

LEST WE FORGET



CONISTON MASSACRE 1928-2018

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REVEALED**



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TJANPI DOG STARS IN FILM



EDITORIAL

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COVER



Willowra women and girls at the 90th anniversary commemoration of the Coniston Massacre at Yurrkuru (Brooks Soak).

CLC MEETINGS

24-25 October
Executive
Alice Springs

13-15 November
Council meeting
Place to be confirmed

12 December
Executive
Alice Springs

Scullion's CDP tweaks are no vote winner

WITH an election in the wind all eyes are on the Northern Territory seat of Lingiari, where sitting Labor member Warren Snowdon is being challenged by the Country Liberals' Jacinta Price.

Both major parties are already campaigning in the vast electorate and are on the lookout for election winning policies (see p.4).

If the mood among CLC delegates is anything to go by, the federal government's work for the dole scheme doesn't seem to be one of them.

The punitive and discriminatory scheme, also known as CDP, isn't promising to be a vote winner in the bush, despite some tweaks the Minister Nigel Scullion has made in the wake of sustained criticism from across Australia.

"The 6,000 new subsidised jobs the government announced will not allow people to escape the inflexible, top-down scheme even if employers take up all these subsidies," the CLC's policy manager Josie Douglas said.

"Many employers in remote communities are unlikely to do so because the wage subsidy earns them too little money and is too short term."



Nigel Scullion defended his work for the dole scheme at Barunga.

The Aboriginal peak organisations of the Territory, APO NT, have built a strong and growing national alliance around an alternative to the CDP.

The alliance had the model costed and continues to lobby the Labor party to sign up to it.

"Our Aboriginal-controlled model would deliver 10,500 new subsidised jobs that would keep people employed for longer and is more

attractive to employers," Ms Douglas said.

"Participants would work 20 hours for the minimum wage plus on costs and could earn top-up, so it's much closer to the old CDEP but with improvements," she said.

"In addition, our alternative program would help 1,500 young people through six month work experience placements and redirect the \$25 million entrepreneurship fund to support social

enterprise development in communities."

Mr Snowdon said Labor agrees that a new program "similar to the old and loved CDEP" is needed.

The APONT's alternative model ticks that box and has also been costed by the National Centre for Social and Economic Modelling.

NATSEM found that the proposed job creation initiatives would bring down poverty and boost employment.

"It would reduce the population-wide poverty rate in affected regions from 22.7% to 20.1% and lift the employment rate from 48.2% to 57.8%," she said.

"Implementing our model would cut the gap between non-Aboriginal and remote Aboriginal employment rates by a third."

The CLC has been at the forefront of the development of the proposal and is disappointed that the government is not supporting it as a chance to fight increasing poverty and unemployment.

Continued p.15

Descendants of the Coniston survivors and perpetrators call for national commemoration

FOR a young Liza Dale-Hallett it was a shock to find out one evening that her grand uncle led one of Australia's worst mass murders.

The official record of the 1928 Coniston Massacre, a series of killings north-west of Alice Springs, puts the death toll at 31, but descendants of those killed say the figure is more likely around 100.

The massacres followed the murder of dingo trapper Fred Brookes at Yurrkuru, or Brooks Soak, by local Aboriginal man Kamalyarrpa Japanangka or Bullfrog.

Mounted police constable George Murray then gathered a group of men who over a period of months shot many local Aboriginal people.

Constable Murray admitted to killing 17 himself – in self-defence.

"I didn't know anything personally," his great niece Ms Dale-Hallett said.

"It didn't enter my awareness until, I think as a family, we were watching a television documentary on Coniston and they mentioned George Murray and all the ducks lined up and I said, 'Is that our uncle?'"

"And yes it was and I was probably doing year 11 or

year 12. That was the first bombshell.

"Whereas my twin brother, he tells me that our father shared it with him when he was still in primary school. No-one talked about it."

The official inquiry into the Coniston Massacre found that

"There was no excuse or justification for what occurred here 90 years ago."

the killings were committed in self-defence or during the acceptable course of police duty.

But CLC executive member Teddy Long, a traditional owner of Yurrkuru, said the massacres helped the settlers tighten their grip on Aboriginal land.

"People got shot at all the water holes – they got shot and those springs were taken over for cattle and Yapa were pushed off their country."

During the commemoration of the 90th anniversary of the massacre

in August, Northern Territory police commissioner Reece Kershaw apologised on behalf of the force.

"There was no excuse or justification for what occurred here 90 years ago," he told the gathered crowd.

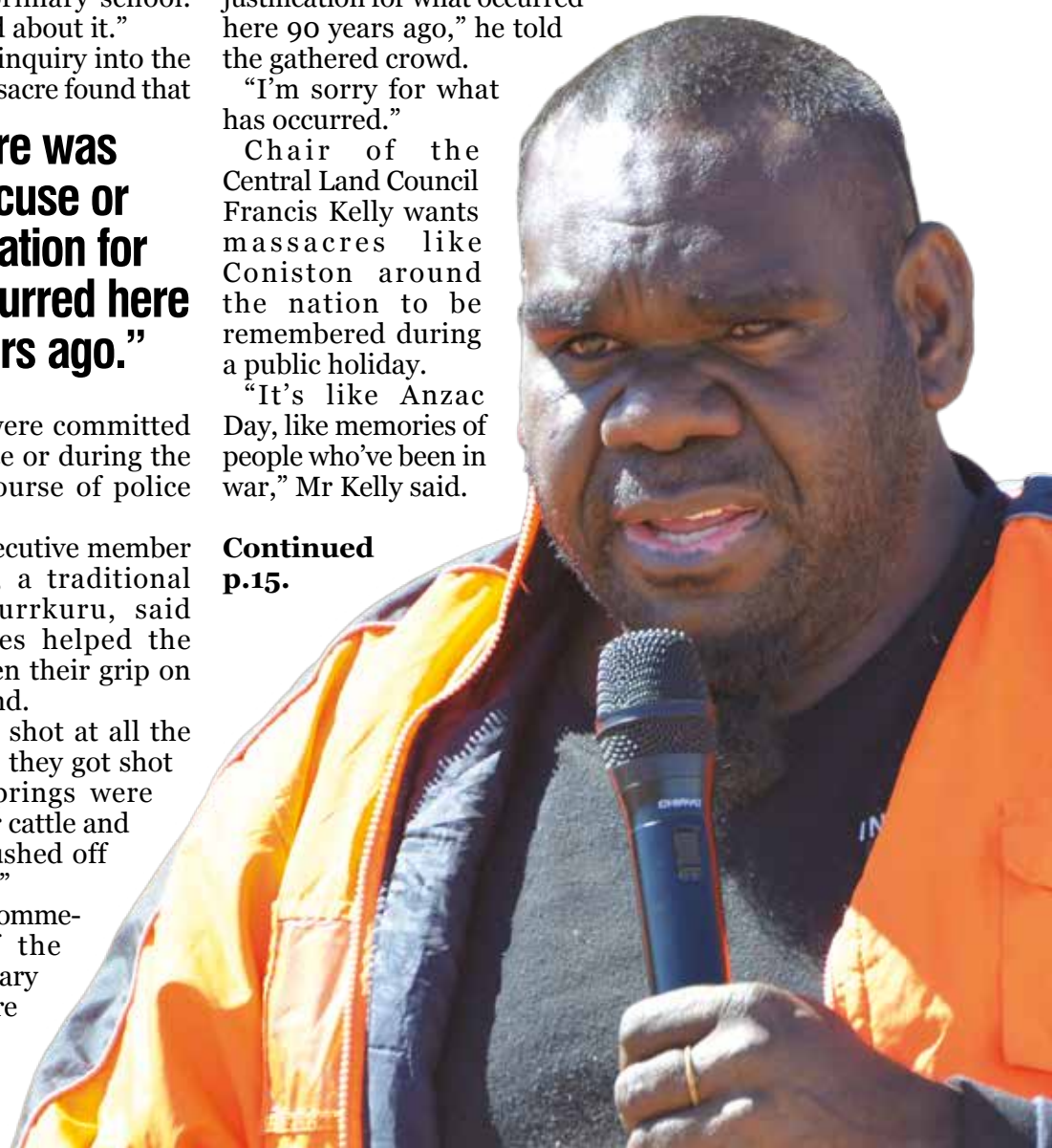
"I'm sorry for what has occurred."

Chair of the Central Land Council Francis Kelly wants massacres like Coniston around the nation to be remembered during a public holiday.

"It's like Anzac Day, like memories of people who've been in war," Mr Kelly said.

Continued p.15.

Photo: Dwayne Ross spoke at Yurrkuru.





Why is it important to tell the truth about the past?



Sydney Campbell

Iwupataka

“It has been passed down from old people that have gone now, but that story remains with us and we are going to carry it on. It makes it easier for everyone to understand. There are lots of people out there who don’t know about the massacres. They think everything is normal, but it is not, because we still have it in our hearts and that’s gonna be explained to the young people so we keep that strong.”



Michael Liddle

Alice Springs

“We get to know how and why we got in this situation by recognising what happened back in the past. It is important to know where we come from, how it happened. Knowing the truth could have changed the way people treat each other and could have helped with all the ugliness that history has created. With the story being told we will understand why we are in this predicament right now.”



Shirley Dempsey

Urlampe

“I don’t think people are aware of how many have been massacred. In the 70s, they (family) were mustering cattle and they rode up on a line of skeletons of Aboriginal people chained around the neck and legs and they all had bullets in their skull. That was really sad. We never heard anything about it until they were discovered.”



Leslie Marshall

Yuendumu

“We need to speak the truth and what’s in the heart. What happened in the past is the past, we remember and repeat it and it affects the future. Celebrating is great because it brings communities together. Everyone. It is not about black and white, we come all together, we get to know each others’ differences, each other’s strengths and weaknesses, we get along and we can fix the problem together.”



Caroline Dickinson

Alekarenge

“We need to know what happened because if we just walk around and do nothing, we won’t be able to know what happened to those old people who were living on this land. Not just here but everywhere.”



Jacinda Hayes

Ti Tree

“Because this is the story about our land and our people. We want our children and other people to know the truth. Indigenous and non-indigenous people. Our land would not be taken away from us if we knew the truth.”



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Who will get your vote at the next election?

The Coalition government’s leadership circus in Canberra means the election could be just around the corner. We asked the two major parties’ candidates* where they stand on issues that matter to you.

