ALICE NAIDOC 2013

YUENDUMU SPORTS

Lots of Babies

Australia’s Longest Running Aboriginal Newspaper proudly published by Central Land Council
The Sámi are the only Indigenous people of Scandinavia recognized and protected under the international conventions of indigenous peoples, and are the most northerly Indigenous people of Europe. The Sámi, once known as Laplanders, have lived for thousands of years in the freezing northern regions of Sweden, Finland, Norway and Russia.

The Sámi people in Norway, Finland and Sweden now have their own parliaments as part of efforts to protect their culture. Their traditional languages are the Sámi languages and are classified as a branch of the Uralic language family. Their best-known means of livelihood is semi-nomadic reindeer herding.
Tough new laws for Territory drunks

THE NT Government’s controversial mandatory rehabilitation scheme for alcoholics got underway last month, as a 49-year-old Alice Springs woman faced a Darwin tribunal over a satellite TV link.

The scheme means anyone who is taken into protective custody for drunkenness three times in two months will appear before a tribunal and have no specific entitlement to a lawyer.

The Alice Springs woman was represented in front of the tribunal by an employee of the Health Department.

Outcomes of the tribunal hearings are confidential and the names of “offenders” are withheld, but the tribunal had the choice of placing her in a residential program or referring her to a community care program.

Under the new law, people who fail to attend community-based care programs when directed will be locked up in a residential program for three months.

The Government has faced a barrage of criticism for the new law, its critics including the then Prime Minister Julia Gillard, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner Mick Gooda, the Australian Medical Association and the Aboriginal and Islander Peak Organisations Northern Territory (APONT).

Since it came into office last year, the NT Government has scrapped the Banned Drinkers Register, ditched the SMART Court and introduced the Alcohol Mandatory Treatment Laws.

Under the laws, if problem drinkers repeatedly abscond from rehabilitation programs they can face criminal charges.

One man who was detained for assessment for four days in Darwin has already fled four times to date, and Acting NT Health Minister John Elferink told the ABC that next time he was picked up he would be detained in a locked room.

In Darwin the alcohol detainees are housed in the Commonwealth-funded medi-hotel which was intended for the families of remote area patients in the Royal Darwin Hospital.

In Alice Springs they will be housed in the Alice Springs Prison grounds until an “appropriate” facility is made available.

Referring to the abolition of the Smart Court, outgoing Chief Magistrate Hilary Hannam said: “We have now nothing in the court system, not a single program, not for drugs, not for illicit drugs, not for alcohol, not for mental health, not for Indigenous people.”

APO NT says the lack of programs for alcohol and drug dependent offenders in both Darwin and Alice Springs defies international standards.

“Governments in the NT have been pursuing ‘tough on crime’ policies for decades, while rates of crime and imprisonment continue to rise, said APO NT spokesperson Mr. Noel Hayes.

“The number of young Aboriginal people in our prisons is a national disgrace.

“APO NT believes the Government’s strategy should include more diversionary options for courts.

“We call on the NT Government to introduce properly resourced, evidence-based programs to help people break the cycle of offending and reoffending,” he said.
Lajamanu

A derelict old building at Lajamanu has been transformed into a place where people can meet to keep their community strong.

Community residents, workers and dancers celebrated the opening of the Kurdi’s meeting area on May 20, after the building had been renovated using community-controlled mining royalty funds (GMAAAC).

The Kurdi group gives the Warlpiri community cultural ownership and governance of issues affecting the community.

Jerrry Jangala Patrick says the Kurdi members were really happy with the office opening because Yapa want to have their law recognised and live with the law the right way.

“Keep working with our people to make our way strong and bring our ideas in – to do things our way,” he said.

Nanginarra Elizabeth Nungarrayi Ross said Kurdi was becoming a strong voice for yapa, looking after family members and finding alternatives to prison.

CLC Deputy Chair Francis Kelly from Yuendumu said: “Kurdi is the main group to reach out to the other communities and government departments. It’s about self-determination, running our own affairs.”

The CLC has been providing assistance to the Kurdi through the Lajamanu governance project.

Above: CLC Deputy Chair Francis Kelly congratulates members of the Kurdiji Committee in Lajamanu.

Youth unemployment the lowest

Young people in remote communities are bearing the brunt of unemployment in the bush, a new report has found.

The report by the Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research at the Australian National University found that the employment of Indigenous youth (15-24 years) in remote areas was lower than that of Indigenous youth in non-remote areas. But older Indigenous residents in remote and non-remote areas had more similar employment rates, the report found.

The report said access to education for remote youth might be affecting their jobless rate.

While the mining boom had provided jobs for some Indigenous people, most of the increases in Indigenous employment Australia-wide between 2006 and 2011 have been in other industries.

Digital TV only next year

Digital TV will be the only kind of television in Australia within a few months.

Analog TV signals in remote central and eastern Australia will be switched off on 10 December 2013.

The Broadcasting Authority says people still watching an analog TV should replace it with a digital set or buy a set-top box with a built-in digital tuner.

Viewers may be able to get help at the Digital Ready Website (www.digitalready.gov.au) or the Digital Ready Information Line 1800 20 10 13.

Lhere Artepe regroup

ALICE Springs native title holders organisation Lhere Artepe is rebuilding after a “tumultuous period”, its executive says.

The Aboriginal corporation has announced it will initiate a ‘Right Foundations’ project to improve Lhere Artepe’s governance and re-engage members.

“Many elders have concerns about actions of past management and want to see good corporate governance brought back,” a spokesperson for the executive said.

“It is vital for the future of Alice Springs that Lhere Artepe is restored as the principle structure to ensure the traditional owners of Alice Springs have a voice in their own country.”

Under the proposal, three Kwertengerle or senior elders would be engaged to adjust, regulate and manage estate member groups. They will have administrative and transport support.

The spokesperson said a range of training and capacity building opportunities could take place under the project.

“Through this modest proposal the Corporation would seek to intensely engage with Arrernte Elders and Arrernte people to develop a momentum and a forum for Lhere Artepe to once again be the voice of the traditional authority structure of the Arrernte People,” the spokesperson said.

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No mining in Watarrka

TRADITIONAL owners of Watarrka National Park are “extremely worried” the NT Government could allow oil and gas exploration in the park by explorer Palatine Pty Ltd.

The group has told the Central Land Council it’s concerned about the impacts of exploration on the park, and is unconditionally opposed to it.

“Watarrka is special,” they said in a letter to local MLA Alison Anderson. “Many of us have worked hard to get small businesses off the ground that need tourists to survive.

“We are very proud of our young people getting work with national parks and know that the more tourists there are the more opportunities there will be.

The traditional owners said they were worried about the Park becoming a “drilling place, not a tourist place” if the exploration is allowed to go ahead.

The letter was signed by 11 senior traditional landowners.

Traditional owners have a duty to protect the unique values of the Park under joint management legislation and through traditional cultural obligations.

The exploration applications cover the entire Park and if granted, would lead to a range of exploration activity and could include hydraulic fracturing.

The Park hosts many significant cultural sites, is a popular tourist destination and supports a rich and diverse number of species and habitats. A number of threatened species are found there.

CLC Director David Ross said allowing exploration in Watarrka would cut across the core values of the joint management agreement.

“It is an extremely disturbing idea that violates the very idea of national parks,” Mr Ross said.

“I thought that the whole idea of declaring national parks was to protect those areas from this type of activity.”

Traditional owners have previously agreed to exploration in areas outside the national park.

NT Minister for Mines and Energy Hon Willem Rudolf Westra van Holthe MLA told the ABC the application would be considered in due course.

Self determination means real power

SELF-determination is back on the Indigenous political agenda after a governance summit in Tennant Creek in April.

Delegates discussed what self-determination would really mean for Aboriginal people in the NT and how they could take more steps towards it.

Central Land Council Director David Ross told the 200 people at the conference the concept had been “bastardised and shoved into the closet by governments.”

“But to me, it means having genuine decision-making power and responsibility about what happens on your lands, in your families and communities, in your governing systems, and in your future development,” he said.

He said the summit would be a wasted opportunity if “we only focus on what government should do for you”.

“I am most interested in what you can do for yourselves, how you determine your own future,” Mr Ross said.

Conference delegates focussed on several issues, including the need to engage and train young people in governance.

Some also thought that greater Aboriginal political representation through an Aboriginal political party would be a way of strengthening governance structures.

There was considerable discussion about taking on the responsibility that comes with more power. As one participant put it, “like the Kirda-Kurduku relationship – you can’t have one without the other.”

People talked about how disputes could disrupt good governance and the need for problems to be sorted out internally.

“We have to park past disagreements, leave them behind,” said AMSANT CEO John Paterson. “Talk good way, respectful and with a united voice.”

The need for reconciliation between and within families was another focus, described by Lajamanu man Geoffrey Barnes as “the basic building block to keeping law and culture strong.”

“We got to reach out and help each other. The vision for change comes from within,” Mr Barnes said.

“We need to be strong in the group to keep Yapa law up there, not down under.”

Respect for women – in everything, the Law, community, in business, as workers, at conferences – was emphasised by delegates. Respect was also needed for elders who are the teachers.

Case studies of successful organisations at the summit showed that a gradual long-term approach, taking responsibility and making the hard decisions when needed, was the best route to effective governance.

“You need to bring your community members along with you, not get out in front of them,” one delegate noted.

The recommendations from the summit emphasised the need for greater support for Aboriginal groups to develop good models of governance and management. These should meet requirements of government and funding bodies, as well as Aboriginal cultural needs.

The summit was convened by the Aboriginal Peak Organisations of the NT (APONT).
**Constitutional Recognition**

**VETERANS** of the "Kahlin Half Caste Children’s Home" in Darwin commemorated the 100th of its opening early in August.

The NT Stolen Generations Aboriginal Corporation (NTSAGC) hosted events that included a Kahlin boxing exhibition featuring top Territory boxers and a performance by Archie Roach.

