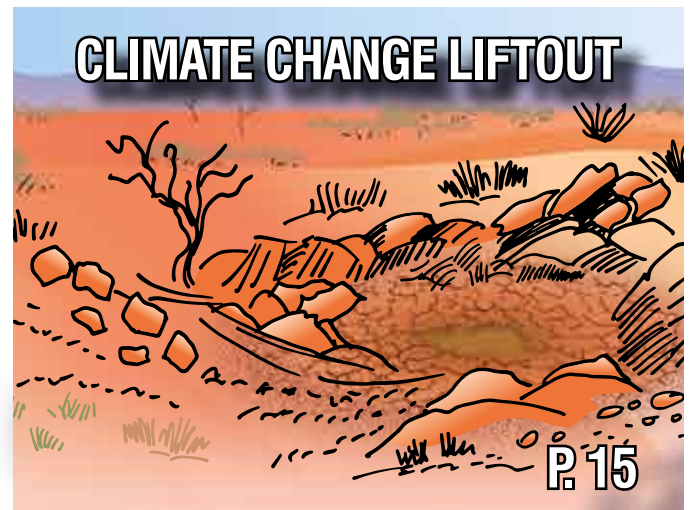
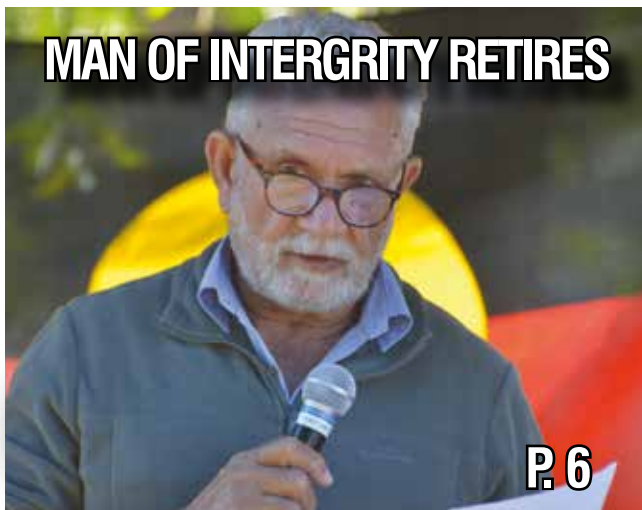


FREE

LANDRIGHTS NEWS

June 2019 VOLUME 9. NUMBER 2. CENTRAL AUSTRALIA





EDITORIAL

Land Rights News Central Australia is published by the Central Land Council three times a year.

The Central Land Council
27 Stuart Hwy
Alice Springs
NT 0870
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www.clc.org.au
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Contributions are welcome

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Land Rights News Central Australia subscriptions are \$22 per year.

It is distributed free of charge to Aboriginal organisations and communities in Central Australia.

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Next publication date:
October 2019

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COVER



Former CLC chair Francis Kelly (right) congratulated new chair Sammy Wilson after the CLC election at Yulara Pulka in April.

CLC MEETINGS

26-27 June
Executive, Alice Springs

24-25 July
Executive, Alice Springs

30 July -1 August
Council, Tennant Creek

28-29 August
Executive, Alice Springs

25-26 September
Executive, Alice Springs

Leaders push for CDP reform

ABORIGINAL leaders are hoping new Aboriginal affairs minister Ken Wyatt will use his place in the Morrison government's cabinet to push for substantial reforms of the punitive work for the dole scheme, the CDP.

Opponents of the CDP know there is a better way - a model that would create 12,000 jobs in remote Australia - twice as many as promised by the federal government.

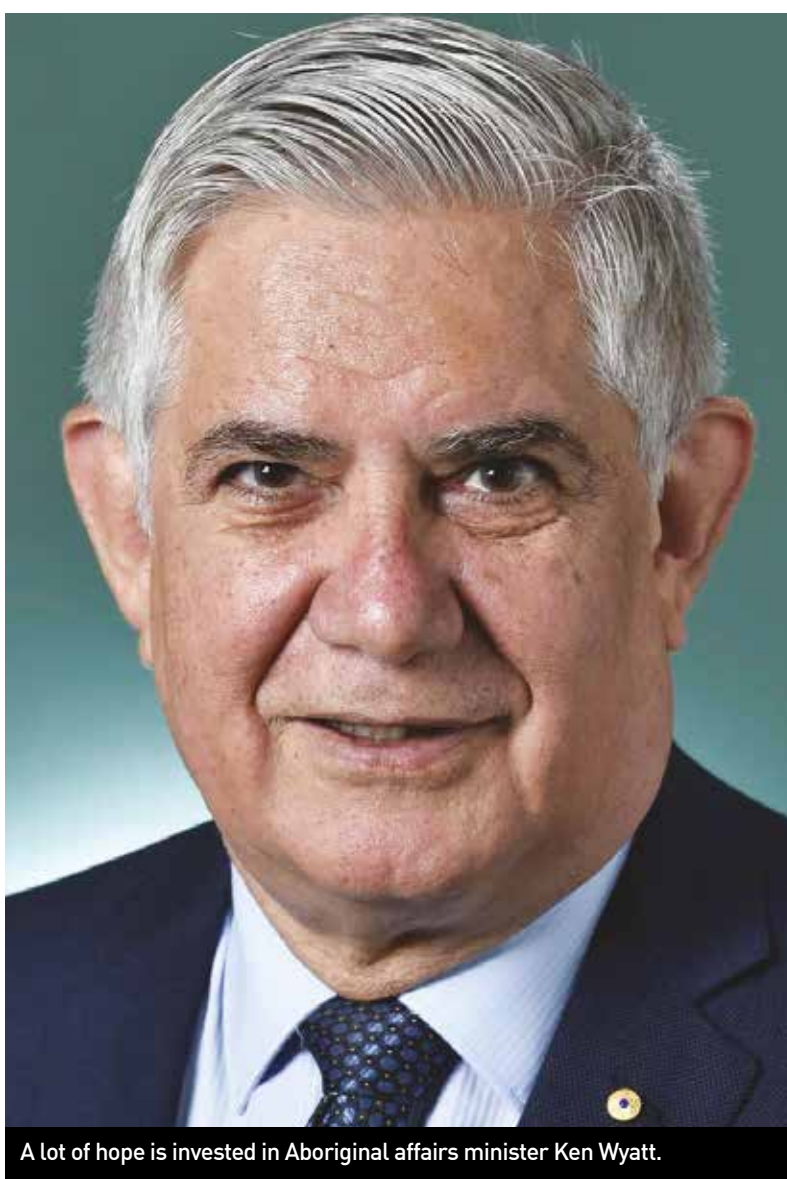
A coalition of peak bodies and organisations from across the country, including the Central Land Council, has called for the subsidised jobs to be with Aboriginal organisations and come with award wages and standard employment conditions and entitlements.

The peak bodies' alternative model includes 10,500 part-time jobs and an additional 1,500 six-month work experience places for young people.

The CLC wants these places to support many young men who have dropped out of the scheme altogether, putting pressure on their already struggling families.

The alternative model covers 20 hours at the minimum wage, which employers can top up, plus oncosts.

It would also get rid of the penalty regime that is causing so much havoc in remote



A lot of hope is invested in Aboriginal affairs minister Ken Wyatt.

communities.

Speaking to the CLC delegates at Yulara Pulka in April, former indigenous affairs minister Nigel Scullion said

he had "wanted to introduce legislation that would have introduced 6,000 award wage jobs annually, jobs that are 50 per cent subsidised by the

Commonwealth government".

"We have lobbied all parties ahead of the election to adopt our alternative model and create real jobs in communities, with community organisations," CLC policy manager Josie Douglas said.

"The wage subsidy announced by Senator Scullion is inadequate, with most people remaining in an inflexible and discriminatory program."

Lingiari MP Warren Snowdon, who went on to win the vast electorate's bush vote in the May election, also attended the council meeting.

"I've been involved in discussions with Nigel for three years and we thought we were getting somewhere and would see an outcome which would look a little like the old CDEP," he said.

"Well, that didn't come anywhere near to fruition."

Before the election, Aboriginal Territorians expressed doubts that the promises from either side would lead to improvements.

"They are pumping us up for voting with stuff like that," Beswick resident Joseph Brown told the ABC.

"In the end, when voting is all gone and someone got elected then they flatten you down and put you in your own corner until the next election."

Land councils to sit at the remote housing table for the first time

THE four Northern Territory land councils are waiting for the federal election dust to settle so they can, for the first time, take a seat at the table where housing policy and strategy are decided.

Signed by the federal and NT governments in March, the new national partnership for remote housing aims to reduce overcrowding in 73 remote communities and 17 Alice Springs town camps.

The agreement says the land councils will join a Commonwealth/NT steering committee to address the housing crisis, with the first meeting scheduled for the end of May.

Following a five year, \$550 million federal government commitment for remote NT housing, combined government commitments to address the housing crisis now add up to \$1.1 billion for the next five years.

The land councils are keen to have a say in how Darwin and Canberra spend this investment.

Under the agreement,

they will lead a review of the existing remote housing model and associated leasing arrangements, as well as take part in policy and strategy decisions about remote housing spending.

"This agreement is a breakthrough that promises some accountability at last," Central Land Council CEO Joe Martin-Jard said.

"It implements the Closing the Gap statement of the Council of Australian Governments of December 2018, which called for a 'genuine, formal partnership with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples'.

"The old national partnership agreement on remote housing between the two governments relegated Aboriginal people to bystanders and this has been a major reason why it failed to deliver," he said.

"We look forward to working closely with both governments to implement the new agreement."

Former Aboriginal affairs minister Nigel Scullion used



his final appearance at the CLC meeting, at Yulara Pulka outstation near Uluru in April, to tell the delegates that he fought for their inclusion.

Senator Scullion said he told the NT government 'You've got to involve the land councils here'.

"They've got to be decision makers. They've got to make sure the money doesn't disappear into Parap somewhere. They've got to

know where the dollars go.

"They've got to insist that countrymen [are] on training, apprenticeships, working on the maintenance team, new maintenance businesses out on all of the communities."

Senator Scullion said being at the table means that "you'll know how housing is going. They've got to be honest because you'll be in the same room."

Continued p.14



What do you want to achieve on council?



Lynda Lechleitner

Papunya

I will try my best to bring action to my community: jobs, housing in remote areas, equal opportunity for men and women. We have many strong women out here and we aren't afraid to stand up. We always welcome a challenge, especially when it's got to do with our children and our opportunities. Giving my community a voice and giving them an opportunity to have a say at the table. That's what I want to bring, by asking them what they want and speaking up for my community. By holding the right people accountable and obligating them to give me an answer.



Tommy Conway

Kintore

Starting a ranger program at Kintore. It has been years but we are trying to get it going. I want people to move back to outstations. We need to keep talking up strong as CLC delegates and keep things going.



Tess Ross

Yuendumu

I want to teach land council staff about country and jukurrpa and to learn Warlpiri. I want to speak up for outstations on the south side and stand up for my country. To speak up for bilingual education for my people.



Esau Nelson

Arlparra

I am a first time delegate, following in my father's footsteps and will fight for my land. I want to see the Arlparra footy oval upgraded and the Utopia rangers become a part of the CLC ranger program.



Craig Woods

Mutitjulu

I want to get the best out of the CLC and learn as much as I can about how it works. I want to use its resources such as its cultural connections and rich knowledge because that will be missing in 20 years and fade away if we don't preserve it.



Graham Smith

Alice Springs

I want to improve my peoples' living conditions and build economies out bush so we can live there. We need housing, bores and water, something sustainable. That's not moving quickly enough. And to help Lhere Artepe reach its potential.



Roxanne Kenny

Ntaria Outstations

I would love seeing the outstations recognised. We are eight people living on my outstation and having a demountable or portable house would be great so the young adults and young married can stay living on country and have their own house.

CLC under gender balanced leadership

THE race for the CLC chair was a crowded field.

Six members ran for the position and the standout pitches by Sammy Wilson and Barbara Shaw were all about their individual achievements and family histories.

"I was a chair for my community [the Mutitjulu Community Aboriginal Corporation], my corporation and I speak up for them. Later on, I became the chair for Uluru Kata Tjuta National Park. I am Uluru, my grandfather was Uluru," Mr Wilson told the delegates at Yulara Pulka outstation.

"I've been in tourism for over 20 years now. I sit down with the tourism commission and talk about more people visiting here. I sit down with people from the world, talk about what they think about government, climate change, everything. I have travelled the world, to the United States and learned a lot.

"My family was there, fighting for this land, talking about this thing and that thing, for Anangu, for tjukurpa side. I learned from the old people ever since I was 11 years old and now I'm here. Now we have community development. This is our money and we can control it."

Ms Shaw opened with her belief in "gender equality and that leadership is earned".

"I show a lot of respect and can represent this council on a lot of levels," she said.

"I am the co-chair of Aboriginal Housing NT, fighting for our housing in communities and outstations. I have recently worked for the Royal Commission for our children in protection and detention and fighting for our kids' rights.

"I have a lot of family connections in remote communities and just recently was appointed to the Aboriginal Areas Protection Board,



Former chair Francis Kelly (centre) congratulated new chair Sammy Wilson and deputy chair Barbara Shaw at the CLC elections at Yulara Pulka outstation in April.

looking after sacred sites right throughout the Territory and I was an ABA member looking after and supporting Aboriginal programs in remote communities."

In the end, Mr Wilson, the owner/operator of cultural tourism business Uluru Family Tours, pipped Ms Shaw, a youth worker at the Tangentyere Council's Brown Street Youth Drop-in Centre, by just four votes.

"We're not about taking over the government. We want to sit down with them at the same table and be listened to."

The close result may have had something to do with the record number of newly-elected delegates – half of the council – and greater numbers of women and young people.

The race for deputy chair, however, ended with a convincing win for Ms Shaw over runner-up Michael Liddle and with a warm hug between the two contenders.

Only the second woman to be elected deputy chair of the CLC, Ms Shaw declared her results showed that "the Central Land Council is ready

for change".

Ms Shaw also works with Tangentyere's womens family safety group, which targets domestic violence in Alice Springs town camps.

She represents the Northern Territory on the Uluru statement working group, and has been employed by the Royal Commission into the Protection and Detention of Children in the NT.

She ran for The Greens in the

federal seat of Lingiari in 2010 and 2013.

Mr Wilson thanked the outgoing CLC chair, Francis Kelly, for his six years of service and presented him with a kulata (spear) and spear thrower (miru).

Then he got down to business with a few media interviews, where he vowed to pursue the Uluru statement, which the government in Canberra had dismissed as a 'third chamber of parliament'.

"We're not about taking over the government," he said. "We

want to sit down with them at the same table and be listened to.

"I hope there will be progress under a new government. The current government has pushed our Uluru Statement from the Heart to the side".

Mr Wilson said he hopes the statement won't end up in a frame, like the Yirrkala Bark Petition and the Barunga Statement before it.

"We don't want to see the statement hanging on a wall, we want it to become reality."

He said he felt a "big responsibility of leading such an important organisation and so many new members I'm still getting to know".

In the next three years he wants land council members to "work tjungu (together) and understand each other. The nine regions, we'll go and talk with them and make it better for future generations".

"I'll talk with government about our plan for our communities, for our future. I would say to government 'come and sit down with us and learn the proper way'."

Self-determination and local control will be high on his agenda.

"We lost it. We want it back," he said. "No matter who wins the elections - we want no

more decisions about us to be made without us.

"I plan to listen to and speak up for the council on issues that matter to the members, such as housing, health and business development.

"I am also really looking forward to officially closing the climb of the rock in October."

Delegates from 75 remote communities and outstations then chose an executive member for each of the nine regions: Raymond Palmer, Robert Hoosan, William Johnson, Harry Nelson, Martin Jugadai, Sandra Morrison, Michael Liddle, Neville Petrick and Ron Hagen.

They also elected Harry Nelson, Tony Scrutton, Willie Johnson, Barb Shaw and Leah Leaman to represent the CLC on the Aboriginals Benefit Account (ABA) advisory committee.

Re-elected delegates supported a record number of first timers during the CLC induction before the voting.

To kick off a day of governance training in the same hall where the Uluru statement was declared in 2017, everyone lined up in the order they joined the council.

The surviving giants of the land rights movement, some a little bowed, gathered around former chair Bruce Bredden on one side.

Harry Nelson, from Yuendumu, gave the first testimony.

"We are still very strong and still battling with the government and others who are damaging our country. I'm talking about the mining companies. That's why I joined the land council."

Former executive member, Vincent Forrester, continued.

"We started getting organised in the early 70s. Everybody got together and we wanted land rights.

"I've been with this organisation all my life and I



still have to get the fruits of land rights and I'm still trying," Mr Forrester said.

