



NORTHERN  
LAND COUNCIL

Northern Edition

# LAND RIGHTS NEWS

*Our Land, Our Sea, Our Life*

August/September 2020 • [www.nlc.org.au](http://www.nlc.org.au)

# VOTE FOR COUNTRY!



*Australia's oldest Aboriginal newspaper. Since 1973.*

**EDITORIAL**  
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 Land Rights News welcomes stories and photos about Aboriginal people and organisations.

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# Time to vote in the Territory

## A message from the NLC Chairman and CEO



NLC Executive Council and CEO Marion Scrymgour at the Joint Land Council Executive Committee meeting on July 29.

ON Saturday August 22 the people of the NT will decide its Government for the next four years. We as Aboriginal people play a significant role in the decision making process. One in four NT voter is Aboriginal - for this reason our vote will make a difference.

issues that affect you, your family and the community that you live in. We also hope those candidates have listened to what you have to say and what you believe is important when it comes to policy making over the next four years. In this edition of

everyone over the age of 18. You can be fined for failing to vote. We encourage you to cast a vote in the election that you believe will be in the best interests of Aboriginal people. If

you're unsure of where and when you can vote speak to someone at your local NLC office, your local council or get in touch with the NT Electoral Commission on 1800 698 683 or 08 8999 5000.

**'We, as Aboriginal people, play a significant role in the decision making process. One NT voter in four is Aboriginal - for this reason our vote will make a difference.'**

It is important that between now and when you vote, you give considerable thought as to who will provide the best leadership and the best local voice for your region. We trust you have seen many of the candidates aspiring to win your vote and you have made the most of any opportunity to speak with them about

Land Rights News we have reached out to the candidates from the six bush seats that fall in the NLC region: Arafura, Arnhem, Barkly, Daly, Mulka (formerly known as Nhulunbuy) and Gwoja. I hope you take the time to read what the people vying to win your vote have said. Voting in the NT election is compulsory for



# From the news: 'All Territorians have a right to safe drinking water'



**ON SAFE DRINKING WATER**  
**Samuel Bush-Blanasi, NLC Chairman, quoted in the Katherine Times on 23 August:**

"The land councils call for urgent legislation to ensure that all Territorians have access to safe drinking water."  
 "All Territorians, not just those living in major towns, have a right to safe and adequate drinking water. Bush voters deserve to know how the parties are planning to ensure they can enjoy this right."

**ON BORDER SECURITY**  
**Marion Scrymgour, NLC CEO, quoted in ABC News on 3 July:**

"Whilst we've got these numbers increasing, they're not decreasing in Victoria, our borders should be closed to people from Victoria. The Chief Minister has shown great leadership from the outset with COVID-19. We're calling on that leadership again, to be strong and to draw a line in the sand in terms of making sure that Territorians are kept safe."  
 \*At the time of printing the NT Government had declared Victoria, greater Sydney and Port Stephens as COVID-19 hot spots for the NT.



**ON LAUNCH OF MALAK MALAK LANGUAGE APP**  
**Joy Cardona, NLC Full Council Member, quoted in the Katherine Times on 30 June:**

"It's important to preserve the language and hand it on to the next generation."  
 "We needed to capture the language while the Aunties are still alive, to keep the language and Malak Malak clan strong, and to pass it on to our children."

**ON THE PASSING OF JOHN (JACK) AH KIT**  
**Lisa Mumbin, NLC Full Council Member, quoted in ABC News on 22 July:**

"When he stepped into Territory politics, Jawoyn people were never far from his thoughts as he advocated for Aboriginal people from the Arnhem region."  
 "He taught us how to negotiate and how to stand up for our rights, and how to stand up for common causes through our humanity."



# Blue Mud Bay deal will protect Aboriginal sea country rights



Member for Arnhem Selena Uiibo, NLC Chair Samuel Bush-Blanasi, Chief Minister Michael Gunner and NLC CEO Marion Scrymgour at Timber Creek.

THE NLC and the NT Government signed the Blue Mud Bay Action Plan on 29 July.

“The Action Plan provides sea country traditional owners with a clear pathway to achieving culturally appropriate economic and employment outcomes that will benefit our mob for generations to come,” said NLC CEO Marion Scrymgour.

In mid-2008 the High Court of Australia, in the Blue Mud Bay case, found that traditional owners have the right to control access to waters overlying ‘Aboriginal Land’ including

the intertidal zone. That means that traditional owners control access to around 85 per cent of the NT coastline.

**‘The new Fisheries Act needs to include Aboriginal people as part of the Northern Territory’s economic program going forward, and it’s about how we manage those fisheries in a sustainable way so that they are there for the future’ - NLC CEO Marion Scrymgour**

In June 2019 at Nitmiluk, the NTG, the NLC, the NT Seafood

Council, the NT Amateur Fishermen’s Association and the NT Guided Fishing Industry Association signed the Nitmiluk Heads

of Agreement. The Action Plan implements this agreement with specific

commitments up to the end of 2022.

These commitments are too extensive to list here, but include for example, ‘the NT Government will provide funding to support the establishment of an

December 2022’.

NLC Chairman Samuel Bush-Blanasi said: “Following the election we look forward to working closely with the NT government to develop and deliver a new



Aboriginal fishing entity to facilitate participation of traditional owners in fishing, aquaculture and other opportunities associated with fishing activities in the NT’. It also sets out NLC’s commitments, for example, ‘the NLC will consult traditional owners on extending the permit free interim arrangements for fishing access in Blue Mud Bay tidal waters to 31

Fisheries Act, which will reflect the undeniable fact of Aboriginal ownership of sea country and the need to implement sustainable and appropriate policies for the future management of our fisheries and protection of this most precious resource”.



# Winners of Australia's first National Indigenous Fashion Awards revealed



Several NT designers and artists were among the mix of winners including Evonne Muiyungu, Margaret Djarbaalabal Malibirr and Daphne Banyawarra of Bula'bula Arts at Ramingining, pictured here with family.

THE best of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander fashion and design was put on show at the inaugural National Indigenous Fashion Awards on 5 August.

Several Territory designers and artists

were among the mix of winners including Kieren Karripul of Merrepen Arts Centre, and Mary Dhapalany Mangul, Margaret Djarbaalabal Malibirr and Evonne Muiyungu of Bula'bula Arts at Ramingining for

their collaboration with Maara Collective. The NIFA showcased collections and designs from Australia’s leading and emerging designers and artists.

The event saw 33 Indigenous fashion

creatives nominated from across the country, and awarded winners across six unique categories.

Judges said Karripul was selected as the textile design winner due to his, “ability to tell stories through his textiles

and bring about a truly emotional experience” and also for his “use of movement and truly breathtaking colours”.

## NLC's new Wadeye office opens

THE Wadeye Regional Office is now in action, with the office set up, with WiFi connected, as well as video-conferencing facilities. Setting up offices outside of Darwin is part of the NLC’s Regionalisation Strategy – ‘Building the Bush’.



Catching some fresh air at the new NLC office in Wadeye.

# 'My personal light on the hill': Pat Dodson's eulogy to John (Jack) Ah Kit

The first Aboriginal minister in the NT parliament died in late July. This is a shortened version of Labor Senator Pat Dodson's tribute to him.

WHEN announcing the death of our great friend, Jack Ah Kit, his immediate family said "this is a life that should be the focus of celebration and commemoration" – and that is indeed why we are here today.

In remembering and celebrating, we are thinking of the many, many stories that made up his life – some that we shared with him; some that we heard tell of; some that we witnessed.

The importance of stories to Jack – and indeed to all Aboriginal people – was perhaps best summed up in his own words, in his first ministerial statement to the Legislative Assembly:

"Sitting around the camp fire, yarning with the old people and watching the faces of kids in the fire light reminded me of my own childhood and of how the lives of Aboriginal people are inextricably linked with each other through family and community.

"In an important sense, these links are forged by the social interaction that is symbolised by the way us mob – Aboriginal people – gather together around the camp fire.

"I remember those camp fires and they are my personal light on the hill.

"The light on the hill, the family fire in the camp, that will show the path forward and, in my darkest moments, that is the image I return to."



John Berto and Lisa Mumbin from the Jawoyn Association at TIO stadium. In 1991, Jack was appointed director of the Katherine-based Jawoyn Association.



NT Chief Minister Michael Gunner, who once worked as Jack's chief of staff, spoke of his authenticity.

