

LANDRIGHTS NEWS

November 2016 VOLUME 6. NUMBER 3. 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
tel: 89516211
www.clc.org.au
email media@clc.org.au

Contributions are welcome

SUBSCRIPTIONS

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

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

To subscribe email media@clc.org.au or call 08 8951 6215

ADVERTISING

Advertise in the only newspaper to reliably reach Aboriginal people in remote Central Australia.

Next publication date:
April 2017

Rates are available online at www.clc.org.au/land-rights-news OR email: media@clc.org.au OR call 8951 6211

COVER

Marlene Rubuntja from the Yarrenyty Arltere Art Centre won the Vincent Lingiari Art Award for her sculpture *My future is in my hands*.

CORRECTION

THE AUGUST issue of Land Rights News attributed information about penalties for CDP participants to the federal Department of Human Services. It should have been attributed to the Department of Employment.

Housing, hearing, jail link

DID YOU know that almost all adult prisoners in the Territory (95 per cent) suffer from hearing loss?

The Royal Commission into children in detention has heard there was a strong link between overcrowded houses, chronic ear infections, learning problems and jail rates.

Want our trust? This time, keep your promises.



As opposition leader, Michael Gunner pleaded with CLC delegates to give Labor a chance to regain their trust.

THE MOST extensive return of local decision making to Aboriginal communities since self-government, overseen by Aboriginal leaders, is some pledge to live up to.

Aboriginal voters are putting Chief Minister Michael Gunner's pre-election plea to give Labor another chance to regain their trust to the test following the party's landslide win.

Labor promised to hand control over housing, local

"Put the Intervention and its top down policy making approach where it belongs: into history."

government, education, training, health, child welfare and justice to remote communities, guided by a 10 year "road map".

Bush voters expect the new government to hit the road fast and to let their peak organisations keep it on track.

"Labor will be guided by the principles outlined in the Aboriginal Peak Organisation's Partnership Principle, which

recognises the critically important role that control over life circumstances plays in improving indigenous peoples lives," the Labor Herald announced after the election.

The newsletter commits Labor to "put the Intervention and its top down policy making approach well and truly where it belongs: into history".

The promised shift is as huge and welcome as the details are scant.

Some of the government's clearest commitments relate to Aboriginal rangers:

- \$4.1 million for ranger jobs on country;
- \$2 million per year for a new land management and conservation fund for Aboriginal lands and sea country;
- \$500,000 per year for a new government unit delivering carbon abatement and economic development on Aboriginal land; and
- Legal changes such as enforcement powers for Aboriginal rangers.

The Central Land Council is keen to join forces with the new government to lobby Canberra for more ranger groups and

We'll hold you to these election promises:

Aboriginal organisations	Hand control to local organisations, develop workforce training plans and leadership courses with them and provide "outposted" public servants to help.
Housing	\$1.1 billion over 10 years for 6500 "additional living spaces", locally controlled tenancy management and repairs and maintenance, capacity development support for local housing organisations.
Outstations	Increase Homelands Extra funding and work with outstation organisations to provide jointly funded new houses.
Education	Create community led schools with local boards, plan education outcomes for each school region with communities, back community decisions about bilingual education, expand Families as First Teachers program, \$8 million for nurse home visits of pre-schoolers, support parent choice about secondary education, \$80 million for more teachers, \$32 million for behaviour support, \$8 million for recreation and health curriculum
Justice	Divert offenders with drug and alcohol and mental health problems or disabilities to treatment and rehabilitation, bring back the banned drinkers register, invest in early childhood, youth engagement and primary health services and address the underlying causes of crime, scrap paperless arrests and mandatory alcohol treatment.
Jobs	Expand Aboriginal business grants and skills training in schools, use schools for adult education, develop an Aboriginal-driven economic prospectus for regions, fund Aboriginal enterprise development, give infrastructure contracts to local organisations, support Aboriginal rangers, employ more Aboriginal health and education workers.
Sacred sites	No change to the Sacred Sites Act without agreement from the land councils and the board of the Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority.

more funding security for the successful program (see p. 18).

CLC director David Ross has written to Mr Gunner offering to work with the new ministers on the shared goal of empowering Aboriginal communities.

"Achieving this vision requires sustained and considered development work and capacity building," Mr Ross said.

He offered to share the lessons the CLC has learned through its successful community development program (see p. 10 – 11).

"We have been implementing our community development framework for 10 years now and have developed a useful evidence base about what works."

Communities are waiting for housing reform

REMOTE communities have been promised nothing less than self-determination when it comes to the management of public housing in the Northern Territory.

Residents are waiting to have a say about "how housing is to be devolved, when and to whom", as Labor said they would if the party won the Northern Territory election.

Before the election, Labor promised to replace the failed system with one where tenancy management, repairs and maintenance would return to community control.

Reinvigorated housing reference groups and local housing officers were among the few details known about Labor's plan, which came with a very welcome \$1.1 billion commitment over 10 years.

It is the first significant injection of NT funds into community housing.

"Locals will determine housing arrangements in their area - whether it is to regional councils, local authorities



Yuendumu tenants such as Francis Kelly received some rushed repairs after they threatened to take the NT Housing Department to court. (Photo: ABC)

or local or regional housing associations," Labor told *Land Rights News*.

"We will provide support for those organisations to have the capacity to undertake this work."

Yuendumu tenants received some rushed repairs after they threatened legal action just before the NT election.

Lawyers acting for tenants in Yuendumu had served notices on the NT Housing Department that listed hundreds of urgent repair and maintenance issues.

They said unless the repairs were done they would take the cases to the NT Civil and Administrative Tribunal (NTCAT) following the example of tenants in Papunya, Santa Teresa and the Yarrenyty Arltere (Larapinta Valley) town camp.

Daniel Kelly, from Australian Lawyers for Remote Aboriginal Rights, said Papunya and Santa Teresa were awaiting the outcome of NTCAT conciliation hearings in November before considering their next steps.

"There are a lot of problems with the remote housing management system across the Territory, and we hope that the Santa Teresa case will get to the bottom of a lot of the issues.

This can then be applied to Yuendumu, and other communities having problems with housing," Mr Kelly said.

Central Land Council chair Francis Kelly is one of the Yuendumu tenants considering legal action.

"This thing has been going on for a long time," he told the ABC. "People have been singing out for repairs and all that."

"They've been delaying us back and back all the time. It's really urgent because ... some of these things give us sickness like blocked nose, sore ears and especially our kids who want to have a shower and go to school," Mr Kelly said.

Other residents told the ABC their employer, a federal government agency, did not allow them to talk to the media about their repair issues.



Report warns CDP does more harm than good

NORTHERN TERRITORY Labor senator Malarndirri McCarthy wants an independent review of the community development program (CDP) while fellow Senator Patrick Dodson wants to reform it.

Former Prime Minister Tony Abbott wants to get around accusations of discrimination by rolling it out to all job seekers.

All three were reacting to a report showing the Federal Government slapped more than 46,000 financial penalties on 34,000 people since the controversial work-for-the-dole program started.

A draft report by non-profit employment body Jobs Australia warned the CDP is doing “more harm than good”.

Jobs Australia reported that it is far stricter than similar programs in towns and cities and punishes people in remote communities more for failing to undertake “work-like activity”.

Its analysis of Department of Employment figures found the “skyrocketing” penalties for non-compliance, especially the eight-week non-payment periods, were particularly harmful for individuals, their children and families and extended communities.

“Reports have already emerged of families going without food and some community stores have confirmed that food sales have dropped since the introduction of CDP,” the report said.

“The most disadvantaged people have critical problems with health, housing, family and domestic violence. We don’t need to dump this on them as well,” Senator McCarthy told *The Australian* newspaper.

Senator Dodson warned CDP will see a bad situation get worse.

“If CDP continues in its current form we will continue to see deteriorating health and employment outcomes in remote indigenous communities,” he said.

Jobs Australia found the scheme failed to consider the challenges they face, including the lack of jobs, health problems and cultural issues.

“Because the requirements in CDP are so much more onerous than for other programs, (continued on p.9)

Does the work for the dole program help or hurt the community?



Elenor Dixon
Marlinja

It’s not helping the community in any way. Communities should have more say when programs are being put together because they know what is good for them. If the government wants to do something, they should put more effort into it and build something long term. It is just another ticking the box thing!



Andrew Johnson
Lajamanu

It’s not satisfying the community and it’s not helping us get decent jobs. It is seriously hurting the community. They’re forcing Aboriginal people to work for four hours a day to earn that Centrelink pay. If you don’t turn up they cut you off for eight weeks, which really hurts people with children. How are they going to survive? They should treat us equally.



Gus George
Daguragu

It’s hurting communities. You should work for the community or a company and get full wages. That’s why we walked off 50 years ago - for proper wages and for working for a proper company and get full wages from that company.



Ethan Godfrey
Marlinja

It is not good enough for the community. It is hurting in a way that is not supporting any family. If we don’t get paid, it is the whole family who suffers.



Douglas Crowson
Kalkaringi

The work for the dole program doesn’t help in any way. It’s a step backward bringing us back to the past, bringing us back to slavery.



Tracey Patrick
Lajamanu

It’s hurting. If you don’t turn up for work you have to wait for eight weeks to get paid. Working for the dole is not a good thing. I want to see good jobs for the young people, not just working for the dole, so they can help the community.



Rodney Bernard
Kalkaringi

It’s hurting. I have got no money and can’t afford to buy any tucker for my kids. I turned up all the time and put in my report but got suspended for eight weeks. Now I have to wait until eight weeks is over and then start all over again. They didn’t give me any chance.



Samantha Smiler
Daguragu

People really want a good job but they can’t because they need to turn up at the appointment and if they don’t, they lose some money from Centerlink.



Royal Commission: missed opportunity in the making?

FORMAL hearings of the Royal Commission into the Protection and Detention of Children in the Northern Territory have begun amid concerns it was set up too quickly, with too short a time frame, and may fail to protect witnesses and address the youth justice crisis.

First to appear before the commission were some of the authors of more than 50 reports into youth detention, child protection and indigenous incarceration.

Government child abuse reports were dismissed without investigation or ignored, and there is an “inquiry mentality” about youth detention that substitutes for real action, the commission heard.

National Children’s Commissioner Megan Mitchell said children’s rights were still being routinely breached when she visited the Don Dale detention centre in May, with inmates telling her they felt like caged animals.

Northern Land Council CEO Joe Morrison said the Royal Commission

announced the inquiry in July after the ABC aired footage of boys being tear gassed at Don Dale, has signaled it will be extended if requested.

Mr Morrison told ABC Radio this is necessary in order to “get to the root causes of why so many of our young kids are getting incarcerated”.

Much more investigative work needs to be done, and Aboriginal people from remote areas need to be able to contribute, he said.

“There are some serious issues that need to be dealt with and we don’t want to see it as a missed opportunity,” said Mr Morrison while calling for “real and achievable” recommendations to reduce the number of youngsters in jail.

Ms Mitchell echoed concerns that vulnerable witnesses, such as detainees in the care of the government, may be reluctant to testify.

“They will be punished,” she told the commission.

The mother of Dylan Voller, who featured in the ABC program but whose subsequent parole application was refused, told supporters her son was “really scared”.

“When he gives the royal commission evidence he still has to go back to jail.

I’m really fearful that I’m going to lose my son. Is he going to be the next person who passes away in custody?” Ms Voller said.

Commissioner White said vulnerable witnesses will be able to give evidence in sessions closed to the public.

But the short time frame of the royal commission means the law can’t be changed to allow for private sessions such as those held by the child sex abuse royal commission.

The travelling legal advice and referral service of the Northern Australian Aboriginal Justice Agency (NAAJA) aims to reduce



Valerie Martin and royal commissioner Mick Gooda spoke about alternatives to jail.

concerns about the process, but fears that witnesses will miss out on psychological support remain.

The Guardian reported there was “no therapeutic follow-up with people who shared their stories during the commission’s community meetings in Alice Springs, Santa Teresa and Tennant Creek, an experience described as traumatic for some”.

The short notice given for community meetings was criticised amid fears the commission wasn’t taking into account the problems people from remote communities face in getting to the hearings.

“There’s people from out of town, from out bush, whose kids are in Don Dale, in welfare, [who] wouldn’t have a clue what’s going on,” Voller’s sister

Kirra told *The Guardian*.

NAAJA has been funded to help the commission but only three staff members will be based in the CLC region.

The royal commissioners will not attend all of the meetings scheduled in the Centre while Top End residents worry that community meetings may not happen because of the forecast wild wet season.

Commissioner Mick Gooda told a public consultation in Alice Springs in October he did not want to be remembered for a report “that is going to sit on a table somewhere.”

A public royal commission hearing in Alice Springs is scheduled for 5-9 December.

National children’s commissioner says Don Dale kids feel like “caged animals”.

is too rushed and risks becoming a “feel good talkfest” and a missed opportunity.

Mr Morrison doubted any real change would come out of the inquiry, given the “impossibly short” reporting time.

He said only 25 formal hearing days would make it one of the fastest inquiries in recent history and called for an extension to the “overly ambitious” deadline of March 2017.

The federal government, which

Land councils plead to keep youngsters out of jail

“FIND alternatives to prison for young offenders.”

That was the clear message from delegates of the Central and Northern Land Councils to politicians and Royal Commissioners Mick Gooda and Margaret White at their historic joint meeting in Kalkaringi in August.

When land council members pleaded for ‘low risk kids’ caught in the detention system to be returned to their communities, the co-commissioners asked them “what is working in communities?”.

Central Land Council delegates highlighted the success of Yuendumu’s Mt Theo program in helping ‘at risk’ youth.

Over the past decade communities invested millions of dollars in royalty, rent and compensation income in the Warlpiri Youth Development corporation, the community organisation that runs the program.

“It’s our responsibility, too. They are our kids”, delegates said.

However, the idea of turning Mataranka Station into a prison farm for young offenders, first suggested at the meeting by former Chief Minister Adam Giles, failed to engage the delegates.

Chief Minister Michael Gunner has since confirmed that the NT



Francis Kelly fought back tears as he talked about his young grandson in detention.

government is discussing the idea with the federal government.

CLC chair Francis Kelly fought back tears as he talked about his young grandson in detention.

“These guards have been bullying him and when I saw him last time I saw a black eye ... those people need to be sacked because they’re being too rough,” Mr Kelly said.

He said Aboriginal youth needed to be detained on country “because they’re [being abused] behind our backs, these guards are slapping our

kids behind closed doors”.

“Move detention centres back to community where we can keep our eye on them and occupy them with our law too, not just government law ... our law has been here for centuries,” Mr Kelly said.

Delegates also said the commission’s March reporting date was too soon.

“It will take a bit longer than that to collect evidence and talk to witnesses,” Northern Land Council member John Christophersen said.

Federal Indigenous Affairs Minister

Nigel Scullion told the meeting the commission would get an extension if it is required.

Mr Gooda has since indicated the commissioners will take up the extension after spending “sleepless nights” thinking about the tight deadlines.

Report casts doubt over Senator Scullion’s word

Following the joint land council meeting, a Freedom of Information request revealed that Senator Scullion had been briefed several times in the months before the *Four Corners* report about what he now calls the “Don Dale Disaster”.

The *Crikey* online news service has claimed the minister received five briefings and took part in a meeting about the incident before the program aired in July.

