

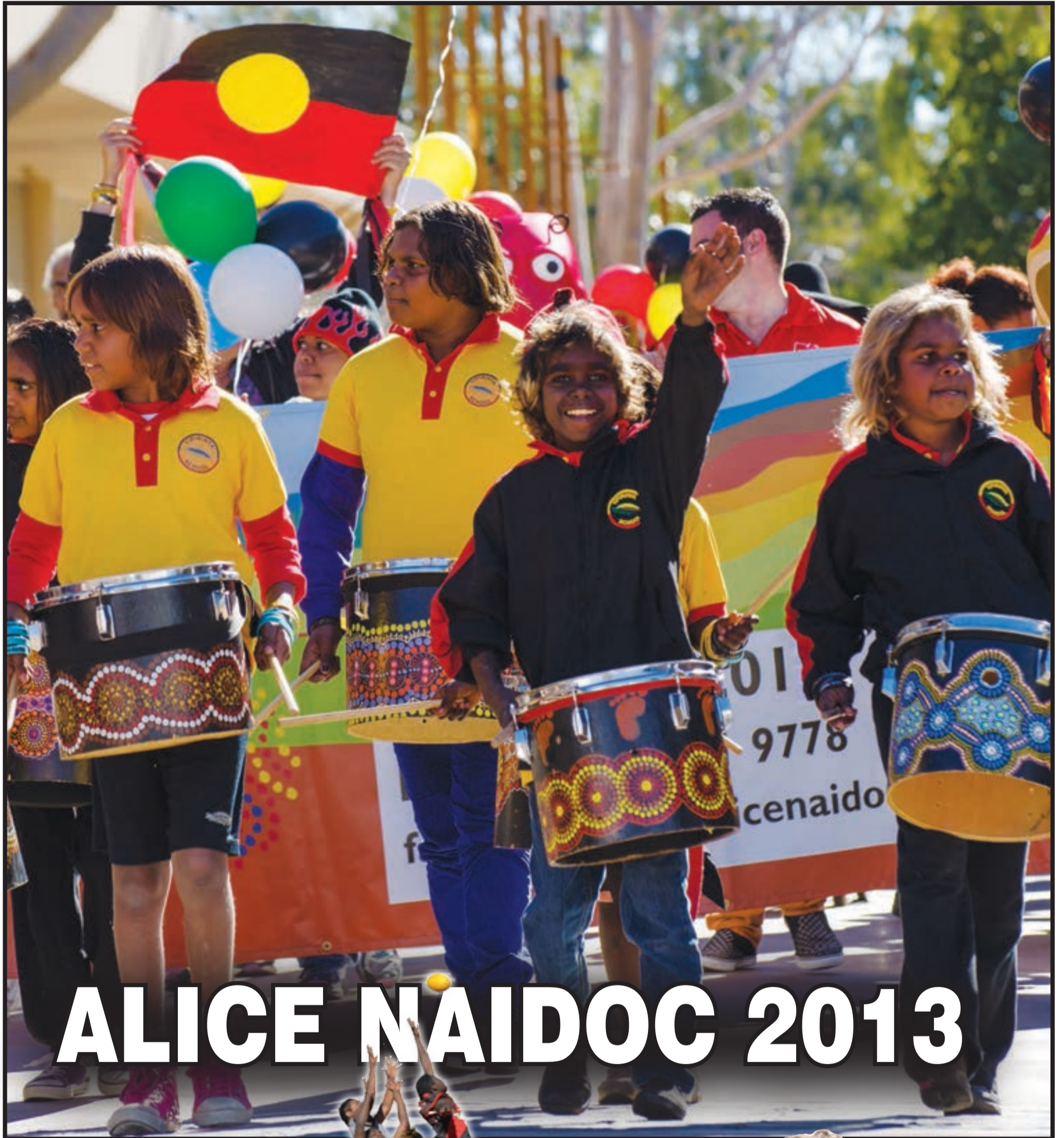
FREE

LAND RIGHTS NEWS

August 2013

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CENTRAL AUSTRALIA



ALICE NAIDOC 2013

YUENDUMU SPORTS



lots of
Babies



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COVER PHOTO: The 2013 NAIDOC march in Alice Springs

Above: Sami reindeer herder Ms Ida Sunna presented at the 2013 WIN Conference in Darwin on Indigenous knowledge.

The Sámi are the only Indigenous people of Scandinavia recognized and protected under the international conventions of indigenous peoples, and are the most northern indigenous people of Europe. The Sami, once known as Laplanders, have lived for thousands of years in the freezing northern regions of Sweden, Finland, Norway and Russia.

The Sami people in Norway, Finland and Sweden now have their own parliaments as part of efforts to protect their culture. Their traditional languages are the Sami languages and are classified as a branch of the Uralic language family. Their best-known means of livelihood is semi-nomadic reindeer herding.

2013 NATIONAL INDIGENOUS LEGAL CONFERENCE—Alice Springs, NT



The Central Australian Aboriginal Legal Aid Service (CAALAS) in conjunction with its sponsors and supporters invite you to Alice Springs, Northern Territory, to participate in the 2013 National Indigenous Legal Conference and Ball, to be held in conjunction with CAALAS 40th Birthday Celebrations in October 2013.

Theme: 'Atnengkerre Atherre Akwete' Two Laws Together

Wednesday 23rd: CAALAS 40th Birthday Community BBQ & Invited Guests Dinner;

Thursday 24th: Conference Day 1;

Friday 25th: Conference Day 2;

Saturday 26th: Optional Day 3: Aboriginal Community Visit;

Saturday Night: National Indigenous Legal Conference Ball.

Bookings and further details will be made available in 2013.

Contact: Tanya Pass
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SAVE THE DATE
24 to 26 October 2013

(The above is meant as a guide only and may be subject to change)

Licensing Commission goes soft on Top Springs

PEOPLE from Lajamanu and Kalkaringi are concerned by a recent decision of the Northern Territory Licensing Commission about the sale of alcohol at the Top Springs Hotel east of Kalkaringi.

Norbert Jampijinpa Patrick told the ABC the restrictions would do nothing to reduce the drunken road accidents on the way back to Lajamanu and Kalkaringi.

"If you buy a 30-pack [beer]

carton or spirits that's still too much," he said.

"It will be dangerous for our mob if they want to drive ... from Top Springs back to Lajamanu.

"They [could] end up probably having an accident on that drunken drive, which is really dangerous and sad for us."

CLC Director David Ross said the decision was a betrayal of the communities involved who had asked for more stringent



restrictions, including restricting the sale of take-away to 30 cans of mid or light only. "Amazingly the Commission allows unrestricted sale of mid and light beer and restricts other alcohol to limits that could see the residents of Lajamanu

and Kalkaringi legless every day," he said.

"One 24-can carton full strength beer, cider, premix or similar per person per day or one bottle spirits per person per day or one bottle wine per person per day seems to me to blatantly disregard the community's requests for tighter restrictions.

"We are extremely disappointed with its performance.

"It appears that drunken-

ness really is promoted as a core NT value as espoused by the Chief Minister."

Chief Minister Adam Giles has defended the Northern Territory's drinking culture as a "core social value". Speaking at an Australian Hotels Association (AHA) annual awards dinner in Darwin, Mr Giles said the Government would do its best to support the liquor industry.

Left: Chief Minister Adam Giles

Alice Grog Summit talks

AN alcohol summit held in Alice Springs in July has strengthened urgent calls for authorities to "break the circuit" of alcohol abuse in Central Australia by reducing supply.

It also called for immediate action to increase awareness of the dangers of foetal alcohol syndrome (FASD).

Delegates said they want FASD recognised as a disability, with a greater focus on its early diagnosis.

Sponsored by the Aboriginal Peak Organisations Northern Territory (APO NT), the summit was attended by about 100 people.

Delegates agreed that there was an urgent need for action and better evidence to address alcohol related harm both in Alice Springs, and across the NT.

The summit called for a floor-price and/or volumetric tax, bans on alcohol advertising and sport sponsorship, stronger enforcement of licensing conditions, and encouraging individuals to take a personal stand against grog running.

continued page 18

Right: NPYWC CEO Andrea Mason with panellists l-r William Coolwell, Mavis Malbunka, Valerie Foster and Margaret Smith



Tough new laws for Territory drunks

THE NT government's controversial mandatory rehabilitation scheme for alcoholics got underway last month, as a 49-year-old Alice Springs woman faced a Darwin-based tribunal over a satellite TV link.

The laws mean anyone who is taken into protective custody for drunkenness three times in two months will appear before a tribunal and have no specific entitlement to a lawyer.

The Alice Springs woman was represented in front of the tribunal by an employee of the Health Department.

Outcomes of the tribunal hearings are confidential and the names of "offenders" are withheld, but the tribunal had the choice of placing her in a residential program or referring her to a community care program.

Under the new law, people who fail to attend community-based care programs when directed will be locked up in a residential program for three months.

The Government has faced a barrage of criticism for the new law, its critics including the then Prime Minister Julia Gillard, Aboriginal and

Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner Mick Gooda, the Australian Medical Association and the Aboriginal Peak Organisations Northern Territory (APO NT).

Since it came into office last year, the NT Government has scrapped the Banned Drinkers Register, ditched the SMART Court and introduced the Alcohol Mandatory Treatment laws.

Under the laws, if problem drinkers repeatedly abscond from rehabilitation programs they can face criminal charges.

One man who was de-

tained for assessment for four days in Darwin has already fled four times to date, and Acting NT Health Minister John Elferink told the ABC that next time he was picked up he would be detained in a locked room.

In Darwin the alcohol detainees are housed in the Commonwealth-funded medi-hotel which was intended for the families of remote area patients in the Royal Darwin Hospital.

In Alice Springs they will be housed in the Alice Springs Prison grounds until an "appropriate" facility is made available.

Referring to the abolition of the Smart Court outgoing Chief Magistrate Hilary Hannam said:

"We have now nothing in the court system, not a single program, not for drugs, not for illicit drugs, not for alcohol, not for mental health, not for Indigenous people."

APO NT says the lack of programs for alcohol and drug dependent offenders in the Northern Territory puts the NT behind all the other states and territories.

"Governments in the NT have been pursuing 'tough on crime' policies

for decades, while rates of crime and imprisonment continue to rise, said APO NT spokesperson Mr. Noel Hayes.

"The number of young Aboriginal people in our prisons is a national disgrace.

"APO NT believes the Government's strategy should include more diversionary options for courts.

"We call on the NT Government to introduce properly resourced, evidence-based programs to help people break the cycle of offending and reoffending," he said.

Digital TV only next year



DIGITAL TV will be the only kind of television in Australia within a few months.

Analog TV signals in remote central and eastern Australia will be switched off on 10 December 2013.

The Broadcasting Authority says people still watching

an analog TV should replace it with a digital set or buy a set-top box with a built-in digital tuner.

Viewers may be able to get help at the Digital Ready Website (www.digitalready.gov.au) or the Digital Ready Information Line 1800 20 10 13.

Youth unemployment the lowest

Young people in remote communities are bearing the brunt of unemployment in the bush, a new report has found.

The report by the Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research at the Australian National University found that the employment of Indigenous youth (15-24 years) in remote areas was lower than that of Indigenous youth in non-remote areas. But older Indigenous residents in remote and non-remote areas had more

similar employment rates, the report found.

The report said access to education for remote youth might be affecting their jobless rate.

While the mining boom had provided jobs for some Indigenous people, most of the increases in Indigenous employment Australia-wide between 2006 and 2011 have been in other industries.

Kurdiji sets the pace



LAJAMANU

A derelict old building at Lajamanu has been transformed into a place where people can meet to keep their community strong.

Community residents, workers and dancers cele-

brated the opening of the Kurdiji's meeting area on May 20, after the building had been renovated using community-controlled mining royalty funds (GMAAAC).

The Kurdiji group gives the Warlpiri community cultural owner-

ship and governance of issues affecting the community.

Jerry Jangala Patrick says the Kurdiji members were really happy with the office opening because Yapa want to have their law recognised and live with the law the right way.

"Keep working with our people to make our way strong and bring our ideas in - to do things our way," he said.

Nanginarra Elizabeth Nungarrayi Ross said Kurdiji was becoming a strong voice for yapa, looking after family mem-

bers and finding alternatives to prison.

CLC Deputy Chairman, Francis Jupurrula Kelly from Yuendumu said: "Kurdiji is the main group to reach out to the other communities and government departments. It's about self-determi-

nation, running our own affairs."

The CLC has been providing assistance to the Kurdiji through the Lajamanu governance project. Above: CLC Deputy Chair Francis Kelly congratulates members of the Kurdiji Committee in Lajamanu

Lhere Artepe regroup

ALICE Springs native title holders organisation Lhere Artepe is rebuilding after a "tumultuous period", its executive says.

The Aboriginal corporation has announced it will initiate a 'Right Foundations' project to improve Lhere Artepe's governance and re-engage members.

"Many elders have concerns about actions of past management and want to see good corporate governance brought back," a spokesperson for the executive said.

"It is vital for the future of Alice Springs that Lhere Artepe is restored as the principle structure to ensure the traditional owners of Alice Springs have a voice in their own

country."