**'The light on the hill, the family fire in the camp, that will show the path forward and, in my darkest moments, that is the image I return to.'**

Of course those words – "light on the hill" – go back to the words of Ben Chifley back in 1949, as Labor prime minister. Indeed, the words go back further to biblical times and the Sermon on the Mount.

But for Jack there was something very personal in this idea, this vision, which he always carried with him.

He brought that vision to his job as director, as the boss was then called, of the Northern Land Council. That job stood him in good stead for his later career as a member of the Northern Territory Legislative Assembly.

Those years when Jack headed up the NLC were heady times in Aboriginal politics.

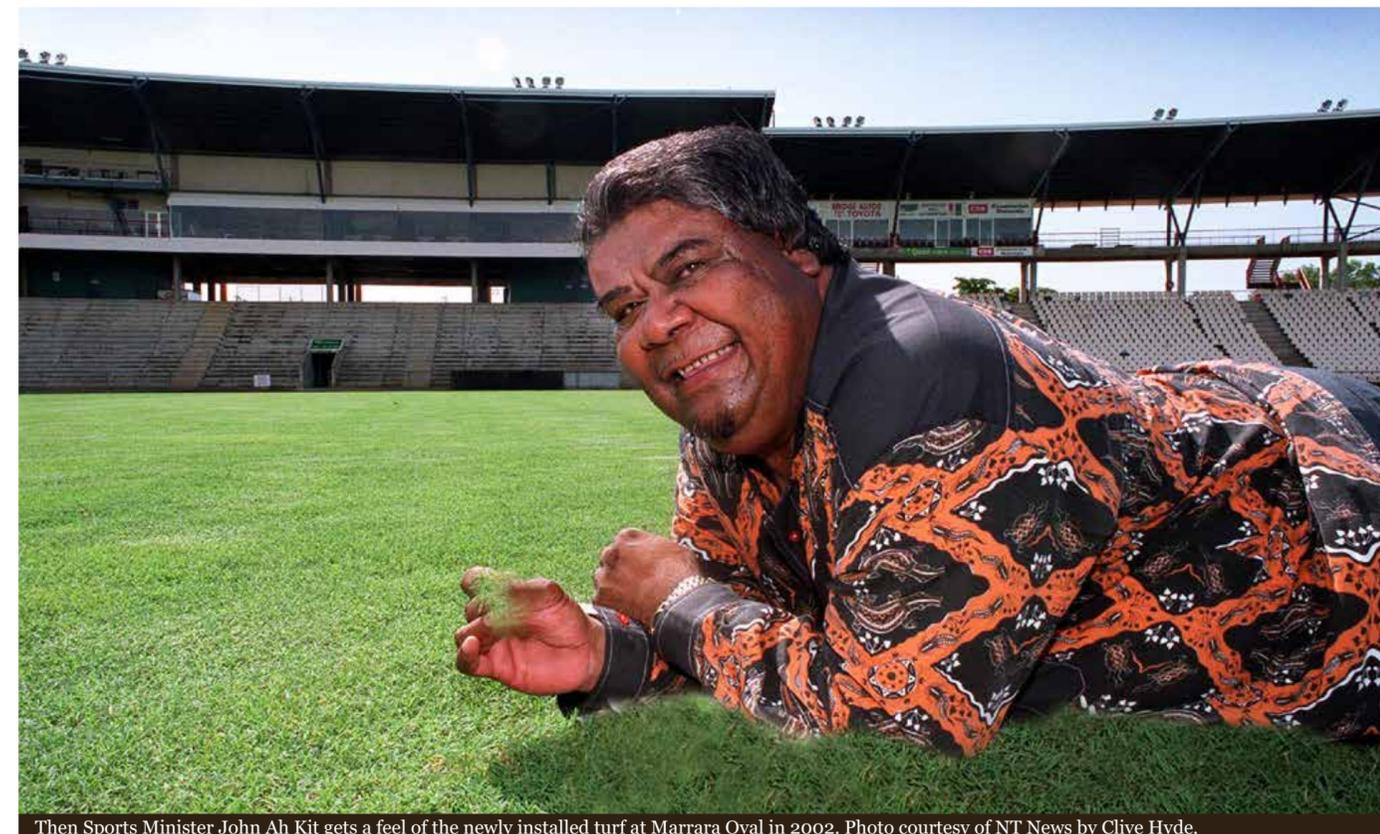
The Northern Territory Land Rights Act – commonwealth legislation – was under threat, even under the newly elected Hawke Labor government which was threatening to water down the veto power of traditional owners over mining and other developments

And, then there was the promise of national land rights legislation to fight for.

At the time, both those causes had Jack shuttling back and forth to Canberra to lobby any federal politician he could buttonhole.

Jack and his cohort were so notorious around the corridors of Old Parliament House that they became known as "the flying wedge" – although, he could never be called the thin end of that.

# Vale our Jack: 'A big man with a big vision'



Then Sports Minister John Ah Kit gets a feel of the newly installed turf at Marrara Oval in 2002. Photo courtesy of NT News by Clive Hyde.

As director of the Central Land Council at the time, I joined Jack on those forays. They were hard and long days. But Jack would always help get us through with his sense of humour as we gathered our forces each night.

Jack's cooking skills were legendary throughout the territory. It's well known that on a number of land claims around the Top End in the 1980s he would leave the traditional owners, lawyers and anthropologists to do their jobs, while he would work from dawn to dusk in the camp kitchen.

Memories, too, of the 1988 Barunga festival where – after long discussions between the late Wenten Rubuntja and Galarrwuy Yunupingu – prime minister Bob Hawke committed to a treaty.

That was 32 years ago, and we still wait for that commitment to see

light of day – let alone light on the hill.

Then of course there's his time as a member of parliament here in the NT. It was a vicious and racist campaign run by the then CLP government seeking to divide Aboriginal people into "traditional" Aboriginal people and "yellafellas".

It's worth quoting a section of Jack's inaugural speech to the Legislative Assembly as he recalled his time on the campaign trail:

"This was the use of the disgusting tactic of creating the idea of 'real' Aboriginals. By this, they mean that the only real Aboriginals are the so-called full-bloods who live in the bush. The rest are not 'real' Aboriginal people. They are half-castes and yellafellas.

"For better or worse, 'yellafella' refers to skin colour, not whether you are this thing called a

'traditional man'. How do you think those men and women of mixed

parliamentary leader of the Country Liberal party has condoned, promoted

**'Let us not have the racist sins of the fathers visited on our children.'**

descent from throughout the territory, who are full and active participants in traditional ceremonies, feel about the member opposite and his terms of abuse? ...

"Does this mean that, if a particular electorate was saying that it did not want a Catholic, [the CLP] would run an anti-Catholic campaign or, if the electorate was saying it did not want a Vietnamese, or Chinese or Greek or Cypriot as its representative, he would mount campaigns against those ethnic groups? Of course not. That would be immoral, shameful and contemptible. However, that is precisely what the

alongside all the groups that make up the Territory, from any number of ethnic, cultural and class backgrounds. So indeed, let us not have the racist sins of the fathers visited on our children.

Over his life he was a brother, father, a husband, an uncle, a cousin, a brother-in-law and a grandfather to so many of us. Deeply embedded in this was his love of community and of country, something I witnessed many times sitting around the campfire.

To all of you who have come to mark Jack's life, let these, and the many other stories that surround his time on earth, live on. In the words of Archie Roach: "This story's right, this story's true. I would not tell lies to you."

May they become the light on the hill for all of us – even through the dark moments.

# Remembering Jack: 'A big man with a big vision'



Senator Dodson (on right) said Jack worked during a difficult time in land rights.



Jack in the front row on right



# NLC works to re-purpose items for remote community members

By Andy Ralph, NLC Jabiru



The old Aurora Kakadu has closed its doors.

**Farewell old Aurora Kakadu!** May 3 was a day with a nostalgic feel when work started to demolish the iconic Aurora Kakadu Resort at South Alligator River.

BUILT in 1976, the South Alligator Motor Inn was the first of many tourist facilities that were built in World Heritage-listed Kakadu National Park, including the famous Crocodile Hotel developed in 1988 by traditional owners and Gagudju Association. Many long term NLC members would well remember many meetings held at the South Alligator Motor Inn, stretching back over thirty years. Days prior to demolition, staff from the NLC's Regional Development Team swung into action and helped clear motel

rooms of articles left behind destined for the rubbish tip. They collected serviceable items, including beds, fridges, blankets and pillows. These goods were distributed to residents at Manabudurma (Town Camp) in Jabiru and nearby Aboriginal communities. The staff at NLC's Jabiru office thank the Regional Development Team for their hard work. Great work!