That’s in contrast to the minister’s claims that he didn’t know about the tear gassing scandal.

After the *Four Corners* story Mr Scullion said: “I wish I knew what I know today yesterday afternoon or some time ago, but the facts of the matter were I didn’t know, I had never seen the vision, it hadn’t come to my attention, hadn’t piqued my interest, well, sufficiently.”



Pokies unwelcome at Watarrka

CUSTODIANS and residents of Watarrka National Park have spoken out against the Kings Canyon Resort's plan to install poker machines.

The park's traditional owners and residents of outstations near the resort have told the Central Land Council they worry gaming machines will hurt Aboriginal families in the region.

One of them is Bruce Breden, whose outstation Wanmara is inside the park.

The former CLC chair is visiting his daughter in Alice Springs and knows the problems poker machines wreak there first hand.

"I won't go near the casino. Give me \$1,000 and I wouldn't," says Mr Breden. "Kids starve because of the

"Kids starve because of pokies gambling. It brings trouble, fighting and humbug."

pokies gambling. It brings trouble and fighting and humbug."

The CLC has lodged an official objection against changing the resort's liquor license from private to public hotel.

Without the change, the resort,

which is the most accessible hotel for Aboriginal communities in the south-west region of Central Australia, cannot get the license it needs to introduce gambling machines.

The CLC's objection states that the impact of gaming machines would be far reaching.

"Once people get hooked on gambling they are worse than people who smoke and drink.

They spend all their money, more money than what that poker machine gives them, and the kids will suffer," says Michael France from Upanyali, an outstation only three kilometres from the resort.

"I don't want to see my people go to

s...t," says traditional owner Anslem Impu Jr., who lives in the park and works at the Mereenie oil and gas field.

"Pokies are addictive and it would be really hard for families to manage their money because the majority get Centrelink.



The CLC has lodged an objection against the Kings Canyon Resort's pokies plan.

Half already goes on the Basics Card. Some would blow the rest on the machines and the children would go hungry and wouldn't get clothed. It would have a huge impact on the whole community," Mr Impu says.

The CLC objection cites research showing that Aboriginal people are more likely to experience problem gambling than the non-Aboriginal population and prefer the continuous type of gambling that gaming machines offer.

It states poker machines would "attract people from other Aboriginal communities to the area from both

near and far, even more so than the restricted availability of alcohol at the resort currently does".

Residents told the CLC they would be expected to support and house those who travel to the resort to play the pokies, leading to overcrowding, pressure on family budgets, reduced school attendance and health and hygiene problems.

Mr Impu says humbugging for money, already a problem at the resort because it sells grog, would escalate because poker machines would attract more humbug. **(continued on p.16)**

Fracking stop takes pressure off custodians

PRESSURE on traditional owners to make decisions about fracking is set to ease after the new Northern Territory Chief Minister Michael Gunner put the controversial practice on hold.

The moratorium is expected to slow new gas exploration applications while a panel of experts investigates whether there should be a permanent ban.

The moratorium came as traditional owners were experiencing increasing pressure to take sides on fracking, including around the proposed Jemena gas pipeline.

Some custodians from the Barkly region and environment groups want to halt the pipeline, which may be used for unconventional gas.

Mr Gunner, meanwhile, has come under fire from within and outside his party for saying the moratorium would allow companies to explore for gas - as long as they don't use fracking to do so.

"You cannot hydraulically frack unconventional gas reserves for exploration but general exploration activities, that's all fine," he told an oil and gas industry meeting in September.

Environment groups have accused Labor of breaking its election promise to halt "all unconventional gas prospecting exploration and extraction activities".

"Gas companies will still be able to carry out risky exploration activities that will see huge impacts on water and country," said Amelia Telford from the Seed Indigenous Youth Climate Network.

"The NT is already seeing, and will continue to experience, the worst impacts of a changing climate, a huge threat to the long-term viability of



Jimmy Wave Hill and Barbara Shaw raised their voices against fracking at the Kalkaringi joint council meeting.

communities and people's ability to live on country," Ms Telford said.

Naomi Hogan, from Lock the Gate NT, told the *Crikey* news service Labor's policy was clear: "a full moratorium on all unconventional gas extraction activity and an inquiry into all unconventional gas extraction activity.

This hasn't been delivered and is a broken promise," she said.

Ms Hogan understands the expert group's terms of reference, rumoured to have been drafted with the help of the Australian Petroleum Production & Exploration Association, mean landholders will still need to deal with land access agreements covering surveys, land clearing and core hole drilling and testing.

"They've decided to focus on the act of the frack when it's the action of the drilling that has been found to cause environmental concerns," she said.

"Disappointingly, there is no formal process of community consultations. Just a web page people can visit."

Under the draft terms the panel will investigate the scientific evidence

"The NT is already seeing, and will continue to experience, the worst impacts of climate change."

about the impact of fracking on water, rocks, the health of country and people as well as current and future land uses.

It will also look at how fracking contributes to climate change, how the chemicals it uses affect plants, animals and people and how to best regulate it.

The Central Land Council has called for the terms of reference for the expert panel to be widened.

A joint meeting of the NT's biggest land councils reaffirmed in August that they will continue to support

traditional owners to make their own decisions about the use of their land and waters "without outside interference".

After hearing about the science of fracking and the regulation of the industry from NT public servants, the Environmental Defenders Office and the CSIRO, some delegates spoke passionately against the practice.

The CLC's Jimmy Wave Hill and Barbara Shaw and the NLC's John Christopherson were among the delegates who pushed for a resolution opposing fracking.

They were worried about the weak regulation of the industry and its heavy use of water mixed with chemicals.

The meeting acknowledged their concerns but agreed that the job of the land councils is "to support and respect the decisions of traditional owners for the area in question".

The five Aboriginal Members of Parliament – a record number – share a vision of a united Australia. Liberal frontbencher Ken Wyatt, Labor frontbenchers Pat Dodson and Linda Burney, Labor Senator Malarndirri McCarthy and independent Senator Jacqui Lambie have promised to work across party lines to change the way government treats Aboriginal people. Here we feature some of the highlights from the first speeches of the three newest MPs.

Racist laws “must not return”



Malarndirri McCarthy and Pat Dodson at the joint land council meeting.

THE boy who once hid in the long grass as his mates were taken by government authorities now has a say in how laws are made in the nation's parliament.

Born before Aboriginal Australians were counted in

and richness of our various cultures in Australia,” he said.

Senator Dodson also recalled the Royal Commission into Black Deaths in Custody, in which he served as commissioner.

Pat Dodson has told the Senate his family still carries the pain of laws that were founded on racism.

the census, newly sworn in Senator Pat Dodson has told the Senate his family still carries the pain of laws that were founded on racism.

The Labor senator for Western Australia has used his maiden speech to argue against the return of biased laws.

“In times past, people of different race, different colour, different religion, different sex, were subjected to exclusion, oppression or even discrimination under the laws made in this place,” Senator Dodson said.

“Such laws cannot and must not return.”

The Central Land Council's first director said although many of his colleagues had been elected on platforms he would “undoubtedly find challenging”, he would not be opposed to argument and debate.

“The debates will, however, need to be informed by the fundamental principles of respect for the diversity

The Royal Commission's recommendations are yet to be implemented, 25 years later, and Senator Dodson has promised to work hard to reduce the number of Aboriginal Australians in jail.

Building consensus on the need for a treaty (or treaties) is high on the agenda of the man known as the “father of reconciliation”.

He said having indigenous colleagues in the Lower and Upper houses is a positive step along the road to having Aboriginal people participate directly in the process of making law.

“This was not the case at the time when our founding document, the Australian Constitution, was drafted,” he said.

“The only two express references in the Constitution (to the First Australians) ... (are) both related to our exclusion.”

Standing up for all and against division

WHILE Queensland's Pauline Hanson used her first speech of the new term in the Senate to divide and stoke fear, new Northern Territory Labor senator Malarndirri McCarthy chose a starkly different approach.

Speaking in her mother's language, Yanyuwa, Senator McCarthy opened her maiden speech with: “Yuwu bajinda nya-wirdi kulu kirna-balirra yinda nyawirdi nyuwu-ja barrawu, bajirru yirru wiji marnajingulaji ngathangka, bajirru yirru li-wirdiwalangu ji-awarawu li-Ngunawal Ngambri barra jina barra

strife-torn lives that offered no future, I stand here for you too,” she said.

As she had done at the joint meeting of the Central and Northern land councils at Kalkaringi in August, Ms McCarthy also spoke about the history of land rights and constitutional recognition of Aboriginal people.

She compared the two movements, encouraging those fighting for constitutional recognition not to give up.

“The Yanyuwa are a people whose struggle for recognition took almost 40 years. So many elders died well before

“I think of the women in my life struggling just to survive. I call them my mothers, my sisters, my friends, who endure tremendous acts of violence against them,” Ms McCarthy said.

“With broken limbs, busted faces, amputations and sexual assaults - I stand here with you.”

She also made it clear she is standing with sister girls and brother boys everywhere, coming close to tears as she recalled the suicide of a young relative, who she said had struggled with her sexuality.

“Her outward spirit was full



Pauline Hanson and Malarndirri McCarthy. (Image: Matt Roberts - ABC)

awara yirrunga, bajirru li-ngaha li-malarngu marnaji anka nya-ngathanya bii, li-ngatha kulhakulha, li-ngatha li-nganji karnirru-balirra.”

Ms McCarthy spoke after Senator Hanson who used the

such recognition and, most importantly, before any respect took place.

“Such long, drawn out legal battles have wearied many families of first nation peoples, constantly trying to defend

of fun and laughter, but inside she was suffocating from the inability to find balance in her cultural world view, and that of the expectations of the broader Australian society around her,” Ms McCarthy said.

“I think of the women in my life struggling just to survive. I call them my mothers, my sisters, my friends, who endure tremendous acts of violence against them.”

occasion to claim Australia has been “swamped by Muslims”.

In contrast, Ms McCarthy welcomed im- migration and refugees.

“Whether they live on the vast cattle stations or whether they have travelled from countries like Asia, Africa, or the Middle East to forge a new life for their families away from

their sense of self and identity and country,” she said.

“Maybe that was the intention - to battle fatigue. But we're still here, and we're not going to go away.”

Ms McCarthy also touched on homelessness, a lack of public housing and domestic violence in the Northern Territory.

She then asked the Prime Minister not to go ahead with the planned plebiscite on gay marriage.

“Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull, please re-consider your plebiscite bill, please pull back from this brink of public vitriol and make marriage equality a reality in this Parliament,” she said.



“You can’t whinge if you don’t participate in the political process”

LABOR’S Linda Burney, the first Aboriginal woman elected to the House of Representatives, was welcomed into her seat by Lynette Riley singing in the language they share - Wiradjuri.

“I will bring the fighting Wiradjuri spirit into this place,” Ms Burney promised in her first speech to Parliament.

Ms Burney presented her speech wearing a cloak made by Ms Riley that shows Ms Burney’s clan totem, the goanna, and her personal totem, the “very noisy” white cockatoo.

Both cloak and speech featured the story of her life.

“I was born at a time when the Australian Government knew how many sheep there were, but not how many Aboriginal people,” Ms Burney said.

“I was 10 years old before the ‘67 referendum fixed that. The first decade of my life was spent as a non-citizen.”

She used her speech to warn that plans to water down Australia’s race hate laws come from people who have never suffered from it.

“Too often these calls to amend the Racial Discrimination Act come from those for whom this kind of discrimination is totally alien,” she said. “Well I can tell them it’s hurtful.”

She also spoke about recognition of Aboriginal peoples in the nation’s birth certificate, the Constitution.

“Recognition is the next step in the path we are walking towards a country that can look itself in the eye, knowing that we have come of age,” Ms Burney said.

“Perhaps another great act of honesty and healing will be a permanent remembering of those Frontier Wars, just down the road at our National War Memorial.”

Ms Burney said she was proud



Linda Burney delivers her first speech at Parliament House. (Photo Andrew Meares)

of the cultural diversity of her New South Wales seat of Barton.

“It is one of the greatest ironies that the seat named after the architect of the White Australia Policy has become one of the most multicultural in the country,” she said.

“[It] couldn’t be a more shining example of what our modern Australia looks like. We are a stronger community because of this diversity, we are better for our differences and we are richer for all the broader cultural

and becoming the state’s first Indigenous MP.

“I came into parliament 13 years ago with a strong understanding of what was involved. I came in from a high profile anyhow, I worked really hard to get where I was. My experiences have been very positive,” she told NITV after her maiden speech.

“But sometimes when you’re an Aboriginal person it is isolating. I’ve always had support from different groups of people,

“Recognition is the next step in the path we are walking towards a country that can look itself in the eye, knowing that we have come of age.”

experiences that it offers to us.”

The most experienced of the new crop of Aboriginal politicians in Canberra, Ms Burney promised to push for education, a reduction in the rate of juvenile imprisonment and an end to domestic violence.

She made it clear she would stand up for her beliefs.

“I wish in this House ... to be respectful, to be gentle and be polite, however I say to my elders that the last bit may not always apply in question time.”

The former teacher made history after winning a seat in the 2003 NSW election

but you do have the expectations of the Aboriginal community and sometimes you try really hard, but you just can’t meet them.”

Ms Burney told NITV she wants to make a “massive difference” for her people.

“I want to make Australia more egalitarian, to be a beacon for young Aboriginal women in particular and also for men, to show them being involved in parliament is achievable. You can’t whinge about decisions if you don’t participate in the political process. Your vote is important,” she said.

do you need support\$\$\$for:



youth
education



health issues



school
excursions

youth leadership
& role modelling



sporting
events

cultural matters



CENTRECORP may be able to help.

Foundation

contact us for an application form on **8952 5827**
or go to our website for information & application form

www.centrecorpfoundation.com.au

keep up with the latest news

like us on

facebook



www.facebook.com/CentralLC

Kalkaringi Statement 2016 marks land rights anniversaries



Back together at Kalkaringi, 18 years on: Central Land Council and Northern Land Council delegates developed the Kalkaringi Statement 2016.

THE MEMBERS of the Territory's largest land councils have placed greater Aboriginal control over the Aboriginals Benefit Account (ABA) and more ranger jobs on the top of their agenda.

The historic joint meeting of the Central and Northern land councils near Kalkaringi in August celebrated two significant milestones, the 40th anniversary of the Aboriginal Land Rights Act (ALRA) and the 50th anniversary of the Wave Hill Walk Off (see p.13).

Eighteen years after the 1998 Kalkaringi Statement the delegates developed shared positions and questioned politicians about how they are advancing Aboriginal aspirations.

Among their priorities was a more transparent ABA under Aboriginal control.

"ABA funds are generated by mining on Aboriginal land and decisions about the management and allocation of funds from the ABA must be made by Aboriginal people in

the Northern Territory with no role in decision making from the Minister," the statement declares.

Members resolved to jointly develop a detailed model to achieve this vision and rejected Indigenous Affairs Minister Nigel Scullion's proposed changes to the fund.

They called governments to make resources available to help Aboriginal people out bush with their ABA applications.

CLC and NLC delegates also

insisted Aboriginal ranger jobs "are 'real jobs' and are just as important as teachers, nurses and parks and wildlife rangers".

They called for ongoing funding and an expansion of ranger groups into new areas, for rangers to be given monitoring, compliance and enforcement powers and for greater links between ranger and youth diversion programs.

