

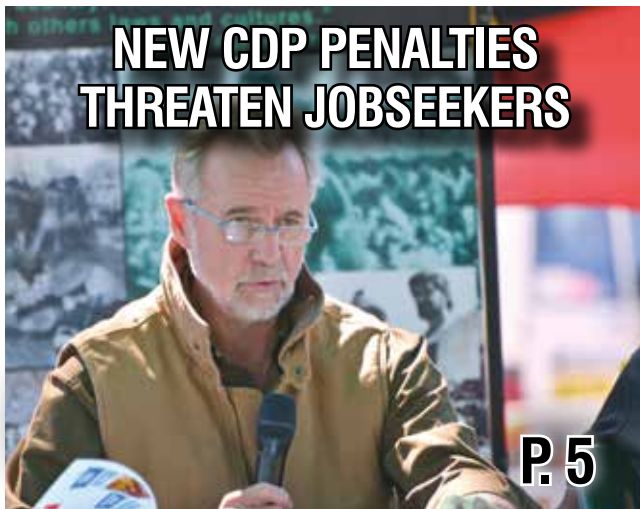


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EDITORIAL

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COVER



From left: Bill Shorten, Francis Kelly, Sammy Butcher, Tony Wurrumarrba, Michael Gunner and Gibson Farmer Illortaminni after the signing of the Barunga Agreement.

CLC MEETINGS

22-24 August
Council,
Coniston
Commemoration

12-13 September
Executive,
Alice Springs

17-18 October
Executive,
Alice Springs

Barunga Agreement signed, hard work on treaty begins

THE four Northern Territory land councils made history at Barunga for the second time on June 8, when they signed an agreement to start working towards a treaty between the NT government and Aboriginal Territorians.

"This is a momentous day in the history of the Territory, a chance to reset the relationship between the Territory's First Nations and the government," Northern Land Council chair Samuel Bush-Blanasi said.

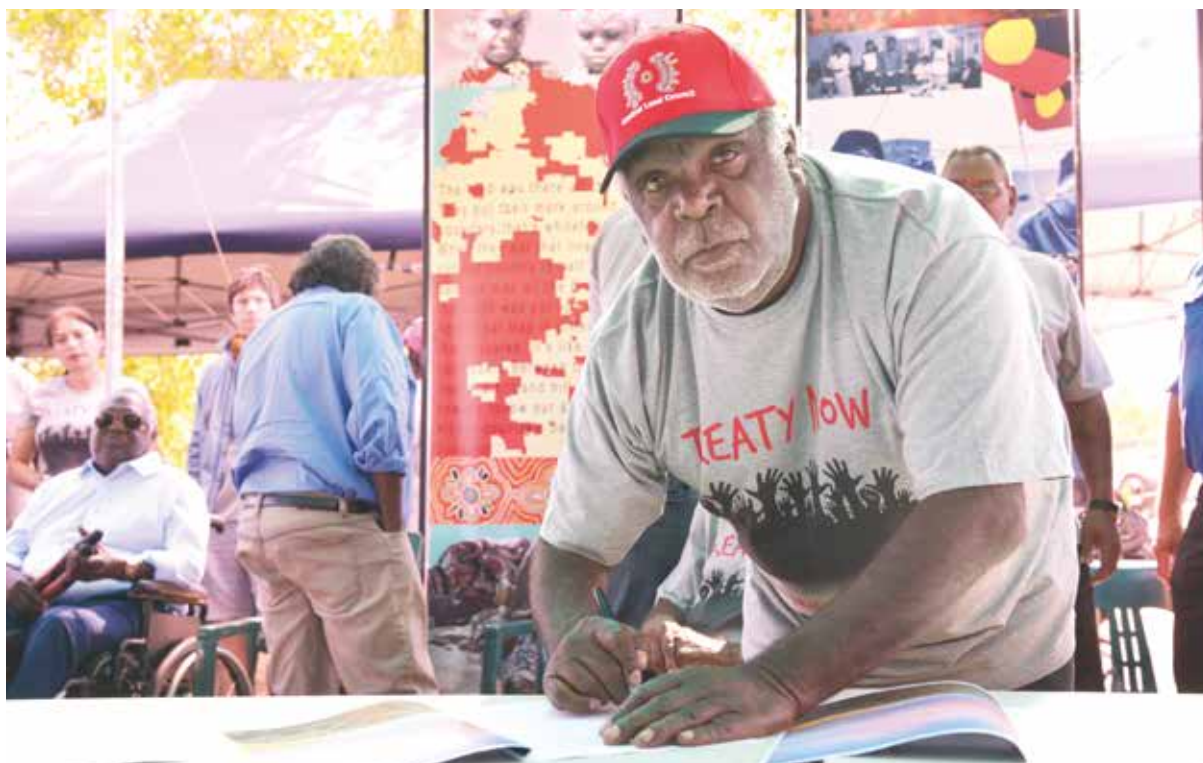
Mr Bush-Blanasi said the Barunga Agreement "gives us high hopes about the future and I hope the government stays true to the spirit" of the memorandum of understanding (MoU).

The Barunga Agreement comes 30 years after NT Aboriginal leaders delivered the Barunga Statement to then prime minister Bob Hawke and were promised a national treaty.

It kicks off a long process aimed at delivering Aboriginal Territorians greater control over their lives.

"I hope a treaty will settle us down together and bring us self-determination," CLC chair Francis Kelly said.

"Today we bounced the ball



Central Land Council deputy chair Sammy Butcher signs the Barunga Agreement.

but we don't want to stay the only players in this game. The next steps must be led by

"The old way is finished."

Aboriginal people across the Territory so that everyone can have their say."

On the morning before the signing ceremony, NLC delegate John Christopherson had reassured the meeting that the agreement would not "sign anything away".

"It's a piece of paper that says we will, in good faith, sit down and discuss how we are going to end up with a treaty at the end of it. We are going to travel down this road together."

The next step along this road is the appointment of an independent Aboriginal treaty commissioner to lead 12 months of consultations in towns and communities.

Chief Minister Michael Gunner told delegates he is open to negotiating about anything Aboriginal people want in a treaty (or treaties).

Continued on p.6.

Not giving up on constitutional reform

AT the same time as talking about an NT treaty, land council delegates and many of the people they represent continue to push for reform of the Australian Constitution.

After prime minister Malcolm Turnbull rejected the Uluru Statement, a federal parliamentary committee was set up to work out what to do next.

The committee, headed by former CLC chair, Senator Pat Dodson, and Liberal Party MP Julian Leeser, held hearings with Aboriginal people around the country.

It also met with the NT land council delegates at Barunga in June.

Harold Nelson and Barb Shaw told the public hearing that the Central Land Council supports the Uluru Statement's call for a voice to power, treaties and truth telling.

The committee members, federal politicians from all parties, are trying to build support for these aims despite Mr Turnbull's rejection.

Senator Dodson said despite the disappointment with Mr Turnbull, participation in the hearings has been good.

"People have come along with their frustrations. We do have people who have come to us and talked about trauma within the Indigenous community. Who've talked about the need for healing,



Kalkaringi's Rob Roy and Rosie Smiler were part of a delegation visiting Malcolm Turnbull's Sydney electorate.

and the need for moving on," he told the ABC.

Some say 'this is just another committee' but I don't think it is. I think this is the only

mechanism the Parliament's got, or one of the key mechanisms it has to deal with complicated issues like this."

On the first anniversary of

the Uluru Statement, Vincent Lingiari's granddaughter Rosie Smiler and Gurindji man Rob Roy met voters in the prime minister's Sydney electorate, one of Australia's richest, to drum up support for constitutional reform.

Ms Smiler, from Kalkaringi, was part of a delegation that tested support for the statement in Mr Turnbull's electorate of Wentworth.

Ms Smiler followed in the footsteps of her grandfather, who travelled to Sydney in the 70s to advocate for land rights.

Mr Roy believes Mr Turnbull's constituents are on board with the idea of an Aboriginal voice to parliament.

"They told us to 'keep going'," he said.

"It was an eye opener for them and for us.

It made Rosie very proud and happy."

Trip organiser Thomas Mayor, from the Uluru working group, told The Australian newspaper he believes Mr Turnbull "is wrong about the feeling of the Australian people."

Mr Mayor has taken the Uluru Statement, with its design painted by Anangu women, to organisations around the country.

He is gathering a growing number of signatures for the statement.



What do you hope for in a treaty?



Dennis Colson

Mutitjulu

“We’ve been fighting and fighting and fighting, now this treaty will change things around, give us more opportunities to do things on our own country. I think the NT is gonna be the leader for it. It’s gonna benefit our children and grandchildren and give us a lot more recognition. So we walk proudly.”



Jennifer Breaden

Alice Springs

“More education and more housing in communities. That’s all.”



Dakota Lally

Alice Springs

“It is a starting point, we are only at the start of getting into bigger and better things. So with the treaty it means Aboriginal people have a say.”



Roseanne Ellis

Amoonguna

“Recognition! That the government will recognise us as the first nations people of this land and give us back our self-determination and work collaboratively with us.”



Shirley Dempsey

Bonya

“I hope that we can get recognition that we are the actual owners of the country and that our visitors, the European people and people from all over the world can understand that and respect us for that.”



Harry Moore

Stirling

“Nothing. This law hasn’t changed. It’s still stuck. This government talk same way. Next government come, talk same way and next one, same.”



Kim Brown

Ti Tree

“I reckon it will bring hope, freedom and happiness. I hope all blackfellas can get involved in it.”



Sabella Turner

Alice Springs

“I’d love the government to show honesty. Come and talk to us, work along together with us and not go against its promises. We want to get self-determination to do our own things because we can do them.”



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Multimillion dollar outstations project has started

A LONG-AWAITED outstations project has finally kicked off, with information sessions in Atitjere, Bonya, Yuendumu, Yuelamu and Ti Tree.

The one-off investment of \$15.7 million from the Aboriginals Benefit Account will benefit about 100 outstations – roughly one in three of the around 300 outstations in the Central

Land Council region.

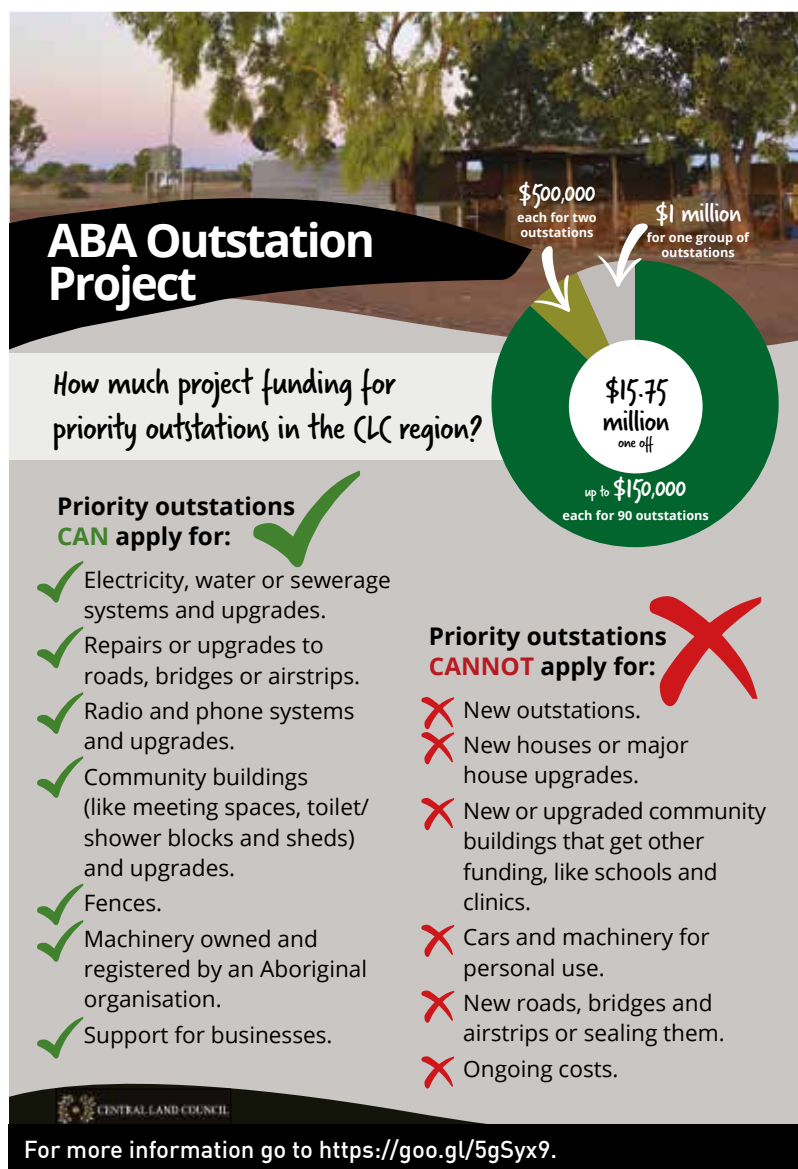
Canberra has made some strict rules for the project, but CLC delegates will help choose the outstations that will receive a share of the funds.

At their meeting in November last year delegates agreed on a process for selecting these 'priority' outstations.

After discussing the project



Banjo Madrill from Ilperle, near Bonya, hopes his place will become one of the 'priority outstations'.



in their regional groups, delegates decided the CLC must consult outstation people in an open and fair process, talk with outstation resource centres about carrying out the work and make the employment of locals a top priority.

"The delegates also decided the funding should stretch right across the CLC region," CLC consultant David Jagger explained.

"To make that funding useful and not spread it too thin, around 90 priority

outstations will get support worth up to \$150,000 each. A few would get more and others will have to miss out."

At the first project information sessions in the Plenty and Central regions in May outstation people shared information that will help CLC delegates choose the priority outstations.

"After the council chooses, hopefully late this year, we will help people at the priority places plan the things they want the project to fund and to write funding applications to

the government in Canberra," Mr Jagger said.

"The government will then check if the applications meet its eligibility and funding criteria and give the applications it agrees to fund to organisations such as outstation resource centres to do the work."

To find out about project information sessions in your region contact your regional CLC officer or call David Jagger on 8951 6371.

CLC's native title role confirmed for six more years

THE federal government has recognised the Central Land Council as a native title representative body for another six years.

It's the first time indigenous affairs minister Nigel Scullion has recognised the CLC's native title role for more than two years.

"Six years, the maximum recognition period possible under the Native Title Act, gives native title holders the certainty they need to pursue their rights and interests in country and develop their corporations, also known as prescribed bodies corporate (PBCs)," the manager of the CLC's native title program, Francine McCarthy, said.

"This is a great achievement. It reflects the dedication and outstanding job the CLC has been doing in supporting native title holders and their corporations."

As a native title representative body, the CLC runs native title

claims, helps negotiate and monitor agreements, supports PBCs and advocates for native title rights at a national level.

"The way we do business is based on decades of experience working with Aboriginal people, and developing systems that ensure good governance," she said.

Ms McCarthy has had a successful couple of years since her appointment in 2015, overseeing 12 consent determinations and governance support for 24 PBCs.

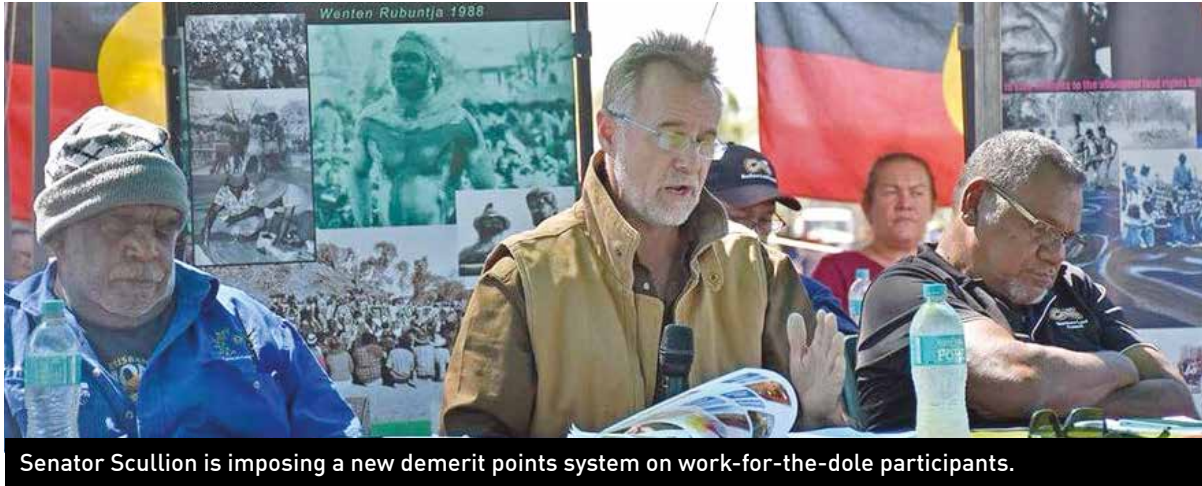
In June, she chaired a session on regional coordination at the National Native Title Conference in Broome.