NLC's Regional Development Team helped deliver items to Manabudurma (Jabiru Town Camp).



NLC's Stephen Abala and Andy Ralph.

# Treaty bill formally passed in Parliament

The NT Parliament has formally passed the Treaty Commissioner Bill 2020 that establishes an independent office of the Treaty Commissioner.

ABORIGINAL Affairs Minister Selena Uibo said in Parliament on 23 June 2020 the Bill “will act to formalise an agreement between First Nations people, the government and Territorians.”

“Aboriginal Territorians have been fighting for a long time for treaty or treaties. It is time we listened to their voices as it is far overdue,” she said.

The Bill converts the appointment last year of Treaty Commissioner Professor Mick Dodson

they have been part of this all-important process,” he said.

“The key role of the Treaty Commissioner must be to achieve real change and substantive long-term benefits for Aboriginal people.”

The Bill formally implements the Barunga Agreement of 1988 that sets out the aspirations of First Nations people, including the rights to self-determination and self-management and freedom to pursue economic,



Treaty Commissioner Prof. Mick Dodson and Deputy Treaty Commissioner Ursula Raymond

**'The Barunga Statement was signed at the 1988 Barunga Festival in the presence of the Territory's Aboriginal leaders and then Prime Minister Bob Hawke. Three years later the Yothu Yindi band released the hit song Treaty, a powerful reminder for First Nations people of self-determination and self-management.'**

from a consultancy to statutory appointment.

The Deputy Treaty Commissioner is Ursula Raymond.

The role of the Treaty Commissioners includes to consult with Aboriginal people and their representative bodies in the Territory about their support for a treaty or treaties and on a suitable framework to further treaty negotiations with the Territory Government.

Chief Minister Michael Gunner told Parliament the COVID-19 pandemic has delayed the Treaty Commission's consultations in remote communities.

“I know they will do a thorough and careful job of ensuring traditional owners and all Aboriginal Territorians will feel

social, religious and cultural development.

The Barunga Statement was signed at the 1988 Barunga Festival in the presence of the Territory's Aboriginal leaders and then Prime Minister Bob Hawke.

Three years later the Yothu Yindi band released the hit song Treaty, a powerful reminder for First Nations people of self-determination and self-management.

Professor Dodson released an interim report in March 2020 and has delivered a detailed discussion paper to the Chief Minister.



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## Do you speak an Aboriginal language and English?

The Aboriginal Interpreter Service offers flexible hours, travel, training, career opportunities and the chance to help people and keep language alive.

If you speak an Aboriginal language and English, and want to find out more about becoming an interpreter, call 1800 334 944 or visit [www.ais.nt.gov.au](http://www.ais.nt.gov.au).

Department of LOCAL GOVERNMENT,  
HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



# NT land councils unite to demand safe drinking water laws



The executive councils of the four NT land councils met in Darwin in July. They called for urgent legislation to ensure access to safe drinking water.

The executive councils of the four Northern Territory land councils have united in condemning the 'unacceptable' lack of protection for safe and adequate drinking water in the NT.

MEETING in Darwin with NT Chief Minister Michael Gunner and opposition party leaders, the land councils called for urgent legislation to ensure that all Territorians have access to safe drinking water.

The land councils want all parties to commit to enacting a Safe Drinking Water Act that provides regulatory protection and accountability for the safe and adequate water for all.

Communities throughout the NT – from the north to the south, and including Kintore, Yuendumu, Willowra, Mutitjulu, Willora, Utopia, Alpuurrulam, and Laramba – are

experiencing poor water quality and water stresses.

NLC Chairman Samuel Bush-Blanasi said: "All Territorians, not just those living in major towns, have a right to safe and adequate drinking water".

**'Bush voters deserve to know how the parties are planning to ensure they can enjoy this right to safe drinking water.'**

"Bush voters deserve to know how the parties are planning to ensure they can enjoy this right."

Central Land Council chief executive Joe Martin-Jard said residents of the Laramba community,

three hours northwest of Alice Springs, are drinking water that contains three times the level of uranium than is recommended as safe by the World Health Organisation.

"The lack of legislative protection out bush is discriminatory and constitutes negligence by the Northern Territory Government," he said.

"That's why we want whoever forms the next NT government to bring in legally enforceable

minimum standards for drinking water quality and security.

Darwin-based researcher at the Housing for Health Incubator at the University of Sydney Kirsty Howey told the

*Centralian Advocate* that there was a disturbing lack of safeguards in the NT.

"The first thing to note is that there is a complete absence of any laws around safe drinking water across the NT, but particularly drinking water provisions in remote commutes in the Northern

Territory is completely unregulated," she said.

Ms Howey said South Australia has set a good example with their safe drinking water Act which involves audits and licencing for water providers.

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# Kenbi Rangers get new Indian Island station



The field station has now been completed on Indian Island

the shortfall from their fee for service work. Much of this additional money was incurred by the need to use helicopters to uplift all of the building materials to the Island.

logistics, communication with contract builders and architects. Kenbi Rangers utilised their two marine vessels on a regular basis to provide support throughout the

**“The field station will provide a base for future research projects on Indian Island,” said Kenbi Ranger Coordinator Steven Brown.**

The project kicked into gear in January 2020 with builders and Rangers coordinating the uplift of the majority of materials required to build the field station from Rankin Point to our site on Indian Island.

project, transporting builders/rangers, fuel, water, ice, food and smaller building materials and requirements. The major lift by helicopter over the course of this project was a 25,000L water tank. This provided some logistical headaches given the size of the tank. The final projects to finish off the field station will be the installation of a chemical toilet and security screens to windows, as well as fencing and signage to the site.

“The field station will provide a base for future research projects on Indian Island,” said Kenbi Ranger Coordinator Steven Brown, who took on the responsibility of project management to coordinate

AFTER two years of camping with Melbourne University researchers and Rangers on the beach at Indian Island, Kenbi Rangers made a decision to explore the possibility of building a ranger field station on the Island

that would enable our staff to camp in a much safer environment. Kenbi Rangers secured a parcel of land on Indian Island through a Section 19 agreement through the NLC and traditional owners. An application

was made to the NT Government for funding for this project. We were successful in securing a grant of \$100,000. After designs were sought, we had an approximate \$120,000 shortfall. Kenbi Rangers agreed to cover

# Malak Malak Rangers use weevils to control one of Australia's worst weeds

SALVINIA molesta is a floating aquatic fern and is regarded as one of the worst aquatic weeds in Australia. It grows quickly to form thick mats covering billabongs, slow moving rivers and other water ways.

There is a specific weevil, a small black insect, which is the biocontrol agent for this weed. They help to clear up infested salvinia water ways by feeding on the plants and damaging the leaves, which causes it to sink to the bottom.

The Malak Malak Rangers have dealt with salvinia previously between 2006 and 2014. This was done by our senior women but lapsed because of their age and the passing of the Wangamaty Land Management coordinator who had worked closely with them.

A year ago, representatives from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources approached the Malak Malak Rangers to raise these weevils, they gave us tubs and advice on how to breed and raise them. Matt Rawlinson from the Djurrubu Rangers from the Kakadu area supplied us with our first lot of weevils.

In late 2019 we supplied the first lot of weevils to the Wudi Rangers and early this year we supplied the Thamarurr Rangers with an initial quantity.

Our goal now is to continue to develop this project and to be able to supply these biocontrol agents to the groups across the western Top End region.



Aaron Green helping to use weevils to control Salvinia.

# Kenbi Rangers inspire next generation to care for country with action-packed camp

THE Kenbi Rangers, along with a number of supporters and stakeholders, hosted a junior ranger camp over three days in July at Charles Point as part of their ongoing commitment to engaging with the local community.

Children aged from five to 12 years from Belyuen and Darwin and their parents and guardians were invited to camp at Charles Point over three days to participate in the camp. Children from Wagait Beach were also invited.

Fifty children attended the camp - 35 who camped and another 15 from Wagait Beach who joined in with the activities on the Thursday.

Upon arrival the kids received a bag that included a Kenbi fishing shirt, posters, stickers, drink

bottle and sun hat.

Day one of the camp involved a trip to Bare Sand Island on board the Sea Darwin vessels. The kids were up at the crack of dawn and fed a cooked breakfast. Lunches for the trip were made by the kids the night before with the assistance of parents.