The statement also deals with the development of Northern Australia, fracking,

constitutional recognition and treaty, the NT housing crisis and outstation funding.

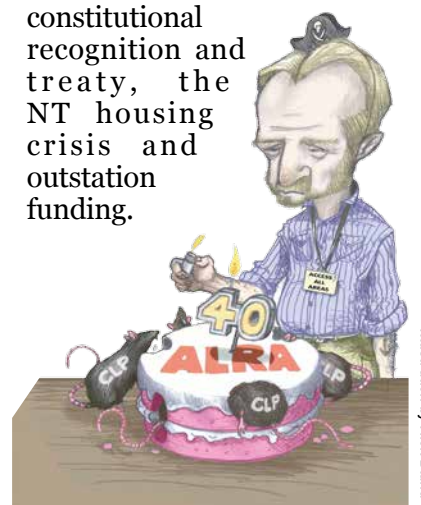


Illustration by Nick Bland



The NLC's Sammy Bush-Blanasi and the CLC's Francis Kelly chaired the meeting together.



CLC delegate Ngarla Kunoth-Monks makes a point.

Central Australians to meet about recognition referendum

ABORIGINAL Central Australians are waiting to find out who will get a say about the referendum on the constitutional recognition of indigenous peoples.

Central Australia's so-called First Nations Regional Dialogue about the referendum will be scheduled in March or early April next year.

One of 12 invitation-only meetings across the country, it will debate what the referendum question should cover.

The Central Land Council wrote to former Prime Minister Tony Abbott in 2015, asking for an Aboriginal meeting in its region.

The Referendum Council has now asked the CLC to help organise the meeting in Alice Springs and draw up a list of 100 invitees.

Some invitees will also be asked to chair the meeting and lead workshops.

"Traditional owners, Aboriginal organisations and individuals all need to be represented," said David Ross, the CLC's director.

"We are also working out how to

facilitate the best mix of ages, genders and regions."

The meeting's "deliberative process" is more than a consultation because it is "aimed at delivering a decision on preferences for recognition without requiring a definitive decision to be made", a Referendum Council briefing explains.

Each regional dialogue will be asked to send five participants to a proposed National Indigenous Convention at Uluru in late April next year.

The convention will consider the referendum proposal and seek consensus on the referendum question to be put to all Australians.

The proposal follows the indigenous leaders' meetings in Broome, Thursday Island and Melbourne in the middle of the year that came up with the process for the regional dialogues and the convention.

Feedback from the leaders not to rush the consultations killed off the government's plan to hold the recognition referendum on the 50th

anniversary of the 1967 citizenship referendum in May.

The delays come amid fresh concerns about whether a recognition referendum would even succeed, with support among the general population for constitutional recognition of Australia's first peoples falling to below 60 per cent in September.

An Essential poll showed that more than a quarter of voters are not sure whether Aboriginal people should be recognised in the constitution.

It found a solid number of people, mostly conservative voters, are against constitutional recognition.

58% of voters said they would vote for recognition, 15% say they would vote against it and 28% were unsure.

The poll put a question mark over the successful passage of a referendum, which needs majority support in a majority of states and territories.

Previous polls showed support for recognition at 80% or more.

"While 58% support is still strong, the high "don't know" response

suggests there is fertile soil for opponents of recognition to cultivate opposition, particularly around spurious arguments about indigenous separatism," the *Crikey* online news service commented.

In August delegates of the Central and Northern land councils called for constitutional reform to "deliver meaningful and enduring benefit for our people" and to keep the door open for treaties.

"Progress towards constitutional recognition must not put in danger our rights to negotiate treaties to finally achieve self-determination," they resolved at their joint meeting in Kalkaringi.

Following the joint land council meeting independent NT election candidate Yingiya Mark Guyula won the previously safe Labor seat of Nhulunbuy on a platform of treaty, winning the vote in every Yolngu community.

He called his win "a great victory for our Arnhem Land call for treaty".



Stolen wages court battle “as important as Mabo”



Stockmen are among the groups whose wages were stolen. (Photo: John Tanner - National Archives of Australia)

THE QUEENSLAND government is in the dock over stolen wages, the West Australian government could face unprecedented legal action for treating Aboriginal workers like slaves and New South Wales and the Northern Territory may be next.

The law firm behind the Queensland case is investigating whether government-sanctioned working conditions akin to slavery operated in Western Australia more than half a century ago.

Law firm Shine is looking at adding claims from WA, NT and NSW to legal action being taken in QLD to recover wages for Aboriginal workers.

“The arrangements in place in WA for a period of time were akin to institutionalised slavery,” the firm’s lawyer Rebecca Jancauskas told the *National Indigenous Times*.

The first hearing of a class action by 300 Aboriginal Queenslanders to recover wages the Queensland government held in trust on behalf of the indigenous workers has been held in the Federal Court.

The group, led by Hans Pearson, the uncle of prominent Aboriginal leader Noel Pearson, wants the government to pay the wages allegedly placed in trust on their behalf over four decades.

The claimants say they were not

paid for years of labour as stockmen or domestic workers.

For almost 80 years, the state government controlled the wages of Aboriginal people, but much of the money was lost or stolen.

Lawyers have accused the Queensland Government of breaching the trust of their clients by failing to protect their money.

“We’ve got to have justice. We worked for over 10 to 12 years for nothing,” Mr Pearson told the ABC.

“They’ve got to pay for what they’ve done, we’re not asking for their money, it’s our money.”

QLD alone may owe Aboriginal people \$500 million, according to historians such as Rosalind Kidd and figures cited in state and federal inquiries.

NT situation similar to QLD

“I would say too that Indigenous people are very good record keepers of their own history, so I think that stands them in very good stead in terms of being able to demonstrate what’s rightfully due to them,” Ms Kidd said.

Since Shine launched the QLD action the firm has been contacted by dozens of other individuals and groups, Ms Jancauskas said.

It was now investigating whether

similar action could be taken on behalf of people or their descendants in WA, NSW and the NT.

Shine lawyer Rebecca Jancauskas has told NIT the situation in the NT, which was at the time governed by the Commonwealth, was similar to QLD.

She said the wages of stockmen, labourers and domestic servants were paid into a government trust. The workers were given an allowance, which was allegedly a fraction of their pay packet (see also p.28).

But in WA there was no law at the time that said Aboriginal people must receive a wage.

“So long as there was board and food provided there was no requirement for a wage to be paid,” Ms Jancauskas said.

She said WA landowners or individuals needed a government permit to employ Aboriginal people.

“That permit or that agreement mandated the conditions of that employment,” she said.

Ms Jancauskas said in NSW it was Aboriginal child workers who were affected.

Noel Pearson praised the bravery of the claimants.

“Uncle Hans and all of those who come behind him have got to fight this one,” he said.

“This is as important as Mabo.”

It suggested empowering communities to make decisions about how the program worked in their own community and rewarding people for seeking unsubsidised work.

It said the government should bring back CDEP and reform the program along the lines of a proposal by Aboriginal Peak Organisations NT, which includes the Central Land Council.

APONT’s 2011 plan, which combined basic services for welfare recipients with better support, wage subsidies and rewards for taking jobs outside the community, was the best developed and most comprehensive proposal, the report said.

A spokeswoman for federal Indigenous Affairs Minister Nigel Scullion told the ABC that CDP had achieved “a fivefold increase in the number of jobseekers engaged in training or worklike activities”, adding the scheme was “delivering the employment services that remote communities have been calling for”.

Hans Pearson’s story

HANS Pearson, 77, has lived in public housing all his life.

As a stockman during the 1950s and 60s he wanted to buy a house in North Queensland for his young family.

He believes he earned up to 7,000 pounds, but when he went to collect his money, he only received a fraction of that amount.

“When the police called me up to the police station, me and the wife went up and he had a cheque waiting for me for 28 pounds,” Hans Pearson told the ABC.

“I said: ‘Is this all I’m getting?’ and he said: ‘Well, that’s all you have after 10 years of working’.”

“It set me and the wife back. The first 10 years of your life you’re working to buy yourself a home, you know, to set your family up. That’s every person’s



Hans Pearson (Photo courtesy ABC).

dream, but it didn’t happen,” he said.

In 2002, the Queensland Government set up a reparations scheme paying each person up to \$4,000 in return for waiving their legal rights.

Hans Pearson signed up because he was desperate. His payment has recently been topped up and in total he has received \$9,000.

He feels conned into signing up.

“That’s \$9,000 for 10 to 12 years of work, you know? That’s not right, that’s not justice,” Mr Pearson said.

“\$9,000 for 10 - 12 years of work? That’s not right, that’s not justice.”

Noel Pearson told the ABC it was a source of deep pain for his family that his Uncle Hans was still living in government housing in Townsville.

“For him to be still living in social housing, 50 years later because of that thwarted ambition, it’s like a great bitterness inside me,” Noel Pearson told the ABC.

“You want to understand Indigenous disadvantage in 2016, it has its roots back then.

“Where would he and his children and his grandchildren be if that virtuous cycle had taken place — namely he had a house in the 60s?”

Hans Pearson said he hoped the legal action would see him realise his dream of home ownership.

“We will just keep fighting, they’ve got the money to fight us, but I hope that justice will be done, that they’ll be compassionate with us and just give us what they owe us,” he said.

(continued from p.3) it is much easier for participants to fail to meet them,” the report said.

Jobs Australia CEO David Thompson told the ABC people in remote communities were getting penalised at 70 times the rate of the rest of the community.

“It’s because people are being required to undertake longer periods per week and per year of work-for-the-dole,” he said.

“So 25 hours a week for almost the whole year, as opposed to 15 hours a week for six months for the majority of people in mainstream Australia.”

Mr Abbott, part of the government that killed the previous Community Development Employment Program (CDEP), told *The Australian* he regrets that decision.

“Abolishing CDEP was a well-intentioned mistake and CDP is our attempt to atone for it,” he said.

His solution: impose CDP on all job seekers on Centrelink payments.

“If there’s an issue of discrimination,

better that all should face tougher rules than just have obligation free welfare for fit, working age people,” Mr Abbott said.

But Mr Thompson said there were simply not enough jobs in remote communities.

“Even if every job being performed in those communities was being performed by an Indigenous person, there would still not be enough jobs to go around.

“The arrangements for CDP need to take account of that, rather than pretending that by requiring people to turn up for five hours a day for five days a week, it’ll get them ready for work that actually doesn’t exist.”

He said a lot of activities reported were “not meaningful or in any way fulfilling” and just required people to “do stuff for doing stuff’s sake”.

The Jobs Australia report also found participants in some communities could not get medical exemptions when needed, despite the higher rates of illness.



Mutitjulu oval promise honoured



Ernest Frank and Junior Bird working on the Daguragu oval.



Left to right: Future Eagles stars Adam Hagan, Reagan Stafford, Zachariah Hagan, Jordan Patterson, Wendell Patterson, Zac Stafford, and Jarrod Pepperill at Yuelamu.

ALMOST a year after he promised to fix up Mutitjulu's dilapidated oval federal Indigenous Affairs Minister Nigel Scullion has honored his commitment.

The community is now planning stage two of the oval upgrade, with the Mutitjulu Community Aboriginal Corporation (MCAC) firmly in charge.

The minister made the promise last October during the 30th anniversary celebrations of the handback of Uluru Kata Tjuta National Park.

Back in April 2015, residents gave up waiting for governments and started to upgrade the oval themselves.

After planning the project with the Central Land Council's community development team elected members of the Mutitjulu working group used the community's park rent money to hire Tangentyere Constructions (see p.27).

The working group spent more than \$300,000 to clear and fence the oval, build change rooms, grandstands and install a score board with local labour.

Most of the stage one work is now complete with only one change room and the scoreboard still to be finished.

If local workers are available those jobs will be finished before the end of the year.

The working group also wanted to connect electricity to the oval, put up flood lights and build an ablution block, but the community had other ideas.

than \$100,000 of its lease money and project partner Tangentyere Constructions employed six local men to complete the works.

The upgrade had been a goal of the community for a long time.

"The years before when people came to Freedom Day we had a lot of complaints that the oval was too small, now it's bigger and we are proud of it," said Marjorie King.

"After so many years of encouraging governments to meet communities half way when they invest their collective income for community-driven projects it looks like the penny has finally dropped."

It directed the working group to use the rent money to continue operating the swimming pool and set up projects to strengthen Anangu culture.

Thanks to the minister's \$500,000 commitment for stage two of the oval upgrade, Mutitjulu will be able to finish the oval work and launch other rent money projects.

"It's good news that Mutitjulu stays in control," CLC director David Ross said.

"After so many years of encouraging governments to meet communities half way when they invest their collective income for community driven projects it looks like the penny has finally dropped."

"We had a plan for a long time and now it's happened," said Elmore Anzac.

Yuelamu (Mt Allen) has brought the training ground of the Mt Allan Eagles up to scratch.

The community invested almost \$130,000 of its compensation money from the Granites Mine to resurface and extend the footy oval.

Eagles player Nehemiah Long, who has also played for Wests Football Club in Alice Springs, hopes the upgrade will see more games played at home in Yuelamu.

"That's a good oval," said community sports club director Fiona Kitson.

Ms Kitson said the upgrade allows the community to organise a local sports weekend with other compensation money it has put aside.

She also suggested changing local match schedules.

"Mt Allen travel to Yuendumu, we might get Yuendumu to travel here!"

Yuelamu's Granites Mine Affected Area Aboriginal Corporation committee planned the upgrade with the CLC's community development team.

The committee chose the Central Desert Regional Council to manage the project and was pleased the council threw in new goal posts as a bonus.

Oval upgrades are a popular investment

Meanwhile, Daguragu and Yuelamu communities have also used compensation income to upgrade their ovals.

The 50th anniversary celebration of the Wave Hill Walk Off was the first major event in Daguragu to benefit from the graded and extended grounds, new solar lights and scoreboard.

The community invested more

From junk to jobs and bush mechanics

NEWS of a recycling business starting up in Yuendumu has bush mechanics across the Tanami revving with excitement.

The enterprise, the region's first of its kind in community hands, aims to create Yapa jobs and keep the community and surrounding roads tidier.

The project is the brain child of the community's Granites Mine Affected Area Aboriginal Corporation committee.

Committee members invested \$140,000 of Yuendumu's compensation money in a tilt-tray truck, a forklift and storage for recyclables. They set their sights not just on cans and bottles, but also car parts.

That is where the new truck comes in.

"So that we could recover Yapa vehicles on the Tanami whenever they get broken down," said Malcolm Wall,

manager of the outstation resource organisation Yapa-Kurlangu Ngurrara (YKNAC).

YKNAC has partnered with the Central Land Council to take the new business under its wing.

Mr Wall believes it needs to offer a broad service if it's to succeed.

And it needs to be quick. Left too long by the roadside, abandoned cars are quickly stripped of all valuable parts.

With 28 outstations, 22 Aboriginal workers and plenty of contract work on YKNAC's books, Mr Wall expects the new recycling operation to grow ongoing local employment.

"Ideally we'll have two people doing the recycling alone," he said.

He already sent a load of recyclables into town to be sold, more than covering the cost of the trip and the employee's wage.

