

# OUR GIFT TO ALL

**ANTHWERRKE  
INTERACTIVE  
TOUR APP  
LAUNCHED**



**P. 6**

**NORTHERN TANAMI IPA  
TURNS 10**



**P. 14**

**WUTUNURRGURA BUILDS  
COMMUNITY SPIRIT**



**P. 4**

**SEVEN SISTERS ARE FLYING**



**P. 19**





## 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:  
**May 2018**

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

## COVER

Lynette Ellis shows off the Anthwerrke interactive tour she and other traditional owners funded and developed with their parks rent money.



## CLC MEETINGS

**7-9 November**  
Council,  
Alpururulam

**18-19 November**  
Executive,  
Alice Springs

**6-7 December**  
Executive,  
Alice Springs

# Bush tenants need NT rental policy overhaul

THE TERRITORY'S Aboriginal peak organisations have called on the NT Government to review its rental policy in remote communities and come clean on tenants' alleged debts following a test case in the Supreme Court that highlighted rental payment chaos.

At stake is whether remote community tenants will have to pay millions of dollars worth of rental debts.

APO NT's comments respond to the test case and reports since at least 2012 that the NT Housing Department has trouble working out who has paid what rent and when, and whether non-payment of rents was the fault of tenants or bureaucrats.

"The Gunner government has declared an interest in fixing remote housing. If it wants a solution it will need to have more courage than the governments before it, and address this issue head on," APO NT's Lianne Caton said.

In a test case involving one of 70 Santa Teresa residents who last year sued the department for failing to repair and maintain their homes, Justice Stephen Southwood ruled that the tenancy agreement of a randomly selected resident signed in 2010 is valid despite



The housing department is pursuing Santa Teresa tenants over rental debts they didn't know they owed.

several changes of landlord.

The department countersued 70 of Santa Teresa's 100 households who took it to the tribunal for failing to fix their houses last year, claiming

**"These debts took years to build up, and the department never told the tenants they were making incorrect payments."**

they had caused the damage themselves and owed rent.

The Australian newspaper reported the department first claimed the tenant owed \$20,000 in back rent, then cut this to \$4,000 and now plan to amend the claim again.

According to the department's records, about

half the Santa Teresa tenants owe an estimated \$1 million in unpaid rent.

When Justice Southwood asked the Territory's barrister Trevor Moses why the

department did not raise the debt with the tenants earlier, he didn't have an answer.

"These debts took years to build up, and the department never told the tenants they were making incorrect payments," Ms Caton said.

"It wasn't until the tenants took them to court demanding

that their houses be repaired, that they tell them about all this debt. It's disgraceful."

With over 6000 houses across the Territory operating under the same rental system, APO NT is concerned that tenants elsewhere may face similar crippling debts, but have not been told by the department.

"The government needs to come out and explain the situation and the status of these debts," Ms Caton said.

"If tenants are looking at repaying 10 or \$20,000, for many people in remote communities, who are already experiencing financial distress that will be an insurmountable burden."

**Continue p.4**

## Will the government frack under the pressure?

THE NT Government is under increasing pressure to lift its temporary ban on fracking, ahead of the report of the independent scientific inquiry into the controversial technique.

The inquiry's much anticipated final report, due before the end of the year, will put the ball firmly in Chief Minister Michael Gunner's court.

On one side are community members who want the controversial gas extraction technique banned for good.

On the other is the Australian Government, which is ratcheting up the pressure on the NT Government to lift the ban.

The NT, along with Victoria, NSW, WA and Tasmania, have complete or partial bans on coal seam gas exploration or development.

Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull, under pressure himself from east coast voters, is blaming the fracking bans, including the NT's, for a gas shortage that has pushed up prices.

"Pull the trigger, Gunner," the PM said during his visit to Darwin in September.

He demanded the NT lift the ban on fracking and wrote to the Chief Minister that the ban is putting jobs at risk.

There have also been



Scott Dinny protested during the Freedom Day Festival at Kalkaringi.



Justice Pepper addressed the CLC's council meeting in May.

## "How are you going to manage our precious water?"

threats to cut Commonwealth payments to the Territory if it doesn't lift the ban.

Mr Gunner says the NT already produces more gas than it can use and is happy to sell it to the other states or welcome their industries to the Territory.

He is not the only one who does not buy the gas shortage story.

Experts have pointed out

that energy companies such as Santos sell most of the gas Australia produces overseas, at lower prices.

Independent inquiry chair Justice Rachel Pepper told the CLC's council meeting in Tennant Creek that the Gunner government had asked her team of experts to find out whether fracking could be done safely in the Territory.

The CLC delegates voiced many concerns about fracking, especially about its big use of water and its impact on climate change (see also story p 20).

"If fracking goes ahead, will the government be able to control it?" asked Mary James who had travelled to the meeting from Elliott.

"Can the poisons be removed from the environment safely?" Owen Torres, from Wutunurrigura, wanted to know.

Patrick Oliver, from Ntaria, was worried about whether the large amounts of groundwater used in fracking will cause springs to dry up.

"How are you going to manage our precious water?" he asked.

Justice Pepper promised answers to all these questions, but made it very clear that the decision whether to lift the ban on fracking was the NT Government's alone.

The moratorium on fracking was a key election promise of the Labor Party, which was responding to widespread community concern about its impacts on the local and global environment.

Opinion polls show the ban remains very popular.

Mr Gunner said he will not be bullied by the Australian Government.





# Should the NT Government allow fracking or not?



## Wanta Janpijimpa

Lajamanu

Fracking is not a good thing and me being an indigenous person from here, I would like to see the land like it has always been. Fracking would interrupt ecosystems. I haven't seen it in action, but all indigenous people around the world seem to go against it and it seems to bring chaos. I don't want to see fracking here.



## Owen Torres

Wutunurrurga

No, there are too many uncertainties with fracking. Our water is sacred and we need to protect it from any contamination. We don't have water like other countries. Fracking is not the way to go and we shouldn't be forced into something the government should have been able to deal with without selling all our gas reserves.



## Teresa Ross

Yuendumu

If the government allows fracking, it would wreck Aboriginal lands, it is not only bad for the land, but it is bad for the animals and the people too.



## Sam Watson

Yuendumu

I don't think they should allow fracking because they would go to sacred places where we don't even go. They would damage those places and have no respect for the land. Also, we are hunting and eating bush tucker and if they pollute the ground the animals and plants we eat will be contaminated too and we might be sick.



## Cliffy Tommy

Yuelamu

We know only a little bit about fracking. They've shown us photos of what happens, they just make a mess and leave. They already wanted to do it a couple of years ago and the community said no. So no, I don't think fracking should be allowed.



## Martin Hagan

Laramba

I think it's a bad idea because on the land we have animals and plants and our water supply as well under the ground. Some people in my community have no idea of what fracking is. We need someone to come down and explain, to show us a video of what is happening in other countries.



## Valerie Martin

Yuendumu

No, because it's gonna destroy our land. We already have no water left in Yuendumu, we have ground water shortage so no, we don't want fracking at all!



## Ron Hagan

Laramba

I can talk only for my country, but they can't do it here. It will hurt the land and pollute the ground water. This is not good!



## CENTRAL LAND COUNCIL ONLINE

Website

[www.clc.org.au](http://www.clc.org.au)

Digital archive

<http://clc.ara-irititja.com>

Facebook

[@CentralLandCouncil](https://www.facebook.com/CentralLandCouncil)

You can also contact us : **FREECALL 1800 003 640** | [info@clc.org.au](mailto:info@clc.org.au)





# Fence off Darwin to build the bush says economist

A NORTHERN TERRITORY researcher has called for Darwin to be separated from the rest of the Territory to allow more money to reach bush communities.

Charles Darwin University's Professor Rolf Gerritsen has called for a radical change to the NT's political system and institutions in order to fix the unfair advantage the capital has enjoyed since self-government.

"If we are serious about a fairer and more inclusive Northern Territory then it is time that our governance structures are reformed to allow

for a better distribution of the budget to remote and regional communities," Professor Rolf Gerritsen said.

The economist, from Alice Springs, told a social services conference in Darwin in September that Darwin should become a city state similar to Canberra while the rest of the Territory should be run by a local government system "that rewards Aboriginal participation".

What's needed, he said, is a model that gives equal access to and produces equal outcomes for the bush.

Professor Gerritsen said the pro-Darwin bias is now so strong that those who benefit from it can no longer see just how extreme it is.

He said two examples are the NT's spending on housing and "the over-funding of urban schools – but it hardly matters where one looks to find examples of underspending in the bush".

He said that while none of these examples was "horrendous in isolation", taken together they showed that the money the NT gets from Canberra mainly funds

the growth of Darwin.

"People in Darwin are much more readily able to influence decisions than the people in a place like Yuendumu, for example, who rarely see a politician," the researcher said.

"Unless we challenge the institutional basis of the Northern Territory and replace it with a system that provides people in the bush with better access to politicians, we'll see urban bias get worse as Darwin grows, and the potential for the rest of the Territory to influence politics will be reduced," he warned.



Professor Rolf Gerritsen. Photo: CDU

## Wutunurrigura's construction workers lift community spirits

THE OPPORTUNITY to work on the construction of houses in Wutunurrigura (Epenarra) is giving a group of young men the chance to also build the spirit of the community.

The five men, Cedric Price, Regan Morton, Silas Peterson, Ezra Casson and Jeremiah Beasley, have been busy

Pedersens Pty Ltd is a company that specialises in remote construction with 62 percent of its staff Aboriginal workers, including a majority of Wutunurrigura locals, working on 12 new houses in that community.

The boss is full of praise for them too.

**"I was doing welding and fencing before, but I like learning different skills, something more."**

building brand new houses for their community for the past two months.

They've been helping the team of Alice Springs builder Michael Pedersen lay brickwork, pour concrete, build cupboards and operate machinery.

"I was doing welding and fencing before, but I like learning different skills, something more," Mr Price said.

"They take ownership of their work and feel valued as part of the team because they don't just do the sweeping, they get on the tools and they do everything that we do.

It's all about being part of the team," Mr Pedersen said.

The National Partnership on Remote Housing, now in its final year, is paying for the new houses.

Mr Morton said local families are proud of their



Cedric Price, Regan Morton, Silas Peterson, Ezra Casson and Jeremiah Beasley are building 12 new houses.

work and Mr Casson reckons the project is really making a difference.

Mr Pedersen agrees.

"It's about community pride. They are proud of the

work that they do, and the community has a good spirit about it," he said.

### From p.2

There has been speculation that the department may have to write off millions of dollars in unpaid rents that were supposed to be invested back into fixing up the houses.

Lawyers for the tenants told *The Australian* that the debts are "unconscionable" because a string of NT governments mismanaged community housing.

"If the circumstances in Santa Teresa are replicated elsewhere in the Territory, as we believe they are, then that could amount to tens or hundreds of millions of dollars of unenforceable debts," Daniel Kelly from Australian Lawyers for Remote Aboriginal Rights told the paper.

"Households were making incorrect payments for years and never told debt was accruing. The first our clients

heard about rental debts was when they were countersued by the department."

It is not the first time the department's mishandling of rent collection has come to light.

In 2012 it was revealed that it held \$1.39 million in an

**"We are concerned about a government pursuing vulnerable people through the courts to enforce debts from such a chaotic system."**

unreconciled rent account, and did not know who had paid the money, or for what housing.

A Commonwealth ombudsman found that the NT Government had "difficulties identifying whether people are paying rent when they should not or, conversely, not paying rent when they should".

In the same year, the NT Ombudsman called for "every single" rental payment collected by Centrelink for remote housing to be reviewed, but no action was taken.

Last year the Northern Australian Aboriginal Justice

Agency, part of the APO NT alliance, reported that the problems were continuing and that the department had kept rental payments from people not living in houses and who did not have to pay rent.

"We are concerned about a government pursuing vulnerable people through

the courts to enforce debts from such a chaotic system," Ms Caton explained.

"Especially in circumstances where the housing provided is of such a poor standard and subject to chronic overcrowding."

If the tenants don't know about the alleged debts and make incorrect payments the debts keep increasing.

Then, when they complain about repairs not being done the department hits them with the debts.

This is what happened to the tenant at the centre of the test case.

She signed her tenancy agreement after the then Henderson government launched a new tenancy scheme in 2010.

It promised "long-lasting improvements" and to "ensure people in the bush pay fair rents and have better systems

in place to manage their housing".

