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FOR MY
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LAND'S SEA**



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EDITORIAL

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FRONT COVER

Mudburra-Jingili man and Traditional Owner Terry Jackson at Bamarrnganja water hole on Hayfield Station.

What land councils want from the new Labor government



NLC chair Samuel Bush-Blanasi hopes the new Labor government will make some significant changes.

Aboriginal land councils have hailed a 'seismic shift' in Federal politics they hope will deliver improved community housing, an enshrined voice to parliament and long-overdue progress in closing the gap.

LAND council leaders have resoundingly welcomed Labor's rise to power in Canberra, which has coincided with four new Indigenous MPs being elected to office, bringing the number of First Nations representatives to 10.

Northern Land Council chairman Samuel Bush-Blanasi said the new Indigenous MPs would give their people a stronger voice than ever.

"There has been a seismic shift in Australian politics and the number of Indigenous Australians who have been elected to the national Parliament continues to increase," he said.

Mr Bush-Blanasi said key priorities included fast-tracking funding for remote housing and homelands, developing a new model to replace the Community Development Program and maximising job opportunities for Aboriginal Territorians.

"Over-crowding is still a problem," he said.

"If we can get housing right that will have a huge impact on the health and wellbeing of our people."

Mr Bush-Blanasi welcomed Prime Minister Albanese's commitment to the Uluru Statement from the Heart.

"Mr Albanese's victory speech has got relations off to a good start. The full implementation of the Uluru Statement will be transformational for Aboriginal people."

Mr Bush-Blanasi also welcomed

Protected Areas (IPAs).

"Indigenous rangers and IPAs play a vital role in the restoration and preservation of our land and water. More rangers and funding for IPAs benefits Aboriginal communities. The creation of jobs on country helps improve biosecurity and protect biodiversity for the benefit of all Australians."

Central Land Council chairman Robert Hoosan said he wanted to see Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and Indigenous Affairs Minister Linda Burney fast-track jobs and housing in remote communities.

"Aboriginal peak organisations have developed a strong model for the creation of real jobs with which we want the new government to replace the Coalition government's failed work-for-the-dole scheme," he said.

"We would also like to talk with Mr Albanese and Ms Burney about working with us to keep our young people out of trouble."

Mr Hoosan said it was promising

'If we can get housing right that will have a huge impact on the health and wellbeing of our people.'

the Government's commitments to increasing the number of Indigenous rangers and funding for Indigenous

to hear Mr Albanese start his victory speech by recommitting to the Uluru Statement from the Heart.



The Labor Government's new Assistant Minister for Indigenous Australians Senator Malarndirri McCarthy and Member for Lingiari Marion Scrymgour.

How Aboriginal Territorians will benefit from major investment reforms



L to R: Derek Walker, Justin Ryan, Suzanne Hullick, Bradley Bara, Jody Broun, Samuel Bush-Blanasi, Leanne Caton, Richard Dixon, Barbara Shaw, Thomas Amagula, Leslie Tungatalum.

A new investment body will empower Indigenous people to make decisions on how Federal grants under the Aboriginals Benefit Account (ABA) will be used, according to the Northern Land Council.

The Federal Government passed a major package of reforms in December last year to the *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act (Cth) 1976*.

The centrepiece of the reform was the creation of a new body called the Northern Territory Aboriginal Investment Corporation (NTAIC), which is set to receive \$680 million over three years once it commences operations.

Five years in the making, the move signals a major change for Indigenous Territorians, who for decades have had grant distribution under the ABA determined by the Federal Government.

To date, the government has taken advice from Federal bureaucrats and a committee of 14 Aboriginal representatives appointed by the four land councils in the Aboriginals Benefit Account Advisory Committee.

This has led to several flashpoints, most famously in 2007 when then-Indigenous Affairs Minister Mal Brough was accused of using the fund to award a grant in his own electorate in Queensland.

NLC chairman Samuel Bush-Blanasi said the land councils had

been pushing to gain control of the fund since a meeting in 2016.

"At Kalkarinji in 2016 we passed a resolution calling on the Government for Aboriginal Control over the ABA," he said.

"We said we would work with the Government on the design of a new model."

Several meetings later and under the watch of current Indigenous Australians Minister Ken Wyatt, a new bill to transfer control of the ABA was introduced in the parliament.

"Lots of people opposed us. But they did not stop us," Mr Bush-Blanasi said.

"When the bill passed, I said this was a proud day for the Northern Land Council and for Aboriginal people in the Northern Territory."

The Northern Territory Aboriginal Investment Corporation has a board controlled by Aboriginal people. It has 12 directors with eight nominated by the four land councils – two from each land council.

The Northern Land Council is represented by Mr Bush-Blanasi and deputy chairman Richard 'Dickie' Dickson.

The Federal Government has also appointed two directors – Justin Ryan and Suzanne Hullick.

"Ms Hullick and Mr Ryan each bring substantial and varied experience in corporate leadership, investment and financial

management that will support strategic investment in Aboriginal communities," Mr Wyatt said.

"Along with their strong land management and commercial expertise, the members appointed by the land councils will bring deep cultural authority to the board, which will be invaluable to its decision making."

Two more independent directors must be appointed by the interim board to make the full Board of 12.

Following the appointment of the two government-appointed directors, the interim board met for the first time in Darwin on April 27-28, 2022 and for a second time on June 28-29,

of \$500 million.

The board will appoint an investment committee to give advice on major investments, an audit and risk committee and a committee to consider grants.

Once the new corporation commences, the ABA advisory committee will be dissolved.

The interim board will work with the existing ABA advisory committee to maximise opportunities for a new, accessible, efficient and culturally appropriate beneficial payments program.

Advisory arrangements following commencement of the corporation will be a matter for the NTAIC board.



Interim Co-Chairs of the NTAIC Samuel Bush-Blanasi and Barbara Shaw.

2022 in Darwin.

The remaining directors are from Tiwi Land Council – Gibson Farmer Illortaminni and Leslie Tungatalum, from Anindilyakwa Land Council – Thomas Amagula and Bradley Bara, and from Central Land Council – and Barbara Shaw and Derek Walker.

Ms Shaw, who was appointed interim co-chair of the Board alongside Mr Bush-Blanasi, said the new corporation would make investments to generate returns and create sustainability.

The NTAIC will receive grant funding of \$180 million over the first three years of operation.

Once it has developed and tabled a strategic investment plan, the NTAIC will receive an endowment

The NTAIC board may also choose a new name for the corporation.

The chief executives of the four NT land councils are entitled, under the Land Rights Act, to attend board meetings as observers.

"This is an exciting time for Aboriginal Territorians," NLC chief executive Joe Martin-Jard said.

"When it commences operations, this new corporation will be a game changer.

"It can invest in major projects, make loans and enter into joint ventures with private sector partners."

It is expected the new corporation will start operating in the second half of this year, or by the end of the year at the latest.

Traditional Owners in the Top End are fed up with anti-fracking activists interfering on their country

By Tom Zaubmayr*



Pompey Raymond with his daughter Rosemary Raymond in Elliott.

When Jingili Elder Pompey Raymond reflects on the Northern Territory's oil and gas industry, he sees careers for young people, education, community infrastructure and a pathway to protect his country.

A senior ceremony man and mangaya (Traditional Owner) born on Beetaloo Station, Mr Raymond believes the debate around industry is often hijacked by those who should not be speaking for the region.

"My father been learning me all that country....and all that Beetaloo Station, all them ceremony things, Mr Raymond said.

"Me and my daughter and my son, we can talk for that Beetaloo.

"Beetaloo Station, we got all them areas... (so) we can talk for that story, (those) people and all that country."

Fracking is a polarising issue among the wider Indigenous population of the Top End, but on Warrananku country Mr Raymond said the voices who could rightfully speak for country were clear in their support.

In a rare series of interviews, remote community leaders such as Mr Raymond have spoken up to dispel perceptions that the Top End's Indigenous community was united against development.

Debate is centered on the Beetaloo Basin, which has enough

shale gas stored to power Australia for an estimated 300 years, an attractive proposition given the east coast's current power woes.

Australian Petroleum Production and Exploration Association director

Cassandra Schmidt in May boasted industrialising the basin could generate \$1bn in revenue for the Territory over the next two decades, create thousands of jobs and completely transform towns like Katherine, Elliott and Tennant Creek.

Those rallying against companies such as Santos and Origin Energy have mounted a high profile media blitz off the back of a Tiwi Islander taking the federal offshore oil and gas regulator to court and

anti-fracking group NurrDALINJI Native Title Aboriginal Corporation's outspoken criticism of the practice.

Their arguments are largely environmental and cultural - focusing on carbon emissions, groundwater health, wastewater disposal and risks to sacred sites.

But Mudburra-Jingili man Jeremy Jackson, who lives in Marlinja on the southwest corner of the Falcon-Origin Beetaloo Basin joint venture, said working with industry was the best way to protect country and improve lives under current native title laws.

Mr Jackson is a spokesperson for his uncle, Terry Jackson, a senior mangaya for the Bamarrnganja group (a major Aboriginal landholding group in the Beetaloo region).

"Native title you say no, the government will actually go around, to the back door, and you say no, and you get all this mining mob coming in," he said.

"We say yes and then we get the benefit out of it and also we look after our country too as well, our sacred sites.

"We want to work together with Northern Land Council and this mining company to protect our country, and our sacred sites."

Mr Jackson said he was happy with the level of consultation undertaken by Origin and the Northern Land Council



Darryl Jones, Terry Jackson and Jeremy Jackson.

on the project.

He said Origin had taken its community license to operate seriously - funding a football oval in Elliott, providing jobs for remote residents, and ensuring Traditional Owners had a first-hand look into the operations.

Mr Jackson's comments were backed by fellow Mudburra-Jingili man Benjamin Ulamari, who said Origin was giving jobs to anyone willing to work in Elliott and Marlinja communities.

"My position is a career position - I can get trained up and then I can move to elsewhere and just get a job like that," Mr Ulamari said.

"Helping give us a better future for us, for our kids.

"We want better opportunity, better education, better jobs for our people, (and) we'll decide that, not others."

Origin has laid out plans to drill two more wells this year between Daly Waters and Borroloola, about 150km northeast of Elliott.

Several smaller players operating in the region - including Empire Energy and Tamboran Resources - are racing towards production too, the former telling a conference last month it hoped to be generating cashflow in 2024.

The jobs are important - living 250km north of Tennant Creek and about 750km from Darwin, career prospects to date have been thin for residents of Elliott and Marlinja.

But even more important than jobs is protection of sacred sites and country, something those supporting fracking have consistently been accused of failing on.

It is an unfair assertion, Mr Jackson said.

"Origin are drilling and all that stuff, and we see what they're doing on our country, Uncle Terry's country," he said.

"We did ask a lot of questions about the water and then they showed us.

"We asked them what they put underneath the fracking stuff and they showed us a sample and it was really good."

That willingness from Origin to show Traditional Owners what they are doing has built trust in the company, and a strong belief fracking can be done safely.

Traditional Owners also have access to non-company advice via the Northern Land Council's technical experts.

For its part, the Territory government has promised to



Traditional Owners Brendan Edwards, Terry Jackson, Darryl Jones, Jeremy Jackson and Ben Ulamari.



Terry Jackson in his falcon design at Bamarrnganja water hole on Hayfield Station.

hold industry to high standards, describing risks posed by fracking as "negligible".

Speaking after approving four new Origin wells in the basin in June, and as activists cried foul over Tamboran Resources' move onto a cattle station without pastoralist consent, NT Environment Minister Lauren Moss said stringent environmental standards would be adhered to.

"Proponents are required to

have stringent Environmental Management Plans approved, and the Department of Environment, Parks and Water Security, as environmental regulator, ensures compliance with EMPs," she told the National Indigenous Times.

"Regarding Tamboran, there is a land access agreement in place as determined by NT Civil and Administrative Tribunal, which meets the minimum provisions."

Ms Moss said she was comfortable with the level of Traditional Owner consultation undertaken by companies seeking to unlock the Beetaloo Basin's industrial potential.

