

**FREE**

# LAND RIGHTS NEWS

October 2011

VOLUME 1. NUMBER 1.

## CENTRAL AUSTRALIA

### *The strong voice from the bush!*



Henry Cook shows how it's really done

# Check out a first for Alice Springs **P.5**

**SHOPPERS** at Woolworths in Alice Springs have been pleasantly surprised to finally see Aboriginal people from town camps and bush communities behind the checkout.



**JURRAH LIFT-OUT POSTER** see big centrefold



**KINTORE 30TH ANNIVERSARY** P.4



**THE INTERVENTION: WHERE TO NOW?** P.3

**Three pages of Indigenous sport** P.30-32

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**EDITORIAL**

Land Rights News Central Australia is published by the Central Land Council three times a year.

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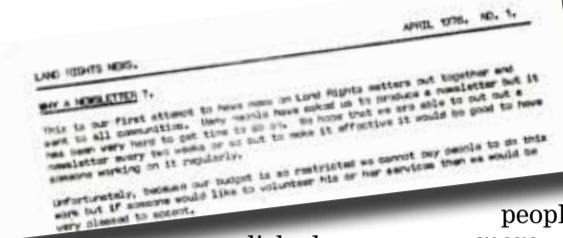
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**Welcome to the new Land Rights News Central Australia**

AUSTRALIA'S longest running Aboriginal paper has once again split into two editions: Land Rights News Central Australia Northern Edition published by the Northern Land Council.

It was decided to publish two different editions now because the Northern Territory has grown so much and we felt that Aboriginal people deserved more regionally focussed papers. We hope you enjoy our new format and that you

will contribute your news, photos, community notices and anything you, the Aboriginal people of Central Australia, would like to see in your own newspaper. It will be published three times a year and our next publication dates are April 2012, July 2012 and November 2012.



published separately until the 1980s when the Land Council and Land Rights News north and central editions



Above: The first edition of Central Australian Land Rights News in April 1976. By the following year (above right) it had become noticeably more sophisticated...

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THE first letters have been delivered by Australia Post to an Alice Springs town camp.

Morris Soak (Aknwertnarre) is not only the first town camp to get a postal service, but also the first one to paint over its old blue Intervention sign and replace it with one of its choice.

Morris Soak president Mervyn Franey said he is more hopeful of the direction the governments are taking to include Aboriginal community members in making decisions related to them.

"We applaud the Government for doing that and see it as a bit of good faith that they're finally listening to the Aboriginal communities right through the Territory that did not or do not want those signs up there."

"Pulling down that Intervention sign would be better when we pull down the Intervention policy."

"That's the next step but this is a very good first step," Mr Franey said.

"Government calls this a day of 'normalisation' of our community into the mainstream but we see this as a day of

equalisation.

"We are finally getting it done today."

"In this day and age, it's a bit of a shock to most people, especially those living in the cities down south who are always getting mail delivered," he said.

The Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, Jenny Macklin, and the Minister for Indigenous Health, Warren Snowdon, both joined residents for the unveiling and to welcome the delivery of the first letters under the new postal service.

As well, since there's no point having letter boxes if there are no street names, workshops were held to select three street names recognising important past and present Morris Soak residents - Lechleitner, Miller and Glenmon.

Along with the new street signs, houses have been numbered and letter boxes installed.

Ms Macklin said the new mail service was an important step in the ongoing work of transforming the town camps.

The new sign includes a painting by Mr Franey, who worked closely with community



members on the design.

It depicts the Akngwertnarre Dreaming, including an ancestral dog, as it travels

through the community from west to east.

"We wanted a sign that reflects who we are as a community and as

the custodians of this land here."

Mr Franey hopes other communities can use Morris Soak as an example and sug-

gested they all put up the story of their community.

Above: Verna Curtis and her grandson meet a postie for the first time.



# NT Aboriginal organisations one united voice on intervention

**FORGET** any talk of Intervention 2.0 says a group of Northern Territory Aboriginal organisations.

The Aboriginal Peak Organisations (APO), says that until governments realise that 'intervention' as an approach to policy making is fundamentally flawed, nothing will im-

prove for Aboriginal people.

The APO made a submission in response to the federal Government's Stronger Futures in the Northern Territory paper which called for discussion about the future after the Intervention finishes in June 2012.

APO(NT) is a representative alliance of the Aboriginal Medical Services Alliance of the Northern Territory (AMSANT), the Central Australian Aboriginal Legal Aid Service, the Central Land Council, the North Australian Aboriginal Justice Agency and the Northern Land

Council.

The submission identifies ways in which the Government can make good its commitment to a new way of working in partnership with Aboriginal people, leaders and communities to address Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander disadvantage.

It says the Government needs to work to rebuild trust with Aboriginal people following the damage that was done by the Northern Territory Emergency Response (NTER).

The APO submission says there are a number of immediate steps that

can help do this including reinstating the permit system, repealing Sections 90 and 91 of the NTER Act which seek to exclude matters of custom and culture from sentencing and bail decisions, and immediately remove the Prescribed Area blue signs.

# Intervention 2.0 : Welfare cuts for truants' families

**INDIGENOUS** Affairs Minister Jenny Macklin used her visit to Alice Springs this month to launch the Stronger Futures in the Northern Territory report in which the Government sets out the results of the consultations it did in communities this year about the future of the Intervention.

The Government has used the report to highlight school attendance and educational achievement; economic development and employment; and tackling alcohol abuse as the three main areas to shape NTER 2.

While the Minister says the "discussion paper will be the start of wide-ranging consultations", Ms Macklin told the press that the Government will put legislation in place before the end of the year to suspend welfare payments to parents who allow their children to become truants.

Known as SEAM, this program has existed since 2009 as a trial in six communities in the Northern Territory: Katherine, Katherine town camps, Hermannsburg, Wallace Rockhole, the Tiwi Islands

and Wadeye.

Little is known about its effectiveness but the Australian Government told the CLC it was doing an evaluation on the trial.

CLC director David Ross said both governments have focused too heavily on coercive measures — such as the SEAM trial and recent NT legislative changes that provide for fines and other coercive measures on parents — while at the same time signalling a withdrawal of support for the inclusion of cultural aspects into schooling, including support for bilingual education and other language and culture programs.

"It is difficult to see how such a situation can possibly result in the effective partnerships between schools, parents and communities that the government has committed to.

Australian Greens spokesperson on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Issues Senator Rachel Siewert said collaboration and not punishment is the key to getting positive results when it comes to school attendance in the Northern Territory.

Senator Siewert described it as "a sanctions-based approach which causes further harm to families and doesn't address the underlying causes of alienation from the education system."

The other area the Minister prioritized was tackling alcohol abuse although she has ruled out a floor price on alcohol.

The Government says it believes the current alcohol restrictions should remain and that it will consult with communities to strengthen alcohol management plans (AMPs).

"Services put in place to help problem drinkers should be strengthened. This includes more qualified alcohol and drug workers and more treatment and rehabilitation services," the Stronger Futures website says.

The third area prioritized by the Government was economic development and employment and it says further reform of remote employment programs such as CDEP will be critical.

"The most frequently recorded comments about economic development and em-



Above: Indigenous Affairs Minister Jenny Macklin during the consultations at Lajamanu earlier this year

ployment were that people wanted jobs in the community and didn't want to have to leave their community," the report said.

People also said that "since the creation of the shire councils, local government job opportunities appeared to have declined for Ab-

original people, and that jobs had gone to non-Indigenous employees or contractors".

CLC director David Ross said that the consultations did not ask people about outstations or the permit system.

"Besides the imposition of shires, the

changes to the permit system and the lack of support for outstations are issues commonly raised at Council meetings.

"As for the consultations I sincerely hope the Government takes on board the many positive and useful suggestions from Aboriginal peo-

ple and doesn't pursue a punitive path," he said.

CLP Senator Nigel Scullion said the truancy policy had been in place since 2007 but the Government had not used it.

## BRIEFLY

### BAIL BREACHES KEEP KIDS LOCKED UP

Statistics showing that Indigenous youth are 28 times more likely to be incarcerated than other youth in Australia have been described as shameful and a national disgrace.

The federal parliamentary committee report, Doing time - time for

doing has described the incarceration rate as damning, with Indigenous people making up less than three per cent of the general population. Breaches of bail accounted for 70 per cent of juveniles in detention.

### MUTITJULU NIGHT PATROL BACK ON THE BEAT

Attorney-General, Robert

McClelland and Member for Lingiari, Warren Snowdon announced that the Australian Government will fund the re-establishment of a night patrol in the Northern Territory community of Mutitjulu.

Mr McClelland said night patrols, initially introduced by remote communities to address safer community outcomes, are funded under the Closing the Gap

in the Northern Territory National Partnership. Night patrols such as this assist people at risk of either causing or becoming the victims of harm, this helps to break the cycle of violence and crime in the communities, Mr McClelland said.

The service patrols local community areas, identifies people who may be at risk of crime and takes

them to an appropriate place, such as home.

### WARLPIRI PUT ANOTHER \$4M INTO PROGRAMS

The body that approves WETT funding directions recently decided to give two highly successful programs a further two million dollars of community money each.

The decision by Kurra Aboriginal Corporation

gives the green light to the WETT Early Childhood Care and Development Program, run in partnership with World Vision Australia, for another two years, and will keep the WETT Youth and Media Program, run in partnership with the Mt

Theo rehabilitation and diversion centre, operating till at least 2014.

## Dodgy email scams

Don't get ripped off says CLC Chairman



CLC Chairman Lindsay Bookie says computer scams from countries including Africa are costing Aboriginal people in remote communities money they can't afford.

"I am hearing stories of people sending money to all sorts of places because they've been told they might win millions of dollars if they do," Mr Bookie said.

"Aboriginal people are the last people who can afford to be ripped off and they need to know there are crooks out there who do this all the time."

The scam is usually in the form of an email which tells the receiver to deposit money into an account and they will then receive a large amount of money.

Mr Bookie said in the last incident he heard about two Aboriginal women from a remote community who were sending off \$800 from the Alice Springs Post Office despite being warned by the staff there.

"Don't reply to emails from people you don't know and don't send them money."

"As they say, when something seems too good to be true, it usually is," said Mr Bookie.

# Proud to be Pintupi

"This is a really settled down country, they call it Kintore" Lindsay Corby

Thirty years after it was set up, several hundred people gathered at Kintore near the Western Australian border this month to remember the events and many personalities, Aboriginal and non Aboriginal, who helped shape the destiny of the Pintupi people and the community of Kintore.

Community leaders Lindsay Corby, Monica Robinson, Joey Young and Irene Nangala welcomed guests including former patrol officer Jeremy Long and famous New York anthropologist Fred Myers who wrote the seminal work, *Pintupi Country, Pintupi Self*.

Mr Corby said the community wanted to honour the past.

"We are proud for our country," he said, "and we think about those people who have gone away."

"This is a really settled down country, they call it Kintore," Mr Corby told the crowd.

The memory of a former Kintore man and founder of the Western Desert Dialysis Appeal Smithy Zimran was honoured with a ngintaka sculpture commissioned by the Walungurru Council from Alice Springs sculptor Dan Murphy.

"He was a strong leader and a role model for



everybody" said Monica Robinson.

"We honour him with our thoughts. Thank God for him, for all he did for the Pintupi people and this settle down country. He reached out strong, he talked up strong for the CLC and the Pintupi. He helped people return to their own country. We will always remember him

The ngintaka will be placed in the roundabout in the middle of the community.

When the Pintupi left Papunya to escape the conflict and unhappiness which characterised that settlement to return to their homelands around the Western Australian border few would have any idea of the profound

significance this community would come to have, especially as the home of some of Australia's most famous Aboriginal painters.

Kintore began as a collection of camps and slowly grew in an era characterised by its hopes and aspirations for self determination before the political tide turned against it.

The Pintupi were the last Aboriginal people to make contact with Western society, some as recently as 1984 when nine Pintupi left the Great Sandy Desert to be reunited with their family in Kiriwinka.

Above: Shelley Morris sings Advance Australia with Kintore School



Above left: Lindsay Corby and Ronnie Tjanpijima and above right: painting up for inma



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CENTRAL LAND COUNCIL



## BRIEFLY

## Constitutional recognition

THE NATIONAL Congress of Australia's First Peoples has released results of its first survey.

Policy priorities from its Indigenous membership show that health, sovereignty and education were seen by the majority of members as the most important policy areas.

Constitutional recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people was seen as a top priority (88%), protection against racial discrimination and protection of Indigenous rights were also highlighted.

Accountability for Governments and the Congress itself, partnerships and research were the most important areas of operation to the members.

## New race discrimination commissioner appointed

THE FEDERAL government has appointed Dr Helen Szoke as the Race Discrimination Commissioner.

The move separates the roles of Race Discrimination Commissioner and Disability Commissioner within the structure of the Australian Human Rights Commission for the first time since 1997.

The Disability Commissioner Graeme Innes has held both roles since his appointment in 2009.

Making the announcement, Attorney-General Robert McClelland said, "Both racial discrimination and disability discrimination are serious issues that deserve to receive the attention of specific commissioners."

Dr Szoke is currently the Commissioner for the Victorian Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commission and the Chair of its Board.

## Enterprising plants

INDIGENOUS students completed the Sturt Desert Pea Enterprise joint project with Alice Springs Desert Park staff in August when they held a plant sale.

Desert Park nursery staff helped the 12 students grow 700 native plants and pot them into tubes for sale.

# Fresh pathways to retail careers

**IN A FIRST** for the Alice Springs retail industry, 14 Aboriginal people are now clocking on to a range of jobs at Woolworths, Dick Smith and Coles.

The trainees have done the hard yards at a 12-week pre-vocational course in Alice Springs and 11 now work at various departments in Woolies, including at the checkouts and in the deli.

Dick Smith, which is also part of the Woolworths group, took on two Aboriginal members of staff while Coles took on one new person.

The program was run by private company Globally Make A Difference (GMAD) and the non profit Mining, Energy and Engineering Academy (MEEA), with some training provided by Charles Darwin University at IAD.

Tanya Dixon now works in the deli at Woolies and says her confidence has increased enormously.

"Charles Darwin University taught us how to use the scanners, cash registers, weighing machines and what to expect in the workplace," Tanya said.

"Sometimes you get scared from turning up to work or scared to talk to the manager but now I feel more confident.

"That was the main thing for me, my shyness. Now I feel a bit more confident."

GMAD director Melinda Cates, who with MEEA provided the mentors and personal development components of the program, said 'shame' was one of the biggest obstacles.

"We have a program called 'I make a difference' which runs for seven days.

"It takes the participants back over their lives and looks at situations which have had an emotional impact on them that's resulted in them losing confidence, self esteem, where their self worth has been depleted, where they've taken on other people's burdens and issues.

"So there is considerable personal development."

Cates said the participants started working doing night fill in the store after about four weeks of the course as a way of getting comfortable.

"It also gave them a



Noelene McMillan on the checkout at Woolies

chance to start earning and a chance to do some different shifts," Ms Cates said.

Flexibility and accommodating employees' needs seems to be the key to success.

The formal shifts started on 12 September and Cates says the workers already have plans to buy cars so they don't rely on the mentors to pick them up every day.

"People ask us how we are going to make people self reliant when we are picking them up and dropping them off up every day but we're not seeing that as a problem.

"Already we have two of them who don't rely on mentors, another one who has done 40 plus hours in the last week who wants to buy a scooter and another two who have got a family plan to buy their own car," she said.

Noelene McMillan, 19, works on the checkout.

"I just wanted a job," she said.

"People are really nice to me and the pay is OK.

"I spend most of my money on food.

"The pay makes a big difference to my life," she said.

Verna Curtis had been out of work for a year and

now works in the deli.

"My husband showed me the flyer - I was out of work for a year and I wanted money.

"It was attractive because there was a guaranteed job at the end of it," Verna said.

"You get first aid and computer skills training, maths and literacy skills development.

**"We had to find out different orienteering exercises, if tourists asked us where certain things were in the town so we had to go around finding out more about the services available."**  
VERNA CURTIS

"Woolies are really good, they are friendly people.

"We had to find out different orienteering exercises if tourists asked us where certain things were in the town, so we had to go around finding out more about the services available," Ms Curtis said.

MEEA mentors Katherine Liddle and Nikki Street-er work with the group every day, picking them up, having meals with them, taking them home and all things in between.

"We've supported people with government departments like Centrelink and Corrections - anything that comes up which hinders or blocks an opportunity for our partici-

pants, Nikki and I are there for them to try to sort that stuff out," said Katherine.

"We've helped people move house, helped people who've suddenly become homeless - the list is quite extensive in the challenges that people have to face but we've managed to work through them all.

"Some people might view the challenges as little things that somebody should be able to work out but for us that little thing might impact on the big picture which is getting ready for work and getting them into their jobs.

"It's all these little things that are niggling around at the edges so if these things work, then they can work better.

"We have tried over the three months to build resilience and confidence.

"We took the group for coffee in the mall, some of our participants had never actually been to a coffee shop to have a coffee and so to actually sit there and have a look at what customer service means and how we were treated was interesting for them.

"We look at it being a very holistic program," Katherine said.

