

Batchelor media unit turns 21



At 4pm, in 1987, the first broadcast from the Radio Rum Jungle studios at the now Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education, made it on to the local airwaves.

Twenty one years later, teachers, lecturers, students, past and present, and some special guests made it to the Indigenous media unit on campus at Batchelor, south of Darwin, to celebrate more than two decades of Indigenous media training and production.

One of the first broadcasters, Jenny Geia, now a nurse in Queensland, recalled the first broadcast and paid tribute to media pioneers who had passed away.

Former students and teachers including Wayne Wharton and Wayne Bynder, joined the new breed of Indigenous broadcasters

who come to Batchelor from all over the Northern Territory to boost their communication skills.

Special guests included the legendary Jimmy Little and, B2M of the Tiwi Islands, who performed on campus.

The celebration also saw the launch of Radio Rum Jungle's new outside broadcast van, which will enable coverage of community festivals and sporting events from the community itself.

Above: founding students Wayne Wharton, Jenny Geia and Wayne Bynder
Below: Rum Jungle's new outside broadcast van



Centre reopening reflects town camp resilience

The reopening of the Hidden Valley town camp community centre has rewarded the perseverance of camp residents who've seen the centre open and close several times.

The centre was reopened on October the 28th with the help of a \$200,000 one-off capital grant to upgrade its facilities. That grant represented the first major amount of money to be spent on the building in its 20 year history.

Its features include a children's playground, a colourful tile mosaic welcoming visitors and an orchard.

Tangentyere Council's director William Tilmouth told a gathering of about 50 people at the centre's opening, "It is a valuable asset to the community which we are all proud of.

"We acknowledge and thank all those involved," he said.

The centre acts as a multi-purpose family resource centre for the residents of the Alice Springs town camp and is funded by the Commonwealth Government's Stronger Families and Communities Initiative.

Hidden Valley town camp resident Austin Turner said residents have worked on the refurbishment of the centre.

"Planting trees and we did some paintings inside and outside and the Aborigine decoration out the front and the vegetables and we've got an orchard here outside with mandarin, lemon and orange. Some citrus," he said.

Cheryl McMillan is a support worker at the centre. She said the new works at the centre have made it a more pleasant and useful facility for residents.

"There's lots of little trees growing up around the front," she said. "There's lots of people that come around. Do painting, also sitting

Top: (adults from left) Stella McMillan, Alicia John, Austin Turner and Brian Turner with (children left to right) Pristina Charles and Willy Charles at the opening of the Hidden Valley town camp community centre. Below: Austin Turner, Jamila White and Jamila's grandmother Cheryl McMillan cook kangaroo tails at the opening of the Hidden Valley Community Centre in Alice Springs.



inside watching TV, especially when there's a children's program on," she said.

Mr Tilmouth said many people had contributed to the reopening of the centre, but he reserved special praise for the town camp.

"In the minds of people, this is a really big step in being able to do something for themselves," Mr Tilmouth said.

The day's festivities included a performance by Drum Atweme school drummers, a broadcast by CAAMA Radio and a barbecue including kangaroo tails.