She was also appointed deputy chair of the National Native Title Council, which is an alliance of native title representative bodies, service providers and PBCs from around Australia.



Native title holder Marlene Doolan thanked the CLC's Francine McCarthy (right) with one of her paintings.

New CDP changes risk trapping bush in a “cycle of penalties”



Senator Scullion is imposing a new demerit points system on work-for-the-dole participants.

JOBSEEKERS in bush communities are worried about a harsh new penalty process the federal government plans to impose on participants in its work-for-the-dole scheme from next year.

The government's plan, the so-called targeted compliance framework, blindsided the land councils who had not been consulted about the changes and voted at their joint meeting at Barunga to oppose them.

Delegates heard that the new system will impose 'demerit points' on job seekers who break the government's rules, leading to harsher financial penalties for people the more points they get.

"It's going to get worse," CLC policy manager Josie Douglas said.

"It means having income cut for weeks and not being able to do anything to get that money back. Once someone is in the 'penalty zone' they may never escape."

"It means less money for already struggling families and risks trapping people in a cycle of penalties," she said.

The land councils are deeply concerned the new penalty

system, which will start in February 2019, will add to the devastation the CDP has already caused, with reports of children and pregnant women going hungry.

Senator Scullion also

capacity to work that he claims will be fairer.

However, delegates were disappointed that the government had failed to address racial discrimination in the design of the CDP.

The new system will impose 'demerit points' on jobseekers who break the government's rules, leading to harsher financial penalties for people the more points they get.

announced a few positive changes, such as support for 6,000 subsidised jobs in remote communities.

"That would mean 6,000 of those people who are most job-ready ... will actually have real wages that will be the equivalent of the award wage, full superannuation and other workplace entitlements and an opportunity for real long-term employment," he said.

"For those people who want to move into a real job with real conditions that will now be available where it hasn't been before."

He also announced a new process for checking peoples'

Land councils reject federal government's ABA plans

MICHAEL Jones, from Tennant Creek, summed up the view of land council delegates at Barunga.

"Whatever money comes from the ground belongs to us," he said.

Mr Jones was referring to Aboriginals Benefit Account (ABA) grants.

His, and the message from many others was that grants are meant to help the Territory's Aboriginal people and therefore it's they who should be able to decide who gets them.

This simple and decades-old message from traditional owners continues to fall on deaf ears in Canberra, where minister Nigel Scullion is tweaking the fund he controls.

"The proposed changes do not meet their expectations for greater Aboriginal control over the ABA," CLC policy manager Josie Douglas said. It is the main reason the members of the four NT land councils, meeting together at Barunga in June, rejected a discussion paper by the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet (PM&C).

"While the minister seems to be considering land councils taking on some, or all, administrative work his department currently does around the ABA, he still wants to have the last word on whether to approve grants," Ms Douglas said.

"Some of his proposed changes seem to significantly increase the risk of him making grant funding decisions for political reasons."

Ms Douglas said to continue to negotiate based on the

government's discussion paper "risks a very unsatisfactory outcome for Aboriginal people and the prospect that the government will benefit much more than they".

At Barunga, the delegates of the four land councils supported the 12 principles for reforming the ABA their executives had agreed at their Darwin meeting in March.

They backed their executive members who believe that the structure and processes for ABA grants do not allow for Aboriginal decision making, strategic use of the funds and are not transparent.

"Members also instructed us to continue to negotiate with the government," Ms Douglas explained.

"They want us to set up a working group to develop changes that can be agreed to by all."

Members want the group to include representatives from each land council and staff from PM&C.

ABA funds come from the Commonwealth's budget and are intended to be the equivalent of royalties paid by mining companies for their activities on Aboriginal land.

The land councils have always argued that Aboriginal people should be able to control the ABA, rather than the minister.

While the minister insisted the ABA is "not a slush fund", in recent times federal government control over the funds has increased to such a degree that ABA grants have become part of the government's Indigenous Advancement Strategy.

Youth detention in the NT: 100 per cent Aboriginal

SEVEN months after the royal commission that investigated allegations of institutional racism in the Northern Territory justice system handed down its recommendations it's been revealed that every single child in detention is Aboriginal.

The news that all 17 children in Don Dale in Darwin and all 21 jailed in Alice Springs are Aboriginal has highlighted tensions between child advocates and the Territory government over the implementation of the commission's recommendations.

Danila Dilba Health Service CEO Olga Havnen said the statistic indicated "a failure to find workable bail options

for young Aboriginal offenders and quite possibly systemic racism that sees them receive custodial sentences while non-Aboriginal offenders rarely do".

Ms Havnen spoke of some positive developments, but also frustration among Aboriginal organisations, that reform is not moving faster.

"The pace of reform is slower than we would like," she said. "We are still seeing far too many young people in custody on remand for property offences rather than being supported in the community on bail."

Central Land Council delegates at the joint land councils meeting at Barunga put it more bluntly as they

ripped into public servants making a presentation on the government's Aboriginal Justice Agreement.

"Where's the early intervention?" an emotional Sabella Turner asked.

"There's a lot of services in Alice Springs which don't provide anything for the children. They don't have mental health assessments.

"You should be building family centres in the communities, let us old people deal with our children. You men got to start talking up for children. Always women up front.

"Nothing is happening!" she cried out to prolonged applause.

Continued on p.8.



CLC delegate Sabella Turner made an emotional appeal for more prevention.

Barunga makes history again

From p.2

"The old way is finished," Mr Gunner said.

Anindilyakwa Land Council chair Tony Wurramarrba pledged to "work with the NT government and other land councils to continue the important work required", celebrating "the highly significant step that has been achieved today." Federal opposition leader Bill Shorten promised to support an NT treaty if Labor wins the federal election.

Indigenous affairs minister Nigel Scullion stopped short of backing a treaty, saying only that he would "look at it very carefully".

The journey back to Barunga began in March, when the executives of the four land councils met in Darwin to agree on a roadmap for treaty talks.

After the meeting CLC policy manager Josie Douglas and Harry Hobbs from the University of New South Wales, spent a couple of days with the CLC executive to examine different types of treaties and how they might help their people.

"It became very clear that they don't want symbolic gestures but substantial change," Ms Douglas said.

They want real change in education, housing and local government".

Asked if a treaty could deliver bilingual 'two-way' education, Mr Hobbs said in Canada treaties had given the Inuit peoples control over their schools.

"That includes instruction in Inuktitut, the main language there, so schools teach in Inuktitut as well as English, and that's a direct result of the treaty," Mr Hobbs said.

Inuit make up the majority of residents in Canada's remote North West Territory and have long pushed for bilingual schools, but it took a treaty for them to succeed.

He said it is a similar story for other first nations groups. "Most of the modern



"We are not waiting around for the current prime minister to have a change of heart, we're getting on with it, state by state, territory by territory," Josie Douglas told the Barunga crowd.

treaties in Canada have as key provisions more control over education. Part of that is having much greater authority

from his home community of Yuendumu to Barunga in 1988, and remembers Mr Hawke's broken promise well.

"They don't want symbolic gestures but substantial change."

to decide what the language of teaching should be than Indigenous people have here."

Some questioned whether a treaty with the NT would deliver real change.

"I don't know.

How will the NT government recognise our culture? They don't recognise our law, nothing," said Tommy Watson.

Mr Watson travelled

"We don't want to have the same problems we've had in the past," Tiwi Land Council chair Gibson Farmer Illortaminni said.

"We've got to be careful and understand each other about what we want. The MoU is a good start, but we've got a long way to go. The government needs to be honest and transparent."

Former NLC chair Galarwuy Yunupingu presented the Barunga Statement to Mr Hawke in 1988.

He appeared to have given up hope for a national treaty and said a treaty with the NT would "mean nothing at all".

CLC director David Ross, meanwhile, challenged the authors of a letter rejecting a treaty before they had even read the MoU.

"Three people against a majority of 3000. How does that work?" Mr Ross asked.

"You can't have three people hold you to ransom, can you?"

His predecessor, Senator Pat Dodson, encouraged the delegates to stay united and focus on their goals.

"Sometimes we hope we could take a big jump and fix everything at once and we know that we butt up against the hard world of people who are ignorant, who are racist, who don't understand, who want to use the English words that we use in ways that try to trip us up, who want to drive wedges between us to say, 'oh you don't all agree with this because someone said this or someone said that'."

"I'll just remind those people that we come from a long line of leaders.

That hard work has only just begun."

Some of the Territory government's heavy lifting will be done by MLA Ken Vowles, the new Aboriginal affairs minister Mr Gunner appointed in June.

He knows he must convince sceptical voters in the bush that a treaty is more than a distraction from the delays in delivering on his government's election promises.

The next step – 12 months of consultations overseen



New NT Aboriginal affairs minister Ken Vowles

by the treaty commissioner - will show whether remote communities trust Mr Gunner to deliver real change through what he has called a "binding contract".

Read the Barunga Agreement at <https://goo.gl/kHrnm4>.





Fracking report turns up heat on Territory government

A NEW report about the impact of fracking in the Northern Territory on global warming is fuelling the backlash against the Territory government's controversial decision to lift its ban.

The Australia Institute has found that planned new shale gas fields in the NT would release as much greenhouse gases into the air in a year as a quarter of the emissions the whole country's transport industry produces annually.

As Australia notched up yet another greenhouse gas record, the report says an NT gas boom would contribute as much as 6.6 per cent to Australia's yearly emissions.

This would put at risk the promises Australia made to the world in the landmark 2015 Paris climate change agreement to cut dangerous greenhouse gases.

"Other Australian industries will have to reduce their emissions by the equivalent of the Northern Territory's fracking emissions to fulfil our Paris commitments," the institute's principal adviser Mark Ogge told The Guardian.

The report used data from last year's independent scientific inquiry into fracking in the NT.



From left: Noelene Forbes, Shirleen Campbell, Danae Moore, Lazarus Chungaloo and Barbara Shaw.

That inquiry found even a single shale gas field in the NT, producing for the Australian

"Arrernte mob, we have got to organise ourselves and we're going to put up a good front because we just can't accept this."

market, would increase the nation's emissions by 4.5 per cent.

That's more than double the emissions the entire Australian waste industry produces each year.

The inquiry warned there could be "unacceptable" climate impacts as a result of opening up new gas fields in the NT.

The latest report follows the annual NT Labor party conference vote to ban

fracking in the NT and cut greenhouse gas emissions to zero by 2050, showing that the government's decision is as unpopular in its own party as it is in communities.

"I felt really betrayed," Eleanor Dixon, from Marlinja near the gas-rich Beetaloo Basin, said when the chief minister lifted the ban on fracking.

"I'm disappointed in people who are willing to take a risk and destroy the earth," she

added.

"I'm really concerned," Shaun Angeles told a large crowd at a protest in Alice Springs which included current and former Central Land Council delegates and staff.

"Arrernte mob, we have got to organise ourselves and we're going to put up a good front because we just can't accept this."

Surrounded by his family, Mr Angeles drew much applause as he outlined their worries about the impact of fracking on water and the climate.

"The health of the country determines how healthy people are. If country is damaged people are damaged. We just have to work together and try and stop this mob."

After the rally, supporters tweeted their commitment to "fight for Aboriginal people to have the right to say 'No to fracking' under the Land Rights Act".

Many were unaware that traditional owners (but not native title holders) have won that fight, enjoying the power to stop fracking on Aboriginal land for decades.

Continued on p.25.

From p.5.

Barbara Shaw wanted to know "what's being done to rehabilitate our men, women and children who are rackin' and stackin' in jail"?

"We know we need to offer more youth diversion and to do things differently," Leanne Liddle, the director of the Aboriginal justice unit in the NT Justice Department, replied.

But advocates are no longer sure the NT government is on the same page.

Ms Havnen, who had vowed to "do what it takes to make the child protection and youth justice system work better for our children and families" wants the government to prioritise "positive programs and supports in the community" ahead of spending money on the bricks and mortar that keep children locked up.

"We are not seeing enough switch in investment away from the punitive parts of the system to the preventative end," she said.

Among the royal commission's more than 200 recommendations was to close the Don Dale detention centre.

The NT government, however, is spending more than \$71-million to rebuild it and another youth detention centre and only about a seventh of that amount over four years to stop young

people from committing crimes.

Meanwhile, the federal government that set up the royal commission is yet to contribute any money for the implementation of its recommendations while the NT government has committed \$229 million over five years.

For child advocates, though, it's not only about the amount of money, but more so about getting the balance between prevention and punishment right.

Ms Havnen renewed her calls for a radical overhaul of a system that currently errs on the side of punishment.

"The government needs to really hear the advice of Aboriginal people and organisations to make these changes," she said.

"The solutions and the expertise to support the long-term wholesale reform of the systems lies with Aboriginal people."

During recent consultation workshops by the Aboriginal Medical Services Alliance of the NT (AMSANT) people consistently asked for their families and elders with cultural authority to be involved in the decisions about young people and children.

"The workshops found a great depth of understanding of the issues and a wealth of knowledge about better

ways to deal with both child protection and youth justice," Ms Havnen said.

She said participants want to lead the services needed to support families.

These are familiar themes to anyone listening a CLC council debates.

The Territory locks up children from the age of 10 at rates more than three times higher than the rest of the country (see below).

Historically, 95 per cent of

them have been Aboriginal, but now black kids are the only ones left behind bars.

NT families minister Dale Wakefield said that "is an area that we are going to need to continue to develop".

In June, Ms Wakefield announced the investment of \$2.77 million to support frontline workers in child protection, youth justice and domestic violence services.

The money will fund social services experts that will work

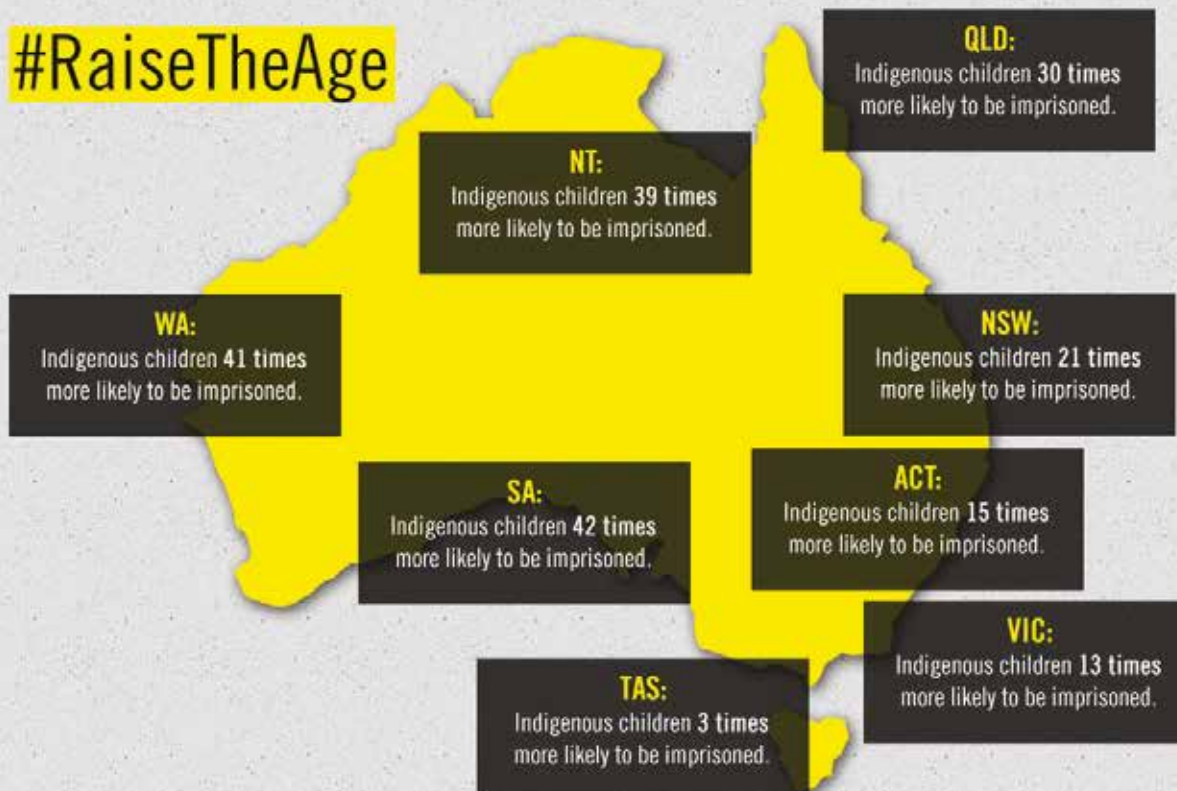
with frontline staff to improve their clinical practice.