After hearing evidence about more than 600 long overdue emergency repairs the NT Civil and Administrative Tribunal last year warned that the department may not have the legal power to force the tenants to pay the alleged debts and sent the case to the Supreme Court for clarification.

The dispute dates back to the 'intervention' in 2007, when the Howard federal government took out five-year leases over remote NT communities.

When these leases expired, in 2012, no alternative tenure arrangements were put in place.

The Supreme Court ruled in September that the tribunal has the authority to deal with these agreements and will reconvene on October 10.





# Peak Aboriginal groups tell UN of racist work for the dole scheme



APO NT members joined a trade union rally against the work for the dole scheme.

ABORIGINAL Peak Organisations NT has told the United Nations that the Australian Government denies people in remote communities their basic rights to equality, work and income through its racist work for the dole scheme.

In a joint statement lodged with the United Nations Human Rights Council, APO NT and the Human Rights Law Centre called on the UN to urge Australia to abandon its racially discriminatory so-called community development program (CDP) and replace it with an Aboriginal-led model.

John Paterson, a CEO of the APO NT, said the scheme forces jobseekers in Aboriginal communities to work up to 760 hours more per year for the same basic

payment as jobseekers in cities.

"The scheme discriminates on the basis of race, with around 83 per cent of people in the program being Aboriginal, was imposed on

"Instead, they receive a basic social security payment that is nearly half of the minimum wage in Australia. People should be paid an award wage and afforded workplace rights and protections to do that

**"People in remote communities want to take up the reins and drive job creation and community development."**

remote communities by the government and is having devastating consequences in those communities," Mr Paterson said.

Adrianne Walters, from the Human Rights Law Centre, said some people in remote communities are required to do work that they should be employed to do.

work," Ms Walters said.

The statement urges the Australian Government to work with Aboriginal people on APO NT's alternative model that treats people with respect, protects their human rights and provides opportunities for economic and community development.

"People in remote

communities want to take up the reins and drive job creation and community development," Mr Paterson said. "Communities need a program that sees people employed on decent pay and conditions, to work on projects the community needs. It's time for government to work with us," he said.

APO NT members launched their alternative model for fair work and strong communities

APO NT members met with the Minister for Indigenous Affairs, Nigel Scullion, to press the case for their alternative model.

They also spoke to the Senate inquiry into the failed scheme.

Mr Paterson said the model "will see new opportunities for jobs and community development and get rid of pointless administration, and provide incentives to encourage people into work,



APO NT's John Paterson at the Senate hearing into the CDP.

at Parliament House in Canberra on September 8, with the support of 32 organisations ranging from local Aboriginal corporations, regional Aboriginal and local government councils and job service providers to major national bodies.

Earlier that day, the trade unions organised a protest in front of the parliament to drive home the message to politicians.

training and other activities, rather than punishing people who are already struggling to make ends meet".

"Aboriginal organisations have brought a detailed policy solution to the government's front door," said Ms Walters.

She said it would "create jobs and strengthen communities, rather than strangling opportunities as the government's program is doing."

# Award promises to spread Dr Josie's research

THE CLC's senior policy officer Dr Josie Douglas has won a prestigious national award for analysing how young people in Central Australia learn and practice Aboriginal ecological knowledge.

Her doctoral thesis *Kin and Knowledge: the meaning and*

**"Young people's social and cultural lives remain relatively invisible and I wanted to change this."**

*acquisition of Indigenous Ecological Knowledge in the lives of young Aboriginal people in Central Australia* was selected for the 2017

WEH Stanner award from a record number of entries in August.

Dr Douglas said she wanted to understand how Aboriginal people renew and share this knowledge amid the stresses and challenges of modern life.

"Young people's social and cultural lives remain relatively invisible and I wanted to change this," Dr Douglas said.

The judges from the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies agreed that her work "actively challenges stereotypes" and was "a powerful counteractive against negative depictions and the deficit discourse around Aboriginal youth today".

Part of the prize is support to publish the manuscript and take it to a wider audience.



The CLC's Dr Josie Douglas (centre), with AIATSIS council member Donisha Duff and AIATSIS CEO, Craig Ritchie



# Modern day app meets ancient wonder

THE TRADITIONAL owners of Anthwerrke (Emily Gap) have made Alice Springs and visitors from around the world a priceless gift.

Their Anthwerrke interactive tour app is like having a friend walk you through one of the region's most significant dreaming sites and explain the hidden meaning of its natural features, plants, animals and cultural history.

"I feel so happy that it's finally here," Lynette Ellis said about the virtual visitor experience she and other traditional owners funded "to put Emily and Jessie Gaps on the map".

The group spent \$34,000 of their rent income from the Yeperenye/Emily and Jessie Gaps Nature Park to develop the Territory's first interactive visitor app by traditional owners.

Ms Ellis, from Amoonguna, had come to the sacred site to launch the app, but first had to give Victorian couple John and Hilary Searle a sneak preview of the videos featuring custodians of the site.

The Searles had popped into Anthwerrke for a quick visit, but decided to stay for the launch of the virtual experience of the place where the three caterpillar songlines Yeperenye, Ntyarlke and Utnerrengeatye meet.

"The app tells a story about good bush tucker and snails out here and the caterpillar story," Ms Ellis explained.



Chansey Paech (third left) wants the Parks and Wildlife Commission to employ more local Aboriginal rangers on their own country.

"We don't get many tourists in the East Macs, but now that the app is out we might see a lot more tourists come out this way to see this special place and us families getting more recognised."

For Ms Ellis, who had been working on the project with the Central Land Council's community development team for four years, it's the start of "something big and exciting".

Her idea of a walking and cycling trail between Emily and Jessie Gaps is taking shape and planning is underway.

"Traditional owners could be at the trail and tell stories about the country. They could be building it, it would be a job opportunity for young Aboriginal rangers," she said.

"I reckon young people in Amoonguna should come and help. We have a good lot of young people out there who are willing to help and want to work on their country."

"For me as a person of Eastern

caring for country when it's on their doorstep and for tourists to have that interaction?

"I think that's one of the best things about today, to see tourists coming while we're doing the launch and see this amazing app where you can actually have someone sharing stories and lived experiences with you. You just can't put a value on that," said Mr Paech.

"Without a knowledgeable guide by your side you may be able to appreciate the beauty of Anthwerrke, but you would miss out on its stories and leave this special place none the wiser," he said.

The app is one of many community development projects in which Aboriginal people are investing

**"Without a knowledgeable guide by your side you may be able to appreciate the beauty of Anthwerrke but you would miss out on its stories and leave this special place none the wiser."**



Traditional owners Andrew, Clem and Theo Alice showed the app to Chansey Paech.



Victorian tourist Hilary Searle (right) said the app "adds to the experience".

Arrernte heritage it's so refreshing to see investment go into the East Macs. It's sometimes an area that is forgotten," said Chansey Paech, who launched the app with Ms Ellis.

The Member for Namatijira wants the NT Government to match the generosity of the traditional owners by employing more of them on their country.

"It's a great opportunity for the government to work with the CLC around having Aboriginal rangers caring for country within the Parks and Wildlife Commission," he said.

"This is an area that is close to town, it's highly visited by tourists. What better way to have young mob

collective income streams, such as the rent they receive for the 16 jointly managed NT parks.

"In 2010 CLC members decided to use 100 per cent of this income stream for community development and last financial year traditional owners invested more than a million dollars of their park rent income in projects they drive," CLC director David Ross explained.

He said those projects are some of the most positive outcomes from joint management of the parks to date.

To download the free app go to <http://sitesandtrails.com.au/site/anthwerrke-emily-gap>.



# BRUMBY PLAINS STATEMENT

**W**e, the members of the Central Land Council are sovereign people drawing our strength and laws from country. We sing for country, we dance for country and our laws and systems of governance are still strong.

The Australian constitution must recognise us as First Nations of Australia. Nothing will be lost, instead, Australia will gain 65,000 years of culture and history. We endorse the Uluru Statement, which calls for constitutional protection for a voice to parliament, supports treaty-making and truth-telling.

We have long called for Aboriginal self-determination and Aboriginal self-government, and greater control over our own communities. Local treaty negotiations should be protected by a national treaty framework.

In the NT we have benefited from the Commonwealth 'race powers' through the enactment of the Aboriginal Land Rights Act. We have also experienced the worst of the 'race powers' with the imposition of the racist NT Intervention. The Australian Parliament should not pass racially discriminatory laws that harm our people.

We want to be part of designing the voice to parliament to ensure it represents people from the bush, and to ensure it is powerful. This work should be progressed before we go ahead with a referendum.

A successful referendum requires the support of non-indigenous people, and we invite all Australians to join us on this journey to achieve constitutional reform.

Central Land Council  
31 August 2017



## The bush is impatient for reform



"We need more indigenous voices in parliament." - Gurindji leader Rob Roy with the Uluru Statement.

CENTRAL Land Council delegates endorsed the historic Uluru Statement in August, but the campaign to keep the momentum of the historic agreement alive in the face of government inaction continues.

The statement, written after a meeting of Aboriginal leaders from across the country at Uluru in May ahead of a proposed referendum on constitutional recognition, demands an active role in designing a 'voice to parliament'.

Meeting at Brumby Plains, north-west of Kalkaringi, more than 70 elected CLC delegates discussed the double-edged sword that is the 'race power' of the Australian constitution.

They talked about how it has delivered them land rights, but also the failed Intervention.

The delegates released the Brumby Plains

for a voice enacted. We join our voice with the vision of seeing a Gurindji speaking to parliament, and the truth being told about our history," Mr Roy said.

Aboriginal people have been looking to Mr Turnbull for leadership and they are getting impatient.

Referendum Council member Meagan Davis has blasted Canberra's "indifference to one of the most significant statements issued by the first peoples to the Australian people".

Federal Labor MP Linda Burney, meanwhile, warned that time for constitutional reform is running out.

Ms Burney told NITV that Labor is waiting for the Prime Minister to respond to its request for a joint parliamentary committee to progress the referendum, something only Mr Turnbull can set up.

"We would like to see the issue of

**"We would like to see the question and the timing to be concluded by the end of this year."**

Statement that calls for an Aboriginal body advising the Australian Parliament.

They said the body needs to represent remote community residents and act as a powerful voice against racially discriminatory laws.

The CLC's statement followed big shows of support for the Uluru Statement from Kimberley Aboriginal organisations and this year's Freedom Day celebrations at Kalkaringi.

The Kimberley's peak Aboriginal organisations declared in September: "We, the Kimberley mob, endorse and support the Uluru Statement. We call on the Australian Government and opposition to support a referendum".

At Kalkaringi in August, Rob Roy read out the endorsement of the Gurindji community after the re-enactment of the Wave Hill Walk Off in August.

"Dr Yunupingu put down a challenge to our Prime Minister at Garma to see the call

constitutional recognition, the question and the timing to be concluded by the end of this year," she said.

"And I'm afraid that time is running out. It is up to the Prime Minister to move and we are waiting on the Prime Minister to do so."

Ms Burney said next year there will not only be a series of state elections, but other constitutional referendum issues that could see the referendum kicked "off into the long grass".

Changes to section 44 that bars dual nationals from being elected to parliament, an Australian republic and four-year parliamentary terms could all become distractions.

"The first cab off the rank has to be a referendum to address the issues for indigenous people within the constitution and that's what we are urging," Ms Burney said.



Philip Wilyuka translated information for CLC delegates at the Brumby Plains meeting while Barb Shaw reported on the outcomes of Uluru and Garma meetings.



# Phillip Creek native title sparks memories

THE NATIVE title determination over Phillip Creek Station has triggered many memories for Warumungu and Warlmanpa families.

“Some of us worked or grew up on Phillip Creek Station

**“As a young man, my father worked there, doing station work and looking after country.”**

or our families told stories of what life was like working and living on the station in the early days,” Norman Frank, one of the native title holders, explained.

“As a young man, my father worked there, doing station work and looking after country,” he added.

In August, Justice Debra Mortimer handed down a consent determination over an area of approximately 3,800 square kilometres during a special sitting of the Federal Court on the cattle station 55 kilometres north of Tennant Creek.

The nine landholding



The Kanturrpa group poses with Justice Debra Mortimer at the Phillip Creek native title declaration.

groups with traditional attachment to the claim area, the Kankawarla, Jajjinyarra, Patta, Pirrtangu, Purrurtu, Wapurru, Yurtuminyi, Kanturrpa and Linga groups had travelled from across the Territory to the ceremony at Purrumpuru Waterhole, one of a number of significant waterholes in the claim area. One of them was the

manager of the Central Land Council’s native title unit, Francine McCarthy.