			
	Jacinta Price Country Liberal Party (CLP)	Warren Snowdon Australian Labor Party (ALP)	
	Do you support changing the Aboriginal Land Rights Act and, if so, why and how?	<p>"I support any moves that ensure the Land Rights Act continues to act in the best interests of traditional owners. Both I and many of the communities I engage with are not at all confident that the CLC is operating transparently and in the best interests of the traditional owners."</p>	<p>"Labor will only support changes to the Land Rights Act that are agreed to by the traditional owners through their land councils. We will not support changes that do not have this agreement and support."</p>
	How will you support Aboriginal people who chose to invest their royalties in community driven projects rather than opt for individual distributions?	<p>"The distribution of royalties is a matter for traditional owners and we will empower all traditional owner groups to make decisions in their best interests. The Commonwealth is working with land councils to ensure royalty distributions don't have negative impacts on communities, including ensuring payments are made during school holidays."</p>	<p>"The decision by Aboriginal people to invest their royalties in this way is one for them to make and has my absolute support. Aboriginal people have seen the positive impact of their decisions supporting community development initiatives. The Warlpiri Education and Training Trust (WETT) is a very good example of this approach."</p>
	How will you contribute (including financially) to the full implementation of all recommendations of the royal commission into youth detention and child protection?	<p>"The Commonwealth has already accepted and agreed to fund all of the recommendations for which it is responsible. As a proud Warlpiri woman in a federal Coalition government I'd work hard to ensure the Gunner government and Territory Labor deliver for Territorians and deliver their end of the bargain too."</p>	<p>"The NT government has a \$229 million package of works to prevent children and families from entering the child protection and youth justice systems. Labor believes that the Commonwealth should make a contribution to meeting the costs of implementing the recommendations. We are working with the NT government on this and will be making announcements before the next election."</p>
	How will you reform the punitive and discriminatory work-for-the dole scheme, aka the CDP?	<p>"I'll support any solution that ensures less sit-down money and moves people into jobs. The Coalition government has returned many of the positive elements of CDEP and is now creating 6,000 subsidised jobs as part of the CDP reforms."</p>	<p>"Labor is working with Aboriginal people and organisations to design a new scheme to replace the current CDP scheme which unfairly punishes Aboriginal people. Labor accepts the need for a new program that is similar to the old and loved CDEP and will announce what we believe a new program should be before the next election."</p>
	What will you do to increase the number of Aboriginal rangers and ranger groups?	<p>"The federal Coalition has already doubled the number of rangers since it came to government in 2013. It was in fact the Coalition government that created ranger groups and we are investing a record amount in rangers groups. I am very confident that this support will continue far into the future."</p>	<p>"A Labor government will provide over \$230 million over five years to double the number of Indigenous rangers under the Working for Country program to over 1600 full-time equivalent rangers. We have made this commitment a number of times and it will be met if we are fortunate to become the government after the next election."</p>
	What will you do to ensure the federal government continues to invest in new community houses and housing infrastructure beyond the next five years?	<p>"The federal government has recently agreed to a five year \$550 million housing deal with the NT government. This is record funding for the Territory and will see \$1.1 billion invested to significantly reduce overcrowding in communities. The focus of this investment will be local jobs, local contracts and local decisions."</p>	<p>"Labor accepts the need for the long term provision of housing and other infrastructure for Aboriginal people in the NT beyond the next five years. We are talking with the NT government and Aboriginal organisations about this long term need and will be making further announcements before the next election."</p>

* The Australian Greens are yet to select a candidate for the seat of Lingiari for the federal election.

Community development champions go head to head for governance award

TWO Aboriginal groups that invest their royalty and lease income in community development projects are finalists in Reconciliation Australia's Indigenous Governance Awards.

Alekarenge's community lease money working group and the Warlpiri Education and Training Trust have been recognised for the great work they're doing in their communities as

as sports facility upgrades, since 2012.

The WETT has supported lifelong learning projects for Yapa for more than a decade.

In 2017-18 alone, it invested almost \$6.7 million in 14 new community-driven education and training projects in Yuendumu, Lajamanu, Willowra and Nyirripi.

That's on top of 21 ongoing projects ranging from

Three judges, including Professor Mick Dodson, will visit Alekarenge and Yuendumu next month to find out more.

finalists in the category for non-incorporated governance groups.

Both groups work with the Central Land Council's community development team on projects that help young people.

Alekarenge has invested its community lease income in youth media, driver training and school holiday initiatives, as well

community learning centres and early childhood activities to youth diversion and leadership training.

Three judges, including Professor Mick Dodson, will visit Alekarenge and Yuendumu next month to find out more.

The winner will be announced at an awards ceremony later this year.



Graham Beasley is very proud of Alekarenge's youth projects.

Alekarenge Dance Festival Project \$1

Benefits: The Festival supports the whole community to teach young people and keep culture strong.



Details: U that the 2 Dance Fe



"Our Aboriginal-controlled model would deliver 10,500 new subsidised jobs," said CLC policy manager Josie Douglas.

From p.2

"According to the 2016 census, the employment rate in our communities has declined, while poverty has increased," CLC policy manager Josie Douglas said.

She said families out bush are most worried about the new penalty regime that will come in next year.

Penalties slapped on people out bush have escalated sixfold and one in five people under 35 (20 per cent) have dropped out of the system.

They haven't moved into work, but are being supported by their already struggling families.

"At first, remote CDP participants were promised that they would be exempt from the tough new penalty regime," Ms Douglas said.

"However, the government said it will now apply the penalties to the bush from February. This will further entrench poverty."

By contrast, the APO NT's alternative model would give communities a real say

of sustainable new jobs and upskilling locals to move into jobs currently done by non-Aboriginal people."

"Importantly, people with serious long-term health problems or disabilities would be supported to parti-

"The government will apply the penalties to the bush from February. This will further entrench poverty."

about local targets, levels of obligations and penalties.

"It would remove financial incentives for providers to penalise participants," Ms Douglas said.

"It would also shift the focus from short term results to long term positive impacts, such as the creation

cipate voluntarily rather than to be forced."

"These initiatives would help to close the gap in life expectancy, health, employment and education outcomes between our peoples and other Australians."

(see also p.7).

Human wrecking ball swinging by a community near you!

"THE First Nations asked the government for a voice and we get Tony Abbott".

In the chorus of Aboriginal voices condemning the appointment of Tony Abbott as 'special envoy' for Aboriginal affairs this assessment by Senator Patrick Dodson nailed it.

The appointment by new Prime Minister Scott Morrison is an attempt to prevent the man known as the human wrecking ball from undermining his government.

Mr Abbott said he will focus on school attendance in remote communities.

He already made it known that he will be looking into penalties for parents whose

kids fail to go to school.

So what are the chances that boosting school attendance will become the one positive achievement of the former self-appointed 'Prime Minister for Aboriginal Affairs'?

Look no further than his track record:

- Cut \$500 million from Aboriginal programs (2014)
- Claimed people living in remote communities are making a 'lifestyle choice' (2015)
- Backed the rejection of the Uluru Statement that called for an Aboriginal voice to parliament (2017)

Cartoon by David Rowe



Next council meeting to decide on outstations

CENTRAL LAND COUNCIL members are preparing to make some big decisions about their outstations at the year's last council meeting at Bonya near the Queensland border.

Delegates will decide at the meeting, to be held from November 13-15, which of the region's 300 outstations get a chance to benefit from a one-off \$15.75 million grant from the Aboriginals Benefit Fund.

The grant is too small to

“This is a big job, with so many outstations spread over some very remote country.”

help all outstations, because if it had to be shared among all, each outstation would only get an amount that would be too small to do anything decent with.

That's why, at the next meeting, delegates will consider information collected by the ABA outstation project and then choose around 100 priority outstations to get a share of the grant.

By mid September, the small project team had consulted people from more than 200 outstations during information sessions held across the CLC's nine sub-regions.

These sessions have been explaining the project to people and gathering information from them about their outstations.

“Of course we can't and don't need, at this stage, to speak to every person for each outstation; just one or two

who know their place well,” consultant project manager David Jagger said.

“Still, this is a big job, with so many outstations spread over some very remote country.”

At the August council meeting near Yuendumu, delegates had lots of questions about the project, such as who would decide how much money would go to each region.

Mr Jagger prepared options for the CLC's October executive meeting to assist in deciding the number of priority outstations that will get a chance to share the project funding in each region.

That might mean an equal share for each region or a proportional share, or a combination of both options.

In November 2017, council resolved that the process for choosing the outstations must be open and fair, stretch the funding across the whole CLC region and make the employment of locals on repair and upgrade works a top priority.

The project must also follow the Canberra government's rules.

“We've been trying to talk with outstation resource centres, CDP providers and other organisations to see who is ready to do the work that priority outstations might want done with this funding,” Mr Jagger said.

“It will be up to the federal government to sign up the organisation to lead the work. It has indicated local Aboriginal employment is a government priority too.”

Early next year, outstation project staff will return to the

priority outstations chosen by the delegates in November to talk with more residents about each outstation's major needs.

This is to help them prepare applications for some of the ABA funding and send them to Canberra.

“Most of the applications will be for up to \$150,000,” Mr Jagger said.

“The government will then check if the applications meet its eligibility and funding criteria before contracting organisations to do the work.

“By then, it's a government project entirely, no longer a CLC project, with the actual works expected to start within 12 months of government contracting.”

ABA Outstation Project

Canberra Government **eligibility rules** (outstations that are allowed to get project funding)

- Outstations that are there now – NO new outstations
- Where people live or visit often
- Where people are ready to work with CDP
- Where any funding can be spent within 12 months

Canberra Government **funding criteria** (will be checked before funding is approved)

- **Benefit:** can this outstation help with jobs, local businesses, education, health and safety?
- **Need:** can it show it needs the things it wants?
- **Capacity:** can it help support the things it wants and look after them?



CLC delegates decided on the process for the outstation project in 2017.

VOTE 2019
Who do you want to represent your region?

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT
JOSIE DOUGLAS ON 08 8951 6212



Lack of royal commission progress hurts

FALLOUT from the Royal Commission into the Protection and Detention of Children in the Northern Territory continues with one of the agencies responsible for representing children in the justice system accused of falling into line with the government at the cost of improved outcomes.

Writing in the Northern Land Council's edition of Land Rights News, high profile Darwin barrister John Lawrence said that in the past 10 years the North Australian Aboriginal Justice Agency, or NAAJA, and other non-government organisations have become too cosy with the government.

"Over the past decade, such bodies have chosen to become embedded within the establishment which continues to jail Aboriginal people at ever increasing numbers," Mr Lawrence, who once worked with NAAJA, wrote.

"Whether they're motivated by self-interest or genuinely held beliefs really doesn't matter.

"The point is that in 2018, not only will it not achieve justice for Aboriginal people, it actually perpetuates the growing injustice towards them."

NAAJA, which has absorbed the Central Australian Aboriginal Legal

and lawyers who work for Aboriginal people in the front line within the court system," Mr Lawrence wrote.

"These criticisms apply only to the people in senior management and above who are making and pursuing this policy for these organisations."

The focus of the Aboriginal Peak Organisations NT (APO NT) is to ensure the Royal Commission's recommendations and achievements are not lost with inaction.

NAAJA has left the alliance over a difference of opinion about the best way to achieve this but has said it will continue to work with the APO NT.

One issue close to the alliance's heart is raising the age of criminal responsibility to 14 years, in line with international standards.

The NT government has only agreed to raise it to 12 years, and then only by 2021.

Outside the notorious Don Dale detention center in August, Olga Havnen, from the Danila Dilba Health Service, protested with human rights, legal and health advocates for change.

She said jailing 11-13 year old children flies in the face of the latest science about when the brain matures.

"A high proportion of children who



(L-R) Matthew Littlejohn, Olga Haven and Rodney Dillon protested outside Don Dale. Photo: Amnesty International

the royal commission.

"It would seem from what we've seen to date, and particularly with the increasing number of incidents in Don Dale, that perhaps things aren't working as well as they should be," she said.

Some Central Land Council delegates are beyond impatient with the NT government's lack of progress halfway through its term.

At the council's August meeting delegates put NT Aboriginal Affairs Minister Ken Vowles on the spot.

"We are not happy with how Mr Gunner is treating our children," Sabella Turner said.

"They are being traumatised. They need to be on country where they can be taught discipline. We need to protect them."

Mr Vowles promised to pass on the council's displeasure to the boss and agreed it's "not good enough" that every single child in detention in the NT is Aboriginal.

In September, the government announced it will invest \$455,000 to upgrade the Mt Theo Outstation, allowing the Warlpiri Youth Development Aboriginal Corporation to continue their youth diversion program for at-risk young Warlpiri people, on country.

"Locking up young kids does enormous damage to the children, their families and their communities. Just because they have broken the law does not mean they deserve to be broken by the system."

Service, has defended itself against Mr Lawrence's claims of it falling silent on Aboriginal justice issues.

"Issues are being presented, and we're working with the department to address those issues and hold them to account," Chief Executive Priscilla Atkins told the ABC.

"We only go public if it needs to go public.

"If the outcome we're trying to achieve we can achieve by working directly with the government agencies and with ministers, that's the pathway we're there for."

Mr Lawrence, however, wrote that the collaborative approach is not working.

"I can't stress enough that the writer's criticisms here do not apply to the daily heroics performed by the grossly underresourced administrative staff

come into contact with the justice system have experienced trauma, which is often the cause of offending behaviour," she said.

"They require support, education and diversion, not incarceration," Barrister Matthew Littlejohn added.

"Locking up young kids does enormous damage to the children, their families and their communities."

"Just because they have broken the law does not mean they deserve to be broken by the system," he said.