Ms Wakefield said this response to recommendations of the royal commission would ensure that frontline staff have ongoing training, professional support, mentoring and coaching to assist them with casework.

"Fundamental to our reform is that we have trained, experienced and supported staff on our frontline," she said.

Indigenous children need to **thrive** in their communities, not **suffer** in prisons.

#RaiseTheAge





Native title a win in long battle for Henbury

"We been fighting for a long time for Henbury Station," former Central Land Council chair Bruce Breden said.

Now well in his 80s, Mr Breden has been "pushing really hard all the time to get country back" for much of his life.

"Not only for my family, but for all Aboriginal people," he adds.

Traditional owners of the cattle property they have long wanted to own under Australian law can now at least call themselves native title holders.

As Justice John Reeves handed down the native title consent determination for more than 5,000 square kilometres of land to six land holding groups at Three Mile waterhole, Mr Breden took a pragmatic approach.

"We know native title is not strong like land rights, but it gives us a chance to have a say. We have sacred sites all over Henbury. Native title research was a chance to look

around country and show the younger ones," he said.

The native title holders can now legally visit and protect their sites, hunt, fish, hold ceremonies and try to make agreements about tourism, mining and exploration proposals.

However, they can't say 'no' to non-pastoral development of the station where their elders and ancestors were born, lived and worked since the late 1800s.

There is a cemetery where many loved ones are buried and within the determination area are several outstations on Aboriginal land that are connected by an old stock route.

Some of the old people still speak Pertame, an endangered language they are working to revive (see story below), while some speak Western Arrernte and Matuntara Luritja.

The traditional owners have fought unsuccessfully for more than 40 years for the return of their country.



Peta Braedon celebrated the Henbury native title determination with her grandparents Bessie Liddle and Bruce Breden.

In 2011, after an Australian government assisted purchase transferred the lease to RM Williams Agricultural Holdings for carbon farming, they thought they were close.

The CLC helped them negotiate with the company for a staged return of the land

and to source funding for an Aboriginal ranger group to manage it.

When RM Williams went belly-up in June 2013, the traditional owners and the Indigenous Land Corporation tried to buy Henbury Station.

Their plans were dealt a

bitter blow though when Henbury was sold to Ashley and Neville Anderson, Ted and Sheri Fogarty and David Rohan, a consortium of established Central Australian pastoral interests.

"The ILC was helping, but we didn't have enough money," Mr Breden says.

For now, Henbury will continue to operate as a cattle station, but old ringers never say die.

"We will push it again next time," Mr Breden says.

"Working on country is good for Aboriginal people."

Barry Abbott agreed.

"I would be pleased to see a ranger group here, but it has to be our people, people from the land. They know how to look after country," he said.

Robert Coombs reckoned that if Henbury returned to Aboriginal hands the rangers should look after "the waterholes and all the sacred sites".

"I would apply for it. As long as it is a fulltime job."

Pertame School comes to language's rescue

ELDER and fluent speaker of the severely endangered Pertame language, Christobel Swan, is keeping her first language alive through Pertame School.

"I want to teach my children, grandchildren and great grandchildren our language and show our country to them so they can think and talk in Pertame," Ms Swan said.

Her plan started to take shape during a weekend in May at Boomerang Bore outstation, 120 kilometres south of Alice Springs, where 40 children and 30 adults gathered for the first of four intensive language bush camps.

Elders taught them Pertame greetings and words for seasons, plants, animals, kinship terms and body parts through country visits, songs, art, stories and games.

"Having the opportunity to go out bush to where our language originated is the most important part for us," Pertame School organiser Geraldine Stewart added.

"Having the opportunity to go out bush to where our language originated is the most important part for us."

"It's about our children and grandchildren learning in a home and family environment, and learning from the bush itself.

"That's how we learnt from the land when we were children, with our



Christobel Swan teaches family at Henbury Waterhole. Inset: Ms Swan at the Henbury native title determination.

grandparents and great grandparents to guide us," Ms Stewart explained.

"Our old people, poor things, have all passed away now. There are only a few of us left to teach our kids how our old people used to live".

By all accounts, the camp was a success.

"Seeing families engaged,

of Southern Arrernte, or Pertame, the language that belongs to the country south of Alice Springs, around the Finke and Hugh Rivers.

Aboriginal languages in Australia are disappearing faster than in any other country in the world.

A violent colonial history, stolen country and policies that don't value bilingual education have pushed languages such as Pertame to the brink.

"When I was about 10, we used to come in from the station, and we'd be walking along the street, and people would say 'Don't talk that language'," Ms Swan remembers.

"Even at school they used to give us a hiding in the playground, and I often used to think why should

I speak English? That's not my language!"

Ms Bradshaw faced similarly negative attitudes.

"Once when I was younger at school, I was told by a teacher never to 'speak that lingo again'," she recalled.

"From that moment I made a promise to myself that I will never forget my language and no-one will ever take it away from me."

"Although I have been away from my homeland for many years, my elders ensured I kept my language intact and fluent."

Ms Bradshaw says language is "an important part of our culture and a strong foundation of our identities".

"I am passionate about keeping our language alive and strong. This has always been a dream of my sister Christobel.

"I feel proud to support and help her vision become a reality."

Pertame School received seed funding from the Fouress Foundation and support from local businesses.

The next one is planned in August.





Native title holders seek mining and

TRADITIONAL owners of cattle stations in the south of the Northern Territory have celebrated native title consent determinations amid negotiations with mining companies.

At special sittings of the Federal Court near Titjikala and at Aputula (Finke), Justice Natalie Charlesworth handed down consent determinations over Maryvale, Andado and New Crown stations.

The Maryvale determination took place on the banks of the Hugh River on May 23, followed by a non-exclusive native title consent determination over Andado and New Crown stations, an area of almost 20,000 square kilometres, at Aputula (Finke) the next morning.

The Maryvale area covers more than 3,200 square kilometres and includes an 18 kilometre-wide salt deposit, while further south there are plans for coal exploration.

At both ceremonies the native title holders remembered their families who lived on the stations from



Margaret Campbell, Hazel Ungwanaka, Rene Pepperill, Ursula Johnson and Mya Hayes celebrate the determination.

"It's now our turn to make sure that our children here take it on and the knowledge stays strong," Ms Kantawara said.

Eric Breaden said his father and brother have missed out on seeing the determination.

"My father worked as a cattle

"It's now our turn to make sure that our children take it on and the knowledge stays strong."

the 1890s until the 1970s, working as station hands and domestic servants for little more than rations.

"It's bittersweet. I'm very proud because of the hard work that our old people have put in," Maryvale native title holder Helen Kantawara said.

"Most of them are gone, but we have a few of them here, so we're celebrating with them here today.

"We've got lots of stories and song lines, even dances. We've been taught since we were little.

man, a drover and he was born on Maryvale, and my brother," he said.

"I'm the only one left to see this good thing happen. It means a lot to me what's happening today."

The native title holders from the Imarnte, Titjikala and Idracowra land-holding groups and the Andado, Pmere Ulperre, New Crown and Therreyererte family groups are happy that their right to hunt and gather on the stations, protect their sacred sites and conduct cultural

Horrible Histories

FRONTIER wars era cattle stations were extremely harsh places for Aboriginal people.

New Crown and Andado stations were no exceptions and Maryvale, then known as Mount Burrell, has a particularly violent colonial history.

It includes a site where, in the 1860s, the party of explorer John McDouall Stuart shot at three armed Aboriginal men who allegedly threatened the expedition.

During the following decade, three pastoralists struggled to run sheep, cattle and horses on Mount Burrell.

TGH Strehlow and other anthropologists recorded frequent violence between the pastoralists and the Aboriginal land owners

who resented the invasion of their country and the kidnapping of local women.

The pastoralists retaliated for the spearing of their cattle by shooting people in their camps.

By the time Mt Burrell was abandoned following the severe 1889 – 94 drought, the local Aboriginal population had fallen substantially because grazing and other pastoral activities had destroyed its traditional food sources.

The 1894 Horn Scientific Expedition to Central Australia also noted that sexually transmitted diseases were "extremely rife" amongst the local Aboriginal population, "undoubtedly largely owing to the infection by the whites."

activities and ceremonies has finally been recognised in Australian law.

"This determination also gives them right to negotiate about exploration and mining activities on their land, but no right of veto," Francine McCarthy, the Central Land Council's manager of native title, said.

The Maryvale families are negotiating an Indigenous land use agreement (ILUA) about a salt mine and hazardous waste storage facility with mining company Tellus.

"It is exciting if it comes about," Marilyn Kenny said about the salt mine near Titjikala.

"There's going to be jobs and opportunities for education of our children and young people. I don't know about the waste dump. I'm worried that they might put something toxic in there, for our water."

Mr Breaden hopes the mine will create local jobs and seal the road to Alice Springs, but he is equally nervous.

"This salt mine happened so quickly and suddenly. We didn't have any time to talk about it among the family. Some of the old people still don't know what's happening," Mr Breaden said.

"As we were told, the waste dump, they're going to top it up with salt. We don't really know what's going on there in the background. We're scared of what is going to happen."

Mary LeRossignol met with the company three times, but still wants more information.

"I do worry a lot. We don't really know. The only time we see them is at a meeting and you can't really ask that many questions."

The Southern and Eastern Arrernte native title holders at the determination ceremony in Aputula are trying to negotiate an ILUA with Tri Star, a company that won an exploration permit and



Maryvale native title holders.



exploration benefits

licenses to look for coal and coal seam gas.

"Both New Crown and Andado are subject to minerals authorities held by Tri Star," Ms McCarthy said.

The CLC lodged the native title claim in 2013 in response to the company's oil and gas exploration activities in the region, as well as proposed minerals exploration.

Three years later, just before it lost the 2016 Northern Territory election, the Giles government announced it would grant Tri Star mineral authorities

for coal exploration.

The plan was designed to help the company cut its exploration costs, improve its security of tenure and avoid negotiations with the native title holders.

The CLC lost an appeal against this in the National Native Title Tribunal.

The Gunner government granted the minerals authorities late last year, allowing the company to start exploration without an agreement with the native title holders.

The CLC's efforts to

negotiate with the company and its work on the native title claim did not go unnoticed.

Artist and native title holder Marlene Doolan, who has lived at Aputula most of her life, presented Ms McCarthy with a 'thank you' painting depicting connection to country, dreamings and bush foods.

"I learnt my knowledge from the old ladies who passed it down to me," Ms Doolan said.

"My job is to teach the younger generations today."



Justice Charlesworth with Therese Ryder, Stephanie Hayes, Ursula Johnson and Roseanne Johnson.

Looking after Akerre

THE newly-recognised native title holders of New Crown and Andado stations have wasted no time in exercising their right to care for one of their most important sites.

Just weeks after Justice Charlesworth handed down the native title determination over both stations at Aputula, elder Marlene Doolan and young community residents Rene Stuart, Warrie Doolan, and Dwayne Carroll joined a group of scientists and Territory government rangers on a monitoring trip to Akerre.

Also known as Mac Clark Conservation Reserve, the area on Andado is of great cultural significance to its traditional owners.

"We have lots of sacred sites out here," Ms Doolan said.

It is also home to many rare and vulnerable animals, including the Mulgara, a meat-eating marsupial mouse, and the acacia peuce (waddywood) tree that grows only at Akerre and two other places in Queensland.

The elders swapped knowledge with the scientists while the younger participants got up at dawn with the rangers to check Elliott traps for native marsupials.

The youngsters also



Rene Stuart warms a mulgara trapped at Akerre at dawn.

measured the growth of the acacia peuce and spotlighted well into the night.

"I can go back knowing that three of our young ones are happy," Marlene Doolan said.

"We want more of our young people to get involved to learn what the rangers are doing to look after country. We've got to teach our young people two ways."

Ms Doolan told everyone about the cultural importance of the area, including sites that have been looked after and visited for generations.

"There are big stories in that country and we want our young people to learn and train to look after them.

We'd have a lot of work out here," she said.

Aputula has long pushed for its own Aboriginal ranger group.

The community is high on the Central Land Council's wish list for new ranger groups.

Traditional owners want their future ranger group to work alongside scientists and NT Parks and Wildlife Service rangers.

They look forward to joining similar trips in an unofficial capacity until a joint management plan for their region is developed and implemented.

Anmatyerr mob celebrate native title over all of Pine Hill



Dean Pepperill would like to live on his family's outstation on Pine Hill.

ARDEN'S SOAK BORE on Pine Hill Station was the scene of celebrations in May.

Families from five land-holding groups gathered to hear Federal Court judge John Reeves hand down a native title determination over the western side of the property.

The consent determination over more than 1,500 square kilometres west of the Stuart Highway complemented an earlier determination over the eastern side of Pine Hill in 2009.

It means that all of the station, where many native title holders grew up and worked, is now under native title.

"I worked for a long time on Pine Hill," Leslie Stafford Pwerrrl said. "I branded bullocks and broke horses."

Peter Cole Peltharr said old people told them "the right stories".

"Old Bruce Campbell, he was a cook who told us stories about country and I now pass on those stories to young people," Mr Cole said.

The native title holders hunt, visit rock holes and practice ceremony on the station, often in the company of the Central Land Council's Anmatyerr Rangers in Ti Tree.

"We feel good when we go to country," Amy Campbell Peltharr said.

"When the CLC rangers come to help us we go to places we didn't go to for a long time".

"I teach young people about

important places and to do ceremony the right way," Mr Stafford explained.

"I sometimes go to Pine Hill and take young girls to show them how to get bush tucker and medicine," Daisy Campbell Peltharr added.

"I like to camp out at Pine Hill and look for bean tree seeds with my younger sister."

Francine McCarthy, the CLC's native title manager, said the determination recognises these rights under Australian law, as well as the right to negotiate agreements about mining and exploration.

Some of the native title holders want to return to Anyungyunba outstation,

"I teach young people about important places and to do ceremony the right way."

across the river from the Pine Hill homestead and hope the native title decision will speed that process up.

"My family have been living there for many years, it would be great to live on my own country," Dean Pepperill said.

"I would like to come and live on the outstation. I feel grateful for the native title consent determination.

"And to try and get it going again, to have more activity and program going again,

I have been taking kids there for school holidays - going on country, they love that."



Amy Campbell (with Justice Reeves) said her family like "visiting the country, hunting and visiting the little station house" on Pine Hill.

Education champions push for 'Warlpiri theme cycle'

THE Warlpiri Education and Training Trust is investing community royalty income in yet another attempt to convince the Northern Territory government to get serious about bilingual and bicultural education.

The WETT's education champions are talking with Yapa school staff and elders in four Tanami communities about a project matching the Warlpiri theme cycle to the NT school curriculum (learning plan).

"We have been doing the Warlpiri theme cycle for a long time now," teacher Barbara Napanangka Martin said.

"It's important to us and we have always been using it to teach our kids."

"It's showing us how we can do it for the next theme, which is kuyu [animal and meat]," she said.

Among the Lajamanu residents Ms Martin and Annette Patrick have consulted are Robyn Napurrurla and Markirdi Rose.

"Everyone was really supportive," Ms Martin said. "One old man said it brought back happy memories of how education was before for kids."

"Now they all have mobiles and new technology, but they still need to be going out with the old people and learning about places and names, ceremony and making artefacts. They can learn everything that way."

The \$100,000 project

"One old man said it brought back happy memories of how education was before for kids."

Yapa educators began by mapping the warlaja 'family and kinship' theme, the first of 12, at Yuendumu's Bilingual Resource Centre.

"We have made a first draft of the learning pathway from baby to adult," Ms Martin said. "It looks at the different levels at the different ages and what they should know at that age."

aims to foster stronger links between the school curriculum and a WETT program that funds country visits for students and elders.

With the support of the Central Land Council's community development team it will also produce a curriculum handbook and a web page.

New WETT committee takes shape



New WETT advisory committee members from Nyirrpri Jacob Spencer, Agnes Brown (left) and Kirsty-Anne Brown (second from right) with the CLC's Aysia Rodgers and founding member Fiona Gibson (centre).