“The determination recognises our rights to hunt and gather on the land and waters and to conduct cultural activities and ceremonies,” said Ms McCarthy.

“It gives us the right to negotiate about exploration, mining and tourism activities

on our land while the lessee will continue to operate the lease as a cattle station,” she said.

A good relationship with the pastoral lessee has enabled the native title holders to continue to visit their country and look after it.

Between 1995 and 1998, the CLC negotiated approval for three community living areas

on the station for native title holders and their families.

These excisions are not part of the native title determination area.

When Phillip Creek Station was placed on the market, in the early 2000s, the native title holders were unsuccessful in their attempts at purchasing it.

## Julalikari under new management

TENNANT Creek’s Julalikari Council has turned over a new leaf, with a new board, a new chair and a new CEO following a period of special administration that ended in September.

The new board charged with keeping Julalikari on track includes CLC executive member Michael Jones, Richard James, Rebecca Moore, Barb Shaw, Norman Frank and Ross Williams.

For the first time, the locals are joined by two independent directors: Olga Havnen, the CEO of one of the Territory’s largest Aboriginal medical services, and Neil McLeod, the managing partner of Deloitte in Alice Springs.

The directors elected Linda Turner, better known as LT, to chair one of the largest Aboriginal corporations in Australia, with a turnover of approximately \$15 million.

“It’s a deadly board and I’m looking forward to working with them,” LT told the *Tennant Creek and District Times*.

“There’s such a diverse range of skills and experience amongst the board members and we are all looking forward to advancing Julalikari and helping them to become an organisation that looks after its people.”

The board appointed Andrei

Koeppen as the new CEO to oversee the council’s housing, employment and social services.



Linda Turner is the new chair of Julalikari. Photo: TCD Times

Mr Koeppen, who has previously managed Aboriginal organisations in the Pilbara and Arnhem Land, said the council has emerged stronger from the recent turmoil.

“We are now well placed to re-establish ourselves as the leading agency in Tennant Creek and surrounding communities,” he told the local paper.

In February this the year

the Registrar of Aboriginal Corporations placed Julalikari under special administration after identifying problems with its governance and strained relationships with business partners, members and funders.

In July former CEO Pat Brahim resigned after 13 years at the helm.

The Officer of the Registrar of Indigenous Corporations has praised the administrators.

“Over the last seven months the special administrators have restructured the corporation, improved its internal operations and resolved long running disputes,” it said.

“Julalikari now has a much stronger focus on service delivery and its core objective: improving the lives of its 274 members and other Aboriginal people in the Barkly region of the Northern Territory.”

Julalikari’s members and staff now enjoy a new benefits package that includes discounts at the town’s BP service station and Red Rooster, businesses jointly owned by the council.

The registrar will continue to monitor the corporation’s performance for up to 12 months and provide corporate governance training to the directors in October.

## Karlu Karlu justice hinges on signage says AAPA

THE ABORIGINAL Areas Protection Authority said a successful prosecution in the Karlu Karlu desecration case depends on whether those responsible knew that it is a sacred site.

Videos of a man defecating on rocks at the well-signposted sacred site were published nationwide earlier this year, prompting an outcry and calls for justice from the traditional owners.

AAPA said if those responsible for the desecration did not know Karlu Karlu was a sacred site they could escape punishment.

“The [NT] Sacred Sites Act allows for a defence of ignorance in the case of a prosecution if the defendant ‘had no reasonable grounds for suspecting that the sacred site was a sacred site’,” an AAPA spokesperson said in September.

“The authority would need to prove that the individuals concerned either knew or should have known that Karlu Karlu was a sacred site.

“That is ultimately what will determine whether a successful prosecution is possible under the Act and that will be strongly influenced by the issue of signage in the park area,” the spokesperson said.

Ben Scambary, the CEO of AAPA, promised CLC delegates in Tennant Creek in May that he would do everything he could to bring those responsible for the desecration to justice.

His spokesperson said AAPA still needs to interview “at least one more” witness before it wraps up its investigation and decides whether a prosecution is possible.

The maximum penalty for desecrating a sacred site in the NT is \$61,600 or two years in jail.







# Yapa immerse miners in their culture

FOOD is a great way for people to learn about other cultures and embrace diversity and the managers of Newmont Australia's Granites gold mine found all that on their doorstep after accepting a recent invitation from traditional owners.

The managers enjoyed a rare taste of Yapa food at an outstation near the company's Granites gold mine in August while taking part in a cultural immersion experience involving young and old.

"They were pretty happy about that bush tucker," observed Central Land Council chair Francis Jupurrula Kelly.

"One fella liked the yakajirri (bush raisin). 'Hey, that's nice. Any chance I can grow this?' It takes a long time to grow," Mr Kelly added.

Also on the menu were lizards and kangaroo tails.

"They were mad for it! And a little bit of bush turkey. One of our fellas shot it," Mr Kelly said.

"The traditional owners were happy. They were dragging those big bosses around the rocks looking for tucker."

The trip was also a chance for the hosts to deliver cultural awareness training.

"For the first time we saw new faces from the Newmont mob, from outside the Territory, and that was good," Willy Johnson said.

Mr Johnson has delivered similar training for government staff in Lajamanu.

"It made me feel good to tell them what we've got in that area and the old ladies felt proud of it, and the old men," he said.

Mr Kelly said the exercise allowed Yapa to share their culture and views with the Newmont managers.

"They showed them Yapa skin groups and relationships, and how Yapa and kartiya can work together with respect," he said.

"We've got to teach them our side. They didn't know about the country and we showed them."

By all accounts, the experience opened the visitors' minds.

"The thing I'll most



Willy Johnson opened the miners' eyes to "our connection to that land, our connections through skin groups and family lines".



Centenarian Henry Cook explains his country to Newmont staff.

remember is the family relationships and how complex it is. I had no idea," Townsville-based Ben Stuart said.

"They really have a relationship to this country and we are just guests," he said.

"I've been here for four-and-a-half years and haven't realised that there

**"It's not like a normal job, like plumbing. You can get anyone to do plumbing, but for cultural awareness you've got to get your own family line."**

is so much history here," admitted Francois Hardy, the general manager of the mine.

"I understand it so much better now. The thing I really enjoyed is to talk to them about their culture and what is important to them. It's so different to what is important to us."

Briony Coleman worked at The Granites mine years ago and recently returned from Perth, enjoying a reunion with Henry Jakamarra Cook and his family.

Ms Coleman watched the energetic centenarian blow out the candles on his birthday cake, but it was the preparations for the women's purlapa (ceremony) that she recalled most fondly.

"I loved that we were included as part of the women. That was very special," she said.

The women performed a love song for the miners at sunset and Mr Cook joined in.

"It's good to get to know the miners and have a good relationship for the long-term," Warren Japanangka Williams explained.

Both parties seem committed and Newmont has vowed to expand and operate the mine until at least 2026.

Mr Williams loved the feedback from the visitors, who promised to recommend the experience to their colleagues.

Newmont is not the only employer looking for strong intercultural skills. Local government, Aboriginal organisations and government agencies all want quality intercultural training and who better to offer this than the owners of the land?

Many of them have been reluctant to embrace the fly-in fly-out lifestyle at the mine and

automation is destroying many of the entry level jobs earmarked for Yapa.

When it comes to alternative employment that fits with Yapa culture, helping kartiya to navigate the local ways seems hard to beat.

The two days at the Cook family outstation were a significant step towards developing a training package Yapa actually want to deliver.

The package is part of a 10-year plan for the Tanami region agreed to by Yapa, Newmont and the CLC in July.

Mr Cook's family enjoyed being the teachers.

"They wanted more teaching for those miners and more excursions to country," Mr Kelly said.

As for setting up an intercultural training enterprise: "They're thinking about this, but that comes later," he said.

"We hope we can keep doing that," added Mr Johnson. "So we can put The Granites mine on the map and the cultural connection between the land and the Aboriginal people there."

He said it's up to the elders to drive this so everyone benefits – Yapa and kartiya.

"You've got to be over 50 anyway, that's the best age because you've got to know the culture. You need someone there who can talk to strangers," Mr Johnson explained.

He expects the chosen ones to rise to the expectations of their elders.

"They don't ask. You've got to grab which one you want, who is willing to learn from you. They've got no choice but to learn."

"It's not like a normal job, like plumbing. You can get anyone to do plumbing, but for cultural awareness you've got to get your own family line."

For now, however, his focus is firmly on the Tanami Expansion



Abraham Cook and Stuart Green showed Paul Ford how to pluck a bush turkey.

Project Opening Ceremony on October 9, when the 10-year plan will be launched.

"I'm going to be there. I'm not going to miss that one!" Mr Johnson said.







# “Not salty at all” – Ngatunitja revisited

IN 1902, an Anangu man from Mt Currie led the explorer Richard Thelwell Maurice to a waterhole in the sandhill country around Pantu (Lake Amadeus).

The explorer was crossing the continent from South Australia to the Kimberley.

With him were an Aboriginal man from Yalata and an Anangu man from near Ernabella, and they met two other young Anangu men at the waterhole.

Mr Maurice etched his initials into a tree by the waterhole known as Ngatunitja.

Mystery surrounds what other encounters Ngatunitja may have witnessed since the explorer Maurice and his band passed through.

Traditional owners will tell you though that nobody had been to Ngatunitja since at least the 1930s until traditional owners Malya Teamay and Wangin rediscovered the waterhole during a helicopter search five years ago.

And to the elders' surprise, the tree marked with RTM was still standing.

Something that is even more certain is that nobody had ever driven there – until this April.

That's when Mr Teamay, from the Uluru rent money community development working group, and others, organised a three-day visit by three generations of men to Ngatunitja.

The men used rent money from

the Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park to fund the trip so they could look for water and teach Tjukurpa, or the foundation of Anangu life, to the young men.

The grandfathers showed their sons and grandsons how to burn country and watched the young men clean the waterhole.

“The young fellas, they have just dug out and opened up the waterhole and now there is lots of water,” Mr Teamay said. “The young fellas are happy and satisfied. They did the work.”

Senior man Hezekiel Tjingoonja said the water quality was very good.

“We tried it. It was like rain. Not salty at all. They always drank the water here, long before our time.”

Another elder, Johnny Tjingoo, was excited by the group discovering a grinding stone.

“This stone is for grinding bushfoods to eat,” he said. “It could be my elder sister's or mother-in-law's maybe,” he said.

Nine Anangu were employed on the Ngatunitja trip.

Their job was to work out and clear the route, drive the group in and lead activities at the site, teaching young men important lessons along the way.

The trip was the first of the regional language and cultural support projects in which the Anangu owners of the national park have invested more than \$1 million in over three years.



Frankie Moneymoon is holding up the first kapi (water) since the 1930s while Malya Teamay, Craig Woods, Henry Norman and Timo Connick are watching.

## Building a dream together



Workers Garry Woods, Scoby Presley, Aston Ross and Sebastian Walker built the Nturiya church.

NTURIYA'S new church shows what's possible when families come together to realise a shared dream.

In their very first meeting back in 2015, the Nturiya lease money working group raised the idea of building a community church.

“We talked and talked and talked,” remembers Nturiya resident and CLC executive member Jasper Haines.

“The whole community helped plan for the church”.

After two years of meetings, planning and construction their prayers have been answered.

Their church will be opened in collaboration with the Finke River Mission at a date yet to be set, but it's designed to be used by all denominations and groups.

A committee representing all eight families of the small community near Ti Tree met with a number of organisations before choosing

Tangentyere Constructions to build their church.

The group spent about \$72,000, and an extra \$10,000 to maintain it for the first two years.

Garry Woods, Aston Ross, Sebastian Walker and Scoby Presley worked with Tangentyere on the build.

Mr Presley said Nturiya residents “like having the new church, it makes them feel happy”.

He said it was good for younger community members “to get more experience [in construction], and different types of experience. We'd like to get more things happening out here.”

Working group member Jacquie Woods explained the community's next project plans.

“We want to purchase equipment for the church next and we are thinking of doing something for the kids too,” Ms Woods said.

## Locals restore cemetery and pride

A COLLAPSED picket fence around a dusty, weed choked patch of land - Yuendumu's old cemetery was a sorry sight before the locals restored it.

Now the once overgrown graves are easy to identify, the grounds are fenced, tidy and free of rubbish.