"We had no governance training when we first started off with the land council," Michael Jones, from Tennant Creek, said.

"David Ross was a young one then. A lot of changes I've seen with my own eyes and I'm still up for another three years."

Raelene Silverton reminded everyone that she was "the first lady and I'm still standing strong because I've got to protect my grandmother's story".

The veterans passed the baton to a new generation of

land council leaders keen to follow in their footsteps.

"It's changing times, it's true, for our young people," acknowledged Ms Leaman, from Kalkaringi.

"It's an honour that you mob lead the way for us. We always look up to our old people who fight our way for everybody."

Thank you for your time in leading land council and for helping our people back then. I pray that we all go forward as one voice from every region for the best of all people."

Many of the first time delegates said they had stepped up to replace a deceased loved one and because their families

fought for land rights.

"I remember, back in 1976, my sister who was only 16 years old worked for our land claim and she was one of the people who went down to Canberra for the High Court to fight for our land," Patricia Frank, from Tennant Creek, said.

"The reason why I joined is to be the voice of my people and show them that there is a way, like all these old men and women," Papunya's Lynda Lechleitner said.

"They were inspirational and they still are. I'm here as a delegate for my outstation and I'm going to try my best."



CEO Joe Martin-Jard congratulated new deputy chair Barb Shaw.



Leaders of peak Aboriginal organisations met in Melbourne to discuss reform of the failed Closing the Gap policy (Central Land Council CEO Joe Martin-Jard and policy manager Josie Douglas back row right).

Reform Closing the Gap with us - not for us

TEN years after Australian governments launched Closing the Gap it looks like Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples finally have a real say about the policy.

The policy was meant to improve their lives by getting Australian governments to work together, but has mostly failed because it was designed without Aboriginal representatives in the room.

The first joint Closing the Gap council meeting between the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) and a coalition of national Aboriginal peak bodies in late March in Brisbane promises to turn a decade of failure into success.

The joint council has 12 representatives elected by the coalition of peaks, a minister nominated by the Commonwealth and each state and territory government, plus one representative from the Australian Government Association.

The council was set up under a historic partnership agreement under which the peak bodies will, for the first time, have an equal say in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of a 'refreshed' Closing the Gap policy.

"This historic achievement of a hard-fought partnership between peak Aboriginal

organisations and governments on Closing the Gap should be celebrated," Pat Turner, CEO of the National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO) said.

"From this day forward, expert Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander voices in health, education and community services will be working as equal partners with COAG in crafting the best solutions to achieve better life outcomes within our communities," Ms Turner said.

"The health disparities and widening gaps between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders and other Australians are unacceptable and as leaders in our fields, we are ready to do the hard work to reverse these trends."

The journey of Aboriginal representatives to the table where the policy decisions are made has been long and difficult.

Ms Turner said the joint council meeting was "a culmination of many years of negotiations and hard work."

In 2008, the COAG signed up to an agreement which for the first time had national targets and committed state and federal governments to reducing the gap in life expectancy, infant mortality, access to early childhood education, educational

achievement and better employment outcomes.

This raised some hopes but, for the last five years, each time a Prime Minister reported to the federal parliament on the progress of Closing the Gap they had to admit that most of the targets were not on track to be achieved.

That does not mean that there had been no progress at all, but Aboriginal Territorians know that their lives are not much better than they were 10 years ago, especially when it comes to housing and jobs.

"Closing the Gap was well meaning and policy makers were genuine in wanting to achieve equality for our peoples," Central Land Council policy manager Josie Douglas said.

"However, we also said from the outset that the problem was that only governments had been involved in negotiations of the agreement and only the views of governments about what had to be done and how to achieve it were included," she said.

"Our people weren't asked or given any role in Closing the Gap. Now it looks like governments and both major parties have finally realised that it was a mistake to exclude us and that this is an important reason why the policy failed."

Ms Douglas said while this is good news "it wouldn't have happened except for the hard work of nearly 40 members of national and state/territory Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peak bodies, including the Central and Northern land councils and the NT's Aboriginal Medical Services Association".

Early last year, public servants invited these organisations to workshops to ask them what they thought about Closing the Gap.

Like most others, CLC representatives left the workshops feeling that the governments had already made up their minds and were going to repeat the mistake they made over a decade ago and exclude them from their proposed 'refresh' of the policy.

Last October, the NACCHO asked the CLC and other peak bodies across Australia for help to try and stop the governments from deciding on a new Closing the Gap policy without Aboriginal representatives.

"We were up for it because we know how hard life is for our people and that we couldn't afford governments to keep making decisions about us without us," Ms Douglas said.

"We couldn't afford the harm that means for our people and

the waste – just look at the federal government's punitive and failed work for the dole scheme.

"We wrote to Prime Minister Scott Morrison, the state premiers and Chief Minister Michael Gunner, asking them not to agree to changes to the Closing the Gap policy without us," she said.

The coalition of peaks asked to be signatories to a formal Closing the Gap partnership agreement on behalf of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

They met with Mr Morrison last December and he changed his mind.

"We didn't expect that," Ms Douglas said.

The partnership agreement on Closing the Gap they signed three months later came with a Commonwealth grant paying the costs of the coalition for being in the partnership.

In May this year, also for the first time, the coalition met to work out what should be in a new Closing the Gap policy.

"More than anything else we were determined that in the next phase, we must be in charge of our own development," Ms Douglas said.

"Now the election is over, we will make sure we stay at the decision making table. It's a big shift, but it's critical for our people."



“A man of great integrity, of great honours”

WHEN one of the nation's most respected and longest-serving Aboriginal leaders steps away from his position at the end of June few expect him to retire from public life altogether.

David Ross is retiring as Central Land Council director leaving the organisation in great shape.

During a career spanning the fight for national land and native title rights as well

“Even now, to be able to ring him up and ask for his advice is tremendously important and I appreciate it greatly.”

as economic development, he's had the ear of prime ministers and leaders across the political spectrum.

“There are very few leaders in this country who don't know Mr Ross,” Warren Snowden, the member for Lingiari and former CLC staffer, told CLC delegates during the last council meeting at Yulara Pulka.

“And all that know him respect him, really respect him, for the way he represented the interests of the CLC and the people of the Territory.

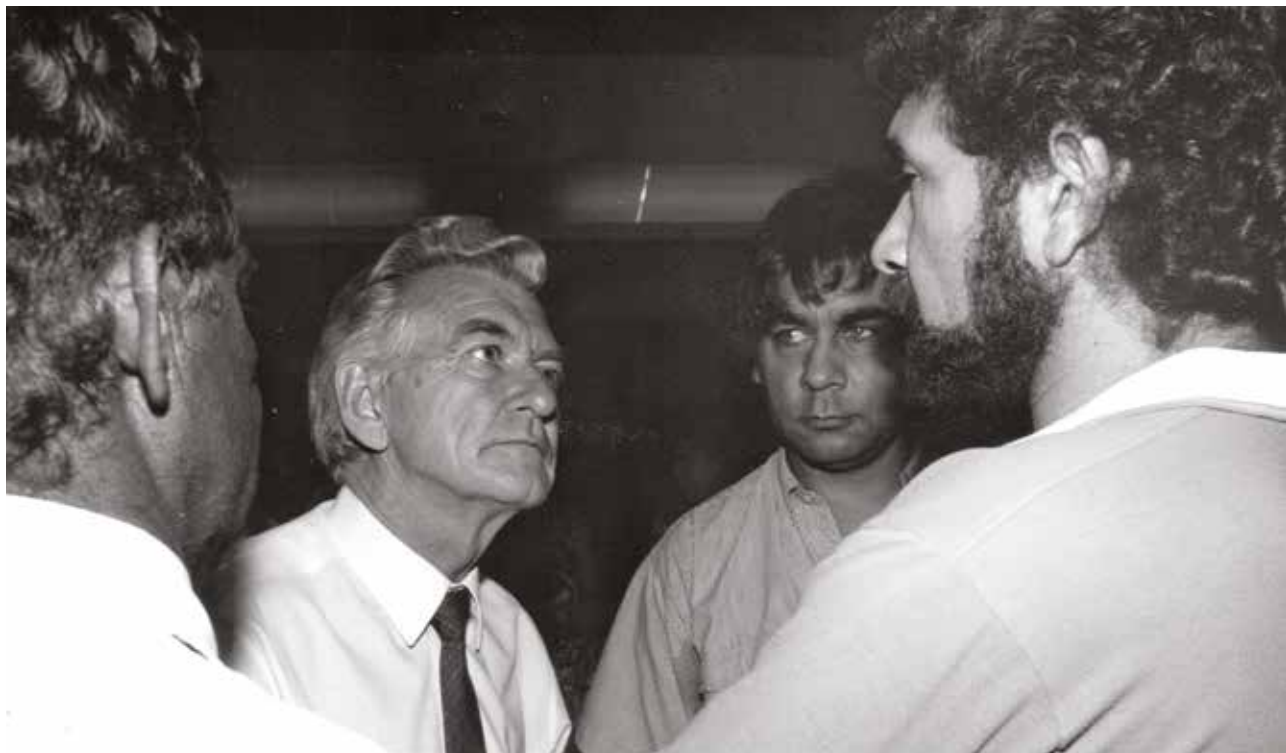
“You can talk to governments from Bob Hawke to Paul Keating and then even the Howard government, when they were dealing with Mr Ross they knew they were dealing with someone who was representing the views of the people he worked for, not his own views.

“He was talking for you mob and that's always been the case. About what he was told to do for the land council by the land council members, the executive and the chair and that's really very important,” Mr Snowden, who has known Mr Ross for almost four decades, said.

“He was asked to do all sorts of terrible things,” Senator Patrick Dodson recalled.

“He organised convoys to Sydney [to protest against the bicentenary celebrations in 1988], looked after people in Sydney, and outside of the hours of work respond to all sorts of things that were asked of him. Never complained. Always did something, always positive and constructive.”

The man dubbed the Father of Reconciliation said Mr Ross gave him “a great deal



CLC director David Ross (right) asked Prime Minister Bob Hawke in 1990 who would be appointed as Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, how the decision would be made and whether the CLC would be consulted. Tracker Tilmouth and Harry Nelson (right) listened.

of guidance and helped me in so many different ways to the position I now hold in politics. I never thought I would go there”.

“Even now, to be able to ring him up and ask for his advice is tremendously important and I appreciate it greatly.”

The two leaders met not long after Mr Ross joined the land council in 1979, during the height of the land rights struggle.

As council clerk, he helped to recruit Senator Dodson, who would go on to become the CLC's first director.

“He said, ‘The executive wants to talk to you about working for the land council’,” Senator Dodson recalled.

“They gave me a job looking after the field officers and dealing with the newsletter and communications with the governments.”

Senator Dodson said Mr Ross helped him to understand that the land council functioned as a grass roots organisation.

“We didn't stay in flash hotels, always met on the country, always made sure our delegates came first, that we were the workers for the council and our directions came very much from the council and the executive.”

In the mid-80s, Mr Ross took time out to study business management in Adelaide.

When he came back, he progressed to the position of CLC director in 1989, but not before twisting Senator Dodson's arm to stay on for another year.

“That wasn't the hard part. He really is a great man to work with,” Senator Dodson said.

“Very, very calm when there is a lot of pressure on and

there is tension and people are arguing, or when governments are arguing with the land council about your rights. Very smart, very wise.”

In 1994, Mr Ross was appointed to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission and the following year became the inaugural executive chair of the Indigenous Land Corporation.

After four years at the ILC

confidence after they were trashed by the Howard government's intervention into NT Aboriginal communities.

The community development program is also generating much needed paid work for locals, employing more than 200 people last year alone.

Cynthia Wheeler, a teacher from Yuendumu, is too young to remember the launch of one of the program's first

“I thank him for his service to Central Australia and to all the old people we worked with, for the causes that we fought, for the miles that we travelled and the confidences he's kept.”

Mr Ross returned to pioneer and guide two of the CLC's most successful initiatives.

One would become the source of perhaps the most sought after jobs out bush - the community ranger program, which now employs some 100 Aboriginal rangers.

Looking after vast stretches of country, the rangers are fighting the mass extinction of threatened plants and animals and for the survival of their cultures and ecological knowledge.

The other is the CLC's community development program that supports Aboriginal people to drive their own development by investing their collective royalty, rent and compensation payments in community priorities ranging from bilingual education to dialysis clinics, water tanks, phone access and church buildings.

The program has helped rebuild local pride and

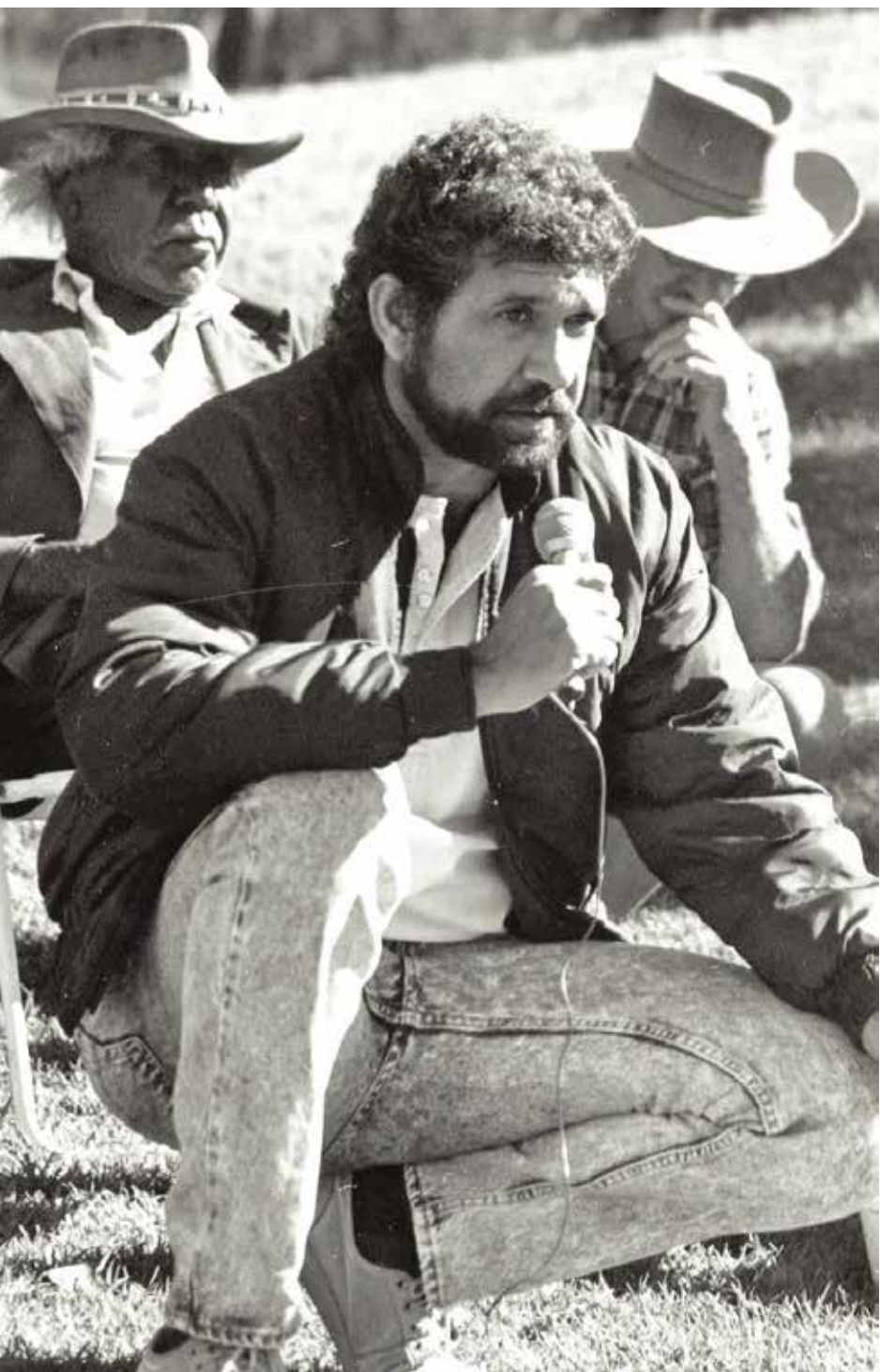
initiatives, the Warlpiri Education and Training Trust, but knows about the WETT's history from senior educators such as Barbara Martin, Maisie Kitson, Markkirdi Rose and Fiona Gibson.

Today, she chairs the trust's advisory committee, which has invested more than \$32 million of gold mining royalties in life long education and training programs in Yuendumu, Nyirrpri, Lajamanu and Willowra.

“In 2005, some of us asked Mr Ross to support our vision of using royalties traditional owners receive from Newmont's Granites gold mine to support bilingual and bicultural education and training initiatives by, for and with Yapa,” she said.

