes taking responsibility for their children’s safety:

“Tribal leaders must continue the fight to protect sovereignty, lands and natural resources, but nothing is more important than protecting the health, safety and welfare of their children.

“Without physically and mentally healthy children there is no bright future.”



ABOVE: Young students at the Kungkas Careers Conference pay close attention as they are interviewed.



ABOVE: Ladies at the Kiwikurra Women's Law and Culture meeting

**Land Rights News Central Australia** welcomes your photos so just email them to [media@clc.org.au](mailto:media@clc.org.au) or call **89516211**.

Remember to make sure your camera is set to high quality pictures.

Don't forget to put in other information, like names of people and places and country or tribe.



LEFT: Anangu in the Kaltukatjara (Docker River) region have taken the first steps towards developing their own tourism enterprises. Nearly 30 Anangu attended the Stepping Stones for Tourism workshop at Tjitjingarti and formed Tjungunku Nintintjaku, a working group of 10 men and women.

The Stepping Stones for Tourism model has been successfully developed by many Indigenous groups in Australia and overseas and involves agreeing on a shared vision for the future.

It takes groups through the 10 steps it takes to turn their tourism ideas into businesses. The two-day workshop at Tjitjingarti looked at the tourists visiting the region, where they come from, what they want and how that fits in with local ideas. It also presented examples of tourism businesses that began with Stepping Stones.

The CLC will help the group look for funding for a second, week-long Stepping Stones workshop to produce a tourism plan.

The workshop was jointly funded by the Department of the Environment and Heritage and the CLC, as part of the management planning for the Katiti/Petermann Indigenous Protected Area (IPA).



RIGHT: Veronica Lynch (left) with Stacia Rice and Shaqualla Alum. Both of these girls are from the Girls Academy at Centralian Secondary College. Veronica is handing them a pamphlet about the Family Partnership Program of Congress Alukura.



Participants, facilitators and trainers at the 2011 DTP-FHF Indigenous Peoples, Human Rights and Advocacy Program in Alice Springs

**"Indigenous peoples have the right to the full enjoyment, as a collective or as individuals, of all human rights and fundamental freedoms as recognised in the Charter of the UNITED NATIONS, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and international human rights law."**

Article 1, United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

## Indigenous Peoples, Human Rights and Advocacy Training Program Alice Springs September 24-28, 2012

This 5 day intensive training program will help develop knowledge, confidence and skills of community advocates to protect, promote and fulfil their human rights as recognised in Australian and International Law.

### Program Objectives include:

- building knowledge of human rights and the rights of Indigenous People and how this applies to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the Northern Territory.
- To look at the International Human Rights Framework and the obligations of the Australian Government to respect, protect and fulfil human rights and the rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People.
- To develop practical lobbying and advocacy skills.

### Who Should Attend the Program?

The program is open to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples from Alice Springs, Tennant Creek and the surrounding regions, who have an interest in protecting the rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

The Program will run over five days in Alice Springs. The Fred Hollows Foundation will fund the cost of the program; there is no charge for participation.

**If you would like to participate in this program or make an inquiry, please contact:**  
**Lorelle Savage (DTP) on (02) 9385 2807 or email: [l.savage@unsw.edu.au](mailto:l.savage@unsw.edu.au)**  
**Tania McCleod (FHF) on (08) 89201411 or email: [tmcleod@hollows.org](mailto:tmcleod@hollows.org)**



ABOVE: Bunny Napurrula speaking out against the Muckaty waste dump at the May CLC meeting in Tennant Creek. Traditional owners opposed to a planned national radioactive waste dump on Aboriginal land at Muckaty Station took the matter to the Federal Court in June and it will be heard again in November this year. The action is being led by traditional owners who say a smaller group approved use of the site without their permission.

# Kwementyaye A. Peterson Apetyarr (c.1937-2012)

Craig Elliot

CENTRAL Australia is mourning the passing of a senior Alyawarr cultural leader and true gentleman, known for his great knowledge and generous teaching to younger generations.

Affectionately known by many as 'Tracker' or 'The Pope', Kwementyaye Peterson was conceived at Intyerrantyer, close to the Murray Downs / Hatches Creek gate.

He was born at Ateyw rockhole, Elkedra station, also in Aterleleleng country.

His bushname marked his birthplace (pictured).

Kwementyaye grew up at Hatches Creek, where his father and mother worked in the wolfram mines.