Local Woolworths Em-

ployment Start Coordinator David Atkinson has spent many hours talking and supporting the new workers and says the personal transformations have been noticeable and inspiring.

"There are extraordinary people doing extraordinary things here," he said.

"I met the trainees when they first started and I've seen them blossom and that has been personally very rewarding for me," he said.

Obviously people in Alice Springs are enjoying the development.

"We had to laugh the other day when we were taking photos whereby our two girls' registers had customers lining up but the other registers were empty because people wanted to be served by Delvina and Verna," Katherine said.

Woolworths says that so far 190 people have taken part in the program in the Northern Territory and South Australia with the initiative extending nationwide.

Tanya Dixon had this piece of advice for anyone sitting around waiting for a job: "Get out and do it, not just sit around and wait for someone to hand you a job, you have to do it yourself, not depend on others."

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# Goodbye blue signs

But out at Yuendumu the war on signs rages on...

THE Australian Government has recently deciding the hated blue signs erected on all Aboriginal land in the Northern Territory during the intervention can now be taken down (with its permission).

But when signs at Yuendumu were repainted they were quickly removed by the then recently arrived shire services manager.

The repainted signs bearing the new message "Welcome to Yuendumu (if you want porn go to Canberra)" lasted only a fortnight before disappearing.

According to well known blogger and Yuendumu Mining Company manager Frank Baarda, the shire services manager explained she had the signs removed "because what was on the sign wasn't meant to be on it."

"Whilst it is great to see our (Alice Springs run) Shire starting to take some initiatives (such as

the new speed bumps!) we are a "growth town" after all ; it begs the question as to why the Welcome to Yuendumu (if you want porn go to Canberra) signs that are alleged to be offensive to some people, were snaffled after only a fortnight, whilst the blue signs that have been offensive to a great many people, were not, after more than three years," Frank blogged.

"Do I detect a double standard? Is there (heaven forbid) an element of racism to this?" asks Frank.

CLC Director David Ross said Aboriginal people in Central Australia were deeply offended by the references to pornography and the size of the signs in general.

"If a symbol of blatant racism was needed, surely these (the blue) signs are it.

"This issue has been a running sore since the Intervention. People felt it criminalised them and it made them feel deeply

shamed.

Mr Ross said the signs affected people's morale so negatively they were counter productive.

The Australian Government announced the signs were no longer necessary after pressure from the Australian Greens.

The CLC says despite enquiries, months later it is still unclear how people actually get rid of the signs.

Money is apparently available from the Northern Territory Licensing Commission for the signs to be removed or replaced with signs of their choice. Fahcsia also says people should talk to the Government Business Manager (GBM) on their community.

If people have not painted over the signs or bulldozed them and decide to replace the signs with something else they can write to :

Micheil Brodie  
Executive Director  
Licensing, Regulation &



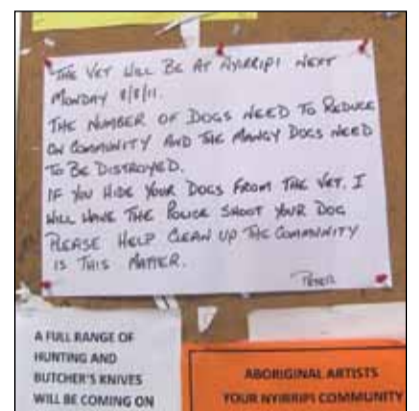
Alcohol Strategy  
GPO Box 1154, DARWIN  
NT 0801

**SIGNS OF THE TIMES**

Above: Some of the many graffitied blue signs on Aboriginal land.

Above right: The controversial sign at Yuendumu referring to the days when Canberra was known as the capital of pornography for its porn warehouses in the suburb of Fyshwick

Right: Sign at Nyirripi Store. Yuendumu Mining manager, sign commentator and fervent blogger Frank Baarda commented: "it isn't about the dogs but about the operating paradigm that makes people think that it is OK to put up such signs as well as other actions. The Blue Signs were driven by the same mind-set."



## OAM for Veronica Dobson



Veronica Dobson

AN EASTERN Arrente woman from Philipson Bore, near Ltentye Apurte (Santa Teresa) who started out as a cleaner at IAD (Institute for Aboriginal Development) 30 years ago has been admitted as a Member of the Order of Australia.

Veronica Perrurle Dobson became an author of language dictionaries, a court and hospital interpreter, and a teacher of knowledge of land, language and culture to broad cross sections of the community.

Ms Dobson was recognised for the award on the Queens Birthday long weekend this year for her services to the indigenous community as a linguist, naturalist and ecologist, and for the preservation of Aboriginal language and culture in Central Australia.

## Tenancy support gets another \$1.4 million

The Australian and Northern Territory Governments have announced \$1.4 million to expand a tenancy support program for town camp residents over the next three years as part of the \$150 million Alice Springs Transformation Plan.

The Federal Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, Jenny Macklin, said tenancy support was an important part of transforming the

Alice Springs town camps and the lives of residents and visitors.

"As part of the Alice Springs Transformation Plan, 63 new houses have been built in the town camps and 122 refurbished. The tenancy support funding will help people moving into those houses to develop the skills they need to sustain their tenancies successfully," Ms Macklin said.

"The program works with tenants to support

them in four key areas; managing money and resources, managing visitors and overcrowding, household functionality and maintaining a safe, healthy and hygienic home."

The program is a partnership between the Northern Territory Government, Mission Australia, Anglicare NT and the Tangentyere Council.

The Federal Member for Lingiari, Warren Snowdon, said the pro-

gram broadened the range of tenancy support services for residents funded under the Alice Springs Transformation Plan, including the \$1.2 million Intensive Support program run by Mission Australia which was announced earlier this year.

"Mission Australia's program provides intensive case management and tenancy support to 30 households who are either homeless or at risk of becoming homeless," Mr

Snowdon said.

Mission Australia already runs the Aherlkeme Village (Percy Court) behind the St. Mary's Hostel in Alice Springs and provides case management and tenancy support services.

The village can provide accommodation for up to 75 people in 29 one to four bedrooms units, and offers transitional housing.

## David Ross: Intervention means they now pay rent

CLC DIRECTOR David Ross said one of the few positives to emerge from the Intervention is that government departments now have to pay rent on Aboriginal land just like they do everywhere else.

"It's taking some of those departments time to come to terms with this," Mr Ross said.

"And there are other people like churches and stores who are also coming to terms with the idea that they now need to pay rent to Aboriginal people for the use of their land so we are going through this process of waking people up.

"But the intervention also affected people on the down side, the signs that were put up on Aboriginal land telling the world that you weren't to have alcohol, you weren't to have pornography, all

of these things on these signs pointed the finger at Aboriginal men and it's still having a hell of an impact four years down the track.

"It didn't do well for the psyche of Aboriginal people..

"On the Basics Card we did our own research in a number of communities which said it was 50-50: some people think it's a good thing and some people think it's a bad thing.

"Communities already had their own alcohol restrictions and in Tennant Creek they had Thirsty Thursday where no alcohol was sold on Thursdays.

"Aboriginal people all over the NT need a relief day when no alcohol is sold and not just for Aboriginal people. It would give everyone relief," he said.

Ngaanyatjarra Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara (NT) Women's Council (Minginti Community)

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To obtain either email or hard copies, please contact  
Cheryl Vanderkaay Ph: (08) 8958 2371  
Youth.projects@npywc.org.au



# Rangers battle severe bushfires



Stanley Wallace from the CLC's Ltyentye Apurte (Santa Teresa) ranger group back-burns on the Maryvale Rd recently.

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**THE CENTRAL** Land Council is warning Central Australians against becoming complacent with fire as we head towards summer.

As smoke and ash fill the skies, trained CLC rangers have joined the overworked army of volunteer and professional fire fighters to do their bit to battle the constant bushfires blazing throughout the region.

An extreme fire season is predicted thanks to the huge build-up of vegetation

from record rains last year.

The CLC's ranger groups which operate out of communities around Central Australia, spent much of the cooler months training with Bushfires NT to become skilled in fire for hazard reduction and protection.

Rangers like Richard Furber from Ltyentye Apurte (Santa Teresa) who have received fire fighter training are now on standby to support Bushfires NT crews in the region.

"If there's a fire going on, they're going to pick us up."

"We helped out at Hamilton Downs and on the Maryvale road. It's pretty scary fighting the fires, especially at night," Richie said.

The rangers have also taken a fire safety message to people living in remote communities and outstations.

Community members have also taken action to protect their homes and country from uncontrollable fires by clearing grass and plants from

around communities and outstations or sensitive areas like sacred sites.

Bushfires NT and the Central Land Council can help people in remote areas with advice and support to protect the areas that are important to them.

To ask for help to reduce the risk of fire people can contact Bushfires NT on (08) 8952 3066 or ask for the fire officer when contacting the Land Council on (08) 8951 6211.

## CHECK!

Clear a minimum of four metres around camp fires, putting them out with dirt or water before leaving the area.

Carry adequate water to extinguish accidental fires when using machinery.

Don't drive motor cars through thick grass, a fire can be lit by the heat from the vehicle.

# Lilla school opens again

**WATARRKA** residents have been celebrating their success in re-opening the Lilla school, which stood empty for almost a generation because of low student numbers.

Since the beginning of the year, 19 students have been studying at the school, which was officially re-named "Watarrka School" by Minister Karl Hampton on 22 September.

Traditional owners of Lilla outstation, sisters and budding tourism entrepreneurs, Vera and Sadie Williams, were the driving force behind this success.

One of the tourists visiting their outsta-

tion, Wilma Lambert, turned out to be a retired principal from Tasmania.

They got talking around the campfire one night and ended up asking her to teach their grandchildren.

Together with their relatives from Ulpanyali and Wamara they successfully lobbied the Education Department to re-open the school.

Wilma accepted the teacher job and is supported by her teacher husband and her son, a professional chef.

"We were looking for someone like Wilma to come here and teach", said Vera Williams.

"She is a very warm and patient lady who works well with the community and listens to the parents.

She's a good teacher and the children like her."

Ngurratjuta Aboriginal Corporation came to the party by doing the bus run between the Watarrka communities, a tour operator helped paint the building and the Kings Canyon Resort donates food for school meals.

Lilla community has decided to use rent money from the Uluru Kata Tjuta National Park Community Development Project to build a shelter where



the children can enjoy their lunch and where their uniforms can be laundered.

Vera says its' important that they learn "both ways".

"We want our kids to grow up in a strong way and go to school every day so they can work as rangers, tour guides, lawyers and

teachers and to run the resort".

Her message to the government is to support outstations by supporting education: "We need the school to stay open because we have a lot of family coming back with little ones. Everything is starting to fall into place".

Above right: NT Minister Karl Hampton with the mob at Lilla opening the school

# Finke and Simpson Desert handbacks make history

**ONE OF** Central Australia's most spectacular and popular national parks became Aboriginal land on June 7, when the Finke Gorge was handed back to its traditional owners in the presence of the Prime Minister, Julia Gillard.

The handback took place during a ceremony at the Alice Springs Desert Park that also saw a large part of the Simpson returned to Aboriginal ownership.

Both of the handbacks were carried out under the Aboriginal Land Rights Act.

The Lhere Pirnte Aboriginal Land Trust now holds the title to the 422-square kilometre Finke Gorge National Park, 138 kilometres west of Alice Springs.

The Finke Gorge National Park was immediately leased back to the Northern Territory Government for 99 years to be jointly managed by the NT Parks and Wildlife Service and by the traditional owners.

Aboriginal people have been involved in tourism in the area since the 1950s and have always had a vision for jointly managing the park to maximise its attractions.

Traditional owner Conrad Ratara said everybody was very excited about the handback and its leaseback as a Northern Territory national park. "It's a really good thing after all these years," Mr Ratara said. "We've got to work together - let's work straight and walk down the road together and keep walking together."

The traditional owners are mostly Western Arrernte people, many of whom live around Hermannsburg and local outstations.

Nearly everybody in the area has a connection to Finke Gorge through



Here Pirnte ALT members and family celebrate receiving the deed to Finke Gorge with Prime Minister Gillard, Minister Macklin, local Federal member Warren Snowdon and NT Chief Minister Henderson

the three estate groups of Ntaria, Roulbmaulbma and Uruna.

Each estate is marked and dissected by various dreamings and sites.

The park will continue to operate as it has done in the past but under joint management it will be developed and enriched by the input of its traditional owners.

The Tjuwanpa Rangers employed by the Central Land Council at Hermannsburg have already been working in the park for several years and will increase their involvement in the park under joint management.

CLC Director David Ross congratulated the traditional owners.

"I know this ceremony today will make a lot of people very happy," Mr Ross said.

"They have waited a long time and they are keen to take advantage of the new opportunities presented to them by joint management.

"I wish them all the best," Mr Ross said.

Finke Gorge supported a lot of Aboriginal families quite comfortably in ancient times due to the permanent water and the richness of its resources.

It is deeply imbued with the cultural and spiritual values of its Aboriginal owners and internationally recognised as a site of botanical significance.



CLC Chair, Lindsay Bookie (centre) with Atnetye ALT and Prime Minister Gillard

## Outstations the losers in technology stakes



Home computers are rare out bush but communities still want and need them

**A RECENT** study has highlighted the digital divide between Indigenous Australians living remotely and Australians living in cities.

A team of researchers from the Centre for Appropriate Technology (CAT), Swinburne University of Technology's ARC Centre for Excellence for Creative Industries and Innovation, and the Central Land Council looked at

home computing and internet use in three small Central Australian communities: Kwale Kwale, Munggalawurru and Imanigara.

According to Andrew Crouch, a senior researcher at CAT, the results were cause for concern.

"What we found was that having access to a computer and the internet is unusual for people living in outstations," he

said.

"Of the 45 people interviewed in the three communities, only 6 per cent currently have access to a computer at home."

Despite this, the study also found that there was a strong desire within the communities for access to the technology, and for training in how to use it.

The report showed that while the National Broadband

Network will deliver broadband in some form to these communities, Aboriginal people will struggle to take advantage of it unless issues of affordability, skills, training and equipment are addressed.

Meanwhile, the Federal Government has announced the formation of a Regional Telecommunications Review (RTR) Committee.

The RTR will re-

view telecommunications services in regional, rural and remote parts of Australia and aims to find initiatives that will enable remote and regional communities to participate in the digital economy.

The RTR is due to report back in March of next year.





# Awards for hard working winners

**MADELEINE DIXON**, from the Yuendumu Ranger Group has won the NT Chief Minister's Study Scholarship for Women.

The presentation took place at the Charles Darwin University campus in Alice Springs on 6 June.

Madeleine's success reflects her outstanding work as a senior ranger.

She first joined the program in 2007, and she's currently the only female senior ranger in the Central Land Council's Ranger Program.

"I started this work to get out on country," the 38-year-old says, "to learn about it from old people, learn about animals and plants that I didn't see before.

"And to learn two ways - traditional information about them and scientific information too."

"I love to learn new things - it makes me feel strong as a Warlpiri woman, and self reliant, because it draws on so many different skills and challenges me every day."

She shared the award with an old friend of hers, Ti-tree teacher April Campbell.

The two have known each other since studying teaching together at Batchelor, but she had no idea her friend would be there too.

"My family were still on the road on the way to the ceremony when I got the award," says Madeleine.

"I had colleagues there supporting



Madeleine Dixon and April Campbell with their awards

me, so I was not alone, but I was surprised and happy when April stood there with me and I realised we were both were getting the award."

For her part, April says she was expecting to see Madelaine on the stage.

"I knew that Madeleine was going to get the award too, and I was happy for her," she says.

April, 45, has worked at the Ti-tree school for 20 years, has raised two young men, one who works as a ranger and an-

other in aged care.

Right now she's bringing up two girls - an eight-year-old and a three-year-old, while finishing a Diploma of Teaching.

April plans to use the money from the scholarship to buy a computer so she can keep working on it during the school holidays.

The computer will also help her stay in contact with the Institute for Aboriginal Development in Alice Springs, so she can help with translations they are do-

ing, and stay in touch with NT Arts to assist them with organising elders for festivals and other events.

Both women admit to feeling excited and nervous before accepting their scholarships - but also very proud of what they had achieved.

As Madeleine says, "It was a very good recognition of all the hard work I have done."

# Ooratippra win exclusive native title

**A NATIVE TITLE** consent determination for exclusive possession of Ooratippra pastoral lease was handed down by the Federal Court in July at Ooratippra pastoral lease some 300 kilometres north west of Alice Springs.

Ooratippra is a 4,292 square kilometre pastoral lease owned by the Ooratippra Aboriginal Corporation.

The claim was lodged over the whole of the station and also included the Irretety Community Living Area, an area of eight

square kilometres held by Irretety Aboriginal Corporation and located within the station boundaries.

Community Living Areas were small areas able to be established for Aboriginal people with historical residential association with stations who were unable to claim their traditional land back under the Land Rights Act.

As Ooratippra PPL and Irretety CLA are owned by native title holders, they are able to claim exclusive possession ("to the exclusion of all others")

under the Native Title Act, rather than non-exclusive rights which co-exist with pastoral lessees.

That recognition secures their traditional rights, as well as the right to negotiate over any future acts like mining.