"This means not just more real



YKNAC wants to recycle parts before car wrecks are stripped. (Photo: Maggie Kavanagh)

jobs for locals, it's great news for all us bush mechanics," said CLC chair Francis Kelly

Mr Kelly has championed the idea of a recycling business for a number of years and hopes it will become

an example other communities can replicate.

"When other communities [see] it, they'll follow on!" he said.



Alpurrurulam puts its money, heart and souls into new church



Mitchell Mahoney and Eddie Rusty put up the church framework.

"THE CHURCH is why this community is strong. It keeps us together."

Alpurrurulam resident John Percy said the importance of its church to his community can't be overestimated.

The community near the Queensland border has opened a new church after

Mr Olschewsky says there was no shortage of willing participants to work on the project.

"We thought we already had a relatively healthy local employment target of 30 percent," he said. "So we were pleasantly surprised by the

"Six local men were involved in the build, including surveying and marking out, digging footings, boxing the slab, placing steel, pouring and finishing the concrete slab, cutting, welding and placing the structural steel, fitting panels and flashings and much more."

spending half a million dollars of its rent money on its construction.

Local builder Ben Olschewsky drew much of the workforce from the community.

additional enthusiasm once things got going.

"Six local men were involved in the build, including surveying and



Don Courtney, Mitchell Mahoney, Eddie Rusty and Greg Turner worked on the church.

marking out, digging footings, boxing the slab, placing steel, pouring and finishing the concrete slab, cutting, welding and placing the structural steel, fitting panels and flashings and much more."

The result of all the work and the commitment of \$495,000 worth of five year lease money is an impressive building that includes a kitchen, storerooms and wide doors fit for a large congregation.

The local church group and the Warte Store organised an official church opening in July.

Community members Frank Billy and Michael Teague cut the ribbon with gold plated ceremonial scissors on loan from the Mayor of Mount Isa while local and interstate speakers featured along with the Steve Gray band.

The Warte Store is supporting the church by managing the water bills.

Community leader Maxie Ray says the church is vital to the health of Alpurrurulam.

"It means everything to the community," he said.

"The new building means that we can have church and funerals out of the rain and away from the sun."

Mr Ray said community members also gained a lot through the church's construction.

"It was good having local people building the church," he said. "They stuck at it, learned a lot and are proud that they have done something big."

Planning is now underway for landscaping and fencing of the church grounds, as well as more seating and a stage.

Imangara workshop repairs community pride

"IT'S GOOD that local people worked fixing up that shed," said Ned Kelly. "We gotta do things for ourselves."

The Imangara resident said the benefits of spending \$55,000 of his community's five year lease money on repairing and stocking its workshop go beyond just new tools and equipment.

They had power connected to the workshop and bought tyre repair equipment, lawn mowers, and whipper snippers. The shed also has a secure cage for jerry cans and a variety of safety gear.

"We never had anything like this before. We feel proud of what we've done with our lease money," Mr Kelly said.

"We never got much help before, but now we've got our own workshop and we use those tools for our community."

The project was inspired by community concern about the lack of jobs for young people and the need to clean up around the community.

The community has also planted fruit and shade trees and installed irrigation to help them grow.

Robin Morton and Matthew Ladd from Imangara and Jonathan Wickham from Hatches Creek worked with Tangentyere Constructions on the project.

"We dug trenches and set up the irrigation for the trees," Mr Ladd said. "I liked doing that work, setting up



Jonathan Wickham, Robin Morton and Matthew Ladd repaired the shed.

the workshop for the community and having our own equipment."

Sammy Ladd is in charge of the new workshop.

"Setting up that workshop made me happy and I've been busy cutting lawn," he said. "We share all of that equipment, I hold the key and people come to ask me when they want to borrow some equipment."

The residents are happy with

the level of activity the project has generated.

"People have been fixing their motor cars there," said Billy Pumper.

Another resident, Linda Dobbs, says the workshop has energised community members.

"We've got rakes and wheel barrows and people have been doing lots of work around the place," she said.

Spotlight on the Kaltukatjara court

THE KALTUKATJARA (Docker River) basketball court has been lit up and not just by the talent of the players.

The community near the West Australian border used its community lease money to install six floodlights so it could enjoy the court in the evening.

More than \$35,000 of the funds paid for the 100 watt LED lights which are connected to a power card system.

The community's working group prioritised the project because it knew it would bring widespread benefits.

Kaltukatjara now has a lit space for evening events, particularly for young people.

"Palya, its really, really good. The kids are playing under [the lights] at night," said working group member Selina Kulitja.

"The working group members are all really happy with the project."





Tony's team brings out the best in people

TONY RENEHAN is from Alice Springs. His mother Doris Stuart is a prominent campaigner for the protection of sacred sites and his older brother Peter chairs the Centre for Appropriate Technology (CAT).

For the past two decades Tony has worked for CAT and the Central Land Council. He started at the CLC in 2004 as a property officer, then moved to the rural enterprise unit.

Since last October he has co-ordinated a team of seven in the CLC's new employment and enterprise unit.



Tony Renehan co-ordinates the CLC's new employment and enterprise unit.

What do you enjoy doing outside work?

Listening to music, playing music with my sons, reading and catching up with my friends out bush.

What are you most proud of?

Having children, being a parent and my older people who come from this country. They did all the hard yards back in the old days. We get it pretty easy now because our parents and others struggled. Pretty proud of these old ones who made us who we are today. It is our role to do the same things for our children.

"We're increasing Aboriginal employment in pastoral, mining, tourism and other industries so our mob can determine their own futures."

How did they influence you?

One value my mother and other senior custodians of Alice Springs who have passed on, including my late uncle B. Stuart, have instilled in me, is

the importance of protecting and looking after country.

No matter what governments and other 'creative' people may tell you about benefitting from damaging sites in exchange

for money, development or personal gain, just think what the old people would have said or done.

If there is one thing I've learnt over the years, it's that you can't fool the old people, even if some may have passed on. They are still watching over this country.

What are you trying to achieve in your work?

We're increasing Aboriginal employment in pastoral, mining, tourism and other industries so our mob can determine their own futures. We're supporting Aboriginal enterprises to strengthen their governance and capacity.

What are some of the hard things about your job?

Finding time to see everybody and dealing with negative people. Managing time, keeping up with the emails. The land council's role in administering Aboriginal land is more critical than ever. There is a push from government to reduce our role so they and others can get easier access to Aboriginal land under the guise of helping Aboriginal land owners benefit from economic development.

What are the most rewarding things?

Being part of a good new team and being able to bring out the best in people

to create something solid, a good foundation and structure for the next mob of people who will be working in this unit. Also travelling through a beautiful country and meeting amazing people. Interacting with people of all different backgrounds because you are learning from them all. Getting phone calls on Christmas Day.

What's your biggest goal?

Become a better leader and public speaker. To do the best I can in this unit because it's a privilege and an honour to be in a leadership position. Coming from an operational background, to be part of a team that is putting the strategy together - it's a big learning curve. It can be very intimidating when you're dealing with people with PhDs. When you first step into the role it is a big step up. Lot more responsibilities, more accountability. You also have to be able to translate or adapt what is said in meetings to mob out there for them to understand.

What's your leadership style?

I get on with everybody. You can be a good leader and a good manager I guess. I see a leader as a good coach able to get the best out of his team members by communicating well.

Troy's belief in himself inspires his daughters

"MY FAMILY love it, it's inspiring for my daughters. My job is giving them a high spirit to strive to achieve their goals," says Troy Erlandson when asked how his work at The Granites gold mine has affected his family in Alice Springs.

Troy has been working at Newmont's mine in the Tanami where he has been an Underground Truck Driver for six of the past 11 years.

"This job came from nothing and I achieved something that I've always wanted to, drive heavy machinery. I can say proudly that I did achieve it," says Troy.

Troy's work ethic seems to have rubbed off on his

training position in a pre-vocational program.

The program allowed Aboriginal employees to rotate through a range of operational departments and contractors to gain on the job skills and a deeper understanding of the types of work available on the mine site.

Troy tried cleaning, maintenance and core sampling but what he enjoyed most was earth moving with Cardinal Contractors.

It allowed him to spend the next three years working above ground, learning the tools of the trade and getting tickets for excavators, trucks, graders, loaders and dozers.

When Cardinal left the



Troy Erlandson has worked at Newmont's Granites Mine for more than a decade.

"I'm trying to be a role model. When new Aboriginal staff start I've also been really happy to help out."

daughters Georgie and Lacey. "One has completed year 12 and is working now and the other is completing her schooling, too."

In 2007 the CLC's employment and enterprise team helped Troy to land a

Granites operation Troy transferred into a position with Newmont.

Along the way there have been many challenges.

"It can be hard work. Working 12 hour shifts for 14 days, half day shift, half

night shift. Two weeks on, one off. Absolutely it was hard to adjust to and it is still challenging even now," he says.

"My family have been supportive and helped me get through the 11 years out there. It's something my family are proud of.

I'm trying to be a role model. When new Aboriginal staff start I've also been really happy to help out. They ask me to spend a bit of time off the truck and I talk them

through the work and site."

Troy puts his success down to self-belief, as well as a little help from old and new friends and family.

"Steven Collins and Richard Mack have been an inspiration to me, plus there are heaps of friends and family there that help keep your spirit alive. It's always good to see familiar faces and I have made friends now from all over."

The CLC's Tony Renehan says his team is keen to help others to follow in Troy's

footsteps.

"He has been in the job for the long haul. Anyone interested in mining jobs should contact the CLC because we can put them in touch with opportunities to pick up knowledge and skills. If they are ready to back themselves we'll support them like we supported Troy."

For more information contact Tony's team on 8951 6211.



Bookie business legacy lives on

TANYA DIXON has kept her father **Lindsay Bookie's 4WD tour business** going after the former **Central Land Council chair** passed away in 2014.

In the last decade of his life Mr Bookie had worked hard with his friend and business associate **Jol Fleming** to create a campground along the banks of the Hay River in the northern Simpson Desert.

They turned the camp and the 4WD tours through surrounding country into one the Northern Territory's best known remote tourism and adventure activities.

Ms Dixon told *Land Rights News* how her family looks after the business during the March to November tourist season.

"I have been running the bush camp after my Dad passed away.

I wanted to keep the campground going for the family and show people you can run your own business.

"He told us it was our job to take it over when he retired."

It has been a really big learning experience for me, James, and our daughter Katrina, having to jump in so unexpectedly.

From the start when Dad ran it I went out on weekends and school holidays to help. Most of the family would help.

He told us it was our job to take it over when he retired.

Every time I went out I learned more from him. Learning about looking

after the country, its history, and how to talk with tourists and make them feel comfortable, sharing stories.

This year has been a pretty good season.

The tourists came from everywhere – New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, Tasmania, overseas.

Most are really good. Sometimes we'll have dinner together or have a cup of tea by the campfire in the evening. See how they are going.

We also take them on 4WD tours into the hills or Goyder's Pillar and share stories. We tell them about bush foods and the country.

One of us will go if there are only four people, or all of us with a big group. We go turn and turn.

This year my daughter Katrina has been coming along and learning to drive the bush tracks. Dad did the same for me. I still remember being scared going up the big hill.

Also, I like learning from the visitors – getting ideas about the camp, what they need and don't need.

They always say they like the bush camp and to keep its character. They also tell you something different, about what they do.

Some visitors offer help to make things, especially the ones who met Dad. They keep on coming back and say it's good that I am taking it over.

I get good help from Jol Fleming, too. He has been a really great friend of my father and the family for a long time.

He helps with organising the CLC transit permits, tagalong trips, and bore and equipment maintenance.



Tanya Dixon (right) is passing on her know how to daughter Katrina: "Dad did the same for me."



Mr Bookie's family improved its popular Batton Hill tourist camp with the help of the CLC.

This year the CLC helped to get tourism money for improving the camp. We added toilets, graded tracks, made a new rubbish pit, signage and water pump.

For me it's important to be out there. It is something to do instead of sitting around at home, bored.

It is good to see the little fellows, Isaac and Rekai, my father's great grandsons, enjoying being out there on school holidays. They get up early, go looking for lizards, happy playing.

That's what Dad said: 'we gotta pass it on'. He was really proud of this business for the family."

More support for Aboriginal uni students

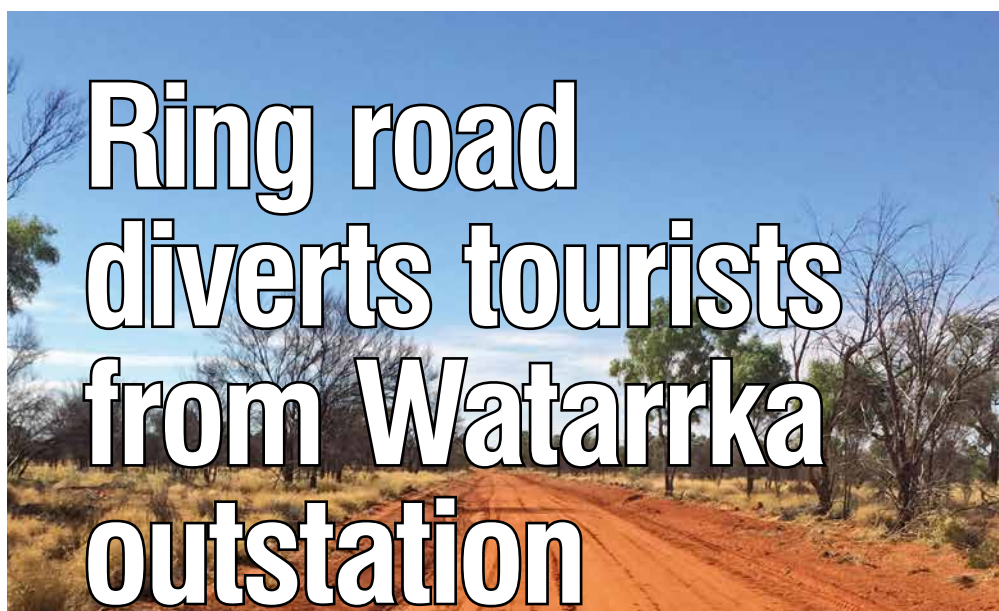
FEDERAL Indigenous Affairs Minister Nigel Scullion has said the Australian government is investing in better education outcomes for Aboriginal and other disadvantaged university students.

Senator Scullion said legal changes introduced to Parliament in September aim to help universities to tailor assistance so more of these students graduate and take up professional and academic careers.

He said university enrolments by

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have increased by 70 percent over the past decade, but those students are two and a half times more likely than non-indigenous students to drop out of university in their first year.

"These reforms mean that universities can tailor scholarships, tutorial assistance and other support to address the needs of each student," he said.



Ring road diverts tourists from Watarrka outstation

TOURIST coaches headed for an Aboriginal tourism business in Watarrka National Park are no longer disturbing an outstation.

A new ring road is bringing peace and quiet back to the residents of Wanmara, a small outstation off the Luritja Road, with its own tourism business.

The new road connects the dirt road to Wanmara with the site of the Karrke Aboriginal Cultural Experience, bypassing the outstation.

The development improves access for the tour groups visiting the enterprise of

the Abbott and Breden families.

"The road is a blessing for our business", said Karrke's director Peter Abbott.

"It is going good, even after all the late rains we had, it has held up well."

The Watarrka traditional owner group invested more than \$18,000 of their national park rent money in the road.

It planned the project with the Central Land Council's community development team and partnered with Tangentyere Constructions, who employed Aboriginal staff to construct the road.