The community's GMAAAC committee chose Yuendumu's Yapa-Kurlangu Ngurrara Aboriginal Corporation, or YKNAC, to spruce up the cemetery which had not been maintained for decades.

YKNAC employees worked with senior members of the community to clear the site, install a new fence

and erect a memorial to loved ones buried there.

The corporation will continue to maintain the site over the next 12 months – all thanks to more than \$70,000 the committee invested in November 2015.

“This is a really good project for Yuendumu. It's important to support this project to keep the cemetery good for the future,” said former GMAAAC committee member and CLC chair Francis Kelly.

The cemetery project has also restored community pride in Yuendumu.



Yuendumu locals fenced their old cemetery.





# Alekarenge leaders put their youth first



Owen Miller and Heston Dickson fixed up the fence at the Alekarenge basketball court. Each had a four-legged supervisor.

“ACTIVITIES for young people” were the clear winners when Alekarenge decided how to spend compensation money the Australian Government paid for compulsorily acquiring its community lease during the Northern Territory Intervention.

Five years ago, Alekarenge’s community lease money working

**“Our plans are to keep working for the community and showing the way for a better future for our children.”**

group started to plan quality projects that would engage local youth in fun and productive activities.

It stuck to this vision and has now spent all of its community lease

money, more than \$770,000, on 16 projects.

Some of them included: multi media projects, fixing up the footy oval and basketball court, keeping the water park safe, installing a wifi hotspot and organising three dance festivals and a sports carnival.

The projects also created training and employment opportunities for people in the community.

Alekarenge invested more than \$61,000 in construction, media skills and driver training and more than \$166,600 on wages for two youth media workers, as well as casual employment for many others on the dance festivals and sports facility upgrades.

Community leader and working group member Graham Beasley said the group prioritised projects that would bring the most benefit to Alekarenge.

“Doing things for the future of the community and showing the way was a highlight,” Mr Beasley said.

Sabrina Kelly, another leader of the group, said many projects helped to divert youth away from trouble.

“We made decisions to keep our young people occupied so they’ve got something to do, to stop sniffing, stealing and drugs,” she said.

Mr Beasley and another working group member, Peter Corbett, have been addressing conferences and Central Land Council meetings on what Alekarenge has done for its young people.

Next year Alekarenge will decide what to do with rent payments from governments and other organisations for buildings in the community.

“Our plans are to keep working for the community and showing the way for a better future for our children,” Mr Beasley said.



**Any questions about CLC business?**

**Call your regional officers:**



## 1. ALICE SPRINGS

Nigel Lockyer,  
8951 6264



## 2. SOUTH WEST

Allan Randall,  
8956 2119



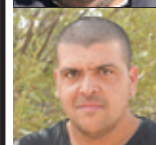
## 3. NORTH WEST

Vacant (Marty Darr),  
8951 6255



## 4. TANAMI

Vacant (Marty Darr),  
8956 6255



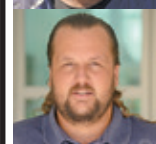
## 5. WEST

Michael Turner,  
8956 8658



## 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

Willy Lane,  
8951 6256

# Yapa plan record mining money spend

YAPA committees are working hard to plan community benefit projects for the Tanami region.

That’s just as well because they have a record amount of money to spend this year.

The Granites Mine Affected Areas Aboriginal Corporation, or GMAAAC, benefits nine communities that this year share a record \$10.4 million of compensation money from The Granites.

Yuendumu, Lajamanu,

**“I want to try and make things better for the future of our kids.”**

Yuelamu, Willowra, Nyirrpi, Tanami Downs, Balgo, Billiluna and Ringers Soak all have an elected GMAAAC committee that uses the money to pay for community driven projects and invests

some for future initiatives.

Since the GMAAAC elections earlier this year 84 committee members across these communities have started to prioritise and plan projects with a long-term view.

“GMAAAC and CLC have taught us how to look to the future and make ourselves stronger,” said Nyirrpi committee member Lance Turner.

Valerie Martin, a committee member from Yuendumu, agrees.

“I want to try and make things better for the future of our kids. Build a stronger community so it’s a better place for kids to live,” Ms Martin said.

Support for young people, elders, culture, education and employment continue to be the main priorities of the committees.

The CLC’s community development unit helps turn those project ideas into reality.



Meet the decision makers: Bililuna’s GMAAAC committee is one of the smallest. Kumanji Padoon, Serina Samuel, Sandra Mandijarra, Justin Brockman and Angus Manson are the members.





# “You’ve got to do it for yourself”

**EIGHT adults and 10 children live at Desley Rogers’ outstation. Ms Rogers says it takes grit and determination to make a remote outstation like Bamboo Springs work. *Land Rights News* asked the CLC member how it started.**

Oh it’s a long struggle. It started in 2000, but I’ve been living out here all the time, growing up out here because my grandparents used to live at Mistake Creek. When we got the cattle company my outstation started because of people coming to get killers and then we thought we need to put something here to watch so no strangers are coming on the land trust and because at this end there are a lot of sacred sites. I’m just protecting this part of the area.

The government kept knocking us back, but in 2014 they started to recognise us because I’ve been talking at a lot of meetings about how hard it

is. We’ve been in tents and a bough shed, picked up scrap iron here and there and built the shed.

I applied through the Central Land Council for Aboriginals Benefit Account funds. Now I’ve got an ablution block and a demountable with rooms, but I’d like to see my

**“The nearest fuel is in Kalkaringi, five hours away.”**

outstation grow into a community for my grandchildren. I’m already starting to teach them the knowledge of this country that they will be bosses for. The sites and the dreamings and I want them to carry on.

**Where do they go to school?**

In Kununurra, the nearest town where we go for shopping and



Desley Rogers and her grandson James on Bamboo Springs outstation.

## Homelands to get \$16 million boost

CENTRAL Land Council delegates are getting ready for the launch of a new multi-million dollar homelands project in their region.

The project will use funds from the Aboriginals Benefit Account, so-called ‘royalty equivalents’ controlled by Indigenous Affairs Minister Nigel Scullion, for infrastructure and services on homelands in the NT.

Approximately \$16 million will be spent in the CLC region from 2018 to 2020 while the Top End will get some \$27 million.



CLC Policy Officer Peta Breadon presented about homelands funding to council.

Between 80 and 100 homelands in the CLC region are expected to get a share.

The CLC delegates will be asked to decide at their November council meeting how these outstations should be chosen.

The CLC’s community development team will start to consult with homeland residents in the first half of next year.

It will use council’s criteria to select homelands for funding and help the residents to fill in ABA applications for their projects.

Minister Scullion is responsible for assessing and approving the ABA applications and for delivering the

projects in every outstation.

This work is planned to take place in 2019 and 2020 with Aboriginal and local government organisations first in line for the contracts.

“The CLC will keep a close eye on progress and speak up for fast and effective implementation,” CLC director David Ross said.

Two years ago, the Australian Government handed responsibility

**“It’s unclear how the previous NT Government spent this money.”**

for outstations and homelands to the then Giles government, along with a final payment of \$155 million.

“It’s unclear how the previous NT Government spent this money,” Mr Ross said.

The current Gunner government has not changed spending for general homelands services, but has increased the Homelands Extra Allowance (for repairs and maintenance on inhabited outstations) to \$6,000 per year.

“We remain concerned about the future of these small communities and have been arguing for the Australian Government to stay involved,” Mr Ross explained.

“We are obviously very happy for the ABA to be finally progressing the commitment to invest in homelands, but this shouldn’t let government off the hook. Families living on homelands are suffering the consequences of years

of under-investment, and they really need more help.”

The new ABA homelands project is not the only option for keeping outstations going.

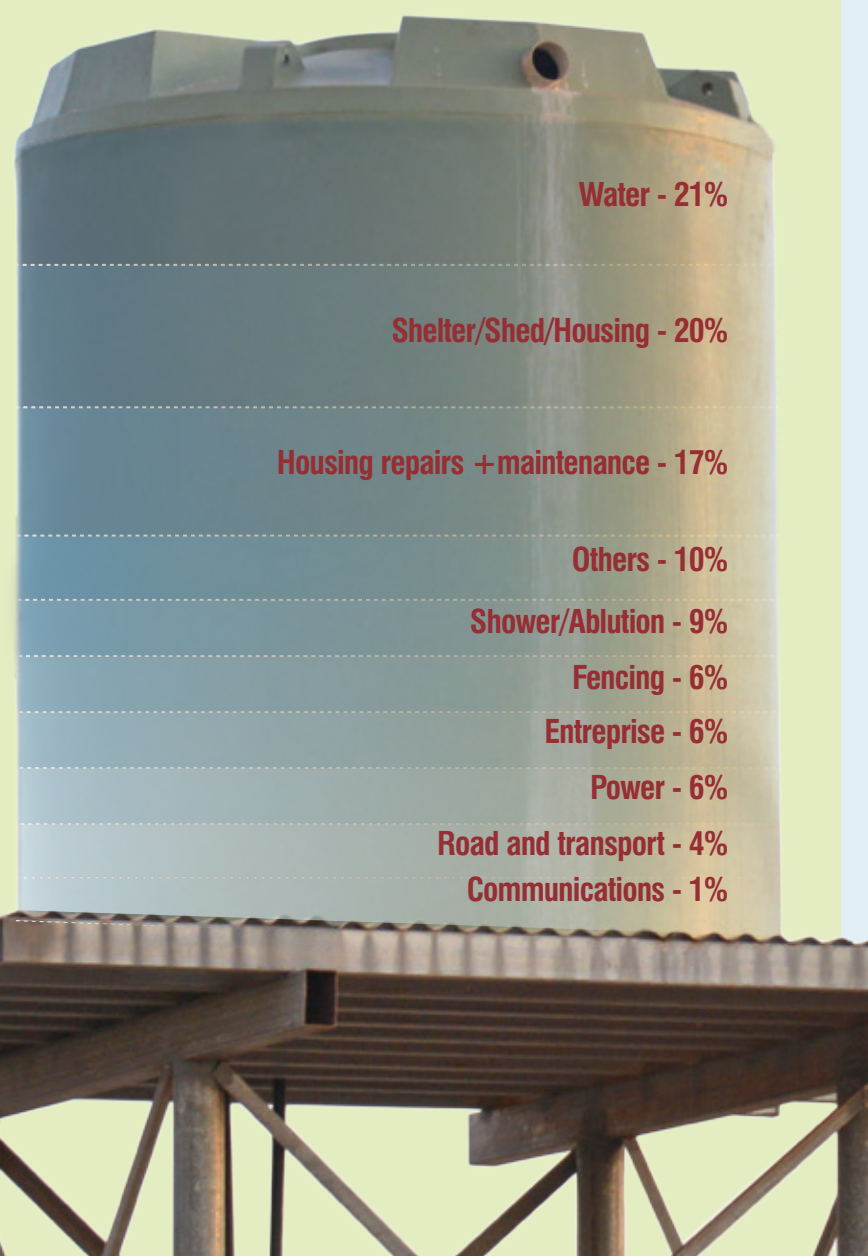
Aboriginal groups with community development income streams have been spending their own money on their homelands for the past decade.

Strong decisions by traditional owners and residents have seen them invest their park

rent, community leasing and compensation income on everything from fencing to water tanks.

During that time the CLC’s community development program has helped Aboriginal groups invest almost \$9 million of this income in 156 homelands projects.

Here is how they spent it:







everything. My other daughter lives out there to look after them. There's a boarding facility in town, but it's full. They come out on holidays and weekends. We don't have proper room for them so they are still camping out in the flat. It's hard. Sometimes they want to bail up here because it's home. I thought about the School of the Air, but at the moment I'm running around trying to get funding to get my community up and running. When I get assistance, if it grows, maybe later on, for their children and grandchildren we might have a school out here.

#### Where do most of your family work?

We had a CDEP program here and then that stopped. We just had to go back on the dole and we had to work for the dole – CDP, you know? There were five of us but two have gone to town. We're fighting hard to get CDEP back, where it is based on community and we can do our own things.

#### What do you have to do for the dole?

We're doing whippersnipping and cleaning around the community and also trying to build new infrastructure like bough sheds. I've got a plan for a garden and I'm getting chicken eggs. I've got the cemetery to do, put plants around and put a shelter in there so we can have a church service and sit there in the afternoon, visiting family.

#### What other plans do you have?

Put in a fuel tank here because the nearest fuel is in Kalkaringi, five hours away.