Under the proposal, three Kwertengerle or senior elders would be engaged to adjust, regulate and manage estate member groups. They will have administrative and transport support.

The spokesperson said a range of training and capacity building opportunities could take place under the project.

"Through this modest proposal the Corporation would seek to intensely engage with Arrernte Elders and Arrernte people to develop a momentum and a forum for Lhere Artepe to once again be the voice of the traditional authority structure of the Arrernte People," the spokesperson said.

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15th National Remote Indigenous Media Festival

Ngkitja Arr-kunna Happy Voice

October 2-8

Ntaria 2013

Invitation

Please register online at: www.irca.net.au/festival

No mining in Watarrka

TRADITIONAL owners of Watarrka National Park are "extremely worried" the NT Government could allow oil and gas exploration in the park by explorer Palatine Pty Ltd.

The group has told the Central Land Council it's concerned about the impacts of exploration on the park, and is unconditionally opposed to it.

"Watarrka is special," they said in a letter to local MLA Alison Anderson. "Many of us have

worked hard to get small businesses off the ground that need tourists to survive.

"We are very proud of our young people getting work with national parks and know that the more tourists there are the more opportunities there will be."

The traditional owners said they were worried about the Park becoming a 'drilling place, not a tourist place' if the exploration is allowed to

go ahead.

The letter was signed by 11 senior traditional landowners.

Traditional owners have a duty to protect the unique values of the Park under joint management legislation and through traditional cultural obligations.

The exploration applications cover the entire Park and if granted, would lead to a range of exploration activity and could include hydraulic

fracking.

The Park hosts many significant cultural sites, is a popular tourist destination and supports a rich and diverse number of species and habitats. A number of threatened species are found there.

CLC Director David Ross said allowing exploration in Watarrka would cut across the core values of the joint management agreement.

"It is an extremely disturbing idea that violates

the very idea of national parks," Mr Ross said.

"I thought that the whole idea of declaring national parks was to protect those areas from this type of activity."

Traditional owners have previously agreed to exploration in areas outside the national park.

NT Minister for Mines and Energy Hon Willem Rudolf Westra van Holthe MLA told the ABC the application would be considered in due course.



Self determination means real power

SELF determination is back on the Indigenous political agenda after a governance summit in Tennant Creek in April.

Delegates discussed what self-determination would really mean for Aboriginal people in the NT and how they could take more steps towards it.

Central Land Council Director David Ross told the 200 people at the conference the concept had been "bastardised and shoved into the closet by governments."

"But to me, it means having genuine decision-making power and responsibility about what happens on your lands, in your families and communities, in your governing systems, and in your future development," he said.

He said the summit would be a wasted opportunity if "we only focus on what government should do for you".

"I am most interested in what you can do for yourselves, how you determine your own future," Mr Ross said.

Conference delegates focussed on several issues, including the need to engage and train young people in governance.

Some also thought that greater Aboriginal political representation through an Aboriginal political party would be a way of strengthening governance structures.

There was considerable discussion about taking on the responsibility that comes with more power. As one participant put it, "like the Kirda-Kurdungurlu relationship - you can't have one without the other".

People talked about how disputes could disrupt good governance and the need for problems to be sorted out internally.

"We have to park past disagreements, leave them behind," said AMSANT CEO John Paterson. "Talk



Eddie Robertson from Yuendumu talking at the Governance Summit about the WYDAC project and below members of the Kurdiji Committee in Lajamanu present to the Summit

good way, respectful and with a united voice."

The need for reconciliation between and within families was another focus, described by Lajamanu man Geoffrey Barnes as "the basic building

David Ross said the summit would be a wasted opportunity if "we only focus on what government should do for you".

block to keeping law and culture strong."

"We got to reach out and help each other. The vision for change comes from within," Mr Barnes said.

"We need to be strong in the group to keep Yapa law up

there, not down under." Respect for women - in everything, the Law, community, in business, as workers, at conferences - was emphasised by delegates. Respect was also needed for elders who are the teachers.

Case studies of successful organisations at the summit showed that a gradual long-term approach - taking responsibility and making the hard decisions when needed - was the best route to effective governance.

"You need to bring your community members along with you, not

get out in front of them," one delegate noted.

The recommendations from the summit emphasised the need for greater support for Aboriginal

groups to develop good models of governance and management. These should meet requirements of government and funding bodies, as well

as Aboriginal cultural needs.

The summit was convened by the Aboriginal Peak Organisations of the NT (APONT).



All bark and a bit of bite for Rudd visit



Above: Prime Minister Kevin Rudd is led to the Yirrkala Cultural Centre by Yolgnu men for the celebration of 50 years since the Bark Petition was taken to Canberra. Courtesy David Hancock

IT'S 50 years since a bark painting many people believe marked the beginning of the land rights movement was taken to Canberra by a group of Yolgnu men.

In July, Yirrkala people remembered the day in 1963 they presented two bark petitions to the federal parliament, asking it to revoke the decision to excise 300 square kilometres of Arnhem Land for bauxite mining.

It was not the first time Aboriginal people had challenged their dispossession but it was the first time they had been able to make their challenge in the Australian courts.

The 1963 petitions were eventually rejected. The Northern Territory Supreme Court ruled that the traditional land-owners property system was not recognised under Australian law and that Australia was terra nul-

lius, an empty land prior to 1788

But they have been credited with starting the debate that led to the 1967 referendum, which gave the Commonwealth Government the power to make special laws for any race of people in Australia, the Land Rights Act of 1976 and the overturning of the terra nullius concept by the High Court in the Mabo case in 1992.

At the anniversary cel-

ebrations, Prime Minister Kevin Rudd compared the Yirrkala petitions to the British law Magna Carta.

He said the Magna Carta, which signed by the King of England in 1215, was an expression of human rights against the crown, just as the bark petition was.

"These bark petitions present a bridge between two ancient and noble traditions," Mr Rudd said.

But Galarrwuy Yuni-

pingu who helped draw up the petitions with his father and other Yolgnu, told the PM land rights had proved hollow and more needed to be done.

"The land rights is for Aboriginal people but the land ownership and use of land ownership is not for Aboriginal people, it's for mining companies, for white fellas

"We want to develop our country and we want to develop our own soil."

Kahlin compound anniversary

VETERANS of the "Kahlin Half Caste Children's Home" in Darwin commemorated the 100th of its opening early in August.

The NT Stolen Generations Aboriginal Corporation (NTSGAC) hosted events that included a Kahlin boxing exhibition featuring top Territory boxers and a performance by Archie Roach.

CEO Vicki-Lee Knowles said the weekend was a celebration of the lives of former residents "and their resilience, strength and tremendous generosity of spirit."

She said the history of the home spoke of forced segregation and the 'legal' removal of children of Aboriginal descent from their families without parental consent.

"We were still seeing the intergenerational harm caused by this institutionalisation," she said.

"But it also tells the story of the strength of those who grew up and lived at Kahlin and the utter determination of the families who fought to get their children back.

"It tells of the enormous contribution these children and their families have made, and continue to make, to the economic and social fabric of the Northern Territory and beyond," Ms Knowles said

YOUR SAY...



CONSTITUTIONAL RECOGNITION

BOTH major Australian political parties say they want to see recognition of Indigenous people in the Australian constitution.

A referendum on constitutional recognition is expected to be put to the Australian people in the term of the next federal government.

Earlier this year, Federal parliament passed the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples Recognition Bill 2012 in the Australian Parliament, as a stepping stone to the referendum.

Land Rights News Central Australia asked some Indigenous people in Alice Springs what they thought about constitutional recognition

Tova Howard, Alice Springs:

"I think so, it would be important. Everybody needs to be heard. It's been a long time that



people are trying to put their voice out there and some people listen, some don't.

"I think we have a long way to go until it really starts to sink in for people but if we keep trying then we'll get there.

Ian McAdam, Arrernte

"If we're in the constitution, there will be more recognition, and maybe people will engage more with Aboriginal people and communities in some of the decision-making that affect our peoples. If we're in the constitution, it'll force those people on the higher levels to seek out our opinions instead of just doing it as a token thing at the moment.

"If the powers that be want to make real change instead of just hoping for change, stuff



like this needs to happen. People need to be made to feel important, and there's nothing like being recognised in your own country."

Elaine Peckham, Central Arrernte

"I think it means we will have a voice. At least we will be acknowledged for our rights like any other Australian and have a say.

"I believe a lot of our people don't really know about being recognised in the constitution or even what the constitution is.

"A lot of them don't even realise that we're not in the constitution yet, so we need to be together and strong to speak up that we have that, because if we don't get in the constitution then we don't really have a



voice. We need to be together to make it happen.

"It's about having a voice like the Yolgnu in Arnhem Land. The Yolgnu are so proud to have the recognition since they presented the bark petition 50 years ago."

Sylvia Neale, Eastern Arrernte

"It would make a big difference with recognition by the rest of Australia.

"I never really thought it would happen in my lifetime but if it can be supported openly and it actually happens then I won't be so cynical. I've been marching since the 60's and I've seen promises made and broken all the time.

"I've seen too much of it come and go.



"They're still not listening.

"They do what is politically nice."

"I got married in '67 and I went in my wedding dress to vote and they said: 'You're Aboriginal, you don't have to vote,' but I said: 'It's my right. I'm voting.'"

"Recognition, hopefully in my lifetime, is vital to Australia being seen as doing the right thing by its Indigenous people."

Tommy Crow from Cunnamulla, QLD, lived Alice Springs 27 yrs

"Constitution, it's a big word. It's all about learning and education.

"Our mobs have got to get educated to be a part of that.

It's important to be aware of it."



Bush school dollar at risk

THE Australian Education Union (AEU) is urging organisations and community groups to call on the NT Chief Minister to adopt the Federal Government's Gonski education reforms.

The NT Government has refused to sign up to the reforms after it announced over \$250 million

in cuts to the schools budget in the Territory Budget earlier this year.

Chief Minister Adam Giles says the Government would have to contribute \$300 million over six years to the Gonski reforms.

He said many urban schools would be disadvantaged by the formula

because they would receive no funding increase in real terms for at least six years.

An independent review held in 2011 and headed by respected business leader David Gonski, recommended the nation urgently invest more in schools, particularly public schools.

So far New South Wales, Tasmania, South Australia and the ACT have agreed to support the reforms.

The AEU has claimed all NT public school would benefit from implementation of the Gonski formula, with remote community example including:

- Alpururulam School an extra \$1,590,828
 - Mutjitulu School, \$604,854
 - Yirrkala School, \$1,431,201
 - Maningrida School, \$9.05 million
 - Borroloola School, \$4.26 million
- "The Gonski plan would provide ongoing,

dedicated funding to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students instead of more submission writing for one-off funding for 'close the gap' initiatives that start one year and wind up the next", AEU Federal President Angelo Gavrielatos said.



CLC opens its doors

THE Central Land Council opened its doors to the public for the first time in June.

Several hundred people flocked through the doors of its office on North Stuart Highway in Alice Springs

Staff said the response was very positive.

Some people had remarked that they had previously had "no idea" about the CLC's work and how pleased they were they had taken the time to find out.

Special drawcards were a spectacular display by the Warumungu male dancers and the CLC's digital photo archive which had a constantly large crowd around it.

There were a number of presentations by Aboriginal people involved in the CLC's ranger program, pastoral training and community development projects.

And of course free sausages were on hand, cooked by the CLC's expert barbequers, the CLC field staff.

Shires still unpopular

GOVERNANCE SUMMIT

THE harm caused by the creation of super-shires and the loss of community councils was an underlying theme at April's governance summit.

Many speakers talked about the way communities had been disempowered under the current shire arrangements and the poor level of local government service delivery and support.

The local board structure came under fire for its lack of communication and decision-making powers.

But while people talked fondly of the old days of community councils, there was no real desire to return.

"Before we had the Councils," one man said.

"Then government came and took it away. Well we had Councils but we never really had power. We got nothing now, no power in our own community."

Delegates said people were still waiting for a solution from the CLP Government since it rode to power

on the promise that it would abolish shires.

Delegates instructed APONT to tell the NT Government Aboriginal people were not happy with their alternative options or the timeframe for consultation.

They said Aboriginal people have must ownership of the solutions.

There was a lot of interest in the Murdi-Paaki model, a regional assembly of 16 partnership communities in far western New South Wales.

They are all bound under a regional agreement with the Australian and New South Wales Governments..

The model was seen as a way in which communities could control local issues, but work together at a regional level.

Delegates said community councils or authorities must have real community decision-making control over local issues and that local people/s elect people who have real authority to represent them.

Farewell Napaljarri Morton

LADY Napaljarri Morton was small woman with a huge personality.

She was well-known to many in the wider community, who benefited from her great cultural knowledge and generosity in sharing it.

Born at Coniston in 1927, Napaljarri grew up there with her parents before moving to Ti Tree, Willowra and Anningie.

Family was important to her, and she enjoyed telling stories and laughing with her much-loved younger sisters Dora, Maisie, Julie and Audrey and her children Helen and Dominic.

Teddy Jupurrula Long was also grown up by Napaljarri and remembered her with sadness as one of 'old generation time'.

Her ability to tell great stories made her an invaluable educator and she went on numerous trips with Willowra School teaching the kids language and culture.