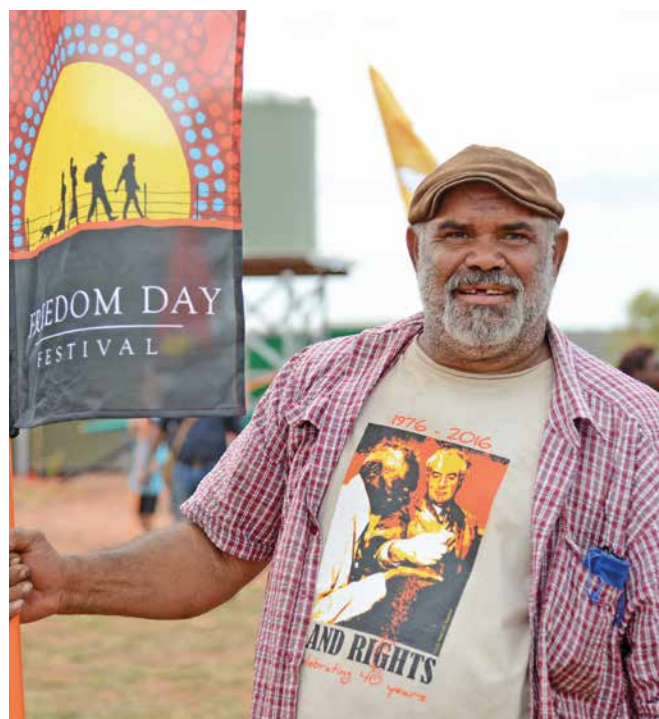
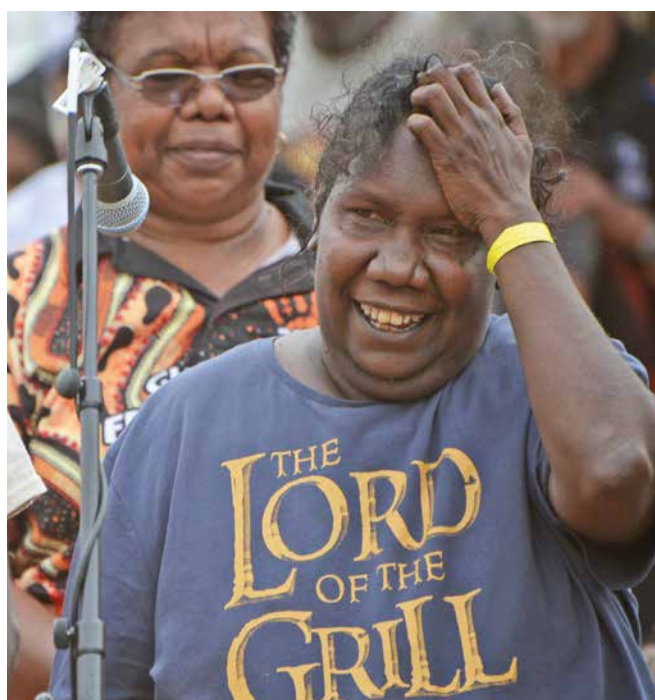
Huckitta steers sell



Mustering success: Huckitta Station's Jeremiah Webb and the team sold 192 milk tooth steers at the Roe Creek Sale.



FREEDOM DAY & 40TH LAND RIGHTS ANNIVERSARY





Dialysis patients return from medical exile

DIALYSIS patients from Kalkaringi living in 'medical exile' in faraway Darwin or Katherine can now return home for part of the year and get their dialysis treatment in nearby Lajamanu.

Community lease money committed by Kalkaringi traditional owners is allowing dialysis patients to be reunited with their families for longer periods.

Traditional owners have committed \$88,000 through the Western Desert Nganampa Walytja Palyantjaku Tjutaku Aboriginal Corporation to make it all possible.

The Central Land Council's community development unit helped them plan the



Patrick Jimmy regularly drives Kalkaringi patients Carol Cook, Christine and Hilda Alec to the Lajamanu dialysis centre.

scheme that pays for patients to travel to Kalkaringi on the Bodhi Bus and use the

family, all my grandchildren." Hilda's daughter Christine Alec is happy about spending

"I'm really glad when I come here. When I'm in Darwin I have no family, nothing."

Gurindji Corporation's patient transport service for the 200 kilometre return trip to Lajamanu's dialysis facility.

"Dialysis in Lajamanu is good for me," says Hilda Alec, who gets lonely when she has to travel for treatment in Darwin.

"I'm really glad when I come here. When I'm in Darwin I have no family, nothing. No family visits me. When I am in Kalkaringi I am with all my

more time with her mother.

"I follow my mum to Lajamanu for dialysis," she says.

"If she couldn't come here she would still be staying up in Darwin.

Now she gets to spend four weeks at a time at home in Kalkaringi every four weeks.

In Lajamanu, [dialysis nurses] Chris and Noelene are doing the best job."

Colouring towards clear thinking



Mamie Butler, Karen Cook, Nora Davidson, Sylvia Benson, Roslyn Yiparti and Margaret Smith (front row) launch the NPY Women's Council's colouring book. Their CEO Andrea Mason is the NT's 2016 Telstra Businesswoman of the Year.

MANY people find that 'doodling' helps them to focus in meetings, but it takes the entrepreneurial women of the NPY Women's Council to turn doodles into book sales.

The senior Anangu women driving the NPY Women's Council's innovative mental health literacy project *Uti Kulintjaku* are cashing in on a colouring-in craze with a book they say will "help you move towards clear thinking".

"Each design is intended to take you to a better place," said *ngankari* (traditional healer) Maringka Burton, whose designs feature in the book.

"Colouring and focusing on our designs will help you

achieve a state of balance."

It's a view shared by fellow *ngankari* and artist Tinpulya Mervyn. "Colouring it in will make you happy," she says.

Many of the book's unique and elaborate designs are a by-product of the meetings and workshops *Uti Kulintjaku* organises for Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal health workers to develop a shared language for mental health.

Uti Kulintjaku (Pitjantjatjara for 'to think and understand clearly') brings together *ngankari* and mainstream health professionals who are opening up mental health concepts from both Aboriginal and western viewpoints.

The project shares the knowledge that comes out of these workshops with mainstream health service providers as well as Aboriginal families and communities in the cross border area of the Northern Territory, South Australia and Western Australia.

"I don't know of a colouring in book by an Aboriginal organisation and it's fantastic that the first one has been done here in Central Australia," NPY Women's Council CEO Andrea Mason said at the book launch.

Colouring Towards Clear Thinking is for sale through the NPY Women's Council's online shop.

Watarrka pokies? Wiya!

(continued from p.5)

"Most people hanging around the casino in Alice Springs don't have any money. All they do is wait for family so they can humbug them," he says.

Residents also worry that gambling visitors will bring trouble to Watarrka or cause new disputes that impact on community safety.

"If something happens it would be too late for the police to come from Yulara," warns Mr Impu.

Mr France is upset that the resort has not spoken to the community about its pokies plan.

"It's making them more money but what do we get out of that? We really need them to talk to us."

A spokesman for the Kings Canyon Resort says the resort wants to "work with traditional owners to create

the framework relevant to any installation of gaming machines."

He said the resort would adhere by "stringent controls and regulations ... to both mitigate and minimise the potential social and economic impacts" of gambling machines.

CLC director David Ross says that gambling machines are a bad fit with the nature and culture focus of the internationally significant conservation area.

"There is also something really off about being unable to enjoy the spectacular living landscape of Watarrka without needing to gamble," Mr Ross says.

"Most visitors from around the world don't miss the pokies when there's so much natural beauty to explore. Do we really want those who do?"

"Out of control"

A SPECIALIST domestic violence court in Alice Springs, a volumetric grog tax and a register of repeat DV offenders are all on the table following harrowing findings from the Northern Territory coroner.

Following a report into the deaths of two Aboriginal women in abusive relationships, coroner Greg Cavanagh described domestic violence as a "contagion" that was "literally out of control" in some NT communities.

Mr Cavanagh's call for domestic violence matters to be fast tracked and prioritised in court has received wide support.

NT Families Minister Dale Wakefield said research backed the use of special DV

courts and the government was working to trial this "as soon as possible".

"I think a separate court is a lot better than just giving it a priority within the courts themselves," Territory opposition leader Gary Higgins agreed.

The family violence prevention program manager for Tangentyere Council, Maree Corbo, has also backed the trial.

She told the ABC the existing court building lacked space for the domestic violence support worker to have private conversations with women before they give evidence against their abusers.

"Men and women are often in the same court room. Those things are

CENTRAL LAND COUNCIL ONLINE

CLC digital photo archive: <http://clc.keepingculture.com>



CLC Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/CentralLC>



Land Rights News Central Australia
<http://www.clc.org.au/land-rights-news/>

CLC website: www.clc.org.au

CLC FREECALL 1800 003 640



Men move to change their own bad behaviours



Taking responsibility, not judging: Program participants David Long, Jaiden Miller, Franklin Brokus and Ronald Hoosan show there is a better way.

"I DON'T want to go to the murder stage, I want to talk about my feelings," says Sylvester Hayes.

Mr Hayes knows that family violence starts with controlling behaviours such as stopping a family member from going out or owning their own mobile phone.

It can be emotional, psychological, social, spiritual, financial, sexual and – once controlling behaviours have become normal for the family – physical.

And too often, it leads to prison, child removal or the death of a loved one.

Mr Hayes has been attending Tangentyere Council's Men's Behaviour Change program for four months.

The program, run in partnership with the Alice Springs Women's Shelter, helps men understand why they use violence and to help them adopt better strategies.

"Being violent is about having power and control," program manager Maree Corbo says. "Men need to work out their need of control and need to start making the right choices."

"I am proud, [the program] makes me see things and life in a different way. I reckon it's a better life, and happier."

"It's actually liberating to think that you've got a choice about your behaviour."

Mr Hayes agrees.

"I am proud, it makes me see things and life in a different way," he says. "I reckon it's a better life, and happier."

"The first time, it was hard to bring out feelings. Hard to

talk about what we've done. Fearing others judging."

It's a lack of finger pointing from other group members however, that contributes to participants feeling "more confident and stronger".

Mr Hayes hopes speaking out will "give confidence to other men to be part of the group".

Weekly sessions are run by both men and women and while men are often sent to the program by the court, every man who is ready to change is welcome.

"Men learn how to speak to women, how to be respectful and to see what is a respectful and equal relationship between a male and a female because sometimes they've never seen it before," says facilitator Eliza Arbaci.

A similar program operates in 24 remote communities in South Australia, Western Australia and the Northern Territory.

More than 500 men have completed the NPY Women's Council's Cross Border Indigenous Family Violence Program since 2007.

An evaluation of the program by the Australian Institute of Criminology has shown that over a five-year period, almost eight in 10 men who participated did not commit a violence offence.

The Women's Family Safety Group at Tangentyere Council also carries out early intervention and prevention

work with town camp women.

"It is not about shaming, disrespecting, putting men down or influencing the family to finish a relationship. It is about educating men and women to have a happier and healthier relationship," Ms Corbo said.

Hoppy's Camp now has a women's committee that was established by Shirleen Campbell after her aunty Kwementyaye McCormack was killed by her partner in 2015.

Ms Campbell said the women's committee has witnessed a drop in violent incidents at Hoppy's.

Meanwhile, Helen Gillen, another town camp resident, has invited the Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull "to come and see what's happening here".

"With his own eyes he can see what's going on with the women's group," she said.

CONTACTS

Men's Behaviour
Change Program

8952 1430

1/39 Elder Street

Monday to Friday

8:30am to 4:30pm.

NPY Cross Border Indigenous
Family Violence Program

1800 733 577

or 8951 5437

Women's Family Safety Group

8951 4222

domestic violence crisis triggers action

unacceptable for women," Ms Corbo said.

Ms Wakefield had no time table for the trial and said changes needed to put domestic violence victims first.

"We're trying to get an outcome that is meaningful and effective rather than following a drum beat down a path that's easy to sell to the public," she said.

Chief Minister Michael Gunner promised to work with the South Australian government on another of the coroner's recommendations – a register for repeat DV offenders.

NT Police Commissioner Reece Kershaw said such a register would "enable police to declare the most violent and repeat offenders as a community/public safety risk

and not just isolated to the victim".

Mr Kershaw said a register would support the evidence police officers will collect with body cameras, a new measure designed to reduce the

Aboriginal women and men have been working against family violence at the community level "without any funding and support for a very long time."

pressure on victims in court.

Ms Wakefield said the government was looking at how to implement such a register and how DV victims would benefit.

"Whatever we put in place needs to take the particular needs of that group into consideration and the only way to do this is to consult strongly

with Aboriginal women," she said.

The police commissioner revealed that almost 75,000 cases of domestic violence were reported in the last three years and that in eight out of 10

of these cases both perpetrator and victim were Aboriginal.

Every one of the 23 domestic violence deaths during that period involved alcohol, he said.

Ms Wakefield promised to lobby Canberra for a volumetric tax that would make cheap, strong grog more expensive, as well bring back

the banned drinkers register and keeping police outside bottle shops.

Meanwhile, academic Marcia Langton said the next Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander social justice commissioner must be a woman in order to arrest soaring rates of violence against women and children, and of children being removed from their homes.

Professor Langton has sent the federal government a list of female candidates to fill the role recently vacated by Mick Gooda.

Domestic violence survivor and Labor MP Linda Burney has called out the Federal Government's indigenous affairs adviser Warren Mundine for accusing Aboriginal MPs of silence on

domestic violence.

"Mr Mundine oversaw and endorsed a half a billion dollar reduction in the Aboriginal Affairs budget and funding cuts to crucial programs that address domestic violence, including defunding the Aboriginal child and family centres right across Australia; reducing legal services to Aboriginal women and the complete withdrawal of federal funding from community-based programs that directly address domestic violence."

"Work has been going on in the Aboriginal space on family violence by many women and men, particularly women at the local community level without any funding and support for a very long time," she said.

Fired up about more ranger jobs



Camilla Young would like to be a ranger in Kintore, a community without a ranger group.

CAMILLA YOUNG was moved to tears when she visited for the first time the country where her grandparents travelled.

“My grandmother used to go there as a young one and look after [a sacred site], and she showed [my father] Joe before she passed away. I just cried,” the 27 year old mother of one told *The Guardian* news service.

Ms Young joined around 30 traditional owners and rangers from the Central Land Council and the Ngaanyatjarra Council on a three-day burning and site management visit to the NT/WA cross border area near Tjukurla.

She had never been on a prescribed burn before and knew her nomadic grandparents’ country only from the stories they told after they settled in Kintore.

“I am learning about my grandmother’s country. She used to walk here a long

Protected Area.

Rangers from WA who knew how to use the aerial incendiary machine had the elders’ blessing to lead the way.

“It shows that cultural boundaries don’t align with state borders,” Ben said.

“We now plan to include CLC rangers in Docker River on the next aerial burning course. It’s an essential land management tool in such a large and inaccessible region.”

As for Camilla Young, the visit to her grandparents’ country was an inspiration.

“I would like to be a ranger to visit and take care of my country,” she said.

Ms Young, who has never had a paid job, is keen for her home community of Kintore to set up a ranger group.

“Youths are wandering around the community, sitting there, being bored and doing nothing. We need rangers.”