#### Do you have enough cars coming through to make that worthwhile?

Dry season we do because a lot of tourists camp down the [Negri] river there. Plus some family members from Halls Creek and Ringers Soak use this road, and other family members are travelling through. They pull up and want fuel, fix tyre, you know? But during the Wet it would be slow because no-one will be travelling.

#### And you'd have to pay money to get the fuel here, so you would have to rely on the family members to pay you for what you provide. Would that be difficult?

Oh well they'd have to pay because otherwise there's nothing. Another thing, too, with this basics card and white card we have to have to look into businesses for outstations and communities in remote areas. They use the card system and that costs money too, to get that gadget in.

#### I saw you've got a pay phone some way from the donga. How's that working?

I'm having trouble with that during the Wet. The rain makes it hard for people to reach us. We can't hear it because the ringer is so low. We don't have internet, but I wouldn't mind.



Desley's chickens keep the outstation supplied with eggs and meat.

I've got a Kubota generator, diesel one. I wouldn't mind getting solar in here which is cheaper than diesel. We've got bore water. I've got a Kubota on it, but only last month they put solar there because CLC put in an application.

#### How much help have you had from the NT Government since they were given responsibility



Desley Rogers can't hear the outstation's pay phone ring when it rains.

#### for outstations by the Australian Government?

Not much really. It's very slow. Only the bore, and the fence through the resource centre in Timber Creek. My son-in-law built it with these two blokes from the resource centre and my other little cousin helped. The other things are from ABA grants. Before we got on the funding bandwagon me and my kids just threw in for the generator to keep our fridges cool. I use the generator to run them

during the day and keep them off at night. We used to wander down the river, push a pram with jerry cans to get water from the river.

#### That's a long walk! Did you have to boil it?

Boil it first, then let it sit in the billycan to cool and then bottles.

#### Tell me about the floor in the bough shed, how did you do that?

I said to my daughters and cousins "we've got to do something if we want to live here, not just waiting for kartiya". We just picked up some slabs of stone, limestone I think, from the river and carted it all back and I had an idea from growing up on Mistake Creek and Waterloo Station. That's what they used for tiling and I said "come on, let's do some cementing", so we did this floor. Same family members went down to the Negri River and got that lawn and it'll probably spread in the Wet.

#### You're very resourceful here.

True, with some ideas. [It comes from] working on stations where we had nothing. I used to follow my grandmother and cousins when they were working at Waterloo. They used to get ant beds for floors with bags and buckets and used to crush them up to make the floor hard. I said "come on let's do that" and my cousins look at me and laugh and say I was mad but I said "no, we've got to do something".

#### What does it take to make a go of an outstation in an isolated area such as this?

Determination. We want this, we have to do it! They said "you have to have something to live in, an access road and a water supply and once you have that, bang, you'll get funding". But it took years and years and years. That waiting game ... you can wait and wait and it'll never come to you. If you want something you've got to do it yourself.

## Persistence pays off for well connected Olivers

A 100 kilometre round trip to use the phone is not what you need in an emergency.

For the Oliver family that's what it took to call help to Williams Well outstation, some 50 kilometers from Alice Springs.

Those days are now over, thanks to a \$20,000 mobile phone hotspot that connects the enterprising family to the outside world.

The Olivers invested \$20,000 of their rent money from the East MacDonnell National Park in a hotspot designed and installed by the Centre for Appropriate Technology (CAT).

The change "makes it easier and safer [to live at the outstation] and is working clearly," said Williams Well resident Henry Oliver.

The traditional owners of the jointly-managed park worked with CAT to install a larger dish than usual to ensure a strong enough mobile phone signal.

The outstation's distance from the nearest mobile coverage meant the signal was too weak for a standard hotspot.

The Olivers have previously used their share of rent for the park to make the once abandoned outstation habitable again by fixing the causeway, water supply and housing.







# Northern Tanami IPA celebrates 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary



Molly Tasman took her nephew, Jonathon Dixon, and her grandson, Dione Kelly, both North Tanami rangers, to a water hole on the IPA.

"THE IPA is important for me. Even if I leave it, it will be there," said Lajamanu elder Jerry Jangala Patrick. "It makes us feel we can walk our country again."

Mr Patrick, one of the last people to have lived off the land his people are now protecting, reckons that ten years of looking after the country they declared the Northern Tanami Indigenous Protected Area is worth celebrating.

"These are places where our fathers and

warringiyi (father's fathers) walked, travelling all over that IPA country and more, where they had important ceremonies."

CLC chair Francis Kelly adds another reason.

"The two Aboriginal land trusts that make up the IPA are the cradle of our successful ranger program," Mr Kelly said.

"The traditional owners, CLC members and staff and everybody else who has helped to set up the first IPA in our region in 2007 should be very proud of themselves."

Mr Kelly said the 40,000 square kilometer area has been in the capable hands of the North

Tanami rangers, Central Australia's first Aboriginal ranger group, since 2000.

"They were called the Wulain rangers back then, after the outstation resource centre in Lajamanu where they were CDEP workers."

"They have been doing a good job, cleaning up camel damage at the waterholes".

They have since been joined by nine more CLC ranger groups and today three groups, soon to be joined by two more, look after four IPAs covering some 195,000 square kilometers.

The IPA has an unbroken history of Aboriginal management.

Customary practices remain strong and influence ecological

processes, for example through traditional cool season burning.

It has a large number of cultural sites, dreaming tracks and historic locations of significance for Warlpiri and Gurindji families.

"It's only two years ago that old people like Molly Tasman found Kurlpurlunu during a CLC burning trip," said Mr Kelly.

"It's a powerful rain making site these elders had not visited since they were little children living off the land," he said.

"We were crying with joy."

Ms Tasman said these days her only chance to see her country is to visit it with the rangers.

"I feel so happy visiting country with the young ones, so proud to show songlines. Every trip brings back memories of living in the bush.

It connects us with the old

people is vital for the future of young Aboriginal people in remote areas," CLC director David Ross said at the time.

"Lack of employment contributes to urban drift, alienation and social dysfunction which costs lives and money."

Today there are eight ranger positions in Lajamanu and with greater government support there could be many more.

Mr Patrick said the IPA helps young people focus on what really matters.

"Young people fighting for money, like royalties and look around money, that's all they see, straight up in front of them.

The IPA helps us remember [the value of] country without the money story. Yapa should not think of themselves. We are all connected, all family."

Mr Patrick is a strong

**"The IPA helps us remember country without the money story. Yapa should not think of themselves. We are all connected."**

times and the people that have passed away."

The seeds of the IPA were sown in 1999, when Lajamanu residents talked with the CLC about developing local opportunities for employment, training and cultural maintenance through land-based enterprises.

"Investing in the bush, stimulating employment and building on the skills of local

supporter of the investments his community has made in the IPA and teaches school kids during royalty-funded excursions to important sites whenever he can.

Lajamanu recently contributed a quarter of a million dollars of mining compensation income for the development of a digital storybook version of the IPA's management plan.

## MEET OUR RANGERS



**Ryon Raggett**

Ryon is a former Warlpiri ranger and ngankari who moved from Yuendumu to Papunya to join the Anangu Luritjiku rangers three years ago.

I grew up both ways, speaking Warlpiri and Luritja. It's good to change to another group because I get sick when it gets too dangerous and then I can go to another town, other country.

**Is there a lot of difference between the two ranger groups?**

Different country, different sites, different Tjukurrpa, different work. We do tracking, looking after princess parrots. Cleaning springs, cleaning weed and buffel grass, taking out dead animal bodies - camels and horses. At Ilpili Springs camels are dying, too many bones there. Cleaning them up is hard work. It was dirty work before, smelly. We put bush medicine up our nose. Now it's clean. It was no good before.

**How do you stop the camels from wrecking the water holes?**

We've got a fence at Ilpili to keep the camels out, too many camels.

**What's your favourite work?**

Cleaning up weeds.

**What's the best thing about being a ranger?**

Learning new skills, tracking, meeting new

people, new rangers, learning from each other.

**What new skill have you learned this year?**

Cybertracker. I like taking photos, recording animal tracks, marking tracks and waterholes.

**What would you say to people who think ranger work is not real work?**

Ranger work is hard work, not like sitting down. Send them photos or videos of what we do!

**If they followed you around for a week, what would they learn?**

Everything! They would understand that it's good work, not boring. Being a ranger is a good job, whitefella and blackfella way, putting things together.

**What do you enjoy doing outside work?**

Going bush, watching native birds and animals and AFL, Sydney Swans.

**Congratulations to Ryon on completing a certificate III in land management and conservation!**







# “I want to be really full on fit”

EVER since Kaltukatjara ranger co-ordinator Benji Kenny embarked on a personal health journey he has had friends and family barracking for him.

Benji's Facebook posts about brumby breaking and other outdoor adventures are already the stuff of legend, but the supportive comments on his daily walks showed him just how many people have his back.

He told *Land Rights News* that it all started with a visit to the clinic.

“The doctors had been warning me for the past year about diabetes and how serious it is, and it's just scary. I thought ‘why not make a change and do something different?’ For most of my life I've been overweight. All the overweight people are on diabetes watch. It feels uncomfortable and I was not happy with myself. And now I'm noticing I'm a lot happier and excited and want to go and do more things.

I've been walking a lot and noticed I'm losing a lot of weight and now feel a lot healthier and not complaining much anymore about a sore back. And the doctors are happy about the progress I've been making. In the afternoon I go for my walk and in the morning.

I've been off the grog for five weeks now and am going to keep going because I'm feeling good now. I'm doing it not just for myself, but for my daughter. There's better things out there than drinking. There's temptations but it's good to be out there [Kaltukatjara] and when I'm in Alice Springs I keep myself busy doing other things.”

**How hard was it to make all those changes?**

“It's been really hard at the start, to try and get up early in



Kaltukatjara ranger co-ordinator Benji Kenny (with partner Amy and daughter Miekah) graduated with a certificate IV in conservation and land management in September.

the morning and get walking and after work going for my hour long walk. It's been full on. It's been so hard, but you've got to set your mind on it. Your body says ‘do it tomorrow, do it tomorrow’, but you have to just get up and go and do it.

I've just done it myself and I just want to keep going. I've been getting good positive comments from everybody and out in the community. My dad has started to go walking and he has dropped a lot of weight as well. There are a few people doing it now and some of my mates have stopped drinking and are taking me to the gym and trying it out and it's been great. It's only been two months, but by this time next year I want to be really full on fit.”

**So you've got a little support group going?**

“Yeah, we go and do our own little things and they take me to the gym when I'm in Alice Springs and instead of going drinking every weekend we decided to do something, like go bowling or take the kids out.

My friends post messages saying ‘keep up the good work’

on Facebook and it gives me hope that I can still do it and I just keep going.”

**Do you think you'll keep it up?**

“Definitely. It's a good place out there and I keep myself occupied. We're getting into horses for the community to teach kids how to ride. We've been taking the kids out with NPY [Women's Council], taking them swimming, keeping them occupied on the weekends.

Down the track I hope to teach them how to handle the horses and break them in and hopefully by the end of next year start a trail ride for the young kids, take them out to camp overnight and the traditional owners can talk to them about culture. I had a phone call from one of my mates, from an all-indigenous AFL group, and told me that the Melbourne Demons are coming out to Docker to do cultural activities.

I want to get the kids involved with that. They can go out with the rangers just for the day, and the traditional owners, and teach them how to make spears or boomerangs.”

## Hanging out for the alcohol panel's report

THE INDEPENDENT panel looking the Territory's alcohol policies is running behind schedule, but Central Land Council delegates are hoping its report will be released in time for their November council meeting.

The NT Government had asked the panel to review initiatives to help reduce alcohol fuelled crime, manage grog in remote communities, make entertainment areas

safer, improve decision-making under alcohol laws and limit the size of grog shops.

CLC delegates want to have their say about the panel's recommendations, especially about the design of the new banned drinkers register.

They prepared for this during their August council meeting, where they discussed the alcohol policy measures they have supported so far.

### The CLC supports the following measures:

#### Improve services

(more and better grog rehabilitation services and diversion programs, educate young women and families about the impact of grog on unborn babies, invest more in early childhood development programs)

#### Make grog licensing more transparent

(more say for communities and those who want permits or exemptions, consider the public interest before giving out licenses)

#### Reduce grog supply

(a floor price, fewer grog shops and licences, replace ‘cops at shops’ with the banned drinkers register)

#### Keep alcoholics out of jail

(deal with grog addiction as a health matter)

## Rangers graduate



THESE proud CLC rangers are part of a record number of Batchelor graduates. They support their families, make their communities proud and have dedicated years of study to build their careers through education. For the first time most of the rangers received conservation and land management certificates III and IV - professional qualifications that can open the door to lots of jobs. Champions!

keep up with the latest news

like us on  
**facebook**

[www.fb.com/CentralLandCouncil](http://www.fb.com/CentralLandCouncil)



# Ms Hayes - a life of caring for and teaching others

KWEMENTYAYE Hayes Ampetyane was a strong, inspiring and wise leader. She spent her life caring for and teaching others.