**Tom Zaunmayr is the editor of National Indigenous Times. This article has been reprinted with permission.*

Ancient Larrakia stories in cutting edge drone show

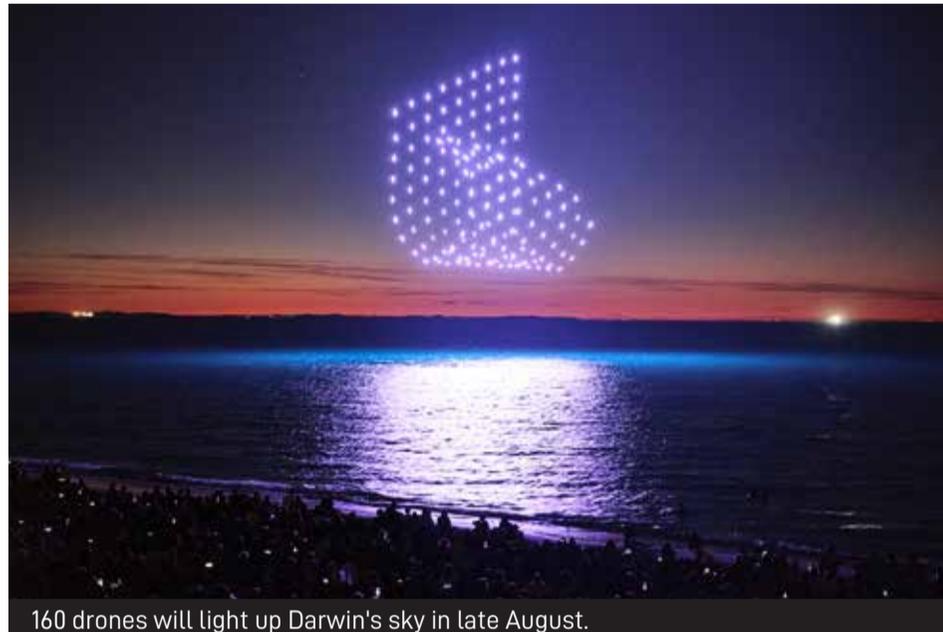
An epic spectacle of light, movement and sound will transform the night sky over the Darwin Festival's closing days.

balarr inyiny, meaning 'light dreaming', is led by Larrakia artist Jenna Lee, with support from elders from the Larrakia community. The work is in collaboration with music producer Kuya James and composer Lena Kellie.

The piece involves 160 drones taking flight from Jervois Park in a choreographed sky show illustrating Larrakia songlines that run down Darwin's coastline.

Following on from the Fremantle Biennale's Australian premiere of First Lights with Moombaki, *balarr inyiny* uses new technologies to bring to life ancient stories of Larrakia country.

Settle in to Jervois Park (near the Deckchair Cinema) from 6pm for a special Welcome to Country held at 7pm before each 45-minute drone performance. From 19-21 August. Free. Proudly supported by the Northern Land Council.



160 drones will light up Darwin's sky in late August.

Indigenous Assistant Minister sworn in



Senator Malarndirri McCarthy.

INDIGENOUS Australians Assistant Minister Malarndirri McCarthy has vowed health outcomes for First Nations people will be placed at the forefront of the Albanese government's bid to close the gap. Here she shares a message with *Land Rights News'* readers.

"I am honoured and humbled to be recently sworn in as the Assistant Minister for Indigenous Australians and the Assistant Minister for Indigenous Health in our new federal Labor Government.

As a Yanyuwa Garrwa woman who grew up on Gulf country in Borroloola and Alice Springs, I am fully aware of the work that needs to be done to improve lives across the Northern Territory.

My team in Federal Labor will prioritise good policies for Indigenous people across the NT and Australia. I'm excited to work alongside Marion Scrymgour who is the new member for Lingiari.

Everyone deserves decent healthcare, housing, jobs and education whether you live in the city or the bush.

Federal Labor will increase the overall investment in Closing the Gap, starting with our commitments to improve housing and strengthen the First Nations health sector.

Our government will deliver an immediate boost of \$100 million for

housing and essential services on NT homelands and negotiate a new remote housing agreement with the NT Government.

Labor will double the current funding to combat rheumatic heart disease in high-risk communities and upgrade health clinics in Central Australia and the Top End.

I am certainly looking forward to seeing Labor get rid of the Liberal Government's failed Community Development Program.

Together with my Labor

colleagues, we will work with communities to create a proper jobs program in the bush that delivers good jobs with good pay—similar to the old CDEP program that I worked in.

I know there is a lot of work to do, and problems won't be fixed overnight.

But I am hopeful and eager to listen and work with communities every step of the way to create a better future for ourselves."

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The NLC gives valuable training to new NT Police

New NT Police recruits and NLC are moving towards improved cultural engagement with Indigenous communities thanks to the Community and Cultural Engagement program, writes NLC Cultural Consultant and former NT Police Aboriginal Liaison Officer Joy Cardona.

Experiences in major towns can be very different to remote communities – issues with grog, drugs and violence might challenge them, so they need to be equipped with culturally appropriate communication tools.

An Aboriginal language unit, such as Warlpiri and Kriol, is part of the recruits' training. They are required to research remote community development, learn some basic local language and then present this to their peers.

It is wonderful watching the recruits' multimedia presentations, but it's about more than what's on the screen. The recruits are learning how to conduct themselves in

"This program empowers the newest Police recruits to have greater cultural vision and understanding of the diverse Aboriginal culture, traditions and beliefs when walking in the two worlds of cultural and western compliance."

Carmen Taylor, NLC Incident Management and Support (ex-WA Police)

"These sessions provide an invaluable opportunity to introduce new NT Police Officers and Auxiliaries to the unique system of Aboriginal Land tenure in the Northern Territory. Often interactions between the NLC and NT PFES staff occur in the context of urgent issues which are not conducive to a thorough explanation of the uniqueness of Aboriginal land management in our area.

"We hope that this training equips those officers with a basic understanding which is of assistance when responding to these urgent issues when they arise."

Alex Clunies-Ross, NLC Senior Lawyer

"These recruits will be out there working in communities in the NLC area and they need an appreciation of all the challenges that exist and today's session with NLC elected members and staff is a great start. "Building partnerships and relationships and appreciating the importance of connecting with the community and with the Northern Land Council will be something that I hope all of these recruits will carry with them right through their careers. We look forward to the NLC delivering similar sessions for future recruit squads,"

Matthew Allen, NT Police Senior Sargeant



Joy Cardona was involved in the development of the Aboriginal Community Police Officer program in the 1990s.

OVER the last twelve months, NLC councillors and staff have been attending the NT Police, Fire and Emergency Services (NTPFES) College to brief new police recruit squads on how they can work together to improve cross-cultural engagement with remote Aboriginal Territorians.

Community and Cultural Engagement is an official training program for all recruits of the Northern Territory Police. Several recruits will become Aboriginal Community Police Officers (ACPOs) and it is essential for them to have a strong understanding of how life and law works in remote areas. The NLC must continue to work together with new recruits to educate them about cross-cultural communication and legislation that affects Aboriginal land tenure and management.

Many of the recruits are young and they come from interstate.

community and engage in a friendly and meaningful way.

Learning to say the most basic things like 'hello', 'goodbye' and 'good' in local language goes a long way in community. The NLC can assist this learning process by teaching the recruits how to communicate with

important community members such as Traditional Owners, Jungi (lore-men), elders and seniors.

Both the NLC and NT Police are bound by a lot of legislation. NLC's presentations at the NTPFES recruit cultural awareness training sessions enable the recruits to gain a better understanding of both cultural and Western law.

They are educated about the NLC structure, roles and legislation such as the *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act (Cth) 1976* (ALRA), *Aboriginal Land Act 1978* (ALA) and the *Aboriginal Sacred Sites Act 1989*.

For the NLC, ALRA is the most important piece of legislation. If the NLC can continue to educate the recruits about things like commercial lease agreements and permits under ALRA, it will lead to a stronger mutual understanding.

While we have seen a positive shift in police seeking education on cultural understanding and inclusion, it is important for NLC to walk side-by-side with NT Police to properly enforce ALRA and ALA responsibilities.



NLC representatives with NT Police recruits at a Cultural Awareness Training session in December 2021.

Meet the Roper River's newest Fisheries Inspectors

Yugul Mangi Rangers Clarence 'Clarry' Rogers and Julie Roy were appointed as Class I Fisheries Inspectors in June after completing their Certificate III in Fisheries Compliance

By Madeleine Stenmark



Yugul Mangi Senior Ranger Clarry Rogers and Assistant Ranger Coordinator Julie Roy are the first two in their ranger group to become Fisheries Inspectors.

THE pair spent the day finalising their practical induction training at Tomato Island with staff from the NT Fisheries Marine Ranger Support unit before receiving their induction certificates and Inspector authority cards.

The Yugul Mangi Rangers regularly patrol along the Roper River near their base at Ngukurr, assisting with local monitoring and surveillance of coastal waters and providing a visual presence on the water. They play an important role in educating local and visiting fishers.

The new graduates will now have the power to enforce fishing compliance by recording evidence, collecting details, asking to see licences and permits and inspecting fishing gear in use.

Ms Roy is the second Aboriginal woman to be appointed as a Class I Fisheries Inspector in the NT.

"I'm so proud of myself for finally getting this. I started [as a ranger] way back in 2001.

"I hope to carry on and be a role model for the future kids, helping them learn on country," she said.

NLC Caring for Country branch's Regional Program Manager Mike Carmody said he is pleased that there are now two NLC women rangers with Fisheries Inspector

qualifications.

"This sends a message to everyone that women rangers can do all the jobs that male rangers can do. It speaks to their perseverance and consistent effort," said Mr Carmody.

Mr Rogers said his appointment as a Fisheries Inspector has given him a lot of hope for the future, and he is encouraging other Yugul Mangi Rangers to carry out the training as well.

"Three of them will be doing their Certificate III Fisheries Compliance course, then they will also become Class I Fisheries Inspectors, hopefully next year.

"Thanks to the support from the Northern Land Council, Fisheries, Water Police, my family and the Ranger group," said Mr Rogers.

NT Fisheries Marine Ranger Support Manager Simon Xuereb said the partnership between NT Fisheries and the Yugul Mangi Rangers will help to address concerns that Traditional Owners have been expressing for years.

"This is the opportunity to empower Aboriginal people under the Fisheries Act to not only assist themselves but also assist the department to maintain the sustainability of fish stocks," said Mr Xuereb.



The Yugul Mangi Rangers (L to R): Roger Thompson, Simon Ponto, Andrew Vocke (coordinator), Clarry Rogers, Bert Rami, Julie Roy, Jana Daniels.



Staff from the NT Fisheries Marine Ranger Support unit were present on the day.



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Aboriginal Sea Company to make waves with new Chair and CEO



Aboriginal Sea Company CEO Robert 'Bo' Carne.

The Aboriginal Sea Company (ASC) will lead the way to stronger Indigenous participation in fishing industries with the introduction of its inaugural chair and CEO.

CALVIN Deveraux was elected as chair by directors at the inaugural ASC board meeting in mid-April while Robert 'Bo' Carne commenced his role as CEO in early June.

Governed by a board with equal representation from the three land councils with NT sea country responsibilities – the Northern, Tiwi

Daly Wagait region since 2019 and is also a former Cultural Broker for the NT Department of Attorney-General and Justice.

Mr Deveraux said the incorporation of the ASC marks a major milestone in the Blue Mud Bay settlement.

"I don't think we'll look back from this point on. It's a great opportunity for Traditional Owners and saltwater people to advance themselves, become owners and operators in their own right and be in charge of their own destinies," said Mr Deveraux.

Mr Carne is a Jabirr Jabirr and Bardi man with 17 years' experience in NT Fisheries development and five years' experience as an executive

'I don't think we'll look back from this point on. It's a great opportunity for Traditional Owners and saltwater people to advance themselves.'

and Anindilyakwa Land Councils – as well as independent industry experts, it is envisaged that the ASC will empower Aboriginal Traditional Owners to be actively engaged in the commercial fishing and aquaculture industries.

Currently the station manager at Twin Hill Aboriginal Corporation, Mr Deveraux is a Rak Mak Mak Marranungu man from the Finnis River area. He has been a member of the NLC Full Council for the Darwin

with NT Government.

In 2012, Mr Carne visited Canada and the US to investigate governance structures for Indigenous groups involved in commercial fishing as part of a scholarship from Fisheries Research and Development Corporation.