“I am learning about my grandmother’s country. She used to walk here a long time ago, before she passed away in Kintore.”

time ago, before she passed away in Kintore. My grandparents walked together and had their children there,” she said.

“It’s the first time, so it makes me happy. We went into the helicopter to find the sacred sites we never been to.” While the rangers used the chopper for aerial burning traditional owners rediscovered and identified sites that have not been visited for decades.

Even some elders knew these sites only from what their parents and grandparents told them.

Burning trips guided by the elders are a rare opportunity for people in remote communities to visit their country.

“It’s as much about visiting remote country as it is about doing fire management work”, said the CLC’s Ben Kaethner, who supports *warlu* and *waru* committees made up by custodians from three jurisdictions. The committees plan and implement fire management across state borders. The Tjukurla trip was the first time aerial burning was used in the NT’s new Kaṯiti-Petermann Indigenous

Ms Young’s father Joe is one of many CLC delegates agitating for more ranger jobs.

“I’m really concerned about this because talking with the young people, they don’t listen to us, they don’t go visit their country, they don’t look around, anything like this,” he told *The Guardian*.

“They just stop in the town area, doing nothing. Aranda area, Pitjantjatjara, Warlpiri people, everywhere, we’re trying to stop these bad things. They’re killing themselves. We’re trying to make it better.”

Mr Young told the news service a ranger program would deliver both work and culture.

“This mob, I can see the old fellas they’ve got their young fellas with them and they know the countryside. I want to teach them properly, teach them youngest ones.”

The CLC is one of many organisations campaigning for more ranger jobs.

For more information about the Country Needs People campaign, go to goo.gl/YpGK5z



Ranger Angela Lyons from Blackstone with the aerial incendiary machine.



Site visit planning in the men’s camp.



Traditional owners plan site visits.



CLC ranger Mary Gibson leads the ground burning.

The bilby's future is in the hands of the rangers



Indigenous ranger groups map bilby habitats during the first Ninu Festival: Only four of the CLC's 11 ranger groups can find signs of bilbies still living in their work area. (Photo: Kate Crossing)

A FESTIVAL in a remote Central Australian community has left Aboriginal rangers optimistic about the future of the bilby, or ninu as it's known in Pintubi.

The first Ninu Festival in the West Australian community of Kiwirrkurra, near the Northern Territory border, energised rangers from 20 different groups about saving the ninu.

They met with scientists in Kiwirrkurra in June to share traditional and contemporary knowledge about the threatened

where the Kiwirrkurra Indigenous Protected Area is home to some healthy bilby populations and some of the best trackers.

At the three-day event rangers and custodians told scientists, conservation and government workers about their efforts to protect the ninu.

Kiwirrkurra ranger Sally Napurula Butler explained some of the methods the rangers use to grow the ninu's population.

"Setting up cameras at burrows, hunting cats and making little fires,

Mr Marlton marvelled at Napangarti's ability to not only spot tracks five metres away and identify them as a bilby, but to also know which bilby it was and doing so while driving through the spinifex in a four wheel drive.

"I was expecting to hear that it was also carrying its shopping and was feeling a bit better as it 'had a cold on Tuesday'," he wrote.

"We tracked the ninu for half a kilometre to its burrow and apparently when the bilby went in a snake came out, they could tell from the tracks."

The Ninu Festival left the roughly 120 participants motivated to keep looking after the bilby.

"We have returned to Mulan re-energised about bilbies and feeling proud to stand tall and continue our work," said Erin Flynn, the co-ordinator of the Paruku Indigenous

Protected Area.

Wildlife ecologist Rachel Paltridge, who helps with Kiwirrkurra's bilby program, said investing in Aboriginal rangers who are managing "a truly massive area of millions and millions of hectares" is the key.

"If we can ensure that everyone has the best available information, training and resources to implement management programs we will be in a really good position to save the bilby," she said.

Festival organisers, the Indigenous Desert Alliance, which includes the Central Land Council, promotes collaboration among indigenous land managers from the desert.

"It aims to keep desert country healthy and its people strong," the alliance's Kate Crossing said.

"The future of the ninu is well and truly in the hands of our ranger groups."

"We tracked the ninu for half a kilometre to its burrow and apparently when the bilby went in a snake came out, they could tell from the tracks."

species and to celebrate its cultural significance to Aboriginal people.

The bilby's habitat has shrunk by 80 percent in the last century, largely thanks to feral cats and foxes.

Its last refuges are on Aboriginal land in the border region of Western Australia and the Northern Territory

so when it rains lots of grass seeds grow up for ninu," she said.

Ranger groups from across the desert trialled drones to survey bilbies, experimented with a new cat trap and carried out a joint mapping exercise.

"They handed out maps of various bits of country to all the different mobs and said draw on this map where ninu are, where foxes are and where dingoes are.

Everyone then drew all over these maps and the scientists were all, 'This is the greatest day of my life', and everyone was really pleased," *The Guardian's* cartoonist Andrew Marlton wrote.

The ranger's tracking skills also impressed Mr Marlton.

"Yukultji Napangarti was riding shotgun in the front car," he recalled. "As she was looking out the window she said, 'Oh that's the crippled one.'"



Courtesy of Guardian News and Media Ltd.



Yukultji Napangarti tracked a ninu to its burrow.

New Mutitjulu ranger group to start up at last

MUTITJULU will finally get its own ranger group.

Almost a year after promising the community a ranger group federal Indigenous Affairs Minister Nigel Scullion has approved funding until mid-2018.

The decision allows the Central Land Council to hire up to five rangers and a co-ordinator.

The new Mutitjulu rangers will help the existing Kaltukatjara ranger group in Docker River to manage the vast Katiti Petermann Indigenous Protected Area that surrounds the Uluru Kata Tjuta National Park.

The group will operate out of the CLC's Mutitjulu office and Parks Australia's premises.

The minister promised the

new ranger group in October last year, during the 30th anniversary celebrations of the Uluru handback, and the CLC had been negotiating with the government ever since.

CLC rangers receive intensive mentoring and support and this should put the Mutitjulu rangers in a better position to win and hold jobs inside the park.



The Katiti Petermann Indigenous Protected Area.



Digital storybook puts custodians in control



Warlpiri rangers take part in video production at Sangsters Bore on the Southern Tanami Indigenous Protected Area. (Photo: Ken Johnson)

THE SOUTHERN Tanami Indigenous Protected Area (IPA) management plan was created after a great amount of input from Yapa.

But despite their involvement, the finished product remained a mystery to many traditional owners.

The Central Land Council developed the IPA management plan with traditional owners over a number of years, but wrote it with a mainstream audience in mind.

It is full of talk of “values”, “issues and opportunities”, “management objectives” and “strategies” - hardly ideal for the land managers themselves whose first language is Warlpiri and who may not speak or read English well.

Southern Tanami IPA co-ordinating council member, Madeline Dixon, summed up the issue.

“We want Warlpiri to understand too, young and old, sharing,” she said.

“For young kids to listen, learn, understand, build their knowledge and pass it on,” added her colleague Preston Kelly.

“We needed a management plan that put Yapa in control,” CLC project officer Julia Burke said.

“We also wanted it to entertain and enthuse them, grow their pride and ownership and inspire them to get

involved in IPA and ranger group activities.”

A digital management plan would tick all those boxes.

“Everyone is into technology now, you don’t get time to read a book sometimes,” explained Mr Kelly.

However, when a digital plan of the type that was needed couldn’t be found anywhere in the world traditional owners had to create their own.

The result of more than two years of research and development, trial and error is a digital storybook. The storybook has the chapters and content of the IPA management plan but no text.

“We want Warlpiri to understand too, young and old, sharing.”

“We replaced written words with multimedia in Warlpiri, such as short videos, audio, animation, diagrams and interactive maps,” Ms Burke said.

Voice navigational prompts and icons allow viewers to move through the plan as they choose.

The project brought together dozens of people to write and edit scripts, produce videos, design and test the storybook.

As one of the directors, Ms Dixon

enjoyed working with elders, school children, CLC staff, film makers and designers.

“I found it interesting - people getting together, sharing ideas and getting involved in making videos,” she said.

Poor internet access in remote communities made it necessary to develop two versions of the storybook.

One is available online, and the second is a desktop application people can access at community learning centres.

Custodians can also watch the video stories on home televisions or game consoles from a DVD.

Best of all, other IPA or ranger groups are welcome to adapt the CLC’s free digital storybook template to their needs.

The creators of the storybook hope it will empower indigenous people everywhere by giving them a better understanding of land management.

They’re already thinking of how the concept can be further developed and taken to the world.










“It’ll be good for other cultures to see,” Mr Kelly said, while Ms Dixon suggested Walpiri subtitles could improve the storybook concept even further.

The storybook is at www.walyaku.org.au.



Any questions about CLC business?

Call your regional officers:

	1. ALICE SPRINGS Nigel Lockyer, 8951 6264
	2. SOUTH WEST Allan Randall, 8956 2119
	3. NORTH WEST Rob Roy, 8975 0885
	4. TANAMI Alan Dickson, 8956 4118
	5. WEST Vacant (Marty Darr), 8951 6255
	6. TENNANT CREEK Darryl “Tiger” Fitz, 8962 2343
	7. EASTERN SANDOVER Jesy James Carr, 8956 9955
	8. EASTERN PLENTY Richard Dodd, 8956 9722
	9. CENTRAL Lawrie Liddle, 8952 6256

Rangers join record ranks of graduates



Proud graduates Frazer Oliver, Craig Le Rossignol, Farron Gorey, Shannon Lander, Christopher Ungwanaka, Obed Ratara, Preston Kelly, Ryan Raggett, Dan Pepperill, Georgina Yates, Anthony Petrick, Malcolm Kenny and Jeremy Kenny after the graduation ceremony.

CENTRAL LAND COUNCIL rangers with brand new conservation and land management certificates made up a record number of Batchelor graduates this year.

Drum Atweme, of Yipirinya School, led the academic procession at the Desert Knowledge Precinct in Alice Springs in September while friends and family cheered on the CLC’s 21 graduates.

“Our family was very proud,” said Frazer Oliver.

The graduation ceremony inspired Obed Ratara to keep going.

“I want to learn more,” he said.

Farron Gorey added: “Being graduates makes us want to keep on doing training and courses.”

The study wasn’t without its challenges though and the travel to Batchelor made some rangers a bit homesick.

“It was hard because we had to come to town for the course so we were far from family,” Malcolm Kenny said.

“I first felt shame when I put the yellow graduation gown on but I saw that all the other rangers had it, (then) it felt normal.”

The CLC rangers were part of a group of 149 students graduating across a range of disciplines.

“I know that the qualification you are about to receive will make a real difference,” Batchelor Institute CEO Robert Somerville told the students.

“And I trust that it will assist you in achieving your own personal aspirations.

Most importantly, that it enables you to make a real difference to our people, whether it be as a professional, a tradesperson, a leader or as a role model,” Mr Somerville said.

The ceremony featured the highest number of Batchelor students graduating together in more than a decade.

“There are more than 700 qualification completions in 2015 and 2016 will see this rise to more than 800,” Mr Somerville said.

CAAMA broadcast the graduation ceremony live, while Batchelor graduate Debbon Webb from Atitjere told the crowd about his journey to becoming an educator at Bradshaw Primary School in Alice Springs.



Keeping track of old memories



Leonard Kuno, his son Jimmy and his daughter Sherana enjoy photos and audio recordings of Leonard's father, at Utopia in the 1980s. (Photo: Jenny Green)



Doris Stuart is pleased to get a copy of some photos of her in the 1980s. (Photo: Jenny Green)

PRECIOUS old records about the lives of Aboriginal people are at risk of being lost or forgotten.

"It worries me that things have been collected and we don't know where they will end up," said Arrernte elder Veronica Dobson.

"Young people don't know where to look. Information is sitting idle. It needs to be used by rangers, for language work and for research."

A new project called Re-integrating Central Australian community cultural collections aims to improve access to these records.

The CLC and two of Australia's top universities joined forces last year to find out how Aboriginal people can find out where recordings of their relatives are and what the rules are for getting copies of them.

The project team, which

includes researchers from Sydney University and Melbourne University, has digitised items in old formats, such as audio cassettes and VHS video recordings and scanned thousands of photos.

In July, project team member Myfany Turpin presented Wilora community members and Neutral Junction school with copies of the first sound recordings of the Kaytetye language, as well as sign language filmed there in 1985.

"I was excited to see my aunt demonstrate hand signs for the days of the week. This is something I'm hoping to incorporate into our language program," said teacher Alison Ross.

Funding from the Australian Research Council allows the project team to spend the next two years travelling to remote communities to consult about

these materials.

"We will ask people if they would like copies and what they think about archiving and access," said Jenny Green.

"We want to hear from community members how to make it easier to find and use archival materials and to keep important cultural materials safe for future generations."

Mparntwe elder Doris Stuart was pleased to look at some photos of herself from the 1980s.

But she was also sad to see that, in the captions of some old photos, Aboriginal people were nameless and their connection to parts of their history has been lost.

"There has to be some recognition of who they are, how they looked, and what they stood for," she said.

"Every photo tells a story isn't it? Stories are a record for the next generations."

Vale Kaytetye language champion Kwementyaye Hayes

KWEMENTYAYE (Emily) Hayes Ampetyane was a strong advocate for holding on to Aboriginal languages, especially her Kaytetye mother tongue.

Kwementyaye was born in Barrow Creek and passed away in September at the age of 83 years in the Alice Springs Hospital.

The mother of Kwementyaye's father was from Akalperre, just south of Barrow Creek. Her mother was from Warlekerlange, near Barrow Creek.

As a girl, Kwementyaye was sent to Colebrook Home in South Australia, along with her siblings where they were taught literacy and numeracy.

At that time there were no educational opportunities in the Barrow Creek region.

She moved to Alice Springs in the care of her eldest brother Frank and under the wing and watchful eye of his wife Elsie.

Kwementyaye worked in various jobs and guest houses in town, including the Tea Pot Inn (now Bojangles) and the Alice Springs Hospital laundry

for 18 years.

She returned to Barrow Creek to work and regained fluency in her first language.

Kwementyaye was passionate about language.

In the 1980s she took up a DJ job where she proudly spoke and delivered her program in Kaytetye on CAAMA Radio. The *Kaytetye Show* was much loved by her relatives out in the bush.

Kwementyaye was also a registered Kaytetye interpreter. She worked in the courts, hospital, various government institutions and for film, radio and television, where she also appeared on camera from time to time.

She was one of the instigators of, and enthusiastic contributors to, the Kaytetye Dictionary project at the Institute for Aboriginal Development, translating stories, discussing words and their meanings, teaching and assisting in field trips.

Her exceptional bilingual skills made it thrilling to work with her.

She attended the Aboriginal Languages Institute in Sydney

in 2002, with many other indigenous translators and people documenting their languages.

One of the jobs she enjoyed the most was working with her cousin, the late Don Ross, on his autobiography *The Versatile Man* (IAD Press).

She interviewed him and translated his Kaytetye stories, and those of many other relatives that she had recorded in the Nganampa Anwernekenhe series and the *Kaytetye Show* for CAAMA.

Kwementyaye also helped Aboriginal people of the Stolen Generation to link up with their relatives.

Her experience of growing up away from her own family, and with many children who had been forcibly removed from their families, would have given her an affinity and empathy with them.