**‘The kids were lucky enough to hold Flatback turtle hatchlings that were being looked after by the researchers.’**

The kids were lucky enough to hold Flatback turtle hatchlings that were being looked after by the researchers.

The researchers gave a talk about the turtles that nest on Bare Sand Island and how to protect their habitat. They also had an opportunity to go digging

for turtle eggs. On their return trip home they spotted bottlenose dolphins in Bynoe Harbour and an Australian submarine in Darwin Harbour. Day two was a full day of talks and workshops with kids from Wagait Beach joining in.

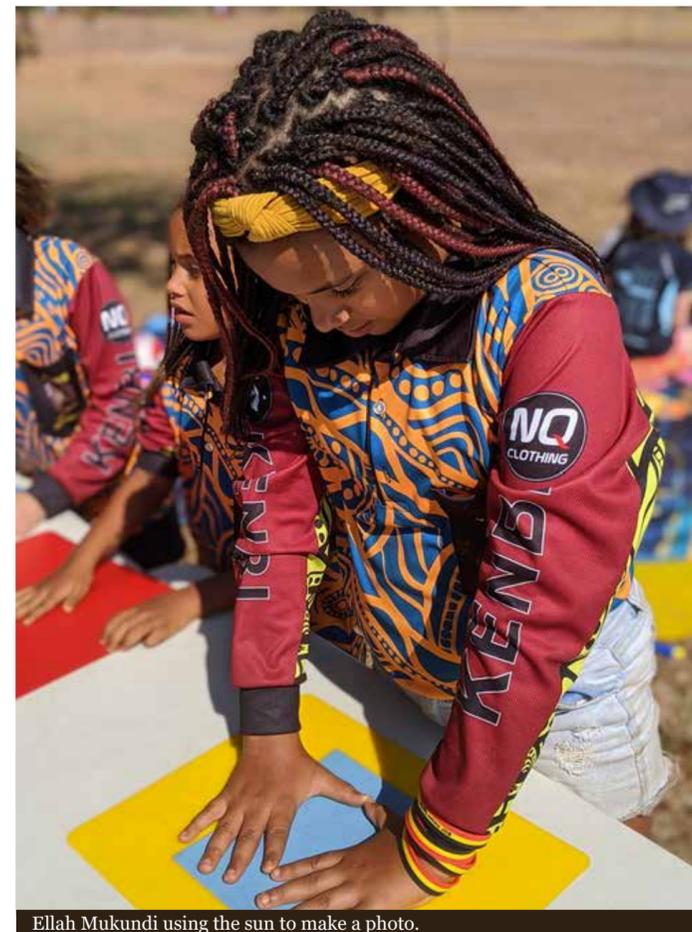
Kenbi Rangers would like to thank all the supporters,

stakeholders, parents and volunteers who contributed and assisted with the camp.

Encouraging children to engage and interact with rangers to learn about land and sea management and conservation was the aim of the camp - we hope it inspired the next generation of future rangers.



Will Mayor holding a baby Flatback turtle.



Ellah Mukundi using the sun to make a photo.



Kids disembark the boat for Kenbi camp



The group all ready for their boat trip to Bare Sand Island.

# Coolroom breakdowns – no problem! Children go hunting at Wagiman Culture Camp

By Kathrine Carver



Wagiman children enjoying being on country. Images by Kathrine Carver

The otherwise quiet heritage site of Sawmill on the Wagiman Aboriginal Land Trust came to life on July 13 when the annual Wagiman Culture Camp – with its diverse lineup of informative and entertaining guests – kicked off.

WAGIMAN families welcomed guests to their Country, ensuring they were as comfortable as possible. Families also had the time themselves to reconnect with country and enjoy their bush heritage.

This year family groups and guests camped in different locations around Rainbow Dreaming Billabong, just past the Claravale Crossing. In Wagiman language, the area is known as Jagud.

During the weeks leading up to the camp, Wagiman Rangers constructed a bough shed, which served well as the central cooking and eating area, as well as a hub for social gatherings.

Of course there were a few modern conveniences, such as a generator for electricity and cool rooms for perishable food, but the best laid plans can be fraught with dramas – there was not one, but two

coolroom breakdowns!

This turned out to be a blessing in disguise. How? It highlighted the Wagiman ability to adapt and to find solutions.

Instead of BBQ-ing meat over the course of the week, the bullocky that had been butchered to provide meat for the camp was cooked all at once in a big traditional earth oven. The succulent aroma of tender beef cuts from the earth oven had everyone's mouths watering. We feasted upon this for two days, topped up with salad, vegetables and bread rolls.

After the beef was gone, we decided that we would catch our food for the rest of the week.

Turtles are a Wagiman delicacy and you have to be

quick to get a feed of turtle when it is on the menu. Luckily we were able to catch enough turtle for everyone. We sourced the turtles from a few different locations on the land trust, making sure that we did not over catch in one area.

Wagiman kids and adults alike, cooked and ate on site at the fishing spots as well as back at camp. With hungry tummies taken care of, dinnertime proved to be a non-event on one evening because no one could eat another thing!

Guest speakers and entertainers provided information and entertainment throughout the week. Paul Donohoe from Indigenous Land & Sea Corporation

(ILSC) attended to share information and glean some Wagiman ideas on the proposed Savanna Fire Management Carbon Abatement Project. Through this proposal, ILSC were able to generously provide some funding towards the culture camp this year.

Helicopter rides allowed traditional owners and select others to view parts of the Land Trust that are now inaccessible by road, and also allowed for direct feedback regarding potential burning activities around sacred sites in the future.

Carla Eisemberg and Isabel Ely, freshwater turtle experts who became affectionately known as 'the turtle ladies', provided

children's educational entertainment in the form of a turtle show, camera trap demonstration and a simple solar powered grasshopper fun exercise.

Wagiman families also participated in weeds discussions, croc safety talks and biosecurity chats with representatives from Territory Natural Resource Management, Croc Wise, and the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment.

It had been an extraordinary week of events, and before we knew it, the weekend was upon us. A feeling of sadness descended upon us, as we came to accept that the camp was over for another year. Indeed, some families chose to stay on for the weekend to enjoy that special connection that only being out bush can bring! The enthusiasm of the children, and the dedication and efforts of guests and rangers, certainly gives rise to communal hope that the annual Wagiman Culture Camp will continue into the future.



Jasmin Huddleston, Jabul Huddleston and Kathrine Carver



Arthur Muggleton



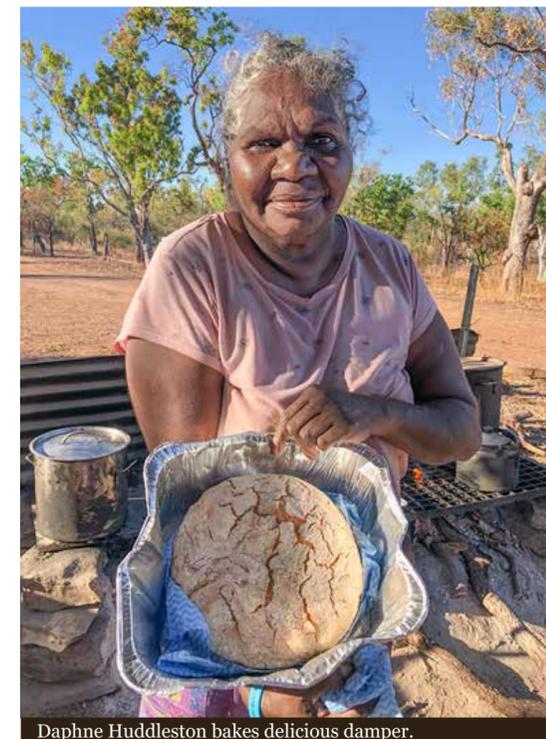
Flying over Guwardagun on the way to Ejong Billabong, checking out Wagiman traditional homelands from above.



'We made a big earth oven to cook that lamang so tender.'



Jasmin Huddleston holds a turtle.



Daphne Huddleston bakes delicious damper.

# Call to election candidates: 'Grow and secure Aboriginal Ranger Grants Program'

Article by Country Needs People



ONE thing that's clear to anyone who spends any time in the NT is how much traditional owners worry about, care for and work on their traditional land and sea. This has been going on for thousands of years. Before Europeans showed up, before 'Landcare', before cattle came and cities were built.

Knowledge about country and the responsibilities of traditional law weaved through every aspect of life then. What might surprise a lot of new visitors is how much is still happening across the Territory to keep people and country healthy. These days that work continues under the watchful eye of senior traditional owners through the work of rangers, Indigenous

Protected Areas and the many other ways that people care for country.

