

# Lights on at Ulpanyali

# KURRPARRU TOURS



Solar arrays installed at Ulpanyali are part of a hybrid solar power system that is saving the community thousands of dollars.



Tourists were given a taste of real home cooking by new tour company Kurrparru Tours.

An award winning hybrid solar power system has enabled the small community of Ulpanyali near Kings Canyon to save thousands of dollars a year on diesel.

The Centre for Appropriate Technology (CAT)/Bushlight hybrid solar community power system supplies power to five houses, three shelters, a workshop and an ablution block and will supply power to a newly renovated workshop/garage and an artists' studio.

The project has helped the Ulpanyali residents to save money, eat healthier and drink more water.

"Before Bushlight we used two drums (of diesel) per week. Now we use about one drum each month at most," resident Julie Clyne said.

"Now we spend less money on fuel for cars for shopping because we don't have to go to town as much.

"We know we can keep cheese and milk cold with the fridges on all the time.

"We don't have to buy ice from the (Kings Canyon) resort anymore- it costs \$5 a bag.

"Water from the taps is too hot in summer because the pipes are too close to the ground. Now that we have fridges all the time, the kids are drinking more cold water from the fridge," Ms Clyne said.

It has been a long standing desire of the community to have proper power.

Initially Ulpanyali was going to pay for their power supply from the electricity grid out of community development funds from the CLC's Uluru Rent Money Community Development Project.

In this project, Uluru Kata Tjuta National Park traditional owners dedicate about half of the money they receive in rent payments from the park to community development projects.

They agreed to allocate \$145,000 to the traditional owners who live at Ulpanyali to connect to the Kings Canyon grid.

The CAT/Bushlight system proved the cheaper and easier option, but it still cost more than the rent money could cover.

The Australian Government finally agreed to make a substantial contribution and an NT Government rebate kicked in.

The CAT/Bushlight system cost \$486,909, the Northern Territory Government Renewable Energy Rebate Program provided a rebate of nearly \$190,000 on the total cost and the Uluru traditional owners provided their \$145,000 to see the system installed and up and running.

The project has won an award at the recent ATRAA (Appropriate Technology Retailers Association of Australia) conference in Canberra.

Bushlight and the installer, Rede Ogden (Ogden Electrical), won a joint award for the design and installation of the system.

The community of Ulpanyali, near the Central Australian tourist attraction, Kings Canyon, recently hosted three separate groups of young tourists on educational trips.

Led by Micah-Jo Laughton of recently formed Indigenous tour

company Kurrparru Tours, the tourists got a real taste of Aboriginal life in Central Australia.

Some had mixed feelings about killing and cooking a few unlucky echidnas and kangaroos. Nonetheless they enjoyed chucking spears and eating other bush tucker and they all enjoyed a culture camp

at the outstation led by family members.

Each group did the Canyon Rim walk led by Micah. The tours were such a big success that two groups are hoping to repeat the experience next year.

## Contemporary tourism seen through the eyes of traditional owners

The aim of the first Thakeperte Tourism Development Forum was to explore Aboriginal tourism through the eyes of traditional owners of Central Australia.

Held north of Alice Springs over two days in June, the forum brought together traditional owners to discuss and plan for tourism development on their land.

Organised by the Central Land Council in collaboration with Tourism NT and consultant Paul Mitchell, 26 traditional owners attended the forum at the Thakeperte outstation of Stephen and Gloria McCormack and their family.

The forum discussed how tourism has developed on Aboriginal land and provided traditional owners with insights into tourism trends, market

expectations and the expansion of the local industry. The forum also provided the CLC's tourism development officers, who represent traditional owners with interests in tourism, with direction for the next year.

Training and capacity building programs have been identified for traditional owners along with planning assistance for clients in need of feasibility studies and clients developing business plans.

A feature of the forum was a session allowing participants to identify key principles that should underpin their tourism developments. It was also decided to try and attract more young people to tourism ventures and development forums.

The next forum will be held in September at the Lilla outstation.