He also reviewed fishing cooperatives in New South Wales as a potential model for assisting Aboriginal people to get started in fishing enterprises. Mr Carne said the

establishment of the ASC has been a long time coming.

"It's not just about the fishing licences, ownership and participation, it's also about having a greater say in management. Indigenous people have always had a small voice in the fishing industries, but they are now major players in it," Mr Carne said.

"On top of that, we've got all these coastal communities looking for employment so it's a great leap forward."

"I am particularly looking forward to partnering with the fishing industries and utilising their

long-term expertise."

NLC chair Samuel Bush-Blanasi congratulated Mr Deveraux and Mr Carne on their appointments.

"Aboriginal people are much closer to being in control of what happens in their own waters now," said Mr Bush-Blanasi.

"Our mob has fought hard for rights to land and sea country for almost 50 years and finally we are seeing progress. The ASC will be good for Traditional Owners and good for the economy. All Territorians will benefit from that."



Aboriginal Sea Company chairman Calvin Deveraux.



L to R: Anindilyakwa Land Council chairman Tony Wurramarrba, Tiwi Land Council chairman Gibson Illortaminni, ASC chairman Calvin Deveraux, NLC chairman Samuel Bush-Blanasi.

Marine area to protect 'sacred sites, song lines'

When the Land Rights Act was passed, the mob in Canberra didn't pay much attention in the law about the importance of sea country to our people. High Court rulings and changes to law and policy now recognise the critical role Traditional Owners have in protecting sea country.

IN May, the South East Arnhem Land Indigenous Protected Area (IPA) was one of 10 – and the only Northern Territory-based project – to receive grant funding from the Sea Country IPA Program Grant Opportunity.

This new Commonwealth funding will allow Traditional Owners to better protect a swathe of sea country along the on the west coast of the Gulf of Carpentaria.

The proposed SEAL sea country IPA covers almost 11,000 square kilometres, including 300km of coastline. It extends from the high-tide mark seawards up to 140 kilometres off the coast.

Numbulwar Numburindi Rangers and their Ngukurr-based counterparts, the Yugul Mangi Rangers, will work together on the SEAL IPA.

Senior Numbulwar Numburindi Ranger Clive Nunggurgalu said the proposed marine IPA will protect culture and biodiversity.

"The new marine IPA will help protect the songlines that run along the coast from Groote Eylandt to Wuyagiba and better identify sacred sites that run along that songline," Mr Nunggurgalu said.

"It will also help keep the beach clean and the water looking clean to save all the turtles, dugong, fish, and dolphins.

"And hopefully it will help stop illegal commercial fisherman. All the time when I do beach clean-up I see all their dead excess fish on the beach."

The area contains biodiverse marine and coastal environments including large areas of seagrass meadows, fringing coral and rocky reefs, tidal waterways, mangrove forests, saline wetlands, beaches, islands and quays.

Former Northern Land Council SEAL IPA Coordinator Catherine Whitehead said members of the SEAL IPA Advisory Committee

have worked hard to bring this project to fruition.

"The committee members have been working on this sea country IPA proposal for some years," said Ms Whitehead, who now works at the Tiwi Land Council.

"Extensive consultation and planning was put into this and the members are proud that their application was successful."

Yugul Mangi Ranger groups to increase their capacity to protect their sea country.

"This additional funding will also enable the groups to employ more rangers in Numbulwar and Ngukurr."

Ms Whitehead said of the first projects to be undertaken will be a collaborative project with researcher scientists from Charles Darwin University and James

'It will also help keep the beach clean and the water looking clean to save all the turtles, dugong, fish, and dolphins.'

Ms Whitehead said the new funding will enable the ranger groups to provide further training opportunities and employ more rangers.

"The new sea country IPA will bring in additional funding which will provide support for both the Numbulwar Numburindi and

Cook University.

"The researchers will collect baseline data for seagrass habitat coverage along the coast and other important marine habitat for listed marine species and cultural significant species including dugong and turtles."



South East Arnhem Land Proposed Marine IPA



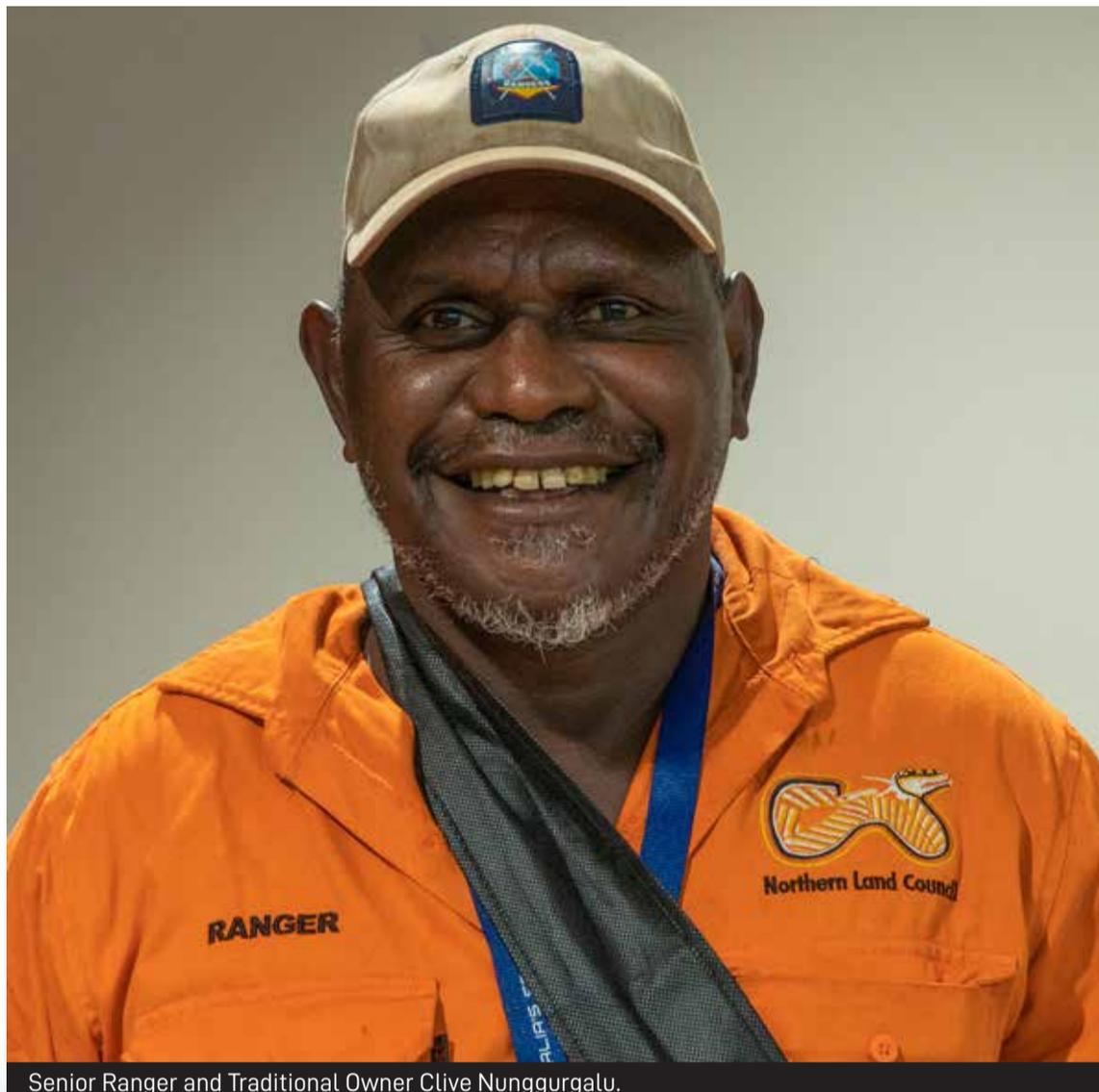
Proposed SEAL marine IPA



Terrestrial IPA



NT Aboriginal Land Trust



Senior Ranger and Traditional Owner Clive Nunggurgalu.



Numbulwar Numburindi Rangers Leonora Rogers and Joanne Pomery will be involved in the protection of the proposed marine IPA.



SEA TURTLES IN THE SOUTH EAST ARNHEM MARINE IPA

Six of the world's seven sea turtle species are found in coastal waters of the Northern Territory.

The SEAL Marine IPA is home to Green, Flatback and Hawksbill Turtles, and evidence suggests small numbers of Leatherback Turtles nest along the coast.

Keeping language alive through song at Malandarri Festival

Guests travelled from as far away as the Tiwi Islands to gather on the banks of the McArthur River for a weekend of vibrant music and dance in mid-June.

BORROLOOLA'S annual Malandarri Festival is part of Artback NT's Indigenous Traditional Dance Program, bringing together the Yanyuwa, Garrwa, Marra and Gudanji people to celebrate language and culture.

Festival Director and senior Yanyuwa/Garrwa woman Marlene Timothy said the festival always has a strong focus on the kids who, in the weeks leading up to the event, attend musical workshops that she runs in partnership with local musician and Project Coordinator Barnabas Timothy.

"The kids have been practicing songs in two of the four languages spoken in Borroloola - Yanyuwa and Garrwa. They have also made costumes during textile workshops," said Ms Timothy.

"Singing is a great way to maintain traditional language."

"Knowing language means knowing story, culture, history. It all comes back to language. By

singing songs, we can engage in preservation of our culture with even the really little ones."

Eight-year-old Max Ellis-Bayliss said: "I like singing in language because you're learning culture."

Max said his favourite song from the festival was 'We are the Sandridge Band', performed by the much-loved Borroloola band, a festival favourite with their distinctive rock and roll reggae sound.

Another highlight of this year's festival was the inaugural performance of the Borroloola Cultural Song Group as part of a musical project called Arrkula Yinbayarra (Together We Sing) led by Dr Shellie Morris.

They were joined by the Tiwi Strong Women Choir who made the long journey by plane and bus to the Gulf of Carpentaria, heeding the call of the songwomen of Borroloola to unite through song.

Ms Timothy said she is looking forward to next year's event.

"We thank all performers and visitors of this year's Malandarri Festival, including the young dancers from Doomadgee in Queensland and the tourists that came and learned about our dances and songs," said Ms Timothy.

"See you all next year!"

For more information see artbacknt.com.au.



The kids of Borroloola sing in the local languages of Yanyuwa and Garrwa.



Malandarri Festival will be back next year!

**GIVE THE
FLU THE
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TALK TO YOUR
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Reflecting on Mabo 30 years on

On June 3 1992 the Mabo case successfully overturned the colonial idea that Australia was "terra nullius" (belonging to no one), instead recognising the legal land rights of the Meriam people as Traditional Owners of the Murray Islands. Thirty years after Mabo's landmark native title case, Northern Land Council Chairman Samuel Bush-Blanasi says there is a long way to go.

"MABO was historic because it said Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have always been here and Australia was based on the lie of Terra Nullius.

give us permission to follow our laws and traditions - we have been doing that for more than 60,000 years.

Ever since Mabo, governments, miners, pastoralists, ministers and

'Native title needs reform. The process takes away our dignity.'

But 30 years later we know it needs to be fixed so all the remaining claims can be finalised quickly. We don't need other people to tell us we have always been here. We know that.

We don't need other people to

Prime Ministers have tried to cut back native title. We still need to move forward in this country.

Just look at what NSW Fisheries are doing to the Yuin people on the South Coast of NSW. Ignoring their native title right to fish.

We are lucky in the NT we have the Land Rights Act. We own almost all of the NT coastline and we have a veto right over mining. You can't do that with native title.

Native title needs reform. The native title process takes away our dignity. The way it is handled by

the courts has been disappointing. Native title divides our communities and often makes things worse, not better. It needs to be fixed.

We need a treaty. We need to protect our rights in the Australian Constitution and make our voice strong."



Meriam man Edward 'Koiki' Mabo.

'A great heart': Vale Sir Gerard Brennan



Former Chief Justice of Australia Sir Gerard Brennan.

The Northern Land Council acknowledged the passing of Sir Gerard Brennan in Sydney on 1 June 2022 with deep sadness.

NLC Chairman Samuel Bush-Blanasi spoke about the special relationship between the NLC and Sir Gerard Brennan.