Amnesty International's Rod Dillon said: "If a 12-year-old child isn't old enough to have a Facebook account, they are not old enough to be shackled with a criminal record."

Ms Havnen told the ABC that Aboriginal people are becoming impatient with the lack of change since



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	4. TANAMI Tyrell LeRossignol 89 51 6314
	5. WEST Vacant (Jesyjames), 89 51 2255
	6. TENNANT CREEK Darryl "Tiger" Fitz, 89 62 2343
	7. EASTERN SANDOVER Jesyjames Carr, 89 56 6255
	8. EASTERN PLENTY Richard Dodd, 89 56 9722
	9. CENTRAL Michael Turner, 89 56 8658



CLC policy manager Josie Douglas and AMSANT CEO John Patterson fought the discriminatory and punitive work for the dole scheme in Canberra. Dr Douglas gave evidence before a Senate committee in September that, if the Coalition government's CDP bill passes, people in the bush will be hit with tough new penalties from February. She said the penalty regime would create even greater financial hardship.



Knowledge swap sows seeds of ranger exchange

RANGERS from Ltyentye Apurte (Santa Teresa) and local elders have teamed up with rangers from Western Australia to share bush medicine knowledge and gifts.

In early September, female Martu Rangers from Punmu community in the Pilbara region of Western

“The Martu women coming to visit us was mwerre.”

Australia, spent the day out at Mparnwenge (Hayes Springs) with their Central Australian colleagues.

Under the guidance of elders Veronica Dobson, Natasha Hayes, Cecily Palmer and Marie Ryder they collected many bush medicines along the way.

The Martu women knew Utnerrengge (Emu Bush), but use it differently. The visitors make tea out of it, not a rub, like their Arrernte hosts.

Medicines that were new to the Martu included Arrethe (Rock Fuchsia) and Untyeye (Corkwood).

The women prepared some Arrethe, Untyeye and Utnerrengge for the guests to take home.

The Martu came with gifts of wamarla (bush tomatoes) and bush medicine books and resources they had produced.

“The Martu women coming to visit us was mwerre,” said ranger Petria Cavanagh.

“It was good for them to come and visit us in Ltyentye Apurte and see what we do.”

The rangers also told the guests about their fencing and weed eradication work to protect the spring from feral horses and camels.

The Martu rangers took a few ideas home to the Great Sandy Desert, where they



Veronica Dobson (back left) and Natasha Hayes (right) with Martu women and CLC rangers at Hayes Springs. Ranger Petria Cavanagh (front left) grinds bush medicine. Photo: Fiona Walsh.

work with ranger teams in nearby Purngurr and Jigalong communities.

Before they returned to WA they visited the Akeyulerre Healing Centre, the Central

Land Council and presented at the Desert Mob Symposium at Araluen.

Ms Cavanagh said the Ltyentye Apurte Rangers hope to pay a return visit

across the border.

“In the future, it would be good for us to go over to their country and see what they do and share knowledge that way,” she said.

Community stays strong for its children

NTARIA residents are making their community fit for kids and strengthening local organisations and employment along the way.

A group of 12 committed locals, the Ntaria Leaders Group, have funded 21 community driven projects over the past five years that all aim to make the community a better place to raise kids.

Take Old Way New Way, a project that allows the famous Hermannsburg Potters to help senior local students translate their stories into art using iPads.

The designs are printed on t-shirts, bags and cards and sold through the art centre.

The students develop digital skills and learn about costs, pricing and how to use the internet to sell their work.

They pocket some of the profits while the rest funds future joint projects of the school and the potters.

Leaders group member Taren Williams believes their approach works because it is community driven.

“Just by talking with each other and talking story with community, we saw things we

were missing and tried to fill the gaps,” Ms Williams said.

Another example is Tjuwanpa’s Kids Club, an out of school play initiative where six locals, who were trained by the Australian Childhood Foundation, run play activities for 8–12 year olds.

Through games and sports

“We are the fathers and they are the mothers and we need both on the group.”

students learn listening and teamwork skills, how to express their feelings and manage frustrations.

The projects are managed by the Tjuwanpa Outstation Resource Centre and funded by the federal government’s Stronger Communities for Children program.

The projects fund 10 positions for locals and work on issues that the community sees as important.

They use resources the community already has, working through the school, the potters, Tjuwanpa and MacYouth.

“We can see where organisations might be struggling and offer help,” Ms Williams said.

“We also encourage organisations to come together, making sure everyone is talking the same story for kids.”

The group began in April 2014, when families began talking about giving children and young people the best start in life.

Its founding members, such as Central Land Council delegate Patrick Oliver, wanted to see kids safe, going to school, having fun and able to walk in two worlds.

Mr Oliver proudly spoke about the group’s achievements at a CLC meeting earlier this year.

“We are parents of all the kids,” he said.

“I became a member because you need men and women instead of all women.

We are the fathers and they are the mothers and we need both on the group because all men and women should be equal to speak for their kids.”

Photo: Bowen Abbott and Gideon Malbunka model their own design.



Kashani Sweet and Larissa Pepperill use tablets to design T-shirts.





Campground to the stars gets a face lift

LTYENTYE APURTE (Santa Teresa) residents are very invested in a camp ground near their community that is attracting sports stars and other high profile visitors.

They have spent more than \$151,000 of their community lease income to improve the facilities at the popular campground at Phillipson's Bore to keep them coming.

"The Melbourne Demons came out here and camped after they played in Alice," Malcolm Hayes said.

"Robert de Castella camped out there with a group of marathon runners before they went to New York," Nora Hayes added.

"The staff at the school go out there too sometimes. It's far enough out, but not too far and it's getting popular!"

The camp ground upgrade was the first project prioritised by the community's lease money working group.

Phillipson's Bore is just a few kilometres north of Ltyentye



Nora Hayes tries out the rangers' new benches at the Phillipson's Bore campground.

allocated \$120,000 to build new toilets and a bush kitchen and to connect the water supply.

It chose Tangentyere Constructions as its project partner and the business

““They were really blown away by the country.”

Apurte and has long been a residence for traditional owners.

The outstation also has cattle and horse yards that are regularly used by groups such as Bush Mob.

"We started that little camp [at Phillipson's Bore] before it got fixed up," Mr Hayes said.

After some careful planning with the Central Land Council's community development team, the group

employed local men David Marshall, Dean Oliver, Danny Ware and Michael Armstrong to work on the upgrade.

The Ltyentye Apurte Rangers helped to build seats and tables for an extra \$3,000.

The group set \$28,500 aside for future repairs and maintenance.

The improvements have been popular among locals, who are eager to camp at Phillipson's Bore.

"It's nice and peaceful out



The Melbourne Demons stayed at the campground after they played in Alice.

there," working group member Raymond Palmer said.

"We used the campground last night. We had some skateboarders come out,

there were eight skaters, two international."

Nick Hayes, working group member, MacYouth development officer and skate

instructor said the skaters really enjoyed the experience.

"They were really blown away by the country," he said.

Beaches reward Ntaria's best and brightest

STUDENTS from Ntaria (Hermannsburg) will get the chance to trade red dust and dry river beds for white sandy beaches, surf and cultural experiences, thanks to generous grants from the community's lease money working group.

Every year between now and 2020, the working group is rewarding year seven students, who have shown good school attendance, with excursions to Sydney.

The \$100,000 contribution included an excursion to the Garma Festival for 15 older students, who missed out on an excursion in 2017.

"I liked meeting new friends and going to the

beach," year 10 student Carol said. "I learned about rocket science, dance and story."

Another year 10 student, Larissa, said she appreciated the musical side of the festival.

Latrelle, also in year 10, said, "Garma is good because you get to learn from other cultures."

Year 12 student Saleen said she learnt a lot from her excursion.

"I liked launching the water rockets and learning to make music with the ipads," she said.

The first Sydney excursion is planned for the last term of this year.

The Ntaria school and the National Aboriginal Sporting Chance Academy are supporting the project with an additional \$70,000 over three years.

The excursions are offered



Ntaria students visited the beach near Gama in the Top End.

to students who demonstrate leadership skills and have a school attendance record above 85 per cent.

It's the second time the working group has funded a school excursion project using community lease funds.

In 2014, the group funded two school excursions to Sydney.

Language and culture room promoting lifelong learning

PAW MEDIA'S refurbished language and culture room is teaching Yuendumu residents of all ages about their history.

PAW's archivist Simon Fisher launched the room, which makes the Warlpiri media archives available to the whole community.

The space hosts the media organisation's digital literacy

"It shows what you can achieve when everybody works together."

education activities, the recording of oral histories and songs for the archives and the translation work for videos.

"This is an important day for us," Mr Fisher said.

"Now we can celebrate having a place to show our children their heritage."

The community invested more than \$93,000 for operational and wage costs in the room through the Granites Mine Affected Area Aboriginal Corporation (GMAAAC).

The federal government contributed funding through



Mentors Karim Timms and Jacob Presley, from PAW Media, produce local history resources in Yuendumu.

its Indigenous Advancement Strategy and Charles Darwin University also chipped in.

GMAAAC funded the employment of 13 locals, who put 648 hours into the project between September 2017 and

May 2018, five of them as cultural advisors.

"A lot of organisations helped make this room a good place for Yapa to come to," CLC chair and PAW director Francis Kelly said.

"It shows what you can achieve when everybody works together. GMAAAC's been a big part of that since the start."

More than 150 Yapa have visited the room since

the refurbishments were completed.

Visitors are improving their digital literacy by using the computers and are getting informal training in those areas, but the PAW workers who support them are also learning new skills.

Eight of the workers have had training in video translations and subtitling, helping them to increase their hours of paid employment.

The archive houses more than a thousand hours of PAW's sound, photo and video recordings and documents from 1984 onwards.

The recordings are recognised for their national significance.

The room's opening is the culmination of many years' work to improve community access to the archive and was the final event of the Year of Life Long Learning celebrations by the Warlpiri Youth Development Aboriginal Corporation.

It's the second time GMAAAC has contributed to the project, with the computers and desks it bought in 2011 still in use today.

Arlparra church means jobs

LOCAL workers who built a community-funded church in Arlparra, north-east of Alice Springs, have since found work in the construction industry.

Nine local men built Arlparra's new Baptist Church while also participating in training.

The community spent \$11,000 of their community lease money to buy materials for the build.

With partner Arid Edge Environmental Services managing the construction, the team replaced the old church, a rickety bough shelter made of salvaged materials, with a new steel shelter with a big cross.

The project included a chainmesh boundary fence, hardwood benches and some fruit and shade trees with a watering system.

The workers used leftover materials to weld steel entrance gates and tables with bench seats.

Manager of Arid Edge Alex McClean said the best thing about the project was the fresh opportunities for employment it opened up.

"A lot of the local workers on the church project were also doing construction training at the same time as working on this project and afterwards got work in the construction industry building new houses in Arlparra," Mr McClean said.



Jaimsie Rambler, Johnno Turner, Eddie Payne, Steven Ross, Gordon Purvis, Jonathon Club, Travis Loy, Ellary Morton and Desmond Morgan in front of the new church shelter.



The Arlparra church shelter before the renovation.

Tackling overcrowding with new Kwale house



Workers Isaac Malbunka and Kevin David are busy on the build.

TWO local labourers are working on a new house at the Kwale outstation, near Ntaria, that will alleviate overcrowding.

Almost \$159,000 towards the cost of the three bedroom house comes from the traditional owners of the Tjoritja/West MacDonnell Ranges National Park, who are investing some of their rent income from the park.

The Central Land Council contracted the Tjuwanpa Outstation Resource Centre for the build, which started in July.

Due for completion in

June 2019, the house will have an insulated roof, new septic tank, split system air conditioners and fans.

Tjuwanpa is adding nearly \$75,000 worth of in-kind support, including power and water connections, a satellite dish and television, whitegoods, garden shed and fence.

The resource centre is also contributing construction materials and labour.

"It's a good job and fun to work on," said Isaac Malbunka, one of the locals who have been employed to work on the project for 28 hours a week.

Young members rejuvenate WETT committee

TANAMI communities have elected new young members to advise the traditional owners on how to invest their gold mining royalties through the Warlpiri Education and Training Trust.