CEO Vicki-Lee Knowles said the weekend was a celebration of the lives of former residents and their resilience, strength and tremendous generosity of spirit.

She said the history of the home spoke of forced segregation and the legal removal of children of Aboriginal descent from their families without parental consent.

“We were still seeing the intergenerational harm caused by this institutionalisation,” she said.

“But it also tells the story of the strength of those who grew up and lived at Kahlin and the utter determination of the families who fought to get their children back.”

“Tells of the enormous contribution these children and their families have made, and continue to make, to the economic and social fabric of the Northern Territory and beyond,” Ms Knowles said.

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**All bark and a bit of bite for Rudd visit**

It’s 50 years since a bark painting in the desert showed the scale of the land rights movement taken to Canberra by a group of Yolngu men.

In July, Yirrkala people remembered the day in 1963 they presented two bark petitions to the federal parliament, asking it to reframe the decision to excise 300 square kilometres of Arnhem Land for bauxite mining.

It was not the first time Aboriginal people had challenged their dispossession but it was the first time they had been able to make their challenge in the Australian courts.

The 1963 petitions were eventually rejected. The Northern Territo-ry Supreme Court ruled that the traditional land owners property system was not recognised under Australian law and that Australia was terra nullius, an empty land prior to 1788.

But they have been credited with starting the debate that led to the 1967 referendum, which gave the Commonwealth Government the power to make special laws for any race of people in Austra-lia, the Land Rights Act of 1996 and the overturning of the terra nullius concept by the High Court in the Mabo case in 1992.

At the anniversary celebrations, Prime Minister Kevin Rudd compared the Yirrkala petitions to the British law Magna Carta.

He said the Magna Carta, which signed by the King of England in 1215, was an expression of human rights against the crown, just as the bark petition was.

“These bark petitions present a bridge between two ancient and noble traditions,” Mr Rudd said.

But Galarrwuy Yunipingu who helped draw up the petitions with his father and other Yolngu told the PM land rights had proved hollow and more needed to be done.

“The land rights is for Aboriginal people but the land ownership and use of land ownership is not for Aboriginal people, it’s for mining companies, for whitefellas. We want to develop our country and we want to develop our own soil.”

Above: Prime Minister Kevin Rudd is led to the Yirrkala Cultural Centre by Yolngu men for the celebration of 50 years since the Bark Petition was taken to Canberra. Courtesy David Hancock
Bush school dollar at risk

THE Australian Education Union (AEU) is urging organisations and community groups to call on the NT Chief Minister to adopt the Federal Government’s Gonski education reforms.

The NT Government has refused to sign up to the reforms after it announced over $250 million in cuts to the schools budget in the Territory Budget earlier this year.

Chief Minister Adam Giles says the Government would have to contribute $300 million over six years to the Gonski reforms.

He said many urban schools would be disadvantaged by the formula because they would receive no funding increase in real terms for at least six years.

An independent review held in 2011 and headed by respected business leader David Gonski, recommended the nation urgently invest more in schools, particularly public schools.

So far New South Wales, Tasmania, South Australia and the ACT have agreed to support the reforms.

The AEU has claimed the Federal Government Aboriginal people would benefit from implementation of the Gonski formula, with remote community example including:

- Alpurrurulam School
- An extra $1,590,828
- Mutitjulu School
- $684,854
- Yirrkala School
- $1,431,201
- Mamingrida School
- $9.56 million
- Borroloola School
- $4.26 million

The Gonski plan would provide ongoing, dedicated funding to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students instead of more submission writing for one-off funding for ‘close the gap’ initiatives that start one year and wind up the next, AEU Federal President Angelo Gavrielatos said.

Shires still unpopular

GOVERNANCE SUMMIT

THE harm caused by the creation of super-shires and the loss of community councils was an underlying theme at April’s governance summit.

Many speakers talked about the way communities had been disempowered under the current shire arrangements and the poor level of local government service delivery and support.

The local board structure came under fire for its lack of communication and decision-making powers.

But while people talked fondly of the old days of community councils, there was no real desire to return.

“Before we had the Councils, the people said, ‘Then government came and took it away. Well we had the Councils but we never really had power. We got nothing now, no power in our own community.”

Delegates said people were still waiting for a solution from the CLP Government since it rode to power on the promise that it would abolish shires.

Delegates instructed APE to tell the NT Government Aboriginal people were not happy with their alternative options or the timeframe for consultation.

They said Aboriginal people must have ownership of the solutions.

There was a lot of interest in the Murdi-Paaki model, a regional assembly of 16 partnership communities in far western New South Wales.

They are all bound under a regional agreement with the Australian and New South Wales Governments.

The model was seen as a way in which communities could control local issues but work together at a regional level.

Delegates said community councils or authorities must have real community decision-making control over local issues and that local people’s elect people who have real authority to represent them.

CLC opens its doors

THE Central Land Council opened its doors to the public for the first time in June.

Several hundred people flocked through the doors of its office on North Stuart Highway in Alice Springs.

Staff said the response was very positive.

Some people had remarked that they had previously had “no idea” about the CLC’s work and how pleased they were they had taken the time to find out.

Special drawcards were a spectacular display by the Warumungu male dancers and the CLC’s digital photo archive which had a constantly large crowd around it.

There were a number of presentations by Aboriginal people involved in the CLC’s ranger program, pastoral training and community development projects.

And of course free sausages were on hand, cooked by the CLC’s expert barbequers, the CLC field staff.

Check out the photos in this edition of LRNCA and more on the CLC’s digital archive http://clc.ara-irititja.com/archive/index.php

LADY Napaljarri Morton

Farewell Napaljarri Morton

Napaljarri Morton was small woman with a huge personality.

She was well known to many in the wider community, who benefited from her great cultural knowledge and generosity in sharing it.

Born at Coniston in 1927, Napaljarri grew up there with her parents before moving to Ti Tree, Willowa and Anningie.

Family was important to her, and she enjoyed telling stories and laughing with her much-loved younger sisters Doris, Maisie, Julie and Audrey and her children Helen and Dominic.

Napaljarri’s support for Aboriginal people was unwavering.

She was an important witness in in the Mt Barkly and Willowa land claims, and performed in women’s yalawulyu before the judge.

Her main place was Jany-inpartinya.

She contributed significantly to the recorded history of the 1928 Coniston Massacre through her guided tour of the sites on the 75th anniversary commemoration, held at Brookes Soak by the CLC in 2001.

Napaljarri showed the places where people were said to have been killed.

She was enjoyable company, and many Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people will miss her.

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Scullion talks ILC overhaul

MORE than 600 people from around the country attended Australia’s biggest native title forum yet in Alice Springs in June.

The Central Land Council hosted the Annual National Native Title Conference with the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS) at the Alice Springs Convention Centre after months of hard work.

Native title holders, lawyers, anthropologists and other people who work in Aboriginal organisations attended activities ranging from legal discussions to Indigenous mens’ groups, community development forums and tours.

Alexis Wright and the Black Arm Band delivered a performance of the musical journey dirrong as the Mabo lecture, and young Arrernte drummers Drum Atwene gave it a spectacular opening.

In his closing address, Shadow Minister for Indigenous Affairs Senator Nigel Scullion raised the issue of an overhaul of the ILC and IBA if the Coalition wins office.

He also said that there might be an alternative for people who want a breakaway land council, exploring how section 28 of the Land Rights Act, which allows for the devolution of some powers to local people, “might be used as a pressure release valve for those emerging tensions”.

Senator Scullion said he wanted to see more progress on home ownership and land tenure reform across the country.

“It is untenable that the only form of housing in some remote communities is that funded by the Commonwealth Government,” he told the conference.

Photos of the National Native Title Conference in Alice Springs can be found on page 14.

Indigenous kids need more sleep

INDIGENOUS children may be falling behind in school because they don’t get enough sleep compared to their non-Indigenous peers.

South Australian paediatric sleep researcher Dr Sarah Blunden says she has found Indigenous children, particularly those in remote areas, do not have regular bedtimes and lack routine.

“I have become increasingly convinced improved sleep habits could make a significant contribution to closing the gap,” Dr Blunden told SBS News.

She said poor sleep could lead to learning and emotional problems, obesity, diabetes and high blood pressure.

She said quality of sleep was as important as quantity and children needed a regular bed time and a warm and safe place where they can sleep undisturbed through the night.

“We need to be culturally sensitive, but it would certainly be helpful if we could find a way to help Indigenous families to find a way to improve their children’s sleep habits,” Dr Blunden said.

Dr Blunden said sleep is one of the key requirements of good health.

Dreamtime at the G for Muti Ninjas

SIX young men from Mutitjulu community put on a circus performance in front of more than 83,000 people at the Melbourne Cricket Ground in May.

The six were contributing to Dreamtime at the G, an event that celebrates Indigenous excellence in Australian footy.

Aged between 12 and 16, the six had been training in juggling and acrobatics as part of ‘Ninja Circus’ over the past six months, taught by Ludovic Dumas, NPY Women’s Council Youth Development Officer at Mutitjulu.

Ninja Circus had previously performed for audiences at Mutitjulu, Yulara, and the Wide Open Space Festival near Alice Springs.

It was supported by Voyages Resort, Mutijulu Council Aboriginal Corporation, Nyangatjarra College, the Jimmy Little Foundation, and CAYLUS.

Australian Government
Department of Health and Ageing

COMMONWEALTH HACC PROGRAM
FUNDING ROUND
TO ENHANCE, EXPAND OR ESTABLISH NEW SERVICE DELIVERY

The Commonwealth Home and Community Care (HACC) Program provides funding for basic maintenance, care and support services for older people and their carers, who live in the community and whose capacity for independent living is at risk, or who are at risk of premature or inappropriate admission to long term residential care.