"Many people don't know this but when the Woodward Royal Commission into Aboriginal Land Rights was being held in 1973, he was the NLC's barrister. That Royal Commission led to the creation of the Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976."

NLC CEO Joe Martin-Jard noted that Sir Gerard heard many High Court appeals brought by those opposed to land rights in the Northern Territory.

"He understood the special relationship Aboriginal people have with land and sea country," Mr

Martin-Jard said.

Sir Gerard's passing was all the more poignant occurring during National Reconciliation Week, from 27 May to 3 June. These dates commemorate two significant milestones - the successful 1967 referendum, and the High Court Mabo decision respectively.

Appointed to the High Court in 1981 and becoming Chief Justice of the High Court in 1985, Sir Gerard ruled on the historic Mabo decision in 1992, 30 years ago on 3 June.

"Mabo was historic because it said Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have always been here and Australia was based on the lie of Terra Nullius. Sir Gerard had a good heart, treated Aboriginal people with respect and he loved his family," Mr Bush-Blanasi said.

"On behalf of the NLC and Aboriginal people in our region, I would like to pass on my condolences to this great man's seven surviving children. We will always remember him."

BARUNGA



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Women of the Walk Off to be centre stage at Freedom Day festival



The festival's Wave Hill March celebrates the work of Gurindji stockman Vincent Lingiari.

KALKARINJI'S three day Gurindji Freedom Day Festival will return this year with a focus on the vital contributions Aboriginal women have made to the land rights movement.

Featuring an action-packed program of music, art, culture and sport, the annual Gurindji festival commemorates and celebrate what many people know as the birth of Aboriginal land rights – the Wave Hill Walk-off.

This year, the festival will

feature its first ever dedicated womens' night to acknowledge the many strong women of the Gurindji community and to keep their stories alive.

A highlight of the Saturday night program will be a women's panel, followed by female performers including Cassii Williams, Jem Cassar Daley, Toni Childs, Ripple Effect and more.

"While it's always important to acknowledge and honour Vincent

Lingiari and all of the legendary men of the Wave Hill Walk-off, we also wanted to use the festival's Saturday program to show deep respect for the women of this powerful movement whose stories often go untold," said Festival Producer Susannah Tosh.

When 200 Gurindji, Mudburra and Warlpiri people took their belongings and walked away from appalling working conditions on Wave Hill Station in 1966, it was the

dawn of a new era.

What started as a battle for better pay, soon became a demand for the return of Aboriginal communities' homelands.

The Wave Hill Walk-off strike eventually led to the establishment of the first Australian federal government legislation, which recognised Aboriginal land ownership.

Festival attendees will have the chance to recreate the famous Walk-off by marching in solidarity as part of the annual Freedom Day March.

Freedom Day Festival is run by Gurindji Aboriginal Corporation, a community development charity organisation based in the Kalkarinji township.

"Celebrating Freedom Day is important for Gurindji people," said Gurindji Aboriginal Corporation chair George Edwards, who was involved in the Wave Hill Walk-off as a young boy.

"People come together to remember the history of the Walk-off. Back then, people were working for bad wages, we were treated like slaves. The festival looks back at this history, but also looks forward to a stronger future."

The Gurindji Freedom Day Festival is on 26-28 August 2022. Entry and bush-camping are free. For more information head to freedomday.com.au.

Territory's art centres kicking goals: Minister Uibo

NORTHERN Territory Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Selena Uibo is passionate about First Nations artists and remote art centres across the NT.

Here, Minister Uibo shares with *Land Rights News'* readers some of the recent successes of art centres in the Top End.

From Ngukurr to Melbourne

Ngukurr Arts have been showcasing their artists' creations locally and interstate this year with their works being a part of a group show with a few other art centres going up at the Brunswick Gallery in Melbourne, a really beautiful show at Paul Johnstone Gallery, and two shows in the exhibition space Gyracc in Katherine.

The show in Melbourne was particularly special as it was co-curated by Ngukurr artist Karen Rogers. Karen went to Melbourne to open the show and also did some work at a print studio while she was down there. For more see ngukurrarts.com.

Sunday sessions with Djilpin Arts

Djilpin Arts in Beswick/Wugularr has also been busy prepping for their three-part Djarmalak Sunday Series, which kicked off in late June.

The three Sundays are full of dance, music, workshops, food, art, culture and conversations hosted by Constantina Bush.

The first part of the series was on 26 June and featured amazing live performances from First Nations

artists Miiesha, J MILLA, Djakapurra Munyarryun and Rrawun Maymuru.

The next Sunday in the series will be on 24 July and will feature sensational performances by Djakapurra Manyarryun, Rrawun Maymuru, Emma Donovan and Mau Power.

The last of the series will be on 28 August with exciting performances by Djakapurra Manyarryun, Rrawun Maymuru, Emily Wurramara and Hand to Earth.

Tickets are available on their website and they have got more incredible activities and workshops planned during those Sundays which you can head along to. *For more information or to purchase a ticket see djilpinarts.org.au.*



Dancers at the vibrant Djarmalak Sunday Series in Beswick.

Garma back with a bang after two-year hiatus

Australia's best-known Indigenous culture event will return to North East Arnhem Land in 2022 after a two-year absence due to COVID.

THE Yothu Yindi Foundation's (YYF) Garma festival celebrates the expression of Yolŋu culture and knowledge through art, music, bunggul, cultural workshops and panel discussions with leading figures of Indigenous affairs.

Held across four days, Garma attracts thousands of visitors from nearby communities and the rest of the country, bringing in 2600 guests in 2019.

YYF CEO Denise Bowden said the theme for the 22nd annual Garma - 'Nhangga Ngathilyurra', a Yolŋu phrase, which means to 'look ahead' or 'look toward the future', reflected the YYF's work to improve educational and other outcomes for Yolŋu youth.

"In the spirit of the theme, we're now looking ahead to completing the final stages of the education pipeline - a residential secondary school and a tertiary facility," Ms Bowden said.

YYF is also inviting schools across Australia to participate in the Youth Forum at this year's festival.

The Youth Forum is like a mini-Garma within the main festival, with students of all ages from schools across Australia coming together to engage in workshops aimed at developing leadership skills, said Mrs Bowden.

"There is an incredible movement for change among our young people, which is gaining momentum in our

region and throughout the nation," said Mrs Bowden.

"The Youth Forum will facilitate a deep dive into the Garma theme while touching on digital journalism, science, song, language, dance and more. It's a forum for sharing ideas and knowledge, and a place where life-long friendships are formed."

Garma 2019 welcomed a number of politicians and leaders including Professor Marcia Langton, Senator Patrick Dodson and Minister Selena Uibo, as well as musical icons Emma Donovan, Spinifex Gum and Dan Sultan.

The festival is working hard to ensure this year's celebrations are as COVID-safe as possible.

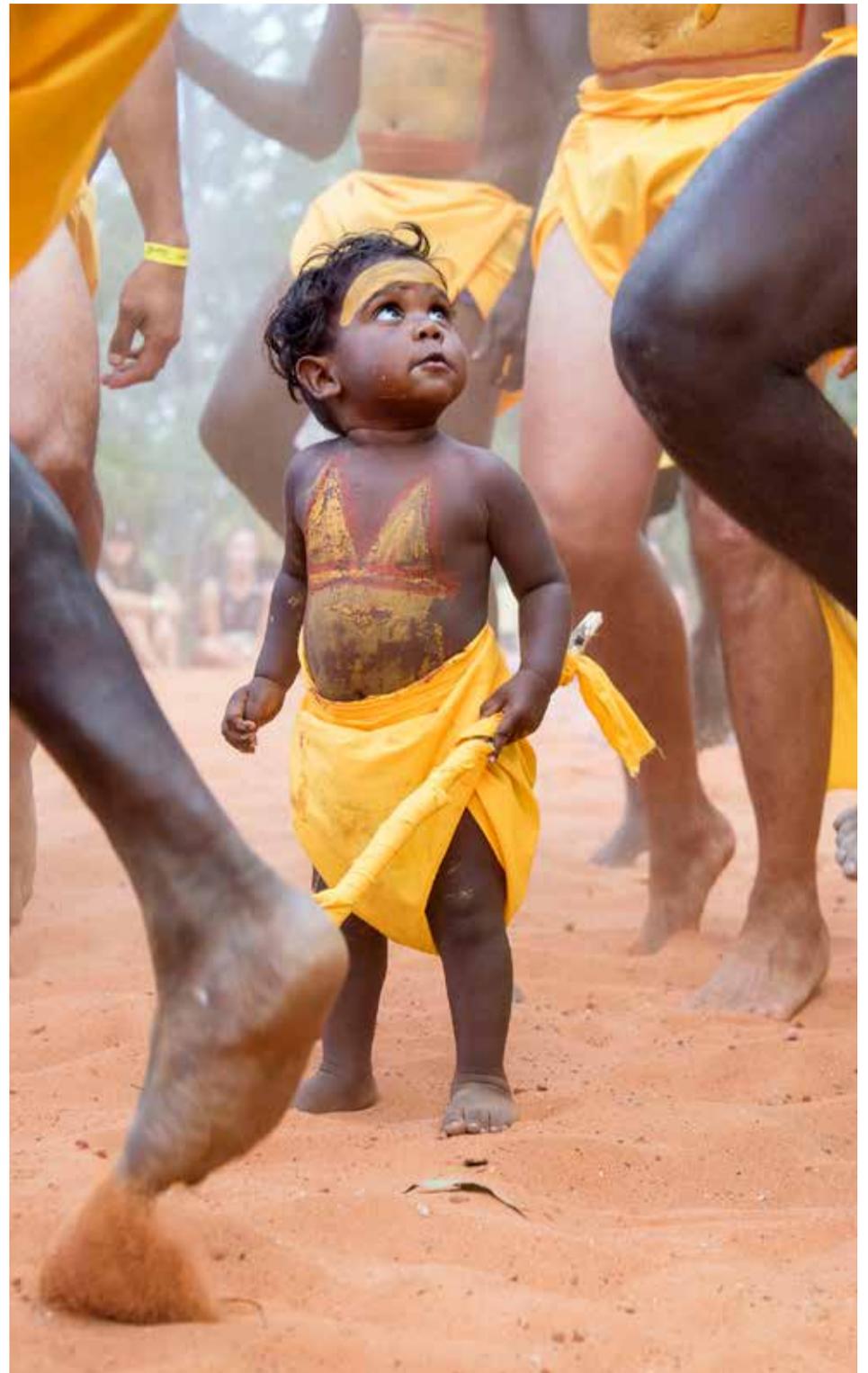
Mrs Bowden said YYF was working with Miwatj Aboriginal Health, the NT's Chief Health Officer and the National Critical Care and Trauma Response Centre.

"Community safety remains our number one priority and a key factor in our planning," she said.

The 22nd annual Garma Festival will take place between Friday 29 July - Monday 1 August, at Gulkula, a significant Yolŋu ceremonial site about 40km from Nhulunbuy on the Gove peninsula.

Tickets can be purchased on the Sticky Tickets website by searching for Garma Festival.

**Images provided by the Yothu Yindi Foundation.*



The Garma festival's theme this year is 'Nhangga Ngathilyurra', which means 'look toward the future'.



Yolŋu dancers gather at the festival's dance site for *bunggul* in 2019.

The story of Nganabbarru, the swamp buffalo of the Top End

Nganabbarru, Buffalo by photographer and writer David Hancock contains unique images and interviews with passionate Territorians whose lives have revolved around this remarkable animal. The following is an extract from the book about buffalo in southern Arnhem Land.



THE crystal-clear water of Weemol spring, near Bulman in south-central Arnhem Land, bubbles to the surface among paperbarks and pandanus palms; small finches flit between flowers and hanging vines as galahs screech in the morning light. The waterhole is popular with children from the nearby community, who have a croc-free playground.

Less than 400 metres from the source, at a point where the water flows towards the plain, a mesh fence topped with barbed wire is strung to keep buffalo out. The difference on either side is stark – clear water flowing between thick green foliage on one and the other denoted by trampled vegetation and muddy water.

Rangers Sha-Rae Moore and Talisha Redford regularly patrol the fence to ensure there are no breaches. They also check cameras that record the presence of native and feral animals.