After more than a decade of recommending and monitoring community driven projects, the WETT advisory committee was due for a makeover.

“I want to join WETT to support our young people to get more education.”

Extra positions created for young people from Yuendumu, Lajamanu, Nyirrpri and Willowra are already injecting fresh energy into the group of veteran Yapa educators.

Among the newcomers are Loretta and Margaret Johnson

from Lajamanu.

Loretta Johnson has worked at the school for the past seven years and is studying education support, which is becoming a family affair.

“My mother worked at the school and I helped out when I finished college. I want to be involved in how WETT supports the Lajamanu school,” she said.

Margaret Johnson, who works at the community’s learning centre and is pursuing business studies, nominated for the committee to “help our people and build a strong future for the young ones”.

Kyra-lee Rose was employed at the Lajamanu school and wants to join the crèche so she can work with younger children.

Kirsten Egan, a new proxy member from Yuendumu, is certain that “education is the key”.

“I want to join WETT to support our young people to get more education,” she said.

Last financial year alone, the trust approved 14 new education, training, early childhood and youth leadership projects worth

almost \$6.7 million dollars.

The CLC’s community development team manages those projects as well as a further 21 started earlier.

It’s a big job that relies on the guidance and local knowledge from WETT advisory committee members of all ages.



Kyra-lee Rose (left) and Margaret Johnson from Lajamanu joined the WETT advisory committee.

New program to tackle ear infection crisis

ABORIGINAL children have among the world’s highest rates of middle ear infections that cause hearing loss, but a \$7.9 million community-based program aims to turn this around.

Many children, who seem to be ‘not listening’ or to have trouble learning, are really suffering from hearing loss.

A partnership between the NT and Australian governments and the Balnaves Foundation aims to tackle ear diseases among children in remote Territory communities.

The five-year Hearing for Learning program is based on research by scientists at the Menzies School of Health

“The ear check program is expected to hire and train up to 40 Aboriginal clinical support officers.”

Associate Professor Kelvin Kong, from the University of Newcastle, Australia’s first indigenous surgeon, said hearing loss can lead to serious disadvantage.

“If you’re not hearing, you can’t learn, you can’t hear the song lines, you can’t hear the stories, you can’t sing along, you can’t dance,” he said.

Research has shown that nine out of 10 Aboriginal children in the Northern Territory under the age of

Research and will employ and train community residents to help spot and treat ear disease and hearing problems.

The program aims to cut the need for fly-in-fly-out specialists and the time children wait to be diagnosed and treated.

It is expected to reach 5,000 children, especially those aged under three.

The program will start at four remote sites and is expected to be rolled out to up



Associate Professor Kelvin Kong at work.

detected and treated early.

They will also carry out follow-up checks to make sure kids’ ears stay healthy.

Associate Professor Kong said the program will be driven by locals.

“We will be behind whatever the community needs,” he said.

“Where we can guide is to say, well that doesn’t work so well, why don’t we try it this way? Let’s go back and forth until we get the balance right.”

Middle ear infections are difficult to detect because they are often painless.

Researchers are still learning how to help families work out if children have hearing loss.

“People can easily misinterpret a child’s behaviour as being naughty

when in fact they are suffering hearing loss,” Professor Amanda Leach from the Menzies School said.

In remote NT communities babies as young as one month have been found to have glue ear, a bacterial infection also known as bulging eardrum or runny ear.

The longer the infection is left untreated the more likely it is to lead to hearing loss.

Hygiene is important for stopping the spread of the infection but keeping overcrowded houses clean can be difficult.

Breathing in tobacco smoke also raises the risk of the infection spreading.

Residents should not smoke inside or near children and should get the whole family

to wash their hands and faces a lot.

There are also vaccines to stop some of the bacteria that cause glue ear and breastfeeding during the first six months of a baby’s life also helps to prevent it.

Professor Leach believes hearing loss played a role in landing many Aboriginal people in NT jails.

She said it also stopped many Aboriginal children from getting school-ready and getting an education.

“This early and persistent disease throughout childhood robs children of the opportunity to learn, to have self-esteem and to reach their full potential,” she said.

“People can easily misinterpret a child’s behaviour as being naughty when in fact they are suffering hearing loss.”

three have ear disease, and most of them will experience hearing loss affecting early brain development.

That’s the same percentage as the people in NT jails who have hearing loss.

to 20 communities, employing up to 40 Aboriginal Clinical Support Officers.

Those local experts will regularly check the ears of the children in their community, allowing any infections to be



Old ranger station, new opportunities

THE Old Ranger Station at Mpulungkinya (Palm Valley) in the Finke Gorge National Park has had a makeover, ready to host a new cultural tourism venture.

Conrad Ratara has dreamt of creating work for his family there for more than 30 years, ever since he started to work with the Parks and Wildlife Commission of the Northern Territory in 1984.

Back then, Mr Ratara looked after cultural sites in the park, west of Alice Springs, alongside his father.

He has been thinking about the business long before he embarked on proper planning.

"I have done my step-by-step project business development with the help of Central Land Council and Ngurratjuta. They are looking after us," he said.

In June he signed a sublease for the ranger station area on behalf of the Yalka Ratara Aboriginal Corporation with the PWCNT to operate a tourism business from the site.

"I am excited," he said.

"I am the first Aboriginal person to get the lease from parks. So I think my business is special. If you get your lease, you own that one. That is what I feel."

The venture will give tourists who come to admire the famous red cabbage palms a reason to stay longer and learn from welcoming locals about the stories and culture of Mpulungkinya.

"I would like to have campfire stories, sitting an hour with a cup of tea and tourists. It is the way we tell stories. We would talk about plants, animals," Mr Ratara said.

His plan includes cultural walks, film nights and a meeting and art market space at the ranger station, which was damaged in the floods of



Conrad Ratara welcomes visitors to Mpulungkinya (Palm Valley), where he is developing a tourism business at the Old Ranger Station (below).

1988 and required extensive repairs.

Mr Ratara is part of a group of traditional owners of the national park who invested almost \$165,000 of the park rent income they receive from

to the bathroom, kitchen plumbing and hot water facilities and a vermin barrier.

With the support of the CLC's community development program and Tangentyere Constructions

"Tourists come here to our country and go without knowing Aboriginal people. They are always happy to talk to us. If tourists are happy, I will be happy."

the NT government in the upgrade of the building.

"I spent my own money to renovate the house, project (park rent) money and ABA. It is my money. I don't really like the government's money. I like to think that we own this one," he said.

Launched in July, the upgrade project includes improvements

the group has already installed a hybrid solar system, fixed up the carport and added two 10,000 litre water tanks.

Two local Aboriginal workers will be employed on the project, which is due to be completed in December.

There's no shortage of ideas for future improvements either. For example, developing visitor accommodation that can

host special interest groups and activities.

"We will try to put a campground at the front and, some tents with a deck," Mr Ratara said.

"I am also thinking of an office where we come every morning."

He said the Ngurratjuta Pmara Ntjarra Aboriginal Corporation will support his new business, "with the marketing, creating a brochure and with getting tourists".

"At the moment I don't have a car, so people come with their car, I jump on or we are going for a walk."

He aims to open the doors in the first half of 2019 and to employ more locals.

"Next year will be the year. I am trying to get everything done here before the tourist season. Family is helping. I will bring people to get rid of buffel grass," he said.

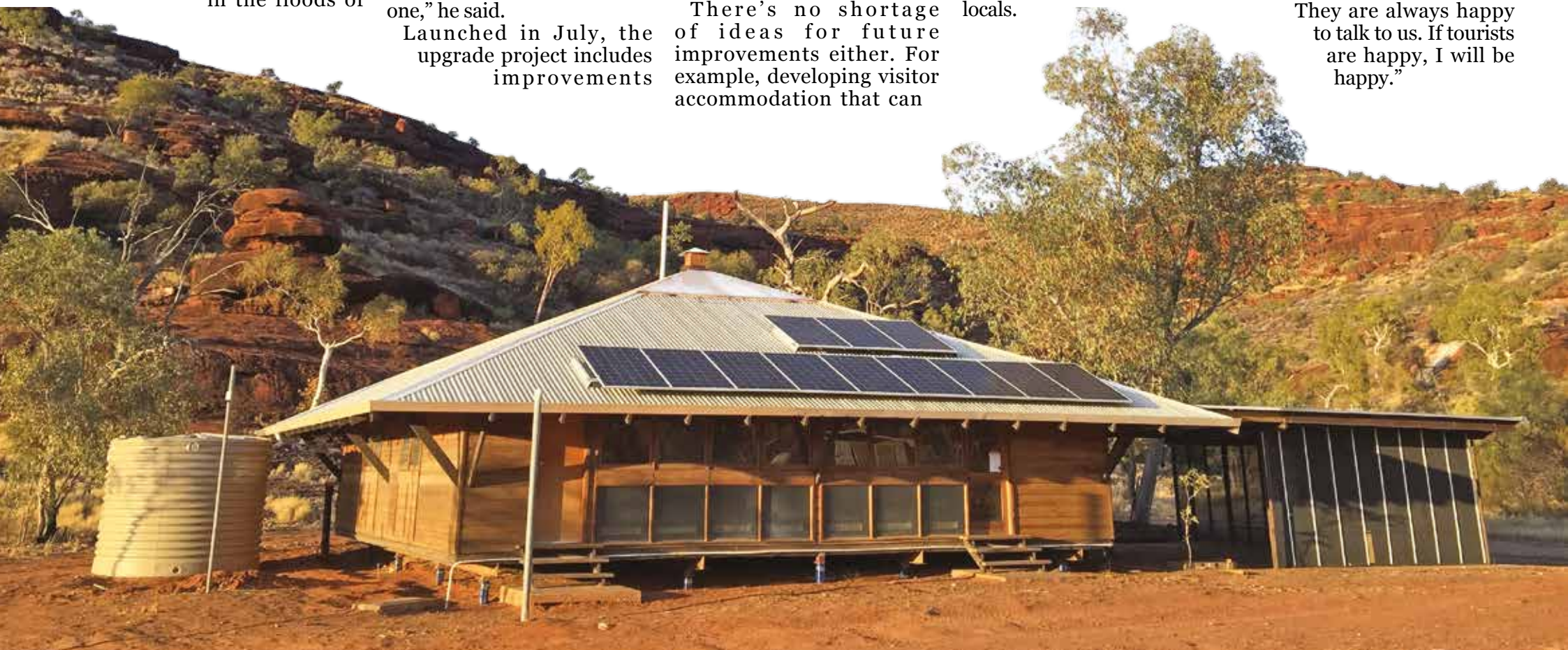
"I work with my family members. I would like to give them a job. If tourists pay, the money would go to workers or on the side for rainy days and for fixing the house."

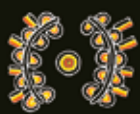
"It is good for the future, for the young people, that I have done this. They will be happy to learn how to talk to tourists."

Always smile! I will invite them and learn. I was shy when I was young, but now I am ok, I am getting old and ugly," he laughed.

"Tourists come here to our country and go without knowing Aboriginal people."

They are always happy to talk to us. If tourists are happy, I will be happy."





CENTRAL LAND COUNCIL

Lander River map passes knowledge to children

LOOKING FOR WORK?

The CLC's employment support team helps job seekers to write **resumes and job applications** and to **prepare for interviews**.

We **support employers** to develop strategies to find and keep Aboriginal workers.

We also **talk to schools and community groups** about job opportunities.



Cowboy George Ryder and Teddy Long presented the Land River map at Yurrkuru (Brooks Soak).

TRADITIONAL owners in Willowra are recording, mapping and painting important sites along the river near Willowra on a large canvas for their community learning centre.

The Lander River mapping project aims to foster collaboration between residents and assist with the transfer of knowledge between the generations, with all major families and senior people around Willowra involved.

Among the places on the map they presented at the Coniston commemoration in August at Yurrkuru are massacre sites – Liirpari, Tipirnpa, Kunajarrayi, Athimpelengkwe and many more.

"I put the names of places on this map, the names of places where people lived in the Lander River and where people have been hiding away," traditional owner Teddy Long said.

