NEW JOBS IN TITJIKALA

EPENARRA CHURCH OPENS
NEW LEADERSHIP
SKILLS FOR MT LIEBIG
MAPPING THE LANDER RIVER
GETTING HOMELAND
KIDS TO SCHOOL
SELF-DIALYSIS IN LAJAMANU
MUSIC GREATS SHARE SKILLS
EDUCATION IN THE
SPOTLIGHT AT GARMA
WALPIRI STUDENTS EXPERIENCE THE WORLD

Aboriginal development
in Central Australia
SUMMER 2014
A better sports ground is the latest improvement that people in Titjikala are making with community lease money—and it’s not only sport that’s benefiting.

Residents have been working with the CLC’s Community Development Unit on projects funded with lease money since 2012. So far they’ve allocated more than $326,000 to them. They decided upgrading their football oval and softball fields would create employment opportunities and enable them to hold sports carnivals.

Local men Andrew Wilyuka, Geoffrey Campbell, George Summerfield, Francis Penhall and Bonaventure Campbell have been working with Tangentyere Constructions on the sports ground.

“We had jobs taken from us, so it’s good that we created our own jobs with our lease money,” Andrew said.

“It’s important young fellas get training so they can get jobs. We’ve got some getting trained at the moment.”

Titjikala people are looking forward to inviting other communities to enjoy the new facilities.

“We’re going to have a sports carnival when the oval works are finished and that will bring more money into the community,” said Andrew.

Concerned about a lack of activities in Titjikala, residents also decided to establish their own rec hall, and have purchased a pool table and band equipment with disco lights.

“We bought this equipment to give people something to do and keep kids out of trouble,” local band member Darren Wilyuka said.

Desmond Jack is also happy to see people using the new equipment.

**Community Lease Money Project Facts:**

The CLM Project started in 2012, after two new income streams started to flow:

- Five year lease money: the one off compensation payment the CLC negotiated with the Commonwealth for the compulsory leases it took out over communities during the five years of the Intervention.
- 40 year (Section 19) lease money: Government organisations and service providers now pay annual rent for the blocks they lease in communities.
- Traditional owners of 31 communities across the CLC region are using some of their five year lease money for community benefit. Many are also putting their 40 year lease money towards these projects.
- 29 communities are doing projects with support from the CLC’s Community Development Unit.
- Projects are now happening in most communities to deliver broad benefits. These include school excursions, water infrastructure, church buildings, health transport solutions, upgrades to sports and recreation facilities.
Money made from the coin-operated pool table goes towards another local project – looking after the community bus. The community has also bought new football jumpers for the Titjikala Hawks and paid the team’s CAFL registration fees for the past two seasons.

People in Titjikala are planning more projects to improve their lives. As Andrew Wilyuka described the process so far: “We’re making our own decisions about what we think is best for our community.”
Epenarra community marked the opening of their church extension in August with a community celebration including dance performances by local kids. People came from as far as Tennant Creek and Alice Springs to help celebrate.
Church member Deborah Dickinson helped with preparations for the big day. “I did the choreography and taught the dances to the kids,” she said. “We’ll do this all the time – every Christmas and Easter”.

Senior Epenarra resident Mark Peterson said the community was celebrating the church opening celebration “in honour of the old people no longer with us”.

In 2013 residents decided to use $200,000 of their five-year lease money to extend the existing church by putting in a big concrete slab with a roof over it. A fence around the new structure keeps kids safe from cars, and fans keep people cool in summer.

The upgrades also include lights and new band equipment, which arrived just in time on the night of the opening celebration.

LOCAL RESIDENT SHIRLEY BEASLEY SAID:

“WE DECIDED THAT THE CHURCH WAS THE MOST IMPORTANT THING TO SPEND OUR MONEY ON”.

People hope the improvements to the church will bring the community together more often and create more community harmony. Local men Craiglyn Glenn and Stewart Beasley worked with builder Bill Farrand on the construction.
Families young and old travelled hundreds of kilometres to enjoy healthy fun and top-quality football, with Kintore (Division One) and Hermannsburg (Division Two) winning their grand finals by a few points.

The softball games were also hard-fought, with Laramba winning the A-grade and the local girls from Warren Creek taking home the B-grade trophy.