With his parents, Kwementyaye hid from cheeky whitefellas at Tharlpeng (within Anurrete Aboriginal Land Trust) and Lwekw (on Elkedra station). Both campsites are located near rockholes on slopes above valleys.

At Lwekw, a mounded

stone wall hide where Kwementyaye and his father hid remains intact (see photo). From there they would go hunting along the Frew River to Athethew (Old Police Station Waterhole).

Kwementyaye worked mustering cattle at Elkedra, Murray Downs, Epenarra, Kurundi and at stations in the Harts Range area with Alyawarr, Kaytetye, Warumungu and Arrernte people.

It was then that Lame Tommy and Sandy Nappa (both Arrawajin-areny), Tommy Beasley Akemarr (Arlangkw-areny) and Avon Willy Atywelenty Akemarr (Arrewerr-areny) taught Kwementyaye the stories for the country.

They made him a young man near Yethel, in Tyaw country (now within Eytwelepenty A.L.T.). Later, Kwementyaye buried Lame Tommy at Epenarra.

During station work and holidays, Kwementyaye went to his father's and father's father's coun-



try, Aharreng, within Ammaroo and Derry Downs stations, camping at soakages along the Sandover River.

Fluent in Alyawarr and Kaytetye, Kwementyaye generously shared his vast cultural knowledge with younger generations and researchers over decades.

In the late 1970s at Ammaroo, Kwementyaye worked with the ethnomu-

sicologist Richard Moyle documenting Aharreng ceremonies and songs. Kwementyaye's photo appears in the book *Alyawarre Music*.

In 1978 Kwementyaye explained sites and stories for his mother's country (Antarrengeny) in the Alyawarra and Kaititja Land Claim. Kwementyaye gave extensive evidence in the Alyawarr Claim in 2000.

Between 2002 and

2010 he provided crucial cultural information for the Singleton, Kurundi, Ooratippra, Crawford Range, Lake Nash and Lake Nash, Tennant Creek Sandover native title claims. Kwementyaye frequently shared his knowledge to help others learn the stories for their country, without any expectation of personal gain.

Because of his encyclopedic cultural knowledge, Kwementyaye Peterson

was regarded as a law-culture holder and ceremonial leader for many countries from Barrow Creek to Harts Range, as well as his ancestral lands.

He knew songs and ceremonies for parts of this big area. Kwementyaye was laid to rest at Epenarra. He is survived by 10 children and 27 grandchildren.

# Mr Tony Booth

By Rob Nowak

MR TONY Booth was the oldest of the remarkable group of men who started the Night Patrols in Alice Springs.

Like many of his colleagues, he had beaten the drink.

"I was a bad drunk," he used to say, briefly and convincingly. He didn't dwell on it, because the recollection shamed him deeply.

On his last day as a drunk, Mr Booth took a six pack and a packet of cigarettes down to the river. He opened a beer and began to drink. It tasted like water.

In disbelief he drank some more, and it still tasted like water.

He lit a cigarette and that also tasted of nothing. He sampled and then threw away all six cans.

He also threw away the cigarettes, and as far as I know from that day on he never smoked or drank again.

Mr Booth may have been a little modest in later giving God all the

credit for this odd experience.

It wasn't just because he was the oldest that everyone always addressed him as Mr Booth and not as Tony, his skin name.

He had a very powerful presence. Partly it was his deep steady voice, partly his intense eyes.

He didn't waste words. He didn't lose his temper.

Like many of the first band of night patrol volunteers he made those around him stronger, taller, more confident.

You had him in the back of your mind when you considered your actions: would this course provoke the quiet but incredibly stern disapproval of Mr Booth?

While he could be very critical, he could also be compassionate, and would help anyone who wanted to help himself or herself. He was the man at Hidden Valley people went to when they had a problem.

Around his place, self-respect, politeness and respect for others was the rule. There was never a danger of being humbugged by drunks. When Mr Booth was home there were always people around his house.

And then there was The Elephant.

He was Mr Booth's dog, so named not because he was tiny, but because he had lost all his hair and had grey, wrinkled, leathery skin. The elephant was an extremely popular dog. So much so that when *The Alice Springs Post* did an issue around the theme of dogs, we planned to do a small piece about The Elephant.

When we came to take a photo, Mr Booth kindly but firmly put a stop to it.