NYIRRPI has elected new Warlpiri Education and Training Trust (WETT) advisory committee members to recommend funding for and monitor WETT projects in the Tanami.

The WETT uses mining royalties to fund educational initiatives for Yapa from four Warlpiri speaking communities.

Fiona Gibson, a founding member of the WETT, helped to run the election in her home community.

"It's good that we are getting new members. It's time for the young people to take on this role," Ms Gibson said.

"People like me have been on this committee for a long time now."

"These elections are really good for young people – they really want to know more about all the programs."

"When they come [to Alice Springs] for the [next advisory committee] meeting they can look at us all and learn and get used to it."

Then they can go back home and think about what things from Nyirrpri they want to report on next time."

WETT committee newcomer Kirsty-Anne Brown went to boarding school at Kormilda College in Darwin.

Ms Brown works with Warlpiri Youth Development Aboriginal Corporation's Jaru Pirjirdi program.

The mother of two won 'Jaru of the Year' for Nyirrpri in 2016.

She nominated to become a WETT advisory committee member because she "wants to learn more" and the WETT "helps communities and helps young people too".

Willowra elected Bradley Forrest and Rhonda Larry and nominated Fiona Kitson as a proxy.

Yuendumu and Lajamanu will hold WETT advisory committee elections in August.

History of bilingual education published

ONE of the hopes Aboriginal people have for a treaty with the NT government is that it may deliver them bilingual education.

Linguist Samantha Disbray, who has worked closely with Warlpiri educators, has just helped publish a book about bilingual learning in the Territory.

The *History of Bilingual Education in the Northern Territory* has been entered in the Chief Minister's book prize, with the first copy going to the NT education minister.

Land Rights News asked Dr Disbray why bilingual education in the Territory has become so controversial and politicised.

The NT education department right from the start thought it costs more because there are extra positions involved with bilingual education, Aboriginal teachers and

teacher linguists. But it's not only about money.

As time went by it got more concerned that children weren't learning English well enough, partly because under a bilingual model they would learn literacy in their first language first and start to read and write English later.

When NAPLAN came, in 2008, it was clear that no Aboriginal students in the NT were learning English literacy as quickly as children who were learning English as their first language. This is of course very obvious, but it created this political idea that if you blame bilingual education you can get around the problem that lots of kids struggle because they are first language speakers of other languages. So the push for national standard English literacy tests has made the bilingual program in the last 10 years very political.

How much has this to do with the fact that most of the decision makers can only speak one language?

That has had an enormous



Educators Barbara Martin, Annette Patrick and Robyn Napurrurla worked on the Yapa curriculum in Lajamanu.

impact. Partly because they can't understand what it's like to learn in a language they don't know and partly because they don't value Aboriginal languages. They

don't see them as having an economic worth in the many ways that Aboriginal people themselves see their languages as precious and valuable.

Are decision makers

in the NT particularly ignorant?

No. Whether it is Spanish-speaking students in the US or whether we see Indonesian being taught to minority

Barkly calls for unity to tackle region's problems

A BARKLY delegation to Canberra has proposed a "regional deal" for Tennant Creek and surrounding communities, bringing together all levels of government with local Aboriginal organisations and the newly formed cultural authority group.

With the prime minister declining to visit the disadvantaged region for now, a group of Barkly councillors and their mayor took their idea for a multi-government regional development plan to Mr Turnbull.

In Canberra, the delegation pushed for a coordinated approach to service delivery, infrastructure investment, employment creation and community safety.

"There's already collaboration in Tennant Creek, but the development of a detailed plan around social and economic development would be much more effective," mayor Steve Edgington said.

Aboriginal organisations are key to bridging the gap between deeply distrusted government departments and the local community, where hungry children reportedly break into houses to steal food.

Despite their loss of faith in the system and being stretched to the limit themselves, local services are trying to work with understaffed and poorly trained mainstream agencies.

Anyinginyi Health has



Regional deal discussions in Canberra: Barkly councillors Kris Civitarese, prime minister Malcolm Turnbull, mayor Steve Edgington and councillors Ronald Plummer and Ray Aylett.

taken up an offer to work with Territory Families because it sees a growing recognition that public servants are failing to connect with Aboriginal families.

"To have an expectation of working with a family to change things around is hard stuff, so getting a lot more understanding ... is the thinking behind the department's offer," Anyinginyi's general manager, Barbara Shaw, told The Guardian.

There's a "general system failure on behalf of government", she said.

"It's a broken system," agreed Julalikari CEO Linda Turner.

"Territory Families has a lot to answer for."

Ms Turner also repeated the town's increasingly desperate pleas for accommodation.

"There still overcrowding, there's still 20 people to a house and there's no affordable

housing for people," she said.

Key positions in the town, such as drug and alcohol counsellors, remain unfilled five months after the rape of a toddler exposed the town's child protection crisis to the nation and brought home the extent of its alcohol problems.

"Many Aboriginal people want to get off the grog," Danila Dilba Health Service CEO Olga Havnen told The Guardian.

The constant grief over preventable and premature deaths and suicides are fuelling the drinking.

"Think about the things that happen to people in their daily lives, the number of deaths," Ms Havnen said.

"Go ask anybody in Tennant Creek the number of their immediate or extended family that's passed away in the past 12 months."

Those wanting to quit have

few options, with a long wait list for the local rehab service and the service in Darwin constantly full.

"You don't actually have to have residential treatment programs to get off the grog," Ms Havnen said.

"But you at least need some regular and ongoing support, whether it's group work or individual counselling and support."

One positive is that the tougher alcohol restrictions the Central Land Council and others called for earlier this year seem to be working.

They have reportedly led to a drop in both alcohol-related crime and admissions to the women's shelter, increased school attendance and has freed the police up to crack down on grog runners.

Local MLA Gerry McCarthy told The Guardian the alcohol

black market is "front and centre" for new police and public housing safety officers.

However, Mr McCarthy said he doubted claims that at least one of the small town's 11 grog outlets had been selling alcohol to people late at night, above the limits set.

Another good thing to come out of the community's turmoil has been the cultural authority group it formed following its big march for an end to domestic and family violence in November.

The group could be central to the proposed multi-government deal the delegation took to Mr Turnbull.

Mr Edgington reported that the prime minister was "very interested in the issues" raised.

Mr Turnbull sent two ministers to follow up on the discussions.

However, Senator Nigel Scullion did not offer extra resources.

He instead called on the Territory government to hand control of services to Aboriginal organisations.

"If I'm in Alice Springs and a log falls on my head, take me to Congress, and if I'm in Tennant Creek to Anyinginyi, because they are better, more sophisticated, larger, deeper-capacity health systems," he told The Australian.

"Why wouldn't we be moving, instead of having two health systems, to having a single one?"

language speakers, or with native American or Canadian languages. We see indigenous language speakers facing the same problems from this monolingual mindset and resistance to multilingualism and language rights of minority language speakers. It all comes down to power.

bilingual program.

In the 1970s, when the NT bilingual program started, just a few languages had written texts, and most of them were Bible texts. A really outstanding outcome of the program is thousands of books in Aboriginal languages. They wouldn't have been written

But in the 1990s and beyond, all of those positions and support were taken away until it was just individual schools trying to make their own programs. And you could see that schools really struggled.

How are people resisting?
Really interesting new

strengthen young people and communities.

We should really be listening to their informed ideas for education and training.

We've had a Labor government for the past two years. Do you have much hope that things are about to change?

No. Remember, in 2008 it was a Labor government that closed the bilingual program from one day to the next. Education minister Marion Scrymgour brought in the policy that the first four hours of every school day had to be taught in English. That policy was peeled back but there hasn't been a lot of support for the bilingual program.

If Aboriginal people negotiated a treaty with the NT government could that advance bilingual education?

Absolutely. I think that those kinds of agreements when they are followed up with actions and implementation strategies can have enormous power. But it takes good will and money because these things do need resourcing.

The NT education department last year did a lot of work to rewrite its existing

Aboriginal language and culture curriculum (learning plan) and really improve the bilingual education curriculum.

So there is a good curriculum but there are no positions dedicated to it in Central Australia. There's no obligation for schools to use it or develop programs that follow that curriculum. A curriculum is just a piece of paper. It only has an impact if schools use it seriously.

The NT government would have to be willing to redirect its resources to really see these things happen.

Can it really afford to waste more money on monolingual education that's not working?

Absolutely not. The research that I and many other people have done shows if Aboriginal people are more involved in education, including bilingual education, there is a much greater chance of good outcomes. Even just greater focus on Aboriginal teachers and Aboriginal languages in schools is likely to lead to better attendance and engagement. School becomes more meaningful.

"That's a very positive thing about the bilingual program: it actually makes learning easier for kids."

How does your book show the value of Aboriginal languages?

Yuendumu teacher Tess Ross talks about those young people who started to learn really quickly when they started teaching them in Warlpiri. That's a very positive thing about the bilingual program: it actually makes learning easier for kids.

Tess talks about those Warlpiri students later working in the clinic or as police aides because they were 'two-ways strong'. She talks about hearing Warlpiri news on the radio. The writers of those radio scripts had developed their skills in the

without the program.

Was bilingual education better in the past?

It was much stronger in the past because when they established the bilingual program they put a lot of resources into it. Some people were responsible for making books, others made sure English as a second language training was available for all teachers and there were all these positions around that made the program work. Many people contributed over 50 years to making bilingual education in the NT strong, lots of people working on it, lots of ways to share new ideas.

initiatives are coming from Aboriginal people who have that experience from the bilingual program. They are creating their own partnerships between schools and other organisations. For example ranger programs where kids are learning language and cultural knowledge on country.

The Warlpiri Education and Training Trust is one of those ground-up initiatives, where a group of educators in the bilingual program could see what schools couldn't offer. These women were able to design and fund their own programs to keep languages and culture strong and



Coniston Massacre 90

Time To Tell The Truth

IN historical terms 90 years is not long ago and for Aboriginal people in Central Australia, the Coniston Massacre still looms large.

For most of the rest of Australia though, it might as well never have happened.

The Coniston Massacre of 1928 was a series of killings in response to two attacks on settlers.

One was the murder of Frederick Brooks on August 7, 1928 and the second was an attack on Nugget Morton around the same time.

Brooks, a friend of Randall Stafford who ran Coniston, had set out with camels from Coniston to trap a few dingos to get him over hard times. He set up camp at the soakage and was, by some accounts, well-liked by the local Aboriginal people.

There are many stories told about Bullfrog (Japanangka, pictured below), the man who killed Brooks. Some say he had

Many innocent Aboriginal people were caught up in the massacres that followed.

A group led by Constable William George Murray, who was already on his way to investigate cattle killings at Pine Hill and Coniston, set out from Coniston Station on the 16 August and killed five people that day.

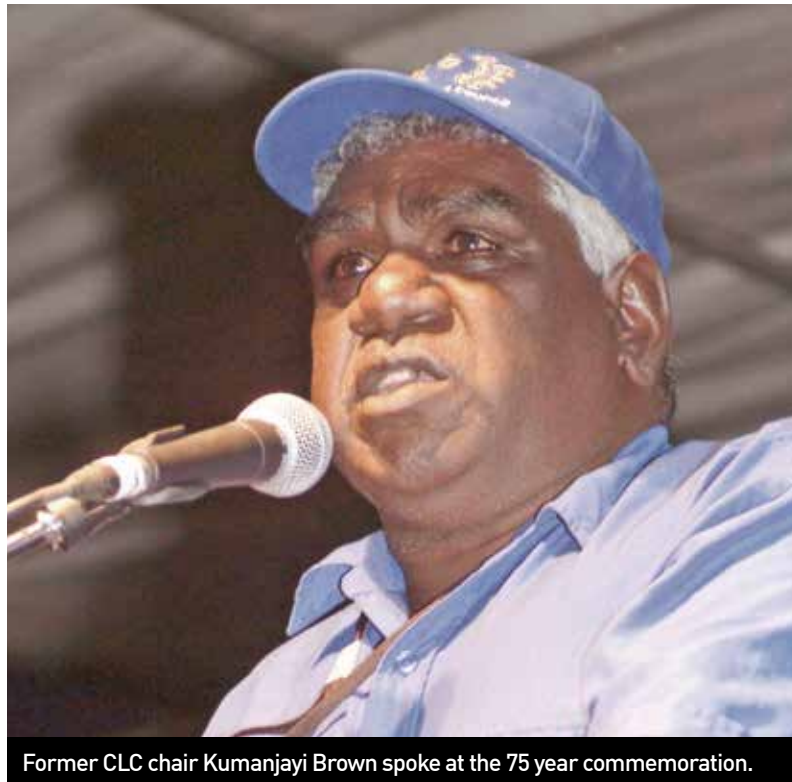
By the time they returned to Coniston Station on the 30 August at least 17 people were dead.

Bullfrog hid from Murray's men in a cave (inset, opposite page).

He blocked the entrance of the cave with a stone or spinifex and managed to escape.

He grew old and died at Yuendumu and people still visit the cave where he hid with his little dog.

Around the time Brooks was killed, a group of Aboriginal men attacked Stafford's neighbor Nugget Morton at



Former CLC chair Kumanjayi Brown spoke at the 75 year commemoration.

Aboriginal people were killed by Murray and his men, and that all were killed in self defence.

Aboriginal accounts however, say the figure is more like 100 people.

The killings, the whitewash afterwards and the lack of recognition by the general public in the years since are some of the reasons why the Uluru Statement calls for a Makarrata Commission to supervise a process of truth telling about Australia's history.

Massacres such as Coniston are part of the Frontier Wars and Central Australian leaders want conflicts between their ancestors and the invaders and their supporters in government, the courts and the police to be remembered annually in a similar way to ANZAC Day.

A great-niece of Constable Murray, Liza Dale-Hallett attended the 75th anniversary of the massacre when a memorial, that promises to always remember the victims, was unveiled on the site.

Surviving members of families massacred during the Coniston attacks had invited her.

"There I was, meeting with people who had been directly affected over generations, but there were also people there who were present during the massacre, who survived and witnessed the most terrible things. So, as children, they experienced that trauma," she told SBS News.

"Now, I met those people, and I was so impressed with their capacity to ... you know ... acknowledge me in a way that expressed love, rather than hatred, or some sort of

anger. It was an extraordinary level of forgiveness, if I use that word."

She said it is important to remember our shared past, no matter how ugly.

"The most important thing, for me, is that the story's being told and not forgotten, not pushed around underneath some sort of excuse that, 'Oh, that's what happened then.' Our history's complicated, it's bloody, it's messy, it's ugly, and that's just how life is."

I think, just because it makes people feel uncomfortable, I don't think that's adequate (to avoid it). I think we need to know and understand ourselves, about where we live, and the context within which we've established this nation, and some of the context is really ugly."

One of the key organisers behind the 75th anniversary commemorations, former CLC chairman the late Mr Brown was adamant the Coniston massacre should be taught in schools to give students a fuller understanding of Australia's history.

"It's like a Port Arthur Massacre. And the Trade Center in New York. A Bali bombing. That's the history, you know? It didn't happen anywhere. It just happened where we stand, on the bank of the river," he said.

The plaque erected to mark the events reads: "In 1928 near this place the murder of Frederick Brooks led to the killing of many innocent Aboriginal people across the region. We will remember them always."

And we still do.

"It's like a Port Arthur Massacre. And the Trade Center in New York. A Bali bombing. That's the history, you know? It just happened where we stand, on the bank of the river."

one wife staying with Brooks, some say he had two.

Most agree that Bullfrog was angry about his wife staying with Brooks and that perhaps Brooks didn't pay him enough in rations.

Early one morning, Bullfrog crept down and killed Brooks.

Again accounts differ, with some people saying Bullfrog and another man killed Brooks.

Boomerang Waterhole, up on the Lander River.

He fought them off, killed one man and called for help.