The evening entertainment was a great success, including gospel singers, the famous Tjintu Desert Band and local young women skilfully playing the new musical instruments from the Mt Liebig music project.

“It was palya lingku!” said community lease money working group member Norma Kelly.

Mt Liebig community members devoted $16,500 of their community lease money to fund the sports weekend. This project was managed by the Animparrinpi Yututju Aboriginal Women’s Corporation, which supported community members to buy uniforms, sports equipment, trophies and injury prevention equipment.

“We were really happy with our sports weekend,” local resident and key sports weekend organiser Melvin Malbunka said.

“There were some very strong footballers out there playing, and the standard of the competition was high. The entertainment was fun, and the girls played great music!”

“It was great that we used our money for this weekend and shared it with the whole community. They have new equipment to play with. I felt really proud of our young people,” she said.
Audrey Turner and Carol Peterson were funded by their community to go to a three-day education forum in Melbourne in May.

The Mt Liebig community lease money working group approved $4,520 of its five-year lease money for the trip, as a way to bring new skills in managing interpersonal issues in the community.

The education forum included sessions on leadership, creating positive change, learning and exploring different ways of working together.

Audrey and Carol have already put their new skills to good use in Mt Liebig by working with other residents to successfully manage difficult situations. They are also passing them on to other residents to help build a stronger, happier community.

While in Melbourne, the women also watched the St Kilda football team train.

AFTER SEEING THE TEAM’S HARD WORK, AUDREY TURNER SAID: “STANDING UP TO END FIGHTING IN THE COMMUNITY TAKES THAT SAME COURAGE AS ST KILDA TO KEEP PLAYING WHEN THEY ARE BEING THRASHED.”

A TRUE LEADER KEEPS ON STANDING FOR MAKING A DIFFERENCE AND NEVER GIVING UP, NO MATTER WHAT. ONLY A TEAM UNITED TOGETHER CAN WIN THE MATCH.”
The music gets better every day at Papunya and Mt Liebig – and it’s live!

Aboriginal people at these two communities have decided to use some of their community lease money for music projects to support their young people.

They were concerned about the lack of opportunities for young people to learn new skills and keep busy after school and on weekends.

They realised there were many skilled musicians in the community who could teach young people how to play musical instruments and write songs if they had the right equipment.

Papunya’s community lease money working group approved $43,000 of its five-year lease money for a three-year music and video project. Mt Liebig community members allocated $24,000 from their section 19 money for a three-year music project. Both projects have set funds aside to look after the music equipment for three years.

With the right equipment now available, senior men in both communities have been passing on their musical skills.

The young musicians have since been playing at community events and gospel nights to entertain families.

People have said they feel happy listening to music and that they love seeing the young people playing the instruments and keeping safe and happy.

PAPUNYA LEADS ON SCHOOL ATTENDANCE FOR OUTSTATION KIDS

Papunya people have created their own public transport system so children in outstations can get to school more easily.

Community members decided to use up to $90,000 of their five-year lease money to buy and maintain a mini-bus for the service.

The bus also helps older outstation residents to come to the community clinic.

Papunya community lease money working group member Linda Anderson said: “It’s good to use this money in a proper way, a healthy way, and to see the good outcomes for our children. Then we have community pride.”

The project has strong community ownership, with many Papunya residents involved.

The service has three main parts:

- School pickups – the mini-bus travels to Ulumbarru, Black Water and Green Valley outstations to pick up school children and drop them home. Local residents Sheila Inkamala, Alfrieda Minor and Florence Brown have been working hard as the school attendance officers, organising pick-ups and helping increase school attendance to 80-90 a day.
- Local RJCP program workers work as bus drivers taking older people to and from the clinic and shopping.
- The Papunya Community Store manages the project and arranges maintenance and repairs to keep the service going.

Papunya has also used some of its community lease money for a music project, sports ground upgrade and a community kitchen.

CLC Deputy Chairman and community leader Sammy Butcher said: “We want to show everyone that we are leading the way here in Papunya, doing good things with our money!”
DAGURAGU BASKETBALL COURT THE PRIDE OF FREEDOM DAY FESTIVAL

For the last twelve months Daguragu community members have been planning and overseeing a basketball court upgrade and the construction of a stage, their first project funded from community lease money, in time for the 2014 Freedom Day Festival.

This annual event celebrates the seven year strike by Gurindji stockmen in the 1960’s.