He then used his influence with the company to negotiate additional royalty payments dedicated to improving education and training outcomes in the Tanami.

Ms Wheeler thanked Mr



Left: CLC director David Ross addressed a meeting in 1992.

ty and of great respect”

Ross “for being a part of our committee in the early days and helping us use our money wisely for education and training projects in our communities”.

Australia’s Department of Foreign Affairs has used the trust and the community development program it spawned as internationally outstanding examples of community driven development.

Aboriginal communities and organisations around the country look to it as an example of how to invest their

both worlds: Yapa and Kartiya (whitefellas),” she said.

New deputy chair Barbara Shaw said the man she is proud to call ‘uncle’ is supportive and compassionate.

“He does things for the people. He cared for all his delegates, all his bosses, all his previous chairs and executives and he’s seen two female deputy chairs come through,” she said.

“He’s lost a lot of good men and women over the years who were on this council. He also looked after all of his staff, making sure they were

man of great integrity, of great honesty and of great respect,” he said.

Earlier this year, Mr Ross handed the reins of one of this country’s most respected, stable and well-governed Aboriginal organisations to his successor, CEO Joe-Martin-Jard, but agreed to stay on until the end of his own contract.

“He will be a loss here, no doubt about it,” Senator Dodson told the delegates.

“You’ll feel that initially but I think you are in good hands with your new chairman here, new deputy and CEO.”

As staff, members and supporters get ready to farewell Mr Ross in style, it’s worth noting that while he may be retiring from the organisation he has no plans to exit public life.

“I’m sure he won’t be sitting on his hands,” Senator Dodson said. “He will be in great demand by anyone.”

Mr Ross has been reassuring elected members that they are not about to lose the benefit of his experience and his vast knowledge of the CLC.

Asked whether he would continue to be available for support and advice, Mr Ross said he was “not going anywhere”, adding he wouldn’t mind helping the regional services crew to barbecue a few T-bone steaks.

“I wish him all the best and thank him for his service to Central Australia and to all the old people we worked with, for the causes that we fought, for the miles that we travelled and for the confidences that he’s kept,” Senator Dodson said.

Below: David Ross and Pat Dodson in 1984, after meeting with the former minister for Aboriginal affairs, Clyde Holding.

own money for community benefit.

The program owes much to the extraordinary personal support of Mr Ross.

“He backed us all the way when we faced opposition or lack of understanding,” Ms Wheeler said.

During the difficult early years, he chaired many of the committee’s meetings.

“He didn’t only listen to us, he provided terrific leadership and set standards of good governance that continue to guide us today,” she said.

Ms Wheeler said his effort paid off in 2018, when the committee won the Indigenous Governance Award.

“Mr Ross is an inspiration to

doing the right thing for the people of the land.”

Warren Snowdon told the delegates mutual respect is at the heart of Mr Ross’ success.

“He has respect for every person in the land council and always deferred to the bosses. He’s not a gate keeper, he looks after the executive and you members of the land council,” he said.

“He talked to the government because he was told by you mob and he was very good at doing that. Always honest, direct and straight, often accompanied by the chair and executive members.

“He’d sit in the background as those executive members did the talking. Mr Ross is a



“There’s very few of them around”: David Ross in Canada earlier this year promoting Australia’s world leading Aboriginal ranger program.

Ken Wyatt for Aboriginal affairs: land council CEOs



NLC CEO Marion Scrymgour also backed Mr Wyatt.

NEW Northern Land Council CEO, former Labor government minister Marion Scrymgour, was the second land council CEO to back Liberal MP Ken Wyatt as Aboriginal affairs minister.

The Territory’s first female land council CEO said Mr Wyatt “was quite effective” in his previous portfolio of Aboriginal health and worked well with Aboriginal MPs and senators from all parties.

“He did a really good job in bringing that sector together and continuing the Aboriginal health plan that had been put up by Labor, saw some really good merits in that, looked beyond politics which is what Aboriginal people need” Ms Scrymgour told the ABC.

“They need someone who can bring everyone together, both governments and Aboriginal people, to try and resolve some of the issues of the past.”

Ms Scrymgour echoed CLC’s CEO Joe Martin Jard who backed Mr Wyatt in the NT News on the day after the federal election.

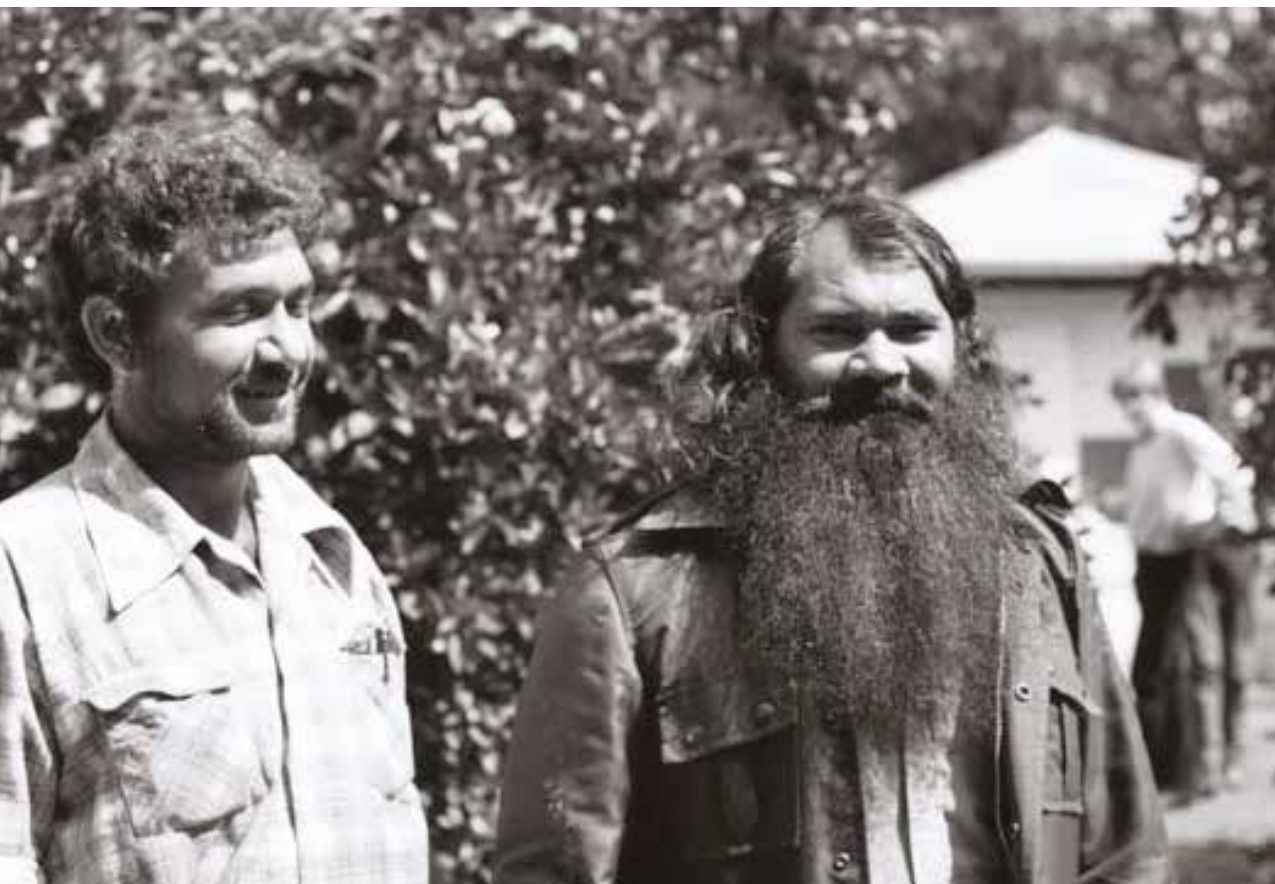
A Tiwi woman, Ms Scrymgour shares a background in health and education with Mr Wyatt.

She was the first indigenous woman to be elected to the Territory parliament when she won the seat of Arafura in 2001 as a member of Labor’s historic first victory in the Territory under Clare Martin.

Ms Scrymgour went on to serve as education minister, attorney general and deputy chief minister to Paul Henderson, becoming Australia’s highest ranked indigenous woman in government.

Before entering politics, Ms Scrymgour ran the Wurli-Wurlinjang Aboriginal Health Service and the Katherine West Aboriginal Health Board.

She left the top job at the Tiwi Islands Regional Council to take up the NLC position.





Janet Turner and Eric Breden : "Rainbow Valley has always been our country."



Mary Kenny-LeRossignol: "It gives us more ownership."



Peter Kenny (second right) and his family: "My dad and the oldfellas did a lot of work on this."



Myra Taylor Ah Chee and Mavis Armstrong. Below: Allan Drover, aka Yellowshirt.



Wurre custodians celebrate title over ancient ceremony ground

NATIVE title holders from the Imarnte land holding group have paid tribute to their elders during the long awaited determination of native title over the men's ceremony ground known as Rainbow Valley.

"I am feeling very proud about it because my dad and the oldfellas, they all did a lot of work on this. We have waited so long. It is a very important day for us," Peter Kenny said.

The families gathered at the Rainbow Valley ranger station on May 7 to witness Justice Reeves hand down a non-exclusive consent determination over the 25 square kilometre conservation reserve.

The tourism icon an hour's drive south of Alice Springs contains important sacred sites and is of great cultural significance.

"Rainbow Valley has always been our country, handed down from grandfather to grandfather," Eric Braedon said.

"It was a big ceremony place for all Imarnte people from all different areas of Imarnte country. All came in to do ceremony until the white man came and moved us to Maryvale Station."

The determination has given the custodians a greater sense of control.

"I think it is very important that they decided to give us this native title because before, we were not sure whether we were allowed to come here or not.

"Now we know we can. It gives us more ownership," Mary Kenny-LeRossignol, from nearby Oak Valley outstation, said.

The custodians have looked after Wurre in partnership with the NT Parks and Wildlife Service since 2005.

Together, they manage the reserve for visitors and protect its cultural and natural values by controlling weeds and fires, for example, and building tracks.

"NT Parks and Wildlife and traditional owners will be working together to look

after country, and keep this place safe and clean. We don't want cars to drive around," Eric Kenny said.

When the Central Land Council negotiated the joint management arrangement with the Northern Territory, the government agreed to consent to a native title claim over the area, but it did not agree to the lodgement of the claim until June 2018.

Mr Kenny said the determination is long overdue.

"We have waited for something like this to happen for a long time," he said.

The CLC's manager of native title, Francine McCarthy, said the determination recognises the custodians' unbreakable links to the land.

"It means that the native title holders can use the area in accordance with their traditional laws and customs," she said.

"It recognises that their cultural connection to Wurre dates back to time immemorial, and acknowledges how much the area means to them," Ms McCarthy added.

Peter Kenny said the decision does not mean traditional owners wanted to drive tourists away.

"We have done a lot of work on this place, we are part of the decision-making and we hope that more tourists come in," he added.

Native title holder and tourism entrepreneur Ricky Orr has been telling visitors about the history of his country since 2008.

"The area is a very important meeting place for visiting in the good times when food and water are plentiful and, most significantly, as an ancient men's ceremonial ground," Mr Orr said.

The native title holders will exercise their rights through their prescribed body corporate, the Wura Aboriginal Corporation.

Barkly deal: land councils not at the table

THREE levels of government in the Barkly region have backed the area's future with a \$60 million dollar deal to focus on the economic and social development.

However, the organisations representing the majority of the people the first regional deal is meant to benefit are not at the table to decide how the money will be used.

"Aboriginal people control most of the land around Tennant Creek and their

CLC met at Yulara Pulka, would improve collaboration and accountability among the three levels of government.

"The government has made great progress in understanding the community's priorities and what needs to be done, speaking with local business leaders, Tennant Creek traditional owners, local service providers, and Aboriginal leaders, organisations and community

Edgington said the deal was an opportunity to design a blueprint for the future social, economic and cultural development of the area.

"It's important we have a sustainable pathway for Tennant Creek and the communities of the Barkly for a number of years," Cr Edgington said.

"We want to see a focus on reducing overcrowding to ensure children are safe, receive a better education, have access to sport and recreation and improved health outcomes.

"We also want to see an improvement in infrastructure in the communities," he explained.

However, it's not clear exactly what the money will be spent on. No details were released when the deal was signed in April.

Both the federal and Territory governments will contribute \$30 million dollars towards the deal.



Gerry McCarthy (NT government), Bridget McKenzie (federal government) and Steven Edgington (Barkly Regional Council). Photo: BRC

"Aboriginal people control most of the land around Tennant Creek and their elected representatives on the land councils must have a say about this investment."

elected representatives on the Central and Northern land councils must have a say about this investment," CLC CEO Joe Martin-Jard said. He said the native title holders of Tennant Creek, the Patta Aboriginal Corporation, have made it clear that they can only speak for the town area.

"They have told us they want the land councils at the table because between us we represent all traditional owners across the Barkly region," Mr Martin-Jard said.

"The traditional owners agree with many of the deal's stated priorities, especially addressing overcrowding and better outcomes for the region's youth, but they've seen many millions wasted on failed top-down government initiatives.

"The Central Land Council wants to be in the room where decisions about the deal are made so it can make sure this never happens again," he said.

Former federal Minister for Indigenous Affairs Nigel Scullion said the deal, which the local, Territory and federal governments signed in Tennant Creek while the

members," Senator Scullion said.

Mr Martin-Jard said the traditional owners are not just one group among many that governments should merely 'speak with'.

He said the region's biggest landowner groups by a long shot must be front and centre of the deal so they can hold governments to account.

"Governments can't achieve positive change in communities around Tennant Creek if land council members are not involved in decision making. The days of non-Aboriginal politicians and public servants making decisions about us without us are over," he said.

Northern Territory Chief Minister Michael Gunner seems to be on board.

He said the deal would "see all tiers of government and the community working together to improve social, cultural and economic outcomes for Tennant Creek and the wider Barkly.

"As part of this, the Territory government supports Aboriginal people being at the leadership table as decision makers."

Barkly mayor Steve

The urgency to commit additional resources to the Barkly region followed the alleged rape of a two-year-old girl in Tennant Creek in February last year.

Former Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull visited the town and promised help to address its social and economic challenges.



Australian Government

Aboriginals Benefit Account (ABA) Grant Funding Round



ROUND OPEN

Funding for one off projects that benefit Aboriginal people in the NT. ABA supports projects not covered by other government funding.

Aboriginal controlled organisations based in the NT are encouraged to apply.

Opens: 1 July 2019 Closes: 23 August 2019

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Over to Canberra: CLC role in outstation project ends

THE federal government is about to take control of the next stage of the Aboriginals Benefit Account (ABA) outstations project after the Central Land Council's role ends in June.

Most of the 105 outstations CLC delegates chose in November have proposed projects to make life a little easier for the residents, help the families look after surrounding country and stay out bush for longer.

proposals with the residents to meet their main needs and hopefully satisfy Canberra's funding criteria.

The proposals cover everything from the removal of old cars in outstation yards to mobile phone hotspots.

Improved power, water and fencing are among the most common needs.

"The fencing is needed especially in the drought," said consultant project manager David Jagger.

if we need it," Roger Morton, of Indaringinya outstation in the Sandover region, said.

One outstation in the Tennant Creek region recognised the need for an office internet connection for its young people.

Each of the chosen outstations could apply for proposals that are worth up to \$150,000 and meet the federal government's funding criteria of need, benefit and capacity.

"By capacity the government mostly means whether the outstation is able to look after what is bought and installed with this money," Mr Jagger said.

"We have submitted the proposals making the best case possible. In most outstations it's a very good case.

"It's now up to the government to decide whether the proposals tick all the boxes and to hire suitable organisations to manage the works and to let any outstations know if they have been unsuccessful.

"It's a chance for outstation people to get decent paid employment doing the works, even if it's short term. That's one of the main benefits."

CLC delegates from the Northwest have yet to pick their 'priority' outstations.

Any outstation seeking an update on its proposal should call the number below.

"Residents want fences to protect their precious water. As they say: 'no water, no life!'"

The CLC's outstation project team surveyed most of the 309 outstations in the CLC area and helped the delegates choose which 105 'priority' outstations of the total should get a chance to apply for a share of \$15.75 million in one-off ABA funding.