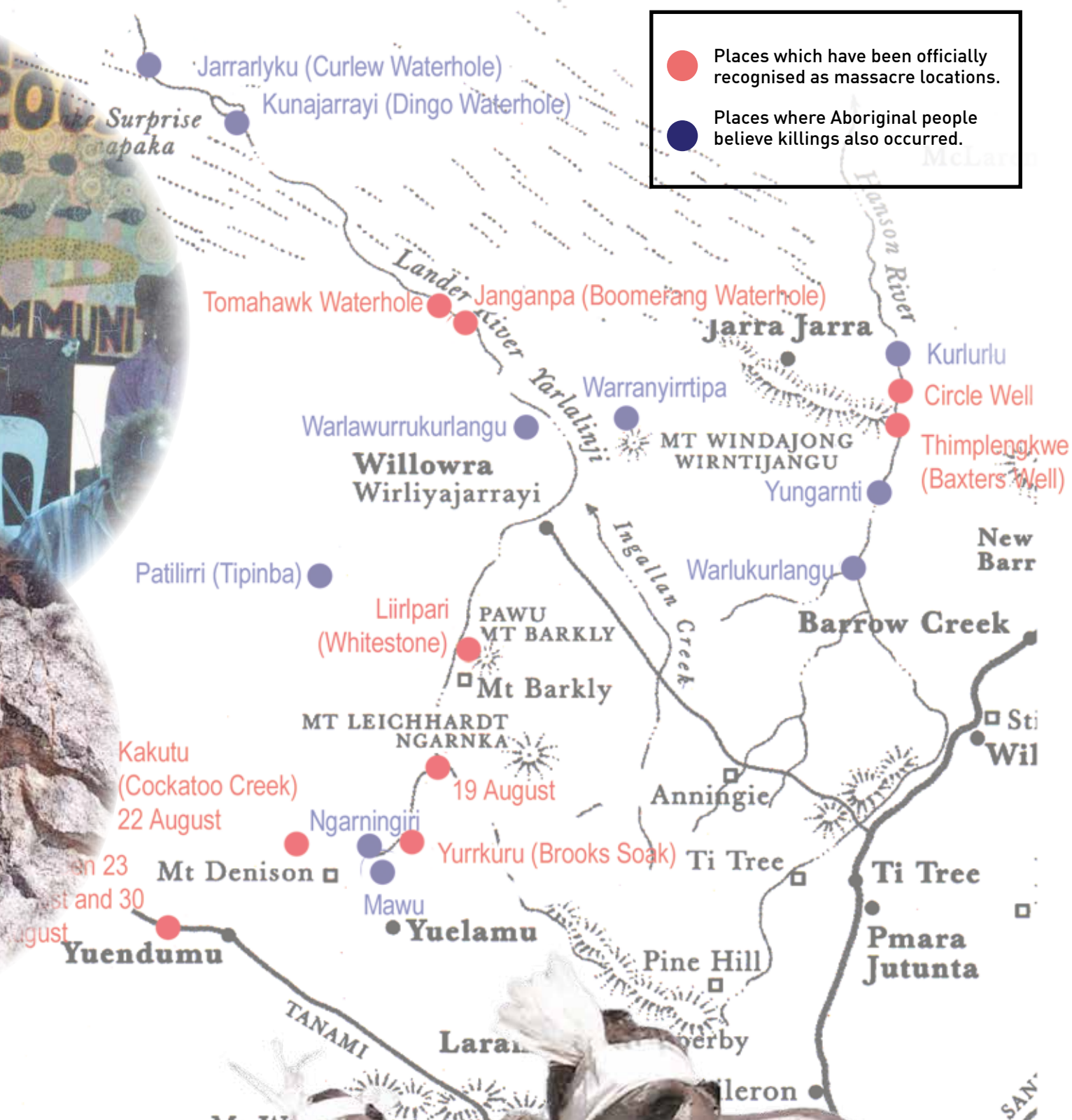
Constable Murray arrived in late September, got a party together and continued to kill people around the Lander and Hanson Rivers until mid-October.

The official inquiry that followed found that 31





Year Commemoration





Your vote is powerful... if you use it

IT'S been a long time since Central Australia was last crawling with federal politicians, but lately they have been all over the region like a bucket of itchy grubs.

Everybody knows what this means.

There's an election just around the corner and the vast electorate of Lingiari is up for grabs.

This federal election is shaping up to be close, meaning your vote is as powerful as can be.

Lingiari, represented by Labor's Warren Snowdon, covers all of the Territory except for Darwin.

Breathing down his neck is Alice Springs town

councillor Jacinta Price from the Country Liberal Party.

If she won the seat it would help Malcolm Turnbull cling on to power in Canberra.

In the NT elections remote communities have already shown that their vote can make or break governments.

"Don't waste it," former CLC executive member and ex Greens party candidate Vincent Forrester warned the land council delegates at Barunga.

"I don't care who you vote for but, for god's sake, enrol to vote!" Mr Forrester said.

"It's easy. If you have access to the internet just



"I don't care who you vote for but, for god's sake, enrol to vote! It's easy."

go to ntec.nt.gov.au or call 8951 5971.

You can also go to www.aec.gov.au/enrol/ and follow the easy English instructions to get on the roll.

"Or walk into the electoral office in the Yeperenye Centre in Alice Springs or your town and get the staff to help you."

"Don't wait for the people from the electoral commission to come to your community," he said.









"If you leave it to the last minute and an election is called early you could miss out."

You don't have to be green to see that would be a total waste of your powerful vote.



Any questions about CLC business?

Call your regional officers:

	1. ALICE SPRINGS Vacant (Jesyjames), 8956 6255
	2. SOUTH WEST Denis Colson, 89 8956 2119
	3. NORTH WEST Howard King, 8975 0885
	4. TANAMI Fred Williams, 89 8951 0581
	5. WEST Michael Turner, 8956 8658
	6. TENNANT CREEK Darryl "Tiger" Fitz, 8962 2343
	7. EASTERN SANDOVER Jesyjames Carr, 8956 6255
	8. EASTERN PLENTY Richard Dodd, 8956 9722
	9. CENTRAL Vacant (Jesyjames), 8956 6255

Ladies, your land council needs you!

THERE is one election where you don't have to enrol – the Central Land Council election in the first quarter of next year.

"All you have to do to vote is to turn up to the election meeting in your community," CLC chair Francis Kelly said.

"As long as you are a community resident and are older than 18 you can both vote and be elected.

And, unlike the coming federal election there's no chance the CLC election will be called early.

"It will be around March 2019. Look out for our election posters," Mr Kelly said.

There are many differences between the CLC election and the federal election but one sticks out like a sore thumb.

Central Australian communities have elected many more men than women.

Some think it's a shame job that only 15 of 90 members of the current council are women and there is not a single woman on the CLC's executive.

"Ladies, you can change that," Mr Kelly said.

"We've got to be equal. Please have a think about running for council and make sure you let your friends and family know."

CLC
DELEGATES



15
WOMEN



75
MEN



Mildred Inkamala is one of too few female CLC delegates.

VOTE 2019

Who do you want to represent your region?



CENTRAL
LAND
COUNCIL

Rangers tackle threats to rock wallabies

TENNANT Creek's Muru-Warinyi Ankkul Rangers are helping traditional owners to save vulnerable black-footed rock wallabies from feral cats.

Protection of the wallaby colony near Nguyarrmini, 65 kilometres south-east of Tennant Creek, is part of their predator control and threatened species monitoring work.

That includes collecting data about wallabies for better land management planning and trapping feral cats.

The rangers and traditional owners surveyed around the community for signs of the wallabies and their main predator, having learnt the best methods for collecting feral cat and wallaby data.

"Surveying the wallabies helps us to know their location and habitat," ranger Kylie Sambo said.

"The traditional owners know wallabies are good for the country, they live it up. When you don't have any wallabies it's sort of like the country is unwell," ranger and Nguyarrmini resident Gerry Price said.

When the rangers first surveyed Nguyarrmini, last

September, they found wallaby remains in the cat scats (poo), showing that cats are eating the wallabies.

They also trapped two cats, humanely destroyed them and analysed their diet. There were remains of a nyinkka (spiny

"Surveying the wallabies helps us to know their location and habitat."

tail monitor lizard) in the cats' stomachs.

Last April the rangers camped and worked closely with the traditional owners of Nguyarrmini, sharing knowledge on how to survey for wallabies and cats in their region.

Everyone helped to monitor wallaby scats by walking in transect (a line), recording scat and wallaby tracks with the CLC Tracks app.

Traditional owner Karina Price said her favourite part of this project was "learning about different animal scats", while Mervyn Spratt liked "learning how to use the traps".

Karina's mother, Krista Price, enjoyed "walking up the hill to do wallaby surveys and it's also good for the health".

Photos taken with a sensor camera showed cats and wallabies sharing the same rock shelters.

The rangers and traditional owners set up the traps in the afternoon and checked them first thing in the morning before it got hot.

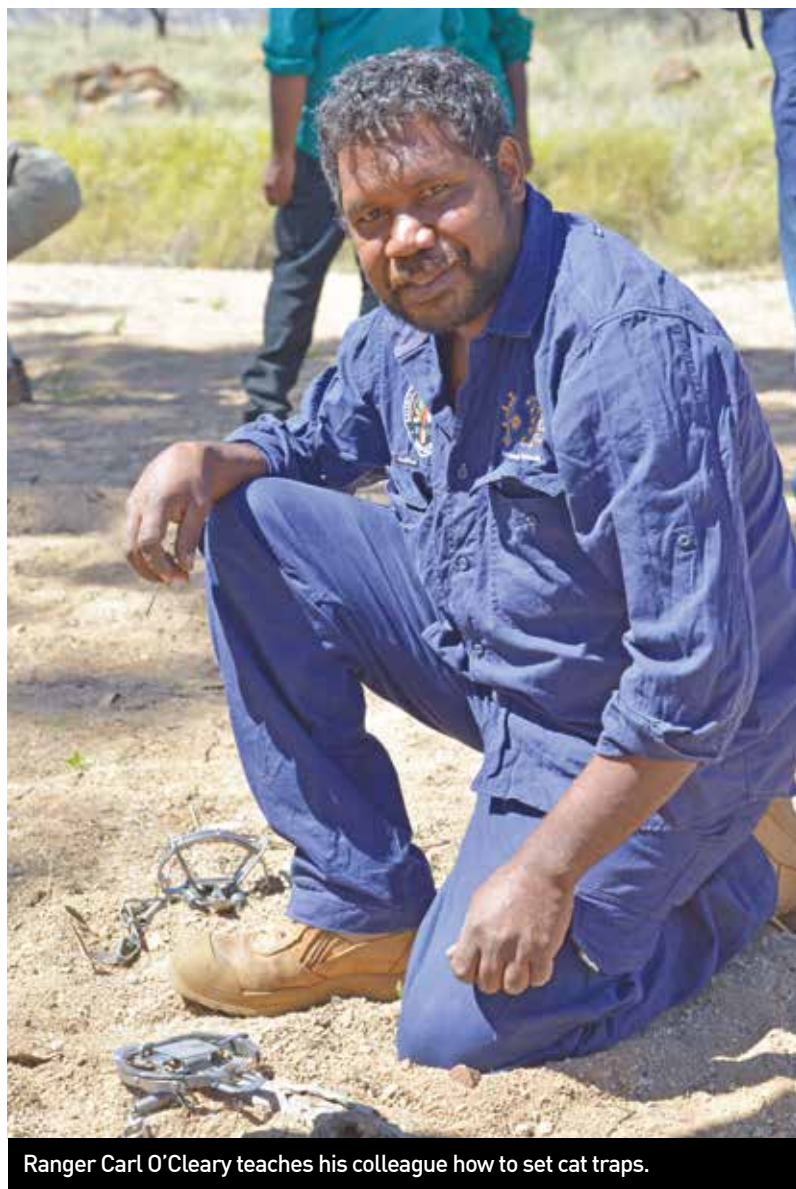
When they caught a cat Barkly vet Torquil would put the cat to sleep using a tranquiliser and check its stomach for prey.

They did not catch any feral cats on this trip, but one jumped right over the trap.

"This cat must have nine lives," ranger Carl O'Cleary said.

"If we had caught it we would have checked its stomach to see what it had been feeding off and sent the contents for further analysis," Ms Sambo said.

The rangers enjoyed working closely with traditional owners on country and will continue to collect data about the species in the rocky outcrops.



Ranger Carl O'Cleary teaches his colleague how to set cat traps.

Strong Women on Country report urges boost of female ranger numbers

'BECAUSE of her, we can' is this year's NAIDOC theme.

It would have made a fitting title for a new report that features several members of the Central Land Council's ranger program.

The *Strong Women on Country* report urges the Australian government to boost the numbers of female Aboriginal rangers and celebrates them as successful role models.

The release of the report is a call to double the funding for Aboriginal rangers and Indigenous Protected Areas (IPAs) over five years, commit to 10 years of funding, and support a target of 5,000 ranger jobs across the country.

Compiled by the Country Needs People campaign, it includes profiles of CLC rangers Josephine Grant, Barbara Petrick, Christine Michaels-Ellis and Helen Wilson, among case studies from around the country.

The report explains how women rangers look after their communities at the same time as they tackle environmental threats.

It features interviews with women who protect their country from wildfires, invasive weeds and feral animals.

Warlpiri ranger Christine Michaels Ellis explained how she is keeping the vital skill of cat hunting alive in her home

community of Nyirrpri.

"My mum and dad taught me to track, hunt and catch pussycat," she said.

"I've been teaching my children and my nephews and nieces so that they can take over from me. Now there are girls asking me about this work, so they can learn and teach others."

At the same time, their

work keeps their families and communities strong.

The report uses the example of the Arltarlpilta Rangers' bush medicine program, which takes elders and young people around Atitjere on collecting and harvest-mapping trips.

Barbara Petrick's group has published a book about 13 local medicine plants and

distributed bush medicine products to local clinics.

"I like to educate the younger generation about staying on country and doing the work," Ms Petrick said.

Across Australia, approximately half of all rangers are women, according to the report.

At the CLC women make up one third of the ranger program and the organisation's first female Aboriginal ranger co-ordinator, Josephine Grant, was appointed last year.

The report showcases Ms Grant's career path and

of the Lowitja Institute for Aboriginal Health Pat Anderson called the ranger profiles "an exciting and positive glimpse of what indigenous women are achieving already".

"There is so much more to do, so much more country to manage, so much need to sustain our cultural connections and local communities," Ms Anderson said.

"Now more than ever, we need to recognise the value of strong women on country and expand our vision to match their commitment, resilience

"An exciting and positive glimpse of what indigenous women are achieving already."

explains how the CLC builds the confidence of its female rangers.

"I've gone for training and workshops, been to conferences and would like to learn even more," North Tanami Ranger Helen Wilson said.

"Now I'm standing up in front of biggest mob of people and speaking aloud. I've never used a microphone before. But now I'm standing strong and can do anything."

Launching the report in Melbourne, the chair

and optimism to deliver a stronger and healthier Australia for us all."

"The report is a testament to the incredible work of women rangers and supports the call to grow more ranger jobs across our IPAs," Sophie Walter from Country Needs People added.

The federal government currently funds paid work for more than 2,500 Aboriginal rangers, many of them casual and part-time, but there is no long term funding to secure their futures.



Helen Wilson and Gladys Brown are two CLC rangers featured in the report.



Rangers' study achievements celebrated



Dr Hagan honoured Malcolm Kenny for serving for 10 years with the Tjuwanpa Rangers in Ntaria.

BEING a ranger is all about getting better at the job through two-way learning.

Formal study is an important part of this and the rangers love to celebrate their education successes together.

During a presentation ceremony at the Central Land Council's annual ranger camp at Hamilton Downs, Dr Stephen Hagan, from the Batchelor Institute, congratulated every ranger who had completed a qualification over the last two years.

Between them, 21 rangers received 33 qualifications from Batchelor, ranging from

certificates 1 to 4 in conservation land management.

There were big rounds of applause from their peers as Dr Hagan called out the rangers' names one by one.

Some rangers had travelled up from the APY lands for the event.

Among the names was that of Fraser Oliver, an award-winning ranger who completed certificates 2 and 3 since starting with the Ltyentye Apurte Rangers three years ago.

It meant spending long periods of time away from his family and community.

"Which is hard for a young, culturally strong person," he said, "but I learned to balance this and maintain a solid connection with my family, culture, country and employment."

Mr Oliver has

signed up for a certificate 4 this year.

"My goal is to inspire the next generation of community leaders to take greater responsibility for their education, their careers and how they would like to achieve their goals," Mr Oliver said.

He is looking forward to receiving his award again in front of his family at the official Batchelor Institute graduation ceremony at the Desert Peoples Centre campus in Alice Springs later this year.

In addition to celebrating the achievement of various qualifications, 34 rangers also received service awards for continuous employment.

Those awards recognised more than three year's service.

Tjuwanpa's Malcolm Kenny was honoured for more than 10 years of work with the ranger program.

Congratulations, Dr Kevin!



EASTERN ARRERNTJE man Kevin Dolman Pengarte's graduation was a proud family affair.