The work being done shows the strength of ongoing connection to country, driven at its foundation by traditional law passed down from senior men and women.

**'Traditional owners in the NT have been at the forefront of the resurgence of Indigenous land and sea management...'**

Traditional owners in the NT have been at the forefront of the resurgence of Indigenous land and sea management with the support of the Caring for Country units of the Northern and Central Land Councils, and more recently this modern ranger work has spread to Tiwi and Anindilyakwa Land Council regions.

Nowadays rangers use helicopters and drip torches, quad bikes and computers, seagoing boats and underwater cameras. They are bringing two knowledge systems together to care for country, local traditional knowledge and western

science. But it still comes back to the fundamental foundation of having the right people for those land and sea areas in charge and being true to their law.

This work doesn't only benefit local people through jobs and work on their land and sea. Every Australian benefits through having a healthier environment, stronger



Wagiman Ranger Jasmin Huddleston

communities and by ensuring ongoing culturally based management lives on in the land and young people, not just in museums. Because of this vital work, the Country Needs People network works with traditional owners to help promote these positive stories and keep the pressure on governments to respond in the right way.

Governments need to invest in keeping people and country healthy by securing and growing funding for positive work on country. Tackling weeds like Gamba Grass or Buffel Grass, hunting ferals, protecting sacred sites, managing fire with traditional knowledge and science, doing research that informs management. This work is just as important as police, nurses, doctors and other services that benefit all Australians.

For the last four years, the Territory Government has provided some really

useful funding to support this work through the Aboriginal Ranger Grants program. Many ranger teams in the Territory have taken advantage of this program to get vital equipment like quad bikes, build ranger sheds, country planning, and to undertake turtle project work. But we need to keep it going. The initial funding was only for four years, and we need to see continue past the election for another four years at least. The Country Needs People network is working to make sure all NT election candidates know how important it is to grow and secure the Aboriginal Ranger Grants Program. To build on the work the traditional owners, rangers and land councils are doing. This is about backing the work of traditional owners on country with real dollars and in this time of economic rebuilding, we need more than ever to keep this going.

# Ranger Compliance Support Project in full swing



Compliance training is underway. Jamie Damaso, John Moreen, Rex Sing, Steven Brown, Jack Gardner, Zoe Singh, Ritsuko Maeda and Andrew Wellings.

## A brief introduction to NLC's Indigenous Ranger Compliance Support Project

FOLLOWING the completion of a comprehensive assessment of the current 'state of play' regarding NLC ranger program compliance needs and opportunities, the NLC sourced funding from National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA) to establish the Indigenous

Ranger Compliance Support Project.

In November 2019 funding was provided to develop and implement priority foundational activities projects, facilitated with the employment of dedicated Indigenous Ranger Compliance Support

(IRCS) project staff.

The project aims to ensure that Indigenous ranger groups across the NLC region are appropriately trained, resourced and supported to undertake targeted compliance activities on their traditional land and sea estates safely



Bulgul Rangers undertaking compliance training.

and effectively.

This project will provide compliance support to 12 NLC ranger groups, their

operational areas, relevant Indigenous Protected Areas and the surrounding Aboriginal Land Trusts.

# Monitoring report reflects strength of program

NLC's Community Planning and Development (CP&D) Program published its second monitoring report in June 2020. The 2019 monitoring report details the strengths of the three year old Program and what needs changing to deliver greater benefits for Aboriginal groups.

La Trobe University analysed data collected across all CP&D projects during 2019 to develop the report.

Research shows that there is good

decision-making processes in place, and strong commitment from Aboriginal people to long-term management of their resources for group benefit.

Trust in NLC remains high among those who take part in the CP&D Program. Traditional Owners continue to fund projects that value culture and traditional Aboriginal authority and practices.

Researchers also found that not everyone understands the CP&D process for allocating

money for community benefit, nor the connection between specific projects and the likely benefits. Further, the CP&D Program needs more opportunities for Aboriginal people to speak on their progress and their values of projects, and share their views with other Aboriginal groups.

Monitoring helps the NLC keep on track and heading towards goals set by Traditional Owners. The CP&D Program 2019 Monitoring Report is available at [www.nlc.org.au](http://www.nlc.org.au).



Sophie and Veronica Simon talk about how they check up to make sure their project is on track and how people in the community can be part of the 'checking up' team.



# Best-fit governance in action for community development projects

THE NLC's Community Planning and Development (CP&D) Program is working with different Aboriginal land-owning groups to help them achieve development on their own terms.

Each group is using locally appropriate governance arrangements to plan and develop projects for their future. CP&D knows that each group is different and it is important that local Aboriginal people are making decisions about their development work at each step of the way, in a way that suits them. Here some examples of different decision making structures.

## Galiwin'ku Community Gungayunamirr Mala

All clans involved in CP&D work at Galiwin'ku have elected representatives to work together and plan and develop projects. The working group is call the Galiwin'ku Community Gungayunamirr Mala. The working group has planned seven projects that all support young people.

## SEAL IPA

The Advisory Committee for the South East Arnhem Land (SEAL) Indigenous Protected Area (IPA) is a formal committee representing the clan groups of SEAL, with equal representatives from Numbulwar and Ngukurr. The Advisory Committee is responsible for implementing the IPA Plan of Management and planning and making decisions about community development projects. Sometimes the Ngukurr and Numbulwar members meet separately to plan their next community development projects. But the group always comes together to make decisions about how best to use income from the carbon abatement ranger work for the benefit of the traditional owners.

## Milwarapara-Yutpundji traditional owners

The Milwarapara-Yutpundji traditional owners have elected a working group to do the planning work for their development projects. The working group has eight members from the wider traditional owner group. Proxies are also nominated to ensure there is always a quorum at meetings. Working group members do the project planning and get all the information together ready for when all traditional owners come get together to make a decision about doing the projects.

## Rak Papangala traditional owners

Rak Papangala traditional owners decided to work as one group altogether to plan their community development projects. They are a small family and all members of the clan, young and old, meet together to discuss and decide on their community development projects.

## Malak Malak traditional owners

Malak Malak traditional owners have a working group with a strong track record for meeting regularly to plan and develop projects prioritised by the traditional owner group. Working group members research project ideas and potential project partners and then discuss their findings with the whole Malak Malak group at meetings.



Galiwin'ku Community Gungayunamirr Mala



Members of the Milwarapara-Yutpundji working group



Rak Papangala family group

# 'I want to excel': young Galiwin'ku local thrives in traditional owner-funded position

**Evellena Wanambi** loves her job as a Youth Sport and Recreation (YSR) Officer at the East Arnhem Regional Council in Galiwin'ku. Thanks to funding provided by Galiwin'ku traditional owners, she is employed to support young people in her community to reach their potential. Traditional owners are supporting this employment through their youth diversion project, which they are delivering using the NLC's Community Planning and Development Program.

## CAN you tell readers a bit about yourself?

My name is Evellena Milimarr Wanambi, but everyone calls me Miliy. My skin name is Galikali. My clan group is Marrangu. My Homeland is Raymangirr. I am 24 years old and I have lived in Galiwinku my whole life. I completed my schooling in Shepherdson College. I enjoy cooking food and playing sports. My sports are football, basketball and volleyball.

## What is your job?

I started working at sport and recreation in 2016 as a casual employee. In 2018 I became part time and in 2020 I was promoted to

a fulltime coordinator. I am passionate about providing educational, sport and recreation programs for the youth.

coordinators when needed; being safe at work; and being a good role model for young people.

**'Galiwin'ku is an isolated community, which makes it hard for young people to be exposed to opportunities like elite sports pathways and entertainment activities. YSR is one of the only services to entertain young people.'**

My role consists of assisting and supporting the delivery of the Youth, Sport and Recreation (YSR) program; helping with after-school care and vacation care; helping the senior officer and

## What are some challenges faced by young people at Galiwin'ku?

Galiwin'ku is an isolated community, which makes it hard for young people to be exposed to

opportunities like elite sports pathways and entertainment activities. YSR is one of the only services to entertain youth. Young people and the community find the shop and travelling expensive, which limits money spent on opportunities.