The Indigenous Land Corporation purchased Ooratippra PPL in May 1999 after years of lobbying by native title holders who wanted title to their own land and to be able to run their own cattle business.

Ooratippra can run up

to 4000 head of cattle and will continue to be leased out to a neighbouring land owner who will, over time, assist in the re-establishment of a locally managed cattle herd.

The CLC lodged the Ooratippra native title application on behalf of several hundred native title holders in 2001.

The claim represents the Irrkwal, Irrmarn, Ntewerrek, Aharreng, Arrty/Amatyerr and Ar-eyn estate groups of the Alyawarr language group.



Justice Reeves presents the determination to native title holders

# Nippers bring tourist business to Umpiyara

**THE TRADITIONAL** owners of the Katiti Land Trust have given Barbara Tjikatu and her family permission to develop a tourism business at Umpiyara homeland near Yulara.

In September the CLC Executive approved a two year land use agreement between the land trust and the Nipper family company, Umpiyara Tourism Aboriginal Corporation (UTAC).

UTAC can now make similar agreements with

operators who want to bring tourists to Umpiyara.

UTAC is not only about tourism jobs and training for Anangu.

The Nipper family wants to do tourism so they can earn money to develop their homeland over time.

They hope the business will allow them to visit Umpiyara more often and to look after country.

Along the way they want to teach Anangu



and tourists about their culture. UTAC is a not-for-profit corporation, which

means that all income will be used to pay Anangu workers, to develop Umpiyara and to grow the business.

Barbara and her family have provided bush camping and cultural awareness activities for groups of paying visitors at Umpiyara for years, but without proper plans and permits.

The traditional owners have wanted to clarify matters for a long time.

They have asked UTAC to prepare an environmental management plan and get sacred site clearances.

Some of the next steps are business planning and partnerships with tourism operators.

Members of the Nipper family from Mutitjulu and Areyonga recently got together at Mutitjulu for a two-day "governance" workshop with the Office of the Registrar of Aboriginal Corporations (ORIC). Governance is about

how a corporation organises itself to get things done.

The family spent a lot of time translating English words and ideas into Pitjantjatjarra and learned about their responsibilities as members and directors of UTAC.

After the workshop they travelled to Umpiyara to talk with interested tourism operators about how they might work together.

Pictured: Barbara Tjikatu



Patrick Tjungurrayi was overjoyed to be back on country now that he can administer his own dialysis treatment.

## DIY dialysis allows sufferers to go home

**DIALYSIS** patient and renowned artist Patrick Tjungurrayi is a happy man now that he has learnt how to treat himself at home in Kiwirrkurra with peritoneal dialysis (PD).

Mr Tjungurrayi was the focus of a great deal of media attention in 2009.

At the time he had been refused dialysis treatment in Alice Springs because he lives

in Kiwirrkurra in Western Australia, but the Northern Territory Government had decided it was no longer going to treat interstate patients.

Sarah Brown from Western Desert Nganampa Walytja Palyantjaku Tjutaku (Western Desert Dialysis Mob) said Tjungurrayi was overjoyed that his new ability made it possible for him to live at home. "Patrick has

been in Kintore for about seven months with the nurse there learning how to do this," she said.

"Now he has been back in Kiwirrkurra flying solo for about two months.

"He has a little machine and a tube in his tummy and he dialyses himself at night and paints during the day.

"The hospital sends out boxes of fluid to use and

the entire community support him to keep his house clean and clear the rubbish away.

"There's huge support for him.

"Patrick fought hard for the right to come to Alice for treatment and to return home to his country.

"He and his family tell us how happy they are to be back where they belong.

"WDNWPT is proud to have

helped him to learn to do his own PD," Ms Brown said.

"We thank Papunya Tula for their financial support to make this happen."

Ms Brown said Patrick was one of the lucky ones when the NT Government bought in its new policy of not treating interstate patients.

"He was granted a reprieve by NT Health Minister Kon Vatskalis

and allowed to be treated in Alice Springs for a while, but all the others who lived in places like Ernabella and Warburton were sent away from family to Perth and Adelaide for treatment," she said.

"Many are choosing to die on country rather than move so far from home."

## The new digital divide: No NBN for the bush



**THERE ARE** strong concerns that the 'digital divide' between people in remote communities and the rest of Australia will become even more pronounced after the new NBN broadband network is delivered.

The optical fibre cable, which will join most households in Australia, will not extend to the bush which will have to rely on the slower and less reliable satellite delivery.

At a recent 'Broadband for the Bush' Forum in Alice Springs, the Indigenous Remote Communications Association (IRCA) and Desert Knowledge Australia called on the Australian Government and NBN Co to use and extend existing terrestrial infrastructure rather than relying on satellite delivery as the only solution.

Representatives from NBN Co, the CSIRO, the Federal and NT governments, remote Indigenous media organisations, Telstra and other stakeholders discussed the issues and potential solutions for remote Australia.

Head of CSIRO's ICT Media Centre, Dr Ian Oppermann presented outcomes of trials of innovative wireless technologies using analog television infrastructure to provide symmetric (two-way) speeds of up to 50Mbps.

Dr Oppermann told the delegates that "meaningful upload data rates are as important as download rates" and that access to the NBN should be "high-speed, symmetric, affordable, reliable and ubiquitous".

Under current NBN planning, Australians with access to the fibre-to-the-home solution will enjoy symmetric speeds starting at 100Mbps (but extending well past this is in future years), while the three percent of Australians living in remote areas of Australia will receive a satellite solution at asymmetric rates of 12 Mbps down and 1 Mbps up.

Another four percent of people in the vicinity of regional centres will get a wireless solution also at 12/1Mbps.

There was concern that this discrepancy would lead to a two-speed economy, reducing the ability to provide two-way applications used in health, education, justice and media, and mobile telephony in remote areas.

Forum participants urged that existing fibre optic networks installed in remote areas by Telstra be added into the NBN planning and used to extend the reach of terrestrial broadband.

Under current planning, many remote communities that are connected via fibre optic cable could be moved back to a retrogressive satellite solution.

## New rangers on the block



New CLC rangers at the CLC for an induction course recently.

Back row l-r: Willy Raggatt (Papunya Rangers), Randall Butler (Papunya Rangers), Matthew Walker (Tennant Creek Rangers), Middle l-r: Matthew Jangala (Ti Tree), Charlie Hayes (Santa Teresa) Terence Abbott (Papunya Rangers), Dennis Minor (Papunya Rangers) Front l-r: Sinita Granites, Yuendumu; Christine Michaels, Yuendumu; Teya Alum, Tennant Creek; Don Mallard, CLC ranger Mentor; Josie Haines, Ti Tree and CLC ranger trainer Maria McCoy



# Petermann management is critical

## Desert meeting for traditional owners and scientists helps to secure the area's future

**ANANGU** people recently welcomed scientists from a wide range of organisations onto their country to look at how they can tackle threats to native species.

The meeting took place at Tjitjingati, also known as Irving Creek, the location of the last sighting of possums in central Australia before they apparently became extinct across the region.

But the meeting was also a rare opportunity for traditional owners to discuss deeper aspects of land management with leading experts.

Those discussions are seen as key step in developing the possibility of declaring the surrounding region, on the Katiti and Petermann Aboriginal land trusts, an Indigenous Protected Area (IPA).

Land management experts from several different organisations attended, including Jeff Foulkes, the last scientist to observe possums in the area 20 years ago, and Steve McAlpin, a specialist on the Great Desert Skink, who was on hand for the discovery of a previously unrecorded population of the skinks near the meeting site.

There were also staff from the Central Land Council, the Alice Springs Desert Park, the CSIRO and the Northern Territory Department of Natural Resources and Environment (NRETAS).

The meeting was characterised by a two-way process of information sharing, with senior Anangu people and leading scientists exchanging knowledge about the area and the processes that are affecting it.

The scientists were able to give traditional owners an idea about what they could offer under an IPA, and some results of work that has taken place already.

Meanwhile, se-



Above : A young performer gets painted up.

nior Anangu who had gathered from Areyonga, Docker River, Mutitjulu and Alice Springs expressed their concern at the changes they were seeing in the landscape and in the biology of the area.

As one senior woman observed, "Tjuwalpa [nail-

**"A long time ago it used to be really good country, but the last few years big fires have destroyed a lot of the land - after these fires, buffel grass came."**

### A SENIOR TRADITIONAL OWNER

tail wallaby] were here, but have now disappeared - why have they gone?

"Every year it's changing, it's not going back - every year it's different."

Another pointed out the destructive effect of changed fire regimes.

"A long time ago it used to be really good country, but the last few years big fires have destroyed a lot of the land - after these fires, buffel grass came," she said.

The area has also had serious problems with feral animals.

"Now kids can't swim because of all the camel [drop-

pings] in the water holes," said a senior man.

Perhaps most revealing of all were the comments from two older men about the vulnerability of land left without stewardship to manage rapid changes.

"We were all taken off our coun-

ntry and when we came back, all those animals were gone," said one.

"It was like someone came and stole them and put them in zoos," said another.

From the Anangu's point of view, the stand-out problems that were causing loss of species were a lack of visitation to country, buffel grass invasion causing loss of bush tucker, and of course, the big one - camels - especially their messing up waterholes and stealing water from other animals.

Pat Hodgens, NRETAS camel management tech-

nical officer, said the meeting and IPA development process was providing some valuable opportunities to bring the effects of camels under control.

"It's great to be here in the Katiti Petermann Ranges proposed IPA to meet with traditional owners to speak about the direct impacts that camels are having on their sacred water places," Mr Hodgens said.

"The collaboration between NRETAS, CLC and traditional owners will be very beneficial for all parties involved and for land management in the IPA.

"Being here on country allows us all to visit the waterholes that will become vital study sites for the camel monitoring research program.

"I feel very privileged to be able to visit these amazing water places with key traditional owners and assist them in keeping these waterholes healthy."

## The Big Day Out

**FOR** the scientists visiting the Anangu's country the IPA meeting was about land management, but for the Anangu, it was just as importantly an opportunity to teach the kids about culture and country.

On the second day of the meeting, 50 students and teachers arrived at the meeting from the three campuses of the Nyangatjajara College - Imanpa, Docker River & Mutitjulu.

The Nyangatjajara students were there as part of an initiative to get young people out on country to learn from senior people about places, Tjukurrpa and traditional dancing (inma).

For many of the older people, the opportunity to be on country and to help the younger people learn is one of the most valuable

benefits that a scheme like the IPA offers.

For them, this is what it's really all about.

Indeed it's seen to be so valuable that when Mutitjulu Age Care clients heard there would be inma at the meeting they insisted to the staff that they attend in order to sing the necessary songs.

And so, with the assistance of their new supervisor and staff, they came armed with walking frames and kangaroo tails for lunch.

After a good deal of preparation, the students were painted-up and ready to learn and perform the dances, which began just as the sun was sinking.

There were some reluctant participants to

begin with, but with a bit of coaxing by seniors it happened, in front of an elated audience.

One youth worker who attended described the benefits of the IPA meeting from the point of view of his service.

"For us as youth workers to have another opportunity to get out on country with Anangu, where we have limited vehicle options and as part of a co-operative effort [including the CLC and Nyangatjajara College] is priceless.

"And it's priceless for the youth we work with here too, because things happen when you're out on country that don't happen in community, like inma, and all sorts of intergenerational interaction."

Below l-r: students look over the Irvine River, following Inma footsteps.



## Campground on Watarrka National Park a first

TRADITIONAL owners have given the green light to an Aboriginal community to develop a family business in a national park in Central Australia.

The Watarrka Joint Management Committee gave in-principle approval to the Williams family from Lilla to start planning a campground on the park lease.

The family had requested a spot just outside the boundary of their Community Living Area

(CLA), because tourist camping inside the CLA is not allowed.

The committee asked the family to keep working with the CLC and the NT Parks and Wildlife Service to develop a good business plan and work with the other Watarrka communities on jobs, training and art sales.

The CLC is helping the Williams family to set up a tourism business that includes camping and a guided tour and to nego-

tiate with tourism operators who want to become their business partners.

Vera Williams hopes the business will make their children more independent.

"Tourism is a way to have money in the pocket and to look after country", she says.

That means involving the children from the start.

"We sometimes take them on guided tours to explain bush tucker to

visitors. It helps with their education and builds their confidence", she said. "They'll really control the land with what they've learned at school".

Traditional owners hope the park will be officially handed back to them later this year under the parks joint management arrangements which have seen a number of parks handed back to traditional owners in recent years.

Right: Planning the campground



## Parks work a "great job"

IF YOU'VE been down to Chambers Pillar or Rainbow Valley in the past year or so you would have noticed a lot of new or improved facilities like walking tracks, picnic tables and bollards. The improved facilities have been the hard work of traditional owners working under FEP.

FEP, or Flexible Employment Program, is run by the Northern Territory Parks and Wildlife Service and employs traditional owners on a casual basis to work on National Parks and reserves.

The amount and type of work that people do depends on what is needed in each Park.

At Chambers Pillar and Rainbow Valley traditional owners have been working on a range of projects including building and fixing up visitor facilities, buffel removal, weed mapping and burning.

Peter Kenny, a senior traditional owner who has

been working on FEP and other programs with Parks for 11 years, reckons it is a great job.

"You are always doing something different, and it's fun. I'm working with family. The young fellas work hard. They are really helpful".

Before working with Parks, Peter spent many years working on stations as a handyman and doing maintenance, so he brings a lot of skills to the job. But not everyone has a lifetime of experience.

It is the first job out of school for Henry Kenny, and he's been learning a lot of new things: "like machinery, drilling, stuff like that.

"Learn a bit of stuff, more stories, from the older blokes. But the best thing is all of us working together, showing tourists, being proud," he said.

The group obviously have fun, enjoy working together, and gain a lot of satisfaction from the work.



The team at work building new picnic tables.

They also talk about the peace and quiet camping out bush and, at the end of the day, cooking up a great feed.

Rick Hope, PWS Senior Ranger who coordinates the work at Rain-

bow Valley and Chambers Pillar, says that last year they had 21 participants.

These included men and women, old and young people.

"Sometimes we have three gen-

erations of people working side by side.

Rick says that one of the most important things for successful FEP is involving motivated Park Rangers.

"Parks staff need to be flexible

and think about what the participants want – diverse and interesting work, and making it enjoyable."

FEP is a great way for traditional owners and Park Rangers to learn

from each other and can be a stepping stone towards getting a permanent job or a traineeship as a park ranger.

**For more information about FEP and other employment opportunities**

**you can call Jamie Moore at PWS on 8951 8237 or Wendy Stuart at CLC on 8951 6281.**

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# Two men turning down the grog tap

**TWO HIDDEN** Valley men have taken the brave step of not only getting off the grog cycle, but also appearing in a DVD to help others follow their example.

Fraser Mangaraka and Tim McNamara from near Ntaria (Hermannsburg), live at Hidden Valley town camp in Alice Springs.

After living with alcohol in one way or another for 30 years, the men formed a pact to try and stay off the grog – or ngwaar-enge (eng-gwa-la), as it's known in Arrernte.

But the men say they couldn't have

kept on their path without the support of the Hidden Valley Community Centre, run by Tangentyere Council.

"We wouldn't be sitting down here sober," says Fraser.

Tim agrees: "The centre is really helping our people to do what we want to do."

The centre has been up and running again since 2004 but was seen more as a women's and children's space until more recently when Tangentyere brought in men's caseworker Caisley Sinclair.

Another boost came earlier this

year when NT Department of Justice funding allowed the centre to provide three months of male health and wellbeing workshops, including drug and alcohol counselling, strength and relaxation techniques and overnight camps out bush.

Another result was Men Living with Alcohol, a DVD featuring the story of Tim and Fraser, filmed and produced by Vincent Lamberti and Lisa Albert from Fringe Dweller Films.

Up to eight men were involved in the workshops,

with Tim and Fraser making the biggest changes in their lives.

"Me and Fraser was just about drinking every day – we didn't know what the centre was for.

"Caisley helped us to go down to Drug and Alcohol mob, Congress mob...they give us little bit information about grog and we realise that we gotta stop this drinking and we did."

Now they continue to provide a firewood service to parts of the camp, taking care of the Community Centre's vegetable and herb garden and

have even tried out Yoga through the strength and relaxation sessions.

"People got their own choice to give up or keep going (on the grog)," said Tim.

"At least we are doing our best to stop what we (were) doing.

"I think it's good for our little children to see us when we get up in the morning.

"That's what we make this little documentary about, for people to see what we are, through our lives, not just only for us but for everybody to see what they doing, they doing exactly the same



Fraser Mangaraka and Tim McNamara hope others can learn from their story.

(as) what we (were) doing, they should see this DVD and think, 'these two guys telling the

story that's true, we all in it, we all alcoholic, we know this life is destroy us, somehow we all

gotta change.' "Maybe telling our story can help people to realise what they doing."

## Lajamanu to get dialysis service

**LAJAMANU** and Kalkarindji are set to get their own Return to Country Dialysis Program after the recent approval of \$2.366 million in funding over three years from the latest round of grants from the Aboriginals Benefit Account (ABA).

The Western Desert Nganampa Walyta Palyantjaku Tjutaku Aboriginal Corporation will receive the money to run the service as it already does in Kintore, Yuendumu and Ntaria.