Dr Dolman (above right) received his Doctorate of Philosophy at the Alice Springs campus of the Charles Darwin University in June.

His mothers Sylvia Perrurle Neale, Veronica Perrurle Turner, sister Veronica Pengarte Dolman

and David Peltharre Dolman joined him.

His thesis is called "Dismally poor returns to date": a review of the Indigenous affairs system.

It takes a close look at a five-year Council of Australian Governments (COAG) project which overhauled the national administration of money spent on Indigenous Australians.

MEET OUR RANGERS



Ursula Chubb

What strengths do you bring to your ranger group?

Commitment. Making sure rangers are always on time

What projects has your ranger group been working on?

Our latest project is the bush tucker poster. It has just been released (see story on p. 19).

What languages do you speak?

Gurindji and English.

What made you want to be a ranger?

I wanted to become a role model for our younger generations and also to my kids.

Why is it important to work on your country?

It strengthens my connections in looking after country. I was only raised here but my family are laid to rest in this beautiful Gurindji country.

What is the type of work you do as a ranger?

Looking after country, such as weed controlling, checking if our waterways are healthy, taking traditional owners on country trips, making sure the pastoralists are looking after our country the right way and fencing off important sites such as springs and massacre sites. Whatever our

traditional owner ranger advisory committee ask us to do.

What are some of the hard things?

Getting new rangers to stay committed and step up to become leaders within our group.

What is the best thing about being a ranger?

Being a ranger isn't just all about getting paid. To me it's more about going out on country with traditional owners and looking at their reactions when visiting their country after so many years of not being able to. It breaks my heart seeing my countrymen like that - both sad and happy at the same time.

It's about country trips with them and organisations such as our Karukarni art centre or our local school.

What do you like doing outside of work?

Spending quality times with my family, friends and my kids.

What would you say to the prime minister about rangers?

"Give us a fair go so that we have enough rangers looking after country."





Bush Mechanics to the rescue!

BUSH mechanics saved the day when disaster struck a group of 26 people at Jiwaranpa on the North Tanami Indigenous Protected Area.

Central Land Council rangers, elders and a PAW Media crew, who were at the remote site to film for the IPA's digital storybook, watched in horror as the coupling to their 1000 litre drinking water trailer snapped off shortly after arriving.

Bush survival instincts

kicked in while people scrambled to stem the leak with their bare hands.

Before long, not a drop of water was escaping, thanks to an ingenious combination of a garbage bag and a hand-carved carrot.

Four days and more than 200 kilometres of dirt roads later the carrot was still in place and had to be dislodged with a drill.

Listen up you mob: when going bush don't forget your veggies!



Gurindji bush tucker poster for sale

THE Murnkurrumurnkurru Rangers have produced a new poster of Gurindji country. While the rangers' previous posters have featured birds, fish and bush medicine, this year they decided to focus on bush tucker.

They were assisted by their elders, who advised on which plants to document and where

to look for them.

Then they visited Cattle Creek Station with some of the traditional owners to photograph fruits, nuts and yams.

Ranger Helma Bernard said her favourite part of the trip was "listening to Paddy Doolak talking about partiki (bush nuts) – how they bust them

open to get the nut out and how people use the leaves as a medicine to treat skin sores". During lunch at the old homestead, elders who had worked in the 1970s, such as Ena Oscar, showed them the old 'blacks camp' and talked about how they used to get food at the station.

The rangers learned about "kurrantala (brolga) egg dreaming rocks, which are located close to the homestead", Ms Bernard said. Penny Smith, from Karungkarni Arts, and Felicity Meakins, from the University of Queensland, supported the production of the poster, which can be purchased from Batchelor Press.



Ranger Helma Bernard helped make the latest poster.



Kunpulu catch inspires rangers

THE recent catch of a freshwater sawfish has left the Murnkurru Murnkurru Rangers keen to learn more about the endangered species and how to look after it.

The rangers had suspected that sawfish, kunpulu in Gurindji, were still around the creeks feeding the Victoria River, but seeing a 2.7 metre specimen with their own eyes was something else.

"When Lisa Smiler first caught it, it was all over social media. No one had ever experienced it before," ranger Ursula Chubb said.

People were "in shock to see a giant fish that size. It was so enormous it fed the whole of Daguragu".

When Ms Smiler pulled the sawfish, a relative of the sharks, out of Wattie Creek she was frightened.

"She thought it was some other thing," ranger Phillip Jimmy told the ABC.

Scientists were stunned to hear of a sawfish this far inland but the rangers not so much.

They had taken nearby rock art depicting the rare species as a sign of its presence.

"We always knew about the rock art painting of the saw fish," Ms Chubb said. "It was shown to us by our elders."

Mr Jimmy first saw the painting "when I was a boy, walking around on country".

"I was walking in this creek and I found this painting of

"This is the furthest inland that sawfish have been recorded in Australia."

this sawfish on the other side of the creek, and I could see it really clear," he recalled.

A hunter had probably painted the giant fish to remind himself and others of the creatures' existence in these waters.

Mr Jimmy led biologist Peter Kyne, from Charles Darwin University, to the site where Lisa Smiler caught the fish.

"We had no understanding that sawfish occurred so far inland," Dr Kyne said.

"This is the furthest inland that sawfish have been

recorded in Australia."

Dr Kyne took a sample from the rostrum (saw) of Ms Smiler's sawfish to help work out the size of its family.

"We basically look at the relationships of individuals and then estimate the population size based upon the number of mothers that have produced the juveniles that we've seen," he explained.

The locals flocked to his education sessions in Kalkaringi to find out more.

The largetooth sawfish is extinct in all but three of the 80 countries where it was once found.

Nobody knows how many are left in Australia.

Linguist Felicity Meakins is working with the rangers and elders to help biologists study the sawfish population.

Kunpulu is the same word used in languages along the Victoria River.

"We can use that linguistic information to track the path of the fish," Dr Meakin said.

The information is compared with the findings of the scientists, and is then used to work out how best to manage its habitat.



Above: Lisa Smiler with the rostrum of the sawfish.
Below: Rock painting near Wattie Creek: "We always knew about it."





Taskforce to fight dangerous virus in Central Australia



Education and prevention is the key: Dr Lloyd Einsiedel and researcher Joel Liddle are working on a public health response to the HTLV-1 virus. Photo: ABC News/Tom Hancock.

A NEW \$8 million government taskforce to fight communicable diseases in remote communities will target the HTLV-1 virus that is causing great concern around Central Australia.

The Human T-cell Lymphotropic Virus-1 is a potentially cancer-causing virus that lives in human blood.

The virus is completely preventable, but can cause a chronic infection and damage to the body's immune (disease-fighting) system.

It can make some people very sick or even kill them.

Many others only get mild signs or none at all, so they do not know they are infected.

HTLV-1 can be sexually transmitted or passed from mother to child.

It is very common in some parts of the world and among some groups of people but very rare elsewhere.

Experts say some Aboriginal communities in central and northern Australia have very high rates of HTLV-1 infections. Executive director of the Central Australia Baker Heart and Diabetes Institute, Dr Lloyd Einsiedel, is a member of a national HTLV-1 working group.

Dr Einsiedel said the virus is a cause for great concern in Central Australia.

"Indigenous Australian residents of Central Australia have the highest HTLV-1 prevalence in the world," he warned on the group's website.

He reported that, so far, more than half of the adults in some remote

communities surveyed were found to have the virus.

In May, the Global Virus Network reported that a recent hospital-based study in Central Australia found that more than one in three (33.6 percent) of tested Aboriginal people had the virus in their blood.

Only about one in a hundred (1.3 percent) children tested had the virus, but those figures rise sharply in older people.

"Indigenous Australian residents of Central Australia have the highest HTLV-1 prevalence in the world."

The network said the virus is spread by people who don't know they have it.

"As with most blood-borne and sexually transmitted viruses the majority of HTLV-1 positive people transmit the virus unknowingly," it reported.

These people are unaware that they are at risk of developing diseases caused by the virus.

The network also says HTLV-1 can cause a blood cancer in adults, called T Cell Leukemia/Lymphoma.

Health minister Greg Hunt said the new taskforce will be led by the Commonwealth's chief medical officer and bring together representation from Aboriginal communities, health providers, researchers, clinicians and all levels of government.

He said it will investigate HTLV-1 and develop a response plan.

"Its overall impacts are not well understood, due to difficulties with data collection and the

limitations of existing information."

Funding will also be available for detailed studies of the spread of the virus and for international collaboration on treatment options.

Minister for indigenous health Ken Wyatt said working with Aboriginal families and communities will be a vital part of the taskforce's work.

"Progress on HTLV-1

and other communicable diseases will only be achieved through working and walking together with our First Nations people from the start," Mr Wyatt said.

The new funding comes on top of \$8.8 million over three years to combat a syphilis outbreak in Central Australia and northern Australian regions until mid-2020.

The Central Australian Aboriginal Congress chief executive Donna Ah Chee told The Guardian that the response to HTLV-1 must be led by Aboriginal communities.

"The role of Aboriginal community-controlled primary health services will be critical," she said.

"Through our sister services in Western and South Australia, we must develop a public health response covering education and prevention."

New centre part of push to make FASD history

THE Northern Territory's first centre for foetal alcohol spectrum disorder (FASD) in Alice Springs has seen many children since it opened in April.

The centre provides assessment and treatment for children with developmental concerns.

It has already diagnosed children with FASD, the mental impairment that can affect children whose parents drink too much grog, especially at conception and during the early weeks of pregnancy.

FASD causes severe developmental delays, disability, learning difficulties, memory impairment and behavioural problems.

"Many children are presenting with developmental delays and Congress felt that it was important to not only do full health checks, but wraparound services and support," Congress child and family services senior manager Dawn Ross told the ABC.

"Every parent wants to know if there's a delay that there's a service out there that's going to be provided for them."

The centre offers a team of child doctors (paediatricians), mental health doctors (psychologists), speech and occupational therapists and other specialists.

It is not known how many children in Central Australia have FASD but in some other remote communities one in five Aboriginal children are estimated to suffer from FASD.

Australia-wide it is thought that more than half a million people have what is also known as the 'invisible disability'.

That's because people with FASD can often go undiagnosed and untreated.

Many get into trouble with the law.

Congress' Dr John Boffa said almost one in three children in juvenile detention in Western Australia have the disorder and less than one in 10 had no developmental disorders.

"This is cause for great concern as we know there are many young people in Central Australia also ending up in youth detention but up to now they have not been assessed," Dr Boffa said.

He hopes that diagnosing children with FASD as early as possible will help secure support from the National Disability Insurance Scheme and Congress, as well as to help lower prison rates.

"Throwing them in prison won't solve the problem," said Drug and Alcohol Services Australia chief executive Carol Taylor.

Ms Taylor believes that a lot of the youth problems in Alice Springs stem from intellectual impairment and predicted

the centre would be in high demand.

"We do have a lot of babies that come into DASA, they're almost all Aboriginal kids," she said.

Some believe that helping kids with FASD could also help preserve Aboriginal culture because it needs to be passed on through stories, song and tradition.

Meanwhile almost 200 Aboriginal leaders and representatives of community-controlled organisations have met with politicians, public servants, medical professionals and non-government organisations and vowed to "make FASD history".

The forum in Darwin, where 37 organisations from across the Territory made the pledge, was organised by APO NT, the Aboriginal peak bodies including the Central Land Council.

"Alcohol misuse and its consequences are an issue for all Territorians, particularly our most vulnerable," the forum's communique said.

Delegates agreed that stigmatising women or Aboriginal people is not helpful.

"It is important that we don't lay blame, but instead work together, to support our women and young girls," they said.

Because "everyone is at risk of FASD" everyone must be aware of the harmful effects of drinking before and during pregnancy.

"Our men also need to step up and support our mothers, sisters, nieces and partners, to ensure that we give every child the best chance in life."

Congress CEO Donna Ah Chee said that means reducing the level of heavy drinking by cutting grog supply.

"No matter how good services and programs are, once the [FASD] diagnosis is made, not all of the damage can ever be undone."



Rangers have a clear vision of better eye health

WHEN Aboriginal rangers report feeling healthier than other countrymen and women it may well be because they are healthier.

Just ask Alice Springs optometrist Jo Murphy.

Mr Murphy spends a lot of time in remote communities, checking peoples' eyes for signs of serious, but preventable diseases.

He is a familiar sight at Central Land Council ranger camps.

At the Hamilton Downs camp he set up shop in one of the old stone buildings, offering eye checks and some good news.

"The rate of diabetic retinopathy, cataracts and sight-threatening trachoma in remote communities is a lot higher than among the rangers," Mr Murphy said.

"That may be partly because rangers are younger, but also because they are physically active and have better general health."

"While I can see signs of trachoma among rangers I haven't come across the sight-threatening cases that I often come across during our trips to remote communities."

He said diabetic retinopathy, changes to the blood vessels in the eye from sugar diabetes, is



Optometrist Jo Murphy examines CLC ranger co-ordinator Benji Kenny.

also not as advanced among rangers as among the general population out bush.

"It's still prevalent and he said.

Diabetics need to have their eyes checked for trachoma

"The eyes of rangers appear to be much healthier than what I see on my standard remote community trips."

once a year, and the ranger program is encouraging staff to get all their check-ups.

This years' ranger camp, attended by 130 rangers from the CLC region and beyond, showed that it pays to be vigilant about eye health.

"I saw 31 people yesterday and found that two people had active trachoma, a bacterial infection of the eyelids," Mr Murphy said.

Mr Murphy said the news about the disease, which

can make people blind if untreated, didn't cause too much alarm.

"When I explained to the rangers 'you know, that trachoma bug, that's what's causing your eyes to be a bit watery', they said 'ah, I need

that trachoma tablet'."

"They were well aware. They are not worried. The blindness that can potentially occur, that's decades down the track."

Mr Murphy has contacted the clinics where the infected rangers live so they could get antibiotic tablets to clear up the infection.

"All of their family they live with need to be treated as well and then we have to monitor them in the future to see if they develop these chronic changes, which can lead to blindness down the track," he said.

"We'll be able to prevent them from going blind if they have regular eye tests."

What is trachoma and how can we stop it?

AUSTRALIA is the only developed country in the world that still has trachoma.

"Most optometrists never see a single case in their working lives, but here in Central Australia it's far too common," Mr Murphy said.

Flies spread the bacteria that cause the infection.

Repeated eye infections can cause scarring of the eyelids years later. They change their shape so that the lashes scratch the eyes.

This is what can lead to blindness.

Luckily trachoma is easy to prevent.

"The number one thing is face washing and cleaning around the house and the yard," Mr Murphy explained.

"Remove anything that attracts flies and wash your face at least morning and night."

"When you wake up in the morning try and remove any gunk from around the eye to make it difficult for flies to transmit the trachoma," he said.

"When the trachoma team come just make sure you get checked for trachoma and take the tablets when you need to."

SNAP



STUDY

Were you in the
SNAP
Study?*



Call us on:

1800

NT SNAP

(1800 68 7627)

or

Contact our local
team:

Karen in Darwin:

0484 611 544

karen.wilson@unsw.edu.au

Yvon in Alice Spring:

0432 704 011

y.magnery@unsw.edu.au

* The SNAP study is a research project that helps people keep smoke-free.

"Nothing has changed": Martin Luther King III



Margaret Scobie (left), Martin Luther King III and his wife Arndrea. Photo: Akeyulerre.