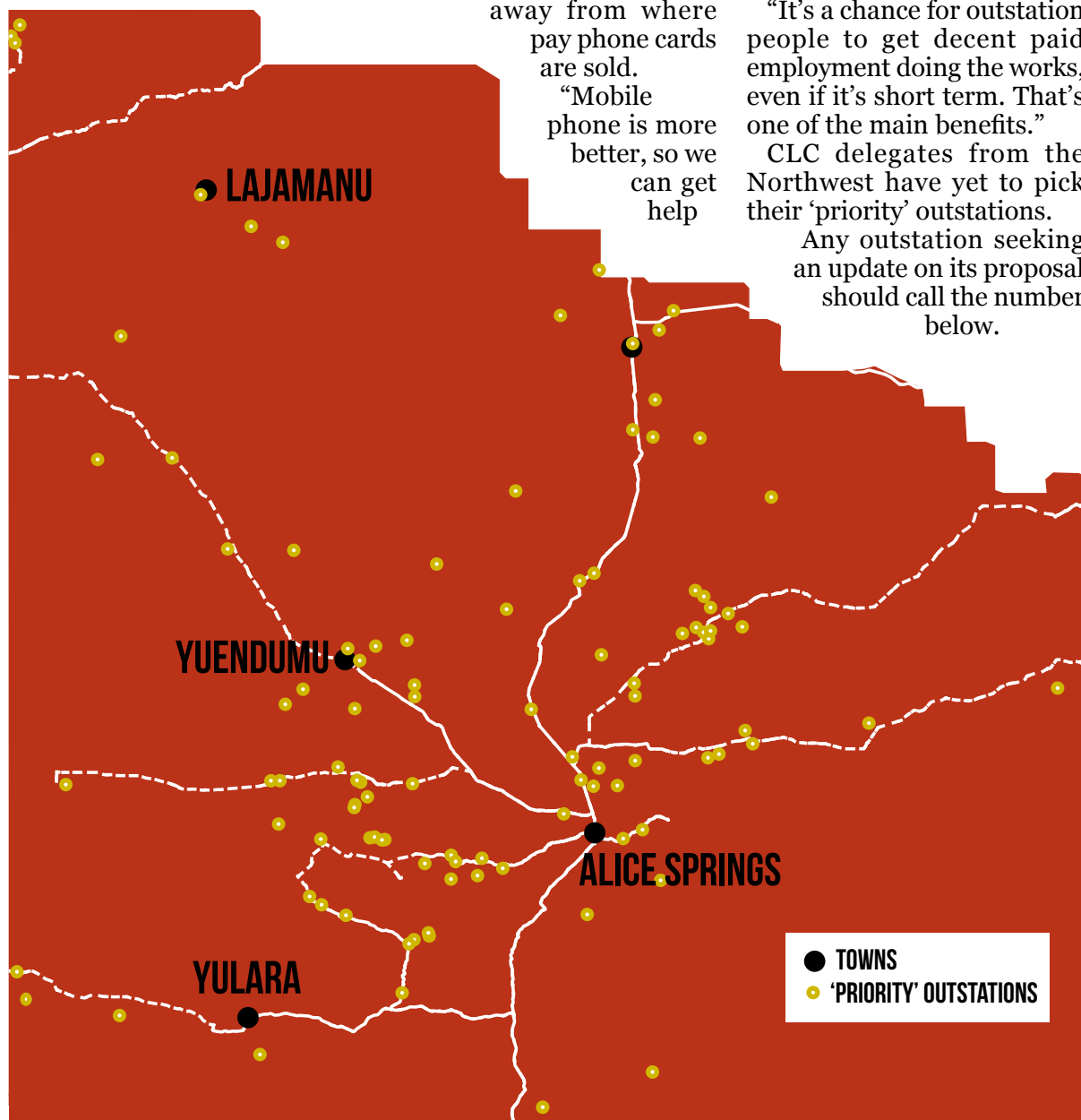
The team then visited the outstations to write funding

"Cattle, wild horses and donkeys are coming into outstations after water and busting taps which can then affect the whole water supply.

"Residents want fences to protect their precious water. As they say: 'no water, no life!'"

Mobile phone hotspots are proving attractive for safety at remote outstations a long way away from where pay phone cards are sold.

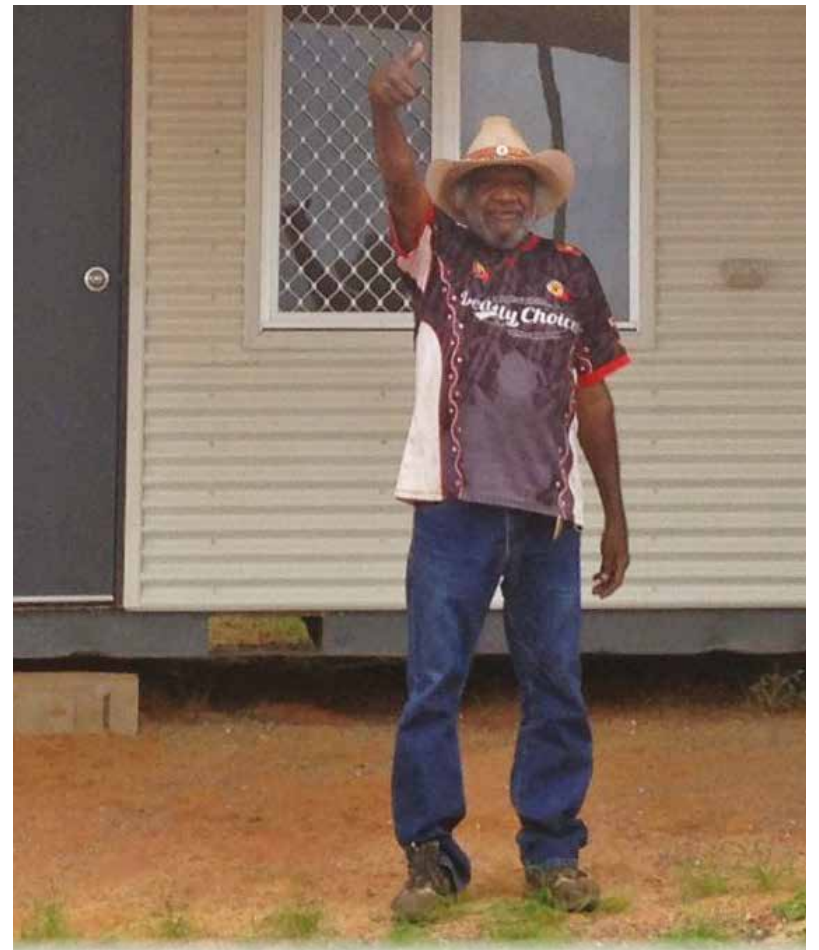
"Mobile phone is more better, so we can get help



Any questions? Contact the ABA Projects Team

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

abahomelands@network.pmc.gov.au | 1800 354 612



A castle rises out of the Ewaninga Rock Carvings Reserve

THEY say a man's home is his castle and for Mark Alice, his is now 40 kilometres south of Alice Springs at Urremerne outstation.

"It's what I wanted, a new house, so I can move back to Urremerne, away from the noise and stop here out bush," Mr Alice (pictured above) said.

"It's really good. I feel really proud of my new home," he added.

Two traditional owners of the jointly managed Ewaninga conservation area helped Tangentyere Constructions to build the \$77,000 shipping container house, using the family's rent income from the famous rock carving site near the outstation and income from a mineral exploration licence.

They installed an internally and externally clad insulated structure with vinyl floors and steel security doors and windows.

Electrical works included external plugins for generator connections, solar lights and air conditioners.

Tangentyere Constructions started the project in March last year and completed it in August.

Since 2010, Ewaninga traditional owners have invested more than half a million dollars of their rent and exploration income in their outstation.

In May, the working group that decides how to invest the rent the NT government pays for the conservation reserve (pictured below) allocated almost \$25,000 to projects ranging from removing old car bodies to looking after bores and building shade structures.



Pioneers camp starts healing journey

CENTRAL Australian Aboriginal communities and organisations have been devastated by youth suicides and the Pioneers Football Club in Alice Springs is no exception.

Between 2017 and 2018, the family based club lost four young men.

The tragic losses left the club reeling with grief.

“Everyone felt the loss of loved, cherished sons, brothers, best mates, friends and teammates,” said Pioneers supporter Samarra Schwarz.

The club knew it had to do something for families and

writing and music workshop,” Ms Schwarz said.

A key to the camp’s success was the sense of family and belonging created.

Camping under the stars, away from electricity, phones and computers also helped.

Before everyone headed out to the camp, Amelia Turner from the Akeyulerre Healing Centre and others smoked the club building on the Stuart Highway.

The healing properties of smoke have been used for thousands of generations and the ceremony was an important start to the camp.

“We need to do all we can to support them and keep them strong and healthy. If they are strong, we as a community are strong.”

young people and decided on a healing camp to help raise awareness and provide support.

“As a committee, parents and community members we knew we had to do something” explained Pioneers president Owen Cole.

The club put together a plan for a healing camp “built on love, care and a mix of social, cultural and professional expertise”.

The Central Australian Aboriginal Congress and Centrecorp provided support and resources.

The three-day camp at Hamilton Downs in April offered 30 young people aged between 15 and 30 a mix of therapy, sport, fitness, cultural and multi-generational leadership activities on country.

“We also tapped into the interests of our young people, for example through a song

At the end of the camp, feedback from the young people who took part was positive.

“I feel proud and happy for all the brothers and sisters coming in together,” one participant wrote.

Many reported feeling “good or great, refreshed, healthier or healed and relaxed”.

Most participants said the top two lessons were to “check on family and mates, never leave anyone behind” and about “selfhealing, dealing with depression”.

“Young people are so important, we need to do all we can to support them and keep them strong and healthy. If they are strong, we as a community are strong.

“It’s sometimes hard to know what to do. We need to increase the knowledge and awareness of family members, adults and young people themselves,” Ms Schwarz said.



Physical fitness activities at the Hamilton Downs healing camp promoted team building.



Young people talked about how they were feeling in a safe and supported environment.

Aboriginal people must co-design suicide prevention plans

AUSTRALIA’S suicide rate has long been among the world’s worst and the rate among its Aboriginal communities is around double the national figure.

A suicide spike amongst Aboriginal youths around the country has taken concern to a new level though.

“Since the start of this year, 62 Aboriginal people – 15 of them children – have died by suicide. More than half of them were under 25 years old, and the youngest was only 12,” *The Guardian* reported in May.

“The suicide rate is an unspeakable tragedy”, Australia’s three major medical organisations have said.

They wrote to the Morrison

government pleading for action in March, after four young Aboriginal people died in a single week in Queensland.

The major parties have pledged investigations, reports and additional funds during the election campaign.

But there is no national strategy for indigenous suicide prevention. In 2014, the Abbott government abandoned a strategy that had been drafted under Labor a year earlier.

West Australian coroner Ros Fogliani has described the situation in remote Aboriginal communities in that state as “dire”.

On February 7, Ms Fogliani handed down her findings into the deaths of 13 children

and young people, who’d died under similar circumstances in the Kimberley.

She found that local Aboriginal communities must be consulted when suicide

“The suicide rate is an unspeakable tragedy.”

prevention strategies are developed.

“The evidence before me concerning the importance of consulting with Aboriginal persons in the formulation of programs and services is extensive,” the coroner found.

She recommended that

governments and service providers “continue to ensure that the strategies for addressing Aboriginal suicide be implemented in consultation with appropriate representatives from the Aboriginal community, that the representatives which are appropriate to consult are identified on an ongoing basis, and that such representatives be provided with an opportunity for involvement in the co-design of such strategies.”

Studies and inquiries through the years have recommended that Aboriginal people be consulted and their views adopted when designing policy for dealing with such issues but

these recommendations have been regularly ignored.

Commitments by both major parties during the federal election campaign, however, have given some hope that things may be about to change.

The Coalition promised \$22.5 million to help find new solutions and better treatments for young and Aboriginal Australians facing health challenges.

It said another \$19.6 million would provide new services to prevent youth suicide, particularly in the Kimberley.

Those promises brought the Coalition’s total commitments for its youth mental health and suicide prevention plan to more than \$503 million.



Watarrka custodians invest in new classroom at Lilla

“JUST knowing the world out there cares about their education is making a difference. It’s a joy to teach smiling children.”

That’s how Christine Munro, a teacher at the Watarrka school at Lilla outstation, describes the benefit of having a second classroom built at the school.

Ms Munro is a member of the Watarrka Foundation’s advisory group and helped the traditional owners of the Watarrka (Kings Canyon) National Park with their

secondary classroom project.

The foundation raised \$185,000 towards the project with traditional owners contributing a further \$135,000 from their rent income for the park.

Watarrka attracts more than a quarter of a million visitors from all over the world each year, but as the tourists drove in, students hoping to extend their high school education would have to travel out.

The new secondary classroom, complete with computer room and teachers’

“We put some of our own money to build a high school out bush for our children. Kids won’t get homesick like when they have to go away to school in cities.”



Sadie Williams (second from right and below) oversaw the smoking ceremony at the launch of Lilla’s new secondary classroom.

office, will allow children from surrounding outstations to stay in school on their own country longer.

Traditional owner Sadie Williams said the combined investment enables the children to stay living with their families while they continue their studies at the local school until year 10.

“We have fought hard over many years for our primary school to stay open so that our kids can get a good bilingual and bicultural education on country,” Ms Williams said.

“We put some of our own money to build a high school out bush for our children. Kids won’t get homesick like when they have to go away to school in cities. It makes our kids feel happy and safe living at home with their families and going

to high school.”

“Education is very important to us and we know that keeping our kids at home for as long as possible will give them a better chance to succeed in life,” she said.

The Central Land Council’s community development program supported the traditional owners to plan and monitor the construction project in partnership with the foundation.

“These community driven initiatives are more likely to help close the education gap than top down government programs because the children’s families are engaged and are using their own income,” CLC chief executive Joe Martin-Jard said.

The traditional owners’

investment in the secondary classroom project builds on their earlier decisions to spend more than \$180,000 for education support projects for the Watarrka outstations and their school.

Before the second classroom, Ms Munro had to teach up to 25 students of all ages in one small classroom.

“The kids love the space and volunteered an entire Saturday to help shift, carry and organise our learning materials,” she said.

“Having an additional classroom has enabled us to separate the students into age groups and give them each more focused attention, which is helping them to learn faster.”

Willowra playgroup – where the students aren’t always the kids

THE Willowra playgroup might be all about helping little kids prepare for school, but it’s also having a big impact on the community’s adults.

The playgroup employs and trains six Yapa workers and encourages them all to study in an area of interest to gain skills for their work and life.

Last year, Janie Williams, Barbara Williams and Jasmine Spencer graduated from the family wellbeing certificate two course.

All three women plan to continue their studies through a certificate three in children’s services.

On-the-job training in hygiene, nutrition and food handling, daily routines and communicating well with children are key parts of the course.

Barbara Williams has worked at the playgroup for one year.

“The thing I like most about my job at playgroup is welcoming families,” she said. “I like to work with children

and help kids for their future – both ways.

“Through the training I now have more understanding and knowledge to help the children and so I can move up to the next certificate.

“I’m really proud that I worked hard and finished my study to get my certificate. My family are proud too. I’m enjoying my work and study at the playgroup and I want to study the next certificate,” Ms Williams said.

Janie Williams makes sure the children grow up bilingual.

“I like to sit with the children and help them learn,” she said. “We count in Warlpiri and English. We use body and hand signs.

“I also like to come to work and be paid – it makes me feel good.

“Through the training we learnt about healthy food – we always have healthy food at playgroup and children learn what is healthy. We learnt about family fighting and how kids don’t feel safe. They need to be looked after proper way



Jamie Williams, Jasmine Spencer and Barbara Williams graduated with certificates II in family wellbeing.

by family,” Ms Williams said. She said her graduation was a proud day.

“My family was proud too. I know I worked hard and always went to study when lessons were on in Alice Springs and Willowra. I felt so proud to get dressed up for graduation and walk up with

everyone”.

The playgroup has helped young kids build their confidence as learners and prepare them successfully for school since 2013. It has been funded by the Warlpiri Education and Training Trust which trust spent more than \$723,000 in royalties from

the Granites Mine to keep the centre open in 2018 and 2019.

The Batchelor Institute runs the playgroup under the guidance of the community’s early childhood reference group and Yapa staff are key to its success.

Anangu and Yapa back bilingual education

ABORIGINAL communities know that when it comes to education, it's better to have it both ways, and they're investing their own money to prove it.

Utju's bilingual resources project is boosting two-way learning in the community also known as Areyonga while Yuendumu has funded their school linguist for two more years.

Yuendumu's Granites Mine Affected Areas Aboriginal Corporation (GMAAAC) committee allocated more than \$260,000 so the position can work with the Yuendumu, Lajamanu, Nyirripi and Willowra schools.

Literacy worker Ormay Gallagher from the community's bilingual resource development unit, said school linguist Gretel McDonald makes a valuable contribution to their team.

"Yapa teach her to be aware of cultural things, she is working strongly in Yapa ways and Kardiya ways," Ms Gallagher said.

One of Ms McDonald's roles is to work with Yapa educators on projects funded by the Warlpiri Education and Training Trust.