"We've been going out recording places and stories for the younger generation."

"What was really driving it and motivating it was the fact that they don't necessarily have access to places far away where you need a four wheel drive," the anthropologist Petronella Vaarzon-Morel, who has been working on the project for the past five years, told the ABC.

"So they've put their own money into the project.

People's involvement in it is incredibly important because younger people are learning as well, as we go."

Traditional owner Dwayne Ross said the map will play a vital part in the sharing of knowledge in coming years.

"The map is important for the future to see it so they can carry on the stories," he said.

"We know the story's still

project's four stages has come from the Warlpiri Education and Training Trust and the Granites Mine Affected Area Aboriginal Corporation.

"That's all together about a \$200,000 commitment and it's fantastic to see how people really flourish through these projects, particularly around connection to country, the engagement of young people,

"There's a few descendants, survivors, telling stories and passing it onto the younger ones. That's why the old people are working on the map."

alive. It's really important that we're talking about the map, elders and younger ones. Sharing. Sharing with more people. Sharing what's been going on in this area.

"There's a few descendants, survivors, telling stories and passing it onto the younger ones. That's why the old people are working on the map. To show the map is really important.

"The legacy still lives on. It's sad, it's very sad," Mr Ross said.

Georgia Stewart, from the Central Land Council's community development team, said the money for the

the engagement of senior people.

"It's been really inspiring and triggered other people in other regions for similar projects."

Mr Long said it's time governments helped to get the Lander River stories out to a wider audience.

"We want support to keep mapping places and stories to make a book. We want to develop a story place here to tell people what happened, an interpretive display."

Contact Shane on **8951 6313** or employmentunit@clc.org.au

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Give us a national day of mourning

From p.2.
“This is similar to our people and some people in urban areas don’t know much about the Coniston Massacre. Now we want the world to know about it.”
Mr Long agreed. “Yapa land has got important history for Australia,” he said.
“That’s why we need to build something there for the future – for Yapa families and white

She agrees that events such as Coniston must be remembered nationwide.
“I think it’s essential,” she said. “It matters to everyone on this continent. We need to know what happened. How it happened.”
“It is part of the historical narrative that has shaped our understanding and narrative and experience of Australia and if we deny those stories

“It’s like ANZAC Day, like memories of people who’ve been in war.”

families to come along and learn what has happened.”
He wants governments to support a national memorial day, “for recognition of massacres not only here, but all massacres of Aboriginal people that happened around Australia”.
Ms Dale-Hallett was at the 90th anniversary ceremony and the 75th as well.

we deny the opportunity to learn, to educate ourselves, appreciate where we are and to forge positive connections.”
“If we do not fully engage with these really complex and quite distressing elements of our history how do we step forward into the future in a positive way?”
“How can we possibly grow and mature as a nation



Liza Dale-Hallett and her twin brother Chas paid their respects.

and take on board those challenging parts of our past?”
Ms Dale-Hallett said there’s clearly been an ongoing trauma carried through the generations that can be traced to the massacre.
“Oh yes. Absolutely. I mean how can you not feel that trauma,” she suggested. “A highly emotional space. It’s

there. It’s a continuing lived reality.”
“There’s a huge burden that perpetuates the trauma and I think it’s better to assist the process of healing to listen to these stories and it doesn’t preclude the possibility of listening to other stories which are inspiring and perhaps shine other lights on

achievements and positive things, but some of these stories are really hard and I think if we deny those stories we short-change ourselves.”
Ms Dale-Hallett was heartened by the warmth of the welcome she’s received at each of the anniversary events she’s attended, starting with the 75th anniversary back in 2003, when she first came face-to-face with the families of the victims of her great uncle.
“That level of respect and generosity, spirit, amazing, deeply, deeply affected me,” she explained.
“And it happened again on this occasion too. The warmth of the reception, you just can’t fault that. It’s amazing and in every way, deeply humbling because it’s such a context of such deep pain.”
Ms Dale-Hallett said that if the broader Australian community can come to terms with its bloody history known as the ‘frontier wars’ it will only strengthen the nation.



Hundreds of NT deaths added to national massacres map

THE number of massacres of indigenous Australians that have been recorded by a major research project has risen to 240, but that figure will only grow as the record is added to.

Professor Lyndall Ryan, from the University of Newcastle is leading the project, which verifies and records the massacres on an online digital map.

The researchers were able to verify 19 massacres in the Northern Territory taking a total of 679 Aboriginal lives.

“People have been generous in offering the research team further corroborating data and information about incidents that were not yet included on the map,” Professor Ryan said.

“The high level of community interest and engagement comes from regional Australia, where most of the incidents took place, suggesting that people in the regions really do want to know what happened.

“It’s important to document these incidents because they resolve the long standing question: how violent was the colonial frontier?

“The map shows that massacre was widespread and affected hundreds of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.”

Stage one of the map recorded 172 incidents across Eastern Australia between 1788 and 1872. It documented the massacre site locations, details of the individual massacres and the sources corroborating evidence of the

massacres.

The recently launched stage two extends through to 1930, incorporates for the first time sites of frontier massacres that occurred in the Northern Territory and South Australia, along with some further incidents in Eastern Australia. It also includes 10 sites where non-Aboriginal

people were massacred.

The researchers were able to verify 19 massacres in the Northern Territory taking a total of 679 Aboriginal lives.

More than 6,200 people in total were killed during the massacres included to date, but Professor Ryan predicts her team is only halfway through researching the full extent of the violence during the colonial frontier, and the final number of massacres is likely to be closer to 500.

The figures are likely to underestimate the actual death toll because the researchers counted only events for which sufficient information remains and can be verified by records.

Stage three of the project, which will include sites in Western Australia as well as the rest of Australia from 1788-1960, requires more funding to go ahead.



Go to the online map:
<https://goo.gl/sFmMtm>



Blitz results are in: What's eating our bilbies?

RESULTS from the first national Bilby Blitz are in and it's mostly good news.

Rangers found bilbies in most areas where they expected them to survive and there appear to be reasonable numbers of them.

"This suggests healthy breeding populations in these last refuges of the bilby, which are mostly on Aboriginal land," the Central Land Council's regional land management officer, Richard Moyle, said.

"Indigenous rangers from 11 groups in the Northern Territory and Western Australia found bilby tracks, scats and burrows in 39 of the 50 areas they surveyed with the new Tracks app."

The blitz around the Easter period was the first cross border survey of bilbies that collected comparable information about



B1 and B2 at the launch of the Bilby Blitz in March.

where they are still surviving.

The 250 areas rangers scoured for signs of the threatened marsupial, also known as track plots, were two hectares large.

Track plots were in areas where bilbies were expected to be found, where they had been recorded in the past, or where it was thought there was the greatest chance of finding them.

In two areas near Kiwirrkurra and in the Northern Tanami where bilbies had not been recorded in the past, rangers detected signs of bilbies.

The only area where the rangers didn't find any bilby signs even though some had been sighted there recently, was the Illeuwurru area, east of Barrow Creek.

"The rangers found old burrows, but no fresh evidence,"

Mr Moyle said.

They also recorded signs of the bilby's main predators, cats and foxes.

The findings have rangers and scientists scratching their heads about which feral animal poses a greater threat to bilbies.

"Rangers found cat signs in 66 of the 250 survey areas, including where many signs of bilbies were also found," Mr Moyle said.

"This may mean that bilbies can survive living side by side with cats."

Rangers found evidence of foxes in 44 of the 250 track plots.

"Whilst this number is lower than for cats, where there were foxes there were fewer or no signs of bilbies. Further, evidence of bilbies was greater in the areas where there were cats," he said.

"Perhaps that means foxes

Tanami Pipeline creates Yapa jobs in record time

IT took a record seven months of consultations, 15 meetings and a swag of agreements, but as anyone driving to and from Yuendumu can see, the Tanami gas pipeline is finally being built.

Twenty two local Aboriginal people are working on the construction of the pipeline from the Amadeus-Darwin pipeline to Newmont's Granites and Dead Bullock Soak gold mines.

When complete, the pipeline is expected to help cut the number of road trains transporting diesel to the mines and improve safety on the Tanami Highway.

It will allow the mines to run on solar and gas, cutting their carbon dioxide emissions by 20 per cent.

Carbon dioxide from burning diesel is one of the gases that cause dangerous global warming.

The pipeline can also supply gas to Yuendumu in the future if the community wants to make the switch from diesel.

Yuendumu elder, Tommy Watson, who works as a cultural monitor on site protection during the

mob. They recognise me with that knowledge as a senior man. I have been protecting all those sacred sites and culture."

Newmont's Francois Hardy thanked the traditional owners, the CLC and the company that won the contract to build, own and operate the pipeline, "for all their hard work and dedication to successfully complete all agreements in a very short timeframe".

The pipeline will be 440 kilometres long, running underground from the Amadeus-Darwin pipeline on Narwietooma Station to Dead Bullock Soak and cutting through four Aboriginal land trusts and three cattle stations.

Between September 2017 and April 2018 the CLC presented to 26 different affected groups the company's proposals, the proposed pipeline route, its impacts, and potential compensation and benefits.

It consulted with the traditional owner groups and the native title holders for Narwietooma, Napperby and



Some of MPC's workers on the pipeline are local Aboriginal people.

of the agreements before it gave the green light to one pipeline benefits and impacts agreement, five section 19 deeds and three indigenous land use agreements.

Meanwhile, the CLC's employment unit worked closely with lead contractor MPC, its business partners and the Central Desert Regional Council to make sure as many people from Laramba, Yuelamu, Yuendumu and Nyirripi as possible got work and training opportunities on the project.

It has referred more than 100 applications from Aboriginal candidates to MPC.

Likkaparta mob have projects in the pipeline

A GROUP of traditional owners of the land traversed by the Northern Gas Pipeline near Tennant Creek are investing their income from the pipeline agreement in a mobile phone repeater and other projects.

The Kurtinja group is working with the Central Land Council's community development

team to improve their tourism business at the Likkaparta outstation.

The outstation hosts visitor groups and runs art workshops.

The group has committed a total of \$440,000 to install the repeater, construct a toilet and shower block and a workshop and upgrade the communal kitchen.

"They recognise me with that knowledge as a senior man."

construction of the pipeline, approved of the CLC's process to negotiate the pipeline.

"I have done all that cultural work, really busy," Mr Watson told delegates at the CLC's August council meeting.

"It's been really good working with that pipeline

Mount Doreen stations and its anthropologists conducted site clearances along the route.

Then it negotiated with the company.

The CLC's executive considered the outcomes of the consultations and the terms and conditions



have a greater impact on bilby numbers than cats. We need to do more research to find out which of these feral hunters is a greater threat to the bilby.”

Once the rangers’ bilby data has been carefully analysed it will inform not only the ranger groups’ work plans, but also national initiatives to help protect the bilby.

“The data will help land managers and ecologists to detect local changes in biodiversity, as well as monitor broader impacts of feral species and climate change across Australia’s desert regions,” Mr Moyle said.

“This will help rangers to better manage the country for bilbies through the use of fire and the control of feral animals.”

The rangers will carry out additional surveys to gather more information ahead of the next Bilby Blitz in about three years’ time.

The Indigenous Desert Alliance, including the CLC, will

lobby for funding for the next blitz.

In the meantime, the alliance whose combined area covers the last refuges of the bilby, will take over the management and further development of the Tracks app.

The Bilby Blitz was the first time the rangers used the app to gather their tracking information in a standardised way.

It allows the results of this first (or base line) survey to be compared with future surveys.

The popular app has been translated into Warlpiri and Waramungu so far and is available on both Apple and Android devices.

The CLC developed the app as part of a comprehensive threatened species data collection, storage and management system linked to the CSIRO’s Atlas of Living Australia.



Fresh bilby tracks have led Muru-Warinyi Ankkul Ranger Gladys Brown to two active bilby burrows near a community north of Tennant Creek. GB’s team set up a sensor camera and the following

day captured this healthy male.

The CLC’s threatened species guru Richard Moyle reckons there are also two young females. GB took part in the first national Bilby Blitz recently.