Before this support was announced, people living in Yuendumu and Lajamanu put large amounts of their mining royalties towards getting the projects up and running.

Now that investment has paid off.

A similar dialysis centre has been running in Kintore for several years, funded substantially by an extraordinary sale of the finest in Western Desert art in 2000.

The Minister for Indigenous Affairs Jenny Macklin said the Lajamanu project will enable dialysis patients to return home for visits of between three and six weeks, two or three times a year, and builds on the success of those existing projects.

"People who may be receiving dialysis in Darwin, 600km away, can return to their home community for a few weeks at a time, continue with their treatment, and have a nurse on hand to help them," Ms Macklin said.

Kurra committed \$150,000 to the scoping study for the project and employed a manager to develop it.

The CLC's Community Development Unit has also helped to facilitate the project as part of its work in assisting Aboriginal people to use rent and royalty monies to generate benefits for their communities.

# Ready, set: protect

## South Tanami Indigenous Protected Area all set to go

**THE DECLARATION** of the largest protected area on the Australian mainland just got one step closer.

After a four-year consultation and design process,

traditional owners of the Southern Tanami region have finished drafting the management plan that would guide the conservation and cultural work on their land if

it is declared an Indigenous Protected Area (IPA).

The proposed IPA covers 1.1 million ha of near-pristine semi-arid ecosystems, an area 30 per cent larger than

the state of Tasmania.

The area includes some of the highest densities of Australia's most threatened species, including the bilby, great desert skink and marsupial mole.

If declared, the Southern Tanami IPA would form part of a network of protected areas in Australia, and constitute the single-largest contribution to the Territory Ecolink, a conservation corridor 2000 kilometres in length.

As well as presenting conservation benefits, the IPA management plan developed by the traditional owners offers important social benefits in health and wellbeing.

The IPA would also provide employment and training opportunities, including through ranger jobs, and education paths to the future.

Currently the Federal Government is offering funding at a level that would not permit the realisation of the full objectives of the traditional owners' management plan.

The Central Land Council has begun a search for funding to make up that shortfall.

The CLC says it is approaching philanthropic funds, businesses and individuals willing to partner with it to help the IPA become a significant social and conservation success story.

Eddie Jampijinpa Robertson, IPA Coordinating Council executive member said the local people were keen to work with others to make sure the IPA got off to the right start.

"Our IPA is a really big area of land," he said.

"We want to work together with other people, partners, to look after it."



Lucy Martin passing on ecological knowledge about plants that live in the proposed IPA area.

# More prizes for the Ngangkari

Known for their gentle and wise natures and their deeply philosophical view of life, Central Australia's ngangkari continue to scoop up prizes recognising their exceptional traditional skills in healing.

**NGANGKARI** (traditional healers) from Central Australia have been awarded the International Sigmund Freud Prize from City of Vienna.

Two very well known ngangkari, Ginger Toby and Rupert Peters, accepted the prestigious prize on behalf of the NPY Women's Council Ngangkari Project at the 6th World Congress for Psychotherapy in Sydney in August.

"This may be the first occasion in which exceptional work by Indigenous Australian mental health therapists has achieved such international recognition for their contribution to a major field in the health sciences. All Australians should feel proud of their achievement," said Dr Korner, Chair of the Organising Committee of the World Congress for Psychotherapy.

The award acknowledges the lifelong work

of ngangkari and their extensive provision of consultation, advice and treatment across Indigenous communities.

The NPY Women's Council Ngangkari Project provides ngangkari treatments to Indigenous people in remote communities in Central Australia, as well as those in hospitals, jails, nursing homes and hostels in regional centres.

The ngangkari believe that better health outcomes for indigenous people can be achieved by ngangkari and western medicine working together and to this end they are committed to educating health workers about traditional healing practices.

The ngangkari have received many accolades, the most recent being the Mark Sheldon Prize for 2009 awarded by the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatry (RANZCP), and the 2009

Dr Margaret Tobin Award for excellence in the provision of mental health services to those most in need.

The ngangkari say they are very happy and proud to receive the award, and are especially pleased that their work, and that of all ngangkari, is recognised as important to the well-being of indigenous people.

Margaret Smith, Chairperson of NPY Women's Council, said: "we are very proud of our ngangkari project. Ngangkari are precious to our people and we are delighted to see their work acknowledged by this prize".

NPY Women's Council Ngangkari project is supported by funding from Country Heath SA and the ATSI Healing Foundation.

The prize is shared with Dr Helen Milroy and Lorraine Peters, and recognises a spectrum of indigenous contributions



to well being, psychological and physical healing.

Above l - r: Toby Ginger, Rupert Peter and Andy Tjilari. Photo by Angela Lynch

Right: Ilawanti Ken, Naomi Kantjurinyi, Marinka Burton. Photo by Rhett Hammerton.



## Larapinta camp puts on a show

IT WAS always going to be a success with the kids.

The 10th annual open day at the Larapinta Town Camp's Yarrenyty Arltere Learning Centre hit on a winning formula with its outdoor film screening, with some of the recent films made by the kids themselves.

The event is held to welcome Alice Springs residents from outside the camp into it, marked 10 years since the learning centre opened.

The event featured some other films from past years, plus 1930s footage of Alice Springs, Hermannsburg and Jay Creek from the Strehlow Centre.

The event stretched into the evening, as fires were lit in drums and a happy crowd made themselves comfortable on blankets in the spontaneous outdoor cinema, while kids from the camp and elsewhere made shadow puppets on the margins of the big screen.

As well as the films, there was the traditional sale of



The outdoor film screening at Larapinta Town Camp was a hit on the night

artworks made by the many local artists that the centre represents - but this year saw a real milestone in that side of the centre's activity.

While the art sale normally presents a large part of the work made at the centre, this time around it was just one of several projects the artists had on the go.

They had already produced work for a

show at Araluen in the same month, and for a simultaneous major show of soft bird sculptures at Gabrielle Pizzi Gallery in Melbourne.

As a further sign of the growing reputation of the centre's artists, the Melbourne show sold out a week before it opened, all bought up by an unnamed NSW-based collector.

Despite all the

extra demands, the learning centre artists had still produced plenty of work for the eager Alice Springs crowd, who bought 150 pieces, ranging from prints and cards to scarves and the very popular soft sculptures.

Not that the kids cared.

For them the highlight was, without doubt, the debut short film from local filmmaker Alistair Splinter.

Alistair's film had the crowd in stitches with his hilarious take on the lack of bus services to the camp.

"I made it because we don't get a good bus service out here to the town camp," he said.

"So I just came up with an idea and we shot it."

It's possible not all the kids got his message, but that doesn't bother Alistair.

"They just enjoy it for a laugh," he said, laughing himself.

Alistair says his next film is on the way, but won't offer any hints on what it's about.

The kids aren't the only ones waiting eagerly to find out.

## CAAMA Radio team moving on up



Above: CAAMA Radio Certificate Presentations l-r Steve Hodder (Cert. IV in Screen and Media), Jennifer Howard (former CAAMA CEO), Thecla Brogan (Cert. II in Creative Industries - Media), Celestine Rowe-Byerley.

Former employee, Celestine Rowe held down a full time broadcasting role at CAAMA as a single parent with two young children.

Thecla Brogan came from a school based apprenticeship with CAAMA to being offered a full time traineeship in radio.

Thecla managed the Cert. II while also producing a national radio show (Totally Fresh) as well as filling in other broadcasting slots.

New CLC Media team member and *Land Rights News Central Australia* journalist Steve Hodder was a former senior broadcaster at CAAMA News and is one of a select few to attain the Cert. IV in Screen and Media.

Steve has spent 13 years in the media industry

"It just goes to show how much a launching pad CAAMA is and the pathways it has provided for all of us to move further into the industry," Steve said.

"I still volunteer down there at CAAMA doing the reggae rebels show on Saturday afternoons because that's what community broadcasting is all about.

"Now I'm on the CLC team I can expand my development further and working on *Land Rights News Central Australia* is another way of giving Aboriginal people a voice in the media," he said.



**TANGENTYERE  
CHILDCARE TAKES  
TIME OUT**

Three year funding was made available to Tangentyere Council's Ketyeye Early Childhood program by FaHCSIA's Family Support Program from July 2012, but was withdrawn when Tangentyere Council said it couldnt fulfil the funding requirements of the grant.

Tangentyere says it is taking the opportunity to work alongside professional health researchers to look into redeveloping the Early Childhood programs delivered by it.

It is working with Menzies School of Health Research and the Australian Childhood Foundation (ACF).

# Housing leases signed in two communities

**LAJAMANU** and **Hermannsburg** have both signed housing leases with the Australian Government while Yuendumu is still considering it.

A housing lease means a lease over the land on which houses for Aboriginal residents are built or are going to be built.

The Australian Government has said that new houses cannot be built in communities unless the community has been consulted and the traditional owners for that community agree to give a housing lease to the government for 40 years.

The Australian Government won't

pay rent for this lease but it will spend money on new houses.

The CLC thinks a housing lease is better than the Government taking a lease over the whole community because it covers a smaller area and is for a shorter period of time.

Only Yuendumu, Lajamanu and Hermannsburg were asked to give the Government a housing lease because no other community in the CLC region is getting new houses at this stage.

In November 2009, the Hermannsburg community said 'yes' to entering into a housing lease, but it

wasn't until a vote was held to allow all Hermannsburg residents one last chance to say 'yes' or 'no'. The lease was signed earlier this year.

The Australian Government will now spend \$9.6 million on 26 new houses in Hermannsburg but has delayed the building until 2012.

Lajamanu decided to enter a housing lease this year and the Government says it will spend \$8.7 million on 17 new houses and two rebuilds but not until 2013.

It means residents in Hermannsburg and Lajamanu will have to pay rent to Territory Housing but it

also means that Territory Housing is responsible for the upkeep and maintenance of the houses.

Yuendumu had a meeting early this month and have asked the CLC to negotiate some special conditions and to arrange a community vote on whether it signs a housing lease with the Government.

The Australian Government has offered Yuendumu \$13 million for new housing rebuilds and refurbishments if it consents to a housing lease.

# CLC urges Government to negotiate on rent

**THE CLC** is urging people in the bush to be patient over receiving rent for the five year leases that sit over many communities.

The Australian Government compulsorily acquired the five-year leases during the intervention in 2007.

Last May, the Land Council received the first payment of just over \$1 million from the Government which was identified as the total of the rents for 20 communities up until that date. However, the CLC said that the Governments valuations were wrong and

have been trying to negotiate a better deal for Aboriginal people.

The members of the CLC have agreed to hold the funds in a trust account until these negotiations are complete and then commence distribution.

CLC Director David Ross says negotiations are proceeding satisfactorily and resolution and distribution should be complete by the end of this year.

The CLC says it is difficult to say at this stage how many people are eligible for compensation.

# Visitor Park a cheap option for town stays

**TEMPORARY** accommodation for visitors to Alice Springs is often an issue for many people travelling to town from out bush or for those needing more secure options.

Next to the showgrounds at Blatherskite Park in Alice Springs, the Apmere Mwerre Visitor Park has been catering to a steady stream of visitors since it was officially opened in February, providing short-term accommodation options for up to 150

people at a time.

There is constant demand for the units and cabins which are almost always booked out and even the tents fill up when major events happen in town such as the AFL Lightning Carnival, the Alice Springs Show and even the Beanie Festival.

Derek, a Warlpiri dialysis patient from Yuendumu said he and his partner appreciate a secure place to stay while they are waiting for accommodation back out bush.

"Yuwayi (yes), really

good one here. This one, good one. I've been away from my country for a long time. I wanna come back to Yuendumu but they gotta find me somewhere to live."

Funded by the Alice Springs Transformation Plan and managed by Aboriginal Hostels Limited (AHL), staff provide bedding, nutritional meals and laundry facilities.

Service providers can also be accessed through the onsite support services office.

The facility offers a

covered outside playground area for the kids and a family room where parents with children can watch television and play games.

Meals can be bought for \$5 per meal, three times a day or for \$32 per week but are free for children under 5.

Cooking facilities such as fire pits and barbecues are also an option for the guests.

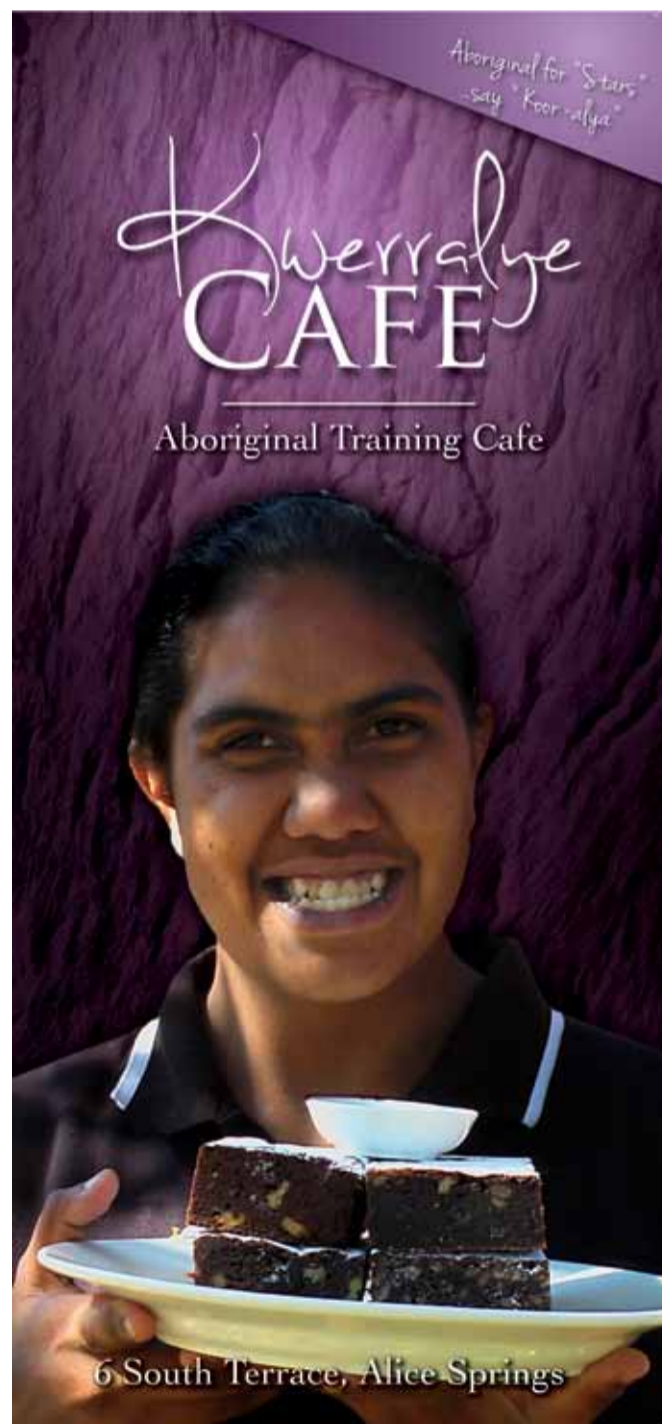
Below: the kitchen and outdoor areas at Apmere Mwerre



If you would like to make a booking or want more information on the visitor park: Call Aboriginal Hostels Limited during business hours on (08) 8952 6544 or on (08) 8952 1754 at any time or email [amvp.hostel@ahl](mailto:amvp.hostel@ahl).

**Accommodation costs Per Night**

	Adult	Child
Camping	\$5.00	\$0.00
Tent	\$7.00	\$2.00
Cabin	\$14.00	\$3.00
Self Contained Cabin	\$20.00	\$4.00



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# Young and Old: Connecting Generations conference

RECENTLY five women from Central Australia, went down to Canberra to present a talk about the Indigenous Ecological Knowledge (IEK) program.

The program was funded by Caring For Our Country (through the Territory Natural Resource Management Board) and hosted by Central Land Council for the last three years.

The women were Lorraine King from Papunya, myself and Maisie Wayne from Yuendumu, Mona Heywood from Ali-Curung and Lisa Rex from Tennant Creek.

We presented at the "Young and Old: Connecting Generations" conference hosted by AIATSIS and were joined by CLC staff (past and present) Nikki Brannigan who co-ordinated the program, Karissa Pruess and Kim Webeck who have worked with us. Over the three years 49 projects happened throughout the CLC region involving over 1500 people.

We talked about their own experiences of being involved in their IEK projects. Lorraine King and Lisa



By MADELEINE DIXON

Rex joined with Maxwell Tasman and Shane White from Lajamanu and Curtis Taylor from the Martu country in WA to discuss indigenous media projects with Anna Cadden, Daniel Featherstone and Inge Kral.

They each presented their films and why they got involved and the importance of recording and promoting Aboriginal knowledge and culture through media.

Other Aboriginal people from central Australia were also there representing the work they are doing and we all supported each other.

During the trip down to the capital we also visited some interesting places.

The first day we visited National Australian Museum, and checked out

where people from Australia put their histories and traditional arts and craft on display for people to see and to share it with others nationally.

We went to AIATSIS to look at the National Archives to see where they store old and new stories, videos and photos that people need to store safely and be able to access.

