

THE WARLPIRI BUY THEIR POOL

There was great excitement as the residents of Yuendumu finally opened their long awaited pool in October this year.

CLC Director David Ross said the community had put in a huge effort.

"People at Yuendumu have wanted a swimming pool for 30 years and their decision to spend royalties to help get one is a wise investment for the community's future," Mr Ross said.

"The community put in \$400,000 of their royalty money from a nearby mine to bring their dream to reality.

"The Mt Theo Substance Misuse Aboriginal Corporation has done a fantastic job fundraising and managing the project," Mr Ross said.

"Warlukurlangu Artists put in a substantial amount of money and philanthropic organisations also contributed generously."

Some of the funding came from the now defunct *Pools in Remote Areas* scheme. This scheme operated under a shared funding arrangement was a split between the Commonwealth Government, the Territory Government, and the Yuendumu Community.

The CLC was a member of the Steering Committee to manage the project

David Ross says the Land Council is working hard to persuade the royalty associations it helps administer take a more long term view of the money.

"Our job is to ensure that Aboriginal people get the best outcomes they can from those royalties," Mr Ross said.

"These mines won't be around forever and unless they spend some of that money on things that have long term benefits they could be left with nothing for their kids,"

"We have managed to persuade people to start spending money from land use agreements and rent on projects that will benefit the entire community," he said.



Above: Minister for Aboriginal Affairs Jenny Macklin cuts the ribbon to the pool; middle, left and right: it was really a kids day...
Above: Mt Theo founder Peggy Brown OAM