

ALCOHOL TEARS ALPARRA APART

Alparra store manager Alan Poole and his family had their permits to remain at Utopia immediately revoked at a community meeting in May after five young men, one as young as 15, admitted that Mr Poole's daughter Emily had supplied them with alcohol and gunja which they drank and used at her house.

Mr Poole also acknowledged drinking alcohol at his house at the community even though it is a dry area under the intervention legislation.

The meeting was called to address the behavioural problems stemming from the illegal supply of alcohol into the community and concerns about the behaviour of the store manager and his family.

While Alan Poole was recently fined for drink-driving in the Alparra Community and his daughter Emily Poole fined \$2000 for transporting liquor, they continue to live and run the store at Alparra against the wishes of many people in community.

According to a letter sent by the Urupuntja Council to Indigenous Affairs Minister Jenny Macklin, the situation has worsened with children as young as 13 found "drunk and vomiting" while the police apparently do nothing.

While the store manager and his family were allowed to leave the community without being questioned, the police immediately took

the personal details of the youths involved.

The Urupuntja Council wrote to Minister Macklin: "This apparent inaction seems even more farcical when, at the same time, police have raided the premises of local Aboriginal people and invariably have them in court immediately after any offence. It appears to us that the application of the law follows a decidedly different course for our people.

"This all seems particularly ludicrous when the only significant capital expenditure in our area that can be attributed to your intervention is a new police station."

The Minister finally replied to the Council on August 6 suggesting that the store manager's behaviour may result in the store losing its license which would mean it would no longer be able to accept the Basics Card.

The whole affair, says the Urupuntja Council, has "deeply divided our people through intimidation, misinformation and what appears to be total defiance of key elements of (your) intervention."

FREEDOM DAY # 43

"Even now they play the Paul Kelly song. That puts that old man's name really big."

Robert Roy, the organiser of Freedom Day celebrations in Kalkaringi remembers the impact Paul Kelly and Kev Carmody's song 'From Little Things Big Things Grow' has had on maintaining the legend of Vincent Lingiari and the Wave Hill Walk Off.

The community recently celebrated the 43rd anniversary of the walk off, which is credited for the launching of the land rights campaign and equal pay for Aboriginal people.

Mr Roy said young people

in the Kalkaringi area have a strong awareness of the struggle and the benefits it brought their generation.

"The school has educational stuff on the land rights," Mr Roy said. "They've taken a bus out to the old station, Wave Hill station.

A survivor of the Wave Hill Walk Off struggle, Jimmy Wavehill, said it gave Aboriginal people a chance at a brighter future.

"Because the old people made it good for our future," he said. "We have a big celebration.

Neglect by major parties leads to creation of Aboriginal party

An Aboriginal activist and the deputy chair of the Central Land Council Maurie Ryan is creating a political party to represent Aboriginal people because the Labor and Liberal parties have failed to.

Mr Ryan said Labor and the Coalition nationally and Labor and the Country Liberals in the Northern Territory have all failed Aboriginal people.

"Ever since Cook landed here in 1788 to the creation of the constitution in 1901 to the present day there is no political party that represents the first nations people of this country," Mr Ryan said. "All the others are created for different reasons, for different people.

Mr Ryan said now's the time for Aboriginal people to take up representation of themselves in their own political party as other Indigenous peoples have done in other countries.

"If you look at other countries to the east of us you have the Maori, to the west of us you have the ANC and many other African nations, to the north of us many other Indigenous nations," he said.

"So why not an Indigenous party that represents all Austral-



ians over 18 years-of-age and on the electoral role?"

He said the party will be known as the First Nations Party and will have a focus on addressing the exclusion and displacement of Indigenous people in Australia, the intervention of their cultures and the sovereignty of their land, but will be open for people of all walks of life to join and participate in.

"I'm not saying I have the monopoly on it but I'm giving another choice to all Australians who call Australia home," Mr Ryan said.

"I don't care what race you are, what creed, what religion, it's open to anybody."

Mr Ryan said he's not the first to call for a political party to be established with the primary goal of representing Aboriginal people and rejects criticism from some quarters that an Aboriginal party is a racist step.

He said if none of the other parties will represent Aboriginal people fairly then they must do it themselves.

Mr Ryan said the political power struggles fought in Darwin in recent months haven't led to houses being built, the health of Aboriginal people improving or any other advances.

"You cannot compromise your Aboriginality, I am what I am you are what you are, we are all Territorians and we are all Australians so I'm asking everybody or anybody who wants to join to join and go to the Australian Electoral Commission.

"It's exciting times and it will happen, it's just a matter of time."

Above: Maurie Ryan with the flag of his new party