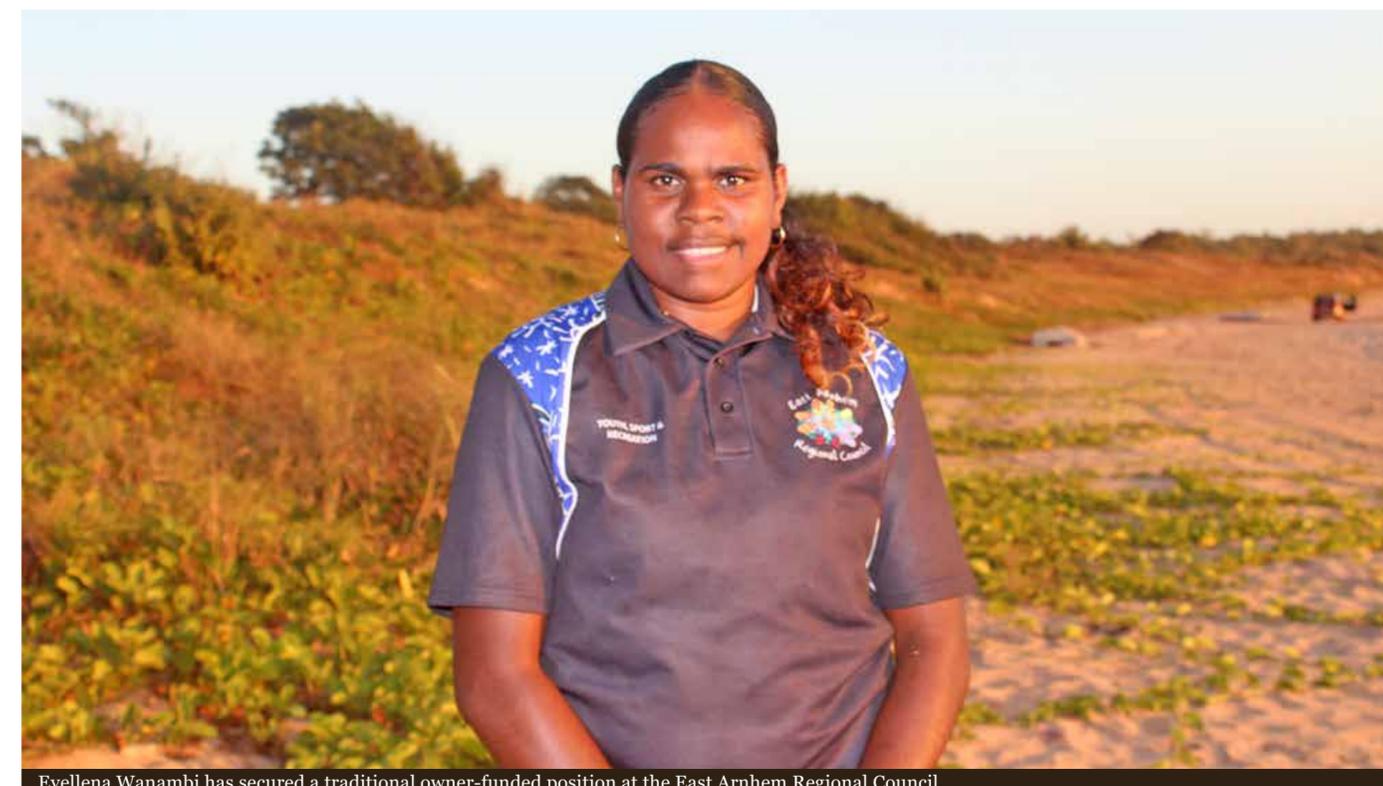
## What are some of the highlights since you've been in the job?

Since working at sport and rec I have seen many kids, youth and families engaged and having a great time attending our program. Some of the highlights of my career include: running sport competitions, such as edor [a chasing-and-tagging game for a large

group], basketball and volleyball; running community events, such as the colour run, disco and festivals; facilitating and supporting youth and adults in Women's AFL training, Galiwin'ku Football League and inter community competitions; and facilitating hunting and bush trips for families

## What do you want to do in the future?

I would like to excel as an YSR Coordinator and fulfil the roles and responsibilities involved. And in the future I would like to be a respected community leader.



Evellena Wanambi has secured a traditional owner-funded position at the East Arnhem Regional Council.

# Time to speak the truth on what it means to be a First Nations person with disability

The Disability Royal Commission is urging Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to tell their stories about violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation of First Nations people with disability.

ANDREA Mason OAM is one of the seven Commissioners on the Royal Commission. The former CEO of the Ngaanyatjarra Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Women's Council said it's time to speak the truth about what it means to be a First Nations person with disability.

"I want to assure all First Nations people, their families, communities, advocates and organisations that this Royal Commission, is a safe place to share your stories.

"Hearing about the experiences of community members with disability will help us to make recommendations for change to make sure people can live a life free from violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation.

**'Hearing about the experiences of community members with disability will help us to make recommendations for change to make sure people can live a life free from violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation.'**

"Violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation can happen anywhere and in different types of settings, in community, at school, in the health and criminal justice systems and more," said Commissioner Mason.

Violence and abuse could be someone physically hurting you or treating you badly. It

could be trying to force someone to do something they don't want to do or stopping someone from doing something they do want to do.

It can mean individuals or organisations using someone who has a disability to get their money without permission, taking their resources like food or water or housing, or even taking advantage of them physically or sexually.

Neglect happens when someone with a disability is not given their basic necessities in life. This may be food, water, housing or a place to live, or access to essential services like education or health.

Exploitation happens when a person or organisation takes advantage of someone else. This can be using someone who has a disability to

get their money without permission, or taking their resources like food or water or housing.

The Royal Commission recently released an issues paper about First Nations people with disability and is inviting responses.

"This is an opportunity for First Nations people to share their insights and expertise with the



Andrea Mason OAM

Royal Commission.

"We want to hear about what changes are needed to support the human rights of First Nations people with disability throughout their lives," said Commissioner Mason.

As well as responding to issues papers, people can share their story with the Royal Commission by

making a submission, by phone, in writing or by making an audio or video recording. Submissions can be in any language.

People can also register for a private session. This allows you to share

your experiences with a Royal Commissioner in a confidential setting. It can be in person, via video conferencing or on the phone.



**Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability**



Andrea Mason OAM with Erin McKenzie and young Rickisha.

# Larrakia, Tiwi and Yolŋu stories to inspire better healthcare for Aboriginal patients



Stuart Yiwarr McGrath, Vicki Kerrigan, Aunty Bilawara Lee and Rarrtjiwuy Melanie Herdman

A new podcast called Ask the Specialist reveals the reality of the hospital experience for Aboriginal patients in the Top End of the Northern Territory and offers ideas to improve the delivery of culturally respectful care.

RARRTJIWUY Melanie Herdman is a Yolŋu leader, a health professional and one of the Specialists in this unique Territory

Ms Herdman said. Created on Larrakia country by Menzies School of Health Research with Aboriginal community

leaders: Aunty Bilawara Lee, Pirrawayingi Puruntatameri, Rarrtjiwuy Melanie Herdman and Stuart Yiwarr McGrath. They share personal experiences as patients, professional experiences as health workers and cultural knowledge.

The Specialists hope their stories, which elevate the Aboriginal patient's perspective and challenge negative stereotypes that fuel racism, inspire health workers to reflect on their beliefs so they can deliver culturally safe care.

"The knowledge shared in these podcasts must be communicated as widely as possible so that the health workforce is better prepared to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people

who have to enter the western medical system," Larrakia Elder Aunty Bilawara Lee said.

The series is available to download on Spotify and Apple Podcasts.

**'I want to know what Aboriginal people feel when we talk to them, what makes them think we're racist?'**

health podcast. In the podcast, she shares her own experience in the hospital and gives practical examples of how healthcare could be better provided to patients in the Top End.

"Most of my family who go to hospital, they believe they are going there to die. I have had family who have chosen to die at home instead of going to hospital because they have seen other families struggle with being in hospital,"

leaders and Royal Darwin Hospital staff, the seven-episode series answers doctors' questions about working with Aboriginal patients.

Questions range from the practical: "Is it ok to make eye contact?" to issues at the heart of social justice: "I want to know what Aboriginal people feel like when we talk to them, what makes them think that we're racist?"

The Specialists are Larrakia, Tiwi and Yolŋu



**ROYALTY ENQUIRY**

Do you have a payment disbursement (royalty) enquiry?