The Freedom Day Festival brings locals and visitors together in ceremony and remembrance services. There are also basketball and football competitions and discos and bands in the evenings.

This year Daguragu community were proud to provide good quality facilities for their visitors to compete and perform on. “Every visitor that came to community enjoyed the lights and the equipment, the stage, what the traditional owners did,” says Damien Palasco King. “They are looking forward to coming again next year.”

Daguragu community have worked together to plan the resurfacing of their outdoor basketball court, the installation of lighting and grandstand seating, and the construction of a stage for local bands to play on.

With support from the CLC’s Community Development Unit community members discussed possible problems and found solutions to finish their plans. They also developed a plan to buy and manage band equipment for use on special occasions like the Freedom Day Festival. The community allocated $95,517 of their community lease money to the basketball court and stage, $30,000 to the ongoing power supply for the court and stage, and $18,000 to buy band equipment.

Marjorie King says, “Everything’s been right. Now we want to do the oval up properly.” Elmore Anzac agrees, “we want better facilities next year, we need that oval done up properly, fix up the oval, put up lights, grandstand.”

As their elders did before them, Daguragu community members continue to put their ideas and energy into improving the lives of current and future generations of Gurindji.
SYLVANNIA LEADS THE WAY ON SELF-DIALYSIS IN LAJAMANU

For most Aboriginal people on renal dialysis, life is tough. Living at home in a remote community usually isn’t an option.

The CLC is supporting a partnership between the Kurra Aboriginal Corporation and the Western Desert Nganampa Walytja Palyantjaku Tjutaku Aboriginal Corporation (WDNWPT) to run a dialysis service in Yuendumu and Lajamanu. On top of the money Kurra has put in, the NT and Commonwealth Governments also provide funding.

This service helps dialysis patients while they are living in town and helps them to return home for up to eight weeks, three times a year. In 2014 this support expanded to include teaching a committed young woman to do her own dialysis.

Like most renal patients, Sylvannia Martin from Lajamanu needs dialysis for five hours, three times a week. Doing her own dialysis, with the support of WDNWPT’s renal nurses, allows Sylvannia to live a normal life at home with her family. In fact, she has just come home with the women’s basketball trophy from the Freedom Day Festival where her team, the Wulaign Blues, won.

26 year old Sylvannia is one of a small but growing group of Aboriginal people from remote communities to take the big step to self-dialysis. She says, “When I first started here, I looked away from the needle.” But now she can explain what most buttons and cords on the machine do. She talks through the steps with confidence but still says she is “a bit scared”.

“I was away in Darwin for three years. It was sad and hard living in Darwin.” But she is all smiles now. Sylvannia talks about what will happen when she finishes learning how to dialyse herself: “They tell me I can have my own machine”.

For now, Sylvannia’s learning gives her freedom and options to travel, including to basketball comps. Sylvannia is taking control of her treatment and her life. She says “other people say they want to do it too. Maybe when I get better at it, I can show you too!”

Sylvannia preparing to do her own dialysis

Sylvannia Martin (front left) with her winning basketball team at the Freedom Day Festival
Willowra kids will be able to keep cool this summer after cooling units were put on two of the school’s water bubblers.

The local GMAAAC Committee provided funding for the bubblers to be put into the school in 2011 and the committee has now provided an extra $11,000 for cooling units.

Committee members hope that now that the water is lovely and cool, kids will drink more water during the summer months and keep themselves healthy and hydrated.

This is a great example of how Warlpiri involved in GMAAAC make sure the projects they fund are going well and fix things up if they need to. Aboriginal groups like the Willowra GMAAAC Committee are keeping an eye on their projects to make sure the community benefits are flowing.

A very large and colourful map is slowly taking shape in the Willowra Learning Community Centre. The map is being made by Willowra families through the WETT-funded Lander River Mapping Project.

When it is finished the map will show traditional countries extending the length of the Lander River from Mt Denison and Coniston in the south to Lake Surprise in the north. Layers of information are being recorded on the map including important cultural sites belonging to Willowra families.

Senior traditional owners are guiding younger community members through the design and painting of the map. They are showing people’s connections to each other through the use of family trees and traditional knowledge. The map project is providing a great opportunity for the community to work together on an important cultural and educational resource for future generations.