Kwementyaye has done much to help keep the Kaytetye language being heard today.

She was a proud Kaytetye woman who loved and cared for her family deeply.

She leaves behind her



Kwementyaye Hayes, 2002. (Photo: Myfany Turpin)

four children Janicea, Christine, Maria, Alan and 16 grandchildren and 58 great grandchildren and six

great-great grandchildren.

By Myfany Turpin, with Christine and Maria Palmer

'My future is in my hands' wins



Marlene Rubuntja with CLC Chair Francis Kelly in front of her winning work *My future is in my hands*.

"I'M SO proud of myself," Marlene Rubuntja told the packed Tangentyere Artists gallery after winning the inaugural Vincent Lingiari Art Award.

Standing beside Mr Lingiari's son Timmy Vincent and Central Land Council deputy chair Sammy Butcher, Ms Rubuntja said she had not been able to sleep the night before.

She told the ABC she was shocked at winning the \$15,000 prize for her soft sculpture *My future is in my hands*.

"I can't tell you but my heart is pounding, I can't believe it that I've won," she said. "All over my body is just happiness, everywhere!"

Ms Rubuntja said she made the sculpture to show "that I am strong" and also "for my father", former CLC chair Wenten Rubuntja.

The winning work consists of three soft-sculpted and embroidered figures representing the artist with a coolamon on her head, and two little girls.

They stand in front of an embroidered and appliquéd backdrop of her home in Yarrenyty Arltere (Larapinta Valley) town camp, with the ranges and

the television towers rising behind them.

Ms Rubuntja's artist's statement explained that her work was inspired by the fight for land rights in Alice Springs town camps, and reflected on how life had changed since white settlement.

The artist used to live in the creek, "just like that homeless mob, poor things, who I saw in the city", until her father and uncle and "lots of other strong people" built the camps.

"We had to fix things up ourselves," Ms Rubuntja's artist's statement said.

"Now we have 18 town camps, homes for our children. We have safety. I have my family living all around me. And I have a beautiful view. They can have their million dollar view in the city; I've got the MacDonnell Ranges for my view."

Curator Hetti Perkins, daughter of prominent Aboriginal activist and the CLC's first chair, Charlie Perkins, had the difficult job of choosing a winner from among 23 shortlisted works.

Ms Perkins said the range and quality of works produced for the *Our Land Our Life Our Future*

theme of the competition indicates the national significance of land rights in Australia's history.

She said Ms Rubuntja's work "captures the moment – the zeitgeist – of Aboriginal experience today."

"The artists in this exhibition tell us that our land is sentient and infused with the spirit of ancestral presence, the myriad dreaming stories that are our inheritance – that land rights means the right to retain and maintain cultural heritage and to defend and protect cultural rights, the intellectual property of our community and the right to control the creation and marketing of this unique asset," she said.

"It is the right to a home and, for some, offers a way to find your way back home."

"Land rights have given us a future," Ms Perkins said, "It is the future of our people", symbolised by the moment when Vincent Lingiari "received the soil of his country back into his hands for safekeeping".

David Frank's painting *Our Future* celebrated this moment and earned him the CLC Delegates' Choice Award.

Members voted for the Indulkana artist's work during their historic joint meeting with the Northern Land Council in Kalkaringi in August.

CLC director David Ross told the large opening night crowd that the connection between art and politics is nowhere clearer than in the fight for land rights.

"The power of our art has always been critical to the power of our land rights," he said.

"Art is part of this particular leg of the land rights journey, just as it was with us at the first legs – and long, long before that."

The award, a collaboration between the CLC and Desart, marked the 40th anniversary of the passing of the Aboriginal Land Rights Act and 50 years since the Wave Hill Walk Off.

"Both events have been really pivotal in ensuring and asserting Aboriginal rights to land," said Desart CEO Philip Watkins.

Mr Watkins said Aboriginal art played an important role in changing social, cultural and political attitudes towards indigenous issues.

"Aboriginal art, the contemporary art, has been used in a way that asserts our identity as Aboriginal people of this region and it has been used in a number of ways to assert ownership to land, both in land claims and in political messages to government."



Visitors check out Nyurpaya Kaika Burton's sculpture *Self Portrait* (centre).



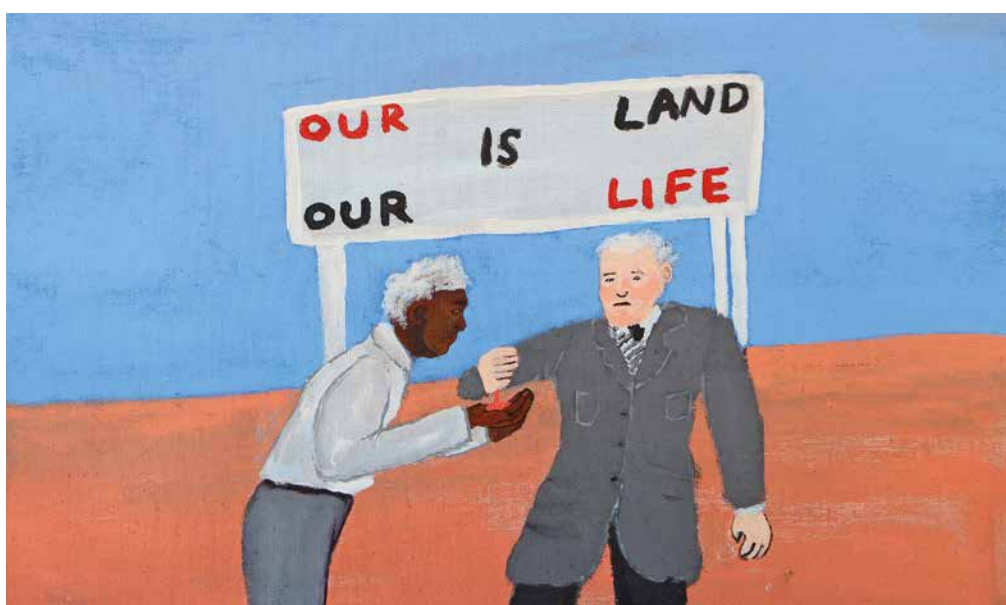
The *Our Land, Our Life, Our Future* exhibition celebrated the significance of land rights.



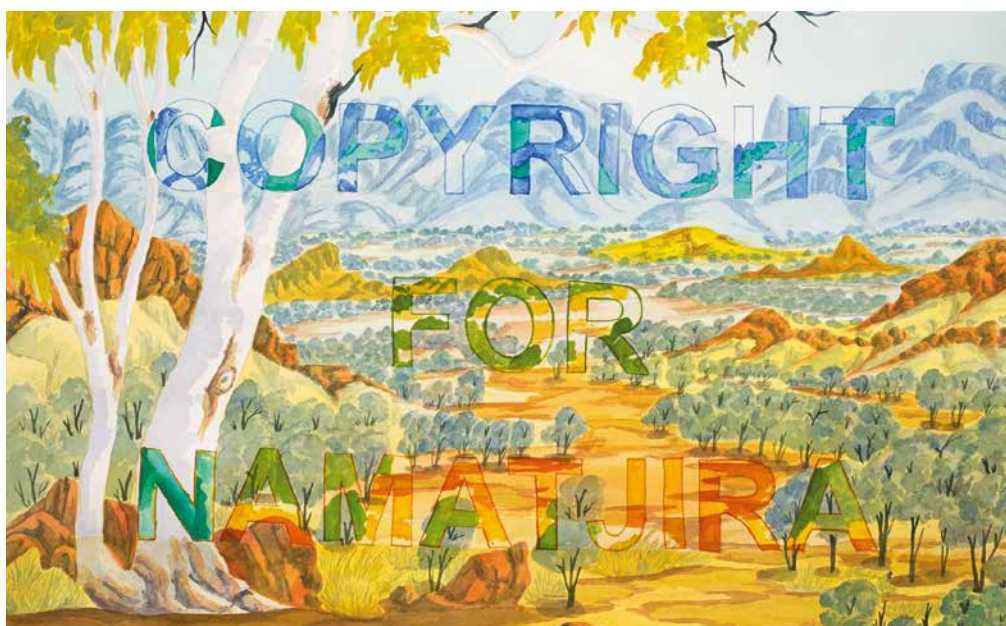
CLC deputy chair Sammy Butcher (with microphone) launched the *Our Land, Our Life, Our Future* exhibition with Vincent Lingiari's family, David Frank, David Ross and Philip Watkins.



David Frank, Peter Mungkuri, Vincent Namatjira, Tiger Yaltangki from Iwantja Arts.



The CLC will display Delegates' Choice Award winner *Our Future* along with Vincent Namatjira's painting of the same historical moment in its Alice Springs office.



The National Gallery bought *Copyright for Namatjira* by the artist's granddaughter Gloria Pannka, "a very clear and direct reference to what is really a travesty for that family in that they don't hold the copyright for the late great Albert Namatjira's work" (Hetti Perkins).



Gloria Pannka worked on the collaborative painting *Yipirinya Dreaming*.

Kungka Kutjara inspires artists



Kathryn Queama is happy to have two new initiatives supporting Kaitukutjara artists.

ARTISTS in the south-west of the Territory have at least two reasons to feel confident about the future: a new art centre in Kaitukutjara and a new art shop in Alice Springs.

The community-owned Kungka Kutjara Aboriginal Art Centre in Kaitukutjara (Dockers River) and the new art shop of the same name in Alice Springs' Kidman Street are both named after a dreaming story that is especially important to women.

One month after Roslyn Yiparti and Marlene Abbott opened the new Kaitukutjara studio, the Kungka Kutjara Art Shop opened its doors in Alice Springs.

Artist Kathryn Queama said the shop was an idea of Kaitukutjara artists who are working for the dole.

"All the other people can go to the new arts centre," Ms Queama said.

Kaitukutjara's new art centre is partnering with the established Tjarlirli Art Centre in Tjukurla, just across the West Australian border.

Kaitukutjara got its centre off the ground after investing approximately

\$80,000 of its lease money to plug some of the financial holes that had kept the doors shut.

It used the money to employ an art centre manager for six months, buy art and office materials and to contribute to the operational costs, all with the help of the Central Land Council's community development program.

Partner organisation Desart had secured Aboriginal Benefits Account funding for a manager's house and an art centre vehicle while Tjarlirli Arts in nearby Tjukurla community sourced funds for Aboriginal art worker positions and operations.

"Both centres will continue to pool resources, with the Tjarlirli manager supporting her colleague at Kaitukutjara," Desart's Executive Officer Philip Watkins said.

"The community's investment means their new art centre is getting the best start possible. An experienced manager on the ground is critical for establishing the systems and building local skills."

Willowra's got talent, will travel



The Lander River Band at the Bush Bands Bash. (Photo: Oliver Eclipse)

THE LANDER River Band's gig at the hugely popular Bush Bands Bash in Alice Springs was boosted by an injection of funds from the community's lease money project.

The money paid for more than \$12,000 worth of music equipment and has allowed the band to perform far and wide, as well as treat their home community of Willowra to concerts.

Willowra picked the Warlpiri

Youth Development Aboriginal Corporation (WYDAC) to look after the music equipment because it wanted to contribute to youth activities that bring the community together.

Band members are returning the favour by giving music lessons to WYDAC's youth program participants and PAW Media borrowed the equipment to deliver a song recording workshop.



Cameroon seeks a new approach to education



INDIGENOUS peoples of the French speaking African nation of Cameroon are facing many of the same education dilemmas as Australia's Aboriginal peoples.

The balance between tradition and school attendance is foremost.

In Boui, a small village in the Boumba and Ngoko Division of Cameroon's South-East Region, only one of the 30 Baka children who enrolled in the Ntam Carrefours' school two years ago is still going to school.

All the others have dropped out to join their parents in their traditional Baka hunter-gatherer role.

David Angoula, a Baka parent

with pick axes. As the tree gives way, women and children scurry to its trunk where honey bees have built a colony.

The Baka's deep link to nature has made attempts to introduce formal education a long and convoluted process.

Sarah Tucker, a consultant with the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), says many Baka parents don't see the benefits of modern education.

"Sending a child to school and making them stay in school demands a lot of sacrifices for parents, you know, perhaps they can go into the forest and do their traditional activities, and so they don't see a lot of the benefits of these sacrifices," says Tucker.

"Our parents left us a school in the forest, and it is that school that parents have to show their children so that they don't forget their ancestors' culture."

whose two sons left school to become hunters, says the Baka have a school in the forest bequeathed to them by their ancestors.

"We go to the forest to look for food," Angoula explains. "Our parents left us a school in the forest, and it is that school that parents have to show their children so that they don't forget their ancestors' culture."

Angoula's sons are among the Baka men here chopping away at a huge tree

Still, the Baka are aware that for them to survive in a fast changing world, they need to acquaint themselves with modern education.

"The education of peoples like the Baka is very different from educating other peoples in Cameroon," says Martiyn Ter Heedge, WWF program officer in the Campo Ma'an National Park in Cameroon's south.

"I think it's clearly understood now that there needs to be a special kind of



Bilingual education would help Baka kids to learn. (Photo: Ngala Killian Chimtom/IPS)

curriculum, special lessons and special methods used for Baka Education to be successful."

Cameroon's government is working with partners such as the WWF and the Baka themselves to craft an approach to make Baka education successful.

But, progress is slow. Both Ter Heedge and Tucker say it begins with taking into consideration the Baka way of life.

"There is endless literature and information that confirms that the best way for students to learn is to learn first in their local language," Tucker says.

"Also adapting the school calendar

to the Baka traditional calendar. This means not teaching around January and December for instance, that involves students going with their parents and spending weeks in the forest...and also adapting teaching methods to Baka culture.

So using examples from the forest and their way of life, and also using more games, activities and discovering hands-on participative learning because that is what Baka students love doing most."

Ter Heedge agrees.

"It is important that in primary education the option for bilingual education exists - bilingual meaning the Baka language and French."

Native Americans unite to stop oil pipeline



A rally against the construction of the pipeline (Photo: Sacred Stone Camp)

HUNDREDS of Native American tribes are protesting against the construction of a 1,886 kilometre oil pipeline and have pleaded with United

more than 4,000 people in resistance camps on site in North Dakota.

The \$3.8 billion pipeline, undertaken by oil company

under multiple bodies of water, including the Missouri River close to the Standing Rock Sioux tribe's reservation.

The project has been met with widespread criticism as it would destroy sacred and culturally important landscapes.

In solidarity with the resistance camps at Standing Rock, hundreds also protested against the pipeline outside President Obama's final White House Tribal Nations Conference in September.

Several First Nations leaders addressed the crowd.

"We are fighting an entire system predicated upon the

disregard and suppression of Indigenous rights, and Dakota Access is yet another example of that system in play," the Indigenous Environmental Network's Dallas Goldtooth said.

"On behalf of our rights and the sanctity of Mother Earth we must keep fossil fuels in the ground, we must and will stop the Dakota Access pipeline."

President Obama referred to the Standing Rock Sioux in his remarks to the conference.

"I know many of you have come together, across tribes and across the country, to support the community at Standing Rock and together you're making your voices heard," he said.

After a court found in favor of the pipeline, three US government departments issued a joint statement that temporarily stopped

construction on one area of the pipeline pending further review and consultation with tribes.