She always emphasised how important it was to care for the country.

Napaljarri was well-known as a painter. One of her last works was a small Wirliyajarrayi Dreaming story which sits outside the new playgroup building at Willowra.

She had worked in the laundry at Yuendumu and also for the Council many years ago.

Napaljarri's support for land rights and justice for Aboriginal people was unwavering.

She was an important

witness in in the Mt Barkly and Willowra land claims, and performed in women's yawalyu before the judge.

Her main place was Jany-inpartinya.

She contributed significantly to the recorded history of the 1928 Coniston Massacre through her guided tour of the sites on the 75th anniversary commemoration, held at Brookes Soak by the CLC in 2003.

Napaljarri showed the places where people were said to have been killed.

Napaljarri was a very happy person, often seen travelling with her little dogs, which she loved deeply.

She was enjoyable company, and many Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people will miss her.

Check out the photos in this edition of LRNCA and more on the CLC's digital archive <http://clc.ara-irititja.com/archive/index.php>



Dreamtime at the G for Muti Ninjas

SIX young men from Mutitjulu community put on a circus performance in front of more than 85,000 people at the Melbourne Cricket Ground in May.

The six were contributing to Dreamtime at the G, an event that celebrates Indigenous excellence in Australian footy.

Aged between 12 and 16, the six had been training in juggling and acrobatics as part of 'Ninja Circus' over the past six months, taught by Ludovic Dumas, NPY Women's Council Youth Development Officer at Mutitjulu.

Ninja Circus had previously performed for audiences at Mutitjulu, Yulara, and the Wide Open Space Festival near Alice Springs.

It was supported by Voyages Resort, Mutitjulu Council Aboriginal Corporation, Nyangatjajara College, the Jimmy Little Foundation, and CAYLUS.

Scullion talks ILC overhaul

MORE than 600 people from around the country attended Australia's biggest native title forum yet in Alice Springs in June.

The Central Land Council hosted the Annual National Native Title Conference with the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS) at the Alice Springs Convention Centre after months of hard work.

Native title holders, lawyers, anthropologists and other people who work in Aboriginal organisations attended activities ranging from legal discussions to

Indigenous mens' groups, community development forums and tours.

Alexis Wright and the Black Arm Band delivered a performance of the musical journey *dirtsong* as the Mabo lecture, and young Arrernte drummers Drum Atweme gave it a spectacular opening.

In his closing address, Shadow Minister for Indigenous Affairs Senator Nigel Scullion raised the issue of an overhaul of the ILC and IBA if the Coalition wins office.

He also said that there might be an alternative for people who want a breakaway land council, exploring how section 28

of the Land Rights Act, which allows for the devolution of some powers to local people, "might be used as a pressure release valve for those emerging tensions".

Senator Scullion said he wanted to see more progress on home ownership and land tenure reform across the country.

"It is untenable that the only form of housing in some remote communities is that funded by the Commonwealth Government," he told the conference.

Photos of the National Native Title Conference in Alice Springs can be found on page 14

Indigenous kids need more sleep

INDIGENOUS children may be falling behind in school because they don't get enough sleep compared to their non-Indigenous peers.

South Australian paediatric sleep researcher Dr Sarah Blunden says she has found Indigenous children, particularly those in remote areas, do not have regular bedtimes and lack routine.

"I have become in-

creasingly convinced improved sleep habits could make a significant contribution to closing the gap," Dr Blunden told SBS News.

She said poor sleep could lead to learning and emotional problems, obesity, diabetes and high blood pressure.

She said quality of sleep was as important as quantity and children needed a regular bed time and a warm and

safe place where they can sleep undisturbed through the night.

"We need to be culturally sensitive, but it would certainly be helpful if we could find a way to help Indigenous families to find a way to improve their children's sleep habits," Dr Blunden said.

Dr Blunden said sleep is one of the key requirements of good health.



Australian Government

Department of Health and Ageing

COMMONWEALTH HACC PROGRAM FUNDING ROUND TO ENHANCE, EXPAND OR ESTABLISH NEW SERVICE DELIVERY

The Commonwealth Home and Community Care (HACC) Program provides funding for basic maintenance, care and support services for older people and their carers, who live in the community and whose capacity for independent living is at risk, or who are at risk of premature or inappropriate admission to long term residential care. Older people are people aged 65 years and over and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 50 years and over.

The Department of Health and Ageing is seeking applications from organisations to enhance, expand or establish new service delivery under the Commonwealth HACC Program. The grant application round is now open, with \$281.2 million available for provision of services from early 2014 until 30 June 2015.

Organisations interested in applying for funding must address the assessment criteria in the format outlined in the application form. Documentation providing further details on the application and assessment process, including funding priorities, is available for downloading after completing the Applicants Register on the Department of Health and Ageing website at <http://www.health.gov.au/tenders>.

All enquiries for information or clarification by potential applicants should be emailed to Commonwealth.HACC.Funding@health.gov.au.

Applications for funding must be received by the Department of Health and Ageing by 2.00pm on 2 September 2013.

AG76094

Bootu miner convicted for desecrating sacred site

A mining company has been fined \$150,000 after the first successful prosecution of a mining company by a government authority in Australia for the desecration of an Aboriginal sacred site.

OM Manganese Ltd was fined \$150,000 in the Darwin Magistrates' Court for one count of desecration to, and one count of damaging, the 'Two Women Sitting Down' sacred site at its Bootu Creek manganese mine on Banka Banka station, 170km north of Tennant Creek.

Magistrate Sue Oliver said that OM Manganese had chosen profit before protection at its mine and had therefore contravened the NT Sacred Sites Act 1989.

The CEO of AAPA, Dr Ben Scambary, said it was a timely (and precedent-setting) reminder that poor management and the disregard for important Aboriginal sa-

cred sites would not be tolerated by the law.

Dr Scambary said that although Aboriginal custodians were greatly distressed by the site damage, they had shown great faith in the court process and had repeatedly travelled 1000km by road from Tennant Creek to attend the many hearings of the trial.

"It will always remain a sacred site to us, but it has been ruined and we don't know what to do because this has never happened to the old people. It has been there for thousands of years as part of our culture and our story."

Little could be done to rehabilitate the sacred site as it had collapsed after OM Manganese continued blasting and excavating ore next to it, despite knowing that a collapse was imminent.

Dr Scambary said that under the NT Sacred Sites Act 1989 the site's custodians were ineligible for any compensation and fines would go directly to the Northern Territory Government.

"When a sacred site is

desecrated or damaged it tears the social fabric of the affected community as the harmony of those people is inherently linked to that sacred site," he said.

"This site has great significance to the custodians and relates to a dreaming story about a marsupial rat and a bandicoot who had a

fight over bush tucker. As the creation ancestors fought, their blood spilled out, turning the rock a dark-red colour that is now associated with manganese."

The traditional owners said that they had been consulted about a change to the way the area near the site was to be mined and had agreed to it, but had not properly understood it.

The Magistrate found that it was inappropriate

to consult with just three custodians.

"In my view, arranging a meeting with the three gentlemen to essentially obtain approval for the steeper batter angle approach was either a cynical or a naive exercise on the part of the defendant," Ms Oliver found.

"The custodians had no individual authority to approve a mining plan that posed a risk to the integrity of the sacred site."

Traditional owner Gina Smith said the site had been significantly changed and they were unlikely to use it any more.

"It will always remain a sacred site to us, but it has been ruined and we don't know what to do because this has never happened to the old people," she said.

"It has been there for thousands of years as part of our culture and our story."



Above: Kunapa representative Gina Smith: "It has been ruined and we don't know what to do"

Congress: Stop the violence towards women

ABORIGINAL men need to be actively engaged in efforts to improving Indigenous health and stop violence against Aboriginal women, says the new deputy head of the Central Australian Aboriginal Congress, Des Rogers.

Mr Rogers said the need for Aboriginal men to participate in positive changes was a key message to come from the recent Male Health Summit held at Ross River.

He said the summit heard that men were often being left out of programs because they were seen as part of the problem and not part of the solution.

He said it was vital to acknowledge that the level of violence by Aboriginal men against women was unacceptably high.

Aboriginal women in the NT were 80 times more likely to be admitted to hospital because of being assaulted than other women.

This information was presented at the summit and all of the men there recognised that this is totally unacceptable and they have to lead a process of change.

But it was also essential for Aboriginal men to be completely involved in programs to stop the

violence, as with any programs to improve Aboriginal health.

Mr Rogers said public discussion about violence and alcohol abuse often identified Aboriginal law and customs as the source of the problem.

But while the male health summit acknowledged that some elements of Aboriginal law and culture contribute to the problem at times, such as demand sharing and kinship obligations, they were not the source of the problem.

The summit heard evidence that the problems began with pregnancy and lack of responsive care in early childhood. As a result, individuals had less capacity to resist addictions.

This was true for people from all cultures.

Other sources of the problem stem from the excessive availability of cheap alcohol, lack of education and employment, and overcrowding.

These factors were unrelated to culture.

It was a concern to men at the summit that Aboriginal men were now seen as being mostly violent abusers of women protecting each other "under the spurious cover



The CAAC Male Health Summit at Ross River recently: "the men there recognised that this (violence towards women) is totally unacceptable and they have to lead a process of change

of kinship and lore."

While this situation did occur, as was discussed at the summit, it was not widespread and it was inappropriate to label all Aboriginal men in this way.

Mr Rogers said even the most peaceful of men who were practising their

culture felt that they were automatically being seen as violent men.

"Unless this situation is addressed, attempts at health intervention are not going to realise their maximum potential," he said.

Mr Rogers said health programs needed to rec-

ognise the fact that many Aboriginal men desired to work for peaceful communities with happy and productive women, children and men, but also that they would not accept "wholesale rejection of their kinship, customs and lore."

Mr Rogers said Con-

gress was recently successful in gaining \$250,000 from ABA towards the purchase a Health Promotional Vehicle that would travel around the five communities with Congress-aided health services, and eventually other communities.

The fight for COUNTRY

BUFFEL GRASS could be the single biggest invasive species threat to land and culture in Central Australia. Are we only going to be left with buffel?

AS the weather warms, Central Australia's winter rain is bringing wildflowers, wildlife and bush tucker – but also a threat to their survival.

Buffel grass was introduced around Alice Springs to suppress dust and erosion in the droughts of the 1960s and has become a popular feed for cattle in the

Centre and other parts of inland Australia.

But its rapid spread in response to big rains is transforming the land, as it competes with tra-

ditional plants and fuels massive bushfires.

Many Central Australians, including traditional owners, are worried that the natural cycles of

rain and fire will be accelerated, creating a landscape in which buffel is the main plant or even the only one.

Eventually, they fear, this buffel grass

mono-culture could itself be destroyed by fire, leaving nothing but scorched earth behind. It is a grim scenario and a serious threat to Central Australia

Buffel sends us up in smoke

ACROSS the Centre, indigenous rangers and landcare groups are battling to stop the spread of buffel grass.

But they have been hampered by the pastoral industry and government passivity.

Buffel grass is not officially classified a weed in the Territory, and there are some reports it is still being planted by pastoralists.

Many pastoralists like buffel because it grows quickly in times of rain and provides large amounts of cattle feed compared with slower-growing native grasses.

But in the longer term, say experts, buffel country will become less productive as it takes nutrients from the soil.

Much worse, when the rain stops and the grass dries out, buffel becomes a fuel only rivalled in power by spinifex grass.

Powerful fuel

In 2011 fires fuelled by buffel and spinifex raged through forty per cent of the land mass between Elliot and the South Australian border – some 320,000 square kilometres out of 800,000.

Two dozen pastoral properties saw more than 50 per cent of their country go up in smoke.

Near-record rains in 2010 and 2011 had created a hellish scenario for firefighters that highlighted the difficulties of managing country in land increasingly dominated by buffel.

After two wet summers, the rains continued into the winter of 2011.

The rain increased the fuel load, but it was hard for firefighters to create firebreaks because the grass was still green in many places.

Warm, dry weather arrived suddenly at the end of August and Central Australia's worst fire season on record was underway.

According to Bushfires NT. Senior fire officer Neil Philips, the fuel load for bushfires in Central Australia was up to double what it was in the last major fire season almost ten years ago.

He estimated there were three to five tonnes of grass cover per hectare in Central Australia, compared with between two and three tonnes per hectare in 2002.

Above left: Buffel near Wingellina and left: Volunteers in Arizona clearing buffel which is threatening native cactus.



Above: Young people out in force to clear buffel at Docker River last year

But not everybody is giving up the fight

BUFFEL is easy to get rid of one clump at a time. The problem is there are millions of clumps

But not everyone is giving up the fight against this destructive imported plant.

The South Australian Government last year developed a strategic plan for dealing with buffel, recognising the need for different groups to unite to contain its spread.

The plan described buffel grass as "arguably the single biggest invasive species threat to biodiversity across the entire

Australian arid zone."

"Without active management it will continue to invade a wide range of native habitats... (and) replace many native species," the plan says.

The government plans to stop more buffel coming into South Australia and prevent existing buffel from spreading. In some areas it wants to destroy buffel grass altogether.