Older people are people aged 65 years and over and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 50 years and over.

The Department of Health and Ageing is seeking applications from organisations to enhance, expand or establish new service delivery under the Commonwealth HACC Program. The grant application round is now open, with $281.2 million available for provision of services from early 2014 until 30 June 2015.

Organisations interested in applying for funding must address the assessment criteria in the format outlined in the application form. Documentation providing further details on the application and assessment process, including funding priorities, is available for downloading after completing the Applicants Register on the Department of Health and Ageing website at http://www.health.gov.au/tenders.

All enquiries for information or clarification by potential applicants should be emailed to Commonwealth.HACC.Funding@health.gov.au.

Applications for funding must be received by the Department of Health and Ageing by 2.00pm on 2 September 2013.
ABORIGINAL men need to be actively engaged in efforts to improve Indigenous health and stop violence against Aborigi- nal women, says the new deputy head of the Central Australian Aborigina- l Health Service, Des Rogers.

Mr Rogers said the need for Aboriginal men to participate in positive changes was a key mes- sage to come from the recent Male Health Summit held at Ross River.

He said the summit heard that men were often being left out of programs because they were seen as part of the problem and not part of the solution.

He said it was vital to acknowledge that the level of violence by Aboriginal men against women was unacceptably high.

Aboriginal women in the NT were five times more likely to be admitted to hospital because of an assault than other women.

"This information was presented at the summit and all of the men there recognised that this is totally unacceptable and they have to lead a pro- cess of change," Mr Rogers said.

But it was also essen- tial for Aboriginal men to be completely involved in programs to stop the violence, as with any pro- grams to improve Aboriginal health.

Mr Rogers said public discussion about violence and alcohol abuse often identified Aboriginal law and customs as the source of the problem.

But while the male health summit acknowled- ged that some elements of Aboriginal law and culture contribute to the problem at times, such as demand sharing and kinship obligations, they were not the source of the problem.

The summit heard evidence that the problems began with pregnancy and lack of responsive care in early childhood. As a result, individuals had less capacity to resist addictions.

"This was true for people from all cultures. Other sources of the problem stem from the excessive availability of cheap alcohol, lack of ed- ucation and employment, and overcrowding."

These factors were un- related to culture. It was a concern to men at the summit that Aboriginal men were now seen as being mostly violent abusers of wom- en protecting each other "under the spurious cover of kinship and lore."

While this situation did occur, as was dis- cussed at the summit, it was not widespread and it was inappropriate to label all Aboriginal men in this way.

Mr Rogers said even the most peaceful of men who were practising their culture felt that they were automatically being seen as violent men.

"Unless this situation is addressed, attempts at health intervention are not going to realise their maximum potential," he said.

Mr Rogers said health programs needed to rec- ognise the fact that many Aboriginal men desired to work for peaceful communities with happy and productive women, chil- dren and men, but also that they would not ac- cept "wholesale rejection of their kinship, customs and lore."

Mr Rogers said Congress was recently suc- cessful in gaining $250,000 from ABA towards the purchase a Health Pro- motion Vehicle that would travel around the five communities with Congress-susied health services, and eventually other communities.
The fight for COUNTRY

BUFFEL GRASS could be the single biggest invasive species threat to land and culture in Central Australia. Are we only going to be left with buffel?

BUFFEL is easy to get rid of one clump at a time. The problem is there are millions of clumps. But not everyone is giving up the fight against this destructive imported plant.

The South Australian Government last year developed a strategic plan for dealing with buffel, recognising the need for different groups to unite to contain its spread. The plan described buffel grass as “arguably the single biggest invasive species threat to biodiversity across the entire Australian arid zone.”

“Without active management it will continue to invade a wide range of native habitats... (and) replace many native species,” the plan says.

The government plans to stop more buffel coming into South Australia and prevent existing buffel from spreading. In some areas it wants to destroy buffel grass altogether.

Volunteers in Arizona USA

Meanwhile in Southern Arizona, buffel grass is one of the state’s most pressing environmental problems, threatening native cacti and wildlife such as the desert tortoise and mule deer.

Arizona also recognises buffel grass as a threat to tourism and human settlement.

“Buffelgrass and the fire it brings are poised to destroy our Sonoran Desert ecosystems and threaten public safety, possibly more effectively and faster than drought, development, or almost any other potential disaster,” says one Southern Arizona resident on the Southern Arizona Buffelgrass Coordination Centre website.

The centre co-ordinates large groups of volunteers who work in buffel-infested areas, either pulling buffel out or poisoning it with herbicides. Its website includes numerous success stories.

Not yet a weed?

By contrast, the NT Government does not consider buffel grass a weed, and describes it as a “valuable introduced species for pastoral production.”

But it does acknowledge that buffel “reduces native plant diversity and can affect vegetation structure by changing fire regimes. In arid Australia, buffel grass invades some of the wetter, more fertile parts of the landscape, important for the survival of native plant and animal populations in this highly variable climate.”

“Although it was planted for dust control in central Australia, it also imposes economic costs through the need to manage fire risks and to protect biodiversity assets and infrastructure. Some pastoralists are also concerned that productivity of buffel grass dominated pastures can decline in the longer term”

The government has no official strategy to control buffel grass.

But not everybody is giving up the fight

ACTION NEEDED

BUFFEL sends us up in smoke

ACROSS the Centre, indigenous rangers and landcare groups are battling to stop the spread of buffel grass.

But they have been hampered by the pastoral industry and government passivity.

Buffel grass is not officially classified a weed in the Territory, and there are some reports it is still being planted by pastoralists.

Many pastoralists like buffel because it grows quickly in times of rain and provides large amounts of cattle feed compared with slower-growing native grasses.

But in the longer term, say experts, buffel country will become less productive as it takes nutrients from the soil.

Much worse, when the rain stops and the grass dries out, buffel becomes a fuel only rivaled in power by spinifex grass.

Powerful fuel

In 2011 fires fuelled by buffel and spinifex raged through forty per cent of the land mass between Elliot and the South Australian border – some 520,000 square kilometres out of 800,000.

Two dozen pastoral properties saw more than 50 per cent of their country go up in smoke.

In 2011, record rains in 2010 and 2011 had created a hellish scenario for fire fighters that highlighted the difficulties of managing country in land increasingly dominated by buffel.

After two wet summers, the rains continued into the winter of 2011. The rain increased the fuel load, but it was hard for firefighters to create firebreaks because the grass was still green in many places.

Warm, dry weather arrived suddenly at the end of August and Central Australia’s worst fire season on record was underway.

According to Bushfires NT, Senior fire officer Neil Philips, the fuel load for bushfires in Central Australia was up to double that of what it was in the last major fire season almost ten years ago.

Across the NT, there were three to five tonnes of grass cover per hectare in Central Australia, compared with between two and three tonnes per hectare in 2002.

After left: Buffel near Wangi Wangi and left: Volunteers in Arizona clearing buffel which is threatening native cactus.
**Waru speakers all fired up**

**Monster grass**

Traditional owners and scientists used helicopters to search for waru (the black-footed wallaby) in the Mann Ranges of north-west South Australia a few months ago.

They couldn’t find it anywhere.

Waru’s habitat, which includes rare and threatened native plant species, had been destroyed by the devastating, buffel-fueled wildfires of 2012.

Increasingly, traditional owners in the tri-state region are expressing their anger and frustration about the impact of buffel on Aboriginal land and sacred sites.

Anangu call it ‘manu’ grass, using the Pitjantjatjarra word for ‘monster’.

‘Where did it come from? Why is it here? Who brought it?’ they asked at the Tri-State Waru Committee meeting held at Kunytjutja, a Homeland near Wataru in SA held in May 13 this year.

**Bigger and hotter**

One senior woman got up at the meeting and pulled up a clump of buffel to demonstrate her disgust and the need for its removal.

She and others had seen the way buffel grass is making fires bigger and hotter and changing the fire regime in the bush.

There is a real possibility of extinctions of species such as Hakea di-varicata (Wiljaft, Forked corkwood) as mature trees stand alone in a sea of buffel.

Corkwoods are fire-resistant, but have less chance to recover from repetitive fires at short intervals.

In September last year the Pipalyatjara community was evacuated to the south due to the threat of wildfire.

Community members watched as hectares of buffel grass burnt all around them.

Less than a year later the buffel grass had recovered completely, while none of the bush tucker plants dependent on phanerophytes practises for thousands of years had come back.

These plants not only support Anangu but provide a food source for many birds and animals.

**Buffel - the ultimate survivor**

Because buffel grass can recover after small amounts of rain, it is ready to burn again only a year after the last fire.

Although its fires are ferocious, the grass is slow to ignite unless it is very dry or frost affected.

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It tends to burn late in the season when winds and temperatures are higher and stronger.

The chance of fires getting out of control – as happened in a fuel reduction burn at Kata Tjuta last year – means the period for controlled burns is shorter.

Buffel grass tends to be found growing on the sides of tracks and roads where the chances of it being set alight at the wrong time is high.

Its burns are hard to control, as creating a firebreak with a rake hoe is almost impossible due to their well-developed root system.

The grass will regrow even without rain if there is enough soil moisture available.

It is a perennial and is not dependent on seasons to flower and set seed, unlike many native grasses which are annuals or seasonal.

This gives buffel grass the advantage as it is the first to recover and set.

It has a tendency to establish around the base of shrubs and trees, increasing the effect of fire on these plants even in cooler conditions.

Native grasses tend to establish away from shrubs and trees.

Right: The Western MacDonnel’s after a severe burn recently

**The Alice Springs Grog Summit continued from page 3**

But the delegates also called for support Aboriginal community-controlled services in:

- providing treatment and other AOD programs;
- addressing underlying issues of alcohol misuse;
- more services out bush;
- examining holistic ways of treating alcohol misuse;
- focusing on early childhood development;
- developing culturally appropriate treatment programs and promoting strong cultural identity as a means of preventing alcohol misuse.

