

Mustering team for hire



A group of men from Willowra are keen to form their own mustering team after they travelled to Tanami Downs near the West Australian border recently for a week's work mustering.

"It was pretty good," Paul Long said as he put the finishing touches on the donkey fence the men have built at Willowra. "The money was good and we went out on bikes to get the cattle into the yards then we cut them out."

Maxie Martin has worked on cattle stations for much of his life and leads the team of five local men.

"We trucked off about 140 head of cattle from there and it was really good. They looked good too. We did seven days and I think we're going back in a few weeks. We've got a cattle business here and we want to make it really strong and have these young fellas working on it."

Maxie said that anybody wanting mustering work done should call the Willowra Council and leave a message for him to return their call. Telephone: (08) 8956 4820

Opal saves \$100 million and 13 lives in two years



Petrol sniffing in Central Australia has almost completely stopped thanks to the introduction of Opal fuel.

The fuel, developed by BP, has been a crucial weapon in the fight against petrol sniffing, which fell by 90 per cent after Opal was introduced into the region in 2005.

"Before Opal was rolled out, there were more than 500 petrol sniffers in this region, with seven deaths every year from sniffing.

The health and social problems caused by sniffing in the region cost the taxpayer an estimated \$78.9 million per year.

"When Opal replaced ULP fuel in the region, the residents of remote communities in the NT and Alice



Springs took the opportunity to stop their young people sniffing and have so far kept it out of their home communities" said Blair McFarland the Co-ordinator of the Central Australian Youth Link Up Service.

"We estimate that 13 lives have been saved by the introduction of Opal and through community actions," he said.

Hundreds take to the streets in Darwin for NAIDOC

Around 300 Aboriginal and Islander people, and their supporters, made their presence felt in the CBD of Darwin at this year's NAIDOC celebrations, held on July 4.

Traditional owners and staff of the Northern Land Council joined the Top End's other peak Indigenous organisations such as Danila Dilba, AMSANT, and the Larrakia Nation, in marching through the city centre to Raintree Park, where speakers debated the pros and

cons of the Federal Intervention, and the national apology to the Stolen Generations by the Federal Government on 13 February.

The theme for this year is 'Advance Australia Fair: Saying Sorry was the First Step'.

NLC chairman Wali Wunungmurra said NAIDOC Week celebrations in the Northern Territory and across Australia provided an opportunity for Indigenous Australians to be proud of their language, song, ceremony, dance and law.

"It is my hope that this time of year provides strength to Indigenous Australians struggling with their living conditions," Mr Wunungmurra said.

"It is a time to remember our history of standing up for our rights, the gains we've made, and the challenges ahead."

Activities in Darwin and Palmerston included a church service, flag raising ceremony, art competitions, baby competition, and a NAIDOC ball at the newly-



opened Darwin Convention Centre.