She believed in the value of maintaining Arrernte laws and traditions alongside European ones, and worked hard to protect and pass on cultural knowledge.

Kwementyaye passed away peacefully on September 6 in Alice Springs. Her passing is a great loss.

She was born in the bush on Undoolya Station in the 1940s and found at Antulye, on irretye (eaglehawk) country. Her mother Jessie Petrick was from the Atula/Indiana area and passed away when she was a baby. Her father Davy Hayes Angale was doing stock work and she was raised by her grandparents, Old Angelina and Line Party Bob, who were also working on Undoolya.

She was also a daughter of Louise Hayes, the second wife of Davey Hayes. She was the sister of Wallaby Patrick, Lindsay Cavanagh and Nellie Lynch.

Kwementyaye grew up her sisters' and brothers' children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. She taught them so that the next generations can keep following the stories.

When she was still a young child, she was taken to the Arltunga Mission, where she lived on milk, bread and porridge.

She learnt to read and write English and developed a beautiful copper print script while also becoming a strong Catholic, a faith which stayed with her throughout.

Kwementyaye saw her family after church on Sundays, when they went out for picnics and collected bush tucker. During holidays, she visited her father and grandparents, travelling around with them by camel, donkey and horse, and learning the stories for different places.

In 1953, when she was 13, she moved with the mission to Santa Teresa and cared for the old people. When she was 19, she returned to Undoolya Station to help her aunty with domestic work and gardening for Ted and Jean Hayes. She enjoyed that work very much. Kwementyaye lived in the camp with her dad's cousins.

Later, she lived and worked at Santa Teresa, Deep Well Station and Ross River (where she looked after tourists). She met and married her husband, who was from Artwele (Atula station).

Kwementyaye spoke out strongly for her country and fought for it to be protected and recognised. She belonged to the three estate groups of Alice Springs: Mparntwe, Antulye and Irlpme.

In the early 1990s, she campaigned to protect important sacred sites at Junction Waterhole on the Todd River from a flood mitigation dam and, in 1997, gave powerful evidence and was a strong leader in the Alice Springs native title claim.

Kwementyaye was a talented artist, and two of her paintings of Antulye were used in the claim. She also worked with the Central Australian Aboriginal Congress, Tangentyere Council, Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority, Central Land Council and local schools, especially Yipirinya School. She was also a co-founder



Margaret Kemarre Turner and Kwementyaye Hayes (centre) gives an interview at the Alice Springs Telegraph Station.



Kwementyaye Hayes at home at Irrkerlantye atwatye (White Gate) community.

of the Akeyulerre Healing Centre and she supported the Children's Ground, an organisation that aims to help Aboriginal children reach their full potential, and she contributed to native title body Lhere Artepe.

Kwementyaye was a great and gracious teacher to all those who

politicians, senior Catholic leaders, the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission, and a delegation of dispossessed bush men from the Kalahari Desert in Africa. But her favourite visitors were the children who clamoured for her to go hunting. She showed them the bush tucker and

too ill to continue living there, she reluctantly moved into town, but her heart was still with the eaglehawk that soared over Antulye.

When Justice Olney went to Irrkerlantye atwatye to hear evidence in the Alice Springs native title claim and was being told about the eaglehawk story two of those magnificent birds circled above the court.

Kwementyaye loved her family. She cared for her father, husband, sisters, brothers, aunts and uncles at home until they passed. Her cross-cultural healing practices and skills helped keep them strong until the end.

Kwementyaye trained as a health worker and won two certificates while living in Amoonguna. She got sick with arthritis and went into hospital. Although she recovered, she had arthritic pain for the rest of her life, but rarely complained about it. She returned to Amoonguna, and cared for her father until he passed away, and then moved to Irrkerlantye atwatye, where she lived until ill-health forced her to move to town.

Condolences to her families.

## Kwementyaye was a great and gracious teacher. She tolerated ignorance with a wry smile and sometimes a quiet joke.

worked with her. She tolerated ignorance with a wry smile and sometimes a quiet joke. She was comfortable with people from all types of backgrounds and everyone was welcomed into her home at the Irrkerlantye atwatye (White Gate) community on the outskirts of Alice Springs.

National and international visitors included the Pope (at Blatherskite Park in 1988), special rapporteurs from the United Nations, judges,

bush medicine, and now they know it well.

One of Kwementyaye's greatest disappointments was her inability to obtain secure title and basic essential services, such as power, water and sewerage, for her beloved Irrkerlantye atwatye where she lived for more than 30 years on her father's mother's country.

Despite the hardships, however, she always offered visitors a cup of tea and a place to sit. When she became





# Courage, spirit, fight and determination

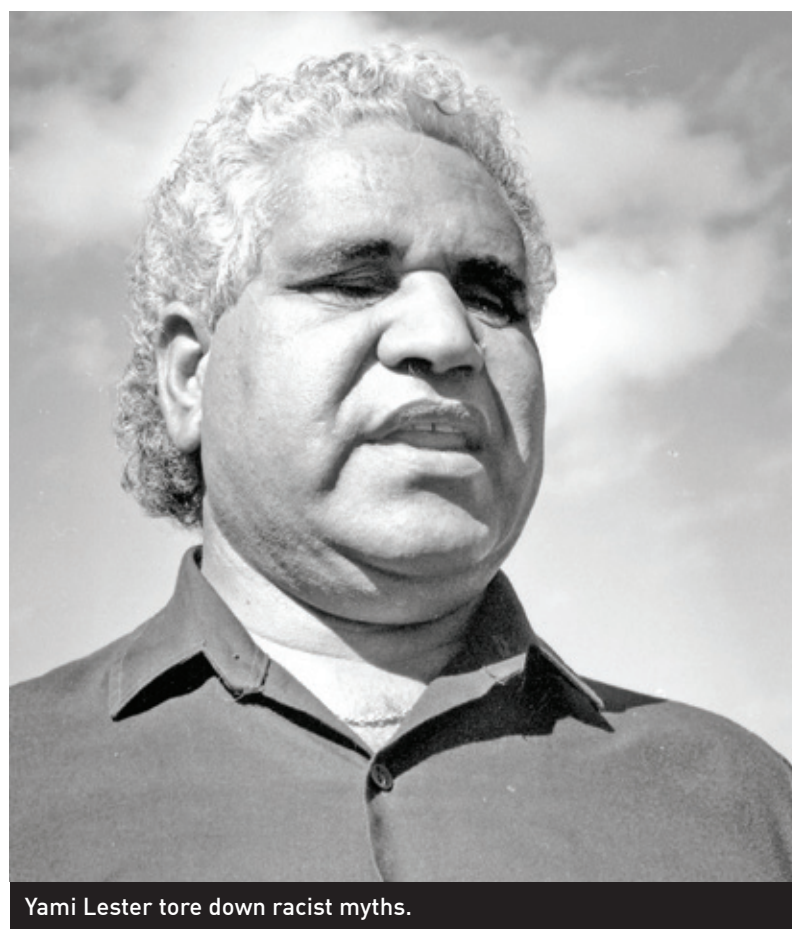
IN 1985, during the ceremony to hand back Uluru to its Anangu traditional owners, one of those traditional owners and a key campaigner for its return, Yami Lester, said: "I welcome the Governor General this afternoon. He's able to come here today to see the rock. By tomorrow the rock will be missing, the Aboriginal people going to take it away."

The comment pointedly, but with good humour, tore down the myths perpetrated by a

the age of 75.

He'd long bothered politicians over his various campaigns and the current crop, represented by South Australian Premier Jay Weatherill, Federal Indigenous Affairs Minister Nigel Scullion and member for Lingiari in the Northern Territory Warren Snowdon, were present to honour his resilience and success.

The singer-songwriter Paul Kelly, who was inspired by Mr Lester to write the song



Yami Lester tore down racist myths.

## "An Aboriginal leader who embraced the challenge of bridging two worlds."

racist, hysterical campaign that had been led by the NT Government against the handback, which among other falsehoods, had suggested it would remove access to Uluru for non-indigenous people.

On August 8 this year, Mr Lester was honored through a state funeral on Walatina Station on the APY Lands in South Australia's far north having passed away in July at

*Maralinga*, was also there, along with around 500 people in total.

An Order of Australia Medal recipient for his campaigning for indigenous rights, Mr Lester was blinded as a young man by what he referred to as the "black mist", or fallout, from British nuclear testing in the 1950s.

The ailment forced him to give up the stockman's life he

loved, but the Yankunytjatjara man devoted much of his ensuing life to fighting for the clean-up of the Maralinga site and compensation for people impacted by it.

That devotion helped lead to a royal commission in 1985 and group compensation for the Maralinga Tjarutja people.

Anti-nuclear campaigner Dave Sweeney said Mr Lester

had inspired people far beyond his own.

"We owe him a great debt because he faced adversity with understated courage with humility, with humour, with great strength," Mr Sweeney said.

Premier Weatherill said Mr Lester's legacy should inspire those left behind to strive for a better place.

"We'll miss his storytelling, his generosity of spirit, his kindness, his warmth," Mr Weatherill told the mourners.

"May his legacy always inform, inspire and enlighten us – to make us strive for a better, fairer world," he said.

NT Chief Minister Michael Gunner said Mr Lester didn't allow a lack of sight to restrict his campaigning.

"Mr Lester was a key Aboriginal leader who embraced the challenge of bridging two worlds," Mr Gunner said.

"He never let his blindness hold him back, he was sharp as a tack in negotiating at the highest levels of business and government."

## A huge legacy in community and cultural leadership

THE INDIGENOUS Remote Communications Association says pioneering media figure Belle Karirrka Davidson, a founder of Ngaanyatjarra Media, leaves a huge legacy as a community and cultural leader.

Ms Davidson passed away on Saturday July 22 in Irrunytju community a filmmaker, teacher, storyteller and artist.

Along with Noeli Mantjantja Roberts, her sister Pantjiti McKenzie and brother-in-law Simon Tjiyangu McKenzie, and Simon and Roma Butler, Ms Davidson was a key player in the establishment of Irrunytju Media from 1992 and its development into the regional media organisation Ngaanyatjarra Media in the late 1990s.

She continued to play

a lead role as inaugural minyma (female) chair from Ngaanyatjarra Media's incorporation in 2002 until 2008, and as minyma cultural officer throughout the 2000s. She retired in 2013 although still featured in numerous productions beyond that.

Ms Davidson was born in the bush at Lilirr near Papulankutja (Blackstone) in 1944 and lived a traditional lifestyle with her family until she was about six-years-old.

She was then taken to the Warburton mission with her sister Tjawina and infant brother after both parents died.

She grew up at the mission before marrying Daniel Davidson at age 17 and having five children, all of whom she out-survived.

Before her media career, Ms

Davidson travelled the region as a health worker.

She moved to Irrunytju (Wingellina) with her family in the late 1980s where she became interested in media production.

Her interest was sparked by helping her sister and brother-in-law, founding

Davidson became a powerful advocate for reinvigorating Ngaanyatjarra culture and language for future generations of Yarnangu (Ngaanyatjarra people). She did this by making videos of Tjukurrpa stories in country and Turlku dance performances.

### Ms Davidson was Ngaanyatjarra Media's first female chair and an active member of NPY Women's Council from its beginning.

members of Ernabella Video and TV (today's PY Media), on cultural video productions in the local region.

Despite being discouraged from learning her language and culture at the mission, Ms

She encouraged and trained many other local video producers, especially women, to carry on this vital cultural work across the region.

From watching the videos of old people performing Turlku, she became an important cultural teacher for Yarnangu women across the region. She also played a significant role in numerous Turlku tours, nationally and internationally, including performing with Bangarra Dance Theatre and Jimmy Little in Sydney in 1999 and at the 2000 Sydney Olympics.

Ms Davidson was an active member of NPY Women's Council from its beginning in 1980 and served as a Director during 1996-1997. She was also a professional translator and sought after for her cultural liaison skills.

She won the Preston Award for her lifetime contribution to the remote indigenous media sector in 2010 and received numerous other awards for her extensive video production work in Tjukurrpa re-enactments, Turlku performance, oral history storytelling and educational videos.

