

# Mungkarta traditional owners go corporate

Traditional owners at Mungkarta, south of Tennant Creek, have instructed the Central Land Council to set up a corporation using any cleanskin cattle from the west side of the Mungkarta and Mungkarta 2 Aboriginal Land Trust as start up funds.

The Mungkarta Cattleman's Aboriginal Corporation was formed on the 15th of October last year (2008).

The traditional owners raised the idea of setting up their own corporation when agreeing to the grazing license with Wally Klein and Kevin McGrath.

Under the agreement, provision was made for a paddock to be set aside for the traditional owners' own enterprise with the licensee agreeing to help the traditional owners to maintain their herd.

A business development officer was provided under the Indigenous Pastoral Program (IPP) to work with interested traditional owners to help them achieve their goals through training in governance, the relevant act governing the corporation and to advise on business practises.

The traditional owners' plan involves starting off with a small



**A community meeting with the lessees at Mungkharta last year**

herd of 50 to 60 cattle while learning how to set up accounts, pay invoices, set up a budget and then sticking to it, fencing, bore set ups and maintenance, mustering, branding and then how to tag and sell the stock.

Corporation members have chosen their own brand and earmark and are now waiting for the licensee to do a full muster to find out how many cleanskins there are.

It's a learning process that covers all aspects of managing and running a cattle station so that at the end of the current lease the traditional owners might be in a position to take over from the current licensee or employ an experienced manager they might give direction to.

The members of the Mungkarta Cattleman's Aboriginal Corporation are a mix of younger men and women and older men.

The younger women have ambitions of being involved in the paperwork side of the business as many of them have better literacy and numeracy levels.

Members have identified that literacy and numeracy training is needed for all of them and having a real and obvious purpose to learn has given them the motivation to dedicate themselves to that.

Ongoing support will be provided to the corporation by the IPP, CLC and the Northern Territory Department of Regional Development, Primary Industry, Fisheries and Resources.

## New CDEP body to lobby for improvements

Aboriginal organisations that deliver CDEP throughout the Northern Territory have come together to form a new reference group and advocacy body.

CDEP Communities NT (CCNT) has been formed out of concern over proposed CDEP reforms by the Federal Government.

CCNT steering committee member Waturr Gumana, from Gan Gan Homelands, located inland from Blue Mud Bay, said the group is committed to improving CDEP in remote Aboriginal communities in the Northern Territory.

"We believe CDEP works in our communities and our Homelands," Mr Gumana said.

"We know our CDEP organisations are owned and managed by our people, for our people, in our own communities, and we need to value this knowledge."

Gumana said Aboriginal people wanted to manage their own communities and determine their own future.

"I believe that a strong CDEP is able to create strong community," he said.

"We want to encourage all Aboriginal CDEP organisations to be the best they can be and we will support them."

CDEP Communities NT is made up of the following communities and organisations:

Tangentyere Council (Alice Springs), Laynhapuy Homelands (Arnhem Land), Kalano (Katherine), Jabiru, Bawinanga (Manningrida), Ramingining, Papulu Apparr-Kari (Tennant Creek), Ingkerreke Outstation Resource Services, Tjuwanpa (Hermannsburg), Mabunji Aboriginal Resource Centre (Borrooloola), Marthakal Homelands Resource Centre (Galiwinku), Mungoodba (Robinson River), and Pep-pimenarti.



**Members of the NLC at a recent Full Council meeting in Darwin**