Her colleagues and the traditional owners have not stopped looking for signs of the threatened marsupial, which only survives on pockets of Aboriginal land between Central Australia and the Indian Ocean.

Teaching the ancient art of animal tracking

ELDERS and rangers from across the Central Land Council region have agreed to work on an animal tracking training program for the rangers.

The decision is the result of 30 of them spending a whole day to discuss how to teach future generations what they need to know so they can keep looking after country properly.

Elder Veronica Dobson said intergenerational knowledge transfer is about young people learning how to survive out bush.

“They need to know where they can find water and food. It is the survival techniques they need to know. This is where they come from, where their father walked around as nomads.

“They need to learn now from the old people before they pass on and take the knowledge with them,” said Ms Dobson.

Yuendumu elder Tommy Watson said youngfellas have “got to learn how to look after the land because we would not be alive (without it). Mining companies are coming for minerals looking at country, we have to push them away.”

Jerry Jangala Patrick, from Lajamanu, agreed.

“For a long time, my ancestors not been make a mess on our country, they used to look after it properly, for hunting, camping out and telling the stories about what dreaming is for that country,” Mr Patrick said.

“To learn, they have to go through the elders, learn from grandfather and father.”

Some were thinking big, with talk of a ‘bush university’, but by the end of the day everyone agreed to start small and develop a training course for rangers on animal tracking.

Countrymen and women have always known how important their

ecological knowledge and skills, born out of thousands of years of observation and practice, are for caring for country.

In recent years, scientists and governments have also embraced what they like to call IEK – or indigenous ecological knowledge.

They now understand that combining traditional skills with Western scientific understanding is the best way to look after the environment.

“Sadly, this recognition comes at a time when fewer and fewer young people are interested in learning these skills from their elders,” regional land management coordinator Sam Rando said.

Ms Dobson says most of the interest is in remote communities, where mobile devices and other technologies “can work both ways”.

“I think it is very important for them to learn their culture and own language and to have it on technology, rather than just sit back and think that it will always be there. It is not going to be,” she said.

“We could put a bit of Aboriginal culture in the phones,” Anmatyerr Ranger coordinator Josie Grant said.

“Like we use tablets with the Tracks app in different languages. We use it at the school in Ti Tree and also during culture trips,” Ms Grant said.

“Getting the elders to hold the young ones to learn how to use the tablet and the cyber tracker. It is a two way of



Rangers Max Kennedy and Dione Kelly (left) tracked bilbies with their app.

learning out bush.

Take elders to the school and teach with the rangers about tracking, bush tucker, bush medicine. So there is two way learning, Aboriginal way and western society way.”

North Tanami Ranger Dione Kelly uses the Tracks app to record in Warlpiri and English the information he and his colleagues collect on bush trips.

“We do record our knowledge on tablets

and keep it in a safe place at the Central Land Council,” he said.

His grandfather, Jerry Jangala Patrick, taught him about tracking.

“Which way animals go, what time it was,” Mr Kelly said.

“All animals have a song line. Every tree has a name, story and song line, so if we lose that knowledge, we will be lost out there.

“That is one thing the rangers need to act on,” he said.

He hopes the new course will keep everyone on track.



Rock rat survival in rangers' hands

THE Central Land Council's rangers were thrilled to find that the critically endangered Centralian Rock Rat is still hanging in there at Ulamparru (Mt Edwards) near Papunya.

Now they're waiting for the results of hidden camera footage from Ngarnka (Mt Leichhardt).

The tiny mammal, one of Australia's rarest, used to roam across Central Australia, but today is only found on mountain tops above 1000 metres.

Feral cats and changed vegetation and fire patterns have made it impossible for the rock rats to survive in lower-lying areas.

The CLC rangers captured images of rock rats on nine of their motion sensor cameras on top of the mountain.

"It was hard work putting up the cameras," Ryon Raggett from the Anangu Luritjiku Rangers, said.

"We couldn't wait to get them down and find out what was up there. Seeing the rock rats on the pictures was exciting."

His colleague Preston Kelly, from Yuendumu, agreed.

"Finding out that the rock rats were still there was good. Now we have the big job of making sure they are safe from feral cats and fire," Mr Kelly said.

Rock rats used to live throughout the West



Rock rat. Photo: Rohan Clarke.

MacDonnell Ranges, where visitor signage near creek beds claims they can still be found.

However, a recent rock rat survey at Mt Sonder drew a blank.

In the past, rock rats were found as far away as Uluru, Karlu Karlu (Devil's Marbles), the Granites in the Tanami and the Davenport Ranges.

Five of the sites where scientists believe they may survive today are on Aboriginal land.

This means the CLC's ranger groups hold the key in the fight against the extinction of the species.

The first step is to find the rock rat's last remaining hideouts.

Rangers in Papunya helped with surveys at Meerenie Bluff, Ulamparru, Watiyawanu (Mt Liebig) and

Karinyarra (Central Wedge).

Warlpiri and Anmatyerr ranger groups worked on the survey of Ngarnka.

When there is no helicopter to take them to the top of the mountains they must climb up with all the gear.

Mr Kelly said the views make climbing worthwhile.

"You can see all the other mountains in the area like Mt Wedge, Mt Liebig, Mt Zeil, Mt Sonder and even right back to Tilmouth Well."

Ryon Raggett, from the Anangu Luritjiku Rangers,

"Now we have the big job of making sure they are safe from feral cats and fire."

also enjoyed the climb.

"I was really excited because it was my first time on top of Ulumparru, looking down at Papunya after living there all

my life," he said.

Mr Raggett and his colleagues installed motion sensor cameras at the top of the mountains which can take photos day and night.

They lured animals to the cameras with a peanut butter and oat mix and retrieved the cameras after three months to see what they have captured.

"Unfortunately the other surveys came up blank," ranger co-ordinator Boyd Elston said.

"This means Ulamparru is critically important for the

rock rat from wildfires.

The Anangu Luritjiku Rangers have also been teaching local students about the unique animal.

"We've been to the schools at Papunya, Haasts Bluff and Mt Liebig to show the kids all the work we have been doing with the rock rats," Terrence Abbott explained.

"The kids were really happy to listen and learn from us."

Until five years ago, the elusive species was thought to have died out, with the last recorded sighting on the Haasts Bluff Aboriginal Land Trust back in 1960.

That changed in September 2013, when a remote sensor camera captured a rock rat on the land trust and the rangers swung into action with fire management and survey activities.

survival of this species."

He said his team will continue to burn fire breaks along the base of the mountain to protect the habitat of the

LOOK AFTER YOUR ANIMALS!



The hot weather is expected to attract thirsty camels, horses, donkeys and cattle to communities and precious water places where they can cause a lot of damage.

The CLC is seeking support to manage animal welfare issues over the summer.

For more information please call 8951 6211.

MEET OUR RANGERS



Gladys Brown

What projects has your ranger group been working on? The biggest project was the black footed rock wallabies near Nguyarmini community. We know it is there so we have been surveying and cat trapping in the same area. The cats are a predator for the wallabies.

What made you want to be a ranger? One day [former CLC staff members] Fiona Walsh and Nick Gambold went to my homeland doing some planning for cattle, assessment and surveying of the area and that got me interested. So I started helping them out and working out there. I love doing surveys for threatened species, little animals and tracking. I love working with animals. The little ones from the family are growing up, I like to take them out on country to learn about track and bush tuckers.

What strengths do you bring to your ranger group? I make sure everyone comes to work in the morning. I talk to people about being on time. We were learning tracking from old people as we were growing up, we always talk about tracking. We used to get out hunting and old people used to point out tracks of kangaroo,

goanna, birds.

Why is it important to work on your country? Because my elders have been looking after it. But it is different now. They didn't have feral animals at that time and soakages are now disturbed. These days there is lots of fixing to do.

What is the type of work you do as a ranger? Lots of things, various things. Members of traditional owner ranger advisory committees sometimes tell us what to do on their country. Looking after country is a good job. We work with schools in Tennant Creek and bring a poster to show what we do.

What is the best thing about being a ranger? It's like being a role model to others. I would like to encourage more women to work with us so we can work equally with men and women.

What do you like doing outside of work? I spend time out bush, taking my grandkids and show them tracks. Bird tracks.



Have choir, will travel

WINNING a Special Achievement Award at the National Indigenous Music Awards has boosted the confidence and travel plans of the Central Australian Women's Choir.

The choir performed at the 15th NIMA awards in Darwin in August and was also one of the highlights at this year's Alice Desert Festival.

During a break at the festival's Desert Mob event choir members told Land Rights News that reactions to their recent performances in the United States capital Washington had given them an appetite for further travel.

"We got to join in with lots and lots of choirs from other countries - India, Canada, Madagaskar ... around the world," choir member Kathryn Windi said.

"It was the first time they were seeing Aboriginal people. They were amazed when they heard us singing in our language," she said.

"They were crying... happy tears because we were singing in our own language. Their hearts were touched when we sang the harmonies. It was beautiful," her sister Carolyn added.

The singers love to learn about other indigenous people.

"We went to an American Indian Museum and saw a lot of pictures and heard their traditional stories about the stars, similar to the Seven Sisters story," said Kathryn Windi.

Marian Swift enjoyed the interaction with the other choirs they met in the US.

"It was great. We had some little workshops where we shared songs with other groups. They were curious about our language and we taught short songs.

"It's good to learn some other songs from other countries. I feel very lucky," she said.

The women are keen to share their good luck.



Teresa Nipper and Marion Swift (centre) from the Central Australian Aboriginal Womens Choir. Photo: Desert Song/A. Hullah.

Before they flew out of Sydney, they recorded a message to the Socceroos ahead of their World Cup match against Denmark.

The choir gathered in the SBS TV studios to sing *Waltzing Matilda* in Western Arrernte and Pitjantjatjara.

"Next year the choir will be going to New Zealand with the Soweto Gospel Choir from South Africa. We sang with

them at Araluen," Kathryn Windi said.

Her sister said the women are not worried about being far from home.

"When we travel together we're happy and don't get homesick. We are like one big family."

The choir is also waiting for confirmation of a planned trip to India.

"I'm looking forward to meeting the people," Ms Swift said.

"In the news you see there are a lot of people and there's desert areas as well.

"I'd like to see if they still have their traditions and what they do differently to what we do. I think it will be a good experience."

Dogs and brumbies come to life in art centre short films

ART lovers from around Australia were treated to a swag of animal-themed short films from two of the region's most innovative art centres during this year's Desert Mob in Alice Springs.

Ngayuku Papa (my dog) had the audience at the Araluen art centre in stitches.

Tjanpi artist Cynthia Burke and animator Jonathan Daw brought the unique artwork of the Tjanpi Desert Weavers to life with two stop-motion animations using grass sculptures as their actors.

The short films capture the thrills of the goanna hunt and celebrate the special role that dogs play in remote communities.

CB, as she is better known, contributed her weaving and media skills to the film about her loyal dog Tiny.



Tiny used to protect her little niece Satita as a baby.

"He would bark if anyone tried to pick her up. He was a special dog".

The award-winning broadcaster, who spends her time between Warakurna and Irrunytju in Western Australia,

"I made the papa sculptures and the ladies in Warakurna helped," she said.

"I helped Jonathan set up the set and make photos to animate. I also helped collect the sound."

The Alice Springs audience appreciated the sneak preview of CB's short film before its official launch at the South Australian Museum next February.

The film will be shown as part of the Adelaide Festival exhibition about Australians and their dogs.

The relationship between horse and rider was the subject of Iwantja Arts' *Never Stop Riding*, a short film featuring Peter Mungkuri, Alec Baker and Kunmanara Pompey.

The film took shape as the senior men taught a group of youngfellas, including fellow artist Vincent Namatijira (pictured in black below), how to stay in the saddle.

The 'Indulkana spaghetti western' was shot during a horse camp at the Welbourn Hill cattle station in the north east of South Australia last year and kicks off with a guitar solo by the late Mr Pompey.