The project is being supported by anthropologist Petronella Vaarzon-Morel, CLC anthropologist Luke Kelly and artist and writer Kim Mahood. The finished map will be kept at the Willowra Learning Centre where it will be used to teach young people about country and culture.

The GMAAAC Code of Conduct

The GMAAAC directors have adopted a formal agreement on how to work together in a good way.

It was developed from ideas from all GMAAAC community committees and includes:

- Avoiding conflict of interest;
- Acceptable behaviour;
- Making fair decisions;
- Using power in a responsible and proper way; and
- Being a good leader (who listens, cares for the community and people, speaks up for them and lets them know what GMAAAC is doing).

The Code of Conduct will support committees to keep their community projects going strong.

Willowra school students quench their thirst at the newly chilled water bubblers.
Yuendumu teenager Shenelle Collins has a new view of the world after a once-in-a-lifetime trip to Hawaii for the 2014 World Indigenous People’s Conference on Education (WIPCE).

Shenelle was one of five talented Indigenous students from Victoria’s Worawa Aboriginal College selected to attend the annual conference. A boarding student at Worawa, she received financial support from the Warlpiri Education Training Trust’s (WETT) Secondary School Support Project to attend the conference.

“IT CHANGED MY EYES, HAWAII WAS CROWDED AND BUSY. IT MADE ME THINK OF MY MUM WHEN THEY SANG BEAUTIFUL SONGS. IT WAS SPECIAL FOR ME THINKING THAT SHE WAS STILL BESIDE ME LIKE A SPIRIT TO GUIDE ME. IT MADE ME FEEL MORE PROUD OF MY OWN CULTURE AND MADE ME LEARN MORE AND MADE ME STRONGER”

SHENELLE SAID.

Shenelle took part in cultural dances from all over the world, including Native American and Hawaiian dances, spoke about her school and culture at a public forum, attended the WIPCE Youth Day and went on a cultural excursion to a nearby village.

Lois Peeler, Principal of Worawa Aboriginal College, said: “Shenelle showed remarkable progress in every way during the week in Hawaii. She has continued to dedicate herself to her own education and future since returning.”

Donisha Granites and Kiara-Anne Dempsey from Yuendumu also attend Worawa with annual support from WETT. Donisha, a talented netball and basketball player, has been selected to participate in a sporting and cultural exchange to New Zealand in 2015. Kiara-Ann is in the Worawa Choir and has been nominated to go to Gallipoli next year for the Centenary Remembrance Day Service.

Congratulations to all of Worawa’s Warlpiri students for their high achievements this year!

The WETT Trustee, the Kurra Aboriginal Corporation, provides funding to support up to 40 Warlpiri secondary students attending boarding schools each year.
WARLPIRI WOMEN SPEAK UP AT GARMA FESTIVAL

More than 400 people came to hear what Warlpiri and other Central Australian women had to say about remote education at this year’s Garma Festival in Arnhem Land.

Valerie Patterson and Sharon Anderson from Lajamanu are passionate about education and very involved with the Warlpiri Education and Training Trust (WETT). With funding from WETT and support from the Cooperative Research Centre for Remote Economic Participation, they co-presented with other Aboriginal educators from Central Australia.

Valerie and Sharon talked about the importance of teaching Warlpiri children in their own language and Indigenous people having a say in how education is delivered.

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She added, “We have seen with our own eyes the benefits of teaching young children to speak, sing, read and write in their mother tongue, Warlpiri, first before moving on to do the same in English. Our children can learn strong Warlpiri and strong English.”

She also said that it’s very important that there are Warlpiri teachers who can deliver these programs with support from teachers trained in teaching English as a second language. Valerie and Sharon also talked about the programs that WETT supports and Sharon said, “what we are doing gives new solutions”.

Many people came and congratulated the ladies on their great talk and powerful messages. Sharon and Valerie hope to go to Garma again next year, and plan to take some school kids to take part in the festival’s youth forum.

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MEETING PLACE FOR ALL WATARRKA TRADITIONAL OWNERS

A meeting place for traditional owners has been planned and funded using rent money from the Watarrka National Park.

The traditional owners of Watarrka National Park have taken the time to plan a comfortable and practical space for their own meetings on country.