This includes the innovative Warlpiri theme cycle mapping project, which last year received almost \$100,000 from the trust.

Ms McDonald also works with literacy workers, elders and residents to create new Warlpiri language books and resources for kids.

"She works together with people in the four communities, getting stories and ideas together. People know her and they want to share their stories," Ms Gallagher said.

In 2018, the unit produced and distributed 15 new books to schools and other community organisations.

The trust contributes \$12,000 per year to make sure that 300 Yapa students across the Tanami can read fun, engaging books in their first language.

Yuendumu school council chair Jimmy Langdon shares the vision for a strong bilingual and bicultural education.

"We need Warlpiri reading, we need Warlpiri teachers. We can have it both ways, not just one way," he said.

Meanwhile in Utju, elders, teachers, students and Tangentyere's land and learning program have produced two books in Pitjantjatjara and English that are sure to delight readers for many years to come.

Another great benefit of the \$16,200 project has been the way young and old pulled together to learn on country.



During two bush trips, elders taught students how to make kiti (spinifex resin) and punu (wooden tools and artefacts).

The books *Tjanpinguru Kiti Palyantja: Making Resin From Spinifex*, and *Tjilira Talyantja: Making Tools* will remind students of the cultural skills and learning to be had around them.

"That project was good for our kids to learn both language and culture," said elder Daphne Puntjina.

Ms Puntjina said there used to be bilingual resources in the school but now there are not many.

"It's good to create more

again so the kids at school and the Anangu teachers can use them and learn both ways," she said.

Teacher Tarna Andrews wrote the Pitjantjatjara text and linguist Ken Hansen translated it into English.

Tangentyere's Fiona Webb provided the photos and produced the books with funding from Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park rent income.

The project included four

Anangu and five Piranpa (non-Aboriginal) school staff, as well as a dozen elders and younger residents.

Above: Tarna Anawari and Upia sifted spinifex.

Shaquille guards his childhood playground

YUENDUMU lifeguard Shaquille Presley loves keeping the local kids safe in more ways than one.

"I like it here, helping to run the pool. I look after the kids and stop them from bullying," said Mr Presley.

He began helping at the pool last October and became a fully fledged lifeguard after he completed his first aid and lifeguard training in December.

"I've learned about the pool tests, putting chlorine in, putting the Dolphin (cleaner) in and also keeping the kids safe," he said.

He's been putting his training into practise all summer.

"I'm proud that I get to work here," he said.

Mr Presley grew up with the Yuendumu pool since it opened its doors in 2008, thanks in part to a \$400,000 contribution from the community's mining compensation income.

"I like working here because there are old memories here of when I used to swim here with my friends," he said.

"Now it's good to see the other kids playing."

With more than 14,000 visits to the pool in 2018 alone, the kids have kept the pool staff busy.

The pool's 10th anniversary year saw Yuendumu students benefit the most.

They took part in weekly

**"I like helping to run the pool.
The kids like swimming.
I look after the kids
when they come, and
stop them from bullying."**

swimming lessons and, under the community's 'Yes School, Yes Pool' policy, they also got to splash there in the afternoons if they had been to class.

Students from nearby Yuelamu also visited the pool regularly, while Willowra and Nyirripi residents made the trip on weekends.

Yuendumu's Granites Mine Affected Area Aboriginal

Corporation committee invested almost \$1.3 million since 2017 to keep the pool running until 2021.

GMAAAC pays for the employment and training of a pool manager, two Yapa lifeguards, a Yapa cultural supervisor and up to 15 young local trainees through the

Warlpiri Youth Development Aboriginal Corporation.

The community's investment allows WYDAC to keep the pool open seven days a week without having to go cap-in-hand to the government.

The investment the \$430,000 Yuendumu's community lease money committee allocated for the pool in 2015.



Yuendumu lifeguard Shaquille Presley grew up with the pool.

“Unofficial” treaty commissioner sets boundaries and time line

NORTHERN TERRITORY treaty commissioner Mick Dodson is still waiting for his statutory appointment, but he has wasted no time reassuring Aboriginal Territorians that they can open up to him about a treaty or treaties with the NT government.

Professor Dodson has made it clear that he will not take directions from the government and that treaty negotiations are not part of his job description.

“I and my office are independent of the NT government,” he said. “This independence should give Aboriginal Territorians the confidence to be open and frank with me.”

Professor Dodson explained that the terms of reference for his role, as agreed between the government and the four NT land councils in last year’s Barunga Agreement, mean that he and his staff must “act independently and impartially”.

The independence of the commissioner was set out in the memorandum of understanding signed at the Barunga Festival in June 2018.

“One thing that is very clear in the terms of reference is that it is not my role to negotiate a treaty or treaties,” he said.

“That will come after my job is done. My job is to inquire, report, investigate and make recommendations.”

The treaty commissioner will consult with Aboriginal people and their representative bodies and organisations and

report on:

- The level of interest in a treaty;
- What a treaty will seek to achieve and what outcomes are possible;
- Whether there should be one or multiple treaties;
- The best model for a treaty and the best process for negotiating treaties; and
- What might be in any treaty in the NT.

To help him and his small team with two stages of consultations, Professor Dodson is recruiting an Aboriginal female deputy commissioner as well as researchers.

At the end of the first stage, he will deliver an interim report about the views of Aboriginal representative bodies and organisations to the chief minister and a discussion paper for public release by March 2020.

“I will also be conducting research and seeking detailed advice on the legal context of treaty in the NT in this stage,” he said.

“I am beginning with an initial introduction and awareness meeting with major organisations across the NT between now and the end of July and have had a number of positive meetings already.”

“I then hope to have a first draft of the discussion paper prepared by the end of August. I will seek feedback on the draft in a second round of meetings with those same organisations from September to the end of the year.”

Stage 2 follows the release of the paper. It will kick



Treaty commissioner Mick Dodson’s appointment is yet to become law (right: Fiona Gibson). Photo: Jillian Mundy

off extensive community consultation “to see whether there is agreement on what might need to be included”.

“There will be many ways you will be able to provide input during this stage,” he said.

“Non-Aboriginal Territorians will also be engaged during this stage.”

Professor Dodson plans to report to the chief minister on the outcomes of consultations, recommend next steps and, if he recommends in favour of treaty, “propose a negotiation framework for treaty to proceed in the Northern Territory by late 2021”.

But first, there is the not-so-small matter of writing his appointment into law so it becomes hard to change.

In the Barunga Agreement, the government signed up to strengthening the treaty commissioner’s role by making it a statutory appointment.

Almost a year after the festival and four months into Professor Dodson’s term, the NT government has still not passed the law.

Scott McConnell, the member for the bush seat of Stuart, is not happy.

“Chief minister, do your job as the minister for treaty

and draft the law, present it to parliament, have it passed into law and then appoint a treaty commissioner to that statutory office,” Mr McConnell said in May.

Professor Dodson himself does not expect this to happen until next year.

“Once drafted, I will speak to the land councils to get their feedback to finalise it so it can be introduced to the parliament before the end of the year and enacted prior to March 2020,” he said.

For more info go to treatynt.org.au, email admin@treatynt.org.au or call 08 8999 5413.

Uluru statement anniversary spurs leaders to push ahead

THE Central Land Council leadership has joined dozens of Aboriginal leaders from around Australia to celebrate the second anniversary of the Uluru Statement from the Heart.

CLC chair Sammy Wilson, deputy chair Barb Shaw and CEO Joe Martin-Jard travelled to Cairns in May to discuss the basic features of a voice to parliament and to provide input into any co-design process.

“The voice is the first of the three demands in the Uluru statement and we’re pushing ahead with it,” Mr Wilson said.

The returned Morrison government allocated money for consultations about a co-design process in its pre-election budget, while

Labor had promised to legislate for a voice to parliament during its first term in office, followed by a referendum.

Senator Patrick Dodson, who co-chairs the joint parliamentary committee on constitutional recognition, said that the chances of his people getting a voice to power had decreased following Labor’s election loss.

“Now we’ve gone back to potentially not having a voice to parliament for First Nations people, no referendum on that matter, the removal of the Makarrata Commission, so no real interest in truth telling and agreement

making,” Senator Dodson told the ABC.

The other co-chair of the committee, the Liberal MP Julian Leeser, said before a referendum people want to know what they are voting on.

“I have been involved a few ‘No’ cases in my time, especially on the national committee for the 1999 ‘No Republic’ referendum, and a few of the arguments we put forward in that case were: the devil is in the detail, there’s more to this than meets the eye, don’t give politicians a blank cheque,” he told *The Guardian*.

“Without proper detail I can see the same arguments being raised in this case. That’s why the co-design process is the logical next step.”

Continued from p.2

However, unlike with the Closing the Gap agreement that includes Aboriginal representatives as co-signatories alongside state and federal governments, the land councils were not invited to sign off on the remote housing partnership.

Mr Martin-Jard said he hopes that the extent of the involvement of Aboriginal representatives “will be reviewed in due course because the housing crisis is the most important problem facing Aboriginal people across the NT”.

The very public standoff between the federal Liberal and NT Labor governments has held up desperately needed action on remote housing and both governments have blamed each other for the delays.

Prior to signing the new agreement, NT Chief Minister Michael Gunner had accused Senator Scullion of reneging on his promise to match the NT’s funding commitment and threatened to return NT housing leases to the

Commonwealth.

Mr Gunner defended his government’s record on housing.

“When Territory Labor was elected in 2016 we embarked on an ambitious \$1.1 billion 10-year program to build new houses and renovate and expand existing houses in remote communities,” he said in February.

“In just a little over two years we have made remarkable progress building or upgrading 1,321 houses.”

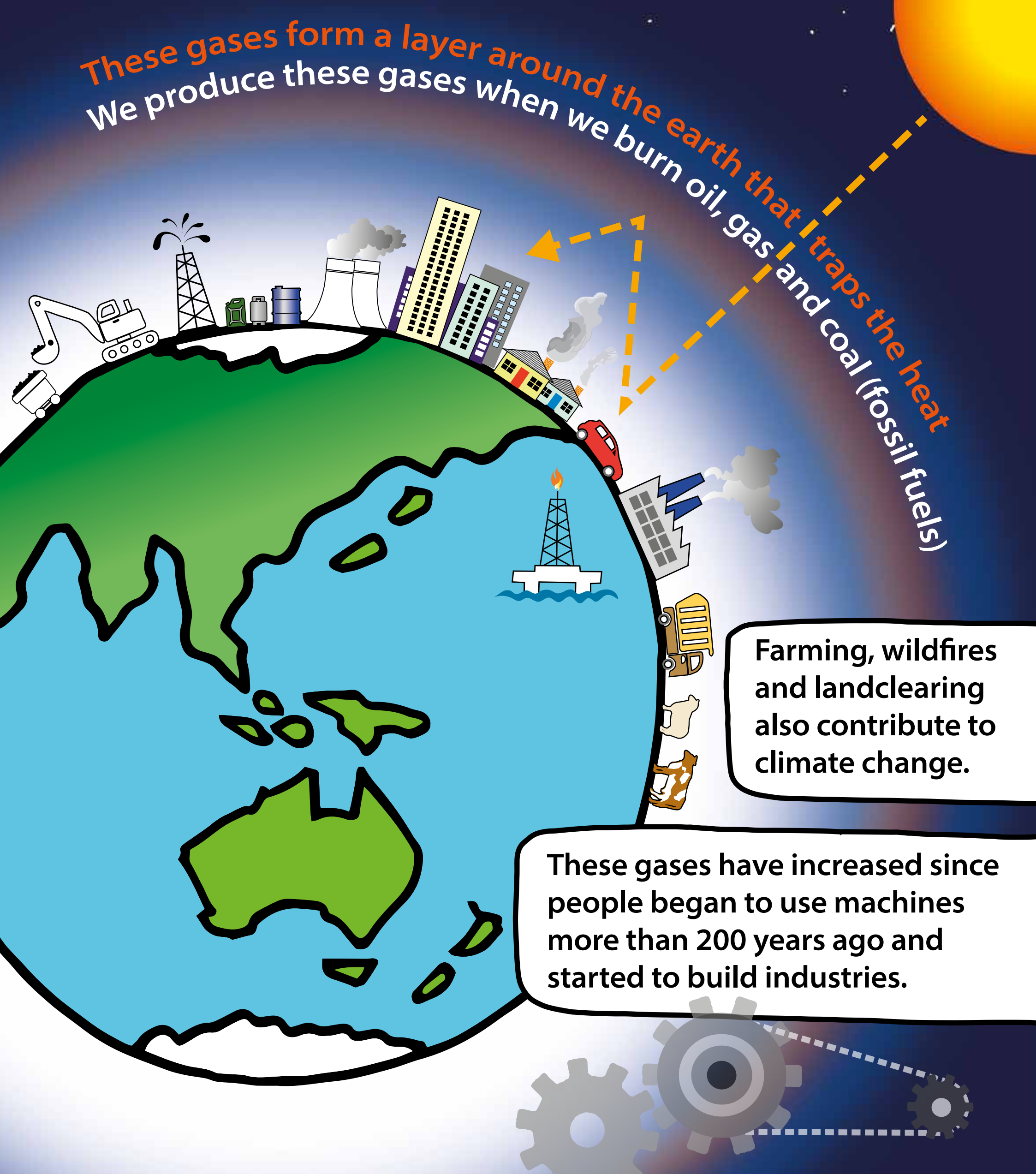
He promised this total would rise to “more than 2,100” by June 2019 but warned “thousands of homes are needed by 2028 to eliminate overcrowding.”

Sick of the bickering between Darwin and Canberra, remote NT communities voted overwhelmingly for a change of government in the federal elections in May.

The remote housing agreement is all that is keeping their hopes for a bipartisan solution of the housing crisis alive for now.

What is climate change?

People are producing greenhouse gases that are dangerously heating up the earth



These gases form a layer around the earth that traps the heat
We produce these gases when we burn oil, gas and coal (fossil fuels)

Farming, wildfires and landclearing also contribute to climate change.

These gases have increased since people began to use machines more than 200 years ago and started to build industries.

GLOBAL

IMPA

NOW
1880

+1°C

Since 1880 the earth's temperature has risen by about 1 degree celsius. This doesn't sound like much but it has already led to more extreme weather such as longer heatwaves and more frequent storms and floods.

MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT	SUN
42°	42°	43°	45°	44°	42°	43°

The polar ice caps are melting and making the sea level rise.



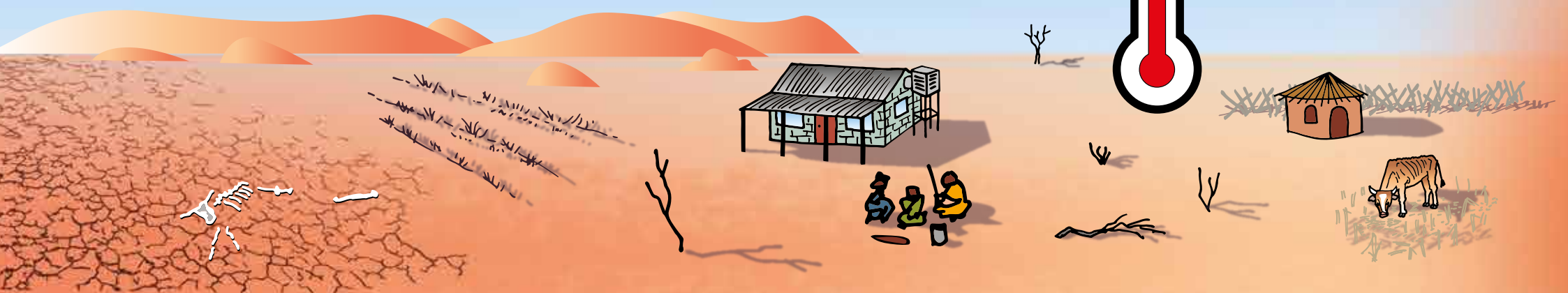
Climate change mean

Mangroves and coral reefs are dying and islanders are losing their country.

Scientists warn that if temperatures rise more than 1.5 degrees it will become it will become harder for people, animals and plants to survive.

The poorest people in the hottest countries, including Aboriginal people, will suffer the most.