The *Minyma Kutjara Tjukurrpa* (Two Sisters Story), a cultural documentary she directed and co-wrote with Irrunytju Media in 1999, won the Tudawali Award for best language documentary in 2000.

In 2009 Ngaanyatjarra Media produced a sequel of that story, which she co-directed and acted in. The film won Best Video at the 2009 National Remote Indigenous Media Festival in Darwin. Ms Davidson also co-directed the 'Ngaanyatjarra Turlku' performance and multi-media presentation at the 2007 Perth International Arts Festival.

She will be greatly missed by all who know her for her wonderful storytelling, wicked sense of humour and generous spirit.

Deepest condolences to her family and friends in Irrunytju and Papulankutja communities and right across the Ngaanyatjarra and APY lands, as well as to everyone at Ngaanyatjarra Media.







# CLC limits meetings impact on school attendance



Ampie Paddy at the launch of the Katiti Petermann IPA.

THE CENTRAL Land Council is using its research into the impact of royalty distributions on school attendance to better understand how they affect communities and schools, and to develop solutions.

The CLC is working to shift bigger distribution meetings to the school holidays and reviewing other meeting dates. Some meetings already take place during school holidays.

"This is no mean feat because the small team at our Aboriginal Associations Management Centre deals with many associations that all need to comply with strict legal deadlines for holding their meetings," CLC director David Ross said.

"We are also looking at how we can fast track the distribution process, whether it's with the help of additional staff or better use of technology," Mr Ross said.

Senior Policy Officer Josie Douglas presented the

research findings, based on interviews and attendance figures for schools in eight remote communities between 2011 and 2015, to the Tennant Creek Council meeting in May.

"Attendance rates are low already and there are many other events that cause attendance to vary.

Royalty meetings further reduce attendance in some places, but not all," Dr Douglas told the delegates.

at four out of the eight schools.

By the following week attendance at the schools was back to normal levels.

Interviews with community members, teachers and school attendance staff also informed the research.

Enrolling visiting students temporarily where the meeting is being held may be an answer, however procedures vary from school to school.

**"Attendance rates are low already and there are many other events that cause attendance to vary."**

She said that in four schools attendance was down by between 2.6 and 15.9 per cent during the week of a royalty meeting.

During the week royalty payments hit bank accounts, attendance was between 1.3 and 11 percent below normal

"Some schools don't take visiting students because they find it disruptive or it affects their attendance data," Dr Douglas said.

She said flexible solutions and a consistent approach between schools, need to be looked at.

## Mining security bonds revealed

CONSERVATIONISTS have welcomed the Northern Territory Government's decision to publish mining security bonds.

The bonds are the amount of money companies have to pay the government upfront to fund the cost of fixing the environmental damage caused by mining and exploration.

The Arid Lands Environment Centre (ALEC) said that secrecy was "a major barrier to ensuring the environmental accountability and transparency of the industry.

"This policy shift represents a major step forward, which is drastically needed for ongoing community acceptance of

Director of Vista Gold, which runs the Mount Todd gold mine, Brent Murdoch, told the ABC the Territory's reform would discourage competitiveness, but said other investment opportunities in the Territory would make up for this.

"There are many other factors that make the Northern Territory such an attractive prospect," he said.

"In the short and medium term, those factors will certainly outweigh this."

The two largest bonds held by the government are for the bauxite mine at Nhulunbuy (almost \$651 million) and for the McArthur River lead, silver and zinc mine near Borroloola (more than \$476 million).

The government holds almost \$39 million against The Granites gold mine in the Tanami.

**"This policy shift represents a major step forward, which is drastically needed for ongoing community acceptance of mining in the NT."**

They are necessary to make sure that miners properly rehabilitate the environment and don't leave the community with the bill even if the company runs out of money.

Until September security bond amounts had been kept secret from the public.

mining in the NT," ALEC's Alex Read said.

He said the public's acceptance of mining projects "is dependent on the company being able to prove environmental credentials for the project and to provide the necessary finance for rehabilitation".



Traditional owners visit The Granites. Newmont paid a bond of almost \$39 million for the gold mine's future rehabilitation.

## Solar survey backs bold power target



Solar power is very popular with remote communities. Piyultjara outstation near Kaltukatjara used Uluru rent money to install panels.

A SURVEY of Central Australian residents, including from two bush communities, has found they overwhelmingly support more solar energy in the region.

The RePower community group conducted its solar survey over four months.

The survey was only open to residents of Alice Springs, Ltyentye Apurte (Santa Teresa) and Ntaria (Hermannsburg).

Of the 816 responses, 76 per cent wanted 70 to 100 per cent of Alice Springs'

power to come from renewable energy by 2030.

Only 13 per cent supported the Northern Territory Government's policy of 50 per cent renewables by 2030.

Just 2 per cent thought there should be no change from the current position.

For 78 per cent of the respondents their main motivation was reducing greenhouse gases.

Sixty per cent thought a lack of political will was the main barrier to increasing solar power in the region.





# National acclaim for Seven Sisters and 14 artists



Miriam Lane, Yayimpi Lewis, Mildred Lyons, Jennifer Connelly, Elaine Lane, Angilyia Mitchell, Sokaway Lyons, Jennifer Mitchell, Mrs Davidson, Freda Lane, Anawari Mitchell and Nora Davidson from Papulankutja (Blackstone) with Kungkarrangkalnga-ya Parrpakanu - Seven sisters are flying. 2015. Photo: Vicki Bosisto/©Tjanpi Desert Weavers, NPY Women's Council.

AN EXHIBITION highlighting a creation story, or songline, from Central Australia has opened to great acclaim at the National Museum in Canberra.

The *Songlines: Tracking the Seven Sisters* exhibition opened in September and its centrepiece is seven sculptures of the sisters *Kungkarrangkalnga-ya Parrpakanu* (Seven sisters are flying) created by the Tjanpi Desert Weavers.

The weavers are a social enterprise

of the Ngaanyatjarra Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara (NPY) Women's Council in the tri-state border region of the Northern Territory, Western Australia and South Australia.

Fourteen artists worked in pairs to sculpt the Seven Sisters out of tjanpi (desert grasses) and feathers. They were: Miriam Lane/Yayimpi Lewis, Jennifer Connelly/Mildred Lyons, Elaine and Janet Lane, Angilyia Mitchell/Sokaway Lyons, Jennifer Mitchell/Mrs Davidson, Anawari

Mitchell/Nora Davidson, and Janet Forbes/Freda Lane.

Their quirky sculptures are held together by colourful wool, string and raffia and carry pirti (carved wooden dishes) and wana (digging sticks).

of the songline wanted the wider Australian public to know about their Tjukurpa (dreaming).

"The sisters are running and forming [the country], they are making rock holes, clay pans, bush tomatoes and

**"The sisters are running and forming [the country], they are making rock holes, clay pans, bush tomatoes and all Anangu are now seeing this when they go hunting."**

## Potter celebrates joint management of parks

A CHOPPER ride over Palm Valley during a joint management meeting two years ago has inspired an entry in this year's Desert Mob exhibition at Araluen in Alice Springs.

Hayley Panangka Coulthard's terracotta pot *Joint Management Meeting* celebrates the gatherings in her mother's country.

"These meetings and working together is really important to me and my mother, for everybody and for the future," Ms Coulthard explained in her artist's statement.

"My mother and I went up in the helicopter to show country to the land council people."

"We have looked for animals together, made fires and had meetings together. We walk with different family groups through country, working together. We have to work together for this land management."



A great interactive version means art lovers on a budget don't have to fly to Canberra to watch the sisters flying.

They can simply go online to watch the sculptures shoot up into the night sky, rotate them around to admire all the crafty details, learn about the artists and enjoy a performance of the famous Seven Sisters inma (ceremony).

The NPY Women's Council got the ball rolling two years ago with an artist camp for women from Papulankutja in Western Australia.

The women camped near Kuru ala, an important site in the Seven Sisters songline.

The exhibition is inspired by senior custodians of Martu, Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara and Ngaanyatjarra country working together to investigate the creation story they share.

According to the legend, the sisters travelled from WA to the APY lands, chased by the evil Wati Nyiru.

"The sisters don't want to marry the Wati Nyiru, but the Wati Nyiru was a really tricky man," Pitjantjatjara cultural ambassador Tapaya Edwards told the ABC.

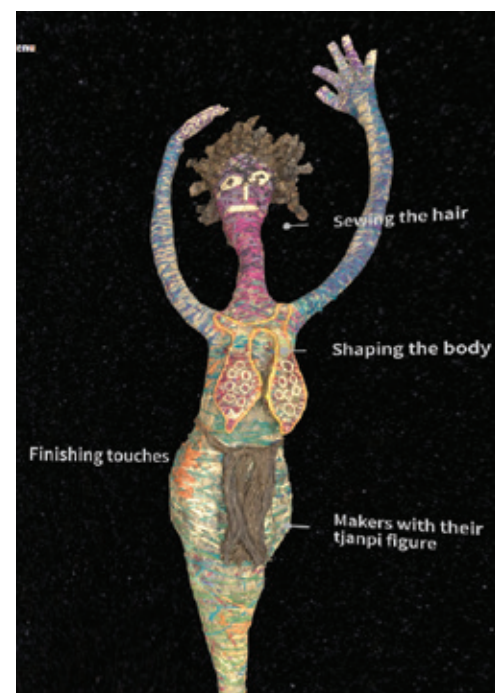
The shape-shifting spirit pursues them until they flee into the night sky and become the Pleiades star cluster.

Mr Edwards said the custodians

all Anangu are now seeing this when they go hunting," he said.

"They recognise the sisters made this."

Central Australian women first brought the legend to a global audience when they performed it during the opening ceremony of the 2000 Olympics.



The Seven Sisters interactive website lets visitors explore each sculpture. <http://songlines.nma.gov.au/tjanpi>.





# Climate change lapping at islanders' doorsteps



Joseph Billy, a fisherman from Masig Island, pictured on a visit to Thursday Island, said residents are watching their land disappear. "The last five years, every year I have moved my shed back from the beach another few metres," Mr Billy said. "We used to have a road that went all around the island but now it is broken. We will lose our land eventually." Photo: Brian Cassey/Oxfam Australia

SMALL Pacific island countries have appealed to the United Nations for action on climate change, which is threatening the very existence, not just of their nations, but also the islands of Australia's Torres Strait.

The Prime Minister of Samoa, Tuilaepa Sailele Malielegaoi, says the consequences of inaction will be great.

"As small island Pacific countries, we are no longer protected by our isolation," he said.

"Climate change, like other global challenges, crosses borders seamlessly. It has no respect for sovereignty and does not discriminate between rich or poor."

Mr Malielegaoi urged global leaders to prioritise the implementation of the Paris Agreement on climate change.

"Its dire consequences are real, including [for] those who remain in denial," he said.

President of Palau Tommy Esang Remengesau Jr. implored nations to fully implement the agreement.

"Palau in the Pacific has experienced, first hand, the impact of climate extremes," he said.

"[Climate change impact] is a ticking time-bomb – no one knows when or where the next disaster will strike, but we are a keenly aware that it can wipe out years of progress in a span of hours."

The prime ministers of Vanuatu and Tuvalu also stressed the importance of the climate pact.

"The Paris Agreement is our common hope of a decent life on a sustainable planet," Tuvalu's Enele Sose Sopoaga told the UN.

"For Tuvalu, it is our hope of security and survival."

But he also noted that hope is "dimmed with the announcement by the United States that it will abandon the agreement".

"We are but on one canoe for humanity, no one country must jump ship! We either must paddle together to keep us afloat and safe or allow the canoe to sink, and we all drown.

It is our hope, that with this Paris

Agreement, the canoe, we can save

Tuvalu, and if we can save Tuvalu we can save the world."

Torres Strait Islanders, meanwhile, are seeing more of their land disappear under water every year.

"Our seawall is no longer any good,"

Boigu elder Dennis Gibuma told *The*

*Guardian* newspaper.

Mr Gibuma said the battle with the sea is beginning to fail.

"When the high tide and strong winds come together, it breaks. We pray we don't lose our homes. We

**"But the impacts of climate change are growing and pose a long term threat, including the community members losing their connection to land and culture if they are forced to leave their islands."**

don't want to leave this place."

The nearby island of Masig is less than three kilometres long and just 800 metres wide.

Engineering officer Songhi Billy said "the island is being eaten".