"The Corps of Engineers' failure to hold meaningful consultation with our tribe before approving construction of the Dakota Access Pipeline is a violation of our rights," chair of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe Dave Archambault Jr. said.

"The Obama administration has been an ally of the tribes and we appreciate that he will ask federal agencies to consider treaty rights in making decisions regarding natural resource projects."

With the fate of the pipeline now in President Obama's hands, tribal leaders and their allies are urging him to challenge the fossil fuel industry and stop the project permanently.

"On behalf of our rights and the sanctity of Mother Earth we must keep fossil fuels in the ground, we must and will stop the Dakota Access pipeline."

States President Barak Obama to step in.

More than 200 tribes have joined the Standing Rock Sioux in the fight against the Dakota Access pipeline with reports suggesting there are

Energy Transfer Partners and the United States Army Corps of Engineers, is to transport more than half a million barrels of oil per day to Illinois.

If built, it would be laid





Latin America's first peoples fight biopirates

CONCERNS are growing around the world over a profit oriented approach to biodiversity and whether the knowledge of indigenous peoples is sufficiently protected under current laws.

In July 2015, the Mexican government allowed a United

their knowledge, also known as intellectual property.

Indigenous groups and civil society organisations complain that the protocol recognises intellectual property rights for so-called bioprospectors - research centres or companies hunting

Bioprospecting (some call it biopiracy) is the systematic search for, classification of, and research into new elements in genetic material with economic value.

States company to use genetic material obtained in Mexico.

The agreement benefits the US company Bion2 Inc, about which very little is known.

Prior, informed consent from the organisation or individual who holds right of access to the material was allegedly secured.

However, the file hides the identity of this rightsholder and of the genetic material that was obtained, because the information is confidential.

Such confidentiality practices have raised concerns about the proper enforcement of a United Nations protocol on access to and sharing of benefits from the use of genetic materials, the building blocks of life.

The so-called Nagoya Protocol aims to ensure that original guardians are not deprived of the benefits of

for biological information from which they can profit.

Bioprospecting is the systematic search for, classification of, and research into new elements in genetic material with economic value.

Those opposed to the practice call it biopiracy.

In Guatemala, indigenous groups have fought their country's inclusion in the protocol, which it signed in 2014 and in June the country's Constitutional Court suspended the protocol.

"We are opposed because it was approved without the necessary number of votes in Congress, indigenous people were not consulted, and it gives permission for experimentation with and the transfer and consumption of transgenics," the head of the Guatemalan National Network for the Defence of



An indigenous farmer holds native coffee grains he grows in the southern Mexican state of Chiapas. The sharing of benefits generated by genetic resources has become a controversial issue throughout Latin America. (Photo: Emilio Godoy/IPS)

Food Sovereignty Rolando Lemus said.

Mr Lemus said the use of biodiversity is part of the culture and daily life of indigenous people, whose worldview "does not allow profiting from ancestral knowhow".

Between 2000 and 2005, Bolivia granted 10 genetic resources access contracts, out of 60 requests filed. Several of them involved quinoa and other crops from the Andean mountains.

Two of them were for commercial uses, but since new laws were passed in Bolivia in 2010, ecosystems cannot be treated as commodities and cannot

become private property. The laws curb the country's adherence to the Nagoya Protocol.

A report on biopiracy in Ecuador released in June, accused Australia, Belgium, France, Germany, Israel, the Netherlands, South Korea, the United Kingdom and the United States of improperly exploiting biological wealth.

Of 128 identified patents, companies from the US hold 35, from Germany 33, from the Netherlands 17 and from Australia 15.

"It all depends on how the governments of each country protect indigenous people, in accordance with their own legal frameworks,"

Lily Rodríguez, a researcher with the Institute for Food and Resource Economics at Germany's Bonn University, said.

"If the legislation says that they will only negotiate prior consent, including clauses on mutually agreed conditions - if they aren't in a position to negotiate, it would be good if the government supported them so the negotiations would be more equitable and favourable for native peoples," she argued.

The questions covered by the Nagoya Protocol will be debated at an international meeting in December in the Mexican city of Cancun.

Kimberley land struggle features in global report



Worldwide threats to land rights include the forced closure of Aboriginal communities says an Oxfam report.

ONGOING attempts to undermine native title in Australia's Kimberley region have been highlighted in a new Oxfam global report pushing for the land rights of indigenous peoples across the world.

The Custodians of the Land, Defenders of our Future report highlights a global land rush that is forcing millions of indigenous people from their homelands.

International development organisation Oxfam says it has

been raising the alarm about a great global land rush since 2009.

It says investors have acquired millions of hectares of land to meet rising demand for food and biofuels, or for speculation, with more than half of deals covering communal lands claimed by indigenous peoples and small communities.

Oxfam says the world is in the midst of the single biggest attack on people's identity, rights, livelihoods

and security, as well as the environment.

Part of Oxfam's Land Rights Now campaign, the report says Aboriginal people in Australia's Kimberley face a situation where West Australian Government policy and action is actively seeking to weaken rights to native title.

Threats include the forced closure of remote Aboriginal communities, which will disconnect people from their land, the weakening of laws

that protect sacred cultural sites, the undermining of successful carbon offset projects and moves to force indigenous peoples to give up their land rights by creating new conservation reserves.

Oxfam Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People's Program Manager Justin McCaul said the Kimberley was the only region within a rich and highly developed nation represented in the report.

"We are in some ways less supportive of indigenous land rights than some developing nations," Mr McCaul said.

"And as the KLC (Kimberley Land Council) experience highlights, there is a tendency to violate and undermine the rights of indigenous peoples.

"The Kimberley case study is an example of the continuous struggle that Aboriginal people face to not only achieve native title, but maintain those rights.

"Strong land rights are vital for the development of economic opportunities

for Aboriginal people in the Kimberley, which are key to ending inequality," Mr McCaul said.

KLC Chief Executive Nolan Hunter said that after almost four decades fighting for the recognition of land rights, discriminatory actions were preventing Aboriginal people from fully exercising their rights.

"The real issue we are facing is that state land administration does not recognise native title," Mr Hunter said.

"Indigenous people have looked after country for thousands of years and we must be supported to do this through indigenous protected areas and sole indigenous land management.

"With a state election looming in March, now is the time for politicians to listen to indigenous voices to strengthen and protect our right to manage native title once and for all," he said.

More information at www.landrightsnow.org.



Break out year for prisoners' football team

A TEAM of prisoners has contested a Barkly Australian Football League (BAFL) grand final for the first time.

The Barkly Work Camp Allstars lost to the reigning premiers, Sporties Spitfires, in Tennant Creek in September, but that did nothing to dampen their enthusiasm.

BWC Chief Correctional Officer Danny Measures said the players put in a great effort.

"For them, it was all about participation," Mr Measures said.

"Here at the work camp, playing in the BAFL is part of the community reintegration process. So they were pretty pleased with themselves getting that far."

The grand final may have been the first time a team of prisoners played in an official affiliated football league game in Australia.

Mr Measures said last year the BWC Allstars' finished fourth on the ladder after being eliminated in the first semifinal.

"This year they contributed well throughout the season, a testament to just how far the program has come in two years," he said.

"In last Saturday's final they



The Barkly Work Camp Allstars take on the Sporties Spitfires (Photo Tennant Creek Times).

started well and it was a pretty good game in the first half but after that BWC Allstars' levels of fitness dropped somewhat.

"During the third quarter it was telling that the Spitfires had fresh legs and they propelled the Spitfires to a 25 point lead at the three quarter time break.

"The Spitfires were able to maintain that lead throughout the last quarter, running out 35 point winners.

"Full credit and

congratulations to [Spitfires coach] Randall Gould and his team, especially to Farron James (who was awarded best on ground in the grand final) and Thomas Gillett - two outstanding players who made the difference between the two teams."

Mr Measures, who has run the BWC program since its establishment in 2011, says prisoners have been assisting the BAFL all along as goal, field and boundary umpires

and scorers.

"For these past two years, as fully accredited players in the league, they have facilitated and managed the program themselves," he said.

"They have completed basic umpiring courses and have held official capacities with the AFLNT, AFL Central Australia and the BAFL.

"What many don't realise is that being a part of the BWC Allstars has allowed many of the prisoners to participate

in the BAFL once they are released from the work camp," Mr Measures said.

"It has proved to be a win-win situation for everyone involved and has definitely improved the skills and confidence within the team."

Final scores: Sporties Spitfires 12.13 (85) to BWC Allstars 7.8 (50).

Spitfires goal scorers: Thomas Gillett 4, Antonio Riley 2, C. Mills, Nick Foster, Leo Walden, Darrell Lowe, Troy Gillett and Lachlan Lake one each. **Allstars goal scorers:** Dallas Scobie 4, Tony Morgan 2 and Sean Willy 1.

Spitfires best players: Steven Lawton, Matthew Green, Thomas Gillett, Danyon Kerrin, Farron James and Troy Gillett.

Allstars best: Floyd Ellis, Tony Morgan, Dallas Scobie, Leon Andrew, Edwin Cook and Keith Walker.

Other teams in this year's league (in final ladder order) were Elliott, Janapurlalki Eagles, YDU, Ali Curung and Ammaroo.

This is an edited version of a story that appeared in the Tennant Creek and District Times.

In Utju, being able to play is a victory

NTARIA may have beaten its host Utju (Areyonga) in the footy competition, but the home side chalked up a win anyway for holding its first sports carnival in seven years. A commitment of more than \$13,000 from Utju's community lease money meant the carnival could go ahead over a weekend in May. Utju's chosen project partner,

the Finke River Mission, used the money to pay for football and softball equipment, trophies, to hire equipment, bands and footy umpires.

Working group member Gordon Tiger said the carnival gave people across the region a chance to display their skills and socialise.

"It all went really well, the community was really proud,

we want to save up to do it again next year," he said.

Another working group member, Jonathon Doolan, also doesn't want to wait another seven years for the next sports weekend.

"We want to keep it going. It's good, but we want to help the kids too. We could include them more next time, give them a running race."



Winners all 'round at Utju's first sports carnival in seven years.



Congratulations to NT State Championship Division 2 Women's Softball winners from the Western Desert: LEFT to RIGHT (BACK ROW): Phyllis Rowe (coach), Tenisha Gallagher, Jacinta Miller, Felicia Inkamala, Nikasha Michaels and Rosemary Poulson (FRONT ROW): Rita Djana, Sylvia Sharpe, Karey Major and Nereda Roberts and Anisha Gorey, (Photo: MacDonnell Regional Council)



Anawari Winmati, Daphne Puntjina, Ijawali Bert, Theresa Nipper, Wilma Dixon and Judy Brumby take time out from a trip to Pantu to smell the wildflowers.



Mutitjulu working group members David Pearce, Malya Teamay, Dorethea Randall, Judy Trigger, Colin Armstrong and Evonne Taylor celebrate their oval upgrade at the community's picnic day.



CLC policy team Jayne Weepers and Josie Douglas at Kalkaringi.



Yarrungkanyi traditional owners monitored the laying of Telstra's optic cable along the Tanami road.



CENTRAL LAND COUNCIL

TEMPORARY CLOSURE

The CLC's Alice Springs offices must be closed for major repairs as a result of damage caused by the June storm.

Closed on Friday 16 December 2016
Reopening on Tuesday 3 January 2017

We apologise for any inconvenience and wish you a happy and safe summer break.

Congratulations to our top kitty killers

Rangers Christine Michaels-Ellis from Nyirrpri (right) and Yukultji Napangarti Ward from Kiwirrkurra (left) have won the 2016 WA and NT Feral Cat Hunting Awards for killing more feral cats than anyone else in their communities.



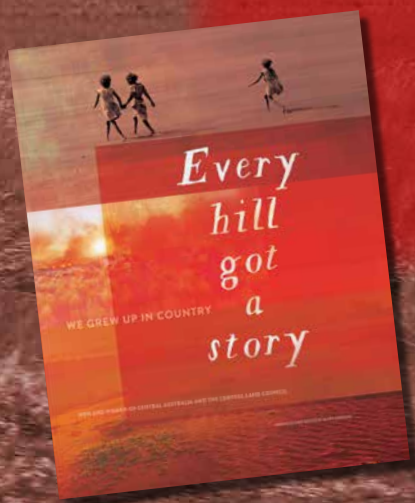
“I NEVER USED TO GET ANY MONEY.”



At the station [Mount Riddock], I was a child minder. I used to look after the children of the two managers. But I also used to work ironing clothes, and sometimes washing plates. I worked in the kitchen helping with the cooking and doing things like making the gravy. I set the tables for the station people, carefully wiping the knives and forks and putting them in place. Then after that I'd get all the plates and wash them and dry them until they were sparkling clean before I put them back in their rightful places. Then I would wash the saucepans and frying pans. After that I'd clean the inside of the house and mop the floors.

After washing the floors, I'd go – like, after lunch we'd take the children back and put them to sleep. After the children were settled down to sleep, in the afternoon, the ironing would start again. I never used to get any money. I just used to work in the same place that I boarded. Other days the floors would be washed with a bucket and a rag. I used to mop the spot where the whitefellas walked backwards and forwards.

~ Margaret Kemarre Turner ~
Excerpt from *Every hill got a story*



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

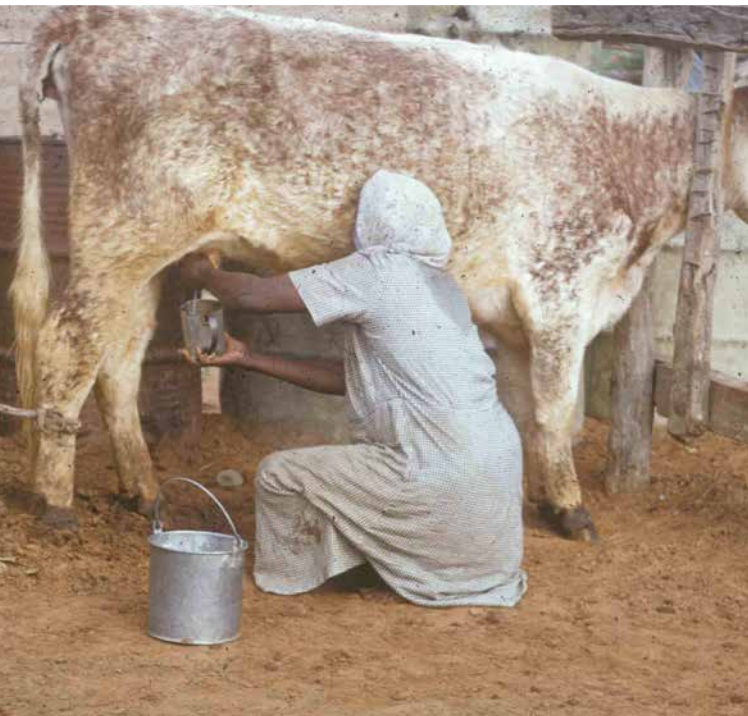


Photo courtesy of Stehlow Research Centre, SRC Jaeschke 0170.

Soap making. Photo courtesy of Stehlow Research Centre, SRC Gross 0012.

Doing the ironing at Hermannsburg. Photo courtesy of Stehlow Research Centre, SRC Gross 0058.

Central Land Council

Digital Archive

Share
**your
past...**
with the future

Now also accessible by mobile phones and tablets
<http://clc.keepingculture.com>