+1.5°C



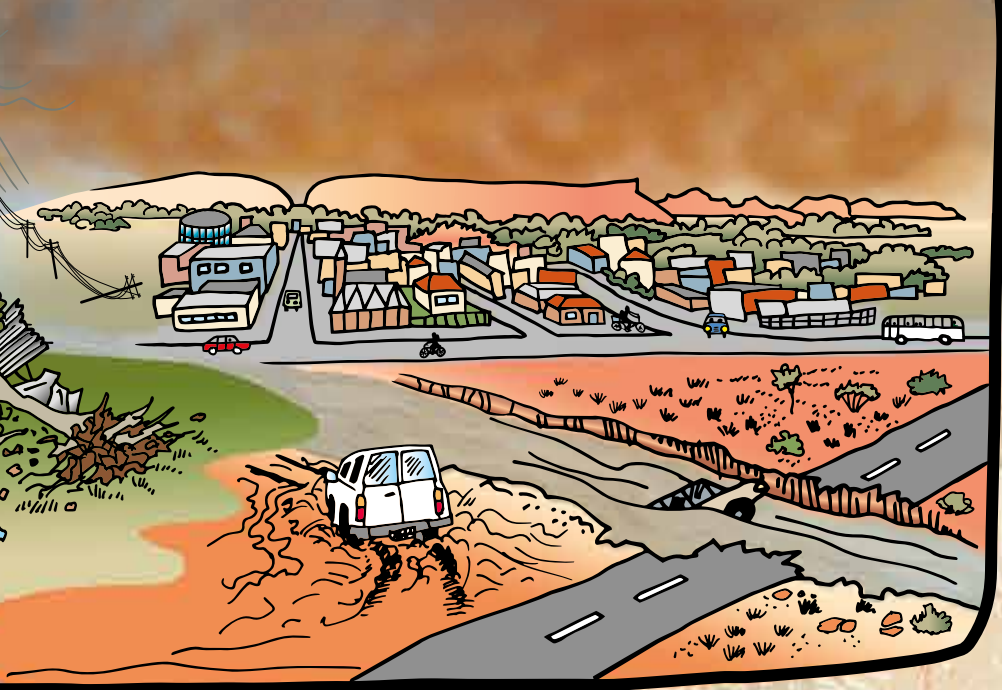
FACTS

LOCAL

In desert country there has been more strange weather. Bush tucker seasons are changing and waterholes are drying up.



There will be more extreme weather



There will be more big storms that will wash away roads and destroy country.



Buffel grass will push out more native plants and cause bigger, more destructive fires.

As native plants die, so do native animals.

JULY AUGUST SEPT OCT NOV DEC JAN FEB MARCH APRIL MAY JUNE

HOT WEATHER FOR LONGER

More and longer heat waves will make it harder to live without air conditioning.



More people will get sick

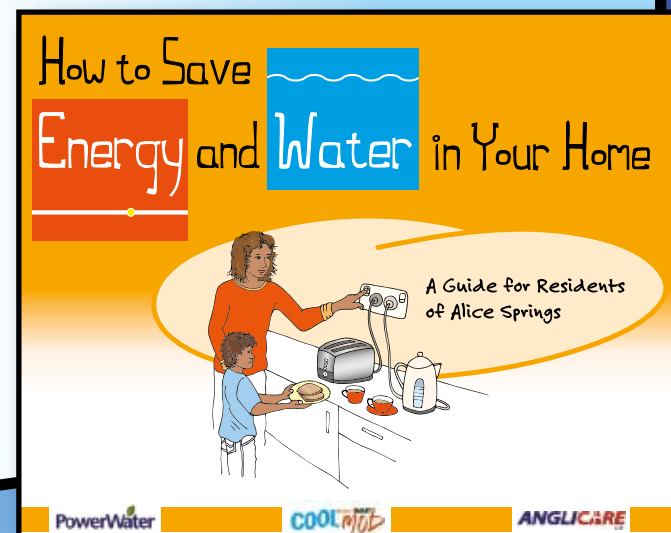
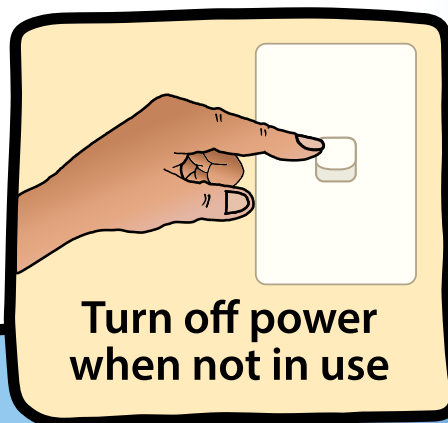
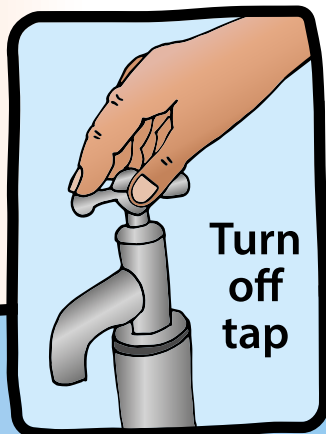
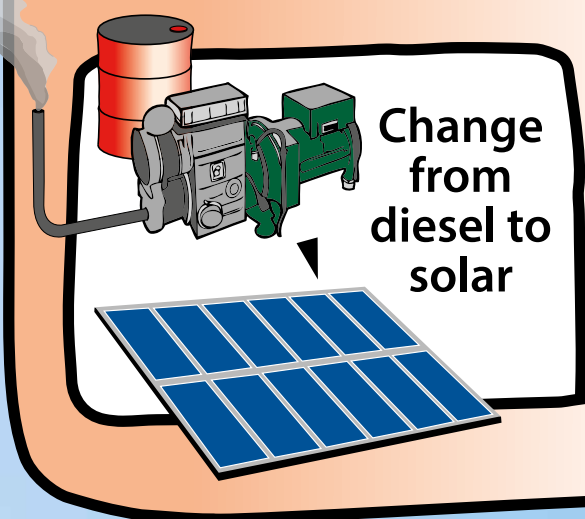


What we can do...

Remember that we share this world and all of our decisions impact on each other and future generations.



- Ask lots of questions about what gas fracking, oil drilling and mining on your country are doing to the climate.
- Move away from using coal, oil and gas and use renewable energy such as solar, wind and batteries instead.
- Save energy and water at home.



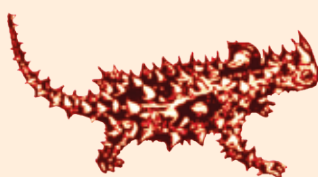
For more information download the booklet "How to Save Energy and Water in Your Home" from www.alec.org.au



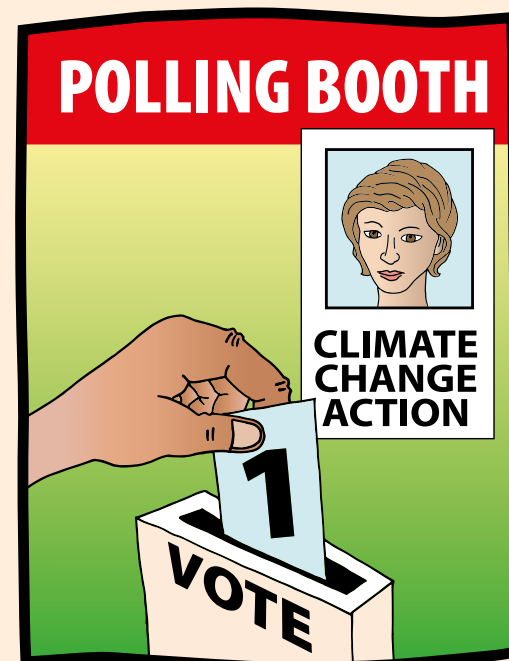
- Burn country proper way to stop out-of-control fires.
- Look after trees on country.
- Plant trees and gardens in your community.



- Speak up about climate change.
- Talk to local council, land council and government mob.
- Make a community action plan.
- Vote for politicians who have a strong plan to stop climate change.



Arid
Lands
Environment
Centre



Land councils want tougher fracking laws

WORRIES about weak regulations, carbon emissions and the use of public money continue to dodge the push for fracking in the Northern Territory.

The end of the Wet marks the start of fracking preparations in the NT's Beetaloo Basin and down the track, many hope, flows of royalties to its broke government and some equally impoverished individuals.

A federal election campaign dominated by climate change and another boiling hot summer, however, have left Aboriginal people as divided about the industry as ever.

The Labor party promised to support fracking in the NT with loans of \$1.5 billion of public money, outbidding the Liberals' pledge of \$8.4 million.

Former Labor leader Bill Shorten committed the tax dollars for new gas pipelines at the same time as insisting that the controversial Adani coal mine in Queensland stand on its own feet.

"While our communities struggle to have access to basic services, it's a kick in the guts to see that local and federal governments can suddenly find millions to hand out to big companies to frack and poison our land," Raymond Dixon, from Maralinja, said.

Mr Dixon said public money should flow to solar projects instead.

"We want public investment

in community-owned solar projects across the NT to take advantage of some of the best solar opportunities in the world."

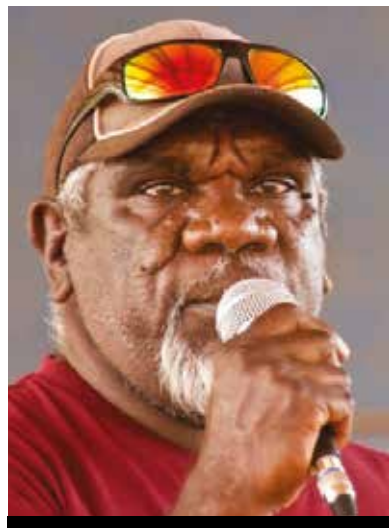
Experts warned before the election that the major parties' plan to 'unlock' NT gas risks creating far more carbon emissions than Adani's mine.

According to the global research group Climate Analytics, Beetaloo gas alone has the potential of adding at least 30 million tonnes of carbon pollution each year, compared with Adani's estimated 240,000 tonnes.

Critics say it's not possible to frack and protect the climate at the same time.

Meanwhile, traditional owners worry that the NT government's reforms designed to manage the many risks associated with fracking are too weak.

The Central and Northern



Raymond Dixon. Photo: CAAMA.



Marching together to protect the Territory. Photo: Jeff Tan.

land councils have criticised the Gunner government's "piecemeal approach" to protecting the environment, keeping people safe and meeting community demands.

The land councils' joint submission said they were "troubled" by a draft law called the Petroleum Legislation Amendment Bill 2018 and called for "further and substantial amendments".

They say the law does not fully implement important recommendations from Justice Rachel Pepper's 2018 independent scientific inquiry into fracking in the NT.

For example, the land councils are not convinced that the government has done everything it can to make sure that any company allowed to frack has a good reputation

and obeys all relevant laws in Australia and overseas, such as land use and site protection legislation.

They say a staged approach means "there is a risk that substantive reform won't be achieved and the government's ability to deliver the implementation plan in full may be compromised".

That could happen if NT Labor lost government before

part of the NT's environment protection laws rather than merely included in guidance documents for fracking companies. For example, mandatory consultation plans and working with the community during the early planning and research phase should be enshrined in the law itself.

The land councils also want the government to give the

"While our communities struggle to have access to basic services, it's a kick in the guts to see that local and federal governments can suddenly find millions to hand out to big companies to frack and poison our land."

it has finished implementing the strong rules around fracking that Justice Pepper recommended.

Her inquiry found that Territorians distrusted both the government and the fracking industry and did not think that the regulations around the industry were strong enough.

The land councils believe the government's fracking timetable is too rushed to allow for early discussions with communities and participatory planning.

"Proposed timelines remain too short and will continue to inhibit effective, culturally appropriate consultation and community input," another joint CLC/NLC submission warned.

The submission argues this will make it hard to negotiate free, prior and informed consent, a principle they want the industry to adopt as a matter of course, not as an exception.

"Currently proponents rarely adopt leading practice approaches" including careful planning, early and effective engagement and reporting back to communities, the submission says.

The land councils want protections about consultation with Aboriginal people, such as a duty to consult, to be

industry clearer guidance about when to seek advice from them and to make industry pay the land councils for the extra workload this causes them.

A third submission by the CLC criticises the poor writing of a draft law about the underground water sources (aquifers) used in fracking.

"As presented [the Water Amendment Bill 2019] currently allows for the contamination of aquifers," the submission reads.

It wants the re-injection (putting back) of contaminated wastewater from fracking into aquifers and other water sources to be outlawed.

Unclear wording in the law designed to outlaw the use of groundwater near bores may also mean that fracking companies would be able to skip the important analysis and evidence gathering (modelling) step before they take water out.

Once the companies have started to take the water, the submission argues, the government may not monitor their ongoing water use effectively.

"The CLC has concerns that monitoring requirements may not receive the necessary oversight and will be difficult to enforce."

For all submissions go to: <https://bit.ly/2JmIsgB>



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AND WHAT CAN *YOU* DO ABOUT IT?

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Feral horse culls continue after record hot season

"NOBODY likes culling horses, not the traditional owners and not the Central Land Council," the manager of the Central Land Council's land management section, Peter Donohoe, told the ABC.

The national broadcaster had interviewed traditional owners at Mulga Bore outstation in April, ahead of yet another emergency cull of starving and thirsty horses.

The residents of the small community living area on Woodgren Station were not happy at the prospect of killing

shooter returned the following morning to check that they had put all suffering horses out of their misery they found only a few.

"The experienced shooter only found another nine horses and is confident that the cull was successful," Mr Donohoe said.

"We have received money from the Indigenous Land and Sea Corporation at short notice that has helped significantly," he said.

In April and May, the CLC and the Parks and Wildlife

"We had to pull them first so that the backhoe could pull them out of the creek. It was horrible."

the dozens of skeletally thin horses desperately searching for feed and water around their houses.

Some suggested mustering them for sale while keeping a few animals for themselves.

Finding a market for the brumbies is very difficult at the best of times, Mr Donohoe explained, but it's way too late when the animals are close to death.

Taking ownership of a few horses means taking responsibility for them, such as feeding and watering them through a record dry spell, and that's not cheap.

The traditional owners agreed to an aerial cull, and assisted with mapping to preserve water sources and sacred sites around their community.

The first day netted 153 horses.

When the helicopter and

Service culled more than 500 feral horses around Yuendumu, Yuelamu and Mulga Bore.

On the Yuendumu and Yalpirakinu land trusts, horses in very poor condition were entering the communities, causing residents to fear for their own health and safety.

Following complaints from the Central Desert Regional Council and the NT government the CLC consulted the traditional owners and organised the cull.

More than 600 horses were culled with the consent of the traditional owners on a number of land trusts near Ntaria (Hermannsburg) in February, during the hottest Northern Territory summer ever and the driest in 27 years.

In March, Ltyentye Apurte rangers Joe Palmer and Malcolm Hayes were among the workers with the



"Too much smell". Ltyentye Apurte remove the bodies of the horses that perished during the February heatwave.

unenviable task of removing horse carcasses from the Apurte Uyerreme water hole near their community.

The horses had died of thirst and starvation weeks earlier and the gruesome discovery had made international headlines.

Both men said residents could not remember a time when there were so many wild horses in the community south of Alice Springs, nor could they recall a similar mass death of brumbies.

"It was a real hot day,

and real dusty," Mr Palmer recalled the cleanup.

"Some of them were on the bank and probably 60 horses in the waterhole."

"We had to pull them first so that the backhoe could pull them out of the creek. It was horrible," he said.

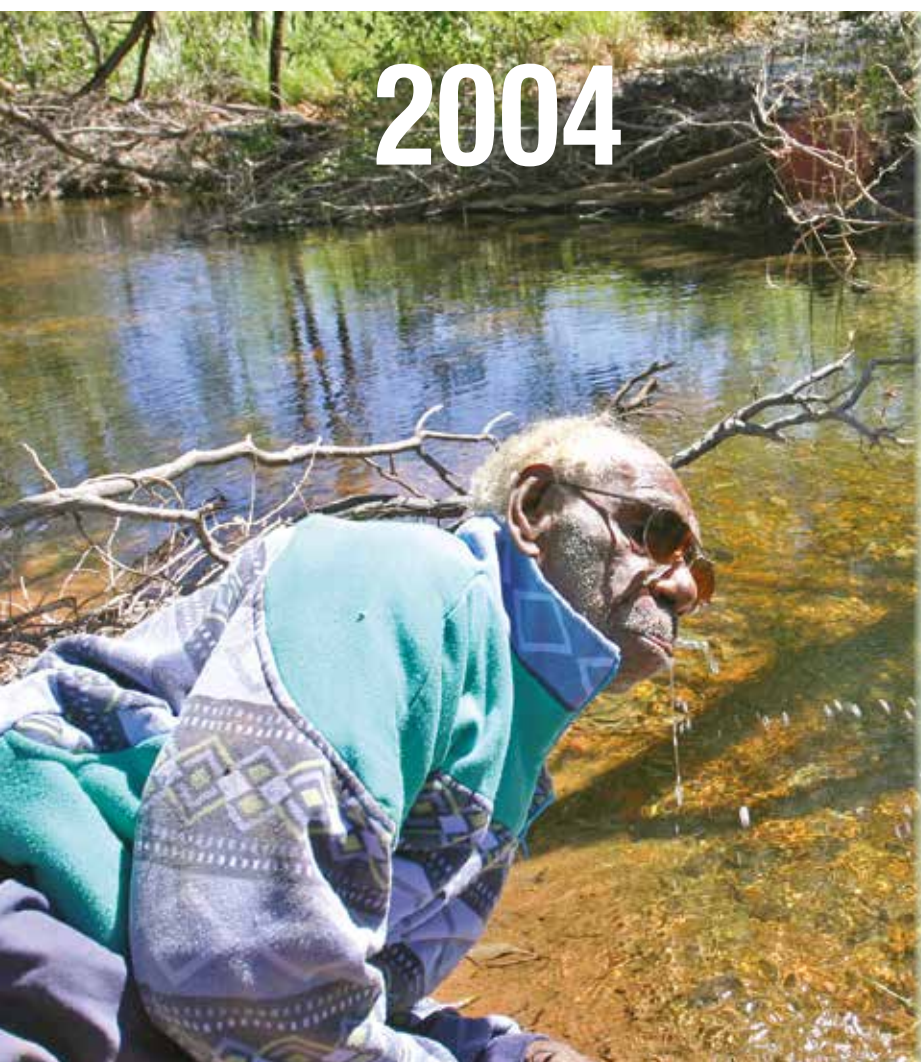
"There was too much smell from those dead horses," Mr Hayes added.