Francesca Cubillo showed us around the Aboriginal art collection at National Gallery of Australia – the arts and crafts from the Torres Strait Islands was one of our favourites.

During our free time we went to see the flowers at Floriade festival, and saw lots of colourful flowers, mainly tulips and hyacinths.

We have seen the differences between introduced flowers and the native desert flowers.

The biggest star of the trip was Mona who had never left the NT or travelled on anything more than a bus!

By the end of this trip she had experienced fly-



Karissa Pruess, Maisie Wayne, Lorraine King, Lisa Rex and Mona Heywood with Madeleine Dixon at the National Museum of Australia.

ing on a plane, living on the sixth floor of a building, escalators and everything that goes with a big city.

For all of us we tried Japanese food for the first time and loved it!

We would like to thank the Working on Country program, AIATSIS and the CLC for their financial assistance to get us to the conference.

I think the conference was great because we all

shared good ideas based on Indigenous Ecological Knowledge, we had good feed-back from the audience that made us proud for what we are doing in the Central Australian region.

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## Moss's book has a hard road before seeing the light of day

ARTIST Rod Moss has spoken about the extraordinary 10-year effort behind his award-winning book *The Hard Light of Day*.

Moss's memoir, subtitled "an artist's story of friendships in Arrernte country", won the Chief Minister's NT Book of The Year Award in February, and more recently took out the Prime Minister's Literary Award for Non-Fiction.

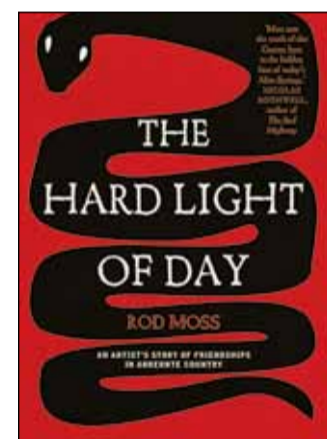
But as many of those who know him from his 25 years in Alice Springs can verify, his apparent overnight success was more than a decade in the making.

"I must have had about two dozen rejections from publishers," Moss said.

The knock-backs led to many revisions over the 10 years, and Moss admits, they "probably made it a better book". That list of rejections even included one from University of Queensland Press (UQP), the publisher who years later did eventually agree to release the book.

"I don't think there's anyone still working there now who was around when they rejected the manuscript," laughs Moss now.

"So I don't think any-



body remembers saying no."

Which raises the question: why now?

Moss believes the political climate has something to do with it the book's publication and popularity.

"I think it's partly a matter of timing – the Intervention and the heightened attention that has been brought to Alice Springs lately."

As well, Moss believes the passage of time has worked in the book's favour in another sense.

"I think an exceptional thing about the book is the longevity of the relationship," he says, referring to the time he has spent in the Centre, and his close association with Arrernte families, espe-

cially those connected to the Whitegate town camp in Alice Springs.

"For so many people it's about spending three years here and then they move on," says Moss.

His is a relationship which readers of the book have responded to strongly.

Reviewers have described the book as a "clear-eyed, respectful, affectionate yet uncompromising view," which "reports back on how life is really lived in Central Australia".

The judges for the Prime Minister's award commended it for its depiction of the relationship between Moss and local elder Arranye, and concluded that "*The Hard Light of Day* should be the winner of this year's award for the convincing veracity of the picture he draws of Aboriginal life and values".

Meanwhile the reception of the book in Moss's own town has provided him with some interesting moments.

"I've seen people in town with copies of the book," says Moss.

"In some cases I didn't even know they could read, so I think that's positive."





# Bringing it home



Homegrown filmmaker Beck Cole with proud dad Owen at the Araluen screening.

## Beck's Deadly feature debut

**THE FIRST** feature film by Central Australian filmmaker Beck Cole, *Here I Am*, has been rewarded with a bunch of Deadly Award nominations.

The film tells the story of a young woman just out of prison as she struggles to reconnect with her mother and her very young daughter.

*Here I Am* was a nominee for Film of the Year, and also scored three out of the five nominations for Female Actor of the Year, for cast members Shai Pittman, Marcia Langton and Pauline Whyman.

In the end, experience overcame freshness with Deb Mailman taking the acting award for the second year running for her performance in *Offspring*.

Speaking at the film's NT debut in Alice Springs on July 8, Cole said she was delighted to hear the film had been nominated in two categories.

"I've always wanted to get a Deadly nomination," she said.

"Normally I'm really anti all that competitive film industry award stuff - but the Deadly Awards are

sort of in a different category."

Cole says her choice to cast a lot of new faces was about working with people who had the same qualities as her characters, and could bring a raw edginess to the film.

"With this one I had a very clear indication from the beginning about how I wanted it to be.

"I wanted to work directly with Aboriginal women, and to also work with new people who hadn't been part of that sort of thing before, to bring new people into the film.

"And there have been different reactions to that - there have been people who have really enjoyed that, and there have been others who have been less positive about that aspect of the film and what I was trying to do.

"But I treat it as part of the learning process."

The *Deadly* for Best Film went to *Mad Bastards*, set in the wild lands of northern Western Australia.

The *Deadlys* were held at the Sydney Opera House on 27 September.



Traditional owners of the Finke Gorge National Park gathering on country with a copy of the title to the park.

**WHEN** the Prime Minister handed Finke Gorge National Park back to its traditional owners on 7 June, it was a very significant day for the traditional owners.

However, there was something missing at that ceremony, held at the Desert Park in Alice Springs, 140 kilometres away from the land itself.

Traditional owners wanted to acknowledge the hand-back on country and for the elders who fought hard for the land to be returned.

That's why they decided to hold their

own celebration, on the country that now officially belongs to them again.

On 11 and 12 October, traditional owners gathered at the Palm Valley camp-ground in the Finke Gorge National Park, to spend time on the land, their families together, sharing stories, and reflecting on the years of struggle that had gone before.

It was also a moment to think about what lies ahead for them and for the park, now under joint management with NT Parks and Wildlife.

NT Parks Minister

Karl Hampton was present and provided a speech.

Chris Day, regional chief ranger with NT Parks and Wildlife joined the celebration, and discussed with traditional owners some of the different employment and business opportunities that may take shape for them through joint management at a special meeting at the start of the day.

Mr Day said that initial employment could come from things like maintaining essential park facilities, and that it

was important to begin gradually.

"You don't want to start off too hard at the beginning but have problems keeping that up and then have the business fall over," he said.

"It can be good to have a whole family group involved, so that the responsibility doesn't rest on just one or two individuals."

And Conrad Ratarra, a senior traditional owner, was quietly optimistic about the possibilities of joint management.

"We will work together side by side

and see how it goes," he said.

"It's good to have our country back, and to have young fellas - and young girls, whatever - on working crews, learning more about the country.

"We're happy to have support from Tourism and from Parks.

"It's a good time for us."

After Mr Ratarra welcomed everyone to country, traditional owners gathered around the copy of the land title - a bit like the ceremony with the PM, but this time at the heart of their land.

## Richard Mack hits his ton at Granites



Congratulations to Richard Mack on notching up 10 years' long service at Newmont Tanami (Granites) gold mine.



Breast cancer survivors and supporters at the DVD launch.

## Film helps to heal scars

**A SHORT** film made to inform Aboriginal women about breast cancer was received with some rapturous applause at its launch in Alice Springs in June.

In *Listen You Women Your Breasts*

*Are Precious*, Dawn Ross, Kathleen Wallace, Jenny Mahoney, Rita Nungala Dixon and Marlene Doolan tell their stories of the diagnosis, treatment, support and recovery of breast cancer.

The powerful multilingual half-hour documentary was produced by Bosom Buddies NT and MW Creative.

One former community nurse at the launch commented that if this resource

had been available for her patients they could have avoided much of the trauma they suffered upon learning that they had the disease.

The DVD is available in Arrernte, Pitjantjatjara, Anmaty-

erre, Warlpiri and English.

The DVD now has its own blogsite, where you can find out more about the project and order the DVD.

Go to: [www.listenyouwomen.com](http://www.listenyouwomen.com)



# Katiti Well found at last



Patrick Hookey, Colin Nipper and Wangin at Katiti Well.

**SENIOR** people in the Uluru area were overjoyed recently when a small group of them managed to find an extraordinary well that had been lost for 25 years.

Three traditional owners and a Central Land Council staff member used a helicopter to scour a wide area north of Uluru, looking for the Katiti well that has been vital to the survival of people in the area for thousands of years.

The well itself is something of a natural wonder. Thought to reach down to an underground river that was buried around 25,000 years ago, the only clue to its existence is a small, square opening in the ground.

Flat to the earth, a person could walk past just a few feet away and not realise it was there.

As inconspicuous as it is, the well was essential to the Anangu people of the region as key source of water between Uluru and Watarra far to the north, and for millennia they have maintained it, keeping it open and clean.

Indeed so important was the well that it is the one feature from which the entire surrounding Katiti Land Trust takes its name.

But as the advent of roads and motor vehicles changed the way people came and went, the well, once a major stop on many trip north of Uluru, was bypassed.

For decades it was visited only rarely, and since 1986 not at all.

Colin Nipper, the senior traditional owner who led the rediscovery trip, remembers visiting the well last as a very young boy in the late 60s with his father, Nipper Winmarti.

Various groups of Anangu had tried to find the well in the last 25 years, but they had all hit snags due to the lack of transport, access roads, health and first-hand knowledge of the right senior people.

This time it was largely Colin's knowledge that made the difference.

Colin, who relies on dialysis, was able to be present thanks to the visit of a mobile dialysis unit to Mutitjulu.

As part of its oral history activities the Uluru Kata-Tjuta National Park chartered the necessary helicopter, Colin was joined by traditional owners Malya Teamay and Wangin plus Patrick

Hookey from the Central Land Council, and the search was on.

Flying over an area roughly 10km south of Lake Amadeus, the group spotted faint signs of what might have been a group of old campsites, and told the pilot to land.

They were indeed campsites, and possibly the ones they were looking for, but since by custom camps are made at a respectful distance from such critical water sources, the find still meant there was a lot of looking left to do, fanning out and searching on foot.

In the end, one of the



Malya Teamay inspecting the well.

men was passing a patch of ground like any other and there it was.

Baldwin Spencer, travelling through the area in 1894 with the Horn Expedition, was shown the well

by local people, and wrote about the method they used to get water from it.

Nearly 120 years later, that traditional method still works.

After gathering around the newly found well, the Anangu men climbed 12 feet down, dug into the soft sand, and the water flowed in from the side as it has for thousands of years.

Now they're back in touch with the well, the Anangu have already revisited the site several times.

They want to put in a track to the site, and are already including the well in the patch burning they are carrying out as part of developing the Katiti-Petermann Indigenous Protected Area plan.

Above all they want to show it to people, especially the children, and teach them about the place.

As Colin Nipper said after the fact that the well was found again had sunk in, passing that knowledge on is critical.

"It's a very important place - that was shown to us by our grandfathers."

And how does he feel to have finally come back here?

"Happy - really happy."

## CALENDAR

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## Survey finds nearly one camel for every square km in south west NT

**A MAJOR** aerial camel survey over a large part of the south western Northern Territory has found that on average there is nearly one camel for every square kilometre.

The survey's plane operated out of Newhaven and Curtin Springs stations, and its flights extended from the Lake Mackay Aboriginal Land Trust all the way to the South Australian border, including a large part of the Haasts Bluff, Katiti and Petermann Aboriginal Land Trusts.

The study was carried out by the Northern Territory Department of Natural Resources, Environment, the Arts and Sport (NRETAS).

The last survey of a small part of this area was undertaken in 2001.

Flying just 100 metres off the ground, the plane covered the area in lines set 10 kilometres apart.

Four passengers recorded every camel they saw between ribbons hung from the plane's wings.

This survey technique was also used over the Simpson Desert in May 2010 and led to an estimate of about 70,000 camels in that area.

The latest survey in the south west also found camels occurring at a highest density of more than four camels per square kilometre.

The figure puts camel numbers at around 78,000 in the 85,000-square-kilometre area, well above the government's target of less than one camel for every five square kilometres.

Traditional owners and Central Land Council staff are very interested in the results of the survey, particularly as camels have been appearing in new country after the rains.

Rangers from Nyirripi and Yuendumu are currently developing the skills to participate in feral camel management under the Australian Feral Camel Management Project.

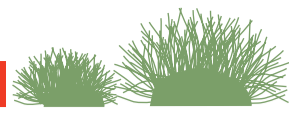
Traditional owners and the Rangers are working with the CLC to pilot a ground-based shooting program, and are identifying areas where it is acceptable to cull camels.

The priority is to keep camels from finding new water sites and to keep camel densities low after the national culling program finishes.

There will also be some butchery of camels for community use.



Image courtesy of Kym Schwartzkopff.



Top left: Ltyentye Apurte ranger, Gibson John checking the fires on the Maryvale road.

Top right: CLC members meet NLC Chairman Wali Wunungmurra at the CLC meeting at Kalkarindji in August

Above left: Mona Kantawarra receives her degree and an award for Achievement in Teacher Education

Above: Sisters Hilda Pwerle, Lena Pwerle and Amy Pwerle at the Neutral Junction native title determination ceremony

Right: Kintore Proud to be Pintupi

Left: Footy clinic at Kintore Proud to be Pintupi Festival

Below left: Angelina Hayes with son, Kallum at Hidden Valley

Below: The crowd walk in at the Kintore Proud to be Pintupi Festival



# Court sees the truth in landowner's knowledge

ON A COLD, wet day north of Barrow Creek recently, the Federal Court of Australia recognised the native title rights of the area's Kaytetye traditional owners.

The ceremony took place at Arnerre, an outstation within the Neutral Junction pastoral lease, which is also the site of a critical cluster of sites sacred to the Kaytetye.

During a rare break in the rain, Justice John Reeves handed down the court's determination "by consent of the parties", reflecting the uncontested nature of the claim.

It was an important moment for the Kaytetye.

Under the Northern Territory's Pastoral Lands Act, the traditional owners already had many of the rights that native title recognition brings, including the right of access, hunting, and the right to reside and build shelters.



Kaytetye traditional owners of Neutral Junction (L to R): Michael Hayes, Kevin Thompson, Mick Wake, Michael Jabiard, Tommy Thompson, Kim Brown, Tommy Walkabout, Georgie Anderson and Roger Tommy.

of their native title rights will strengthen this protection.

Kaytetye traditional owner and CLC ranger Kim Brown said that the Federal Court's determination was an important moment for him personally.

"It's a special day and it makes our family proud and happy - we struggled for a couple of years.

Mr Brown also hoped families will start accessing country more.

"I reckon people will feel more empowered to come back home now too."

Tommy Thompson, a senior local man who speaks ten languages, was characteristically philosophical about the win.

"Aboriginal native title is really Australian law with other laws coming up.

"White laws come over the top of our native title law and our language.

"We march on together."

## Better protection for Neutral Junction

What they didn't have was native title's guarantee of the right to at least negotiate over any future mining or exploration activity on the lands.

The area covers 1664 square kilome-

tres of the north-western section of the Neutral Junction Pastoral Lease, and includes the parallel Crawford and Osborne Ranges.

Traditional owners have historically resisted any exploration

here, and any ground disturbance has caused a high level of anxiety to senior people.

In the early 1990s, CLC asked the Territory minister responsible for mines to declare a Reserva-

tion from Occupancy under the Mining Act over a portion of the Crawford and Osborne Ranges in order to protect sacred sites.

Unfortunately the minister refused.

At various times

the area has been loosely protected by agreements between the CLC and exploration and mining companies not to interfere with the sites, but now the traditional owners hope that recognition

## ...and also for Kurundi

THE DAY after sitting at Neutral Junction, the Federal Court visited Injaridjin Waterhole on the Davenport Range National Park, roughly 400km north of Alice Springs, this time to recognise the native title rights of the traditional owners of the Kurundi Pastoral Lease.

At one of its more picturesque sitting locations, the Court recognised the non-exclusive native title rights of the claimants over the 3857 square kilometres of the lease.

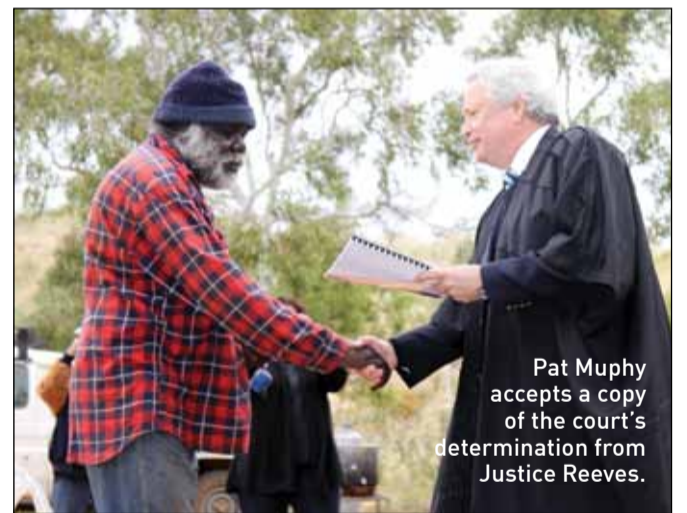
The determination - by consent of the parties, as it was at Neutral Junction - is the outcome of a 10-year native title claim made by the Mirtartu, Warupunju, Arrawajin and Tijampara people.