"No, no," he said. "He's a good dog, there's nothing wrong with him but he's got no hair, he doesn't look too good. People will think there's something wrong and

the ranger will come and take him away."

Mr Booth was the model of a category of people who live in the town camps and who maintain their dignity and self-respect despite everything. They try to stand up for what is right, often at personal risk.

Against the tide of alcohol and despair they refuse to give up.

These are the people who are there in the dead of night when the shouting starts, who have to do what they can to stop the trouble when the people who are funded are safely tucked up in bed.

Mr Booth was the kind of fellow you'd want around to look after your interests when you've lost all your hair and your skin is grey and wrinkled and you don't look so good. Or any time really.

He was a rock.

## Farewell PAM LOFTS



9 AUGUST 1949 - 4 JULY 2012

LOCAL artist Pam Lofts' career began drawing cartoons for Hanna Barbera. She went on to become one of the Northern Territory's most respected and prolific artists, with her works collected by major galleries all over the country.

In addition she was a well-known children's book illustrator, most famously for *Wombat Stew*, but also for many others.

Pam had an enduring passion for the desert and a life-long interest in its original inhabitants, which inspired much of her work for the last 30 years.

In 2003 she designed 30 banners to celebrate the CLC's 30th anniversary.

Their opalescent quality especially came to life once they were back-lit and they were a spectacular tribute to the history of the CLC on the night of its celebration.

The banners are much loved and have toured the region several times and have also been shown at the National Museum of Australia.

They are another lasting legacy of Pam's and will continue to give pleasure to their subjects and their viewers well into the future.



# Teaching Arrernte through footy

Can a computer tell you about what happened during a footy game?

Say that Adam Goodes scored a goal from 50m?

There's some work overseas where a computer starts with all the stats collected, and then writes for you the story of the game, but it's all in English.

Linguists Myf Turpin and Mark Dras are

working on a project to get computers to tell footy stories in Arrernte!

The most important part of the work is to know how Arrernte people talk about footy using Arrernte language.

Janet Turner's commentary (Arrernte and English transcripts below) has been helping Myf and Mark with this project.

Eventually the computer might produce

short stories in Arrernte, for use with some of the more traditional stories told by the elders and written down in books in the Alice Springs library.

Anyone interested can call Mark Dras on **0417 407 555**

or email him at [mark.dras@mq.edu.au](mailto:mark.dras@mq.edu.au)

## Swans ikwere-atheke!

Swans-ele mwerre anthurre arrkene-irreke Saints-enge. Itne 20 points-nge impeke. Nhenhe arrule anthurre itne akurne arrkene-irrerretyarte. Swans-ele anteme Shane Mumford aparlpileke nhenhe re ampere akurne aneke. Kele anteme itne game renhe impeke 15.15 (105) to 10.16 (76) . Itne-anteme akertne irreke ladder-nge (13-3)-werne.

Stephen Milne Saints-arenye re mwerre anthurre arrkene-irreke. Saints-ele anteme impeke Swans nhenhe Etihad Stadium-enge round 9-enge. Saints anteme mwerre anthurre arrkene-irreke finals-enge akwele itne atnetyenhenge. Swans-ele anteme arrwekeleke-irreke. Itne 4 goal arrerneke 6 minutes-enge.

Ruckman Mumford anteme ampere akurne aneke. Renhe anteme arratelhileke coach anteme angkeke injury-akerte akwenhe re.

Josh Kennedy mwerre arrkene-irreke Swans-eke. Re mwerre anthurre arrkene-irreke Lenny Hayes-enge. Craig Bird-ele anteme Nick Dal Santo aparlpilyakenhe. Nhenhe-anteme Adam Goodes and Sam Reid goal-atherre arrerneke.

St Kilda Sam Fisher re aneke mwerre anthurre defense-enge. Kele Leigh Montagna 23 times-enge re pwetepale apaneke. Nhenhe Saints-ele anteme game itne-kenhe aparlpileke. Saints arrwekele aneke 1st quarter-nge, kele anteme Swans imerte 2nd quarter-nge mwerre aneke. Itne akwete arrweke-larle aneke.

Swans-ele 6 points arrerneke 1st quarter-nge. Saints-ele arrwekele akwete aneke. Swans co-captain-ele Jarrad McVeigh-le anteme goal anyente arrerneke.