Volunteers in Arizona USA

Meanwhile in Southern Arizona, the grass is one of the

state's most pressing environmental problems, threatening native cacti and wildlife such as the desert tortoise and mule deer.

Arizona also recognises buffel grass as a threat to tourism and human settlement.

"Buffelgrass and the fire it brings are poised to destroy our Sonoran Desert ecosystems and threaten public safety, possibly more effectively and faster than drought, development, or almost any other potential disaster," says one Southern Arizona resident on the Southern Arizona Buffelgrass Coordination Centre website.

The centre co-ordinates large groups of volunteers who work in buffel-infested areas, either pulling buffel out or poisoning it with herbicides. Its website includes numerous success stories.

Not yet a weed?

By contrast, the NT Government does not consider buffel grass a weed, and describes it as a "valuable introduced species



Waru speakers all fired up

Monster grass



Above: Tired of excuses: the tri-state Waru meeting in May

"IF cattlemen want to continue to use buffel, they need to be held responsible for its spread and its control," argued some traditional owners at the tri-state Waru meeting in May.

Delegates said that pastoralists often complained about Aboriginal people not undertaking fire mitigation control on their lands, with these

fires crossing boundaries to burn pasture.

But, they said, these fires were often a result of buffel grass that has spread on to Aboriginal land from pastoral properties, usually carried by stray cattle.

Delegates were concerned that important

bush plants such as mulga are threatened by buffel.

They recognised that mulga forests not only

They said they would no longer listen to excuses such as: "It's just too hard".

provide shelter and shade for bush tucker but also for many threatened spe-

cies such as malleefowl and other bird and mammal species.

Many delegates felt it was time to challenge supporters of buffel and take action

to stop the grass.

They said they would no longer listen to excus-

es such as: "It's just too hard".

Traditional owners said they were prepared to help, but needed support from government, which had introduced the problem in the first place.

Resources were needed for research and developing a plan of attack, but also defending country and sacred sites from further devastation.

Buffel - the ultimate survivor

BECAUSE buffel grass can recover after small amounts of rain, it is ready to burn again only a year after the last fire.

Although its fires are ferocious, the grass is slow to ignite unless it is very dry or frost affected. It tends to burn late in the season when winds and temperatures are higher and stronger.

The chance of fires getting out of control – as happened in a fuel reduction burn at Kata Tjuta last year – means the period for controlled burns

is shorter.

Buffel grass tends to be found growing on the sides of tracks and roads where the chances of it being set alight at the wrong time is high.

Its burns are hard to control, as creating a fire-break with a rake hoe is almost impossible due to their well-developed root system.

The grass will regrow even without rain if there is enough soil moisture available.

It is a perennial and is not dependent on seasons

to flower and set seed, unlike many native grasses which are annuals or seasonal.

This gives buffel grass the advantage as it is the first to recover and set.

It has a tendency to establish around the base of shrubs and trees, increasing the effect of fire on these plants even in cooler conditions.

Native grasses tend to establish away from shrubs and trees.

Right: The Western MacDonnells after a severe burn recently



The Alice Springs Grog Summit *continued from page 3*

But the delegates also called for support Aboriginal community-controlled services in

- providing treatment and other AOD programs;
- addressing underlying issues of alcohol misuse;

- more services out bush;
- examining holistic ways of treating alcohol misuse;

- focussing on early childhood development;
- developing culturally appropriate treatment

programs and promoting strong cultural identity as a means of preventing alcohol misuse.

The summit called for more support for local community responses to alcohol abuse, to ensure alcohol management

plans were representative of the whole community.

Delegates said the government should invest in prevention rather than prisons and engage children and young people in education and solutions.

Summit delegates endorsed calls by APO NT for a joint Territory/Com-

monwealth government Board of Inquiry into Alcohol in the Northern Territory to provide the evidence needed to create a roadmap for action so all sectors can work together to solve the problems of alcohol-related harm in the NT.

Speakers included rep-

resentative of Anyinginyi Health Service; Central Australian Aboriginal Congress; Central Australian Aboriginal Alcohol Programmes Unit; Central Australian Aboriginal Family Legal Unit; Western Aranda Health Aboriginal Corporation; Ngaanyatjarra Pitjant-

A gong for the drum master



THEY were beating the drums for local hero Pete Lowson of Alice Springs earlier this year when he received the Order of Australia for his work with children in Alice Springs town camps.

Pete started up the drumming troupe Drum Atweme eight years ago

under the auspices of Tangentyere Council to give kids in town camps the chance to explore music and interact with more people.

The group quickly became a familiar sight at Alice Springs events and attracted bookings for interstate events, the

Adelaide Fringe Festival, the World Youth Performing festival and National Bank conferences in Melbourne among them.

"The idea of Drum Atweme was not to keep them as musicians but so they would have the confidence and social skills to be able to do a lot of other

things," Pete said in a recent interview.

As many as 130 schoolchildren in Alice Springs take part in drumming activities with the group every week.

The regular members, some of whom have been with Drum Atweme from the start, have developed

confidence through their experiences, with their teachers often reporting the drummers are doing better at school.

"It's not just all drumming," Lowson says. "Drumming is the tool. It can take them anywhere they want to go. They're good at it and we like to

expand it and change, but it's got to change within them.

"I can chuck a hundred rhythms at them and they reject them all, but they will pick their own. They own it."

Above: Lowson and drummers at the Native Title Conference

Labor promises new housing company

A new Aboriginal housing company in the Northern Territory would be established with the support of a \$116 million grant over four years if Labor wins the election.

The Minister for Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, Jenny Macklin made the announcement at the Garma Festival ahead of the Federal election due in September this year.

Ms Macklin said the new company would build, manage and maintain housing in remote Northern Territory communities, which would be leased to service delivery staff including local Aboriginal people.

The company would

provide training and job opportunities for local Aboriginal people in the building and maintenance of the properties.

There is a significant shortage of housing for key community workers, including Indigenous Engagement Officers, teachers, nurses and childcare workers.

The Minister said local Aboriginal people would be able to access staff housing as they often fill these service delivery roles.

In the past Aboriginal staff such as teachers have been denied housing while teachers brought in are automatically eligible.

The company would progressively roll out

staff housing across the Northern Territory that will then be leased back to governments and non-government organisations.

"The rental income from the housing would ensure the company generates its own, ongoing income stream," she said.

Ms Macklin said \$90 million would come from the Aboriginals Benefit Account (ABA) and up to a further \$26 million over four years from the Stronger Futures in the Northern Territory package.

In addition, \$40 million over four years would be invested in homelands in the Northern Territory through the ABA.

The word is: sex education can be fun and interactive

SEX education doesn't have to be boring or embarrassing, according to Central Australian Aboriginal Congress.

Congress has launched a new Indigenous youth sexual health education resource package to help teachers get the message across to young people.

The package is part of its Community Health Education Program (CCHEP), which Congress has been delivering to young Indigenous women since 1998 and to young males since 2011.

CCHEP coordinator Donna Lemon says the CCHEP program is "fun and interactive" and provides awareness and basic holistic sexual health education to young peo-

ple in our local schools.

Congress also runs educator training four times a year to enable community-based workers, such as Aboriginal health practitioners and teachers, to confidently deliver the program.

As well as local schools, the program has been delivered to the Owen Springs Detention Centre, CAAAPU, Mission Australia, Tangentyere Council and the Midnight Basketball program.

Education is provided to young people through a series of learning activities in a way that is fun and interactive, so that the learning experience is memorable.

Congress CEO Donna Ah Chee said the man-

uals would help ensure educators were prepared to educate young people in areas many find difficult and challenging.

"Healthy lifestyle education at age 12 and beyond is one part of this approach," Ms Ah Chee said.

"However it's also important to recognise the critical importance of the early years in the healthy development of young people as well."

Ms Ah Chee said teaching very young children self-control could lead to their having fewer addictions, and fewer sexual partners with safer sex and higher levels of physical activity when they were older.

Native Title rights at Mount Doreen

THE Federal Court has recognized the native title rights of groups from the Ngaliya Warlpiri people over Mt Doreen Station.

The Federal Court under Justice Reeves determined native title by consent over the Mt Doreen Station Perpetual Pastoral Lease (PPL) at 8 Mile Bore, 400 km north-west of Alice Springs.

The decision recognised the non-exclusive native title rights of the Jiri/Kuyukurlangu, Kumpu, Kunajarayi, Mikanji, Pikiyi, Pirrpapakarnu, Wantungurru, Wapatali/Mawunji, Warlukurlangu, Yamparnta, Yarripiri and Yarungkanyi/Murrku estate groups, who are part of the Ngaliya Warlpiri people.

The native title claimants' country includes Mt Doreen Station, but the Braitling family will continue to operate

Mt Doreen as a pastoral lease.

CLC Director David Ross congratulated the Ngaliya Warlpiri native title holders and paid tribute to claimants who had passed away during the application process.

An initial application was filed with the Court in 2005 after a mining company was granted an exploration licence over an area of significant cultural importance to the native title holders on Mt Doreen Station.

The native title holders were keen to protect these areas of high significance and instructed CLC to lodge a native title application over the area.

This application was withdrawn on 11 October 2011 and a new native title application over the whole pastoral lease was filed with the Court on 14 October 2011.

Violence against women not on says male health summit



Our hidden homelessness

A special feature by Purple House staff

HOMELESSNESS can mean many things to many different people – not just having to sleep out without a roof over your head.

Staff and residents of Western Desert Nganampa Walytja Palyantjaku Tjutaku Aboriginal Corporation (aka The Purple House) in Alice Springs witness and experience homelessness on a daily basis.

The corporation cares for more than 90 people with end-stage renal failure, from 19 different remote communities.

These people have had to leave their country to relocate to Alice Springs for permanent treatment three times a week for roughly 5 hours per treatment.

Exhausted by their treatments, they have to live in a foreign place without family and community or the country they belong to.

WDNWPT administration manager Chanara Coombes describes homelessness as “having to live on other people’s country because you have no choice to stay where

your home is as there are not enough services available for treatment out bush.”

Says WDNWPT CEO Sarah Brown: “The big issue for dialysis patients in Alice Springs is that they are not ‘homeless’...They have a home and family and country...but they can’t be there and survive. They are fighting for their right to be at home which means having access to dialysis out bush”

Dialysis patient Sam Nelson Tjupurrula explained what homeless-

“a life of existence without country, family or security and constantly being tossed about because no-one owns the problem” (Helen Adams, Business Manager WDNWPT)

ness means to him: “I have no chance to visit my country in Yuendumu and Nyirripi and stay out bush. I miss all the bush tucker.”

WDNWPT’s social support team works hard to try and find accommodation in town for our patients, but there are many hurdles.

WDNWPT Social Support Worker Sandra Ford says: “If you can’t stay at any of the

Aboriginal hostels you end up in a town camp. There is a three month waiting period to be accepted back into a hostel. If you are in a town camp you have overcrowding issues, hunger issues and money issues.

Money tends to be taken from patients and sometimes they won’t have money to buy food

“Dialysis patients are vulnerable and their exhaustion and social dislocation can sometimes lead to frustration and outbursts toward hostel staff,

which can then lead to them being kicked out and in need to find emergency accommodation.”

There are other issues associated with being away from home and on someone else’s country

“It’s like a shame job for Aboriginal people to be on other people’s country,” says WDNWPT Wellbeing Program Project Officer

Deanne Wano.

As well as shame, imagine “a life of existence without country, family or security and constantly being tossed about because no-one owns the problem,” (Helen Adams, Business Manager WDNWPT).

Chronic disease care nurse Stacey Hughes recalled an incident when “a patient returned home to country for a week. When she returned to town her bed and four walls had been given away to someone else. She is still a social admission in hospital two months later.”

With so many issues associated with social dislocation and poor health it can sometimes be hard to keep the spirits of our patients up, but that’s what we strive for here at the Purple House.

We are forever looking for ways to improve the lives of our patients and their families. We try to give them something to look forward to, something positive to hold on to.....an anchor.

To find out more about our organisation please visit www.west-erndesertdialysis.com



Nominations are now open for the 2013 Australian Human Rights Awards.

Ian Thorpe, Thérèse Rein and Eddie Mabo are past recipients of the Human Rights Medal. Now it’s time to add to that list by nominating individuals and organisations for the 2013 Human Rights Awards.

The award categories include business, print and online media, literature, radio, TV, law, community organisations, and young people.

“The Australian Human Rights Awards are a unique opportunity to celebrate the work of individuals and organisations who contribute to human rights in Australia,” said Australian Human Rights Commission president, Gillian Triggs.

“Ian Thorpe won the Human Rights Medal last year in recognition of his passionate advocacy over more than a decade for Indigenous people and young Australians.

“21-year-old Krista McMeeken won the Young People’s Human Rights Medal for her outstanding work with the WA Aboriginal Legal Service and the Child Rights Taskforce,” Professor Triggs said.

The 2013 Australian Human Rights Awards will be presented during a cocktail event at the Museum of Contemporary Art in Sydney, 10 December 2013, from 5.30pm to 7.30pm.

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- The Human Rights Medal
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Above: Dr Tom Calma was the Social Justice Commissioner between the years of 2004 and 2010 and served as Race Discrimination Commissioner from 2004 until 2009. He is a tireless advocate against domestic violence in Aboriginal communities.