The summit called for more support for local community responses to alcohol abuse, to ensure alcohol management plans were representative of the whole community.

Delegates said the government should invest in prevention rather than prisons and engage children and young people in education and solutions.

Summit delegates endorsed calls by APY NT for a joint Territory/Commonwealth government Board of Inquiry into Alcohol in the Northern Territory to provide the evidence needed to create a roadmap for action so all sectors can work together to solve the problems of alcohol-related harm in the NT.

Speakers included representatives of Anyinginyi Health Service; Central Australian Aboriginal Congress; Central Australian Aboriginal Alcohol Programmes Unit; Central Australian Aboriginal Family Legal Unit; Western Aranda Health Aboriginal Corporation; and communities.
A gong for the drum master

They were beating the drums for local hero Pete Lowson of Alice Springs earlier this year when he received the Order of Australia for his work with children in Alice Springs town camps.

Pete started up the drumming troupe Drum Atweme eight years ago under the auspices of Tangentyere Council to give kids in town camps the chance to explore music and interact with more people.

The group quickly became a familiar sight at Alice Springs events and attracted bookings for interstate events, the Adelaide Fringe Festival, the World Youth Performing festival and National Bank conferences in Melbourne among them.

“The idea of Drum Atweme was not to keep them as musicians but so they would have the confidence and social skills to be able to do a lot of other things,” Pete said in a recent interview.

“As many as 130 schoolchildren in Alice Springs take part in drumming activities with the group every week.

The regular members, some of whom have been with Drum Atweme from the start, have developed confidence through their experiences, with their teachers often reporting the drummers are doing better at school.

“It’s not just all drumming,” Lowson says.

“Drumming is the tool. It’s got to change within them. I can chuck a hundred rhythms at them and they reject them all, but they will pick their own. They own it.”

Above: Lowson and drummers at the Native Title Conference.

A new Aboriginal housing company in the Northern Territory would be established with the support of a $16 million grant over four years if Labor wins the election.

The Minister for Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, Jenny Macklin made the announcement at the Garma Festival ahead of the Federal election due in September this year.

Ms Macklin said the new company would build, manage and maintain housing in remote Northern Territory communities, which would be leased to service delivery staff including local Aboriginal people.

The company would provide training and job opportunities for local Aboriginal people in the building and maintenance of the properties.

There is a significant shortage of housing for key community workers, including Indigenous Engagement Officers, teachers, nurses and childcare workers.

The Minister said local Aboriginal people would be able to access staff housing as they often fill these service delivery roles.

In the past Aboriginal staff such as teachers have been denied housing while teachers brought in are automatically eligible.

The company would progressively roll out staff housing across the Northern Territory that will then be leased back to governments and non-government organisations.

“The rental income from the housing would ensure the company generates its own, ongoing income stream,” she said.

Ms Macklin said $80 million would come from the Aboriginals Benefit Account (ABA) and up to a further $26 million over four years from the Stronger Futures in the Northern Territory package.

In addition, $40 million over four years would be invested in homelands in the Northern Territory through the ABA.

SEX education doesn’t have to be boring or embarrassing, according to Central Australian Aboriginal Congress.

Congress has launched a new Indigenous youth sexual health education resource package to help teachers get the message across to young people.

The package is part of its Community Health Education Program (CCEHP), which Congress has been delivering to young Indigenous women since 1998 and to young males since 2011.

CCEHP coordinator Donna Lemon says the CCEHP program is “fun and interactive” and provides awareness and basic holistic sexual health education to young people in our local schools.

Congress also runs educator training four times a year to enable community-based workers, such as Aboriginal health practitioners and teachers, to confidently deliver the program.

As well as local schools, the program has been delivered to the Owen Springs Detention Centre, CAAAPU, Mission Australia, Tangentyere Council and the Midnight Basketball program.

Education is provided to young people through a series of learning activities in a way that is fun and interactive, so that the learning experience is memorable.

Congress CEO Donna Ah Chee said the man- 

nals would help ensure educators were prepared to educate young people in areas many find difficult and challenging.

“Healthy lifestyle education at age 12 and beyond is one part of this approach,” Ms Ah Chee said.

“However it’s also important to recognise the critical importance of the early years in the healthy development of young people as well.”

Ms Ah Chee said teaching very young children self-control could lead to their having fewer addictions, and fewer sexual partners with safer sex and higher levels of physical activity when they were older.

The word is: sex education can be fun and interactive.

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The word is: sex education can be fun and interactive.
Native Title rights at Mount Doreen

The Federal Court has recognized the native title rights of groups from the Ngaliya Warlpiri people over Mt Doreen Station. The Federal Court, under Justice Reeves determined native title by consent over the Mt Doreen Station Pastoral Lease.

Our hidden homelessness

A special feature by Purple House staff

HOMELESSNESS can happen to so many different people – not just having to share a roof over your head.

Staff and residents of Western Desert Ngalampa Walytja Palyantjaku TJutaku Aboriginal Corporation (aka The Purple House) in Alice Springs witness and experience homelessness on a daily basis.

The Corporation cares for more than 90 people with kidney disease, renal failure, from 19 different remote communities.

These people have had to leave their country to relocate to Alice Springs for permanent treatment three times a week for roughly 5 hours per treatment.

Exhausted by their treatments, they have to live in a foreign place without family and community or the country they belong to.

WDNWPT administration manager Chanchana Coombs describes homelessness as "living on other people's country because you have no choice to stay where your home is as there are not enough services available for treatment out bush."

Says WDNWPT CEO Sarah Brown: "The big issue for dialysis patients in Alice Springs is that they are not 'homeless'. They have a home and family and country,...but they can't be there and survive. They are fighting for their right to be at home which means having access to dialysis out bush."

Dialysis patient Sam Nelson Tjupurrula explained what homelessness means to him: "I have no chance to visit my country in Yuendumu and Nyirripi and stay out bush. I lose all the bush tucker."

WDNWPT's social support team works hard to try and find accommodation in town for our patients, but there are many hurdles.

WDNWPT Social Support Worker Sandra Ford says: "If you can't stay at any of the Aboriginal hostels you end up in a tent camp. There is a three month waiting period to be accepted back into a hostel. If you are in a town camp you have over-crowding issues, hunger issues and money issues. Money tends to be taken from patients and sometimes they don't have money to buy food. Dialysis patients are vulnerable and their exhaustion and social dislocation can sometimes lead to frustration and outbursts toward hostel staff, "a life of existence without country, family and security and constantly being tossed about because no-one owns the problem." (Helen Adams, Business Manager WDNWPT)

Deanne Wano, Aboriginal hostel staff, says: "It's like a shame job and curse. I miss all the bush tucker. I miss all the family and community. I miss the bush. It doesn't even have money to buy food. It's like a shame job for Aboriginal people to be on other people's country."

Violence against women not on says male health summit

Reports of violence towards women are said to be much higher in remote parts of Australia than in metropolitan areas, according to a new study.

"21-year-old Krista McMeeken won the Young People's Human Rights Medal for her outstanding work with the WA Aboriginal Legal Service and the Child Rights Taskforce," Professor Triggs said.

The award categories include business, print and online media, literature, radio, TV, law, community organisations, and young people.

"The Australian Human Rights Awards are a unique opportunity to celebrate the work of individuals and organisations who contribute to human rights in Australia," said Australian Human Rights Commission president, Gillian Triggs.

"Ian Thorpe won the Human Rights Medal last year in recognition of his passionate advocacy over more than a decade for Indigenous people and young Australians.

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Nominations are now open for the 2013 Australian Human Rights Awards.
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THE Federal Court has recognized the native title rights of groups from the Ngaliya Warlpiri people over Mt Doreen Station. The Federal Court under Justice Reeves determined the Mt Doreen Station Pastoral Lease (PPL) at 8 Mile Bore, 400 km north-west of Alice Springs.

The decision recognized the non-exclusive native title rights of the Jiru Kayukurlangu, Kumpu, Kunjarayi, Mikanji, Piki - Warlukurlangu, Warlukurlangu, Yamaparta, Yarripiri and Yarungkanyi - exclusive native title by consent over the Mt Doreen Station PPL.

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Bush cures: use good manners

THE healing power of bush medicines brought together 50 indigenous women from the eastern parts of central Australia for a meeting at Ross River in May.

The women came from communities on the Sandover and the Plenty, Santa Teresa and Alice Springs to a forum organised by the CLC. For many was the first time they’d gathered to talk with others about the ways they had been gathering and using native plants for health throughout their lives.

The women, from various language groups, brought samples of bush medicines they’d been harvesting and spent days creating detailed maps of where the plants are found across their lands.

They identified fire, erosion, feral animals such as donkeys and rabbits and the spread of weeds such as buffalo grass as the biggest physical threats to the plants.

But the women considered that the loss of traditional knowledge was an even bigger danger, with many people only using pharmaceutical drugs.

They welcomed the opportunity to document their plants and learn from other women about their favourite medicines.

To ensure that medicinal plants are always available, the women agreed on a set of harvesting protocols and manners.

Above: Mapping bush Tucker at the meeting at Ross River. The women, brought samples of bush medicines they’d been harvesting and spent days creating detailed maps of where the plants are found across their lands.

**HAVERSTING PROTOCOLS AND MANNERS**

- Take small amounts, little by little
- Only take the leaves, not the whole branch or roots
- Need to leave bush medicines behind for the younger generation
- Best to take new growth (but not too young) and leave the old growth
- Older leaves are collected and OK for boiling
- New leaves should be left until they grow full size
- Harvesting manners need to be passed onto next generation
- Protect bush medicines from threats like cattle horses, donkey and camel
- Get permission from the right people from country where you are harvesting
- Share bush medicines with family, keep a small amount for yourself

**NTARIA lease money pays for sports carnival**

**NTARIA** traditional owners chipped in to rescue their Healthy Living Sports Carnival in May.

With a lack of funds endangering the event, the traditional owners put in $16,000 of their compensation money for the compulsory five-year Intervention leases.