By doing detailed planning with the CLC, Parks and Wildlife NT and the Centre for Appropriate Technology (CAT), the traditional owners have designed a much needed meeting place that will allow them to do their meeting and cultural business on country. It will include disabled access ramps and toilets, making sure everyone can use the space.

The traditional owners decided to put $400,425 of their rent money towards the design and construction of the shelter. They have also allocated $15,000 for future maintenance to make sure the meeting place is well looked after and lasts a long time.

CAT is managing the meeting place project and construction work will start soon.

THE WATER’S BACK AT WILLIAMS WELL

One of the traditional owner groups of the East MacDonnell Ranges National Parks has used $64,480 of its NT Parks rent money to improve the outstation of Williams Well, east of Alice Springs.

After heavy rains, Williams Well has been cut off for days at a time, but a causeway built with the funds will allow TOs to cross the nearby creek without the risk of getting bogged.

TOs also installed a new water tank, which will ensure a better water supply at Williams Well. Their next project will be to repair the remaining water lines to ensure no water is lost through leaks.

‘THESE WERE OUR IDEAS TO FIX UP WILLIAMS WELL, SO WE CAN MOVE BACK AND LOOK AFTER THAT COUNTRY FOR THE FUTURE OF OUR CHILDREN’ SAID TRADITIONAL OWNER HENRY OLIVER.

CAT has been working with TOs and the CLC to make the improvements so TOs can spend more time on their country and stay connected to their culture.
The CLC believes it is very important to keep looking at how the CD Program is going and has been ‘monitoring’ the work since 2009. In 2013 the monitoring focused on the NT Parks Rent Money Project and the Tanami Dialysis Support Service Project.

Independent consultant, Petronella Vaarzon-Morel, interviewed 89 Aboriginal men and women, plus 11 service providers, involved in the Parks and Dialysis Projects. The interviews were looked at together with reports from CLC CD staff and the organisations doing the projects.

The report shows that over $10 million was approved by Aboriginal people for community benefit initiatives across the CD Program in 2013.

Many Aboriginal people said they are happy with the projects they are funding and the way the CLC is supporting them. A traditional owner for the Karlu Karlu Conservation Reserve said, “This is great – the shade shelter and toilets... I love to come out here camping. Seeing this here – it shows this really is our place. We are quite happy with CLC.”

People also talked about the pride that comes from being able to make decisions about what is important.

“THE MONEY, IT MAKES US FEEL REALLY PROUD. IT MAKES US FEEL WE HAVE MORE POWER OVER WHAT WE CAN DO ABOUT THE PARKS AND KNOWING WE HAVE MONEY THERE TO SPEND IN A GOOD WAY” SAID A TRADITIONAL OWNER FOR EMILY AND JESSIE GAPS NATURE PARK.

The report also suggests ways to improve the work:
- Make sure projects keep adapting to suit the local context,
- Help projects last by always having a strong plan and ongoing funding,
- Work with other organisations to find ways to support Aboriginal groups to do longer-term projects that will achieve the outcomes Aboriginal people want.

The next step is for CLC staff and constituents to talk about these ideas and decide what changes to make, as well as to celebrate the good news that overall things are going well. For the full report please go to the CLC website; www.clc.org.au

NEW REPORT FINDS CLC’S CD PROGRAM IS CREATING POWER, PRIDE AND PRACTICAL OUTCOMES

Aboriginal people are in control of planning how to use their money and value the benefits from the many projects they are funding. These are two of the main messages from the 2013 Community Development (CD) Program Monitoring Report by Dr Linda Kelly from Praxis Consultants.

THE PURPLE TRUCK IS COMING

The purple dialysis truck is gearing up to travel out again to communities in the south west of the Northern Territory thanks to more funding from Anangu traditional owners.

The truck, managed by Western Desert Nganampa Walytja Palyantjaku Tjutaku Aboriginal Corporation (WDNWPT), will do six, one week long, trips to take dialysis patients living in Alice Springs back to their home communities.

The traditional owners of Uluru Kata-Tjuta National Park have approved $30,496 from the Uluru Rent Money Community Development Project for WDNWPT to do the project. This is the second time the group has funded this project. During the community visits a renal nurse will provide dialysis treatment using the two chairs on board the purpose built truck.

By taking people to spend time with family and on their country this great service is all about improving health outcomes for dialysis patients.
If you want to know more about the CLC’s Community Development Program please call 8951 6367.