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Bush cures: use good manners

THE healing power of bush medicines brought together 50 indigenous women from the eastern parts of central Australia for a meeting at Ross River in May.

The women came from communities on the Sandover and the Plenty, Santa Theresa and Alice Springs to a forum organised by the CLC.

For many it was the first time they'd gathered to talk with others about the ways they have been gathering and using native plants for health throughout their lives.

The women, from various language groups, brought samples of bush medicines they'd been harvesting, and spent days creating detailed maps of where the plants are found across their lands.

They identified fire, erosion, feral animals such as donkeys and rabbits and the spread of weeds such as buffel grass as the biggest physical threats to the plants.

But the women considered that the loss of traditional knowledge was an even bigger danger, with many people only using pharmaceutical drugs.

They welcomed the opportunity to document their plants and learn from other wom-



en about their favourite medicines.

To ensure that medicinal plants are always available, the women agreed on a set of harvesting protocols and manners.

Above: Mapping bush tucker at the meeting at Ross River. The women, brought samples of bush medicines they'd been harvesting and spent days creating detailed maps of where the plants are found across their lands.

HARVESTING PROTOCOLS AND MANNERS

- Take small amounts, little by little
- Only take the leaves, not the whole branch or roots
- Need to leave bush medicines behind for the younger generation
- Best to take new growth (but not too young) and leave the old growth
- Older leaves are collected and OK for boiling
- New leaves should be left until they grow full size
- Harvesting manners need to be passed onto next generation
- Protect bush medicines from threats like cattle horses, donkey and camel
- Get permission from the right people from country where you are harvesting
- Share bush medicines with family, keep a small amount for yourself

Yuendumu Baptists get a boost

CROWDS of up to 100 are enjoying weekly singalongs on the new Yuendumu Baptist Church stage, using the new music equipment bought with GMAAAC funding.

Church volunteers also worked together to install water pipes and taps in the churchyard.

The Yuendumu GMAAAC Community Committee paid \$22,855 for the whole project.

Managed by a local contractor with Yapa staff, the sheltered open air stage has become a popular spot for many community activities.

"We really like this, it's good," said church elder Tess Ross.

"We have sing-along on Wednesday and weekends, with old people and young.

"We make sure it finishes early so that community can sleep.

"In the warm weather we can also use it for funerals in the morning.

"When people come to visit from other communities, we can also be together outside where it is welcoming, and support each other in this area."

Alice NAIDOC

NAIDOC Celebrations in central Australia in July highlighted the 50th anniversary of the Yirrkala Bark petitions.

Drum Atweme led the annual march through Alice Springs, with hundreds taking part.

Pat Miller welcomed the festivities on to Arnernte country before speeches by Willy Foster, Owen Cole, Alice Springs Mayor Damien Ryan, master of ceremonies Patrick Ah Kit and others.

The speeches reflected on the theme of NAIDOC this year, *We value the vision: Yirrkala Bark Petitions 1963*, the campaigns and advances made since then and focused on continuing to encourage leadership for the future.

Golden guitarist Warren H Williams and the North Tanami Band performed while local businesses and organisations cooked up a storm for the hungry masses.

Yeperenye Caterpillar and Yamba the Honey Ant entertained the children, with face painting activities and a jumping castle.

Ntaria lease money pays for sports carnival

NTARIA traditional owners chipped in to rescue their Healthy Living Sports Carnival in May.

With a lack of funds endangering the event, the traditional owners put in \$16,000 of their compensation money for the compulsory five-year Intervention leases.

The event - the first project of the Ntaria Community Lease Money Working Group - featured eight football teams, four softball teams, kids' activities and two nights of live music showcasing local talent.

The Ntaria East Side Tigers pleased the home crowd by winning the softball competition while the Yuendumu Magpies took home the football trophy. Footy match manager Lofty Katarinja congratulated the Magpies for coming together after so many years of fighting.

Sports committee members had raised additional money for the cash prizes.

"Planning successful sporting events such as



Above l-r: Anthony Hargraves, Jamie Nelson, Zac Long, and Lofty Katarinja

this can be done," Ntaria Sports Carnival Committee member and softball manager Cassandra Stuart said. "If you have the willpower to make things happen they will happen."

The Ntaria Community Lease Money Working Group chose AFL NT to manage the project in partnership with the local sports carnival committee. The CLC's Community Development Unit helped

make a project management agreement with AFL NT.

The working group is planning more projects, including a funeral fund, a school excursion and a cemetery project

Farewell Japanardi - a life well-lived

WARLPURI man N Poulson Japangardi will be deeply missed by all of his many friends and family.

Conservationist, cultural man, family man, philosopher and amateur historian, Japangardi was a multi-talented, thoughtful man who maintained and developed his aspira-

tions for a better life for his people.

Educated at Yuendumu School with a generation who all became highly literate, he held a number of jobs and positions during his life.

He was the NT President of the Baptist Church, a Central Land Council Regional Coordina-

tor at its Yuendumu office, a ranger with the NT Conservation Commission and at the Newhaven Bird Sanctuary and a one-time president of Yuendumu Council. He wrote and illustrated stories in Warlpiri for the Yuendumu School and was regarded as an excellent teacher of the

senior boys.

Japangardi always supported the school by teaching traditional skills and knowledge on bush trips, culture days and in classes.

Japangardi spent a lot of time travelling around sites and his interest and knowledge of law and culture was

profound.

One long-term Yuendumu resident said Japangardi tested himself and hunted kangaroos with a spear to learn more about traditional hunting.

He was sad about the threats to traditional Aboriginal law, but was also pragmatic about

the future.

He was extremely concerned about the impact of feral animals and weeds on his country and was an enthusiastic supporter of the CLC's ranger program in the Tanami.

One of Mr Poulson's long term aspirations was for an excision on Mt

Doreen station near his beloved Pikilyi, but sadly this didn't eventuate, due to bureaucratic bungling.

But his strong role as a claimant in the recently successful Mt Doreen native title claim helped return to the Warlpiri some rights that had been denied to them for many years.

"He was one of the best leaders": memories by Yami Lester

THE MAN HIMSELF

Mr Thompson told me this: his first paid job was with the National Railways in the early 1960s.

It was a very physical hard job, working on the railway gang, slogging it, lifting those heavy metal railway lines and replacing those heavy jarrah railway sleepers.

The man himself was stationed between Marree and Anna Creek railway siding, and there met for the first time his mummy tjapu (mother's sister), Katjiwala.

Some time in the mid-1960s he became a member of the choir at Ernabella, where many Anangu were converted to Christianity.

In the 1970s my mother Pingkai and father Kantji told me at Iwantja (Indulkana) that this man was my kuta (my older brother/cousin).

Iwantja was the ration depot of the South Australian Department of Community Welfare, so people from Witjintja (Granite Downs) and Walatina had to camp there, or else they would starve.

This is where I really got to know my kuta.

As the man himself would say: "In the days of flour, tea and sugar I would take the church service along with my guitar, sing hymns and praise the Lord and that's how my parents and many other Anangu got the idea about God's word."

It was in the 1970s and 1980s that we saw great progress in the Australian Indigenous struggle for justice and he was part of that movement.

He was elected to the National Aboriginal Consultative Committee (NACC) in the mid-70s and was a member of the



Above: Signing land Rights documents in the SA Premier David Tonkin's office in 1980. Photo: courtesy Ara Irititja 0055815, Pitjantjatjara Council (Phillip Toyne) Collection

Pitjantjatjara Council when it started in Amata in 1976.

The Ngaanyatjarra Council joined in with our people to fight for our Land Rights. The man himself was involved right from the beginning, with a formal claim to the lands around the Musgrave Ranges. He did it on behalf of his people. It was his Tjilpi and Pampaku law.

All those Tjilpi tjuta and the man himself went down to Adelaide, joined Premier Don Dunstan and proposed the Bill to Parliament in 1978.

He was our political muscle

during so many major clashes. But he could argue with any politician, and it was all to do with our land rights.

He led the campaign from 1976 to 1981 to victory for land rights. I can still hear him saying to me: "I will talk up for Tjilpi Tjuta, Pampa Tjuta, Anangu Tjutaku", which he did.

My brother was the chairman for Pitjantjatjara Council when we signed the Pitjantjatjara Land Rights Act with Premier Tonkin on the 2nd October.

After gaining land rights, it

was necessary to form a body to administer the land title. This body was named Anangu Pitjantjatjaraku (AP).

During that time the man himself had also been elected on the National Aboriginal Conference (NAC).

In 1982 he and other Pitjantjatjara Council Executive Members joined Ngaanyatjarra Council to support them for their land rights and they travelled to Perth Show Grounds to talk with the Western Australian Government and the Opposition.

Also in the 1980s my brother went to Western Australia to support the Yungngora at Noonkanbah Station. They were fighting for their land, which was wanted by mining companies and the WA government.

Again in the 1980s he joined other Pitjantjatjara Council members and the people from Utju (Areyonga), Kaltukatjara (Docker River), Imanpa and Mutitjulu to take on the Federal Government and claim Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park. Again he was our political muscle. We won.

From 1989 to 2005, the man himself was the ATSIC Ngintaka Regional Councillor and also in Nulla Wimila Kutju Regional Council, a representative body for all Anangu.

In 1994 he received an OAM. They tell me if you read in the Australian Roll of Honour book my brother received it for the service to the Aboriginal Community, but I know he did more than that.

While he was a member of ATSIC Ngintaka Regional Council he was also on the AP Executive Land Holding Body which started in 1981. So from 1981 to 2012 the man himself had been a Chairperson, Director, and Executive Member.

What my friends have told me about my brother - he loved wearing those really flash cowboy clothes and I knew myself he was one of the best playing his pitulu pantini song.

So much has changed since then.

We love you brother and miss you.

Mr H. Malbunka

MR H. Malbunka of Ntaria passed away earlier this year.

Mr Malbunka lived a rich life raising his family at Ipolera and Ntaria.

His wife Mavis and he worked hard to set up the Ipolera outstation and develop tourism and a good life for the extended family.

He worked as a stockman and lived in South Australia in his

youth.

He was kind and welcoming to visitors, including new CLC staff, and had strong convictions.

Mr Malbunka enjoyed sharing his stories and will be deeply missed by surviving family and friends.

The CLC and all its staff give their condolences to the family.

Mr C. Martin Jampijinpa

MR C Martin Jampijinpa was a long term CLC delegate and a great family man with many children. His country was Pawu, on Mt Barkly, and he spent much of his young life travelling between Mt Barkly, Willowra and Annin-gie.

He worked for the Parkin-sons as a stockman on Willowra cattle station, along with other men from Wil-

lowra who have now passed away. Later, he worked in the station vehicle workshop and was responsible for the grader and grading roads around Willowra.

In more recent years, Jampijinpa made significant contributions to the Warlpiri Ranger program and the planning for the declaration of the Southern Tanami Indigenous Protected Area. He

was a great advocate for the ranger program and a member of the South Tanami Indigenous Protected Area (STIPA) Management committee.

Jampijinpa was a tireless source of encouragement and assistance on early Yinapaka (Lake Surprise) bush trips and extremely proud of family involvement in the ranger work.

He will be sadly missed.

YUENDUMU Sports Weekend



Yuendumu has celebrated the 50th anniversary of

the Yuendumu Sports Weekend.

Since its beginnings in 1963, the sports festival

has grown to become a significant fixture on the

Central Australian calendar.

But this year was special as the people of Yuen-

dumu celebrated the return of the carnival after

cancelling the event last year due to disputes.

A peace march to the footy oval was held to re-

member people who had passed away before the

events took off.

A disco for the kids, athletics, softball, basketball,

footy, of course, and the battle of the bands added

up to an action packed weekend. Cultural events

and gospel added to the buzz.

Seventeen teams came from far and wide for the

footy and visitors came in their hundreds.

The weekend was judged a huge success.

RESULTS

FOOTBALL

17 teams

Hill 7.5 = 47.

Grand Final Yuendumu 11.5 = 71 defeated Wave

SOFTBALL

12 teams

Grand Final Laramba 15 defeated Haasts Bluff 8

BASKETBALL

17 Womens Teams.

Grand Final Lajamanu 24 defeated Wambana 13

Clockwise from above: The Allies softball team rally their troops; Lisali and Prestina strolling along the boundary; some of the Kintore Hawks flaps their wings, ladies wait nervously on the softball draw; the Willowra Blues styled up; the Lajamanu Swans have a laugh before the game against Kintore Hawks; Pikilyi and Papunya players soar in the contest; local goes to kick.

14 Mens Teams
Grand Final, Knights 22 defeated Dockers 20

Rangers in world spotlight

CLC Aboriginal rangers showed they are 'thinking globally, acting locally' at a conference attended by 1200 indigenous people from 50 countries in Darwin in May.

Delegates at the four-day conference discussed projects that were working well in their communities and their common challenges of keeping culture, country and young people strong.

They talked about working together and the need for government support and recognition of ownership of their land and their connection to it.

Indigenous groups' common problems included remoteness and fair access to services and goods, and high rates of substance abuse, incarceration and suicide.