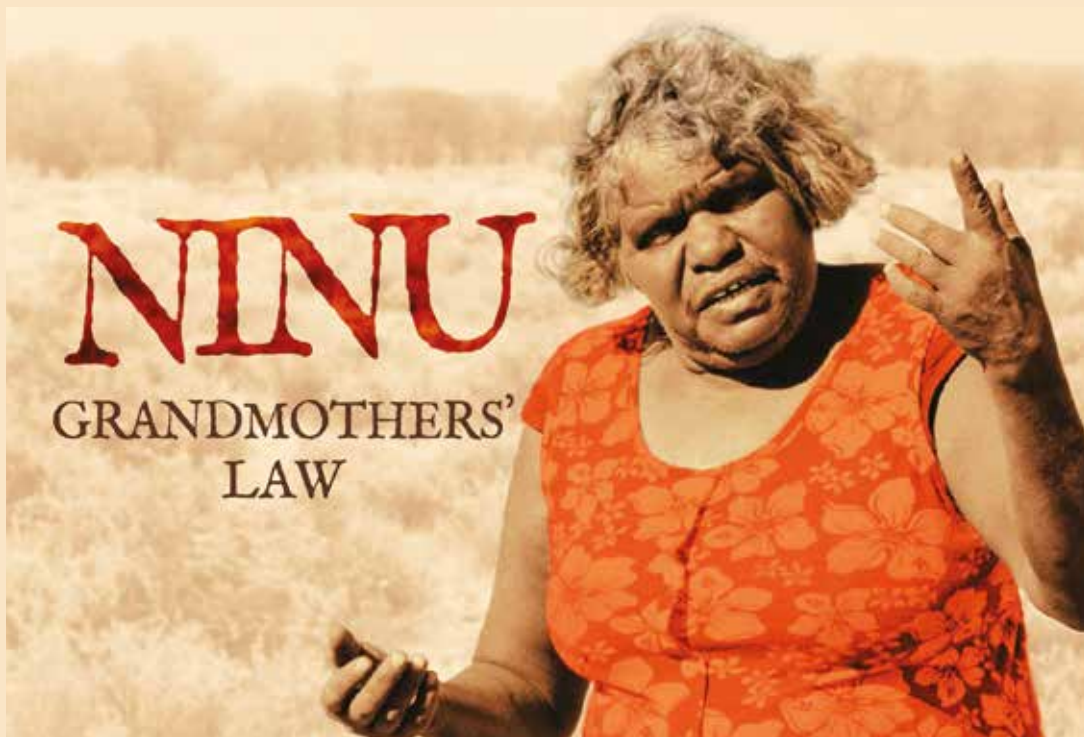
THE son of US civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr was disappointed about the lack of progress since his last visit to Alice Springs, 20 years ago.

Martin Luther King III said it was not a good look that the dominant building in the centre of town was the Supreme Court and Aboriginal people were locked up more than those of any other nation on earth.

"How do you justify mistreating human beings who really were here first, before anyone?" Mr King asked at a Reconciliation Week event at the Telegraph Station, hosted by Arrernte elders.



A manifesto to a generous life



The late Nura Ward's first hand account of her life shows her dedication to the APY community.

POET Ali Coby Eckermann pays tribute to Nura Ward's autobiography.

Ninu is a book pulsing with love.

A first-hand account of Nura Nungalka Ward, it's a manifesto of her life told with a generosity of heart.

Ninu is the telling of a real life, each page filled with happiness and love and worth. It's

adolescence, and the social changes Aunt Nura watched throughout her lifetime, from first contact with Europeans and the irreversible effects of assimilation.

Mostly, this book is a story of land, orated by a woman who knew her place within her family, her environment and her law.

This was the strength of her, a Rabbit-eared

and duty of cultural law.

She loved being a teacher; it made her feel young.

I remember her saying, 'Ali go get a Toyota', and together we would go on adventures through the APY Lands, visiting sites and learning story.

Her generosity was boundless.

She was always sharing story of country, and the cultural context.

**"We were well looked after as children.
We had good lives and we were happy.
We grew up in a safe environment.
We grew up healthy and strong."**

amazing in its telling, and the accompaniment of stunning archival photographs.

Her loving friends Julia Burke, Linda Rive and Suzanne Bryce worked hard to finalise this dream; the publication by Magabala Books.

'We were well looked after as children. We had good lives and we were happy. We grew up in a safe environment. We grew up healthy and strong.'

This profound autobiographical statement marks a line in the sand for the benefits of a rich cultural life lived in childhood and

Bandicoot woman, and she delivers memories of family and kinship,

Anangu love and obligation of traditional land estates, storytelling and the significance of traditional medicine.

It is a powerful philosophy told in her voice, capturing her joys and reflections, often with a resonant of laughter.

This is a story of a life that was cherished and richly rewarded by her passion to advocate for her people, that she continued to her final days.

Aunt Nura was fearless in this task, her work guided to explain the importance

She is still sharing knowledge with us, even in her passing.

A good teacher embeds lessons deep within.

The student carries these lessons inside, even after the teacher has departed.

These lessons reverberate when needed, revealing themselves with deeper meaning.

This has been Aunt Nura's legacy to me, from our personal and poignant times spent together.

Such is her love.

Now she has gifted her story and knowledge to Australia, and to the world.

Minyma wiru that one!

National Cultural

THE idea of a national Aboriginal art and cultural centre in Alice Springs first received support from Central Land Council delegates four years ago.

Much has happened since Harold Furber's resresentation to the council on a hot and dusty day at Alpurrurulam (Lake Nash) in 2014.

NT Labor committed \$20 million to a national Aboriginal cultural centre and \$50 million to a national Aboriginal art gallery.

Once in power, the government appointed an expert panel for the gallery, including Desart's Philip Watkins and curator Hetti Perkins, to consult widely.

It then ignored the panel's preferred site and tried to impose an unpopular plan to locate the gallery at the ANZAC Oval, kicking off an almighty controversy.

Flying under the radar meanwhile, the cultural centre working group has received support from an estimated 100 organisations.

It has quietly expanded into a national committee comprised of Mr Furber, Owen Cole, Cameron Miller, Karl Hampton and Deanella Mack (Alice Springs), Christine Fejo King (Larrakia), Lydia Miller (NSW), Leitha Assam (Torres Strait) and Wayne Barker (Kimberley).

The committee has received support from the Alice Springs Town Council and is waiting to hear if the Territory government will fund national consultations.

The committee believes the government could learn from its approach.

"We started it off as a national art and cultural centre and the NT government decided to excise the art component of it. It got together the specialist group and they went through that process and ended up very much with an international standard art gallery and recommended as a location the Desert Park," said Owen Cole.

"What differentiates us is we're going out to the communities, right around Australia, and talk to Aboriginal groups and get their views on what this cultural centre should comprise and that will guide our decisions. We've got a draft concept we're going to take out to the indigenous masses and we're going to talk to them and it's going to be exciting.

This is really being driven by Aboriginal people, that's the major difference. It's about time that everybody started listening to the native title holders and the other Aboriginal groups throughout Australia. We've got to form this MoU with the Arrernte native title holders, there's got to be a formal agreement."

Harold Furber added: "The local Aboriginal community, the Arrernte people have to be foremost in this. This is about everybody together. We're the heart of Australia. People around Australia understand that we've got the perfect location. If the NT government and the people of Alice Springs want an iconic visitor experience they will listen to us. We started this whole project off."

Has the NT government contacted you about the cultural centre since the controversy about the proposed gallery site blew up?

Cole: "They have tried to and our position has been: we're going to consult. We're not going to be prescriptive. We think the people around Australia will say: 'We will listen to the native title holders'. It should be where Aboriginal people want it to be. Our model is hub and spoke, with cultural centres all over Australia coming into Alice Springs and bringing their culture, their art, everything

"This is really being driven by Aboriginal people, that's the major difference."

they have collected. This is where the government is missing the obvious: they've got to talk to the native title holders and get them onside because otherwise we are not going to get the rest of Australia onside."

Do you still want to co-locate the cultural centre with the gallery?

Cole: "Art is a manifestation of Aboriginal culture. It makes more than sense to have them co-located. Just imagine, it would be a so much more fulfilling experience."

What would it look like?

Cole: "It will be a hub and spoke thing, not a permanent collection of exhibitions. It's rotating and tapping into cultural organisations around Australia. We can have the Torres Strait Islander people here for three weeks, we can have the Kimberley mob here, or Arnhemland come in

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Centre process a lesson for government



Owen Cole and Harold Furber are part of the working group driving the national Aboriginal cultural centre plan. Photo: Chloe Erlich.

and take over and show their culture, their performances and their artefacts, or bring their plays or what they want. The one thing that's constant is that we want to showcase Arrernte culture because it's on Arrernte land and they've got to be 100 per cent behind it, and so far they have been."

Furber: "Not secret/sacred

Participation in the war effort. People don't know how many Aboriginal people were involved in the actual backup stuff that happened in this town and the Northern Territory. The hidden story of Aboriginal people farming the country. It's only just coming out now."

Cole: "The contribution

different viewpoints on the so-called settlement of Australia which also equated to the dispossession of lands for many groups so we want to tell that story. The positive side of it, too."

And delivering on the Uluru Statement's call for truth telling?

Both: "Yes!"

"Some stories have to be told for us to move forward as a country, as a society, to take its rightful place in the world community."

culture, it's about the whole gamut of society and what Aboriginal people have been doing for the last millennia, and particularly for the last 200 years. It's a story of the interaction between Aboriginal people and the settler state. It's all the sporting activities where Aboriginal people have made a name for themselves, including developing the national game, Aussie Rules.

to the mining industry. We're going to talk about the Aboriginal scientists, their use of astronomy. We want to use the latest technology, massive domes and the latest story telling techniques. We're going to bowl people over with the use of technology, we'll lead the way because we've seen the best and we'll have better than the best. It will cover the whole story, the interaction,

Furber: "A lot of it will be difficult for us, too, to read some of what's happened. Very, very difficult, but some stories have to be told for us to move forward as a country, as a society, to take its rightful place in the world community. We have to acknowledge good and bad."

Cole: "It's about all the people who have struggled for indigenous rights, basically

since the First Fleet. It's about the Bennelong, the Pemulwys, it's about all the leaders who have said 'hang on, this is not good enough. We want you to sit down and talk to us.'"

We're about to commemorate the 90th anniversary of the Coniston massacres. How would a national Aboriginal cultural centre deal with that?

Furber: "It would probably have a week of it on Coniston and other things that were occurring at that time. And then people could be invited back to the sites themselves where the things actually happened, the real one the ground stuff, and talk to the descendants of the people who were there."

Cole: "There's no reason why we could not get the Anmatjere and Warlpiri people to come in and tell their stories in this cultural centre, and about other monumental things that have taken place."

So it could support Aboriginal tourism initiatives?

Cole: "Economic development. Tourism is one aspect of it. It's about social and cultural development and it's got to generate work at the centre and with the associated groups. We're hoping that we can use this as an incubator to develop these other cultural centres around Australia. And

work, except it's got to be the whole of Australia.

They even have commercial activities under a different structure which generates income. They've got hotels, they've got two massive commercial offices across the road that the indigenous affairs department leases from them. It's probably three times the size of the Yeperenye shopping centre. The funds they generate go back into the cultural centre. So all this is possible over time."

Furber: "The equivalent of that would be to relocate departments from Canberra to here. People laugh about these things but they can do it elsewhere!"

Cole: "We could have the federal department for indigenous health. It could be located right in the centre of the activities. Rather than being divorced from the activities in a town called Canberra it should be in the heart, in Alice Springs."

Who are you talking to next, where are you going next?

Cole: "We've done a report and requested that the NT government fund national consultations. We're waiting for it to approve our submission to go on the road and talk to 50 communities around Australia over the next 12 months. Furbs and some young people on a road show. From that we'll

"They've got to talk to the native title holders and get them onside because otherwise we are not going to get the rest of Australia onside."

that could be the Anmatjere, the Pitjantjatjara. We want to use this as a springboard for cultural development. The possibilities are endless."

Furber: "It could help groups struggling here in Central Australia to get truly in control of their activities. Some feel overloaded - the tourism industry controls them, not the other way around. It would help Aboriginal people get more control over the industry."

Have you seen any governance models in your research overseas that could work here?

Cole: "At the Pueblo Culture Museum in Albuquerque in New Mexico they've got 19 communities. They've got governors on each of these communities, can you believe it, and they've got their own community councils. They decide to come in and take over the cultural centre. That's the model we're thinking could

fine tune the concept and get agreement from these various indigenous groups around Australia to participate and then we're going to go back to the government and say "right, this is what we think needs to happen and we want you to support it".

Obviously we have to get federal government support. We need a hell of a lot more money than 20 million. We conducted a national workshop and the working group has been volunteering its time. We've gone a hell of a long way with minimal funding and the Aboriginal organisations themselves have put in an equivalent amount of funding to let us go overseas and let us have a look at other cultural centres. Furbs has been over to New Zealand, I've been to New Mexico and we're looking at the best possible models."



"We have to acknowledge good and bad." Harold Furber performs in Bungalow Song at the Alice Springs Telegraph Station during the Mbantua Festival in 2013. Photo: Kieran Finnane.

Push for basketball to embrace an indigenous round

CENTRAL Australia's basketball champions have joined a call for an Aboriginal round within the men's and women's national basketball leagues.

Former National Basketball League player Timmy Duggan put the idea to the nation's top basketball coaches because he believes the move would encourage the next crop of home-grown stars.

Rising local star Iesha Smith said once the few Aboriginal players in these leagues are offered pathways such as those available in the AFL and NRL an indigenous round will become a reality.

Ms Smith is off to study in the US on a basketball scholarship and looks forward to seeing progress when she returns in four year's time.

"How great would it be

"How great would it be for me to come back from college basketball to play in the WNBL and they had an indigenous round?"

Mr Duggan told the National Indigenous Times that Basketball Australia should celebrate Aboriginal culture, just as the AFL does with its 'Dreamtime at the G' feature game during indigenous round and the NRL does with its Aboriginal all-stars game.

Jaiden Preece, the NT's junior state basketball representative, agrees.

"It happens across other national sports. It will be good to recognise the indigenous people in the NBL and WNBL as there is a lot of upcoming juniors that are indigenous playing the sport," Ms Preece said.

"It will also be good to recognise past players like Rohanee Cox, the first indigenous woman to play at the Olympics."

She said the round would be a good way to teach Aboriginal culture to overseas basketballers.

"With all the imports that come over to play in the NBL and WNBL, having an indigenous round we will be able to share our culture with them and what it means to all of us."

for me to come back from college basketball to play in the WNBL and they had an indigenous round, to show my culture and heritage and to show we are capable of doing these things?" she said.

"It also will lift the profile of the sport in our community and that will be a good way to get more indigenous involved in the sport and lift up those numbers," she said.

Another way of raising the profile of Aboriginal basketballers would be to design uniforms with Aboriginal motifs with past and current top level players, Mr Duggan suggested to the Australian Institute of Sport.

"What it will do is create interest in our communities," he said.

"We're already participating at a high level and it would give them an interest into an elite pathway into the NBL and also the WNBL. They have to embrace it, they've got to immerse themselves in it."

"It's got to be a genuine contribution to the cause and within that we might get our next Patty Mills or Rohanee Cox."



Iesha Smith wants to see progress when she returns from the US. Photo: Centralian Advocate/EmmaMurray.



Timmy Duggan put his idea to top coaches. Photo: SPUN/Helen Orr.

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Indigenous Kanak lead fight for New Caledonia independence

THE French territory of New Caledonia will hold an independence referendum in November to decide the future of its ties with France.

Located about 2,000 kilometres north-east of Sydney in the South Pacific, the idyllic collection of dozens

“Our goal is to go as far as possible which is to close the colonial chapter with France.”

of islands relies heavily on support from France and on mining.

New Caledonia has a quarter of the world's nickel deposits.

Four in ten New Caledonians are indigenous Kanak who traditionally support independence.

Almost one third of the population of almost 280,000 people are of European decent and in the past conflict has erupted across the different

sections of society.

These divisions, as well as economic and social disadvantage among the Kanaks, have been ongoing issues in New Caledonia.

They contributed to a hostage crisis in 1988 that left 21 people dead.

A recent poll suggested more than half of voters opposed independence, but around a fifth were undecided.

There's no indecision about Rock Wamytan, president of the Kanak and Socialist National Liberation Front, though.

Mr Wamytan told Ruptly news agency his view is clear.

Our goal is to go as far as possible,” he said, “which is, for us, to close the colonial chapter with France.”

French president Emmanuel Macron recently visited New Caledonia.

Mr Macron has pledged not to back either side of the referendum, however, he's made it clear he'd like the territory to stay part of France.

Indigenous rights crushed in Guatemala



Indigenous women pray during a ceremony by human rights activists in front of the Supreme Court in Guatemala City. Photo: AAP.

THE United Nations has warned of a deteriorating “climate” for human and indigenous rights in the Central American country of Guatemala after the murder of three activists.

The spokeswoman for the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Ravina Shamdasani, urged the Guatemalan government to ensure a safe working environment that is free from threats or attacks for those helping indigenous peoples.

“We are concerned about what appears to be a deteriorating climate for the defence of human rights in Guatemala,” she said.

The UN said a rights officer working on behalf of indigenous peoples, was killed in the town of San Luis Jilotepeque Jalapa on May 9.

A community leader from the grassroots social justice group known as Comité Campesino de Desarrollo del Altiplano (CCDA),

murders and other attacks and threats against human rights defenders, and to ensure that those found responsible are held accountable,” Ms.