The event - the first project of the Ntaria Community Lease Money Working Group - featured eight football teams, four softball teams, kids’ activities and two nights of live music showcasing local talent.

The Ntaria East Side Tigers pleased the home crowd by winning the softball competition while the North Tanami Band entertained the children, with face painting activities and a jumping castle.

Yuendumu Baptists get a boost

CROWDS of up to 100 are enjoying weekly singalongs on the new Yuendumu Baptist Church stage, using the new music equipment bought with GMAAAC funding.

Volunteers also worked together to install water pipes and taps in the courtyard.

The Yuendumu GMAAAC Community Committee paid $22,855 for the whole project.

Managed by a local contractor with Yapa staff, the sheltered open air stage has become a popular spot for many community activities.

“We really like this, it’s good,” said church elder Tess Ross.

“We have sing-a-long on Wednesday and weekends, with old people and young.

“We make sure it finishes early so that community can work.

“In the warm weather we can also use it for funerals in the morning.

“When people come to visit from other communities, we can also be together outside where it is welcoming, and support each other in this area.”

Alice NAIDOC

NAIDOC Celebrations in central Australia in July highlighted the 50th anniversary of the Yirrkala Bark petitions.

Drum Atweme led the annual march through Alice Springs, with hundreds taking part.

Pat Miller welcomed the festivities on to Arrernte country before speeches by Willy Foster, Owen Cole, Alice Springs Mayor Damien Ryan, master of ceremonies Patrick Ah Kit and others.

The speeches reflected on the theme of NAIDOC this year. We value the vision: Yirrkala Bark Petitions 1963, the campaigns and advances made since then and focused on continuing to encourage leadership for the future.

Golden guitarist Warren H Williams and the North Tanami Band performed while local businesses and organisations cooked up a storm for the hungry masses.

Yeperenye Caterpillar and Yamba the Honey Ant entertained the children, with face painting activities and a jumping castle.

Above l-r: Anthony Hargraves, Jamie Nelson, Zac Long, and Loffy Katakarinja
Farewell Japanardi - a life well-lived

WARLPIRI man N. Poulson Japangardi will be deeply missed by all of his many friends and family. Conservationist, cultural leader, family man, philosopher and amateur historian, Mr Japanardi was a multi-talented, thoughtful man who devoted his life to preserving his heritage. He developed his aspirations for a better life for his people. Educated at Yuendumu School with a generation who all became highly literate, he held a number of jobs and positions during his life.

He was the NT President of the Baptist Church, a Central Land Council Regional Co-ordinator at its Yuendumu office, a ranger with the NT Conservation Commission and at the Newhaven Bird Sanctuary and a one-time president of Yuendumu Council. He wrote and illustrated stories in Warlpiri for the Yuendumu School and was regarded as an excellent teacher of the senior boys. Japanardi always supported the school by teaching traditional skills and knowledge on bush trips, culture days and in classes.

Japanardi spent a lot of time travelling around sites and his interest and knowledge of our law and culture was profound. One long-term Yuendumu resident said Japanardi taught himself and hunted kangaroos with a spear to learn more about traditional hunting. He was sad about the threats to traditional Aboriginal law but was also pragmatic about the future. He was extremely concerned about the impact of feral animals and weeds on his country and was an enthusiastic supporter of the CLC’s ranger program in the Tanami.

One of Mr Poulson’s long-term aspirations was to be given an excursion on Mt Dareen station near his beloved Pilykily, but sadly this didn’t happen due to bureaucratic bungling. But his strong role as a claimant in the recently successful Mt Dareen native title claim returned to the Warlpiri some rights that had been denied to them for many years.

THE MAN HIMSELF

Mr Thompson told me this: his first paid job was with the National Railways in the early 1960s. It was a very physical hard job, working on the railway gang, slogging it, lifting those heavy metal railway lines and replacing those heavy jarrah railway sleepers.

Japanardi himself was stationed between Marree and Anna Creek railway sidings and there met for the first time his mummy tjapa (mother’s sister), Raita.

Some time in the mid-1960s he became a member of the choir at Ernabella, where many Anangu were converted to Christianity.

In the 1970s my mother Pingkai and father Kantji told me at Iwantja (Indulpingkai) and father Kantji mura (er/cousin) that this man was my kuta (my older brother/cousin).

Iwantja was the ration depot of the South Australian Department of Community Welfare, so people from Wijanjuti (Granite Downs) and Walatina had to camp there, or else they would starve.

This is where I really got to know my kuta.

A person himself would say: “In the days of flour, tea and sugar I would take the cultural service along with my guitar, sing hymns and praise the Lord and that’s how my parents and many other Anangu got the idea about God’s word.”

It was in the 1970s and 1980s that we saw great progress in the Australian Indigenous struggle for justice and he was part of that movement.

He was elected to the National Aboriginal Consultative Committee (NACC) in the mid-70s and was a member of the Pitjantjatjara Council when it started in Amata in 1977.

The Ngaanyatjarra Council joined in with our people to fight for our Land Rights. The man himself was involved right from the beginning, with a formal claim to the lands around the Musgrave Ranges. He did it on behalf of his people. It was his Tjilpi and Pampaku law.

All those Tjilpi tjuta and he himself went down to Adelaide, joined Premier Don Dunstan and proposed the Bill to Parliament in 1978.

He was our political muscle during so many major clashes. But he could argue with any politician, and it was all to do with our land rights.

He led the campaign from 1976 to 1981 to victory for land rights. I can still hear him saying to me: “I will talk up for Tjilpi Tjuta, Pampa Tjuta, Anangu Tjutaku”, which he did.

My brother was the chairman for Pitjantjatjara Council when we signed the Pitjantjatjara Land Rights Act with Premier Tonkin on the 2nd October.

After gaining land rights, it was necessary to form a body to administer the land title. This body was named Anangu Pitjantjatjaru (AP). During that time the man himself had also been elected on the National Aboriginal Conference (NAC).

In 1982 he and other Pitjantjatjara Council Executive Members joined Nganawurlu Warlpiri Pitjantjatjarra Council to support them for their land rights and they travelled to Perth Show Grounds to talk with the Western Australian Government and the Opposition.

Also in the 1980s my brother went to Western Australia to support the Yungnagora at Noonkanbah Station. They were fighting for their land which was wanted by mining companies and the WA government.

Again in the 1980s he joined other Pitjantjatjara Council members and the people from Utji (Areynangga), Kalukatjarra (Docker River), Manpa and Mutijulu to take on the Federal Government and claim Uluru Kata Tjuta National Park. Again he was our political muscle. We won.

From 1989 to 2005, the man himself was the ATSIC Ngintaka Regional Council Chair and also in Nulla Wimila Kutju Regional Council, a representative body for all Anangu.

In 1994 he received an OAM. They tell me if you read in the Australian Roll of Honour book my brother received it for the service to the Aboriginal Community, but I know he did more than that.

While he was a member of ATSIC Ngintaka Regional Council he was also on the AP Executive and held the position of Chairperson.

What my friends have told me about my brother - he loved wearing those really flash cowboy clothes and I knew myself he was one of the best playing pitjupu panti song.

So much has changed since then. We love you brother and miss you.


"He was one of the best leaders": memories by Yami Lester

Mr H. Malbunka

Mr H. Malbunka of Naria passed away earlier this year.

Mr Malbunka lived a rich life raising his family at Jopera and Naria. His wife Mavis and he worked hard to set up the Jopera outstation and develop tourism and a good life for the extended family.

He worked as a stockman and lived in South Australia in his youth. He was kind and welcoming to visitors, including new CLC staff, and had strong convictions. Mr Malbunka enjoyed sharing his stories and will be deeply missed by surviving family and friends.

The CLC and all its staff give their condolences to the family.

Mr C. Martin Jampijinpa

Mr C. Martin Jampijinpa was a long term CLC delegate and was a family man with many children. His country was Fawu, on Mt Barkly, and he spent much of his young life travelling between Mt Barkly, Willorella and Aminnji.

He worked for the Parkin sons as a stockman on Willorella cattle station, along with other men with Willorella who have now passed away. Later, he worked in the station vehicle workshop and was responsible for the grading and grading roads around Willorella.

In more recent years, Jampijinpa made significant contributions to the Warlpiri Ranger program and the planning for the declaration of the Southern Tanami Indigenous Protected Area. He was a great advocate for the ranger program and a member of the South Australian Indigenous Protected Areas (STIPA) Management committee.

Jampijinpa was a tireless source of encouragement and assistance on early Yungnagora (Lake Surprise) bush trips and extremely proud of family involvement in the ranger work.

He will be sadly missed.

LRNCA August 2013 15.
Yuendumu has celebrated the 50th anniversary of the Yuendumu Sports Weekend. Since its beginnings in 1963, the sports festival has grown to become a significant fixture on the Central Australian calendar. But this year was special as the people of Yuendumu celebrated the return of the carnival after cancelling the event last year due to disputes. A peace march to the footy oval was held to remember people who had passed away before the event took off.

A disco for the kids, athletics, softball, basketball, football, of course, and the battle of the bands added up to an action-packed weekend. Cultural events and gospel added to the buzz. Seventeen teams came from far and wide for the footy and visitors came in their hundreds. The weekend was judged a huge success.