Nathaniel Dixon, an Anmatyerr Ranger, said he hadn't realised so many other indigenous groups around the world had the same problems, and he felt people could support each other. Brett Stockman, a ranger from Docker River, said he liked how there were "different people with different suits, different culture, all in together."

They included:

- Sami women reindeer herders from Norway, Sweden, Finland and Russia, where climate change is affecting reindeer;
- Maasai men protecting their land in Kenya



Above l-r : Damien Williams, Jermaine Kenny , Clayton Namatjira, three delegates from Kenya, Kim Brown, Preston Kelly and Shannon Lander.

from poachers;

- Maori people from New Zealand managing their coastlines using their cultural knowledge;
- People from the Pacific and Indian Oceans who talked about mapping and managing their ocean resources;
- A man from Pakistan and a chief from Ghana, Africa,

talking about how they build strong local economies and communities from their lands;

- People from Canada talking about how mining and logging were affecting their communities and country.

Anmatyerr Ranger Serena Presley said she had enjoyed mixing with people from all over the world, making new

friends, and finding out how other people work.

Dion Kelly, a Wulain Ranger, said he had learnt that some people in other parts of the world were still struggling for their land rights and people needed to share ideas and learn from that.

Right: Michael Lenaimado from Kenya.



Telling the world about their country

Rangers from Central Australia told the world about how they looking after their country at the World Indigenous Network Conference.

The rangers gave two presentations.

Rangers Preston Kelly, Christine Michaels and Rick Taylor talked about "two-way" planning and management of the Southern Tanami Indigenous Protected Area (IPA).

Preston told conference delegates about how the management committees manage fire, bring together Yapa and Kardiya knowledge, stop ferals and weeds, teach the young ones and look after special animals and plants.

Christine talked about how big fires are a problem for important places, plants and animals because yapa aren't walking on country so much anymore, and so not burning all the time like they did.

But she said the IPA supported yapa to do burning on country and other work to look after country.

In the second presenta-

tion, four rangers and a coordinator spoke about various programs of CLC rangers in Central Australia:

- Shannon Lander talked about the CLC and the ranger program;
- Richard Furber, from Ltyentye Apurte Rangers, talked about how the rangers and Santa Teresa community were managing feral horses and the damage they cause;
- Serena Pres-

ley, an Anmatyerr Ranger, spoke about following the Ahakeye storyline to help keep culture strong and to plan work on country;

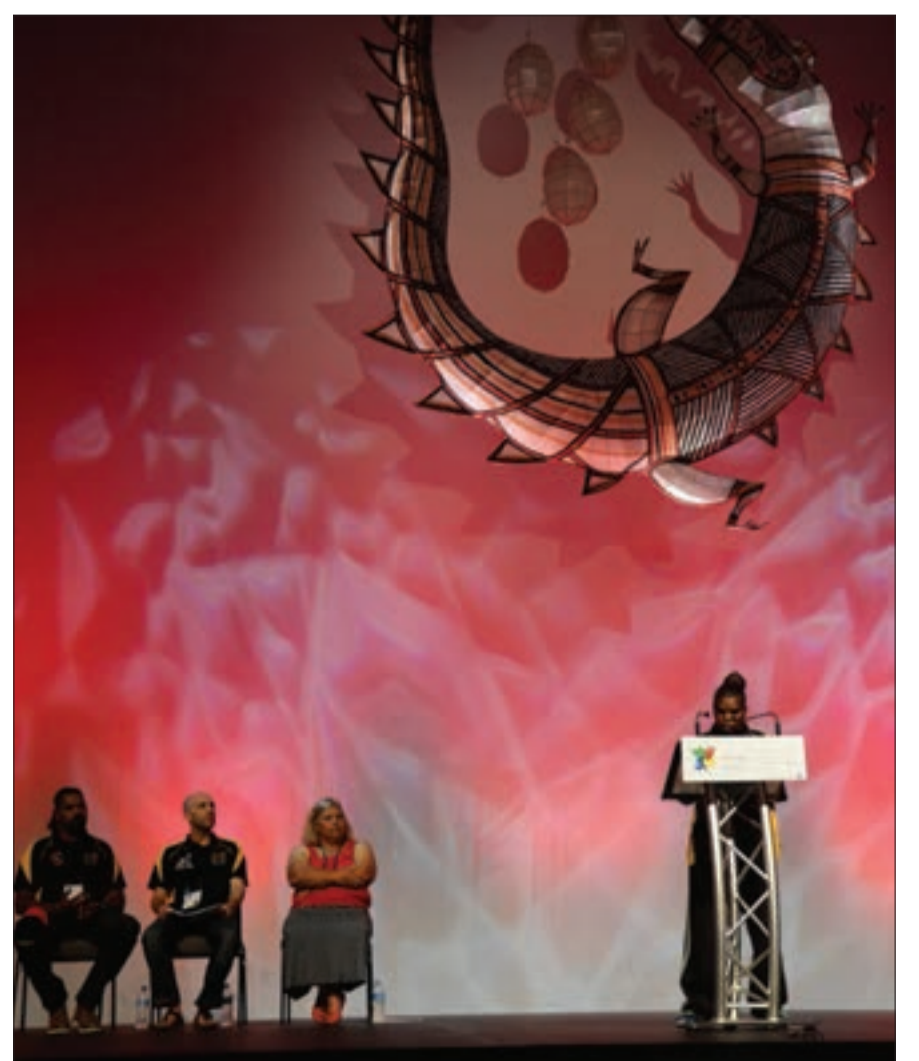
• Petria Cavanagh, from Ltyentye Apurte Rangers, explained how a women's project was helping to look after bush medicine and pass on knowledge about the medicines, and

• Damien Williams talked



about different ways rangers work with other people and organisations and how this helps keep the CLC ranger units strong.

Above: Warlpiri Ranger Preston Kelly presenting at the conference with (right) fellow ranger Christine Michaels from Nyrrirpi in the enormous auditorium at the Darwin Convention Centre.



TENNANT CREEK

I love my home,
Tennant Creek.
White cockatoos
flying
Across the sky.
I love the mulga
trees
With scattered
hills
Far and near.
I love the beauty
Of its name,
The historical gold
mining fields
Of yester years.
A land of dusty dry
weather,
With its significant
sites,
Mary Ann Dam, the
Pebbles.
Tennant Creek
The only place for
me.

ROSEMARY
PLUMMER

Napperby
Station native
title

THE Federal Court has recognized the native title rights of seven estate groups over the Napperby pastoral lease.

Sitting at Laramba Community Living Area on July 2, the Court under Justice Reeves recognised by consent the non-exclusive native title rights of the Alherramp/Rrweltyapet, Ilewerr, Mamp/Arrwek, Tywerl, Arrangkey, Anentyerr/Anenkerr and Ntyerlkem/Urapentye estate groups.

The seven groups are Anmatyerr and Arrernte people whose country includes the area where Napperby Station is located. Napperby will continue to operate as a pastoral lease by the current owners.

The original application was filed with the Court in 2005 as a result of a mining company being granted an exploration licence over an area on station of important cultural significance to the native title holders.

The native title holders were anxious to protect these areas of high significance and instructed the CLC to lodge a native title application over the area.

This application was withdrawn on 17 March 2011 and a new native title application over the whole of the pastoral lease was filed with the Court.



Burning right way

DOCKER RIVER

EIGHT young people from Docker River have made an educational cartoon about the dangers of burning country “wrong way”.

After the destructive wildfires of 2012, members of the Tri - State Waru Committee wanted to send a warning out to communities in WA, SA and the NT.

They combined with the Docker River community to create the animated DVD Tjukurtjara-ngka Tilinytja Wiya under the creative guidance of consultant Dave Slowo.

The project used Caring For Country funding to create an important message in a fun and quirky way, and also provided eight unemployed youth at Docker River the chance to develop valuable skills.

The eight took part in all aspects of its development, including inter-

viewing senior people, developing a story board, creating the characters and translating and editing creating sound effects and voice-overs.

The project has led to discussion about the young team making animations for Anangu Jobs clients and occupational health and safety issues.

The young men also want to create film clips to go with their music.

“Because animation is such a time-consuming process it was amazing for the team to create so many scenes in only two weeks,” said Mr Slowo.

“Everything was created from scratch, from the landscapes to the characters to the special effects.

“The group also worked solidly on video editing and translating the Pitjantjatjara into English for the film’s subtitles.”

Above: the animation made by the young people of Docker River



Your Babies



Simone and Shenade Conway - see below



Above: Brianna Webb with new son Elgin born on 10th June 2013



Above: Rosabella and Kyesha at the Alice Springs NAIDOC March

Left: Proud big sister Shaniqua with new little sister Shanna, born on 20th July. Another beautiful daughter for Gina-Rose Williams and Shannon Smith of Santa Teresa



Above: Joel Shannon Smith born 20 May 2013 son to Hollie Webb and Shannon Smith, seen here with his proud mummy!



Above: Sonny Davis and Tracey Cook would like to welcome April Scarlett Davis Cook to the world. Born on 9th April 2013. A little ballerina for Dorothy.



Above: Zakhyran and Margaret at the NAIDOC march.



Above: Jenelle and Graham welcome Paul Short born 10th May 2013 - a little brother for Beau, Liam, Nikita and Isabelle



Above: Charmaine Jurrah and Darius Zan - 8 months.



Above: Hudson Roy Fletcher Cornelius Kanari born 28th April 2013. A son for Hudson and Cecily.



Left: Laquisha Drover, born 13th May 2013. A beautiful little girl for mum Finny



Above: Shenade Conway - a beautiful little girl born on April 11th 2013 for Simone Conway and Wenston Oliver from Santa Teresa



Above: Letticia Nelson welcomed her beautiful little girl Twylla to the world on the 27th April 2013

Purple wall to go with purple house

ALICE Spring's famous Purple House now has a Purple Wall.

Melbourne-based street artist Callan Morgan worked with the Western Desert Dialysis patients to create a mural celebrating different aspects of community life and life on dialysis. The mural was

self-funded by Western Desert Nganampa Walytja Palyantjaku Tjutaku Aboriginal Corporation and acknowledges all of the people working together at WDNWPT to 'make all of our families well'. The wall lines the laneway between Flynn Drive and Bruce St in

Gillen. It includes a map of the communities with Western Desert Dialysis services, a rocket-fuelled dialysis machine, the Purple Truck mobile dialysis unit, a bush turkey, donkey, camel, kangaroo and lots of purple.

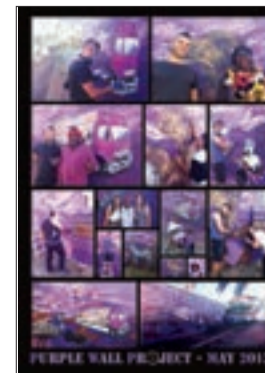
The mural is part of the Purple House Garden Project, with a series

of public workshops and working bees to create vegetable, bush tucker and bush medicine permaculture and aquaponics gardens.

The gardens will produce food and herbs to use in the social enterprise catering gigs and bush balms.

For more information

on upcoming workshops – including an outdoor pizza oven-making workshop – and working bees or general enquiries about the social enterprise and organisation please visit www.westerndesertdialysis.com or call (08) 8953 6444



Yunupingu “an inspiration”



HUNDREDS of mourners earlier this year farewelled the Yonngu educator and singer who told the world about the Aboriginal quest for a treaty.

Dr Yunupingu, the former lead singer of Yothu Yindi and founder of the Yothu Yindi educational foundation, died in June, aged 56.

At a state memorial service, musician Paul Kelly, who co-wrote Yothu Yindi's worldwide hit *Treaty* in 1991, described Dr Yunupingu as a symbol of balance. "Parent, child," he said. "Freshwater, saltwater. The duality of Australia."

Dr Yunupingu, born in 1956, was the first Aboriginal person from his area to gain a university degree.

He co-founded Yothu Yindi with Witiyana Marika in 1986, and shortly afterwards the band found itself touring the world with Paul Kelly.

While leading the band, Dr Yunupingu worked as a teacher at Yirrkala Community School, where in 1990 he became the first indigenous man to be a school principal. He became a passionate advocate of "two-way" education, using both English and indigenous languages.

"He was one of this nation's great teach-

ers," Northern Territory Chief Minister Adam Giles said at the memorial service.

In 1991 Dr Yunupingu resigned his position to focus on Yothu Yindi.

The band released the album *Tribal Voice*, which included the song *Treaty*.

The band sang the song to worldwide acclaim, combining electric instruments with didgeridoo and clap sticks with musicians with dancers in body paint. Dr Yunupingu was named "Australian Of The Year" in 1993.

Dr Yunupingu struggled with alcoholism for many years, and finally decided to stop touring and play only for Aboriginal communities.

But he maintained his lifelong passion for two-way education.

Central Land Council Chair Maurie Japarte Ryan hailed Dr Yunupingu as an inspiration to all Australians.

"The resonance of his vision to walk between two worlds and learn both ways is a significant legacy for all Yonngu, wider Indigenous communities and for the Australian nation to embrace," Mr Ryan said.