Both are members of Mimal Land

Management Aboriginal Corporation (MLMAC), an Indigenous owned and operated organisation focused on bringing benefits to country and culture for Dalabon, Rembarrnga and Mayili people of southern Arnhem Land. They have observed a significant turn-around since the fence was erected.

"All living things are healthy and happy. The birds, the animals and the trees are doing well," Sha-Rae said. "Unfortunately, there are many places on our country that need this help."

In the 21st century, the impact of feral buffalo is felt most on Aboriginal land, particularly in Arnhem Land. At the end of BTEC in the 1990s it was estimated 30,000 buffalo remained in the region but, today, those numbers have climbed past 100,000 animals.

In the last 30 years buffalo have been welcomed into the Indigenous economy because they provide a genuine source of income, employment and inexpensive nutrition in a region where most goods, including food, are costly.

However, in some areas the carrying capacity of country for buffalo and other feral animals including pigs, horses, donkeys and cattle has reached a limit and the environment has suffered damage.

Even worse, according to John Dalywater, Chairman of MLMAC, is that younger generations, and land holders who live in town, accept damage by buffalo as "normal" and have come to live with it.

"Over time, people look around and know there is a lot of buffalo there and they know there is a fair number of horses and donkeys and cattle running around," he said. "But the actual numbers are often out of sight. People only see those obvious animals – they don't see the other 25 to 30,000 that are running around in the bush causing a lot of damage."

According to Mimal CEO, Dom Nichols, many freshwater systems in Arnhem Land are at risk from buffalo and pigs.

"Springs in particular are susceptible to impact of feral animals because they don't have that constant recharging and flow that river systems and watering holes have, so when you have a few dry years in a row there is nothing to



Mimal Rangers Sha-Rae Moore and Talisha Redford regularly monitor the impact of feral buffalo in Arnhem Land.



offset the impact.

"You will see in most of those areas there are fewer water lilies and small turtle populations that people would normally harvest. It is hard to tell how quickly they will come back if nothing is done about feral animals. We need to come up with a

long-term strategy for buffalo and feral animals generally.

"The short-term protection measure is fencing some of those significant sites. It's not a long-term solution – we can't put fences around hundreds of sites in Arnhem Land."

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REVIEW OF PART V (ABORIGINAL LAND COMMISSIONERS) – ABORIGINAL LAND RIGHTS (NORTHERN TERRITORY) ACT 1976

In April 2022, the previous Commonwealth Minister for Indigenous Australians, Mr Ken Wyatt, asked the Aboriginal Land Commissioner, Mr John Mansfield, to review Part 5 of the Aboriginal Land Rights Act. Read below to see the answers to some questions you might have about what this review means for you.

1. What does Part V of the Land Rights Act say?

Part 5 of the Land Rights Act says what the Aboriginal Land Commissioner can do. The Act says that the main job of the Commissioner up to now has been to listen to Aboriginal people's stories for land claims and tell the Minister for Indigenous Australians who the Traditional Owners are.

2. Why does Part V need to be reviewed?

Soon there will be no more land claims for the Commissioner to hear about. When there are no more land claims the Commissioner may do other work that helps people with Aboriginal Land.

3. What does this mean for Aboriginal people in the Northern Territory?

The Commissioner wants to hear ideas from different people and organisations about what work the Commissioner might do when there are no more land claims.

4. How can you contact the Commissioner?

To find out more about what kind of ideas the Commissioner wants to hear and how you can give your ideas to the Commissioner:

- Visit the website: <https://www.niaa.gov.au/indigenous-affairs/land-and-housing/aboriginal-land-commissioner>
- Email the Commissioner's office: AboriginalLandCommissioner@official.niaa.gov.au
- Call the Commissioner's office: (08) 7872 4237



Mr John Mansfield
Aboriginal Land Commissioner

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New burial laws respect Aboriginal culture and protect burial sites



IN May this year the Northern Territory Government introduced a new bill to Parliament that acknowledges and respects Aboriginal customs and traditions for burials and exhumations. It's called the Burial and Cremation Bill 2022 and, if passed, would most likely become legislation later this year.

Currently, burial areas on Aboriginal land aren't legally recognised and burial records for many communities do not exist.

Having a record of burials will protect burial sites and ensure future generations have a connection to their family history.

The new legislation will not interfere with traditional burial

practices. Traditional Owners and native title holders who have traditional rights to bury on their land can continue to bury loved ones like they always have.

What will change?

The new legislation will allow for the following important changes:

- burial areas to be legally recognised on Aboriginal land,
- ensure records are kept for all burials,
- ensure future generations know where deceased loved ones are buried,
- a simple process to notify about a burial outside a cemetery, and
- recognise a person with cultural authority – a senior next of kin – as the decision maker for a

deceased loved one.

The new legislation was developed in consultation with key stakeholders, including Aboriginal organisations and Land Councils, to make sure it respects customary decision-making and Aboriginal customs and traditions.

Traditional Owners and other decision makers for land will have the final say about burials and whether burial areas are declared on their land.

Notifying about a burial

The new legislation will require a person to complete a simple form to notify about a burial outside a cemetery that provides:

- details about the deceased person,
- confirmation of death,
- GPS coordinates or a map of the burial site, and
- confirmation that the right people agree to the burial.

If a burial site is in an undeclared area, the notification will also confirm that the burial does not impact on infrastructure, occupied buildings, waterways and other matters. This is to ensure that public health and the environment is protected.

If any details about a burial are culturally sensitive, that information does not need to be provided. A burial notification will be a flexible process. The notification is submitted to the

Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet (the Department) so that a burial record can be kept.

Managing burial areas

The new legislation will provide different options for managing areas:

- a cemetery that is formally managed by a responsible entity,
- a burial ground with a representative for the land, and
- leaving an area undeclared.

These different options allow for the recognition and management of burial areas in a way that best suits the needs of each community.

After the Bill is passed, the Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet will have discussions with Land Councils and decision makers for Aboriginal land to talk about:

- where burial areas should be recognised,
- the names and types of burials areas, and
- who should keep records for burial areas.

Before declaring a burial area there will need to be written consent from the interest holders for the land – for example, the Land Trust for Aboriginal land.

If you have any questions about the Bill or would like to request an information session from the Department, you can email burials@nt.gov.au or call (08) 8995 5107.

Birthing on Country conference to honour midwives

THE Molly Wardaguga Research Centre at Charles Darwin University is co-hosting the second National Birthing on Country Conference in Alice Springs on October 10-12.

Molly Wardaguga Research Centre (MWRC) Co-Director and CDU Professor of Midwifery Professor Sue Kildea said the event will see First Nations women, community advocates, scholars, and researchers gathering on Arrernte Lands to reflect on the achievements and challenges of returning maternity and childbirth services to First Nations communities.

"This year's theme for International Day of the Midwife is 100 years of progress, but here in

Australia First Nations midwives are part of a 60,000-year lineage of birthing and pregnancy care practices," Professor Kildea said.

"This is the world's oldest midwifery culture."

Professor Kildea said the conference, to be held in partnership with Central Australian Aboriginal Congress, is a chance to celebrate this long history, while also looking to the future.

"Birthing on Country is an international social justice movement that aims to redress colonisation through returning maternity services to First Nations communities and their control," Professor Kildea said.



Participants of the 'world's oldest midwifery conference'.

The MWRC was named after Burarra Elder and Aboriginal Midwife Molly Wardaguga, a Senior Aboriginal

Health Worker and founding member of the Malabam (now Malal'a) Health Board in Maningrida.

Rum Jungle rehabilitation provides career pathways for locals

As efforts to rehabilitate an historic uranium mine in Litchfield continue, ten Aboriginal trainees working at the site have completed the formal component of studies in land management.

THE trainees, who are working at the former Rum Jungle mine, celebrated their achievements at the Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education graduation in June.

Uranium was discovered at the headwaters of the Finniss River in the late 1940s, following a call from the Australian Government to locate a substantial uranium deposit as

a source of nuclear material for weapons development.

By 1954 the Rum Jungle mine was up and running and for the next 16 years supplied ore to the US and British nuclear weapons programs. However, the environmental and ecological impacts were devastating. Plant and aquatic life within the area were destroyed as radioactive tailings containing sulphur and a range of heavy metals were discharged into waterways.

Current works are part of a new, modern phase of rehabilitation at Rum Jungle, following on from the first clean-up attempt in the 1980s.

The trainees are involved in revegetation, weed treatment, safety works and ongoing environmental monitoring at the site as part of joint Australian and NT Government-funded program, which was developed in



Batchelor trainees gathered at their graduation ceremony in June.

consultation with the local Kungarakana and Warai Aboriginal communities.

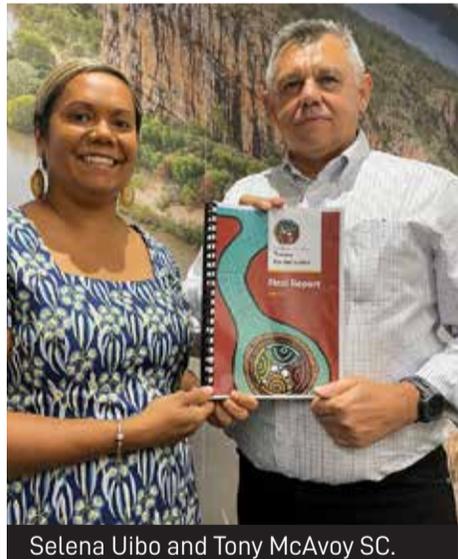
Land Management Trainee Anastasia Goodman said she loved "everything about doing the traineeship".

"I enjoy learning different skills and just going out there and working on the land and trying to fix up what's been

damaged. It's important to try and fix up the damage on our land.

"What I really love doing is weed spraying, because I had been doing something similar before this job, working for the NLC rangers. I really like to do land management work."

NT Treaty a step closer as final report delivered to government



Selena Uibo and Tony McAvoy SC.

Acting Treaty Commissioner Tony McAvoy SC has delivered his final Treaty Report to Minister for Treaty and Local Decision Making Selena Uibo.

THE report includes recommendations for the development of a Treaty Making Framework in the NT.

The Treaty Report will now be considered by the Territory government which - as per the Treaty Commissioner Act 2020 - will publicly release the report within 21 days; then table it in the Legislative Assembly at the July Sittings.

As part of the Barunga Agreement in 2019, the Territory government committed \$4.2 million over three years to support the Treaty process in the NT, including funding for the Treaty Commissioner, a Treaty Commission office, and support from the Aboriginal Interpreter Service.

The Acting Treaty Commissioner's tenure has now formally expired, although he will continue to work with the NT government on Treaty matters.

An NLC spokesperson said while remote community consultation was heavily impacted by the COVID pandemic, the NLC was comfortable with progress to date.

"There is also a need to align our work with the new Commonwealth government committing to work at the national level, in line with the Uluru Statement."

Northern Land Council Royalty Trust Account Application for Directions from the Supreme Court



The Northern Land Council (NLC) is a Land Council established under the *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976* (Cth) (ALRA). It has functions and powers conferred by the ALRA and is a recognised Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander body under the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth) (NTA).

The NLC maintains a Royalty Trust Account (RTA) for receiving money for the use of Aboriginal land under the ALRA and of native title land under the NTA. The money is kept in the RTA for distribution in accordance with the ALRA and the NTA. This money is kept separate to other money in the control of the NLC and is not available for other purposes.

Following implementation of a new accounting system, the NLC undertook a reconciliation of the RTA and identified a variance between the reported cash balance in the RTA and the balance of cash at bank. An amount of \$1.746m has been set aside on a term deposit. The unallocated amount is most likely sourced in interest based on cash at bank prior to 1 January 2006 and it is not possible to attribute the amount to any particular contracts for the use of Aboriginal land and native title land.

The NLC will seek directions from the Supreme Court of the Northern Territory to apply the unallocated amount for the benefit of Aboriginals living in the region of the NLC who need assistance in the cost of funeral and burial services, or alternatively, to transfer the unallocated amount to the Northern Territory Aboriginal Investment Corporation to be applied by the Corporation to or for the benefit of Aboriginals living in the region of the NLC.

Copies of the Supreme Court papers, once filed, can be inspected at the NLC's office at 45 Mitchell Street, Darwin by contacting Kip Frawley at frawlk@nlc.org.au.