Contact NLC Royalties Hotline

**1800 769 2589**

Visit us at 45 Mitchell Street in Darwin or email us at [AnthropologyRoyaltyDistribution@nlc.org.au](mailto:AnthropologyRoyaltyDistribution@nlc.org.au)

# Indigenous-run work camps aim to cut crime

Article supplied by the NT Government

YOUTH intervention work camps on a remote Territory cattle station will help prevent at-risk young Territorians from offending or re-offending. The Territory Government is investing \$4.5 million over five years to develop short and long-term camps at the Seven Emu Station, 85km south-east of Borroloola.

The camps will focus on building young people's cultural knowledge and identity, understanding of consequences, development of personal

responsibility, work ethic and experience and problem solving skills.

The Government is partnering with the Jarrdimba Bayamuku Aboriginal Corporation to run the camps on the 4,300 square km station that has frontage to the Gulf of Carpentaria and the Robinson and Calvert Rivers.

The corporation's chairperson Frank Shadforth said the 'Jarrdimba Bayamuku Strengthening Children' program will help young



Frank Shadforth has been mentoring troubled kids at Seven Emu Station for the last 30 years. Photo courtesy of ABC Katherine: Jon Daly

people reconnect with their culture while teaching them basic work skills, including work on a cattle station, tourism on country and commercial bush tucker and medicine.

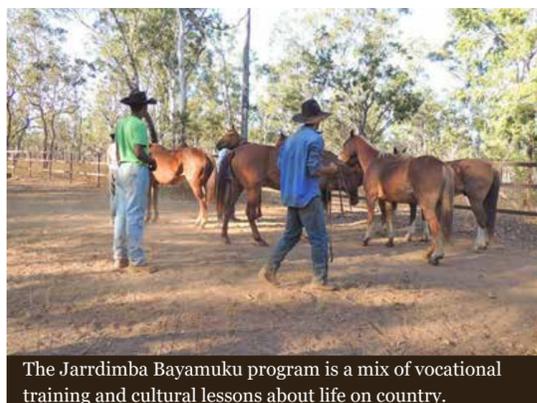
The Shadforth family has been helping at-risk young people for 30 years.

"As Aboriginal people we understand their emotions and their needs

and how best to work with them and we are confident that we can help young people to take the right path in life," Mr Shadforth said.

Ten-day camps will be for young people aged between 10 and 17 who will be accompanied by support staff such as case workers, youth workers, school representatives or Elders.

The young people are expected to come primarily from the Borroloola, Big Rivers and Top End regions, however referrals will be accepted and assessed Territory-wide.



The Jarrdimba Bayamuku program is a mix of vocational training and cultural lessons about life on country.

# Milingimbi houses underway as water supply secured

Article supplied by the NT Government

FOR years residents of a picturesque community nestled in the Crocodile Islands archipelago off Arnhem Land feared their fresh underground water supply would run out or be contaminated with salt water.

Assessments of the supply forced a delay in Milingimbi being included in the Territory Labor Government's \$1.1 billion 10-year program to build and upgrade houses in remote Aboriginal communities.

The Government acknowledged the need for housing upgrades on the island but said it first had to be sure water

supplies were sustainable into the future.

Elder and local school staff member Elizabeth Ganygulpa says she dreamt that one day her low-lying island would have enough fresh water for the around 1,440 residents to grow and prosper.

"Finally, Milingimbi is going to have enough fresh water...we are going to have space to breathe. Finally, we are in the business of building houses once again," Ms Ganygulpa said.

Ms Ganygulpa had just heard the Territory's Housing Minister Gerry McCarthy announce that Milingimbi's water issue

has been solved, with studies revealing the groundwater yield was significantly higher than previously understood.

Mr McCarthy announced during a visit to the island on 21 July that if returned to office at the August Territory elections, the Territory Labor Government will deliver 32 new homes, extend and renovate 20 more and repair others over the coming years. Sixty serviced lots over a number of subdivisions will also be constructed in readiness for new houses. Work will be carried out under the Government's job-creating remote housing program,

which includes Homebuild NT and Room to Breathe.

Government policy stipulates that up to 50

percent of workers on remote housing projects be Aboriginal Territorians.



Government policy stipulates that up to 50 per cent of workers on remote housing projects be Aboriginal Territorians.

# 'We intend to protect that part of Australia which has been entrusted to us': Galarrwuy Yunupingu's historic speech

This is part two of a speech given by the former Chairman of the Northern Land Council on 10 November 1977 at the National Press Club Luncheon in Canberra. The first part of this speech was printed in the previous edition (June edition) of *Land Rights News*.

*Dharruk Pressgu Canberra.*

*Nhämirri, Dhuggarrayu 1963 yu, Land Right gurru nherrara Yirrkala, wängajura Arnhem Land. Nunhi garrakala Bäpaya, ga yolgu yolguyu garrakala Yirrkalajura, gan'thurruna Government'na Canberra lili wängawu. Wänga junhi ganapurrungu yolguwu.*

*Nunhi ganapurru ganthurruna, bunhiyi ganthurrana ganapurrungu Governmenthu bukudupthurrana, ga biguru, dhuggarrayu 1971 thu, ganapurru ganthurruna Judge Blackburn gala Court gura. Ga gunhiliyu Judge Blackburnthu yaka gurrupara ganapurrungu wänga. Nunhi ganapurru ganthurruna wängawu, yakawu yatjgunharawu, ga midigumarawu ganapurr- zalanguwu wängawu Nabalcowala.*

FOR this reason I believe that the Northern Land Council is well qualified to do its statutory duty, which is to research and then present land claims to Aboriginal land Commissioner Justice Toohey, who will make his recommendations to the Government. For example, the Judge is just finishing in Darwin the hearing of land claims for 1,119 square miles in the Borroloola area of the Gulf country.

Our other statutory duty is to safeguard Aboriginal land from developers or, when necessary negotiate with mining companies, not only to protect Aboriginal land but also to protect the long term interests of European Australian too, because Aboriginal land is part of Australia. We live on our land, we love it, we are nothing without it. Governments can give away land for short term gain, financial, economic, even political.

We intend to protect that part of Australia which has been entrusted to us, writing into any agreements the strictest environmental safeguards, and we will be there watching to enforce them. We didn't want uranium mining or any mining on our land. But, of course, Nabalco has been mining and treating bauxite at Gove for some years and BHP has been mining manganese on Groote Eylandt since the 1960s. And now people are trying to force us to accept that mining, uranium mining will go ahead. But we insist that we don't want uranium mining. And I illustrate it, the feelings and the reaction of traditional owners when I told you this little story about Jimmy and Toby.

The Northern Land Council has started its negotiations with Ranger. I was at the first meeting in Darwin on October the 5th and we will be meeting again in Darwin soon. We

have already submitted to Ranger our long and very detailed draft agreement, which has all Judge Fox's recommendations in it. It is the best mining agreement ever written in Australia. However, it is no better than agreements which are being written all the time

**'We live on our land, we love it, we are nothing without it. Governments can give away land for short term gain, financial, economic, even political. We intend to protect that part of Australia which has been entrusted to us.'**

in other developing parts of the world. But this draft agreement is, of course, confidential.

But I will reveal the text of another confidential document which reports a meeting in Canberra on September the 9th between the Secretary of the Department of National Resources, the Secretary of the Atomic

Energy Commission and uranium company representatives. I reveal it as a strong protest, because the Northern Land Council should certainly have been represented at that meeting, as the body empowered and obliged by Act of Parliament to negotiate with the

probable that there will be a new and special form of exploration licensing. It is highly probable that tendering will be used to allocate exploration in this area." That is the end of one quote.

So there will be exploration on land which we claim, but the Northern Land Council is not being consulted about this. Finally, this confidential report said, and I quote "It is obvious that the producers have split ranks on issues of the development plan and that there is a spirit of fierce competition between them. I envisage that the unity shown by the forum will disappear as soon as the formal development plan gets underway."

So it is to be "fierce competition" to explore and exploit our land, for more and more uranium, and our Northern Land Council is not being told about it. What kind of people do they think we are!



# NT Labor looks ahead at a critical juncture in the Territory's history

LEADER: MICHAEL GUNNER  
PARTY: LABOR



NT Chief Minister Michael Gunner

In the days ahead Territorians will be voting to elect a government to lead them during one of the most challenging periods we have ever faced with the coronavirus public health emergency.

WE'VE been putting the Territory first and doing whatever it takes to save lives and jobs.

My real worry has been what could happen if the coronavirus gets into the bush.

Labor MLA's Selena Uibo (Arnhem), Lawrence Costa (Arafura), Chansey Paech (Gwojba) and to vote for our candidates Anthony Venes (Daly) Sid Vashist (Barkly) Kate Ganley (Katherine) and Lynne

Aboriginal Territorians.