The Central Land Council Chair, Executive, members and staff all extend their condolences to Dr Yunupingu's family

Docker BMX holiday hit



Above: Docker River kids got on their bikes in the school holidays – but they had to fix them first. Andrew from Indigenous Community Volunteers and the NPY Youth Program worker Bret spent a week salvaging bikes with the youngsters. In the end, 18 bikes were up and ready for BMX racing. The BMX track was built by the CLC's Uluru Rent Money Project and recently fixed by the the Macdonnell Shire. Everyone had a lot of fun on it.

Below: The Warumungu male dancers at the CLC's Open Day in June this year. The dancers also performed at the National Native Title Conference.



Kenya at crossroads of seed politics and climate

KENYA'S farmers are under pressure to give up traditional farming methods and adopt genetically engineered crops as the country's climate changes.

Many Kenyan rivers and streams are now producing less water, or drying up completely during the dry season, with drought threatening Kenya's \$1.7 billion tea export industry.

The Tea Research Foundation of Kenya has developed 45 varieties of tea, but many farmers are yet to adopt them because they do not even know they exist.

Gathuru Mburu, coordinator of the African Biodiversity Network, says an approach is needed that brings together farming strategies that do not use chemicals.

"Farmers are producing inadequately due to overuse of chemicals," Mburu says. "Agro-ecology uses animal manure. Leftovers from a previous harvest can also be ploughed back as manure."

But the agro-ecology option strikes some as turning one's back on new technologies with enormous potential.

"Criminalising chemicals is not a solution.



Kenya's farmers - particularly small-scale farmers - face uncertain times due to extreme climate conditions as the country's main sources of water are producing less than they did in the past. Credit: Miriam Gathigah/IPS

Farmers must embrace scientific innovations," biodiversity researcher John Kamangu says. "We need genetic modifica-

tion, which will enable us to produce seeds that can withstand higher temperatures and heavier rainfall."

But Mburu says it is multi-nationals that are turning farmers into criminals, by pushing for new laws that would pe-

nalise traditional farming methods and seed-gathering.

"Some of the policies in the pipeline are

the seed law and the anti-counterfeit law," Mburu explains. "The anti-counterfeit law is pushing for certified seeds. Our people who are using indigenous seeds (non-certified) will no longer be able to do so once this law takes effect."

Mburu accused African governments of abdicating their financial responsibility to the agricultural sector, creating room for multinationals to provide funding while at the same time exploiting Africa.

"These are the companies developing and selling chemicals," Mburu says. "Their seeds tend to need lots of chemicals to grow. These seeds are also growing only in specific areas."

"These seeds are controlled by six companies in the world and are a multi-billion dollar investment and they are not suited to our ecosystem compared to indigenous seeds."

According to the Ministry of Agriculture, an estimated five million out of about eight million Kenyan households depend directly on agriculture for their livelihoods.

Full classrooms but the students can't read

MANY Pacific Island nations are celebrating the success of rising school enrolment rates, with 14 countries on target to achieving universal primary education by 2015.

But a closer look inside the classroom, and in communities surrounding these schools, reveals a shockingly low literacy rate.

Research has found that:

The literacy rate in the English and Tok Pisin languages in Madang, PNG, is only 23 percent;

In the Shefa province of Vanuatu, while 85 percent declared they could read and write a simple letter in the official languages of Bislama, French or English, individual testing confirmed that only 27.6 percent were literate;

In the Solomon Islands, the government claims a primary school enrolment of 91 percent, but the country's literacy rate is only 17 percent;

While 97.7 percent of the 2,200 people surveyed

by ASPBAE in the Solomons' capital, Honiara, and in Malaita Province agreed that it was important for children to attend school, 53.8 percent of females and 37.6 percent of males, aged 15 to 19 years, were not in education.

"The issue of low literacy is prevalent mainly with those who are learning in a language other than their primary one,"

The issue of low literacy is prevalent mainly with those who are learning in a language other than their primary one

says University of the South Pacific education lecturer Lice Taufaga.

"Literacy is best learnt in one's primary language, yet most learners in South Pacific countries are expected to achieve it in English, the language of business and administration."

Taufaga said there were also cultural challenges, as the solitary activity of reading was not always encouraged or supported in many communal-oriented Pacific societies.

"There is very little exposure to books in the home and in schools, and many children do chores to supplement family income after school, so they have no time to read," she said.

Experts say one of the problems is the very large number of languages in the Pacific, many of which have not been written down.

Some experts want to focus on local languages, but most people see literacy in English and French as necessary for engaging in a global world.

"A higher level of literacy in these languages will enhance transfer of technology, information and knowledge at all levels of society," Rex Horoi,



School children in the Eastern Highlands Province of Papua New Guinea. Credit: Catherine Wilson/IPS

director of the Foundation of the Peoples of the South Pacific said.

But Mr Horoi said information also needed to be translated into vernacular languages.

According to the World Bank, 23.7 percent of Vanuatu's government expenditure is allocated to education, with 34 percent in the Solomon Islands, compared to approximately 16.1 percent

in New Zealand and 13.5 percent in Australia.

But up to 90 percent of Pacific Island education budgets are committed to teachers' salaries, with little funds left to develop education systems, infrastructure and resources.

Inadequately qualified teachers are another issue, with only 29 percent of teachers in the Solomon Islands and 54 percent in Vanuatu trained.

Malaysia to look at its indigenous

THE Malaysian government will set up a task force to look into the plight of its indigenous community, the Orang Asli.

Malaysia's New Straits Times has reported that the proposed task force would also investigate land rights issues and the recommendations in the report by the Human Rights Commission of Malaysia.

The report follows a national inquiry into the land rights of the indigenous peoples in Malaysia, who consist of 18 different tribal groups.

The report found that the indigenous community was marginalised, disadvantaged and did not fully enjoy legal and human rights.

The community was also unhappy with the ongoing violation of the rights conferred on them, the reported noted.

According to Wikipedia, the poverty rate among the Orang Asli, who comprise only 0.5 percent of the total population, is 76.9 per cent.



7-14 July
2013

We value the vision:
**YIRRKALA BARK
PETITIONS 1963**



NAIDOC 2013

Alice Springs



Clockwise from top left:
Sarah Palmer, Joyanne Furber and Melissa

Kingsley wearing the colours; a couple of Yeperenye students check out the Djembe drums; Rosabella McMillan with Tre, Camisha, Prestina, Lisali; Kyeshia and Charmaine soak up the sun and festivities; Chriselda Jurrah with Louise and Francis Egan enjoyed the NAIDOC events; the Yipirinya boys stand proud and tall (as they can), Warren H Williams entertained with his trademark ballads; the first NAIDOC parade through the newly reopened Todd Mall.



Beanie business

Scores of mukati and mukata (Walpiri and Pitjantjatjara for beanies) were snapped up at the annual Alice Springs 2013 Beanie Festival in July.

Beanie makers attended needle-felting and crochet beanie making workshop in Mutitjulu, Nyirripi, Willowra, Papanya, Fregon Ernabella, Larapinta Valley and Titjikala before adding their creation to the 6000 beanies on display.

Artists drew inspiration from their friendships, community and land.



Fregon School Mukata



Audrey Kitson, Willowra Learning Centre



Ernabella Mukata Queens



Lillian Burke at Mutitjulu creating Seven Sisters story design

WETT paint!



Three Warlpiri artists have portrayed the history of the Warlpiri Education and Training Trust (WETT) in a painting.

Artists Barbara Napanangka Martin, Nancy Napurrula Oldfield and Maisie Napaljarri Kitson, nominated by the rest of the WETT committee, spent three days and

nights in Yuendumu talking, sharing and creating the WETT painting.

The work was facilitated and supported by art development specialist Hannah Quinlivan, who runs regular painting workshops in Warlpiri communities with Warlukurlangu Aboriginal Artist Cor-

poration.

Marlkirdi Rose and Maisie Kitson presented the WETT story at this year's Native Title Conference in Alice Springs (see picture above).

They said the WETT painting was important as it showed both Yapa and Kardiya way of telling the story.

Gibbo rides the big and bad



Ltyentye Apurte ranger, Gibson 'Gibbo' John has defied the odds (and some would say reason) by becoming the oldest bull rider in

Central Australia. Gibbo competed at the Alice Springs Show in July and proved that the being in your 50's doesn't mean you can't take on

the biggest and baddest bulls around. His much anticipated first ride of the night was slightly delayed and many spectators watched

nervously as the 58 year old listed slightly in the saddle. But Gibbo held on to post a respectable 4-5 second time.

Camel yards handy assets



Left: Travis Brown and his son Kelvin Brown, with their horse they have just trapped in the Kaltukatjara horse yards.

These yards were rebuilt by the CLC Kaltukatjara Rangers in 2011, after they were trashed by camels in 2009.

The multipurpose community yards were used to trap and remove 172 camels in January 2013.

As the Australian Feral Camel

Management Project begins to wind up, sites like these yards at Docker River will be very important in preventing the wild camel population building up again, and reducing damage to the community and the infrastructure.

In the western region of the Northern Territory several thousand camels will need to be removed each year to stay on top of the population growth.

Batchelor course gets you ready for uni

By Catherine Maughan

ABORIGINAL and Torres Strait Islander students from Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education spoke with pride and confidence about their learning experiences at one of the National Native Title Conference workshops recently.

The four students are enrolled in Batchelor's Preparation for Tertiary Success (PTS) course.

Through the PTS course students strengthen their own learning identity and develop strategies so they can

achieve success in their university studies.

Born in Alice Springs, Andrew Clements has worked hard all his life, most recently working in the mining industry in the Pilbara region of north-west Western Australia. Andrew started studying the PTS course full-time in March this year and he told delegates: "At the start of the semester I was feeling overwhelmed with all the work.

"I was working well



when I was at workshops but found it harder when I went home.

"It has taken me most of my first semester to make the changes at

home that I needed to, but I have and I feel I'm on track now."

PTS graduate Kathryn Cochrane is raising two young boys in Alice Springs, working part-time and completing her second semester of a Bachelor of Teaching and Learning.

"PTS was a good foundation for my teaching studies I'm doing now," she said.

"At the start I was a bit stuck in my ways but

PTS pushed me out of my comfort zone and I know I can do things that I couldn't do.

"I did well in PTS so that gave me confidence that I can do well at uni too."

More information about the Preparation for Tertiary Success course can be found at www.acike.edu.au or by speaking to a Batchelor Institute Academic Advisor on 1800 677 095.

Left L-R Andrew Clements, Amelia Kunoth-Monks, Vyyleah Waia-Gibia (standing), Kathryn Cochrane

Tjintu Desert Band tours Australia



ONE of Central Australia's favourite bush bands now has a new name taken from its members' own language, and has spread the word with 11 performances in four states this winter.

Tjintu Desert Band, formerly the Sunshine Reggae Band from Haasts Bluff, 250km west of Alice Springs, changed its name in the lead-up to the launch of a new album this October at the Mbantua Festival.

"We chose our new name because it's our traditional Luritja word for the sun and we're from the desert, which is our home," says lead guitarist Jeffrey Zimran.

The new band name also heralds a new direction into funk/rock that will feature on their album, while it still recognises their desert reggae roots.

Coordinated by Art-backNT, the 'Desert to Saltwater Tour', supported by Radical Son, left Alice Springs and performed from 29 June - 21 July at eleven concerts in NSW, VIC, QLD and ACT including the half-time show at the NRL match between the Knights and Bulldogs in Mackay.

The band first performed in The Battle of the Bands in Papunya 2002, and has since appeared at festivals such as Green Fest, Sandtracks Tour, Dreaming Festival, Bush Bands Bash and the Wide Open Spaces Festival, where they were the opening act.

Congress celebrates 40 years

BUILDING families: Strong children, strong future was the theme of a barbecue celebrating 40 years of the Central Australian Aboriginal Congress at Amoonguna recently.

Amoonguna Health Service Aboriginal Corporation is auspiced by Congress.

Fun activities were facilitated by the school, along with the Congress Regional Health Services Division's (RHSD) Allied Health Team, which included the Regional Eye Health Coordinator, Diabetes Nurse Educator (the 'Sugar Lady') and the Nutritionist/Dietician.

The Amoonguna Health Service organised the activities, from running the barbecue to providing transport in the bus.



Right: There was a good turnout at Amoonguna for the Congress 40th

Male health forum: time for action



DELEGATES at the Aboriginal Male Health Conference held at Ross River near Alice Springs in July created their own bark petition calling for

non-partisan political action in male health.

The statement read: "We call for non partisan commitment by all political parties to engage, support and fund this Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Male Health Time for Action plan by working in partnership with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations in a culturally responsive and appropriate way to close the gap on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander male health disadvantage, so that we and our can have a healthy future within a generation.

"We restate our commitment to the Inteyerrkwe Male Health Statement 2008.

"We also challenge all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males take action and show leadership, responsibility and ownership at individual,

family and community levels."

Delegates called on governments to develop an "Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander male building block" with specific health targets and to include targets for males in the seven current Council of Aus-

tralian Government Closing The Gap building blocks.

They said governments need to prioritise funding to address mental health, social and emotional wellbeing and suicide prevention among First Australian males.

Younger males played an important role at the conference, with one taking on the role of master of ceremonies and others facilitating groups.