2nd quarter-nge anteme Swans-ele arratewarreke. Itne anteme mwerre anthurre arrkene-irreke. Saints anteme akurne arrkene-irreke. Goodes, Kieren Jack and McGlynn itne goal mape arrerneke. Itne impetyeke-werne-atheke re.

3rd quarter-nge itne apwerrke-apwerrke ware itne irrkene-irreke. Swans-ele anteme 16 points-nge arrwekeleke-irreke. Saints mwerre arrkene-irreke 4th quarter-nge, itne anteme 50m itne-kenhenge pwetepale kickem-ileke ayarne anthurre itne goal arrerneke.

## The swans were too good

The Swans were too good for the Saints, winning by 20 points. The Swans had lost Shane Mumford to a knee injury, but they still won the game 15.15 (105) to 10.16 (76). They are now 13-3 on the ladder.

Stephen Milne from the Saints played well. The Saints were the last team to beat the Swans at Etihad Stadium in round nine. The Saints hoped to get into the finals but they didn't get there. The Swans took the lead, scoring four goals in six minutes.

Ruckman Mumford had a knee injury and was taken off the field by the coach.

Josh Kennedy played well for the Swans, staying close to his opponent Lenny Hayes. Craig Bird didn't let Nick Dal Santo get away either. Adam Goodes and Sam Reid kicked two goals.

For St Kilda, Sam Fisher played well in defence, while Leigh Montagna finished with 23 touches, but the Saints still lost the game. They were in front in the first quarter but then the Swans took the lead. And they were in front for the rest of the game.

The Swans scored six points in the first quarter. But the Saints were still in front. The Swans Captain Jarrad McVeigh scored one goal.

It was a different Swans team that came out for the second quarter. They played brilliantly. Goodes, Kieren Jack and McGlynn all scored goals.

In the third quarter they were tired. The Swans were 16 points ahead. The Saints played well in the fourth quarter, repeatedly getting the ball into their forward 50m, but they weren't able to get it through their goals.

# WANGA WALTJA!

## The future of bush footy?

**REMOTE** community AFL competitions used to be held in remote communities, but for close to twenty years now they have been held in Alice Springs. Bush footy campaigners say the current setup might suit town based teams, but not the often struggling remote community teams. During the football season, lots of remote community teams, their families and supporters do a lot of travelling to and from the games. The fuel and vehicle costs are expensive and place an extra burden on already stretched family resources. The traveling can also be risky as the roads are hard on cars and people, there is often nowhere to stay in town except in already overcrowded houses, there is more risk of people becoming involved in disputes or caught up in drinking which can lead to ending up in jail or hospital. Luritja man and Papunya resident, Sid Anderson is attempt-

ing to resurrect a bush footy competition west of Alice Springs in the hope that it may stop young people from getting into trouble or finding themselves stuck when they come to Alice Springs for the footy.

“We just want to get away from all the substance abuse in town and keep our young fellas out in the community.”

“In the 60’s we used to go around to Ali Curung, Yuendumu, Arnyonga, Hermansburg and Papunya and it was really good.”

Mr Anderson said the new football league would be called ‘Wanga Waltja’ which means ‘family get together’.

Interest in the comp is high and Mr Anderson says everyone is asking when it’s going to start.

“We are hoping to start next year but we do need to raise some money to get it going.”

“There should be about eight teams from places like Haast’s Bluff, Nyirripi, two from Papunya maybe and Kintore,” Mr Anderson said.



From the past and into the future. Above: Yuendumu teams march in the 1963 Bangtail Muster.

Right: A poster design for the proposed bush footy league.



## LOVE FOR FOOTY BUILDING NEW LEARNING CENTRE

A NEW boarding school to be built at Darwin’s TIO stadium will offer a mix of educational and top-class sporting facilities to Aboriginal kids from the bush.

The Michael Long NT Thunder Learning and Leadership Centre will have 32 bedrooms, class-

rooms, lecture theatres and sporting and recovery facilities, including a swimming pool and gym.

The Federal Government is investing \$11 million in the centre—\$7.5 million through the Regional Development Australia Fund (RDAF)

and \$3.5 million through the Aboriginal Benefit Account.

The AFL has also committed \$1.5 million into the project, which is expected to be finished by the end of 2013.

Indigenous Affairs minister, Jenny Macklin said the centre would

provide a caring and supportive environment for Aboriginal youngsters from the bush.

Right: You never know: Young footy stars from Ntaria (Hermansburg) may get to try out the facilities at the new academy.