The native title claimants have maintained their strong connection to their country on the Kurundi pastoral lease, in sometimes difficult circumstances.

Many of the claimants and their ancestors have lived and worked at the station over many decades.

Working as stockmen gave them an opportunity to stay on their country, learning all their stories and abiding by their Law.

"Station owns this for grass and water, that's all - water the bullocks and



Pat Muphy accepts a copy of the court's determination from Justice Reeves.

horses," said one senior local man.

"They only working on top of Aboriginal land - the sacred sites, they (are) all still there."

Claimant Pilot Carr was born on the end of the Kurundi airstrip and lived and worked as a stockman on Kurundi Station most of his life.

Another, Pat Murphy, was born on the station, and his father, Murphy Jappanangka, worked as a stockman there, later taking part in the Kurundi walk-off for equal wages in 1977.

The claimants hope that the determination will help them to continue to protect their country and sacred sites on Kurundi Station into the future.

"We never forget about our law," said one claimant.

"We work through the Land Council - we show Land Council what we got on the ground so they can prove it.

"They did prove it - we got title for that now.

"The old people taught us how to look after country and we look after country same way.

"Before we go, we gotta teach our children same way, they will carry on after we go.

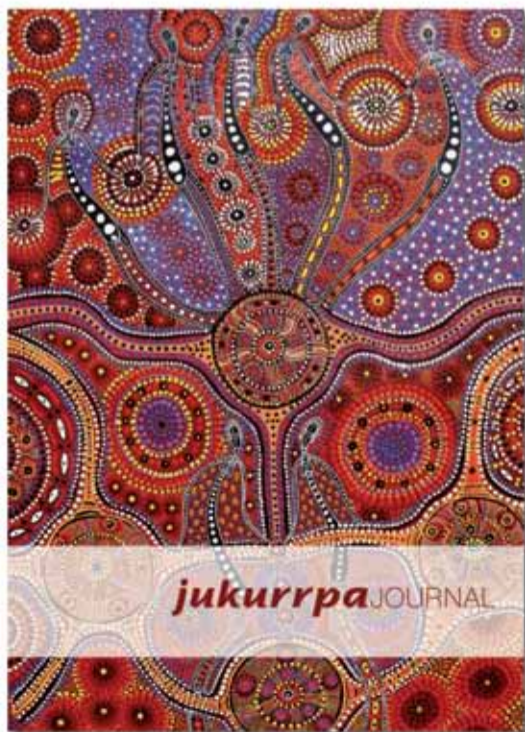
"Our law is in the ground - it's a pretty hard law.

"We gotta understand whitefella law and whitefella gotta understand our law.

"Sometimes we don't understand each other."

### NEW PRODUCT *new* jukurpa JOURNAL

Beautiful images and excerpts from the Eastern Arrernte Creation story of the Seven Sisters are interwoven with journal entry pages in a brand new publication from IAD Press.



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- Handy size for purse or travel (210mm by 148mm portrait)

Journal ISBN 978 1 86465 122 5  
RRP \$14.95

Celebrating the distinctive artistic style of Keringke Arts artist and IAD Press author Mrs Kathleen Kemarre Wallace, this journal will delight the user with many distinct features including the glorious full-colour painting of Arralkwe by Mrs Wallace featured on the front cover.

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**BRIEFLY**

**RED LILY BLOOMS**

THE FIRST new regional Aboriginal community controlled health board for more than half a decade was launched in July.

The Red Lily Health Board joins other successful regional Aboriginal health services such as Katherine West and Sunrise.

The new board will direct the delivery of comprehensive primary health care to 2500 people across the West Arnhem region, taking in Kakadu, Gunbalanya and associated outstations, Waruwi and Minjilang.

**BY-ELECTION FOR YUENDUMU CLC DELEGATE**

FRANCIS Jupurrula Kelly has been elected to the Central Land Council as a Yuendumu delegate after a by-election was held in July to replace Ned Jampajinpa Hargraves, who had resigned from the position.

This is the second time Mr Kelly has been elected to Council.

Yuendumu by-election results: F. Kelly: 17 votes; M. Watson: 12; T. Rice: 7; N. Hargraves: 7; E. Katakarinja: 1.

**NATIVE TITLE LOBBY GROUP CALLS FOR REFORM IN LAWS AND PROCESSES**

AUSTRALIANS for Native Title and Reconciliation (ANTaR) have called for reform of Native Title legislation.

The group wants reforms including reversing the onus of proof in Native Title claims by introducing a presumption of continuity, clarifying the obligation to negotiate in good faith, and redefining the term "traditional" to recognise the inevitable evolution of laws and customs.

ANTaR National President Dr Peter Lewis said Native Title reform would deliver significant opportunities not only for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, but also for the wider Australian community.

"Making the system fairer and less onerous, and providing the right for Native Title holders to have genuine control over what happens on their land will deliver practical benefits as well as proper recognition of rights," Dr Lewis said.

# This batch of students is college's biggest mob ever

**MORE** than 190 Indigenous students graduated at this year's Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education Central Australian Campus on 8 September in the largest graduation ceremony the institute has seen.

The graduates were led to the awards by the popular Drum Atweme group in an academic procession kitted out in colourful Batchelor robes and mortarboards.

Guest speaker and Central Land Council Director David Ross paid special tribute to those Ab-

original teachers receiving degrees after years of working in schools, saying he wanted to "acknowledge your important work over many years".

He also spoke about the necessity of education, making a reference to the Northern Territory Intervention.

"That people - public servants from the suburbs down south who have no idea how we live - can have that sort of power over us and dictate to Aboriginal people how we live our lives tells me that many of us have dropped

the ball somewhere.

"We need to pick that ball up and regain control over our lives and our communities.

"The only way to freedom is to get up and get an education," he said.

Batchelor Institute Director, Adrian Mitchell, says the Institute had undergone many changes over the last two years and is now stronger than ever.

"The new facilities at the Desert Peoples Centre in particular, offer the opportunity for a sustained period of growth for the Institute," he said.



Batchelor students at their graduation ceremony at the Desert Peoples Centre.

# Babies no problem for young mums at BIITE

**EDUCATION** and training are important pathways to success but sometimes it can be hard to balance taking care of young children while trying to study.

Often mothers interested in training and education can't get toddlers and babies in care, limiting their chances to achieve.

Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education (BIITE) is building bridges by running an eight-week literacy and numeracy course originally designed for young

mothers with babies and toddlers.

Shaunna, one of the students and the proud mother of baby Chelita, knows only too well how difficult it can be to access education while caring for a baby, so when she heard about the course from her sister-in-law she was very interested.

"There's not much opportunities to come and learn while your baby is with you," Shaunna said.

"She's [Chelita's] not on bottle [milk] so even though there's opportuni-

ties, it's really hard."

She says the course has refreshed skills that she hadn't used much since becoming a mum.

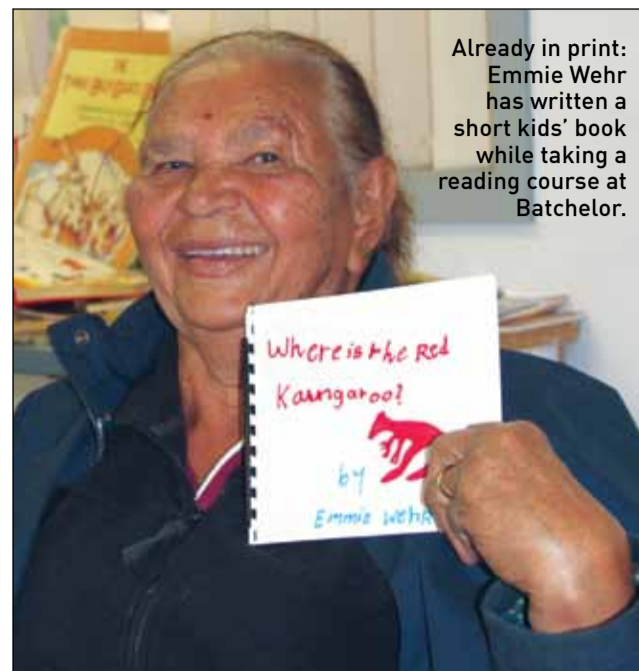
"It's got me in the mood to read and write again, and I'd forgotten how to use computers after leaving school a few years ago."

Now Shaunna is interested in taking an art course and says she hopes other courses can be made more accessible as well.

"They should have more courses like it," she said.



Young mum Shaunna sharpening her computer skills with baby Chelita and Batchelor lecturer Angela Harrison.



Already in print: Emmie Wehr has written a short kids' book while taking a reading course at Batchelor.

# Emmie's story has a happy end to it

**EMMIE** Wehr is living proof that you're never too old to learn to read and write.

Emmie, 72, was motivated to learn because she had been frustrated by her lack of formal education all her life.

Everyday activities like shopping and reading street signs are extremely difficult.

She has also wanted to write her own life story for her family.

"When I was growing up I was always working," Emmie said.

"I grew up on New Crown, Finke, Andado.

"It was really hard for me coming up here to Alice Springs and not being able to read.

"I used to go shopping - then I'd go home and cry.

"I used to buy food and couldn't read the prices."

Emmie recently took an eight-week course at Batchelor College in Alice Springs and by the end of it had produced a small book.

She says that having the chance to learn has transformed her life.

"Before I started doing this work, I was really down, struggling to think of things, or to find the right words, but since I've been learning to read and practising, my brain's just BOOM! - it's really opened up.

"On the station, all the station owners' kids went to school, but I missed out.

"They could've fitted me in, and I reckon I would've learned then.

"I was happy on the station but when I left I

was really sad because I didn't have any education.

"When I was young, before having kids, nothing worried me.

"I was just cooking, mustering cattle, and things like that.

"Sometimes I was almost running the station, starting the pumps, cooking - we made our own butter - everything."

But later, with seven children learning to read and write at school, Emmie's reasons to learn grew.

As she says, literacy is useful "for everything".

"If I was down south and I wanted to look at a sign, I wouldn't know where I was going.

"I was down in Melbourne, and I'm driving along fine but I have to wake someone up when we get close to town or we'll get lost."

Lack of literacy didn't stop Emmie achieving outstanding results in one area of her life: horse racing.

"We're horse mad, out there at 6am every morning and I've had lots of winners over the years," she said.

But with her growing literacy life has really taken a new turn for Emmie.

"I'm really picking it up now, the reading and that," she said.

"People are saying, 'Gee - you're different!'

"You don't have time to get Alzheimer's.

"I feel really good - I could fly to the moon!

"This has really lifted me up."



# Feds see carbon at Henbury

**THE FEDERAL** Government has joined with a private company to buy Henbury Station and turn it into an experimental carbon credit scheme.

Henbury, 130km south of Alice Springs, is a 405,000ha area traditionally belonging to the Pertame people, who have made many attempts over several decades to have the property returned to them.

The Government contributed \$9 million of Henbury's \$13million sale price, with R.M. Williams

Agricultural Holdings paying the balance.

R.M. Williams and the Government announced the move on July 26, as well as revealing their plans to de-stock the station of its 17,000 head of cattle.

De-stocking will also clear the way for the vegetation of the area to be rehabilitated and used to store carbon in the longer term.

The initiative will attempt to develop a way of proving that significant amounts of carbon can

be stored in the relatively arid Central Australian rangelands.

That development process is expected to take at least a year.

Parliamentary Secretary for Climate Change and Energy Efficiency Mark Dreyfus emphasised the potential of the scheme for other landholders in Central Australia.

"Landholders and investors around the country will be watching this exciting pilot project for its innovative approach to conservation and biodi-

versity," he said.

Some of those interested landholders looking on may include Aboriginal land trusts, who will be keeping an eye on the scheme to see if it creates a business model that could benefit Aboriginal people on lands they have already won back.

As well, despite being left out of the government's deal with R.M. Williams, there may be further opportunities to come out of the deal for the Pertame.

The scheme under

which the Henbury project is set to operate uses a carbon credit certification system that places a value on the involvement of local communities in the project.

That value may open the door to greater Aboriginal participation in Henbury's future.

In a statement, the Central Land Council expressed its willingness "to investigate any ways in which we could work with the Commonwealth and R.M. Williams Agricultural Holdings to get positive and practical outcomes

for Aboriginal people".

But the CLC also expressed its disappointment that the Henbury deal had "been done in a way that gave traditional owners no chance to be a part of it as owners or even as co-owners."

"What traditional owners want is the formal recognition they deserve as the original owners of that country and that requires legal tenure," the CLC said.

"The CLC will continue to make every effort to achieve that goal."



## Campdraft glory for Yirara students

THEY may have only been up and running for less than a year, but the Northern Territory Cattlemen's Association campdrafting team already has a ribbon or two.

The team, which trains at the Alice Springs trucking yards, is made up of Aboriginal students from Yirara College who visit the yards once a week as part of their Cert III program in animal husbandry.

Recently, two of the students, Timmy Watson and Lynton Hodgen, competed in their first ever campdraft and gymkhana events at the Brunette Downs

with some astounding results for first-timers. Timmy came third in the Juvenile Campdraft for youths under 17, while Lynton managed second place in the same event.

Both also turned in great performances in the gymkhana, with wins and places in several events.

As Greg Vidler, one of the Northern Territory Cattlemen's Association trainers at the yards who looks after the young sportsmen says, "Some people are just made to ride a horse - you look at some of these kids

and you see that." Vidler says the young men had no problems with nerves - at first.

"Before the first event I asked Timmy if he was feeling nervous, and he said no.

"But after he did so well in that event, he got nervous about the next one and he didn't do quite so well.

"People get the idea that it's easy ... it's not."

Vidler says he was not expecting this much success.

"After the Brunette result I was over the moon.

"I just thought it was so great."

Sponsorship for the NTCA campdrafting team came from the Central Land Council, the Indigenous Land Corporation, Blue Dog Clothing, and Coopers Animal Health.

Next year the NTCA hopes to expand the number of tournaments the students participate in and have more go through the program, says Vidler.

"When they're here they learn fencing, and do a lot of other jobs around the yards, but for them it's all about the horses.

"So we make sure they get on a horse every time they come out."

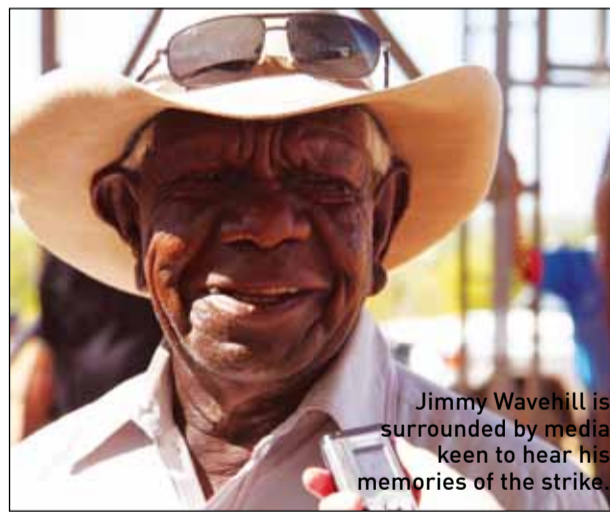
## Wave Hill walk-off's big 45th

HUNDREDS of people took part in the celebrations marking the 45th anniversary of the walk-off by Aboriginal stockmen and their families at Wave Hill.

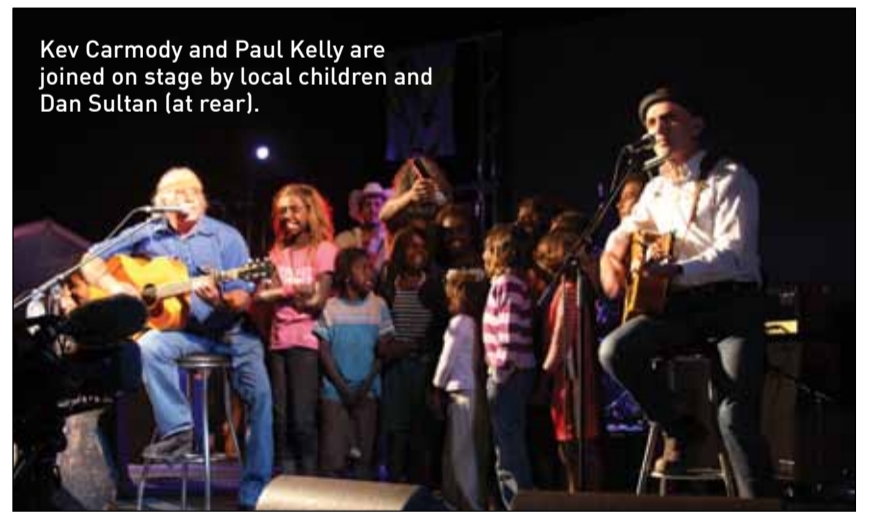
The traditional walk-off re-enactment on Friday 26 August was followed by talks and nightly concerts, over the weekend, including a performance by Kev Carmody, Paul Kelly, Dan Sultan and a host of kids singing "From Little Things, Big Things Grow", which tells the story of the walk-off.