**Results**

**Football**
- 17 teams
- Grand Final: Yuendumu 11.5 = 71 defeated Wave Hill 7.5 = 47.

**Basketball**
- 12 teams
- Grand Final: Laramba 15 defeated Haasts Bluff 8
- 14 Mens Teams
- Grand Final: Knights 22 defeated Dockers 20
- 17 Womens Teams
- Grand Final: Lajamanu 24 defeated Wambana 13

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**Sports Weekend**

Clockwise from above: The Allies softball team rally their troops; Lisali and Prestina strolling along the boundary; some of the Kintore Hawks flap their wings, ladies wait nervously on the softball draw; the Willowra Blues styled up; the Lajamanu Swans have a laugh before the game against Kintore Hawks; Pikilyi and Papunya players soar in the contest; local lads, the Pikilyi Bombers, stretch their legs before the game against Papunya; Docker River Eagles made the great migration north and the Magpies swarm around this Crow as he goes to kick.
Rangers in world spotlight

CLC Aboriginal rangers showed they are ‘thinking globally, acting locally’ at a conference attended by 1200 indigenous people from 50 countries in Darwin in May.

Delegates at the four-day conference discussed projects that were working well in their communities and their common challenges of keeping culture, country and young people strong.

They talked about working together and the need for government support and recognition of ownership of their land and their connection to it.

Indigenous groups common problems included remoteness and fair access to services and goods, and high rates of substance abuse, incarceration and suicide.

Nathaniel Dixon, an Anmatyerr Ranger, said he hadn’t realised so many other indigenous groups around the world had the same problems, and he felt people could support each other.

Brett Stockman, a ranger from Docker River, said he knew how there were “different people with different suits, different culture, all in together.”

They included:
- Sami women reindeer herders from Norway, Sweden, Finland and Russia, where climate change is affecting reindeer;
- Maasai men protecting their coastlines using their cultural knowledge;
- People from the Pacific and Indian Oceans who talked about mapping and managing their ocean resources;
- A man from Pakistan and a chief from Ghana, Africa, talking about how they build strong local economies and communities from their lands;
- People from Canada talking about how mining and logging were affecting their communities and country.

Anmatyerr Ranger Serena Presley said she had enjoyed mixing with people from all over the world, making new friends, and finding out how other people work.

Dion Kelly, a Wulaiginy Ranger, said he had learnt that some people in other parts of the world were still struggling for their land rights and people needed to share ideas and learn from that.

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Rangers from Central Australia told the world about how they looking after their country at the World Indigenous Network Conference.

The rangers gave two presentations.

Rangers Preston Kelly; Christine Michaels and Rick Taylor talked about “two-way” planning and management of the Southern Tanami Indigenous Protected Area (IPA).

Preston told conference delegates about how the management committees manage fire, bring together Yapa and Kardiya knowledge, stop ferals and weeds, teach the young ones and look after special animals and plants.

Christine talked about how big fires are a problem for important places, plants and animals because yapa aren’t walking on country so much anymore, and so not burning all the time like they did.

But she said the IPA supported yapa to do burning on country and other work to look after country.

In the second presentation, four rangers and a coordinator spoke about various programs of CLC rangers in Central Australia:
- Shan...
Eight young people from Docker River have made an educational cartoon about the dangers of burning country “wrong way”.

After the destructive wildfires of 2012, members of the Tri-State Waru Committee wanted to send a warning out to communities in WA, SA and the NT. They combined with the Docker River community to create the animated DVD Tjukurtjara-ngka Tilinytja Wiya under the creative guidance of consultant Dave Slowo.

The project used Carving For Country funding to create an important message in a fun and quirky way, and also provided eight unemployed youth at Docker River the chance to develop valuable skills.

The eight took part in all aspects of its development, including interviewing senior people, developing a story board, creating the characters and translating and editing creating sound effects and voice-overs.

The project has led to discussion about the young team making animations for Anangu jobs clients and occupational health and safety issues.

The young men also want to create film clips to go with their music.

“Because animation is such a time-consuming process it was amazing for the team to create so many scenes in only two weeks,” said Mr Slowo.

“Everything was created from scratch, from the landscapes to the characters to the special effects.”

The group also worked solidly on video editing and translating the Pitjantjatjara into English for the film’s subtitles.

Above: the animation made by the young people of Docker River

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**Napperby Station native title**

The Federal Court has recognized the native title rights of seven estate groups over the Napperby pastoral lease.

Sitting at Laramba Community Living Area on July 2, the Court under Justice Reeves recognised by consent the non-exclusive native title rights of the Alherramp/Rrweltya-pet, Bwererr, Mamp-Arrek, Tywerl, Arrangkey, Anenteerr/Annaerr and Nyerilkern/Urapentye estate groups.

The seven groups are Anmatyerr and Arrernte people whose country includes the area where Napperby Station is located. Napperby will continue to operate as a pastoral lease by the current owners.

The original application was filed with the Court in 2005 as a result of a mining company being granted an exploration licence over an area on station of important cultural significance to the native title holders.

The native title holders were anxious to protect these areas of high significance and instructed the CLC to lodge a native title application over the area.

This application was withdrawn on 17 March 2011 and a new native title application over the whole of the pastoral lease was filed with the Court.
Above: Brianna Webb with new son Elgin born on 10th June 2013

Above: Joel Shannan Smith born 20 May 2013 son to Hollie Webb and Shannon Smith, seen here with his proud mummy!

Above: Rosabella and Kyesha at the Alice Springs NAIDOC March


Above: Charmaine Jurrah and Darius Zan -8 months.


Above: Letticia Nelson welcomed her beautiful little girl Twylla to the world on the 27th April 2013

Above: Simone and Shenade Conway - see below

Left: Proud big sister Shaniqua with new little sister Shanna, born on 20th July. Another beautiful daughter for Gina-Rose Williams and Shannon Smith of Santa Teresa

Above: Brianna Webb with new son Elgin born on 10th June 2013

Above: Brianna Webb with new son Elgin born on 10th June 2013

Above: Sonny Davis and Tracey Cook would like to welcome April Scarlett Davis Cook to the world. Born on 9th April 2013. A little ballerina for Dorothy.

Above: Shenade Conway - a beautiful little girl born on April 11th 2013 for Simone Conway and Wenston Oliver from Santa Teresa

Left: Laquisha Drover, born 13th May 2013. A beautiful little girl for mum Finny

Above: Letticia Nelson welcomed her beautiful little girl Twylla to the world on the 27th April 2013

Above: Letticia Nelson welcomed her beautiful little girl Twylla to the world on the 27th April 2013

Above: Zakhyran and Margaret at the NAIDOC march.

Above: Jenelle and Graham welcome Paul Short born 10th May 2013 - a little brother for Beau, Liam, Nikita and Isabelle

Above: Zakhyran and Margaret at the NAIDOC march.

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Yunupingu “an inspiration”

HUNDREDS of mourners earlier this year farewelled the Yolngu educator and singer who told the world about the Aboriginal quest for a treaty.

Dr Yunupingu, the former lead singer of Yothu Yindi and founder of the Yothu Yindi educational foundation, died in June, aged 56.


Dr Yunupingu, born in 1956, was the first Aboriginal person from his area to gain a university degree.

He co-founded Yothu Yindi with Willyama Marika in 1988, and shortly afterwards the band found itself touring the world with Paul Kelly.

While leading the band, Dr Yunupingu worked as a teacher at Yirrkala Community School, where in 1990 he became the first indigenous man to be a school principal. He became a passionate advocate of “two-way” education, using both English and indigenous languages.

He was one of this nation’s great teachers, Northern Territory Chief Minister Adam Giles said at the memorial service.

In 1991 Dr Yunupingu resigned his position to focus on Yothu Yindi. The band released the album Tribal Voice, which included the song Treaty.

The band sang the song to worldwide acclaim, combining electric instruments with didgeridoo and clap sticks with musicians and dancers in body paint. Dr Yunupingu was named “Australian Of The Year” in 1991.

Dr Yunupingu struggled with alcoholism for many years, and finally decided to stop touring and play only for Aboriginal communities.

But he maintained his lifelong passion for two-way education. Central Land Council Chair Maurie Japarri-Lyan said at the funeral, “The resonance of his vision to walk between two worlds and learn both ways is a significant legacy for all Yolngu, wider indigenous communities and for the Australian nation to embrace,” Mr Ryan said.

The Central Land Council Chair, Executive, members and staff all extend their condolences to Dr Yunupingu’s family.

 Purple wall to go with purple house

ALICE Springs’ famous Purple wall has a Purple W.

Melbourne-based street artist Callan Morgan worked with the Western Desert Dialysis patients to create a mural celebrating different aspects of community life and life on dialysis.

The mural was self-funded by Western Desert Ngalungu Warlanguja Palvanyjaka Tjutaku Aboriginal Corporation and acknowledges all of the people working together at WDNWPT to ‘make all of our families well’.

The wall lines the laneway between Flynn Drive and Bruce St in Gillen. It includes a map of the communities with Western Desert Dialysis services, a rocket-fuelled dialysis machine, the Purple Truck mobile dialysis unit, a bush turkey, donkey, camel, kangaroo and lots of purple.

The mural is part of the Purple House Garden Project, with a series of public workshops and working bees to create vegetable, bush tucker and bush medicine permaculture and aquaponics gardens.

The gardens will produce food and herbs to use in the social enterprise catering gigs and bush balms.

For more information on upcoming workshops – including an outdoor pizza oven-making workshop – and working bees or general enquiries about the social enterprise and organisation please visit www.westerdessertdialysis.com or call (08) 8953 6444.

Docker BMX holiday hit

Above: Docker River kids got on their bikes in the school holidays – but they had to fix them first.

Andrew from Indigenous Community Volunteers and the NPY Youth Program worker Bret spent a week salvaging bikes with the youngsters. In the end, 18 bikes were up and ready for BMX racing. The BMX track was built by the CLC’s Uluru Rent Money Project and recently fixed by the MacDonnell Shire. Everyone had a lot of fun on it.