Congress Deputy Des Rogers and Lingiari MHR Warren Snowden with the Congress bark petition

CENTRAL LAND COUNCIL ONLINE

CLC digital photo archive: <http://clc.ara-irititja.com>

CLC Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/CentralLC>

Land Rights News Central Australia
<http://www.clc.org.au/land-rights-news/>

CLC website: www.clc.org.au

CLC FREECALL 1800 003 640

Alice Springs National Native Title Conference & CLC Open day



Top left: The Black Arm Band with Gail Mabo and Alexis Wright who delivered the Mabo lecture at the 2013 Native Title Conference in Alice Springs.

Top right: Regina France from Ulpanyali's Ngalta Art did a brisk trade selling skincare products and art at the CLC Open Day.

Above: Frank Holmes shows the crowd how to make a boomerang from a piece of wood.

Right: Gail Mabo addressed the Native Title Conference and asked that June 3 be celebrated as Eddie Mabo Day as that is the the High Court made the Mabo decision.

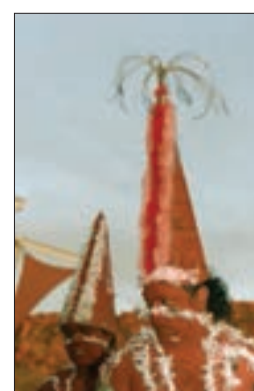
"The Americans have Martin Luther King Day. Why can't we have Eddie Mabo Day?" she said.

Below right: Frank Holmes, Sam Peterson and Casey Holmes checking out the CLC's digital archive at the CLC Open Day

Bottom right: CLC staffers Becky Mack and Gina Howard presenting at the Conference

Middle bottom: Arrernte men perform at the opening of the conference

and Below: Ladies enjoying the CLC Open Day



CELEBRATING 40 YEARS

2013

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Wednesday 23 October 2013 - 1pm to 3pm
D.D. Smith Park
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AROUND THE BUSH



From top left clockwise : Maisie Kitson addresses the crowd at the opening of the Willowra Learning Centre in April; Pitjantjatjara ladies making baskets at the World Indigenous Network Conference in Darwin; Ladies the Ross River bush medicine meeting; People reading CLC publications as far away as Wiluna, WA The CLC Executive talking with Shadow Minister for Aboriginal Affairs Senator Nigel Scullion in Canberra in June this year. Men at Yuendumu hard at work on the Baptist Church drains. The materials were paid for by royalty association GMAAC. Drum Atweme members with a new dance they had made up for the Ntaive Title Conference; Delegates to the bush medicine meeting at Ross River Pertame people! Christobel Swan and family at Henbury Station in June this year.





New book for an old language

IMAGINE hearing your father's voice again for the first time in 20 years.

Pigeon Hole residents listened to old recordings of their parents and grandparents at the launch of the new *Bilinarra to English Dictionary* in April.

Sheila Hector Marrbingali, one of the Bilinarra authors, said she was happy that her father Hector Waitbiari's

knowledge had been recorded.

"Now my children can hear their grandfather's voice and learn from him the way I did," Sheila said. "New generations of Bilinarra mob will now always have that old knowledge."

Linguists and Bilinarra people worked 10 years bringing together old recordings of Bilinarra families to publish a dictionary and an online

multimedia database of their language.

The *Bilinarra to English Dictionary* is available from Batchelor Press (online store), Mimi Arts (Katherine) and Karungkarni Arts (Kalkaringi). The Bilinarra Multimedia Database will be available soon on the AUSIL website.

For more information, contact Felicity Meakins at the School

of Languages and Comparative Cultural Studies, University of Queensland, mobile 0411 404 546 or email f.meakins@uq.edu.au

Right: Sheila Hector Marrbingali, Mildred Hector Milmarriya and Barbara Bobby Warrmuya proudly hold the new Bilinarra to English Dictionary with linguist Felicity Meakins (Photo: Vicky Smith)



Aboriginal Ways of Using English

Aboriginal Ways of Using English By Diana Eades. Published by Aboriginal Studies Press, August \$39.95

Recognising and understanding 'Aboriginal English' will lead to a better understanding of Aboriginal identity, according to a new book.

Linguist Diana Eades has written and lectured for 30 years about Aboriginal life and culture as reflected in Aboriginal English, the first language of many Aboriginal peo-

ple. In *Aboriginal Ways Of Speaking English* Prof Eades describes court cases in which Aboriginal culture has clashed with legal culture and procedure, often to Aboriginal disadvantage.

"Growing numbers of people in 'settled' Australia who identify as Aboriginal, speak varieties of English as their first language," says Eades.

"The fact that such people speak little or none of their traditional Aboriginal languages is

often used by non-Aboriginal people as evidence that these people are 'not really Aboriginal'.

"In this way, the way people speak plays a significant role in issues of Aboriginal identity, and subsequently needs and rights in areas such as politics, land rights and education."

Prof Eades said language can perpetuate inequality and understanding Aboriginal ways of speaking can lead to better intercultural communication.

Good Morning, Mr Sarra

By Chris Sarra
Price: \$34.95

CHRIS Sarra is best-known nationally as the school principal who turned around the toxic culture and poor attendance rates at Cherbourg State School in Queensland.

Slowly, Sarra's 'Strong and Smart' vision lifted community expectations and transformed Cher-

bourg into a school with below-average rates of truancy, growth in student numbers and low levels of vandalism.

Chris's work there was featured on ABC's *Australian Story* (2004), and in November 2009 he was named Queensland's Australian of the Year.

Good Morning, Mr Sarra is the story of the man behind the vision, from his childhood as one of ten children in a coun-

try town, to the galvanising of his educational philosophy at university, to its support at a national level.

It depicts how, with his Stronger Smarter Institute, Chris Sarra is pursuing and achieving improved outcomes in literacy, numeracy and attendance for Indigenous children across the country, offering them the means to determine their own futures

MC Comedian Kevin Kropinyeri

Eighth Annual National Indigenous Legal Conference
TWO LAWS TOGETHER BALL

When: Saturday 26 October 2013 - 5.30pm till late
 Where: Ooraminna Homestead (32km South of Alice Springs)
 Dress: Territory Formal (men: dinner suit or dark trousers, long sleeve shirt, bow tie or tuxedo; Ladies: evening wear)
 Cost: \$187pp
 Details: Buses will commence departing Alice Springs Convention Centre at 5.30pm. Cost includes transportation, welcome canapés and traditional dancers, 3 course meal, 5 hour beverage package and entertainment by Aboriginal artists.

Atnengkerre Atherre Akwerte
Two Laws Together
Hosted by Central Australian Aboriginal Legal Aid Service Inc.

The mighty Demons hit Tennant



THE Melbourne Demons have got behind a campaign to promote Aboriginal eye health.

Players from the club ran a junior footy clinic in Tennant Creek in July for more than 150 children and promoted the message of trachoma elimination via the *Clean Faces, Strong Eyes* campaign.

Barkly Shire Council workers provided water access for the hygiene stations, community transport and helpers at the football skills stations and two members of the Fred Hollows Foundation helped out with gifts of face washers and sun glasses for the children.

Julalikari YDU and Anyinginyi Sports and Recreation provided pick-up services for children from Mungakarta, around town and town camps.

A busload of children

from Ali Curung also came to town to take part in the clinics.

Local man Ronald Plummer welcomed the players to country and presented gifts of locally made boomerangs to the players and Cheeky Dog bags to the organisers from the University of Melbourne.

The kids were were lucky enough to be given Demon's AFL guernseys.

The club has been working with the Indigenous Eye Health Unit at the University of Melbourne for several years raising awareness about trachoma and the importance of clean faces to keep trachoma away.

The Demons contingent had a shaky start to the day after the chartered plane was forced to return to Alice Springs shortly after take-off, but it was smooth sailing for the rest of the day

Tjuntjuntjara kids go to town



Above: Naomi Felton, Tarlisha Currie, Rianna Hogan and Waverly Ward with their punu puppets.

CHILDREN at Tjuntjuntjara School in the Great Victoria Desert (WA) are adding puppet-making and wood sculpture to their skills list.

The school employed a sculptor-in-residence, Ange Leech, for a punu (wood) workshop, with students student from

kindergarten to high school learning to make puppets, carve art pieces and artefacts and use different tools.

The project culminated in a 1500 km trip to Perth for the opening of the Punu Exhibition at Japingka Gallery in Fremantle.

The punu puppets

were popular art pieces, and the students were thrilled to see their works displayed. The punu workshops were part of a community based project which encouraged inter-generational and cultural learning, working alongside parents and grandparents.

Do you want to go to the 2013 8th Annual National Indigenous Legal Conference and Ball?

Prerequisites for law students:

- you are an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander person and recognised as such by the Community in which you live;
- you are currently enrolled to study undergraduate or postgraduate legal studies at an Australian University in 2013 (students completing mid 2013 will be considered); and
- you are available to travel to Alice Springs from your nearest capital city on 23 October 2013, returning on 27 October 2013.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Law Students and Elders or Respected Persons

Thanks to the kind sponsorship of several organisations we are offering 5 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Law Students and 5 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elders and Respected Persons the opportunity to attend the 2013 8th Annual National Indigenous Legal Conference and Ball to be held in Alice Springs, Northern Territory on the 24th to 26th of October 2013.

Prerequisites for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander elders or respected persons:

- you are an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander person and recognised as such by the Community in which you live;
- You are recognized as an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander elder or respected person by your community; and
- You have a strong interest in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander law and justice issues; and
- you are available to travel to Alice Springs from your nearest capital city on 23 October 2013, returning on 27 October 2013.

How to apply:

- make a submission detailing what benefit both you and your community will gain from your attendance at the Conference including what you hope to get out of it. The submission should include a brief background on yourself and your interest in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander law and justice. Also include details of any relevant community groups or organisations you may be a part of. This should be no more than 2 typed A4 pages in length.
- If you are an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander law student you should also attach a proof of enrolment.
- If you are an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander Elder or respected person you should include 1 written reference from within your community supporting your application.

* Conditions: If selected you must attend the 2013 National Indigenous Legal Conference and Ball as well as be available to meet with your sponsor upon their request. Sponsorship includes transport, accommodation and Conference fees. It does not include food and drinks (not already provided for during the Conference) or any other study expenses associated with travel and attendance.

Email your application to Tanya.Passa@casus.com.au by no later than 2 August 2013 or phone 08 8950 9300 or visit the website at <http://2013indianball.org.au> for more information.

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Santa Teresa boys stand tall and play ball

Ten boys from Ltyentye Apurte Catholic School in Santa Teresa played basketball against teams from all over Australia in the 24th Annual Marist Schools Basketball Carnival in Alice Springs.

"I thought it was a great opportunity for our boys to broaden their horizons and build bridges with schools from all around Australia" said Santa Teresa teacher Peter Dempster.

"It would be really good for the competition to have an all Indigenous team competing."

The Santa Teresa boys had a height disadvantage, as Ltyentye Apurte Catholic School has no secondary classes and the basketball team was made up almost entirely of Year 8 boys.

"Every opposition team seemed like the Harlem Globetrotters," Mr Dempster said.

"What they lacked in height however, the Santa Teresa boys made up for in heart, showing enormous courage and tenacity in every game."

He said there were a few challenges in getting kids to the Carnival, but once there, the boys grew in confidence and skills, almost scoring an upset victory in their final match.

They were ably led by captain Rhys Ullamari and MVP Graham Abbot who scored close to 100 points over the three days.



Ltyentye Apurte Catholic School basketballers from left, Floyd Spratt, Simon Bloomfield, Nicholas Flowers, Scott Young, Rhys Ullamari, Helaman Ryder, Graham Abbot, Mumpy Conway, Robert Ryder and Dallas Williams, pictured with Wol and Deng from Assumption College, Kilmore at the recent Marist Schools Basketball Carnival, Alice Springs.

Footy carnivals out west



DOCKER RIVER

The Docker River Sports Carnival was held in the last week of the holiday program.

It was a busy week for the

youth team, motivating people to get out especially to football training, while the girls softball rolled on well.

Numbers dipped off a bit in the week leading up to

the sports carnival, but enough showed up to still have the training runs.

It was a massive weekend with six teams arriving for the carnival and three rounds of games before

the finals.

Docker was knocked out early in the finals and Mutitjulu went on to take home the major prize.

WARAKUNA

The Warakuna Sports weekend was a big success, with teams from as far away as Yuendumu attending.

The carnival also included softball and a band night in the rec hall. The Shire youth workers helped out with organising and barbecues.

Docker River's NPY youth team had given the community's football program a boost.

The Docker ladies had enough players to field a team but the weather turned them off, while the fellas were so keen it looked as though Docker had enough players for two teams.

Docker played well in early matches, beating Jameson and Wanarn but then lost heavily to Yendumu.

At the knockout stage of the competition, the team came up against Jameson who had already played 3 games that morning.

In an exciting finish, scores were level by the end of the allotted minutes so the game went into extra time.

Docker were four points ahead when Ricardi from Blackstone took a mark on the siren to take a set shot at goal from 30m out on a slight angle, which he had no trouble doing.



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Photo: Arrernte Man, identity unknown Photographed at the Old Telegraph Station, Mbantua. By Spencer and Gillen in 1901. Photo: Music Outback Foundation courtesy of James Henry