NAIDOC WEEK

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Aboriginal Flag designed by Mr Harold Thomas. Torres Strait Islander Flag reproduced by kind permission of the Torres Strait Island Regional Council, designed by the late Mr Bernard Namok.

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Stronger, Ryhia Dank (Nardurna)

I created this piece after reading this year's NAIDOC theme. I knew straight away I wanted to do a graphic piece centred around our flags with text highlighting what we have been through and are still fighting for. I feel that this piece being black and white allows us to focus on the detail and messages in the artwork.

In this artwork I have little bits of me and my family, I have included a crocodile for my late granny. She was one of the strongest women I know and was never afraid to speak her mind and stand up for family and Country. I have also included my family's dancing stick, this is present as a reminder that we will always have our Country, Kin and Culture. There are also symbols to represent us as a community. People gathered around a camp, a spear and woomera to represent our strength, water, trees, animal tracks and non-human entities to show our connection to Country.



NAIDOC Week 2022 proudly acknowledges and celebrates the 50th Anniversary of the Aboriginal Tent Embassy (1972) and 30th Anniversary of the 1992 Mabo decision (Mabo v Queensland (No. 2) [1992]).

naidoc.org.au

New stands for Ngukurr footy fans

Footy fans in Ngukurr can now enjoy local AFL matches even more, thanks to an oval upgrade sponsored by Milwarapara Traditional Owners.

THE oval upgrades include several shade shelters, seating, a picnic table and new fencing.

Milwarapara organised the project to give Ngukurr footy spectators a break from the hot midday sun. They

Traditional Owners helped to plan the project, including Sampson Ponto, Rose Ponto, Eric Woods, Sammy Ponto, Roger Thompson, Callas Tapau, Evelyn Rankin-Lansen, Karen Rogers and Owen Turner Snr.

'It was a priority to spend money on...fixing up the oval to maintain the sports and keep the kids active and fit.'

also wanted to make the competition safer by installing fencing to stop the little ones from running onto the field mid-game.

"It's good for Ngukurr community" said Traditional Owner Eric Woods.

Milwarapara planned the upgrade and paid for it using land use agreement income that they set aside for community projects. Many

Milwarapara awarded the building contract to Ngukurr-based Yugul Mangi Development Corporation on the basis that they could involve local CDP employment and training. In a separate project, the Roper Gulf Regional Council has installed new lighting around the oval — so Ngukurr footy matches have never looked better.



Ngukurr community members enjoy the newly built seating and shade structures.

Bible camp restoration a testament to Marthakal Rangers and students from Galiwin'ku

Learning on Country students at Shepherdson College are restoring a bush camp area that was established during the mission times.

IN the 1960's Bäpa Sheppy (Harold Shepherdson) and local Yolŋu families walked around 25km from Galiwin'ku every week, felling ŋanapu (Northern Cypress Pine) and carting it up to the beachside location to establish a permanent camp.

Now, after multiple cyclones, only a few ŋanapu poles still stand.

Wäŋa waŋaŋu (Traditional Owner) James Bayuŋ Garawirrtja decided he wanted to restore the site as a hub for families, students and community services to use again.

With limited funds and a strong sense of nostalgia, The Bible Camp Revitalisation Project began. Learning on Country's strong partnership between the Marthakal Rangers and Shepherdson College sees weekly visits of senior secondary students enrolled in a Certificate II in Conservation and Ecosystem Management (CEM), as well as the local Trade Training Centre with students enrolled in a Certificate II in Construction Pathways.

This year, CEM students have

applied knowledge and skills associated with Chemical Treatment of Weeds, Chainsaw Operations, Recording Information on Country and Identifying Hazards to clear an area for a new shelter, install drop toilets, basketball courts and remove noxious weeds from the site.

The training provider INLOC sees the benefits of this project in supporting relevant and meaningful student assessments through operating within existing work plans to maximise time on Country with the Rangers.

This project has grown in popularity and now attracts weekly visits from the Community Development Program, local families and other service providers, who all share fond memories of Bible Camp when they were children.

In this way, this project is creating a strong platform for intergenerational knowledge transfer for future generations, and will be a valuable recreational site for families away from the centralised community of Galiwin'ku.

'The Bible Camp Revitalisation Project provides an opportunity for students to apply their newly acquired skills and knowledge in a contextually relevant manner, and in a way that benefits the broader community.'



As strong role models, Marthakal Rangers are integral to the successful engagement of senior secondary students in the Certificate II CaLM.

Legune Station native title holders attend AIATSIS

Two native title holders from Legune Station attended this year's AIATSIS Summit on Kabi Kabi country to talk about how their group is using income from an Indigenous Land Use Agreement to benefit their community.

GAJERRONG – Djarrany-djarrany native title holders Bernadette Simon Hall and Sophia Simon travelled from Kununurra to the Sunshine Coast in Queensland to take part in the week long AIATSIS Summit from 30 May to 3 June 2022.

On the final day of the Summit, they presented to a large crowd about the community projects that their group has chosen to fund with the compensation money they have received from Project Sea Dragon, a large-scale prawn farm that is proposed to be built on Legune Station NT, 106 kms northeast of Kununurra WA.

They discussed recent achievements such as the upgrades

to their Marralam Outstation and last year's culture camp, lessons learned through the creation of the Education Fund, and future priorities such as developing a cultural tourism and arts business and living back out on country.

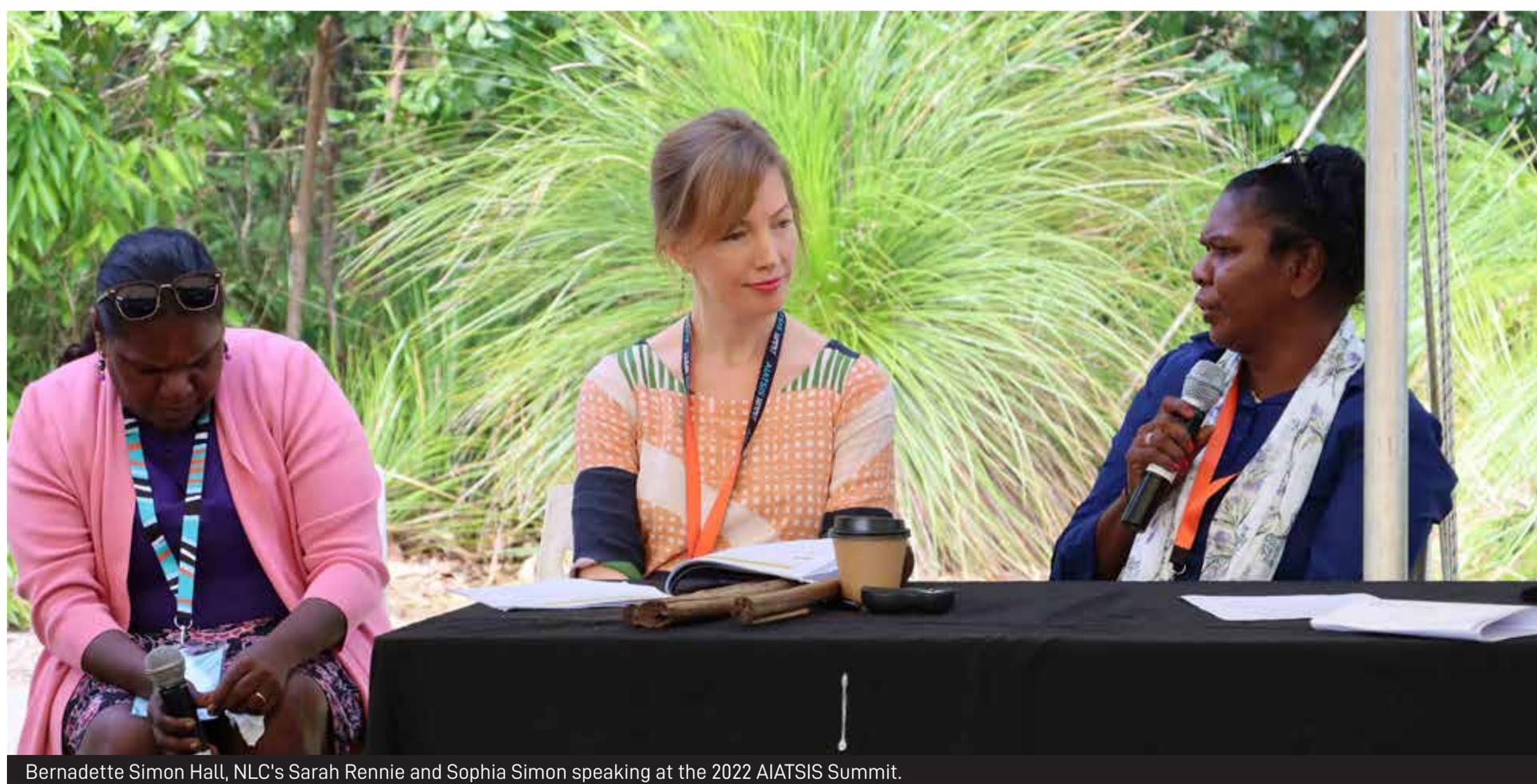
The Summit also provided an opportunity to network and engage with a range of Indigenous leaders across the country, participate in group workshops and presentations. Participants also celebrated 30 years since the 1992 Mabo decision at the event's Gala Dinner, which featured Kabi Kabi dancers, music from Christine Anu and local funk band CKNU.

'It was exciting and new. It was good being able to meet other people and share knowledge and understand one another because we come from different places.'

– Sophia Simon



NLC's Rob Leary, Gajerrong native title holders Bernadette Simon Hall, Sophia Simon and Marella Wilson.



Bernadette Simon Hall, NLC's Sarah Rennie and Sophia Simon speaking at the 2022 AIATSIS Summit.

Talking History: 'There are no strangers in our world'

Timmy Djawa Burarrwanga is a Gumatj man from North East Arnhem Land, a cultural leader and business operator. He sat down with *Land Rights News* to tell his story about Bawaka, his homeland and the tourism business he runs with his family.

MY name is Timmy Djawa Burarrwanga and I am from Yirrkala. My country is a place called Bawaka, one hour drive south of Yirrkala on the coast and my family operate tours to our country through the Bawaka Aboriginal Corporation.

Bawaka is significant for

own the land, the land owns us. That is a very important thing.

When our guests leave us, they often tell us that their visit to Bawaka has been a life-changing experience for them. They see how important that the history, art and culture - the stories - about our country are to us. They say their

When we are teaching them, we tell them there are no strangers in our country. "Stranger" is not a word or a concept that any Aboriginal group knows, because, you see, in Yolŋu culture and right around Aboriginal groups across Australia,

to everyone else.

There are no strangers in our world.

For more information about the Bawaka Experience visit bawakaexperience.com.au.

'My hope is that Indigenous businesses can get more employment and training'

the Gumatj clan and Gumatj people because there are songlines and ceremony that run through that country.

What we call Djalkiri - these are like footprints - our ancestor's marks on the land. They give Yolŋu people their philosophical groundings.

That Djalkiri for the anchor dreaming goes back to the days of the Macassans. The anchor dreaming is very significant for us and the ceremony we sing is all about Bawaka and Dhaniya. There are other groups that own that anchor story as well.

We started the tourism business at Bawaka nearly 20 years ago and it is going really well. We work very closely with the schools, the Laynhapuy Homelands, the Northern Land Council and other private tour operators that work in our area.

When people come to Bawaka as our guests they get to learn about the history of the Aboriginal people from this country and also the Macassan traders. The Macassans and Yolŋu people have been trading for thousands and thousands of years.

We also tell our guests lots of stories about our culture and our laws and the significance of our land, because we say that we don't

lives have been changed forever. That is the biggest thing and it makes me feel great.