Below: The Warumungu male dancers at the CLC’s Open Day in June this year. The dancers also performed at the National Native Title Conference.
Kenya at crossroads of seed politics and climate

KENYA's farmers are under pressure to give up traditional farming methods and adopt genetically engineered crops as the country's climate changes.

Many Kenyan rivers and streams are now producing less water, or drying up completely during the dry season, with drought threatening Kenya's $1.7 billion tea export industry.

The Tea Research Foundation of Kenya has developed 45 varieties of tea, but many farmers are yet to adopt them because they do not even know they exist.

Gathuru Mburu, coordinator of the African Biodiversity Network, says an approach is needed that brings together farming strategies that do not use chemicals.

"Farmers are producing inadequately due to overuse of chemicals," Mburu says. "Agro-ecology uses animal manure. Leftovers from a previous harvest can also be ploughed back as manure."

But the agro-ecology option strikes some as turning one's back on new technologies with enormous potential.

"Criminalising chemicals is not a solution. Farmers must embrace scientific innovations," biodiversity researcher John Kiamagi says. "We need genetic modification, which will enable us to produce seeds that can withstand higher temperatures and heavier rainfall."

But Mburu says it is multi-nationals that are turning farmers into criminals, by pushing for new laws that would penalise traditional farming methods and seed-gathering.

"Some of the policies in the pipeline are the seed law and the anti-counterfeit law," Mburu explains. "The anti-counterfeit law is pushing for certified seeds. Our people who are using indigenous seeds (non-certified) will no longer be able to do so once this law takes effect."

Mburu accused African governments of abdicating their financial responsibility to the agricultural sector, creating room for multinationals to provide funding while at the same time exploiting Africa.

"These are the companies developing and selling chemicals," Mburu says. "Their seeds need lots of chemicals to grow. These seeds are also growing only in specific areas."

"These seeds are controlled by multinationals in the world and are a multi-billion dollar investment and they are not suited to our ecosystem compared to indigenous seeds."

According to the Minang Project of Indonesia, an estimated five million out of about eight million Kenyan households depend directly on agriculture for their livelihoods.

Kenya's farmers - particularly small-scale farmers - face uncertain times due to extreme climate conditions as the country's main sources of water are producing less than they did in the past.

Credit: Catherine Wilson/IPS

Full classrooms but the students can't read

MANY Pacific Island nations are celebrating the success of rising school enrolment rates, with 14 countries on target to achieving universal primary education by 2015.

But a closer look inside the classroom, and in communities surrounding these schools, reveals a shockingly low literacy rate.

Research has found that:

The literacy rate in the English and Tok Pisin languages in Madang, PNG, is only 23 percent.

In the Shefa province of Vanuatu, while 85 percent declared they could read and write a simple letter in the official languages of Bislama, French or English, individual testing confirmed that only 27.6 percent were literate.

In the Solomon Islands, the government claims a primary school enrolment of 91 percent, but the country's literacy rate is only 17 percent.

While 97.7 percent of the 2,300 people surveyed by ASPBARE in the Solomon's capital, Honiara, and in Malaita Province agreed that it was important for children to attend school, 33.8 percent of females and 37.6 percent of males, aged 15 to 19 years, were not in education.

"The issue of low literacy is prevalent mainly with those who are learning in a language other than their primary one," says University of the South Pacific education lecturer Lico Tauafaga.

"Literacy is best learnt in one's primary language, yet most learners in South Pacific countries are expected to achieve it in English, the language of business and administration."

Tauafaga said there were also cultural challenges, as the solitary activity of reading was not always encouraged or supported in many communal-oriented Pacific societies.

"There is very little exposure to books in the home and in schools, and many children do chores to supplement family income after school, so they have no time to read," he said.

Experts say one of the problems is the very large number of languages in the Pacific, many of which have not been written down.

Some experts want to focus on local languages, but most people see literacy in English and French as necessary for engaging in a global world.

"A higher level of literacy in these languages will enhance transfer of technology, information and knowledge at all levels of society," Rex Horoi, director of the Foundation of the Peoples of the South Pacific said.

But Mr Horoi said information also needed to be translated into vernacular languages.

According to the World Bank, 23.7 percent of Vanuatu's government expenditure is allocated to education, with 34 percent in the Solomon Islands, compared to approximately 16.1 percent in New Zealand and 13.5 percent in Australia.

But up to 90 percent of Pacific Island education budgets are committed to teachers' salaries, with little funds left to develop education systems, infrastructure and resources.

Inadequately qualified teachers are another issue, with only 29 percent of teachers in the Solomon Islands and 54 percent in Vanuatu trained.


Credit: Catherine Wilson/IPS

Malaysia to look at its indigenous

THE Malaysian government will set up a task force to investigate the plight of its indigenous community, the Orang Asli.

Malaysia's New Straits Times has reported that the proposed task force would also investigate land rights issues and the recommendations in the report by the Human Rights Commission of Malaysia.

The report follows a national inquiry into the land rights of the indigenous peoples in Malaysia, who consist of 18 different tribal groups.

The report found that the indigenous community was marginalised, disadvantaged and did not fully enjoy legal and human rights.

The community was also unhappy with the ongoing violation of the rights of the Orang Asli, which the report noted.

According to Wikipedia, the power of the Orang Asli, who comprise only 0.5 per cent of the total population, is 76.9 per cent.

The Ministry of Agriculture will have to look at developments of the indigenous peoples, the report noted.
Clockwise from top left: Sarah Palmer, Joyanne Furber and Melissa. Cousins wearing the colours; a couple of Yeperenye students check out the Djembe drums; Rosabella McMillan with Tre, Camisha, Prestina, Lisali; Kyesha and Charmaine soak up the sun and festivities; Christelda Jurrah with Louise and Francis Egan enjoyed the NAIDOC events; the Yipirinya boys stand proud and tall as they can; Warren H Williams entertained with his trademark ballads; the first NAIDOC parade through the newly reopened Todd Mall.
Scores of mukati and mukata (Walpiri and Pitjantjatjara for beanies) were snapped up at the annual Alice Springs 2013 Beanie Festival in July. Beanie makers attended needle-felting and crochet beanie making workshops in Mutitjulu, Nyirripi, Wil-lovakra, Papunya, Fregon, Ernabella, Larapinta Valley and Titjikala before adding their creation to the 6000 beanies on display. Artists drew inspiration from their friendships, community and land.

Gibbo rides the big and bad

Lyientye Arpurte ranger, Gibson Gibbo John has defied the odds (and some would say reason) by becoming the oldest bull rider in Central Australia. Gibbo competed at the Alice Springs Show in July and proved that the being in your 50’s doesn’t mean you can’t take on the biggest and baddest bulls around. His much anticipated first ride of the night was slightly delayed and many spectators watched nervously as the 58 year old listed slightly in the saddle. But Gibbo held on to post a respectable 4-5 second time.

Camel yards handy assets

Left: Travis Brown and his son Kelvin Brown, with their horse they have just trapped in the Kaltukatjara horse yards. These yards were rebuilt by the CLC Kaltukatjara Rangers in 2011, after they were trashed by camels in 2009. The multipurpose community yards were used to trap and remove 172 camels in January 2013.

As the Australian Feral Camel Management Project begins to wind up, sites like these yards at Docker River will be very important in preventing the wild camel population building up again, and reducing damage to the community and the infrastructure.

In the western region of the Northern Territory several thousand camels will need to be removed each year to stay on top of the population growth.
Batchelor course gets you ready for uni

By Catherine Maughan

ABORIGINAL and Torres Strait Islander students from Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education spoke with pride and confidence about their learning experiences at one of the National Native Title Conference workshops recently. The four students are enrolled in Batchelor’s Preparation for Tertiary Success (PTS) course. Through the PTS course students strengthen their own learning identity and develop strategies so they can achieve success in their university studies. Born in Alice Springs, Andrew Clements has worked hard all his life, most recently working in the mining industry in the Pilbara region of north-west Western Australia. Andrew started studying the PTS course full-time in March this year, and he told delegates: “At the start of the semester I was feeling overwhelmed with all the work. “I was working well when I was at workshops but found it harder when I went home. It has taken me most of my first semester to make the changes at home that I needed to, but I have and I feel I’m on track now.” PTS graduate Kathryn Cochran is raising two young boys in Alice Springs, working part-time and completing her second semester of a Bachelor of Teaching and Learning. “PTS was a good foundation for my teaching studies I’m doing now,” she said. “At the start I was a bit stuck in my ways but PTS pushed me out of my comfort zone and I know I can do things that I couldn’t do. “I did well in PTS so that gave me confidence that I can do well at uni too.” More information about the Preparation for Tertiary Success course can be found at www.aci.edu.au or by speaking to a Batchelor Institute Academic Advisor on 1800 677 066. Left L-R Andrew Clements, Amelia Kunoth-Monks, Vyviah Waia-Gibia (standing), Kathryn Cochran

Congress celebrates 40 years

BUILDING families: Strong children, strong future was the theme of a barbecue celebrating 40 years of the Central Australian Aboriginal Congress at Amoonguna recently. Amoonguna Health Service Aboriginal Corporation is suspended by Congress. Fun activities were facilitated by the school, along with the Congress Regional Health Services Division’s (RHSD) Allied Health Team, which included the Regional Eye Health Coordinator, Diabetes Nurse Educator (the ‘Sugar Lady’) and the Nutritionist/Dietician.

The Amoonguna Health Service organised the activities, from running the barbecue to providing transport in the bus.

Right: There was a good turnout at Amoonguna for the Congress 40th

Male health forum: time for action

DELEGATES at the Aboriginal Male Health Conference held at Ross River near Alice Springs in July created their own bark petition calling for non-partisan political action in male health.

The statement read: “We call for non partisan commitment by all political parties to engage, support and fund this Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Male Health Time for Action plan by working in partnership with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations in a culturally responsive and appropriate way to close the gap on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander male health disadvantage, so that we and our can have a healthy future within a generation.

