

making peace with the past

CONISTON

Eighty years after his father was killed in a brutal and cowardly attack by police, Johnny Nelson from Tennant Creek was able to finally put the past to rest.

More than 250 people travelled down the remote and sandy Jarra Jarra track to attend a ceremony commemorating 80 years since the 1928 Coniston Massacre in August this year.

Mr Nelson and many other Aboriginal people in the region affected by the events of 1928, have been asking for a memorial to be built at Athimpelengkwe (Baxters Well) 180 kilometres south west

of Tennant Creek for many years.

Athimpelengkwe was just one of the sites where massacres occurred.

The Central Land Council brought the project to reality with support from Newmont Gold, the Centre for Appropriate Technology in Alice Springs, Alekerange Council and Indigenous Community Volunteers.

Five years ago a similar ceremony was held at Yurrkuru (Brookes Soak) to commemorate 75 years since the massacre.

More Coniston Massacre resources at www.clc.org.au



Top: Johnny Nelson singing at the ceremony. Mr Nelson had pushed for many years to have the memorial built.

Above: Tommy Thompson.

Above left: The men opening the ceremony with songs from the area.

Left l-r: Lenny Nelson, Tommy Thompson, Joseph Thompson, Johnny Nelson, Valda Shannon, Amy Hatchees, Peggy Trailen and Ned Kelly.