Themselves former stockmen and station hands, the older artists were keen to pass on their



Cynthia Burke and her loyal dog Tiny in real life and in animation (left).

life-long love of western films, country music and the cowboy lifestyle to the next generation.

"I like teaching the young people what I've been doing since I was a boy," Peter Mungkuri said.

"Working in the saddle. They might want to work on a station. When the community gets cattle they might run 'em, that's why."

One of the youngfellas, "tall one, ninti", is his grandson.

"I talk to him all the time, in the camp: 'you gotta watch 'em horses or you might break a leg or get killed or something'."

Mr Mungkuri was "branding, mustering bullocks and breaking horses at Mimili,

Kenmore, Granites Downs, every station" before he became a highly regarded artist who last year won the \$100,000 Hadley's Art Prize for landscape painting.

He clearly enjoyed hamming it up as a gun-slinger on horseback and chuckled at his favourite scene "dancing in the cowboy way".

Alec Baker's days in the saddle may be over, but that didn't stop him from starring in a shoot-out with another mobility scooter rider.

Their message: no matter what struggles you may be facing, above all else, you should never stop riding.

"My favourite thing was to travel to communities in the car with him and visit Tjanpi artists."

"My favourite thing was to travel to communities in the car with him and visit Tjanpi artists," CB told the audience.

paints and sculpts for several art centres when she's not operating the cameras for Ngaanyatjarra Media.





A “humble and honest leader” - Bernard Abbott

IT is hard to imagine Wallace Rockhole, a small community west of Alice Springs, without the late Bernard Abbott, who did so much to set it up.

Mr Abbott helped to start the community during the outstation movement, on his father Gordon's country.

“We started off with tin sheds. It's a township now, more or less,” he recalled in one of his yarns for the Central Land Councils' oral history collection *Every Hill Got A Story*.

In the days before bores Mr Abbott helped to cart drinking water from a dam at Waterhouse to the community in an old Blitz truck and worked for Murray Pearce, from Hermannsburg, as a stockman.

“We were all sort of independent then,” he said.

“We had our own cattle. The mission gave Mum and Dad, all of them, little poddy calves – to Mum – and all them mob

grew the calves up.

“We had plentiful supply of meat and nanny goats, and Mum had our own veggie garden.”

His brother Terry, one of 14 siblings, still keeps a cattle herd at Wallace Rockhole.

Mr Abbott, his wife Hilda, who he married in 1988, and sons Howard, Gordon James and Steven always looked forward to a bit of killer at Christmas time.

He was born in 1954 - at the Alice Springs Hospital's ‘native ward’, as he'd like to remind people.

As a child he first lived at Henbury Station, where his parents worked, and remembered playing in the sand hills there.

He mostly grew up at Idracowra Station down the Finke River, where his mother Ida was from.

There was no school at Idracowra, but his eight brothers and five sisters

learned about whitefella manners from the station managers before they learned their ABCs.

“We learnt ‘Yes boss, no boss’. Whenever we did a job, don't be told twice. When they tell you once, you do it. You're a good man if you don't talk back,” is how his big brother Doug remembered the station days in *Every Hill Got a Story*.

Bernard Abbott had to wait until he was about eight years old to go to Hartley Street School in Alice Springs with his older brothers.

He boarded with Pastor Eli Rubuntja and his wife Lenora at the Mission Block. The boys used to play with their shanghais at the old police paddock.

After one year he transferred to the new school at Traeger Park where he did well but, with characteristic humility, kept quiet about it.

“I used to do a lot of study for myself,” Mr Abbott said.

He recounted how when he was about 13 years old he threw his report card away.

A girl found it and returned it to the school's welfare worker.

“She came and seen mum then. ‘This boy is pretty brainy, he got 90 something for English, he got 70 something for maths’.”

In 1969 his mother allowed the Lutherans to send him to one of their colleges, at Walla Walla near Albury-Wodonga, where he did his HSC four

a cup of tea and listen to his stories about his country.

“He would talk about the future of our young people and how he wanted them to learn about their culture and kinship.”

And the future is in good hands.

“He made us strong. We are really proud of him, of what he has done for the community and with the land council. He helped people speaking out for their land, not just in Central

“Kwementjaye carried a strong land rights message to politicians and never stopped fighting for what he believed.”



years later, gaining all credits.

“I was both grateful and privileged really,” he said.

When Mr Abbott returned to his family, who were living at Owen Springs Station by then, he started to work with Len Kittle and learned about the law.

“I didn't know Aboriginal law then. I was a little weye [boy]. I got educated by the whiteman's way. I left school and came back here and went through tribal law then, and learnt both ways.”

Two-way education remained close to his heart, and educating everybody about Aboriginal culture came with the territory.

“In the beginning the sites meant a lot for the Aboriginal storyline, that's how they survived. Their culture was very strongly related to their sites and their storylines.

Any trespassers, you would have been killed for that. We don't go around killing people for damaging our sites now, we do it legally, by whiteman's law now.”

As the chair of the Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority for a couple of terms Mr Abbott oversaw his share of legal action.

On the executive committee of the Central Land Council Mr Abbott was a thoughtful and constructive voice and CLC chair Francis Kelly paid tribute to the long-serving council member.

“Kwementjaye was a humble and honest leader who carried a strong land rights message to politicians and never stopped fighting for what he believed,” Mr Kelly said.

“He was a good listener and storyteller. I liked to visit him in Wallace Rockhole to have

Australia, but everywhere,” Mr Abbott's son Gordon James said.

“I would like to join the land council one day, follow in his footsteps as a member,” he said.

“Dad would love that,” son Steven agreed.

Mr Kelly said Mr Abbott was a strong sportsman in his day.

“He was playing for Souths. Sometimes we played against each other,” he explained.

The lifelong Carlton supporter even won the Hume Junior Football League Bill Thomas trophy as best and fairest player in 1972.

Mr Abbott was glad to see the federal court determine in June that native title exists on his childhood home on Henbury Station.

He was one of the traditional owners who had fought unsuccessfully with the CLC for more than 40 years for the return of their country.

They even tried to buy the station with the help of the Indigenous Land Corporation.

Their plans were dealt a bitter blow in 2013, when Henbury was sold to a consortium of established Central Australian pastoral families.

The day of Mr Abbott's funeral in September fell on the day of one of the CLC's bi-monthly executive meetings.

The meeting was cancelled to allow members and staff to attend the service at the Alice Springs Lutheran Church, where the large crowd reflected the respect he commanded far and wide.

Mr Abbott is dearly missed by his wife and sons, his four beloved grandchildren Kuhlani, Kilynn, Levi and Lionel, his extended family and his many friends.

Kathy Booth - vale dear friend and colleague

KATHY Booth dedicated more than half her life to the Central Land Council. Mourners who attended Boothy's funeral at Innisfail in Queensland in August heard that her colleagues were "heartbroken at losing a work mate, friend and all round, deeply good person". Here is an edited version of the eulogy past and present staff wrote together:

Boothy started working at the CLC 30 years ago, when she was as young as the land council. They grew up together, experiencing the many challenges and changes.

She started in the planning and development department headed by Marcia Langton, when Pat Dodson was the director. Among her different roles was council liaison (working with the executive and 90 delegates) and field officer with the regional services unit (RSU).

Boothy found her real calling when, 15 years ago, she began to supervise the RSU's field operations, a team of mostly Aboriginal men. Many women would find it a challenge, but Boothy thrived and what a great team they were! She fitted right in and matched it with the blokes who respected her because she was respectful to others and good at her job.

Boothy was good at managing the unmanageable. She was the 'mother hen'; the 'boss' with a heart of gold; one of a kind.

The job brought her into contact with council members and Aboriginal people throughout Central Australia. All who met her held her in high regard.

Among her many longstanding friends were Desley Rogers and her family



at Bamboo Springs who had a long standing friendship with Kathy. At council meetings they would always make time to sit down and chat about what had happened since the last meeting. One of the last council meetings where she presided as the 'mess boss' over the kitchen tent was at her friends' outstation.

Boothy is remembered for her no-nonsense approach to cooking tens of thousands of meals at CLC meetings. She would not tolerate new staff, especially baby lawyers and anthropologists, hanging around the neat and tidy setup as they 'messed up her kitchen'.

The CLC's many large meetings and events

throughout Central Australia relied on the RSU, and behind the RSU was Kathy Booth. In recent years, she was part of a dynamic duo of Queenslanders— the Kathy Booth and Marty Darr team.

were often so exhausted they could barely speak, but staff always knew they could rely on Boothy to get them something to eat or directions to a camp spot away from the noise of the generator.

Kathy was good at managing the unmanageable. She was the 'mother hen'; the 'boss' with a heart of gold; one of a kind.

Those who shared the hard work, the long hours, the 4am starts on bitterly cold winter mornings, the heat and the dust, the interminable road trips and the good times

She always had a good story to tell, seated in her special chair with side table, cuppa and smokes, and a lighter on the end of a rubber string that always bounced back to where

it belonged, in the pocket of her work shirt.

You never knew what she would come out with. It was always funny and sometimes a bit risqué. Her big laugh, humour and ability to see the silly side of things drew people to her. They could join in and loved her for it. She gave people nicknames and always used terms of endearment. It was her way of making you feel special.

New staff would very soon work out that they needed to know her. She was the go-to person if you were stuck with organising a vehicle, staff to assist or catering for a meeting. Her resilience and perseverance were extraordinary.

CLC director David Ross summed it up best: "Kathy did a magnificent job."

She loved a good party and would get dressed up and always looked stunning, a change from her boots and work wear.

Boothy's house in Alice Springs soon became home to many family and friends and nothing was ever too much trouble for her. Family meant everything to her and she cared for many. When she got a rare chance to go away, she always brought back presents for the grannies. She travelled all over the country to visit family and friends. On one occasion, returning home from Queensland, she drove through a flooded creek and lost her car. We thought it only happened to tourists!

Generosity, respect and loyalty are the qualities Boothy is remembered for. The CLC family showed their gratitude by adding to the large turnout to her memorial service in Alice Springs. They have lost one of their own, but she will always be part of the family.

Farewell to the last of the Apetyarr brothers

KWEMENTYAY Morton Apetyarr was the last of his Apetyarr brothers from Ampilatwatja on Aharreng country. Born sometime around 1925, he worked as a stockman and boundary rider on the eastern Sandover Highway stations.

This was not long after the 'revolver times' when most Alyawarr had to leave their country because of massacres.

In those early days, before cars, Kwemantay and his family were still walking all over the place along the Sandover River.

In the Central Land Council's oral history collection Every hill got a story he described

his early life.

"I went to Lake Nash when I was small. Ruby Tracker Apetyarr looked after me there. My fathers and grandfathers were there.

In 1949, he walked off Lake Nash Station with the other stockmen in protest. The men wanted to be paid money, not just rations.

The station managers gave me work when I was 14 or 15 years of age. They put me on horses then."

In 1949, he walked off Lake Nash Station with the other

stockmen in protest. The men wanted to be paid money, not just rations.

"In the 1950s and 1960s I worked for Rex Hall at Ooratippra Station. No

fences then. We lived in a humpy near the homestead," Kwemantay remembered.

He also drove cattle as far as New South Wales, Birdsville in Queensland, and Maree

in South Australia, where he worked for a few years on a sheep station.

"Later on I came back to my family and my Aharreng country. We camped at Arurrunga (Honeymoon Bore) before Amperlatwaty (Ampilatwatja community) was built," Kwemantay said.

Following the grant of a small piece of Aboriginal land over his country and the establishment of Ampilatwatja Mr Morton worked tirelessly on the many community boards trying to provide services to his people.

From 2004 he was one of the main people pushing for a regional corporation

for all Alyawarr speaking communities.

With his huge knowledge of country, Kwemantay provided information for three different native title claims and many sacred sites clearances across the Sandover region.

Whenever there was a bush trip to record knowledge or to protect sacred sites he would be along for sure.

Right to the end Kwemantay was a tireless fighter for his peoples' self-determination.

His spirit, good humour, guidance and teaching are deeply missed.



Wins for First Americans over two oil pipelines

NORTH American courts have delivered First Nations peoples in Canada and the US victories in their fights against two controversial oil pipelines.