The rangers don't wish to repeat the cleanup any time soon and would rather prevent future horse deaths.

This may include mustering

feral horses during good years, when they are fat, and it's something traditional owners may wish to include in 'Healthy Country' management plans the CLC will develop with them.

The NT government has given the CLC \$200,000 to undertake the necessary consultations and planning with community ranger groups around Ltyentye Apurte, Ntaria, Tennant Creek and Ti Tree.



2004

Feral cattle wreck pr

DEEP in the Tanami there is a precious water place called Kamira.

The spring is part of a ngapa (water) songline and was once an important meeting place for desert people from the Northern Territory and Western Australia.

Kamira flows all year round and used to be an important source of fresh, clean water.

It feeds a small creek system that flows into a large salt lake during the Wet.

"Kamira my country, used to walk around everywhere when I was a young fella. No white fella then," said 102-year-old Henry Jakamarra Cook.

"Everyone walking around Kamira to get ngapa. Everyone come in, east, north everyone.

Big mob."

Mr Cook remembers "chasing goanna and kangaroo. Spring water, good country that one".

The picture on the left shows him drinking straight from the spring in 2004.

Today, Kamira is a muddy wasteland (pictured right), trampled by feral cattle after two exceptionally dry seasons and a record-smashing heatwave.

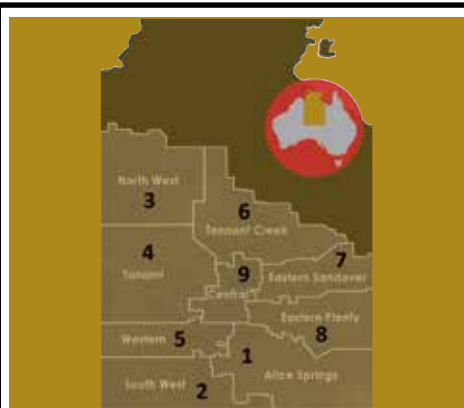
Thirsty and starving animals are now congregating around the spring and other water sites.

They eat and trample the plants, stir up the mud in the creek and compact the soil so plants cannot grow.

Native animals struggle to compete for the water.



Ranger coordinator Craig Reid and ranger Silas



Any questions about CLC business?
Call your regional officers

	1. ALICE SPRINGS Aaron Kopp, 89 51 6264
	2. SOUTH WEST Wayne Clarke, 89 51 0577
	3. NORTH WEST Charlie Hodgson, 89 51 0627
	4. TANAMI Vacant (Tony Renahan) 89 51 6255
	5. WEST Dale Satour, 89 51 0591
	6. TENNANT CREEK Darryl "Tiger" Fitz, 89 62 2343
	7. EASTERN SANDOVER Jesy James Carr, 89 56 6955
	8. EASTERN PLENTY Richard Dodd, 89 56 9722
	9. CENTRAL Michael Turner, 89 56 8658

Utopia rangers dream of getting with the program

THE four fellas in the fluoro yellow uniforms looked as if they have been part of the Central Land Council's annual ranger camp since forever.

In their high viz shirts with a colourful possum logo on the sleeves, the men from Arlparra stood out at Glen Helen - when all they really wanted was to fit in and get with the program.

"I am trying out for the snake [handling workshop] and for motorbike [all terrain vehicle training]," Clayton Hunter said.

Mr Hunter was part of a delegation from the Utopia region's fledgling ranger team which attended the ranger camp for the first time.

He said his team mates - "two ladies and 10 fellas" - were hoping to become the CLC's newest ranger group.

"We love being rangers and we need to learn more," Mr Hunter said. "This camp is good and we need to see those other rangers and what they do. We need to learn more."

"Ask them rangers, learn more about ranger work. Then we can go back and do it. Action!"

Mr Hunter works at the Arlparra school where they "do bush trips and teach the kids".

"I was organising everything to teach the young people, to try to be a ranger to look after our country," he said.

"We go bush, take those kids and show them everything - animals, bush food and bush medicines."



Utopia rangers Clayton Hunter, David Nelson, Willy Kamara and Robin Ross with Paul Evans (centre).

He, and most of his colleagues, are enrolled in certificate two courses in land management and conservation at Batchelor College.

CLC staff have been working with the Arlparra school and the Utopia rangers to help plan activities and to provide vehicles for bush trips.

The CLC also helped the school get a grant from the

for maintenance worker positions at the school's far flung sites.

But there's a lot more that they do.

"The jobs they do are similar to jobs rangers would do - getting on country and learning from the elders," Mr Evans said.

"We run weekly trips. We also bring elders into the school and do workshops and try to cover many bases

Mr Evans said "there is a lot of interest from the women" in joining the Utopia rangers, with some having signed up for the Batchelor course.

He said attending the CLC ranger camp is all part of the experience, as well as an opportunity to see "what the ranger job is like at the CLC and the Parks and Wildlife Service".

The Utopia ranger group looked proud in their uniforms and safe in the knowledge that their badge has the elders' blessing.

"We asked them, 'Can we put a possum on the patches?', and they said, 'Alright'," Mr Hunter said as he sat in the sun outside the marquee, waiting for the other rangers to take their seats for the opening ceremony.

Utopia outstations, along with Kintore and Aputula, are among the communities that had hoped for a doubling of ranger numbers.

"We go bush, take those kids and show them everything - animals, bush food and bush medicines."

Indigenous Desert Alliance to support its Learning from Country project.

"Sam and Mitch come out for the planning," Mr Hunter said.

The school's project coordinator, Paul Evans, thanked the Central Australian Youth Link Up Service and Employment Pathways, which have paid

with the little funding we have."

He said the women focus on language and culture, both out bush and in the region's classrooms.

"They do translation work and go to classes and teach the kids in their language, making sure they can translate into English and preserve culture that way."

precious spring in the Tanami

2019



"It makes me feel sad to see it like this," Central Land Council ranger and traditional owner for Kamira, Silas Ross said.

Only two years ago, during a good wet season, all the creeks flowed and the lakes stayed wet for many months. Animals and plants grew well.

"Everyone walking around Kamira to get ngapa. Everyone come in, east, north everyone. Big mob."

In 2011, the traditional owners first became worried about bullocks destroying Kamira.

They asked the rangers to fence cattle out, but the fence was pulled down.

In 2016, the management committee of the Northern Tanami Indigenous Protected Area visited the spring and decided to again try to protect it.

They found many trees around its source and nardoo, a water plant, growing in the

creek but the water course was clogged by fallen branches and trees and feral animals had trampled the area.

After every wet season since, the rangers have cleared the choking vegetation from the

spring and creek and made sure the water can flow freely.

Seeing the creek flowing with clear water again filled the elders with joy.

"Rangers are doing a really good job! Not just at Kamira, but other places. When you call in at outstations, you can see where they have been working," Henry Jampijinpa Burns said.

In June, the CLC will cull feral cattle, horses, camels and donkeys whose numbers have multiplied across the Tanami.

The rangers also are planning to fence the spring again, to save their special place from the surviving ferals.

"Need to put a fence there, keep all the cattle out and it'll be right," Mr Ross said.



as Ross cleaned the spring and creek in 2016.



Mental health workshop brings relief

RANGERS were lining up at the door of ngankaris (traditional healers) Peter Mitchell, Pantjiti McKenzie, Naomi Kantjuriny and Ilwanti Ungkutjuru Ken for treatment.

The ngankaris visiting the Central Land Council's ranger camp at Glen Helen in April were happy to keep talking with the rangers after a self-empowerment workshop featuring meditation and breathing exercises.

The rangers had just spent the day learning about intergenerational trauma,

Daguragu ranger Nikkita Conway said "the workshop showed me how to get rid of stress. I got it out of my body. If I feel stressed, I can leave things behind".

"I used to see a counsellor at school. We need someone like that, someone to talk and make you feel comfortable," she said.

"We don't walk away from problems", said Tenant Creek ranger Carl O'Cleary.

"It was about solving problems, work out what works and what doesn't work. I learnt something new. We need

"The workshop showed me how to get rid of stress. I got it out of my body. I can leave things behind."

empowerment through education and knowledge, building healthy family relationships and managing day to day challenges.

"It was awesome", was Arltarpilta Inelye ranger Maxwell Blue's verdict on the workshop.

"I reckon everyone got something out of it. It was nothing I have done before, it is all a new thing and I reckon it could help," he said.

"I feel very grateful for it," said Angela Purvis, from Ti Tree.

"Respect, sharing information is part of our job and it is good to hear how to be comfortable at work and in the family."

someone once a week or every two weeks to give a full session. I felt relieved after that."

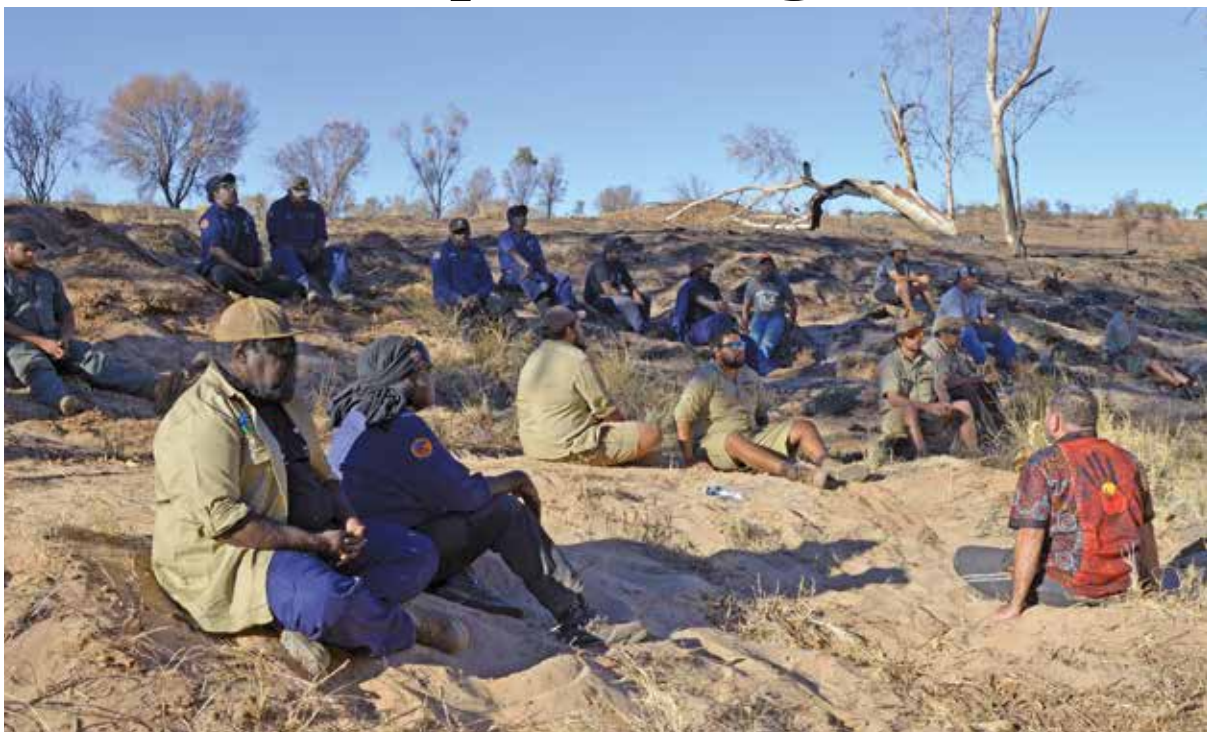
High praise indeed.

The CLC's Camille Dobson and Justin Allen decided to bring the workshop to the ranger camp.

Inspired by a ranger health and wellbeing survey they decided to take a more holistic approach to mental health.

"We thought the camp might be an opportunity to look at mental health issues more holistically, looking at cultural aspects by bringing ngankari sin," Ms Dobson said.

"We are hoping that it will influence how the CLC looks at how rangers are and wider staff as well. There are alternatives to just sending them off to a doctor and getting a pill. We need to look at people as a whole."



Facilitator David Cole (right) led a meditation to show "how to turn the generator off. You can't run a generator 24/7, 365 days of the year. You have to turn it off to service it and our mind is the same."



Participants picked up a rock for every challenge in their life. Some challenges can be resolved, others can't be. When the rocks became too heavy Carl O'Cleary (left) decided which rocks to let go.

MEET OUR RANGERS



Angela Purvis

What strengths do you bring to your ranger group? I am good with getting information from others, as well as sharing information and stories. I talk to people in the communities.

What projects have your ranger group been working on? We've been working on burning and going out with traditional owners of the area, learning from them.

What languages do you speak? Anmatyerre and English.

What made you want to be a ranger? I wanted to be a ranger so I can look after my region and community. I have been a ranger for two years. Two years back I was first an assistant teacher at Utopia community and later a Centrelink agent at Arlparra community. I used to help as an interpreter. I am proud because I quit my old job to become a ranger. I can use my skills to share knowledge.

Why is it important to work on your country? It is important for me to work on my country, to teach my nephews to look after country and to get them inspired to become a ranger.

What is the type of work you do as a ranger? We look after sacred sites, burn out buffel grass, kill weeds and do some fencing.

What are some of the hard things? One of the hardest things I found when I first became a ranger was the logistic and organisation around camping trips. The packing, unpacking and also the long drives.

How would you explain ranger work to other people? I do very interesting work as a ranger, it is all about sharing my knowledge

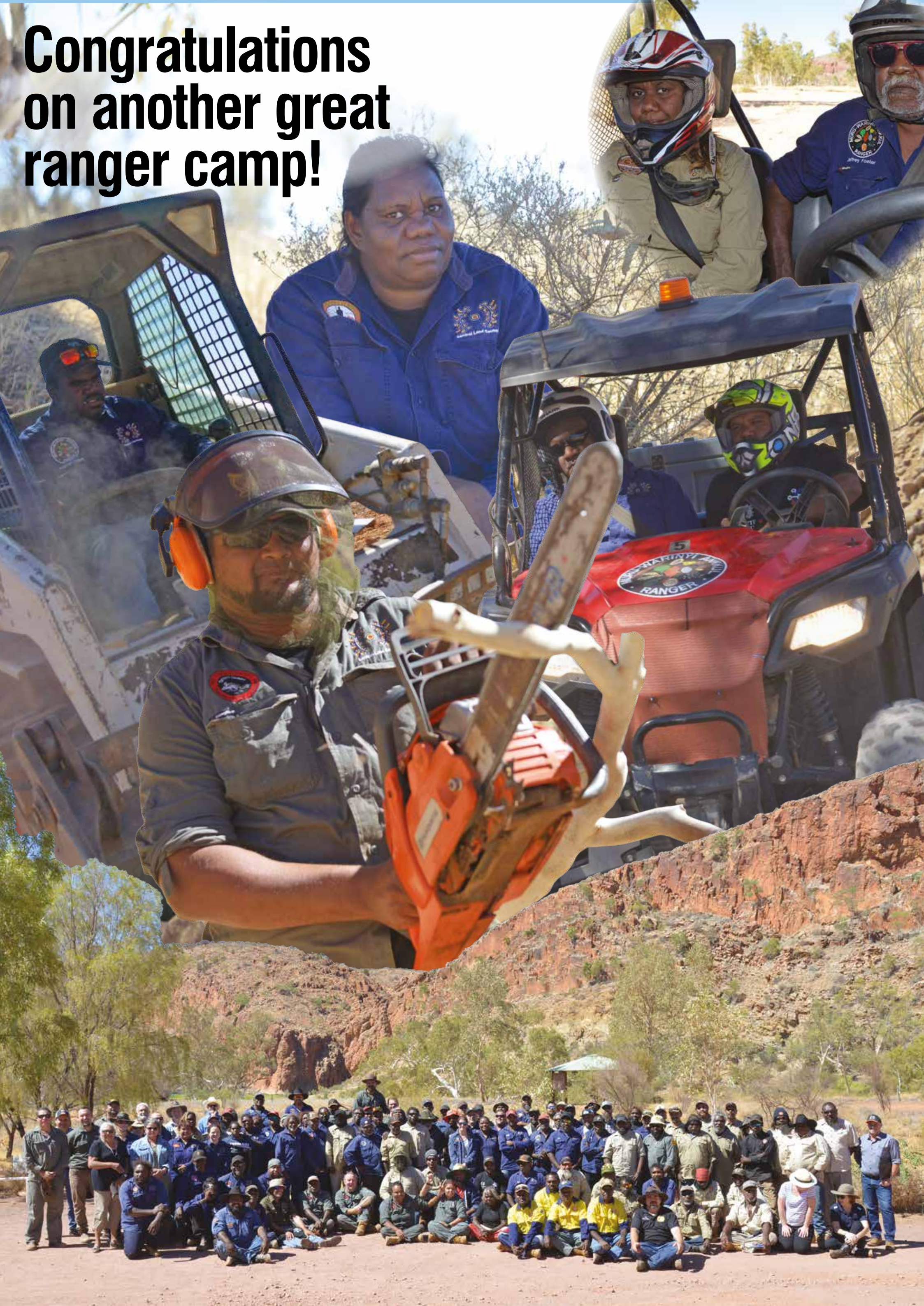
What is the best thing about being a ranger? The pride. I am proud of this job and my family too.