“We restate our commitment to the Inteyerrkwe Male Health Statement 2008.

“We also challenge all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males take action and show leadership, responsibility and ownership at individual, family and community levels.”

Delegates called on governments to develop an “Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander male building block” with specific health targets and to include targets for males in the seven current Council of Australian Government Closing The Gap building blocks.

They said governments need to prioritise funding to address mental health, social and emotional wellbeing and suicide prevention among First Australian males.

Younger males played an important role at the conference, with one taking on the role of master of ceremonies and others facilitating groups. Congress Deputy Des Rogers and Lingiari MHR Warren Snowden with the Congress bark petition
Top left: The Black Arm Band with Gail Mabo and Alexis Wright who delivered the Mabo lecture at the 2013 Native Title Conference in Alice Springs.

Top right: Regina France from Ulpanyali’s Ngalta Art did a brisk trade selling skincare products and art at the CLC Open Day.

Above: Frank Holmes shows the crowd how to make a boomerang from a piece of wood.

Right: Gail Mabo addressed the Native Title Conference and asked that June 3 be celebrated as Eddie Mabo Day as that is the High Court made the Mabo decision.

“The Americans have Martin Luther King Day. Why can’t we have Eddie Mabo Day?” she said.

Below right: Frank Holmes, Sam Peterson and Casey Holmes checking out the CLC’s digital archive at the CLC Open Day.

Bottom right: CLC staffs Becky Mack and Gina Howard presenting at the Conference.

Middle bottom: Arrernte men perform at the opening of the conference and Below: Ladies enjoying the CLC Open Day.

Alice Springs National Native Title Conference & CLC Open Day
CELEBRATING 40 YEARS

2013

High quality, culturally appropriate legal advice and representation to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in Central Australia.

Celebrate the Central Australian Aboriginal Legal Aid Service’s 40th Birthday.

FREE Community BBQ and Entertainment including live CAAMA Radio Broadcast, Jumping Castle, Face Painting, History Display and Speeches.

Wednesday 23 October 2013 - 1pm to 3pm
D.D. Smith Park
(cnr Hartley & Parsons Street)
From top left clockwise: Maisie Kitson addresses the crowd at the opening of the Willowra Learning Centre in April;
Pitjantjatjara ladies making baskets at the World Indigenous Network Conference in Darwin;
Ladies the Ross River bush medicine meeting;
People reading CLC publications as far away as Wiluna, WA;
The CLC Executive talking with Shadow Minister for Aboriginal Affairs Senator Nigel Scullion in Canberra in June this year.
Men at Yuendumu hard at work on the Baptist Church drains. The materials were paid for by royalty association GMAGAC.
Drum Atweme members with a new dance they had made up for the Ntaitive Title Conference;
Delegates to the bush medicine meeting at Ross River Pertame people! Christobel Swan and family at Henbury Station in June this year.
New book for an old language

Aboriginal Ways of Using English
By Diana Eades. Published by Aboriginal Studies Press, August $39.95

Recognising and understanding ‘Aboriginal English’ will lead to a better understanding of Aboriginal identity, according to a new book.

Linguist Diana Eades has written and lectured for 30 years about Aboriginal life and culture as reflected in Aboriginal English, the first language of many Aboriginal people. In Aboriginal Ways Of Speaking English Prof Eades describes court cases in which Aboriginal culture has clashed with legal culture and procedure, often to Aboriginal disadvantage.

Growing numbers of people in ‘settled’ Australia who identify as Aboriginal, speak varieties of English as their first language,” says Eades.

“The fact that such people speak little or none of their traditional Aboriginal languages is often used by non-Aboriginal people as evidence that these people are ‘not really Aboriginal’,”

“In this way, the way people speak plays a significant role in issues of Aboriginal identity, and subsequently needs and rights in areas such as politics, land rights and education.”

Prof Eades said language can perpetuate inequality and understanding Aboriginal ways of speaking can lead to better intercultural communication.

Aboriginal Ways of Using English By Diana Eades. Published by Aboriginal Studies Press, August $39.95

Good Morning, Mr Sarra
By Chris Sarra Price: $34.95

CHRIS Sarra is best known nationally as the school principal who turned around the toxic culture and poor attendance rates at Cherbourg State School in Queensland.

Sarra’s work there was featured on ABC’s Australian Story (2004), and in November 2009 he was named Queensland’s Australian of the Year.

Good Morning, Mr Sarra is the story of the man behind the vision, from his childhood as one of ten children in a country town, to the galvanising of his educational philosophy at university, to its support at a national level.

It depicts how, with his Stronger Smarter Institute, Chris Sarra is pursuing and achieving improved outcomes in literacy, numeracy and attendance for Indigenous children across the country, offering them the means to determine their own futures.

Eighteen Annual National Indigenous Legal Conference

TWO LAWS TOGETHER BALL

When: Saturday 26 October 2013 - 5.30pm till late
Where: Ooraminna Homestead (32km South of Alice Springs)
Dress: Territory Formal (men: dinner suit or dark trousers, long sleeve shirt, bow tie or tuxedo; ladies: evening wear)
Cost: $87.99
Details: Bus service commences departing Alice Springs Convention Centre at 5.30pm. Event includes transportation, welcome canapes and traditional dancers, 3 course meal, 5 hour beverage package and entertainment by Aboriginal artists.
The Melbourne Demons have got behind a campaign to promote Aboriginal eye health. Players from the club ran a junior footy clinic in Tennant Creek in July for more than 150 children and promoted the message of trachoma elimination via the Clean Faces, Strong Eyes campaign.

Barkly Shire Council workers provided water access for the hygiene stations, community transport and helpers at the football skills stations and two members of the Fred Hollows Foundation helped out with gifts of face washers and sun glasses for the children.

Julalikari YDU and Anyinginyi Sports and Recreation provided pick-up services for children from Mungkarta, around town and town camps. A busload of children from Ali Curung also came to town to take part in the clinics.

Local man Ronald Plummer welcomed the players to country and presented gifts of locally made boomerangs to the players and Cheeky Dog bags to the organisers from the University of Melbourne.

The kids were very lucky to be given Demon’s AFL guernseys. The club has been working with the Indigenous Eye Health Unit at the University of Melbourne for several years raising awareness about trachoma and the importance of clean faces to keep trachoma away.

The Demons contingent had a shaky start to the day after the chartered plane was forced to return to Alice Springs shortly after take-off, but it was smooth sailing for the rest of the day.

Above: Naomi Felton, Tarlisha Currie, Rianna Hogan and Waverly Ward with their punu puppets.

Tjuntjuntjara kids go to town

CHILDREN at Tjuntjuntjara School in the Great Victoria Desert (WA) are adding puppet-making and wood sculpture to their skills list.

The school employed a sculptor-in-residence, Ange Leech, for a punu (wood) workshop, with students from kindergarten to high school learning to make puppets, carve art pieces and artefacts and use different tools.

The project culminated in a 1500 km trip to Perth for the opening of the Punu exhibition at Japingka Gallery in Fremantle.

The punu puppets were popular art pieces, and the students were thrilled to see their works displayed. The punu workshops were part of a community based project which encouraged inter-generational and cultural learning, working alongside parents and grandparents.
Santa Teresa boys stand tall and play ball

Ten boys from Ltyentye Apurte Catholic School in Santa Teresa played basketball against teams from all over Australia in the 24th Annual Marist Schools Basketball Carnival in Alice Springs.

“I thought it was a great opportunity for our boys to broaden their horizons and build bridges with schools from all around Australia” said Santa Teresa teacher Peter Dempster.

“It would be really good for the competition to have an all Indigenous team competing.”

The Santa Teresa boys had a height disadvantage, as Ltyentye Apurte Catholic School has no secondary classes and the basketball team was made up almost entirely of Year 8 boys.

“Every opposition team seemed like the Harlem Globetrotters,” Mr Dempster said.

“What they lacked in height however, the Santa Teresa boys made up for in heart, showing enormous courage and tenacity in every game.”

He said there were a few challenges in getting kids to the Carnival, but once there, the boys grew in confidence and skills, almost scoring an upset victory in their final match.

They were ably led by captain Rhys Ullamari and MVP Graham Abbot who scored close to 100 points over the three days.

Ltyentye Apurte Catholic School basketballers from left, Floyd Spratt, Simon Bloomfield, Nicholas Flowers, Scott Young, Rhys Ullamari, Helaman Ryder, Graham Abbot, Mumpy Conway, Robert Ryder and Dallas Williams, pictured with Wol and Deng from Assumption College, Kilmore at the recent Marist Schools Basketball Carnival, Alice Springs.

Footy carnivals out west

The Warakuna Sports weekend was a big success, with teams from as far away as YuenDu-mu attending.

The carnival also included softball and a band night in the rec hall. The Shire youth workers helped out with organising and barbecues.

Dock River’s NPY youth team had given the community’s football program a boost.

Dock River was knocked out early in the finals and Mutitjulu went on to take home the major prize.

Dock River

The Docker River Sports Carnival was held in the last week of the holiday program.

It was a busy week for the youth team, motivating people to get out especially to football training, while the girls softball rolled on well.

Numbers dived off a bit in the week leading up to the sports carnival, but enough showed up to still have the training runs.

It was a massive weekend with six teams arriving for the carnival and three rounds of games before the finals.

Dock River played well in early matches, beating Jameson and Wanarn but then lost heavily to Yendemu.

At the knockout stage of the competition, the team came up against Jameson who had already played 3 games that morning.

In an exciting finish, scores were level by the end of the allotted minutes so the game went into extra time.

Dock River were four points ahead when Ricardi from Blackstone took a mark on the siren to take a set shot at goal from 30m out on a slight angle, which he had no trouble doing.
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