Indigenous Canadians are a step closer to stopping the construction of a 1,150 kilometre oil pipeline from Alberta to the Pacific coast for export.

In August, a Canadian appeals court annulled approval of the project, dealing a stinging blow to the government of Justin Trudeau.

In a unanimous decision, the federal court of appeal said the government failed to consider the concerns of some First Nations.

The pipeline would carry 890,000 barrels of oil a day.

The government approved the pipeline in 2016, saying it would reduce Canada's reliance on the United States.

Environmentalists and indigenous groups, however,

have long opposed it.

They are concerned, in part, that increased shipping traffic to and from a terminal at the end of the pipeline in Vancouver would endanger a recovering killer whale population.

Lee Spahan, chief of the Coldwater First Nation, which led the challenge, told AP about his peoples' opposition to the pipeline.

"They can say they consulted, but they never, ever, ever got our consent," he said.

The Canadian government must now carry out another review of the project, giving greater consideration to consultation with First Nations peoples and the impacts on marine life.

Meanwhile, the Trump administration in the US has suffered a setback in the long-running battle over the Keystone crude oil pipeline.

The battle that has seen

environmentalists, indigenous groups and ranchers clashing with oil producers and pipeline builders for more than a decade is set to continue after a judge ordered a full environmental review of the revised route.

The \$11-billion 1,900 kilometre pipeline that would carry heavy crude oil from Canada's oil sands in Alberta to Nebraska in the US was rejected by former president Barack Obama in 2015, although President Donald Trump gave it swift approval soon after his election.

However, US District Court judge Brian Morris, has ruled in favour of the Indigenous Environmental Network, among other plaintiffs, and ordered a review of the revised route to complement one that was carried out on the pipeline's original path.



Chief Lee Spahan raises an eagle feather after responding to a Federal Court of Appeal ruling on the Trans Mountain Pipeline expansion. Photo: Darryl DYCK/AP.

Ancient farmers shaped the modern Amazon



A cassava farmer checks his crops in the Juma Reserve, part of the Brazilian Amazon. Photo: by Neil Palmer/CIAT/Flickr.

A NEW study has found that ancient indigenous farmers shaped today's Amazon rainforest thousands of years ago.

Research about 4,500 years of cultivating the forest in the eastern Amazon shows how farmers introduced crops that boosted the number of edible tree species and improved the nutritional value of the soil through the use of fire.

The farmers improved the soil they worked rather than clearing more land, said Dr Yoshi Maezumi, from the University of Exeter in the United Kingdom, who led the study.

"People thousands of years ago developed a nutrient rich soil called Amazonian Dark Earths," Dr Maezumi told the Terra Daily website.

"They farmed in a way which involved continuous enrichment and reusing of the soil, rather than expanding the amount of land they clear

cut for farming. This was a much more sustainable way of farming."

Dr Maezumi went on to say those responsible for the management of the Amazon today could learn something from the farmers thousands of years ago.

"Ancient communities likely did clear some understory trees and weeds for farming, but they maintained a closed canopy forest, enriched in edible plants which could bring them food," he explained.

"This is a very different use of the land to that of today, where large areas of land in the Amazon is cleared and planted for industrial scale grain, soya bean farming and cattle grazing.

"We hope modern conservationists can learn lessons from indigenous land use in the Amazon to inform management decisions about how to safeguard modern forests."



World rangers present and past hono

AUSTRALIA'S indigenous rangers work in some of the most dangerous conditions in the world.

From the hot weather to the snakes, crocodiles, illness, equipment they use to the terrain they cross, they face life-threatening situations.

Seven rangers lost their lives in Oceania, including Australia, between 2009 and 2018.

One of them, 36-year-old Dave Gliddon, is on the roll after the father lost his life in a rock fall in the Blue Mountains in 2017.

In fact, the honour roll for the same period, as compiled

by the International Ranger Federation, which supports rangers and their work around the world, shows that 871 rangers lost their lives around the world.

A further breakdown of the figures shows 327 died in Africa, 410 in Asia, 10 in Central America, 26 in Europe, 54 in North America and 37 in South America.

Those figures are believed to be an underestimate though as many deaths go unreported.

They also don't include the number of rangers injured in the line of duty.

In an address for World Ranger Day on the 31st of July,

president of the federation Sean Willmore said more than a hundred rangers had died in just the past 12 months.

"Some of us have lost colleagues this year," he said. "Somewhere in excess of 100 rangers again lost in the last 12 months that we know of. We also salute them on this special day.

"To our supporters, we say thank you for standing with us. Not just with a sign, but many of you action as well. We can't do it without you and it means a great deal to the rangers around the world to have your support.

"We often say that

conservation without rangers is just conversation, so thank you to you for making all the projects we do in supporting our colleagues possible."

Work as a ranger protecting environmental and cultural heritage in some parts of the world takes on the added threat of violence from poachers, illegal loggers, soldiers and terrorists.

Rangers have died from drownings, elephant and rhinoceros attacks and plane crashes.

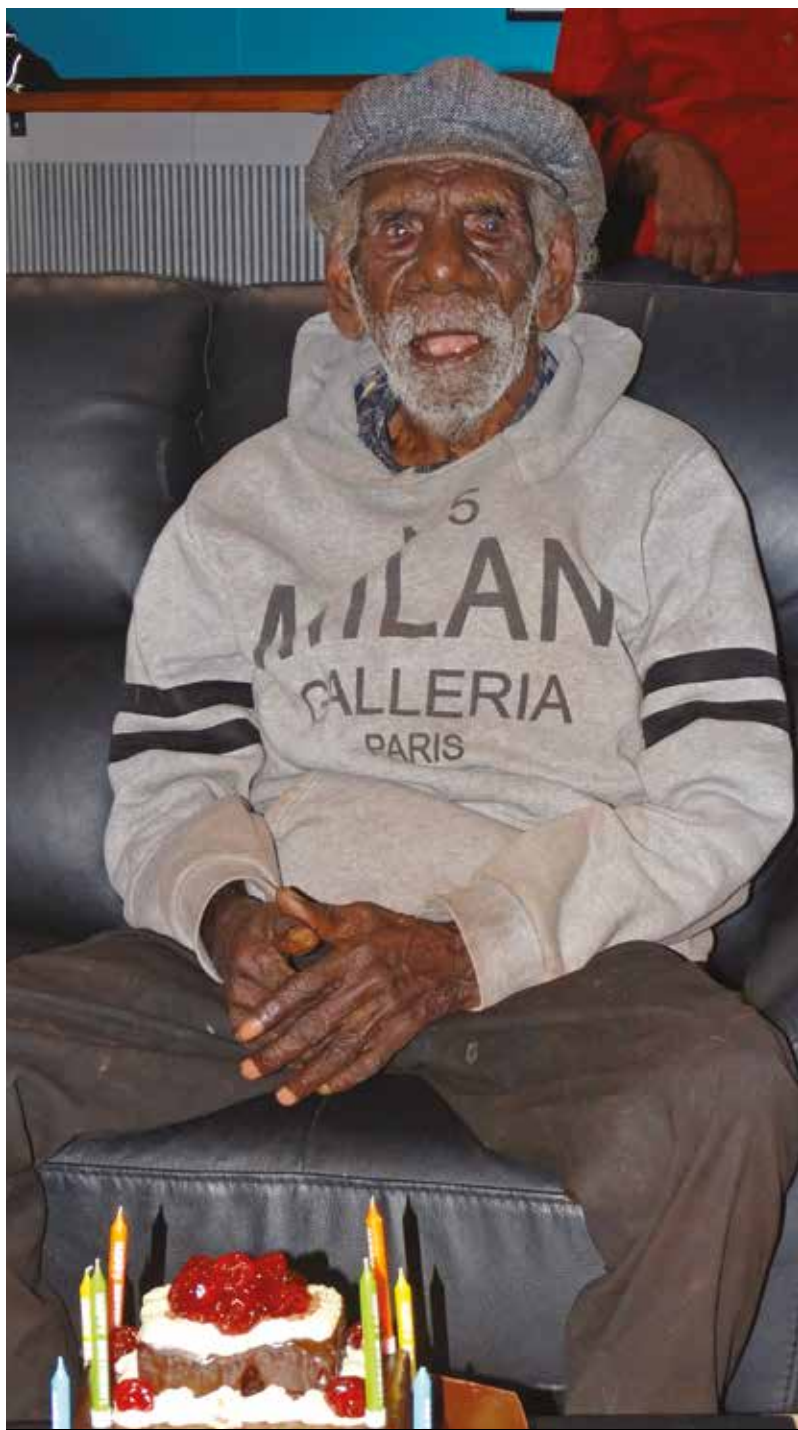
The day before World Ranger Day, Respect Mathebula became the first

ranger in more than 50 years to be killed by poachers in the Kruger National Park in South Africa.

African website IOL reported that the country's Environmental Affairs Minister Dr Edna Molewa spoke at his funeral.

She said rangers had taken up arms because of the threats they and the environment face.

"In particularly hard hit areas the ranger corps has been militarised, with some rangers engaged in daily confrontations with heavily armed gangs in the parks. Poachers pose a major threat



Henry Jakamarra Cook, from Lajamanu, celebrated his 101st birthday.



Arrernte woman Shirleen McLaughlin wants the flag to be permanently flown at Anzac Hill. Photo: ABC/Nick Hose



Lots of the Central Land Council's rangers graduated from the Batchelor Institute in September.



Molly Presley, Peggy Martin and Maisie Wayne sang at the 90th Coniston anniversary commemoration.



Martu and CLC rangers and staff swapped bush medicine recipes at Hayes Springs (see story p. 8). Photo: Fiona Walsh.

red for bravery

to the rhino population, particularly in the Kruger National Park, Limpopo, KwaZulu-Natal, the Eastern Cape, North West and Mpumalanga," Molewa said. "Respect's death has highlighted that rangers work in environments that range from peaceful on one day to confrontational the next. This is a line of work where the ranger stands between the criminal and poacher and the country's heritage."

Back in Central Australia, the Central Land Council's network of ranger groups may not face the same dangers as their international

counterparts, but their environmental contribution is no less important.

CLC staff held a morning tea on July 31 to mark World Ranger Day and recognise the work their ranger colleagues do.

The CLC continues to lobby the federal government to expand one of its greatest Aboriginal employment success stories and secure the future of ranger groups beyond 2021.

Photo: Rangers from Kenya. Photo: Jeremy Goss/Big Life Foundation.



THEY DRESSED HER UP LIKE A MAN



All the bad things had been happening at Jarra Jarra, Hanson River way, before I was born. People been driven away by the murderers, they came to Dad, frightened. They run away and some stopped at Greenwood [Station] and some kept going to Tennant Creek. Dad said, 'Go into that yard, they won't shoot you here.' And then he told them to move on, in case something else worse might happen.

They went through Hatches Creek. Dad's father was there too. He was a policeman, and so Dad went with them. Dad didn't like the idea, but he went with his dad. The police and all, one lady, Kitty Napangardi, showed the police trackers where to go. They used that lady, to show the police where the Aboriginal camps were. They dressed her up like a man, haircut like a man. She was from Barrow Creek side. It was cruel that the people used her. They collected my old man at Greenwood and they travelled to Hatches Creek, police and all. Dad was driving the packhorses and somewhere through Kurundi Station, he was telling me, some of our people were cutting sugarbag by the side of the road, minding their own business hunting. My old man looked over and saw people, and told the woman, 'Don't tell them they are there.'

But she did, she went up the front and told the police – and they shot the poor buggers.

They were killing anybody, they weren't looking for people that did the damage over there. They were killing anyone, the government people were.

Old people who lived along the Hanson Creek, they were happy, then after the shooting they scattered. But I tell you right now, today even, people are still living in the fear. They are not sure of white people, no trust for them still today. People are not sure what is going to happen. You wonder why our young people are getting stuck into grog – it is to calm their fear, which is the real truth.

~ Sonny Curtis ~

Excerpt from *Every hill got a story*



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



Willowra girls preparing to dance at the Coniston Massacre 90th anniversary commemoration.

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