"I kind of feel hopeless in a sense. Our land is part of us," Mr Billy said.

Our land is part of us," Mr Billy said.

Our land is part of us," Mr Billy said.

Our land is part of us," Mr Billy said.



Thursday Island fishermen Alan Passi and Phillip Lewis Mabo: "I'm close to 60 and I've been fishing all my life. Something is changing. The pattern is no longer seasonal," said Mr Mabo (left). Photo: Brian Cassey/Oxfam Australia

Oxfam Australia's director Helen Szoke said the islands had been forced into the frontline of the climate crisis.

"The Torres Strait Islands are already facing the challenges of delivering health services, housing, secure water supplies and other essential infrastructure," Dr Szoke said.

"But the impacts of climate change are growing and pose a long term threat, including the community members losing their connection to land and culture if they are forced to leave their islands."

Oxfam called on the Australian Government to ban new coal mines and take stronger climate action to save the islands.



About 250 people live on Masig Island, at the centre of the Torres Strait. It is 2.7km in length and 800m at its widest point. Rising sea levels have heavily eroded some of its shoreline; including a stretch where the island's road is being washed away. Photo: Brian Cassey/Oxfam Australia





# Ten years of rights - no end to the fight

THERE was some good news and some bad news on the 10th anniversary of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

The declaration outlines the individual and collective rights of indigenous peoples, as well as their rights to culture, identity, language, employment, health, education and other issues.

There are 370 million indigenous peoples living across 90 countries around the world. They make up five per cent of the world's population, but three times as many (15 per cent) of its poor.

They represent 5,000 different cultures and speak the vast majority of the world's 7,000 languages.

UN General Assembly in September 2007. Australia, Canada, New Zealand and the United States, voted against the declaration, following more than two decades of debate about the non-binding text.

Australia's Howard government said at the time it wouldn't support the declaration because "it's outside what we as Australians believe to be fair".

"We haven't wiped our hands of it, but as it currently stands, it would provide rights to a group of people which would be to the exclusion of others," former Indigenous Affairs Minister Mal Brough said.

However, in April 2009 the

**"The most fitting way to mark the declaration's anniversary is to honestly identify and confront the obstacles it faces for effective implementation at all levels."**

The declaration enshrines the rights of indigenous peoples to maintain and strengthen their own institutions, cultures and traditions and prohibits discrimination against them while promoting their full participation in all matters that concern them.

It was adopted by the

Rudd government adopted the declaration and Canada has also since adopted it.

At a special UN General Assembly meeting to mark the 10th anniversary, Evo Morales Ayma, the President of Bolivia, declared "Indigenous peoples are the moral compass of humanity, with their own ways of organisation and



A Hmong woman at work in Sin Chai, Viet Nam. UN Photo/Kibae Park.

production", adding that they must lead an international fight "to save humanity and the world".

Mr Morales said, "There are no issues in which indigenous peoples could not or should not be involved", adding that indigenous peoples had been resisting invasion for centuries from powers that had aimed to extinguish their identity.

Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights Andrew Gilmour said the declaration

itself represented progress, but also had a warning.

"The struggle is far from over," he suggested. "Although the declaration was approved 10 years ago, many of the obstacles that led to its enactment are still present today.

"Endorsement of its fine principles, alas, does not equal implementation," he said.

Special rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples Victoria Tauli-Corpuz, said the best way to ensure the

declaration's success into the future was to openly investigate its flaws.

"The declaration is an essential tool for reconciliation, a much-needed process in countries where indigenous peoples continue to suffer gross human rights violations," she stated.

"The most fitting way to mark the declaration's anniversary is to honestly identify and confront the obstacles it faces for effective implementation at all levels."

## Schools urged to involve parents in education



Photo: Rusty Stewart

A REPORT by the Organisation for Economic and Co-operation and Development has urged schools in three former British colonies to build relationships with indigenous students and their families.

The Promising Practices in Supporting Success for Indigenous Students report by the OECD says a positive relationship helps the students do better at school.

"Where respect, trust and

Schools that work alongside parents as partners achieve gains in student well-being, participation, engagement and achievement."

The report found that two forces had conspired to harm education outcomes for indigenous boys and girls.

"Indigenous peoples are diverse, within and across nations," it said.

"However, the indigenous peoples have experienced colonisation processes that

opportunities and outcomes of successive generations of indigenous children and young people, at times with catastrophic effect."

The report said three things need to happen to improve education outcomes in Australia, Canada and New Zealand:

1. Identify promising strategies, policies, programs and practices that support improved learning outcomes for indigenous students;

2 Collect data about what works to better help them to succeed; and

3. To help provinces and territories to learn from one another as they strive to make fast and lasting progress in closing education gaps between First Nations students and those in the rest of the nation.

Canada took part in the study, along with New Zealand and Queensland.

The OECD promotes policies to improve the economic and social well-being of people around the world.

**"Schools that work alongside parents as partners achieve gains in student well-being, participation and achievement."**

positive relationships have not always been part of historic or recent experiences, families are likely to be wary of engaging with school staff," the report says.

"However, where bridges are built and mutually respectful relationships are formed, the benefits for students can be huge.

have undermined indigenous young people's access to their identity, language and culture.

"At the same time, indigenous children have not generally had access to the same quality of education [as] other children in their country. These two forces, in combination, have undermined the educational





# Getting a bounce out of life

**CHARITY Bounce.**

**Believe**  
in yourself

**Own**  
your mistakes

**Unite**  
with others

**Navigate**  
challenges

**Commit**  
to a plan

**Enjoy**  
being you

USING basketball as the driver, Charity Bounce wants to bring positive change to the lives of young people in Central Australia and around the country.

Launched a year ago, Charity Bounce has delivered clinics in the Nyewente (Trucking Yards) town camp and at Ltyentye Apurte (Santa Teresa) to promote education and employment pathways.

"We came to Alice Springs in July last year and ran our

working with communities to build practical support structures for young people.

During its visit to the Centre, Charity Bounce brought Kevin White, from the Illawarra Hawks in the National Basketball League, and Darcee Garbin, from the Townsville Fire in the Women's National Basketball League, as well as Cal Bruton, an NBL Hall of Famer and all round legend of the sport.

"I think the raw talent,

**"I think the raw talent, natural skills and abilities that some of these kids have is just unbelievable."**

program with the Nyewente community, which already had a strong basketball program, and that's the reason why we came back out again this year," CEO and co-founder Ian Heining said.

Charity Bounce wants to build partnerships and expand its activities throughout the Northern Territory, by

natural skills and abilities that some of these kids have is just unbelievable and you can understand that if we can tap into these resources a lot of these kids will be very successful in whatever career path they choose," White said.

"Because they're so driven and so family and community oriented, with the right



Cal Bruton gives young basketball players at Ltyentye Apurte a pep talk.

pathway and right messages anything is possible for a lot of these kids," he added.

Darcee Garbin said she hoped Charity Bounce's visit would help young people of the region reach for their dreams no matter what the odds might be.

"You look at these kids, they have dirt footy fields, outdoor basketball courts, if they had the facilities and opportunities that the other kids have in the city imagine how good they can be," she said.

"Giving them a taste of that and inspiring them to

follow their goals in whatever it be, it's great. A big focus of ours, where ever we go, is partnerships, so working together.

"It's not us doing something for someone, it's us doing programs with someone, with community, with individuals, working together. We're really big on partnerships.

"We are so thankful and appreciative of Nyewente.

The fact that they invited us to come and partner and work with them. Being invited to be a participant and partner together," Mr Heining said.

## It's three times lucky for Laramba softball champs



Laramba champions triumphed in the community section of the competition. Photo: Central Desert Regional Council

TWO time runners up Laramba have gone one better in this year's NT softball championships in Darwin.

The players celebrated their win in the division 2 community section of the competition, beating the MacDonnell Council All Stars.

"The team's victory is a

testament to their perseverance and stamina," said Central Desert Regional Council president Adrian Dixon.

Playing five games over two and a half days in the humidity of the Top End proves just how fit these women are.

In August, Laramba won the Central Desert Regional

Championships.

The championships in Engawala were keenly contested by teams from Atitjere, the Anmatjere region, Yuelamu and the host community.

That win was the players' ticket to Darwin.



Ltyentye Apurte celebrates its 13.6 (84) to 12.8 (80) footy win over MacDonnell Districts. Photo: Charlie Lowson

## Papunya sports fans sitting pretty



Western Desert footy now has a very loud voice.

IN THE Western Desert sporting hub of Papunya, the hot summer months can't deter athletes and fans.

Footy and softball competitions keep going regardless, but this summer the spectators are barracking in style and comfort.

They have their community development working group and local workers to thank for shade shelters and seating at their footy and softball fields.

Jarrold Anderson, Ricky Nelson, and Abraham Major built them with Tangentyere Constructions builder trainer Chris Malouf.

The CLC helped the group to plan and invest more than \$148,000 of Papunya's community lease money in the new facilities, a longstanding

ambition of community leader Sid Anderson.

A commentary box dedicated to Mr Anderson at the football oval is also part of the project.

Papunya hosts a number of regional sporting events, including the Puyu Wanti Football competition during summer.

Mr Anderson said the upgrades were a community goal.

"We had a dream to make our sporting ground better for people to play on, and we spent our own money from section 19 and five-year leases on this," he said.

The projects complement upgrades of the football oval playing surface in 2015.





# Alan Drover keeps driving



THE RETIREMENT of the Central Land Council's longest serving employee, Yellowshirt, aka Alan Drover, turned out to be a new beginning.

Mr Drover celebrated his last day of full time work with a BBQ and a cake on the back veranda, surrounded by family and old and new colleagues.

A few days later he was back, looking chipper in his new role of oldest casual worker.

At his farewell David Ross

recalled Wenten Rubuntja hiring both he and Mr Drover in 1979.

Mr Ross paid tribute to Mr Drover for singlehandedly winning the Simpson Desert land claim, thanks to his encyclopaedic knowledge of his country.

He knows "every patch of gidgee between the Stuart Highway and the Queensland border," according to his colleague Rebecca Koser.

Ms Koser said Mr Drover trained generations of

anthropologists such as herself: "I couldn't have done this job without him, certainly wouldn't have stuck it for this long."

Mr Drover's retirement plans include working with the Strehlow Centre and more driving for the CLC.

"He won't sit on his bum doing nothing, he's still got plenty to do. He'll still be around to help out here and there, as you do when you are a CLC staff member. I'm glad about that," Mr Ross said.



Ronnie Jakamarra, from Tanami Downs, found some tucker for the Newmont managers during their cultural immersion experience at Mr Cook's outstation.



Vincent Lingiari's great great great grandson Zaccheus Rogers-Maylay with grandmother and CLC delegate Desley Rogers and mother Juanita Rogers.



Francis Kelly helps Henry Jakamarra Cook to celebrate his 100th birthday.



Sign me up! Josie Grant inks her new contract as the first female Aboriginal co-ordinator of a CLC ranger group. Watch out, Ti Tree!

## GOOD BYE CHARLIE



Charlie's angels were out in force in the CLC kitchen in September to see the most famous extra from the Cuz Congress TV series off to his next adventure. Thanks for a decade of fun, Charlie.



# TALK TO THIS MAN ABOUT DOMESTIC



I joined the police force [at Alekarenge]. We used to go out to these other places like Epenarra, Canteen Creek, and I'm meeting up with different tribes, trying to talk to them about laws around fighting in the community, or drinking, that sort of thing. So lot of people used to come and talk to me about it, when we used to go to Epenarra and Canteen Creek. Talk to this man about domestic [violence], just talk to him. Sometimes maybe with young girls, I used to talk a lot with them. Then I resigned from the police job in April [2013], so I been in the police force for eleven years. Oh, it was really hard job, but I used to cope. Because I used to get support from my people, maybe some in Alekarenge, some in Tennant Creek.

~ Gwen Brown ~  
Excerpt from *Every hill got a story*



For more information go to [clc.org.au/every-hill-got-a-story](http://clc.org.au/every-hill-got-a-story)



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

[WWW.CLC.ORG.AU/ARTICLES/INFO/593](http://WWW.CLC.ORG.AU/ARTICLES/INFO/593)

OR ON



@every-hill-got-a-story

**Central Land Council**  
Digital Archive

Share  
**your  
past...**  
with the future

Now also accessible by mobile phones and tablets  
<http://clc.keepingculture.com>



'I used to cope', Gwen Brown at work in Alekarenge in 2007. Photo: Chris Crerar/ Newspix.