“We call on the authorities to promptly investigate these murders and other attacks and threats against human rights defenders.”

was murdered the next day, and another member of the organisation was found dead three days later.

The two latest killings took place in an area of Guatemala where CCDA, and other civil society organisations, have been working with the Government, on an agreement to address more than 50 land conflicts in the country.

“We call on the authorities to promptly investigate these

Shamdasani said.

“We share the deep concerns about the protection of indigenous peoples who claim rights to land, as expressed by UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Victoria Tauli-Corpuz, during her visit to Guatemala earlier this month.”

The OHCHR said other rights campaigners have suffered threats and attacks in recent months.



French president Emmanuel Macron (centre) visits the New Caledonian capital of Noumea. Photo: Blondet Eliot/Sipa.

From p.8

Some traditional owners have said “yes” to fracking on their country and the CLC has supported their decisions because it has a legal duty to do so.

It can't make a blanket policy for or against fracking on Aboriginal land, even though some delegates want this.

A joint meeting of Territory land councils at Kalkaringi in August 2016 debated fracking and voiced its support for “the rights of traditional Aboriginal owners to make their own decisions about the use of their land”.

“It is important to ensure that traditional owners have all the relevant information. The land councils will continue to make sure this happens,”

the delegates resolved.

Two seats at a new table advising the government on how to implement the recommendations of the fracking inquiry will allow the land councils to ask questions and put their members' views about fracking to the government.

The fracking reference group, which also includes people from industry, community and environment groups, will have a say about how the government regulates the industry.

The government set it up in response to the inquiry's finding that Territorians distrust NT public servants to “ensure mining companies do the right thing and are accountable”.

Environment groups

doubt very much that the bureaucracy will be able to create and enforce the strong regulations the fracking industry needs.

NT Environment Centre director Shar Molloy gave it “no chance” to implement the inquiry's recommendations properly, saying the public service lacked the “resources and the personnel”.

The inquiry also found the government could manage the climate risks from fracking if it offsets the methane and other dangerous gases released by new gas fields.

Offsetting these gas emissions means cutting the emissions produced by other industries, such as electricity, transport, grazing and waste.

The Australia Institute's report questions this approach.

“Why should the rest of Australia's industries have to carry the can to make room for the oil and gas industry?” Mr Ogge asks.

There also appears to be no plan for achieving offsets.

The Chief Minister said only that he wants federal political leaders “to partner with us in offsetting all additional emissions” his pro-fracking policy will bring.

But climate scientists say it's too late and that “the days of offsetting are gone”.

The idea that gas is a clean transition fuel “might have been true 15 years ago,” said Will Steffen, an emeritus professor at the Australian National University and a councillor with the Climate Council, told The Guardian.

“But we've burned so much

fossil fuels in the last 10 or 15 years, there's no room for any bridging fuels, there's no room for any new long-term fossil fuel developments.”

Aboriginal Territorians need urgent climate action more than anyone because people out bush are sitting ducks for the dangers of global warming.

The predicted more extreme weather and heatwaves will hit their communities harder than most, according to another member of the fracking reference group.

“This will exacerbate existing health, housing and liveability issues and have a significant impact on remote communities,” Jimmy Cocking of the Arid Lands Environment Centre said.



Loss of former CLC chair Kumanjayi Granites mourned

THE members and staff of the Central Land Council mourn the passing of Kumanjayi Japanangka Granites, who chaired the CLC from 1994 until 1996.

Kumanjayi is remembered as a senior law man, pastor and teacher.

"He was a good and humble man who helped people in communities and homelands in many ways," Central Land Council chair Francis Kelly said.

Mr Kelly considers himself lucky to have been one of the students of his future brother-in-law, both "at Yuendumu school and out bush".

"Mr Granites knew the value of a well-rounded bilingual and bicultural education," CLC director David Ross remembered.

After completing a Bachelor of Education, Kumanjayi undertook post-graduate studies.

His PhD supervisor and Uniting Church pastor Steve Bevis said he travelled widely across the nation as a lecturer.

"It was his mission to help people from other

backgrounds and institutions to engage with and deepen their understanding of his culture," Mr Bevis said.

"He inspired many people to take seriously his culture's abiding strength and its relevance for the nation as a whole."

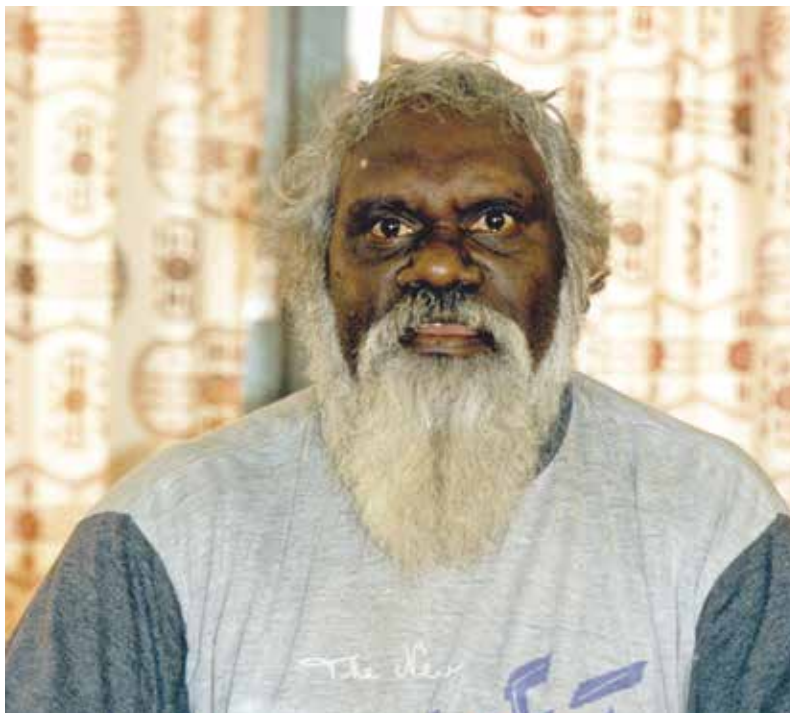
He was also an ATSIC councillor and served on the Yuendumu Community Council, including as its president.

Until close to his death on June 17, Kumanjayi worked as an interpreter, mentor and mediator in his home community.

He was born in Yuendumu in approximately 1950 and raised there by parents from the Mount Doreen and Granites areas.

Kumanjayi was widely related to families from across Central Australia.

"My grandfather was Pintupi, Lake Mackay area. My mother's side my grandmother, her connection takes her right up to Warumungu areas, towards Alekarenge and Willowra. I have bigger responsibilities in my kurdungurlu side, my



"It was his mission to help people from other backgrounds and institutions to engage with and deepen their understanding of his culture."

mother's side," he said in the CLC's oral history collection, Every Hill Got a Story.

In his time as the CLC chair, Kumanjayi focussed on the

repatriation of sacred objects.

"In 1994, he travelled with inaugural CLC chair Wenten Rubuntja to Sydney to collect sacred objects bought overseas

by a businessman to bring them back home to their rightful owners," Mr Ross said.

During a CLC symposium on the return of sacred objects in 1995, an effort to persuade museums around the country to return more of these objects, he spoke about the urgency of this unfinished business.

"Our people need these objects back now. Ours is a living culture," Kumanjayi said.

"The old people need these objects to pass on Aboriginal law to young people. I don't think people have realised the terrible anxiety and distress caused to the traditional custodians of objects still held in museums."

Around the same time Kumanjayi began to make a name for himself as an artist.

His works are held by public and private collections throughout Australia.

"Our paintings aren't just to be hung on the wall," he said.

"They have a sacred story that we are responsible for looking after. When our time is up, that responsibility will pass on to our children."

An advocate of equality, a defender of people's rights

A HERO to many who lived a good, fulfilled life pursuing his passions – that's how Utopia residents remember Mr Nelson, who passed away in April.

Born to Ruby Pitjara and Charlie Nelson in 1937 at Thee Bores outstation, he spent his early life travelling around his country with his parents, brothers and sisters.

He met his wife, Maureen Thompson, a Roper River woman, at Mataranka on his way to Darwin to look for work.

He brought her back to the outstation and she gave birth to their daughter Faith in 1971.

He survived Cyclone Tracey while on another visit to Darwin during Christmas 1974.

The 70s saw the start of Aboriginal land rights campaign, a cause close to Mr Nelson's heart. He embraced it ardently and patiently.

Central Land Council director David Ross said Mr Nelson could always be relied upon to speak up at meetings with politicians and that he led many a land rights march.

"He was a champion of the land rights movement from the very early years and his advocacy for his people's rights did not diminish with old age," Mr Ross said.

Federal MP Warren Snowdon, who knew him for more than 30 years, told mourners he remembered "his role at the CLC and his fierce determination to fight

for land rights for his people, especially during the land claims process".

Mr Nelson never tired of reminding decision makers that Aboriginal elders are the equals of the government of the day.

"Together, the senior law people are the 'government' for Aboriginal people of the land. They can sit down

"He was a champion of the land rights movement from the very early years and his advocacy for his people's rights did not diminish with old age."

together and make decisions," he would tell them.

"In order to truly work together 'two-ways' with white people, the senior people need to sit down with the actual government ministers, the ones who have the power to make 'white law' decisions.

"Don't keep sending government workers who can sit down with us law people and listen, but who can't make any decisions together with us!"

Land council staff remember his speech at the CLC meeting at Arlparra in 2015, where he tore shreds off hapless federal public servants about the failure of top-down government policy.

Mr Nelson's other passion was Utopia's Urupuntja Health Service, where he was a board director for many years.

Urupuntja staff paid tribute

to "this distinguished old man and his amazing contribution.

"He was a driving force behind the growth of the health service over this time, including getting approval for a dialysis unit," CEO Linda Keating said.

Ms Keating was one of the many people Mr Nelson mentored during his long life.

"He always spoke up at

meetings, of which he never missed one and was very vocal in praising the health service team for their dedication and hard work," Ms Keating said.

"He was at the health service most days to oversee the day to day activities and was very highly respected by all the staff who worked for him."

She lauded his "determination in maintaining strong community control of the service" and "his amazingly strong leadership, his unwavering cultural views and unbreakable family spirit".

Mr Nelson and his wife Ruby raised their children Esau, David, Susalina, Richard, Susie and Stephanie at Arlparra and surrounding outstations.

As a strong supporter of education, he made sure the children went to school.

When the Arlparra high school opened in 2009, he

became a school councillor and chaired the council.

"He was an advocate for the development of the education resources for the community here and the need for young people to go to school and get an education," Mr Snowdon said.

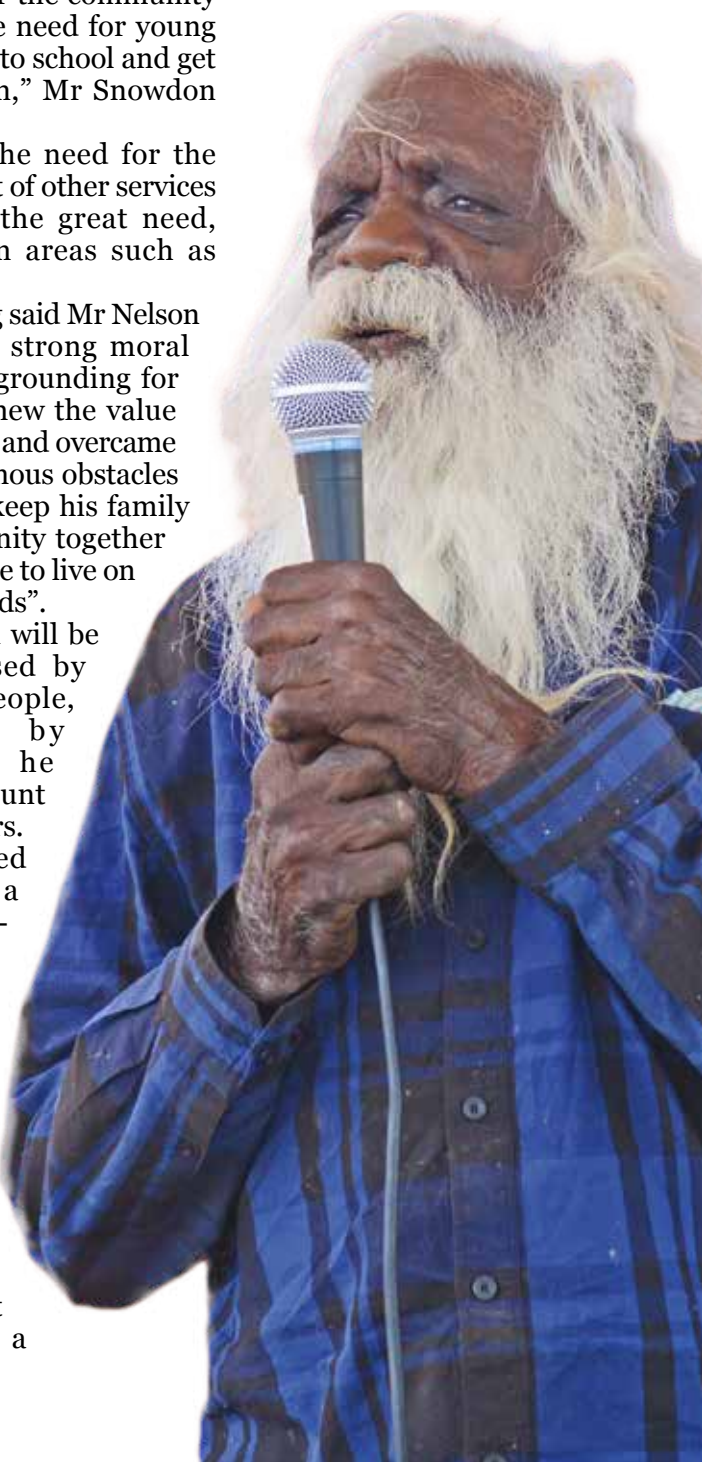
"He saw the need for the development of other services because of the great need, especially in areas such as housing."

Ms Keating said Mr Nelson provided "a strong moral and ethical grounding for all of us", knew the value of hard work and overcame "some enormous obstacles in order to keep his family and community together and to be able to live on the homelands".

Mr Nelson will be sorely missed by so many people, including by politicians he held to account over the years.

"I regarded him as a friend, someone who was always willing to express a view, but who had a great sense of humour," Mr Snowdon said.

"He left us all with a





Sarah Lynch, Jacob Gorey, Alicia Entata, Leanne Entata, Conrad Ratara at the Henbury native title determination.



CLC deputy chair Sammy Butcher and chair Francis Kelly with NLC chair Samuel Bush-Blansi (centre).



Stephen Ellis and Bradley Turner drove the truck that fed hundreds at Barunga.



Justin Allen helped cook for hundreds of guests and delegates at the joint councils meeting.



Marlene Doolan at the Andado native title determination.



Five year old Deshawn Turner at the joint land councils meeting.



The moment smashed avocado entered the menu on the North Tanami IPA: the Lajamanu Rangers' resident hipster, Lionel Mick, served the spread to his colleagues Norelle Robertson, Helma Bernard and Dione Kelly at Nyukulku, followed by freshly caught roast goanna.

A COUPLE OF OLD FELLOWS CHOPPED HIM UP INTO PIECES, POOR OLD BUGGER.



There were droughts. That's when the Coniston massacre took place, because people had to congregate at that spring, people from all over the Warlpiri nation – not all at once, but they used to come in in dribs and drabs and camp out, squat around this particular soak. At the time the Coniston massacre took place, there was this one whitefella, Fred Brooks, who was also squatting at this particular soak, Yurrkuru [on Mount Denison Station]. He was a dingo trapper who was camped there as well and sort of got friendly with the womenfolk, and of course the husbands were beginning to feel uneasy with what was happening. A couple of old fellows went around there one morning and chopped him up into pieces, poor old bugger. That's what set off the Coniston massacre. And hundreds of our people got shot, along the Lander River, Hanson River. They didn't go further west of Yuendumu. They thought the people around that vicinity, around Coniston, Willowra and Napperby, were the culprits in that murder of Fred Brooks. People talked about it when I was growing up. They told us the history, what had happened, how the people were shot.

~ Harry Jakamarra Nelson ~
Excerpt from *Every hill got a story*



For more information go to clc.org.au/every-hill-got-a-story



This painting was done by M. Joseph between 1974 and 1977 when she was a student at Yirara College in Central Australia. Painting courtesy of National Museum Australia.

LISTEN TO THE STORYTELLERS OF **EVERY HILL GOT A STORY** AT

WWW.CLC.ORG.AU/ARTICLES/INFO/593

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