Gurindji and supporters march to the river to re-enact the walk-off.



Jimmy Wavehill is surrounded by media keen to hear his memories of the strike.



Kev Carmody and Paul Kelly are joined on stage by local children and Dan Sultan (at rear).



Senior Gurindji gather around the Freedom Day banner, joined by guests including musicians and politicians.





# NAIDOC Week 2011

**IF YOU** happened to be in Alice Springs this year between 4 and 9 July, you could not have missed that it was NAIDOC Week.

The culture, history and achievements of Indigenous people in Central Australia were celebrated and in full view, as Aboriginal organisations and others got behind the event in a big way.

The week kicked off

with a march down Todd Mall to a rally at the Council Lawns, and was followed by exhibitions, screenings, the NAIDOC Awards and lots of events for kids.

The focus on youth was appropriate, given this year's NAIDOC theme – "Change: The next step is ours".

Other highlights were the special screening of

Beck Coles's debut feature *Here I Am*, the safe kids' disco on the Friday night and the family fun day at the Aquatic Centre.

The climax of the week was the Festival Day, which saw the old Melanka site on Todd Street transformed into a fairground, with rides, music and stalls for the many who joined in the celebrations.



Warren H. Williams performs at the NAIDOC Festival.



Territory Thunder player Charlie Maher addresses the NAIDOC rally.



## Purple House wins NAIDOC 'Best Employer' in Alice

**WESTERN** Desert Dialysis – also known as "Purple House" – has been honored with the Alice Springs NAIDOC 2011 Employer of the Year Award.

The organisation provides renal dialysis services to remote communities in a comforting, informal setting, but it's careful to look after its workers as well.

Western Desert Dialysis Manager, Sarah Brown says that they try to think more broadly than just about service delivery.

"The Purple House gives Indigenous people opportunities to learn and work with dialysis patients who can be homesick and

sometimes in desperate situations," she said.

"It's easy to get waylaid by the crisis of it all, and it's really important that we make time to smell the roses and that people enjoy coming to work and have some fun while providing a really good service.

"We try and look after each other."

This year, Western Desert Dialysis welcomed four new female indigenous staff, bringing the total number of indigenous staff to five.

The young women are enrolled in or have completed management or business administration courses,

travelling to Brisbane or Sydney to attend classes.

Two of the trainees, Cassie and Kylie have also been developing their skills in entrepreneurship, and are now making their own range of jewelry, soaps and bush medicine ointments using native plants grown in the back yard.

"It's not like a clinic so there's not too much pressure," said Cassie.

"I think it's really important to cook up kangaroo and use the bush medicine because that's what the clients are used to.

"It's just a good place to work."



Tjuwanpa Rangers Malcolm Kenny and Damien Williams.

## Tjuwanpa Rangers catch hundreds of brumbies in Hermannsburg musters

**RECENT** musters by the Tjuwanpa Rangers have rounded up over 200 feral horses in the Hermannsburg area.

The three musters – at 8 Mile and Gilbert Springs in July, and at Reedies Hole in August – will reduce the number of feral horses in the area, while the locals also gain some income from selling them onto the trucks.

According to Tjuwanpa Ranger Damien Williams, reducing horse numbers is important for several reasons.

"A lot of accidents out that way - people hitting horses on the roads," he said.

As well, mustering is necessary "just to keep the damage of the horses down on the springs and waterholes".

But it's no easy task,

he added.

"Setting up the yards takes about three or four days, then a day to muster with the helicopter and three or four days to pack up again."

Damien said it also requires a lot of consultation and cooperation with diverse groups from the area.

"We had quite a few traditional owners helping out with the muster so there's some interest there with the work.

"Our mob have always been horse people since the missionaries came, so we get pretty excited with that kind of stuff."

As well, one of the spin-off benefits of the musters is the opportunity it gives the rangers, traditional owners and others of all ages from different land trusts to just sit around the

campfire at the end of a long day, talking and sharing their knowledge and experience.

Eleven Tjuwanpa rangers made up the official mustering group, with up to a dozen paid casuals and a large group of others who helped out simply because of the level of community support for the rangers and their activities.

Coordinated by the CLC in partnership with the Tjuwanpa Outstation Resource Centre, the Tjuwanpa Rangers receive core funding from the Indigenous Land Corporation's "Real Jobs" program and the Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities through the "Working on Country" program.



Sarah Brown, Cassandra Stewart, Kylie Stewart and Orewa Ohio Barrett with their award.



# arts

DesArt intern Robert Fielding prepares works for exhibition.



## Desert Curators Emerge

WHILE galleries at Araluen Arts Centre were locked away from public view in the lead-up to this year's annual Desert Mob Exhibition, six Indigenous workers were inside, hard at work with Curator Stephen Williamson.

For the first time in its history, the installation of the annual Desert Mob Exhibition was assisted by Aboriginal Art workers from the remote and town-based Aboriginal Art Centres within the Central Desert region.

The six art workers representing Ananguku Mimili Maku Arts (SA), Iwantja Arts and Crafts (SA), Ngurratjuta Iltja Ntjarra Arts (NT) and Tangentyere Artists (NT) were selected to participate in a week-long internship which focused primarily on curating.

Organised by DesArt (the Association of Central Australian Aboriginal Art and Craft Centres), the internship provided a great professional development opportunity for individuals so vital to the Indigenous arts sector, yet often forgotten.

Artworkers are commonly employed by art centres in a non-artistic capacity.

Their jobs can involve administration, studio

support and cultural interpretation, but many aspire to extend their roles even further, to make an even greater contribution to the viewers' experience of the works.

Robert Fielding, DesArt intern and Art Worker from Ananguku Mimili Maku Arts in South Australia commented, "The week is about Ngapartiji.

"It is a word meaning 50-50.

"It's about helping one another and sharing ideas and thoughts in return.

"Whilst we have been given the chance to be part of this first-ever internship to see the broader picture of what happens to our art after it leaves the community, it is also an opportunity for us to share our cultural expertise with those handling our works."

The internship also aims to address the underrepresentation of Indigenous people working within arts institutions in specialist roles such as curating.

DesArt CEO Philip Watkins explained the value they see in the internship.

"The internship is a very important initiative of Desart, providing opportunity and practical ex-

perience for Artworkers.

"It is particularly important given the fact that these pathways are currently limited or non-existent," he said.

"I look forward to further developing this program with both territory and national arts organisations."

The group of interns returned to Alice Springs to share reflections of their week, and hear talks from both artists and other speakers at the Desert Mob Symposium, held on Friday 9th September at the Araluen Theatre.



ABOVE: Robert Fielding (Ananguku Mimili Maku Arts), Dianne Robertson (Iwantja Arts and Crafts), Shauna Tilmouth (Tangentyere Artists), Pheyna Armstrong (Ngurratjuta Iltja Ntjarra Arts), Maureen O'Keefe (DesArt Director), and Vicki Cullinan (Iwantja Arts and Crafts).



CREATIVE CURATORS: Dianne and Vicki plan the arrangement of artworks using a mock-up of the gallery.



NEW CEO: Philip Watkins

## DesArt's new Arrernte boss

DESART has welcomed its first Aboriginal executive officer from Central Australia.

Philip Watkins comes from a large Arrernte family, and returned to Alice Springs after five years as the artistic and cultural director for Tandanya, the National Aboriginal Cultural Institute in Adelaide.

He says that the experience down south has provided him with a valuable insight into the way out-

siders often see Aboriginal art and culture.

"Running [Tandanya] in Adelaide gave me a different perspective on how our culture is being presented outside of this region," he said.

After taking up the post in August, he says he's looking forward to working with the organisation through a period of significant changes in the Indigenous art world.

"The resale royalty and the Indigenous Art Commercial Code of Conduct

[are] moving into the implementation stage," he said.

"It's a new process, one that is unique and came about because of a real need within the industry around ethical behaviour.

"I'm looking forward to working with those agencies charged with implementing those new policies and processes.

"It's a good thing - it's something that DesArt has pursued in terms of creating a framework for ethical behaviour in the

industry.

"The next 12 months will be an interesting time in terms of how art centres and the artists themselves respond to that."

Philip's personal and professional background has instilled a strong sense of responsibility and commitment to ensure that Indigenous cultures are respected and valued, and he sees the DesArt post as good place to help make that happen.

"It's an important job,"

he says.

"It's not only about supporting the art centres and artists but also contributing to keep culture strong in Central Australia.

Philip says he is not daunted by the policy shifts in the Indigenous Art industry.

"I look forward to the next six months, to work with the membership, the chairperson and executive to build on the strengths of DesArt and the strengths of the art centres."





## Arts

# Our Deadly winners rock

## Iwantja Band scores Most Promising New Talent – and NPY's health ad wins too

FROM the South Australian deserts to the Sydney Opera House, Iwantja Band are certainly on their way after taking out this year's Deadly Award for Most Promising New Talent in Music.

They've been touring hard and played a record 10 sets at the Dreaming Festival last year.

Iwantja Band incorporates many styles of music, from reggae and rock to country, blues and some instrumental.

The group was received with great acclaim throughout 2010 and 2011, culminating in a performance at the 25th anniversary of the hand back of Uluru to its traditional owners (pictured).

In April the band launched their new album, *Palya*, at the Wide Open Space festival in Alice Springs.

Most of the songs on the album are in Pitjantjatjara/Yankunytjatjara, the languages spoken at Iwantja (also known as Indulkana).

The other Central Australian Deadly winner, the Ngaanyatjarra Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara (NPY) Women's Council Aboriginal Corporation won the award for Outstanding



ing Achievement in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health, for their *No Safe Amount – The Effects of Alcohol in Pregnancy* program.

At the NAIDOC Awards ceremony in Sydney on 27 September the NPY Women's Council were present-

ed with their award by 2011 NAIDOC Person of the Year Terri Janke and by the Minister for Indigenous Health Warren Snowdon.

Mr Snowdon said he saw many examples of programs that were improving health outcomes for

Indigenous communities in his capacity as Minister for Indigenous Health.

"No safe amount – *The Effects of Alcohol in Pregnancy* is an early intervention and prevention campaign designed to raise awareness of the harmful and per-

manent effects on the unborn child of using alcohol during pregnancy, particularly awareness of Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD)," Mr Snowdon said.

"This is achieved through an educational advertising campaign and DVD

resource using a combination of media including animation and live action."

The campaign was developed in partnership with young people in the remote Aboriginal Community of Imanpa, including script development, pre- and post-produc-

tion and casting.

The three components of the campaign are: Ititjara (pregnancy); The Growing Brain; and Responsible Fathers.

Above: Iwantja band belting out a big sound at the 25th Anniversary of the Uluru Kata Tjuta handback last year.

# Writers' group shines a light on Barkly stories

INDIGENOUS poets Maureen O'Keefe and Rosemary Plummer are inspiring inspired many people in the Barkly to pick up their pens.

Both members of Barkly Writers' Ink, the two are also becoming better known in the Australian literary scene.

Rosemary and Maureen joined Barkly Writers' Ink in June 2010 after the seed for a writers' group was planted during a writers' retreat, run by Barkly Regional Arts in October 2009.

At the retreat a group of Indigenous and non-Indigenous writers came together for a week of workshops.

Facilitated by acclaimed Indigenous author Yvette Holt, each of the seven participants developed a new piece of work, which was later read out at a public performance at Nyinkka Nyunyu Art and Culture Centre in Tennant Creek.

Members of the audience were so blown away by the burgeoning talent

that evening that the idea for a cohort of writers began to take shape.

The Barkly region is rich with stories and boasts a wealth of talent, both budding and experienced, so newcomer Ktima Heathcote, a writer herself, set up Barkly Writers' Ink to help nurture and support writers' self-expression.

Since then the group has offered a place in Tennant Creek to meet monthly, the chance to mentor each other, offer support and, most im-

portantly, to write.

Funded by two Arts NT grants for Community and Skills Development the group has also provided openings for writers to meet publishers and editors, submit work to literary journals and magazines, and receive tips on how to workshop a pitch.

Already the group, which has a core of around nine Indigenous and non-Indigenous writers, has provided a launch pad for locals.

Rosemary, a Warumungu woman from

Tennant Creek, and Maureen, who was born and raised in Alekarengge (Ali-Curung) about 170 km southeast of Tennant, have both had poems published in an anthology of Indigenous writers by IAD Press, *This Country Anytime Anywhere* (2010).

A short story by Rosemary about a desert girl, Hanya Slater, was recently published in *Bruno's Song and Other Stories From the Northern Territory* (2011), and Maureen also wowed audiences on

the east coast with readings at the Sydney Writers' Festival in May this year.

You can find out what the Barkly writers are up to by visiting their blog: <http://the-barkly-writersink.wordpress.com/>

Top: Maureen O'Keefe reading her poetry to the group and above: Rosemary Plummer



# B. Bunter: Activist, diplomat, leader, role model mourned

WELL known and well loved land rights pioneer Mr B. Bunter Jampijinpa, 68, passed away in August in Yarralin in the north west of the Northern Territory.

Mr Bunter was best known as a key member of the group of Aboriginal stockmen and their families who walked off Wave Hill station in 1966 striking for wages.

The Wave Hill Walk-off became a demand for land rights which was taken up by supporters in Australia's cities and eventually the Gurindji won title to part of their land.

Mr Bunter held many public office positions through his working life and for the last nine years worked as an anthropological research offi-



Above: Mr Bunter assisting consultations about the Northern Tanami Protected Area.

cer at the CLC where he was highly valued for his extraordinary cross cultural skills and diplomacy.

He always maintained that the title 'public servant' should be taken literally and this was how he saw himself: as someone who was in service to his people.

He was known as a talented linguist who spoke a number of languages including Mudburra, Ngarriman, Gurindji, Warlpiri, Jaru, Arrernte and English and regularly translated at meetings.

CLC Chairman Lindsay Bookie said Mr Bunter was a 'law boss' and a strong supporter of Warlpiri and Gurindji law and culture who was extremely well respected by all who knew him.

"He was a man who could always sort out difficulties between people and he would always help out.

"He worked for the Aboriginal Development Commission and on a lot of land claims for the CLC and the NLC which helped lots of people get their country back," Mr

Bookie said.

"Jampijinpa was really strong on Aboriginal people deciding for themselves how they wanted to live and he thought the government making decisions over people's lives was wrong," Mr Bookie said.

In 1952, Mr Bunter and around 150 others were transported from Yuendumu in two open trucks 600 kilometres north to the welfare settlement of Hooker Creek (now Lajamanu).

Many of them left their families and traditional country far behind but still maintained their links with it by walking home for ceremonial business in later years.

The CLC's Chairman, Executive, members and staff all extended their condolences to Mr Bunter's family

"We are all very sad," Mr Bookie said.

"We will really miss him."



Billy Bunter being interviewed in 2006 about the Walk-off at Wave Hill Station.

## Maningrida gets \$64m in new housing and refurb

HOUSING and living conditions at Maningrida are to be improved with the dedication of \$64 million.

NT Minister for Public and Affordable Housing Chris Burns and Member for Arafura Marion Scrymgour officially opened the first stage of a new subdivision in Maningrida.

A total of 110 new houses, 16 rebuilds and 79 refurbishments will be delivered in Maningrida by the Australian and Territory governments as part of the \$1.7

billion National Partnership Agreement on Remote Indigenous Housing.

At the launch nineteen families were presented with house keys for their new homes and Dr Burns said the opening was a very special occasion.

"A new subdivision or suburb is a significant development for Maningrida and the new and upgraded housing will help make major improvements to the lives of many local residents," Dr Burns said.

## Mutitjulu pool edges closer after six years of preparation

AFTER six years of planning and funding applications, the Mutitjulu swimming pool is slowly becoming a reality.

In March this year the Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park Board of Joint Management finally gave the go-ahead to build the pool at Mutitjulu.

Agreements have been drawn up with Parks Australia North, and the Royal Life Saving Society of Australia (NT Branch), which will manage the pool once it is built, and CAT Projects has been engaged to manage the pool construction project.

In 2009 the Land Council secured \$2 million from the Aboriginals Benefit Account to build a community swimming pool and the community has now saved enough Uluru rent money to pay for the pool's operation for five years.

The project is one of many facilitated by the CLC Community Development Unit, which assists the traditional owners of Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park – including those at Mutitjulu – in their use of some of their rent and gate money for community benefit projects.



Above L-R: At the site for Mutitjulu pool inspecting the plans are Oliver Fitz-Henry, project manager from CAT Projects, Mario Giuseppe from Mutitjulu Community Aboriginal Corporation, Neil Davey the aquatic engineer from FMG who are designing the pool, Malya Teamay traditional owner and member of the Mutitjulu Working Group, and CLC Community Development manager Danielle Campbell.

**PEOPLE, HOUSES AND ANIMALS ARE IN DANGER!**

**This year is the worst fire season for 30 years**

**Put your cooking fires out when you leave your camp!**



CENTRAL LAND COUNCIL



# He went that way!



Tracking lessons at Lajamanu



Patrick Oliver fought the flies in his own way while Malarndirri McCarthy and Karl Hampton spoke with the CLC at its Kalkarindji meeting.