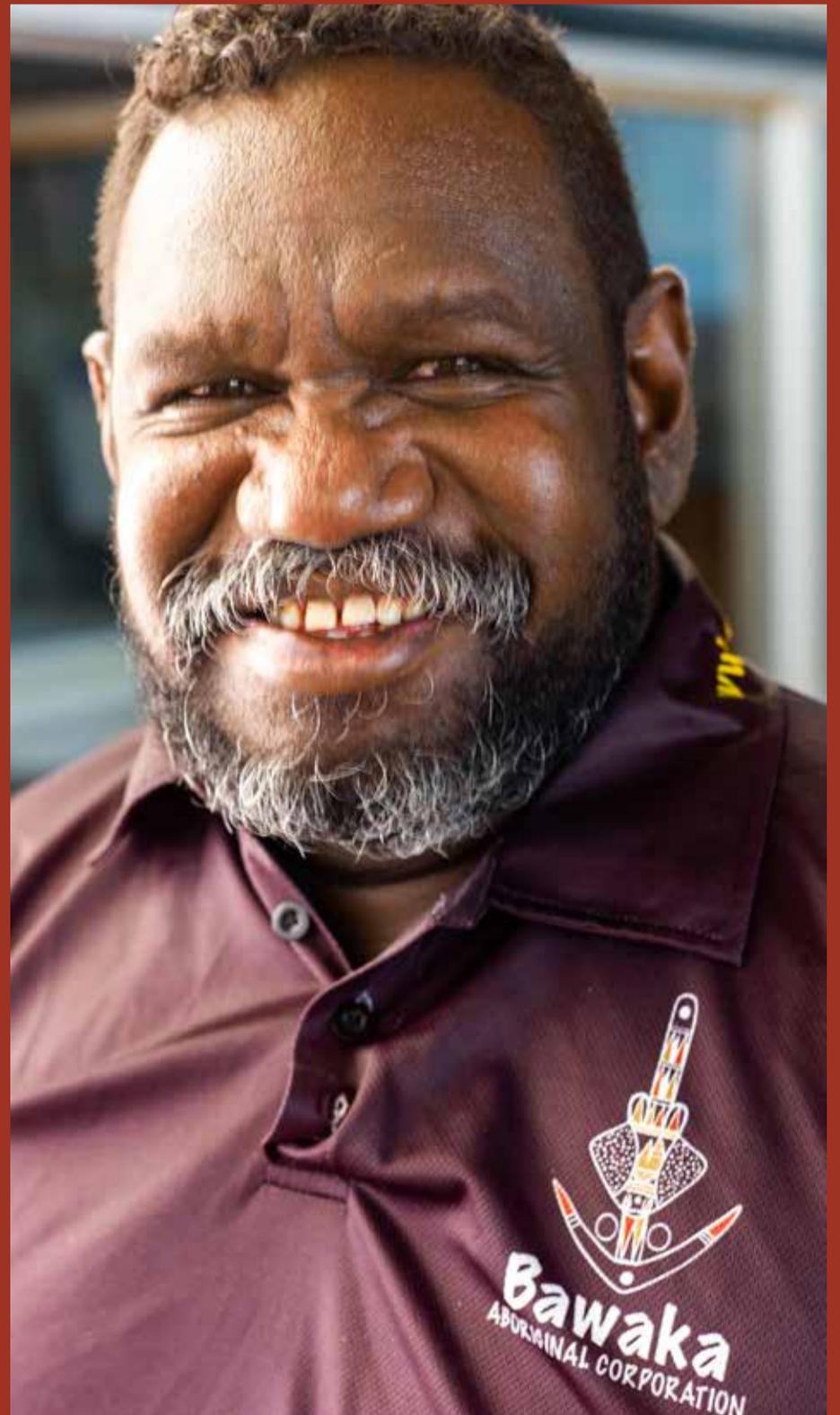
My hopes and dreams for the future are that the Aboriginal businesses, especially Aboriginal tourism businesses like Bawaka, can get more employment and training - not just for our group but for all the Aboriginal tourism out on country.

The key is to have a sustainable business and to build the common future.

Tourism is a friendly environment to build a business in and it is good to maintain the business and to grow the business. Our kids will learn, and they will have their own opportunities, responsibilities and ability to learn about how to work with and connect to non-Aboriginal people.

Of course it is a two-way street. All of our guests, the tourists that come to Bawaka, they bring their own things that we can learn from them too. So we have a lot to learn from them and they come to learn from us.

I think this is a common thing - like reconciliation - its a two-way process. It cannot work if it is only a one-way process, for real understanding you need an exchange of ideas, of thoughts and challenges.



Timmy Djawa Burarrwanga runs the Bawaka Experience tourism business in North East Arnhem Land.

Yolŋu weaving craft shared at Charles Darwin Uni workshop

Milingimbi artists Susan Balbunga and Zelda Wurigir brought their knowledge and expertise of pandanus weaving to a workshop hosted by CDU Art Gallery in early June.

WORKSHOP attendees were guided through the process of preparing raw pandanus to be dried and dyed, then working with treated pandanus fibres to weave a circular necklace pendant.

The workshop was part of the

current *Long water* exhibition curated by Ngugi woman Freja Carmichael, which brings together a diverse group of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women through a shared connection to water through fibre practices.



Zelda Wurigir guided participants through the weaving workshop.

Spanning different generations and ancestries, these artists share an inseparable relationship to water, from the vast sea, inland waterways, to expansive river systems.

The exhibition was developed through relationships with artists and communities, particularly the Milingimbi Art and Culture Centre and Moa Arts in the Torres Strait Islands.

Susan Balbunga is a Warrawarra artist living and working in Milingimbi. Her woven *Bamugora* – a cone-shaped mat with many practical, ceremonial and spiritual uses – is a centrepiece of the *Long water* exhibition.

Ms Balbunga shared the story of the *Bamugora* with workshop attendees before supporting them through the weaving process and demonstrating how she begins a large-scale piece such as a mat.

"*Bamugora* is very special and it is very powerful. Old people used them a long time ago.

There was no blanket or sheet, just *Bamugora*. We would sit on top or sleep underneath. We used *Bamugora* to cover ourselves, our babies and our old people. It keeps us safe.

We were protected. No ants, scorpions, spiders or mosquitos would go under—maybe they don't like the smell, I don't know, but they won't enter."

Artist Zelda Wurigir also helped attendees get the hang of using a needle to weave in a circular pattern.

"I started weaving when I was five, and I was not very good. But I have learnt a lot, and I'm still learning. Now I'm getting older, but I still keep

going," said Ms Wurigir.

Ms Wurigir creates intricate string bags, dilly bags and fish traps. The event was her first time hosting a workshop and she said she felt excited to share her knowledge and skills.

"I was very happy and proud of myself and all of [the workshop attendees] today."

Long water: fibre stories features artists from Yuwaalaraay in North West NSW, Quandamooka in Moreton Bay, South East QLD, Kuku Yalanji in Far North QLD, Zenadh Kes in the Torres Strait Islands, Yurruwi (Milingimbi Island), and surrounding homelands. It is open to the public until July 9th.



Susan Balbunga and her grandson Phillip Guyabaka with *Bamugora*.

RESEARCH - INDIGENOUS WOMEN AND MINING EMPLOYMENT

Are you a First Nations female with experience working at mines in the NT? We want to hear your story.

Jodi Cowdery, an Indigenous female researcher from Northern Institute at CDU, is gathering experiences from First Nations women who have worked at NT mine sites to better understand working conditions and why so few currently work in the NT mining industry.

The survey is anonymous, takes under 20 minutes and you can use your smartphone, iPad, or computer to take part. The first 30 women to complete the survey will receive a pair of earrings from Buku-Larrnggay Mulka Arts Centre at Yirrkala valued at \$50.

Got questions?

Email jodi.cowdery@cdu.edu.au
Call 08 8946 6367
Text 0403 176 737

Closes July 2022

www.cdu.edu.au/northern-institute



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Visit the link or QR code to do the survey: bit.ly/IWIMNT-survey22



Farewell to 'warrior for the NLC' Principal Legal Officer Peter Kilduff

NLC chief executive officer Joe Martin-Jard said a fond farewell in mid-June to NLC's Principal Legal Officer Peter Kilduff, who is heading back to Victoria after nearly three years with the Land Council.

"PRINCIPAL Legal Officer is one of the Land Council's most important roles," Mr Martin-Jard said.

"Peter has been PLO for almost three years. During this time he has helped guide the Land Council through a significant period. This includes dealing with COVID-19 while keeping at the forefront of our priorities, as always, the interests of Traditional Owners."

Mr Martin-Jard listed Mr Kilduff's achievements as including: implementing the Remote Travel Restrictions in 2020 and the Biosecurity Zones in 2022; establishing the Aboriginal Sea Company and driving the significant reforms necessary to progress the Blue Mud Bay settlement with NLC's Sea Country team; and settling the arrangements needed to finalise the historic Kakadu Land Claims and section 19A lease of Jabiru township.

"I'm sure I speak on behalf of the Chairman and NLC staff when I say you have been a real warrior for the NLC, for our Council Members and for countrymen and women across the NLC's seven regions," he said.

"I've spoken about some of your achievements – there are too many to list here – but I thank you on behalf of the Chairman for your dedication, energy and advice."

Mr Martin-Jard said he looked



NLC's Rosanna De Santis, Calvin Deveraux, Joe Martin-Jard and Peter Kilduff.

forward to working with Mr Kilduff in the future.

"With Peter's ongoing interest in realising the benefits of rights and interests in Land and Sea Country, including Treaty and Voice, I look

forward to continuing to engage with Peter in the future, albeit in a different capacity."

Dominic Gomez is currently serving as the NLC's interim PLO.

'Fulfilling my brother-in-law's dream': Talking history with Malak Malak Ranger Coordinator



Rob Lindsay (right) and an NT Fisheries staff member with the Malak Malak Healthy Country Plan.

This year Rob Lindsay will be stepping down from his role as Malak Malak Ranger Coordinator after 14 years of service. He sat down with Land Rights News to talk about the history of the ranger group, his time on the job and his hopes for the future.

WHEN did the Malak Malak Rangers become a ranger group?

The ranger group was started around 2004 or 2005 by my brother-in-law, who passed away in 2018. He began working by himself to control Mimosa

pigra. Back then the NLC didn't have the Caring for Country ranger program. His office was the veranda of his house. It was pretty basic.

What led you to this job?

In 2007 the Malak Malak group was given funding from Territory Natural Resource Management (TNRM) for their own Ranger Coordinator. My brother-in-law and the others asked me if I would take on the role. I was managing the Nauiyu store for around 23 years so I jumped at the chance to work with the rangers dealing with the huge Mimosa issue. It was also my wife's country and I knew first-hand what the issues were.

In 2011 the rangers and I became NLC employees under the Caring for Country ranger program.

What have been some of the highlights for the Malak Malak Rangers?

One of the biggest highlights of the 20 years or so since the beginning, is the large reduction in Mimosa on some parts of the Land Trust. It will always be present I think, but there are now places that can be sprayed in just a few hours using less than a tank of spray.

The role of the group has also expanded to include river patrols. There are now two Fisheries Inspectors within the group, Theresa Lemon being the first female appointed in the NT. As a result of negotiations between the NLC and NT Government, a long-term lease was secured for public access to the Daly River and that enabled the rangers to have a ranger base and two houses built. This allowed a couple more Traditional Owners to be involved with the program.

We now have six rangers and the ranger coordinator position. The rangers are guided by their Healthy Country Plan, which reiterates my brother-in-law's desire to return the country as much as possible to how it was when he was young.

What are your hopes for the Malak Malak Rangers?

There are a lot of new challenges now, compared to 20 years ago. It will not always be easy but I hope the ranger group will continue to do their best to address them, which in turn will fulfil my brother-in-law's dream.

Out and about: We're all reading Land Rights News!



Karen Wuridjal and Jessie Lami Lami share stories in Maningrida.



Vietta Wuridjal and Amanda Djaawarbuma Wuridjal.



Joseph Diddo enjoys reading Land Rights News in Maningrida.



Patrick Daniels, Jonathan Ponto, Samson Ponto, Nolan Ponto and Wilfred Ponto catch up on the news in Ngukurr.



Ngukurr artist Walter Rogers.



Yugul Mangi Ranger Bert Rami takes a hard-earned break with Land Rights News.

Subscribe to LAND RIGHTS NEWS

The Land Rights News is read by Aboriginal people across the Top End of the NT.

If you want to subscribe to receive a print or digital copy head to our website at nlc.org.au.



A pipeline to caring for country

Aboriginal rangers play a critical role in restoring and maintaining traditional lands and seas, getting rid of feral animals and weeds, and protecting endangered species.