What do you like doing outside of work? I like going camping and on ranger exchanges.

What would you say to the Prime Minister about rangers? We need more experience, more training, more resources and funding.



**Congratulations
on another great
ranger camp!**





Bolsonaro's changes stoke indigenous fears in Brazil



Indigenous women of the Xingu tribe sing ritual songs during the big march of the annual three-day protest known as The Free Land Encampment. They protest the rollbacks of indigenous rights under President Jair Bolsonaro in Brazil. (AP Photo/Eraldo Peres)

WHEN Brazil's new far right president Jair Bolsonaro assumed his position in January, there was widespread fear among the South American country's indigenous and environmental groups about his policies.

Mr Bolsonaro had praised the country's former dictatorship, said he was in favour of torture, made disparaging remarks about women and gays and promised not to give one centimetre more to indigenous people.

Six months later, and his

opponents' fears have come true.

The president has moved the body responsible for indigenous territories and the agency responsible for indigenous affairs out of the Justice Ministry.

It is now part of the Ministry for Family, Women and Human Rights, while the Ministry for Agriculture, which is headed by farming interests, looks after indigenous territories.

Critics say the restructure is designed to give corporations who want indigenous land in

the world's largest rainforest, the Amazon, for forestry, mining and agriculture greater access to those areas.

Brazil's top indigenous leader, Sonia Guajajara, has warned a United Nations forum that the president's plans to open up reservations to mining and agriculture threaten the Amazon, which scientists say is nature's best defence against global warming.

In April, Ms Guajajara attended a rally of 4,000 indigenous people in the capital Brasilia who were

protesting Mr Bolsonaro's decision to move reservation land decisions to the agriculture ministry.

"Invasions of indigenous lands have increased since Bolsonaro took office (on) January 1 and that is due to the hate and violence in his speeches against us," she told Reuters.

The president has said that anthropologists have kept

change.

In May, more than 450 scientists and diplomats released a shock report that found one million plant and animal species are at risk of extinction from land clearing and other human activities and that the planet's life support system is in dire trouble.

One of the findings of the UN assessment report, the most comprehensive planetary

"Invasions of indigenous lands have increased since Bolsonaro took office (on) January 1 and that is due to the hate and violence in his speeches against us."

native Brazilians "like animals in a zoo" and they should benefit from agriculture and mining.

Meanwhile, Global Forest Watch's annual report claimed almost a third of the world's primary forest destruction last year, 13,500 square kilometres, was in Brazil.

Brazilian police have raided illegal logging interests, but campaigners say indigenous interests in Brazil are under threat like never before.

They have raised the alarm about the future of the Amazon amid dire UN warnings about an extinction crisis that rivals the threat posed by climate

health check ever undertaken, is that recognising the knowledge and practices of indigenous peoples, and ensuring their participation in environmental governance, is essential to safeguarding biodiversity.

The European Union is putting international pressure on the Brazilian government.

Scientists from every country in the EU have called on the bloc, which is Brazil's second largest trading partner, to demand greater environmental controls over goods sold into Europe in order to tackle deforestation in the Amazon.



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DOCUMENTARY**

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Indigenous community videos on demand

Mi'kmaq grandmothers arrested in anti-gas protest



INDIGENOUS protesters in Canada are continuing to fight a plan to store gas underground in the province of Nova Scotia in the country's east.

Stop Alton Gas, a collection of indigenous, environmental and concerned community groups said the project is "a hugely destructive plan to create salt caverns in which to store natural gas, by dumping the equivalent of 3,000 tons of hard salt into the Shubenacadie river every day".

"This massive 50 year project would seriously harm the river ecosystem and put

a court order not to block the Alton Gas site.

"We hold those treaties to this land, we're sovereign, we never ceded our land to anybody," Kukuwis Wowkis told APTN News.

Although the three were arrested, no charges were laid.

Meanwhile, protesters, after attempting to stop the development for more than two years, have been told they're only allowed to protest against it in a designated area.

The protesters say this is offensive.

APTN also reports the Assembly of Nova Scotia Chiefs, which includes the



The three women who were arrested from left, Darlene Gilbert, Kukuwis Wowkis, and Kiju Muin. Photo: Elizabeth McSheffrey/Twitter

growing demand for gas in Nova Scotia.

The company says the location of the underground storage facility is "ideal because of the presence of the salt formation, the proximity of a water source for solution mining", and the nearby Martimes and Northeast Pipeline.

"It will help provide Nova Scotians with secure, affordable and reliable natural gas year-round," it said.

A hearing to consider a permanent injunction against the project is scheduled in Nova Scotia's Supreme Court in August.

"We hold those treaties to this land, we're sovereign, we never ceded our land to anybody."

the health, livelihoods and rights of the Mi'kmaq people at risk," the group said.

Recently, three Mi'kmaq grandmothers were arrested for trespassing and ignoring

13 chiefs of Nova Scotia, says it has "never supported the Alton Gas project" because of "environmental concerns".

But Alton Gas claims the project is needed to meet the


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Teacher, law man, ceremonial leader: farewell Tommy Kngwarraye Thompson

TOMMY Kngwarraye Thompson was a senior law man who led his people in land claims, language and culture projects and ceremonial life for more than 30 years.

He worked enthusiastically, often with great humour, sharing his knowledge to secure Aboriginal land under Australian laws and to keep the Kaytetye language and knowledge alive. He also taught many non-Aboriginal people about his culture.

Kngwarraye contributed major evidence for seven land claims since the late 1970s. The latest, the Tenant Creek native title claim, will be determined later this year.

He also worked on significant land use clearances, such as for the northern gas pipeline and the Darwin to Alice Springs railway, helping the Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority to protect many Kaytetye and Alyawarr places.

He belonged to the atnhelengkwe (emu) and the tharrkarre (honey gevillea) ceremonial group of the Rtwerrpe homelands, east of Barrow Creek. They were the homelands of his father, One Arm Jack (who lost his arm during the Second World War) and his grandfather, Arnengenye.

Through his mother, Nalal Kemarr, he was also a kwertengerle (manager/guardian) for the Alyawarr estate Ntarrengeny and through his grandmothers he was connected to the Entengele and Atheleye outstations.

His cultural knowledge went well beyond these places. His knowledge of the law was widely recognised and he acted as a kwertengerle for the Arnerre and Wake-Akwerlpe homelands and as an apmerekartweye (owner) for Errene and Ileyarne homelands, an area through which his own dreamings travelled.

He was one of the people of the east on whom the responsibilities for and knowledge of these western areas were bestowed after many of the older custodians of the areas had been killed in the Coniston Massacres. He whole-heartedly took on the task of handing them back to their custodians throughout his life.

In 2007 and 2017 he helped to identify and return song recordings and objects obtained in the early 20th century to the right ceremonial groups.

Kngwarraye was among the elders who led the Central Land Council's Bonney Well to Barrow Creek walk in 2008.

The event aimed to connect young people with country and culture while boosting their

physical fitness.

"In the morning we started footwalking like our ancestors used to - Kaytetye, Warumungu, Alyawarr and Anmatyerr - taking the footsteps for them," he said.

He worried about successive generations, who had grown up not knowing where they belong, who were ignorant of their countries, dreamings and ceremonies.

For people to work together and to practice their rights over land and ceremony "you have to go back to the start to teach the young kids," he said. "Wherever you live, (even) in town, you have to come back and visit this Grandpa's country."

His passion, rich knowledge and gift for storytelling informed many books. He was the backbone of the *Kaytetye to English Dictionary*, his stories appeared in *Kaytetye Country*, the CLC's oral history collection *Every hill got a story*, *Playground* and in his own book, *Growing Up Kaytetye: Stories by Tommy Kngwarraye Thompson*.

From the 1990s, his stories also appeared on film and in sound. For example, the *Nganampa Anwernekenhe* series, *Arrkantele* and *Akwertitenge* (the rainbow serpent).

They also inspired the creation of popular contemporary Kaytetye songs.

Kngwarraye is the subject of Vincent Janima's *Artweye Erllkwe* (the old man), which features in *Arrkantele* and in *A Learners Guide to Kaytetye*.

He also features in the recordings of the CLC's indigenous ecological knowledge

project and many videos produced by the school in his home community of Tara (Neutral Junction) and Music Outback.

Kngwarraye was born near Neutral Junction Station homestead, 12 kilometres east of Barrow Creek, around

"You have to go back to the start to teach the young kids," he said. "Wherever you live, (even) in town, you have to come back and visit this Grandpa's country."

1937 - the second last of eight siblings. His family used stone blades and lived off bush foods, supplemented by rations from the Barrow Creek Telegraph Station, a 25 kilometre return walk away.

At the start of the war he accompanied his relatives, who supplied food and labour to the 1,000-strong New Barrow army staging camp. His older brother Sandy was a military sergeant.

Kngwarraye learned station skills, English, and got a firm grounding in Kaytetye country, language and culture. After the war, he walked with his parents to the wolfram mines at Hatches Creek and Wauchope. Thus began his long training in the languages, country and dreamings of the region and beyond.

As an adult he tailed, mustered and branded cattle for many stations across the region, learning from older men about the ecology, place names, history, languages and songs of vast areas

of country in his travels.

He went through the law on his country with his relatives, learning two-and-a-half years out bush from the men and beginning to spend a great deal of time following the old people. He did station work during the cool season and returned to

ceremony in the summer. He worked with different estate groups every year, keeping up with the old people. In those days, ceremonies lasted for months and nobody left until business finished.

Kngwarraye would help the old men make rain and the rainmakers would trade items with his family in exchange for stone blades.

He married the late Daisy Nangala Rankine, from Alapanpe, on Anningie Station. The couple lived on Neutral Junction Station, spending time on Taylor Creek where Kngwarraye mined tin and sold it to the station for food.

Further north along Taylor Creek their hunting dogs helped them to live off the land. They carried their first daughter, Carol, who was born at Arlangkwe during business time, in a baby coolamon.

When the Alekarenge and Imangara schools were built, in 1959, he worked as a timber

cutter on the construction, travelling to Mataranka to bring back paperbark trees to saw. The timber schools still stand today.

After retiring from station work in the 1970s, Kngwarraye raised his younger children at Tara. He fulfilled ceremonial responsibilities for the community and visited relatives in other communities.

He taught linguists Harold Koch and Myfany Turpin, who archived their field recordings with him about the Kaytetye language and culture.

Following the death of his wife, in 2002, he was surrounded by close family at Tara, looking after country. In the evenings and early mornings he welcomed many visitors and enticed them with his stories, language abilities, and astute observations of 'whitefella' culture. He loved to laugh, philosophise and perform the ltharte 'entertainment ceremonies' of his parents' countries.

Kngwarraye, who passed away in December 2018, was the awelethe (last remaining sibling) following the deaths of his siblings Sandy, Bundy, Topsy, Lena, Ruby, Albert, Jacky, Topsy II, Dodger and Mary.

His children, Carol, Leslie, Selma, Kevin and Nancy, his 15 grandchildren and 32 great grandchildren are missing him greatly. They all recognise the exceptional contribution Kngwarraye has made to the Kaytetye language and culture and, in line with his wishes, have requested that the many resources he features in remain in circulation, for all to learn from.



Kngwarraye led the CLC's Bonney Well to Barrow Creek walk in 2008.



Larapinta art workers travel for their trade

THE Yarrenyty Arltere (Larapinta) town camp is backing two art workers who are curious about curating and other tricks of the trade.

Desart has chosen Yarrenyty Arltere Art workers Maurice Petrick and Cornelius Ebatarinja to learn how to curate (choose and present) and promote works in the prestigious Telstra National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Awards.

The men will take part in five intense weeks of professional development for Central Australian Aboriginal art workers in Darwin, Alice Springs and Sydney between May and August.

It's the first time Desart and the Museum and Art Gallery of the NT have partnered to offer the opportunity, and the men believe they were chosen for their effort on the ground.

"We've done everything here, like dyeing blankets, sewing up the soft sculptures

and maintaining the art centre grounds - we're like the engine for the place," Mr Petrick said.

Mr Petrick and Mr Ebatarinja have already travelled to Sydney with the three other selected arts workers, Kathleen Rambler,

"We've done everything here, like dyeing blankets, sewing up the soft sculptures, maintaining the art centre grounds - we're like the engine for the place."

from Artists of Ampilatwatja, Elaine Sandy, from Kulimindini Arts, and Sharon Butcher, from Papunya Tjupi Arts.

They visited the Museum

of Contemporary Art, the Art Gallery of New South Wales and the APY Collective Gallery.

This trip will be followed by three weeklong trips to Darwin's Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory, and one workshop in Alice Springs.

Each trip has a special focus. The group will learn about the job of curator, the person who decides on the works of art that will form an exhibition and how to best present the artworks, how to document them with photos and how to catalogue and care for them.

The last trip will be for the awards ceremony in August.

The team will learn about lighting, staging, marketing and promotion to attract national and international attention to the skill and creativity of the artists.



Maurice Petrick and Cornelius Ebatarinja won places in Desart's sought after professional development program.

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SOCIAL SNAPS



Josie Haines, Angela Purvis, Josephine Grant, Selina Mbitjan got a sugar kick at the ranger camp.



Dana Bohning and Francis Kelly at his farewell morning tea.



Property officer Cliff McGinness fixed a water leak in Kalkaringi.



Rangers Troyden Fisher, Maxwell Blue, Martin Bloomfield and Angela Purvis at the 2019 CLC rangers camp.



Nikki Cowcher left the CLC after nine years with the land management section. Good luck with baby number three!

“OUR JOB WAS TO BE ON HORSEBACK”



I would have first grown up around Itjiltjarri – or the Middleton Ponds area. My father was working on Henbury Station – so we moved there. I grew up on Henbury, while my father worked there, going up and down the country. Bob Buck was running Henbury, but after that he bought Middleton Ponds and he moved there, so we all moved back there again. During this time my father went west to search for Lasseter [with Bob Buck], though I don't remember anything about it, and only know what people have told me.

We'd always follow our father wherever his work took him. That was our life. Mother as well. And wherever we went, all those nanny goats had to go too. And all the horses! We couldn't leave them. We had to move them around. We'd spend two or three nights in one spot, then move them again to a new waterhole. We'd spend another couple of nights at that waterhole and then we'd move again. My father had a lot of animals. We had ten or twenty horses in the plant, because we have to have two riding horses each. You can't just use the one all the time. The horses have to be changed every day.

I love horses! I learnt how to ride as a small child and became an expert rider. I can still ride horses today. I could ride any brumby wild from the bush. That's how stockmen learn how to ride. That's how we learnt our job, and our job was to be on horseback.

~ Bruce Breaden ~
Excerpt from *Every hill got a story*



For more information go to clc.org.au/every-hill-got-a-story



Photo: National Archives of Australia NAA: A1200/18, 7913408.

LISTEN TO THE STORYTELLERS OF **EVERY HILL GOT A STORY** AT

WWW.CLC.ORG.AU/ARTICLES/INFO/593

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4: DON'T SHARE TOWELS,
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5: BRUSH TEETH
TWICE A DAY
WITH TOOTHPASTE



6: WASH WITH SOAP
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EVERYDAY