# HELLO BABIES



**Richards**

Lisha-Lee Richards, born 8/9/11 to mother Sadie Abbott. Also see below.



**Riley**

Baby Jeremy Riley from Mutitjulu. Son of Marcia Lewis and Sean Riley.



Family at Abbots Camp: Grandmothers Louise Abbott and Doris Abbott, babies Sherone Brogus and Lisha -Lee Richards, mothers Vanessa Wilson and Sadie Abbott.

**Announce the arrival of your baby in Land Rights News...next edition April 2012**

# Guess the Tracks



1



2



3



4

# WORD FINDER

P	Z	G	R	K	N	W	M	E	W	G	J
H	N	F	C	M	O	F	E	M	R	I	W
Z	O	O	W	N	I	Y	S	I	C	O	H
G	D	P	I	Y	T	C	S	R	Z	U	D
A	R	A	E	E	U	C	A	A	Y	V	A
I	R	E	T	C	T	I	G	K	Y	Y	E
G	U	Y	A	S	I	F	E	G	M	A	R
W	A	Q	U	T	T	I	V	N	W	X	D
K	Q	R	H	E	S	R	X	A	X	I	Z
I	T	T	M	V	N	R	Y	G	X	E	F
G	W	T	X	A	O	E	P	N	G	P	G
Z	O	E	Q	S	C	T	B	J	F	M	F

- AWAYE
- CONSTITUTION
- DOCK
- DREAD
- GREAT
- HOPE
- KAYTETYE
- MESSAGE
- NGANGKARI
- RAIN
- SAVE
- TERRIFIC
- TRUST

...solution page 30

...answers page 30

# A chat with the Desert Demon

Liam Jurrah, Warlpiri star for the Melbourne Demons, talks with us about life – on and off the field

**SO LIAM, how did you first get interested in footy?**

I first got interested in footy watching my father, uncles and brothers playing for Yuendumu at Alice Springs and other sports weekends.

**Who were your AFL heroes, growing up?**

My favourite player was Chris Grant, from Western Bulldogs.

**How it is playing for Melbourne, when Collingwood is the most popular team in Yuendumu?**

Well it's really good, Melbourne Football Club. There's lots of support from Aaron Davey and all the staff.

But it's a bit different, playing for Melbourne when everyone in Yuendumu goes for Collingwood!

**Where's your favourite place to go in Melbourne?**

I don't really have a favourite place, I just go anywhere. Cinema, city, or go

for drive to the beach.

That's what I like to do in my free time – when I have free time.

**Do you get asked for your autograph a lot?**

Yeah, especially on family days, or after a game, or school visits, clinic events or activities for little kids.

And especially when I go to the city, that's when I get asked for photos and autographs from lots of kardiya.

**How did you feel when you left Yuendumu Football team to play AFL?**

My first feeling was I wanted to make the whole community proud.

I wanted to make family and friends and my teammates proud.

**Does AFL level footy feel different?**

Yeah it's really different in the city. In Yuendumu and other places they play barefoot.

The city's different; training every day, and meetings – and the football is different. It's really fast – bit different than bush footy.

**You won Mark of the Year last year. What do YOU think was your best mark?**

That was my best mark last year, in AFL. I used to do screamers in Yuendumu in 2007 and 2008 and in other communities, when I was playing for Yuendumu.

But that was my best mark in AFL last year, the Mark of the Year.

**What stories have you told people in Melbourne about Yapa life in Central Australia?**

I taught some of my teammates to speak Warlpiri.

They asked how to say water, so I told them 'ngapa', so they're learning.

And I told them that in Yuendumu and Central Australia I used to go hunting early in the morn-

ing and shoot kangaroo, perentie or cows.

I tell them all those stories. Little by little they're learning about Warlpiri.

**What do you miss most about home?**

Firstly I miss speaking Warlpiri to family. Going hunting, with family. Mostly family and speaking Warlpiri.

**What do you like to do when you're not playing footy?**

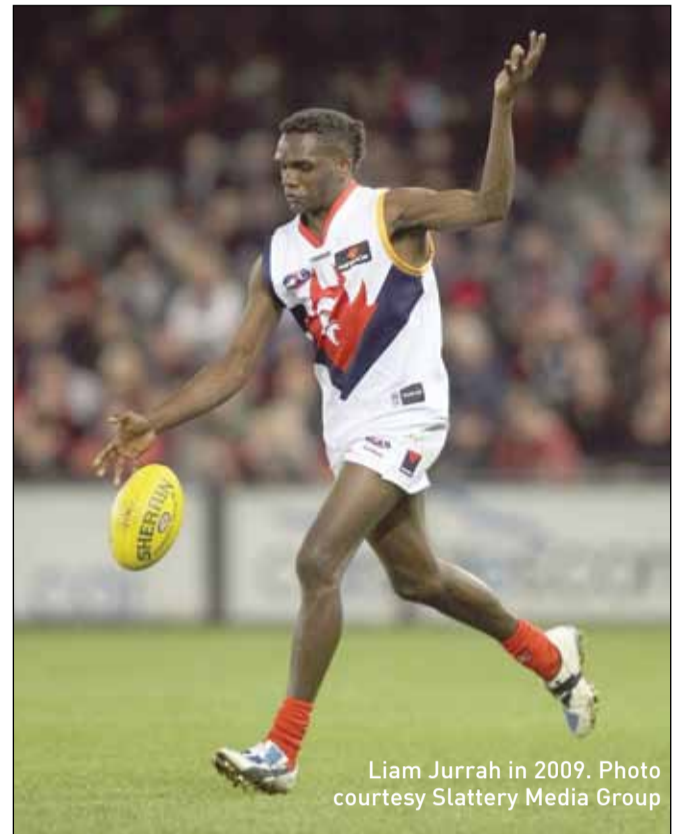
When I'm not playing footy I go shopping, have physio, look around the city, go to the cinema or go to friends' houses. Or stay at home and watch movies, or go for a cruise in the car.

**What do you like best about coming home?**

The best thing about coming home is spending time with family and friends and speaking Warlpiri.

**What are your plans for the future?**

Future, I don't know...



Liam Jurrah in 2009. Photo courtesy Slattery Media Group

I might come back to Yuendumu. But I've still got a long way to go. Maybe I'll live with family.

*Interview conducted and translated by PAW Media for Land Rights News.*

## Not many boards, no shoes, but talent to burn



The naturally talented skateboarders at Alpururulam get some tips from the instructors.

**THE** small community of Alpururulam on the NT-Queensland border is more known for its footballers than its skateboarders – but soon that may change.

A new youth program has discovered that there's plenty of raw skating talent just waiting to be developed.

For a week in July, three skateboard instructors worked with 75 young locals in the community, also known as Lake Nash, on the basics of skateboarding, and were amazed at the natural ability they found.

Adam Scarf, a 19-year-old ex-pro skateboarder from Sydney was very surprised at how fast the

local kids picked up the skills.

"These kids are fearless and learn very quickly", he said.

"They ride barefoot and are really athletic.

"I am having an awesome time teaching kids the basics such as dropping into ramps, ollies and more, but also learning a lot from them."

And as one local father looking on observed, "They tough kids – they fall over but just get back up and keep going."

The project is the result of a partnership between CAYLUS, an organisation set up to fight petrol sniffing, and Sharna Nolan, co-founder of Afghani-

stan's first co-educational skateboarding school "Skateistan".

As well as skateboarding classes, the program included bush trips and film and art classes to inspire confidence, leadership and shared storytelling by young people.

The instructors brought nearly 30 boards, which the kids shared between them for the week.

Amanda Ghorra, a skateboarding instructor and secondary school teacher from Sydney, was also impressed, not only with the kids but with the program itself.

"There is a lot of natural ability and it's awesome to see both

girls and boys so keen to participate," she said.

"The skateboarding program is striving to provide young people here in Lake Nash with an opportunity to exercise, build resilience and promote a healthy lifestyle in the community."

That's an aim that seems to have been achieved, judging by the overwhelmingly positive feedback from older parents and relatives of the young skateboarding students.

"It's real good," said one grandmother.

"Them kids real happy now and that mob driving round community and all

them kids chasing them and sing out for them – they want to go (skateboarding)."

According to Dr Anna Flouris from CAYLUS, participants and community members were very keen to see the program keep returning to Alpururulam, and says that it's a very real possibility, depending on funding and sponsorship.

"We're really keen to see this program grow!"

"In the future, the program aims to bring skateboarding to more communities across Central Australia and put Indigenous skateboarders in touch with other skateboarders in urban centres."

**Answers from page 29**

**Guess the tracks**

- 1 Bilby digging for witchetty
- 2 Nail tail or spectacle haired wallaby
- 3 Sign of burrowing frog
- 4 Bush stone-curlew

**WORD FINDER**

P	Z	G	R	K	N	W	M	E	W	G	J
H	N	F	C	M	O	F	E	M	R	I	W
Z	Q	O	W	N	I	Y	S	I	C	O	H
G	D	R	I	Y	T	C	S	R	Z	U	D
A	R	A	E	E	U	C	A	A	Y	V	A
I	R	E	T	C	T	I	G	K	Y	Y	E
G	U	Y	A	S	I	F	E	G	M	A	R
W	A	Q	U	T	I	V	N	W	X	D	
K	Q	R	H	E	S	R	X	A	X	I	Z
I	T	M	V	N	R	Y	G	X	E	F	
G	W	T	X	A	O	E	P	N	G	P	G
Z	O	E	Q	S	C	T	B	J	F	M	F

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- TERRIFIC
- TRUST



A Borrooloola penalty strike on its way to the back of the net in the Indigenous Football Festival 2011.

# World game star-making in Alice

SINCE Travis Dodd became the first Indigenous Australian soccer player to score a goal at senior international level in 2006, Aboriginal participation in "the world game" has gained a lot of momentum.

That was on show in Alice Springs in July, when over 150 junior Indigenous footballers from across the country took part in a week of sport and cultural exchange, which coincided

with NAIDOC Week in Central Australia.

The festival brought together Indigenous boys' and girls' teams from Perth, Adelaide, Alice Springs, Darwin, Borrooloola, Sydney, Moree, Melbourne.

Each team consisted of 14 players, aged between 13 and 15, plus two team officials.

Players were selected based on their involvement in the 'No School - No Play' Indigenous

Football Development Program implemented by FFA (Football Federation Australia).

In 2011, the festival adopted a 'participation' focus, with each team playing five 'non-competitive' games in a round robin format where no scores or records kept, providing players with a fun and enjoyable first-time football experience which will hopefully lead to future involvement in mainstream

club football.

Not only did the festival provide players with the opportunity to test skills in a non-competitive football 'carnival' style event, but important educational messages were also delivered to all participants.

There were presentations from Socceroo and current Hyundai A-League Melbourne Heart player David Williams, and from Adelaide United's Ruth Wallace, playing

in the Westfield W-League.

The two players presented to both male and female participants, sharing their on- and off-field experiences with the captive audience.

Wallace and Williams emphasised the importance of commitment and dedication, combined with a healthy balanced lifestyle for a long and successful career.

The festival participants also visited the

Desert Park and engaged with the ever-popular town camp drumming group 'Drum Atweme' at the local youth centre.

Players also met John Moriarty, FFA patron for Indigenous football development, and Indigenous ex-Socceroo Harry Williams.

At the closing ceremony, both John and Harry presented participation medals to all the festival participants.

## New Clontarf footy academy set to open in Hermannsburg

ABORIGINAL boys in the Hermannsburg area just got another good reason to go to school.

The Clontarf Foundation has received \$2 million in Australian Government funding to support nine new academies across the Northern Territory and Western Australia, including one at N'taria (Hermannsburg).

Clontarf Academies work to keep indigenous kids in school by using their passion for football to attract them to school and encourage them to complete their education.

Schools Education Minister Peter Garrett said the Clontarf program has already proven a great success in 47 schools across the country.

"This extra funding will help an extra 475 students improve their education and employment prospects.

Two new academies in the NT have already started at Kormilda College in Darwin, and at Yirrkala School, with the N'taria academy at Hermannsburg due to open later this year.

## An impressive season from first-timers Areyonga



AFTER being included in AFL Central Australia's Ngurratjuta Cup at the last moment, Areyonga put in some strong performances during the 2011 season.

One of those was in a very entertaining Round 11 game against Western Aranda at Hermannsburg.

The Bulldogs

showed extraordinary marking skill and pace to push Areyonga hard, but the visitors from Utju kept their heads, producing flashes of brilliance in front of the posts.

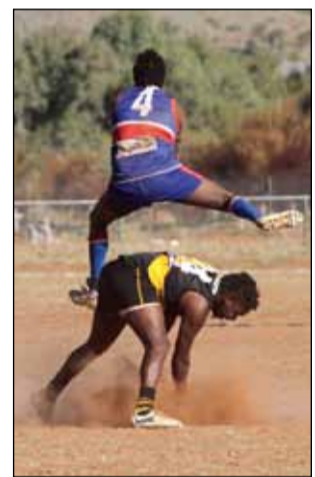
The final scoreline was Areyonga 18.14-122 to Western Aranda's 13.10-88.

Exactly which teams will take part in the competition

next season, however, is still unclear.

According to the AFL's Andy Hood, officials will be meeting during the off-season to determine the shape of the competition.

"We'll be sitting down with all the stakeholders and looking at making a decision by January or early February," he said.



# Yuendumu's big weekend

**Yuendumu Sports has always been the place to be for Warlpiri on the long weekend in August. This year the event again lived up to its reputation**

ANOTHER successful Yuendumu Sports carnival took place in August, with 25 games of football, 13 games of softball and 26 games of basketball played in the popular event.

The weekend is always received very enthusiastically by the Warlpiri region.

Young people in particular were keen for a run around in the sports by day and a dance at the Mt Theo program disco or at the Battle of the Bands Concert run by PAW media by night.

Mt Theo operations manager Brett Badger said the community made sure the event was a huge success.

"Enormous thanks must go to the many elders from throughout the community who volunteered to run and umpire the various events, culminating in a series of joyful trophy presentations on the final evening," he said.

A fantastic community spirit pervaded the whole weekend.

## The Grand Final

IN THE Yuendumu football grand final, old foes/friends Lajamanu and Yuendumu played a fantastic game.

The lead changed over 12 times in a goal-for-goal affair.

The Yuendumu backline had been stalwart all weekend, most especially Kasper and Warrick Dickson.

Nicolas Robertson continued to show his silky skills across the mid-field and young Allan Dickson arrived as a future Yuendumu champion.

Yuendumu was very brave until late



Nobody takes their eyes off the ball at Yuendumu Sports Weeked.

in the last quarter when the fitness of the young Lajamanu side, who have played all year in Katherine, proved telling and

they kicked three late goals.

Gerald Robbo was a clear best-on-ground with a dominant midfield perfor-

mance including lots of clearances and wonderful pace.

## Yuendumu Sports Weekend results

### Footy Grand Final

Lajamanu 15.7(97) def. Yuendumu 12.8(80).

#### Goalkickers

Lajamanu: Bradley Rockman 3, Antoine Simon 3, Saverio Jurrah 2, Bentley Marks 2, Gerald Robbo 2, M Gibson 1, E Penn 1, Rowan Jurrah 1.

Yuendumu: Riley White 5, Sebastian Watson 3, Kevin Wil-

liams 2, Christian Langdon 1, Allan Dickson Jnr 1

#### Football Placings

1. Lajamanu;
2. Yuendumu;
3. Mt Allan;
4. Nyirripi;
5. Pikilyi Bombers;
6. Yurrampi Allies;
7. Willowra Blues (arrived late)

### Basketball Results

#### Men's:

Yuendumu Dockers def. Lajamanu Swans

#### Women's:

Mt Theo def. Nyirripi

### Softball Results

Warputarli Tigers 16 def. Mt Allan 8

## Everybody wins in Reclink finals

THE Alice Springs Reclink football league finished off its 2011 season with a series of games in Alice Springs.

Four games were held at Traeger Park on 26 August, each one a grand final in the unusual competition structure which puts an emphasis on participation.

In one of the games, Hidden Valley Demons overcame a Clontarf side – but the real winner, as they say, was footy and the players themselves.

Reclink Australia aims to tackle the



disadvantage faced by some communities through different kinds of social partici-

pation, with footy being one approach.

It's over 20 years since the Reclink AFL

leagues were first set up and there are now more than 1400 men and women in over

50 teams in 7 leagues, across 5 states and territories.

Eight teams com-

peted in the 2011 season in Alice Springs – Amoonguna Crows, Tigers (CAAAPU, DASA, MHACA), Titjikala Hawks, MZ Bulldogs, Cottages Swans, Cottages Bombers, South East Arrernte Eagles and the Hidden Valley Demons.

There's also a league in Yulara, which includes the Mutitjulu Cats, Imanpa Demons, Docker River Eagles, Amata Bombers and the Yulara Flies.

Reclink NT manager Daryl Little said feedback he's received on the competitions

proves that they're working to improve social unity and interaction, with Yulara as one example.

"The communities never had much to do with the [Yulara] resort," he said.

"But now through the resort having a team, it made people more aware who their neighbours are, who's in the community down the road."

Above left: The Hidden Valley Demons celebrate their win in the Alice Springs Reclink football league grand final at Traeger Park on 26 August.