BUT they also play a vital role in maintaining more industrial aspects of the Northern Territory: just ask the Bulgul and Kenbi rangers.

Stretching across the Northern Territory are two major pipelines, the 1,512 kilometre Amadeus pipeline and the 287 kilometre Bonaparte line. They are major components of the Territory's infrastructure.

But they need looking after, and this is where our rangers come into the picture, inspecting Top End gas corridor pipelines, which stretch about 1,200km across the NLC region.

Back in 2019, gas pipeline owner APA Group approached the NLC and CLC with a proposal to engage rangers to conduct Gas Pipeline Easement Corridor Conditions Inspections on the Amadeus and Bonaparte Gas Pipelines on a fee-for-service basis.

After NLC rangers successfully completed that first project, APA again approached the NLC to undertake a second inspection of the gas corridor pipelines in 2022.

Rangers from the Kenbi and Bulgul groups worked on country throughout May and June inspecting the gas corridor pipelines.

Kenbi Ranger Coordinator Steven Brown said the Kenbi and Bulgul Rangers had an "awesome

experience" working on the APA gas easement this dry season.

"The two teams gained valuable experience in mapping using I Pads and hand held Garmin GPS units. APA also supplied paper maps, which were extremely handy," he said.

"Rangers communicated with stakeholders ahead of visits to their properties.

"The work whilst not too hard, the days were very long and slow going.

"Some days on the easement we travelled between five to 10km per hour with the vegetation very thick and high.

"The work was enjoyable because we learnt something new every day.

"The terrain south of Katherine was certainly different to what we are used to working on in the tropics.

"Both Ranger groups would certainly take up any future opportunities offered by APA."

The rangers used the Field Maps application on tablets to identify corridor issues that may affect accessibility or clear delineation of the corridor. This includes erosion, vegetation obscuring access or line of sight, and missing or damaged signage.

As part of this work, the rangers have also been undertaking weed surveys led by APA's Environment and Heritage team as part of their national approach to document the presence of declared weeds. This will enable appropriate controls to be put in place to manage priority weeds and limit their spread.

Ross Larsen, Manager Infrastructure Protection, said that while the works provide clear benefits for local Indigenous communities, the recent trip bought home the enormous benefits to APA, well beyond ticking off on "business

The 1,512km Amadeus pipeline extends from the Amadeus Basin in the south of the NT to Darwin.

The 287km Bonaparte pipeline starts at Wadeye, transporting gas from the Blacktip gas field in the Timor Sea to the Amadeus pipeline at Ban Ban Springs.



NLC Bulgul ranger Bernie Lewis on the job with APA trainers Ben Riley and Nathan Kirby.

as usual" requirements.

"I feel like we got more out of it than the Rangers ... we learnt so much in a couple of days about their backgrounds, work as Rangers, and relationship to the land".

"Being there in person has really helped us forge relationships which we can build further in the future and use to develop this mutually beneficial partnership."



L to R: Brooke Forsyth, Ross Larsen, Ben Riley, Andrea Brown, Victor Moffatt, Alex Tilley, Brendan Armstrong, Steve Brown, Bernie Lewis, Nathan Kirby.



What do you think about the Northern Land Council?

We are the Australian National Audit Office (ANAO), an Australian government agency based in Canberra.

We help Australian government organisations to be open and answerable to the people.

Right now, we are looking into the governance of the land councils in the Northern Territory.

Governance is about how the land councils organise themselves to get things done with and for Aboriginal people. It means doing things properly, in line with the rules, cultures and laws.

Please tell us what you think about how the Northern Land Council works, especially how it:

- manages its operations
- consults with Aboriginal people and Traditional Owners
- helps them manage and look after country
- reports back to them about how well it does what it said it would do (its performance)

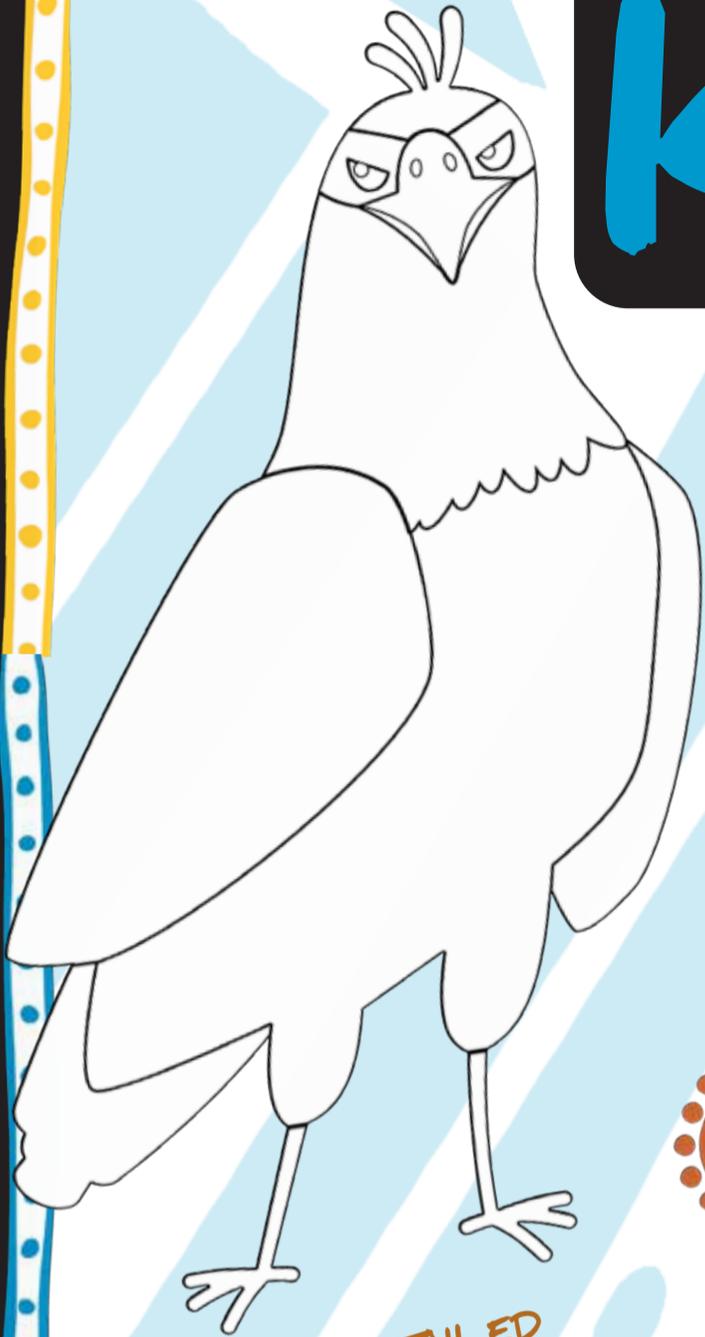
Please tell us before **30 September 2022**. You can call us on 0476 249 221, email us at nlc@anao.gov.au or comment at www.anao.gov.au/nlc

Anything you tell us is confidential.

We won't share it with anyone outside of the ANAO.

We will write a report for the Australian Parliament to be presented next March. Our report may make recommendations on how to improve NLC's governance.

DEADLY KIDS



WEDGE-TAILED EAGLE

Mudburra: "Diwarna"
 Jawoyn: "Jarlmaykkan"
 Ngarinyman: "Garawa"

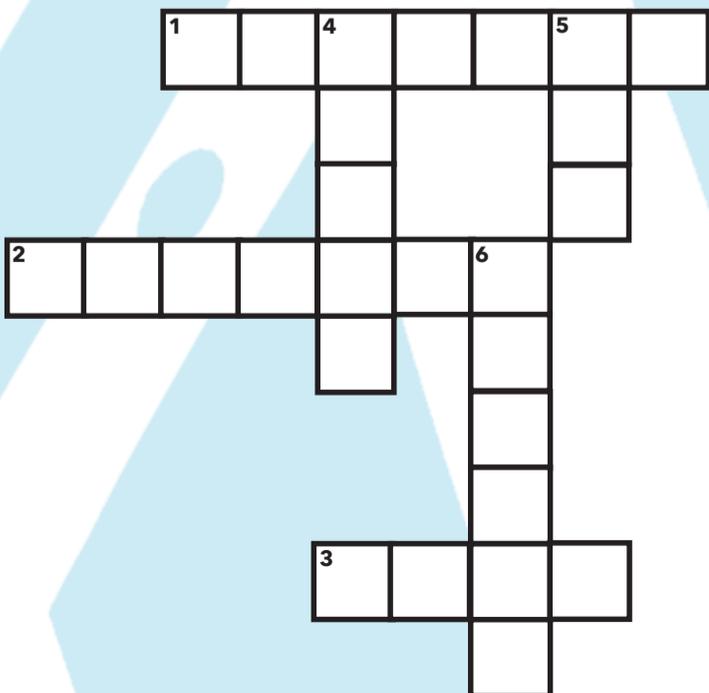


EMU

Mudburra: "Kamanganja"
 Jawoyn: "Turk"
 Ngarinyman: "Nangurrungurru"

FUN FACT

Emus are the second fastest bird in the world. The first is the ostrich.



CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1. Biggest planet in our solar system (7)
2. Fruit of a plam tree (7)
3. Type of board used to ride a wave (4)

DOWN

4. Instrument with black and white keys (5)
5. Type of food with a shell and a yolk (3)
6. AFL club from Richmond (6)

ANSWERS

1. Jupiter 2. Coconut 3. Surf 4. Piano 5. Egg 6. Tigers

Footy history made by Yolŋu commentator



History-making commentary - Sylvia Nulpinditj calls the Gold Coast versus Hawthorn game at Darwin's TIO Stadium.

Yolŋu Radio presenter Sylvia Nulpinditj stepped into the commentary box of Darwin's TIO Stadium in May to become the first ever woman to call an AFL match in an Indigenous language.

MS Nulpinditj joined forces with fellow commentators Baykali Ganambarr and William Gumbula for the Gold Coast versus Hawthorn match, which was also the first time a game in Darwin has been broadcast in Yolŋu Matha.

With more than 10 years' experience as a broadcaster, Ms Nulpinditj said it was a very significant moment in her radio career.

"This has been a long time coming, especially for someone who's a Yolŋu and a *miyalk*, a woman," she told ABC News.

Ms Nulpinditj, who comes from the remote North East Arnhem Land community of Milingimbi, said she embraced the challenge and was pleased to have fellow Yolŋu by her side.

"I like challenging things ... the

fellas will have my back," she said.

"Everything happening in the very moment of the match, will be all in Yolŋu Matha and that is exciting."

Mr Gumbula and Mr Ganambarr also travelled to Melbourne earlier in the month to call the annual Dreamtime at the G match between

Richmond and Essendon, for the second year in a row.

Only a few days before the match, the pair commentated the Elcho Island grand final at Galiwin'ku, more than 3000 kilometres from the MCG.

AFL Executive General Manager of Inclusion and Social Policy Tanya Hosch said the Yolŋu Radio broadcasts are another great opportunity to strengthen the longstanding connection between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and Australian Football.

"The AFL is proud to welcome back Yolŋu Radio this season. Their work, along with the National Indigenous Radio Service, is an important initiative in ensuring that our game remains accessible for all people," Ms Hosch said.

"Having AFL matches broadcast in traditional Yolŋu Matha language is a special occasion for Yolŋu communities and a privilege for the game."

Yolŋu Radio broadcasts into the six major communities and 15 homelands throughout the North-East Arnhem Land region and across Darwin and Palmerston.

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Out and about at the Big Rivers Umpires Carnival

Players and supporters flocked from every corner of the Top End to Katherine's Nitmiluk Oval in early April for the pre-season Umpires Carnival of the Big Rivers Football League (BRFL).



Players gear up for their first match of the day!



An action-packed match between the Ngukurr Bulldogs and the Garrak Bombers!



Rockets from Katherine team Eastside and Borroloola.



This year's carnival marked the beginning of the 35th BRFL season.



The mighty Arnhem Crows men's team.



The first Garrak Bombers women's team in years, who took out the grand final!



Miliwanga Wurrben and Ashanti Bush found a shady spot to watch the games.



The umpires of the day! L to R Stewart Whiteaker, Andrew Wainwright, Brett Stephensen and Rowan Wesley.

Garma

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