My Labor team has done more for the bush in its first term than probably any other Government in the Territory's history.

But there is still a lot more to do.

I travel the Territory and listen.

You tell me you want better housing, better roads, better healthcare and a better opportunity for your kids.

Territory Labor's single biggest commitment is our \$1.1 billion remote housing program.

We've already built or upgraded more than 2,000 homes in remote communities.

Better homes

improve lives and leads to better health, education and lifestyle.

The CLP built only one remote house in its last year in office - they just don't get it.

We've appointed Treaty Commissioner Professor Mick Dodson and Deputy Commissioner Ursula Raymond to investigate how a Treaty can work for you.

Treaty is a new deal that recognises the wrongs of the past and puts you in charge.

We're working with land councils and Aboriginal people to return control to communities through our Local Decision

traditions and aspirations, and in a time frame they are comfortable with.

Through the Blue Mud Bay Agreement negotiated with the Northern Land Council we're supporting traditional land and sea owners to realise their aspirations by capitalising on the social and economic potential of their ancestral land and waters.

The Territory is at a critical juncture in its history.

This election is a choice between putting the Territory first, putting your lives first, or going back to chaos of the past.

We've put plans and policies in place that

## 'We're handing back power because it should never have been taken away in the first place.'

Making policy. This is making history.

We're handing back power because it should never have been taken away in the first place.

Local Decision Making a game-changer recognising that the old way of delivering services to remote Aboriginal communities through central bureaucracies hasn't worked and that local decisions are the best decisions.

Aboriginal Territorians can now proudly take control of their own lives, allowing them to oversee the development of their own communities in a way that fits their culture,

are set to bring great economic and social prosperity to Territory.

But first we need to work together to get us to the other side of this global pandemic.

I'm asking for your vote to allow Territory Labor to lead us there.

# 'We want to walk the journey with land councils'

LEADER: TERRY MILLS  
PARTY: TERRITORY ALLIANCE



UNDER my leadership we will walk a journey together to improve the lives and opportunities of Aboriginal Territorians, regardless of where they live, understanding that the further from urban centres the greater the unmet need, the greater the poverty and that this remains the most significant challenge for any Territory government.

In May Territory Alliance made a public commitment to improving the Prosperity and Rights of Aboriginal people when we provided our policy. The silence from the other parties has been deafening - where are their policies?

For Territory Alliance our Aboriginal Prosperity and Rights policy was the foundation of which we believe our work ahead must embrace.

Straight up Territory Alliance supports the Uluru Statement from the Heart and we will continue to support and fund the Treaty Commission. This is urgent because sadly we know, as each day passes, too many of our stories are lost as people pass on.

I know we need to build trust and create a government that doesn't have a top-down approach to policies and decisions that instead has people with knowledge at the table.

This is also why our policies has Aboriginal Expert Panels for departments. Working directly with the CEOs of departments with monthly reports to the relevant Ministers. Not dealing with decisions after they've been made and trying to get

people to see sense.

At the heart of the great work done by the Land Councils has been protecting land, air

telecommunications, housing, safe drinking water. These are projects that also help rebuild our Territory through

## 'At the heart of the great work done by the land councils has been protecting land, air and sea while seeking out regional economic development opportunities.'

and sea while seeking out regional economic development opportunities.

Aboriginal-led innovation and initiatives need government support so that we can address the issues of cultural strength, healing, health, housing, education, economic development ... which includes agriculture; tourism and arts; training and employment and caring for country.

We want to walk the journey with the Land Councils to learn what needs for a paradigm shift. Where you are alongside us at the table. The past approaches of "we know what's best for you" has led to substantial policy failure.

We will be deeply respectful of songlines and sacred sites. They are the paths we do not tread. But we will look to where we can walk, where people can be nurtured from the land.

We will ban fracking. Water is life. Without water we perish. There is no absolute safeguarding of water from the hydraulic fracturing process known as fracking.

We know infrastructure is crucial to the bush. The roads, power,

providing the bedrock of generating our economic development.

We will invest, but equally we will take up the task with Canberra. There needs to be much more funding for infrastructure across the bush.

We have three Aboriginal candidates. The Deputy Mayor of Alice

Springs Matt Paterson who is running in Namatjira. Regina McCarthy in the Daly, the only Aboriginal candidate of any party contesting the Daly. Her family are local. We have George Laughton in Arafura with Tiwi heritage. I didn't come back to

politics to do the easy. I did this because there is a lot of hard work to do and I have the decades of experience, relationships and genuine care to find the pathways where I'm learning from you, working with you and we give it our very best. We never give up.



We commit to working to establish a Treaty with the First Nations' peoples of the Northern Territory

## In the first 100 days of Government we will:

Establish a Chief Minister's Aboriginal Reference Group to advise on all areas of Aboriginal policy with particular reference to Truth Telling, Treaty and Voice

Strengthen the Northern Territory Treaty Commission by enhancing their ability to conduct their work in the most appropriate ways

# 'CLP is committed to working with Aboriginal Territorians'

LEADER: LIA FINOCCHIARO  
PARTY: CLP



THE TERRITORY PARTY

AS I move around the territory, I talk with many different people. Territorians are telling me they want a stronger future. Territorians are worried about their jobs, health and community safety.

The Country Liberal Party has a clear plan for creating new jobs, safety and opportunity for the future. The CLP has a strong team with the focus and commitment to make this plan happen.

**'CLP is committed to working with Aboriginal Territorians to make sure that they can get ahead, get jobs, stay safe and have more opportunities. Together with my great team of candidates, we will work hard every day to deliver jobs, safety and opportunity for all Territorians.'**

Before the Covid-19 pandemic our economy was the worst performing in the nation. Covid-19 has caused even more concerns about the future.

Many Territorians had lost their jobs and businesses closed. Now experts predict that more than 20,000 Territorians will lose their jobs. People need jobs to pay the bills, to have confidence, stability and purpose.

We want to create new jobs in the territory and to do that we need to get back to our strengths. Our clear strengths are in mining, in gas, in cattle, in agriculture and in tourism.

Aboriginal people and Aboriginal businesses play great roles in all of these areas, and we want to make sure that everything we do creates good jobs, for local people. We also want to make sure Territorians get training and support to take advantage of the

jobs of the future.

Our policies focus on growing the economy and attracting investment. The CLP has big plans to create jobs across the Territory. We have a policy to attract more onshore gas happening. Agriculture presents a big opportunity for local work and growth in the regions.

It's important that every Territorian is safe,

and feels safe. Aboriginal Territorians are more than 6 times more likely to be assaulted than non-Aboriginal Territorians. Aboriginal Territorians deserve to be safe in their own communities and in their own homes.

Part of being safe is having a home.

The CLP will work with land councils and local communities to ensure local communities can make decisions around local housing projects to make sure that all the money for housing goes into projects that local people want and need. We need to be creating and keeping local people employed on housing projects.

Water security is very important

for drinking water and also for agriculture. We must make sure all communities have clean, safe and reliable drinking water, year round.

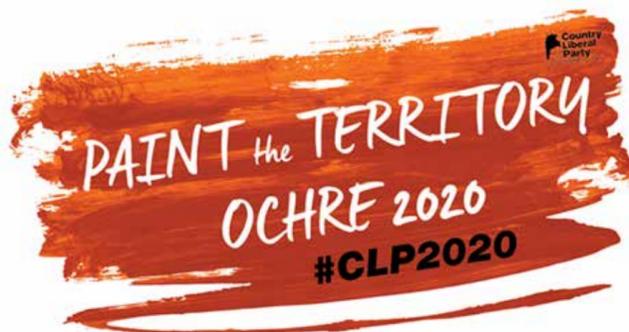
The CLP is committed to creating opportunities for every Territorian. This means making sure our kids get a good education and are healthy.

We support more Aboriginal controlled health clinics and will support families to get

their kids to school. It is important that our kids are going to school every day.

CLP is committed to working with Aboriginal Territorians to make sure that they can get ahead, get jobs, stay safe and have more opportunities.

Together with my great team of candidates, we will work hard every day to deliver jobs, safety and opportunity for all Territorians.



Australian Government

## Aboriginals Benefit Account (ABA) Grant Funding Round



### ROUND OPEN

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

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

Opens: **27 July 2020** Closes: **18 September 2020**

**For more information:**  
Contact **1800 354 612** or email **aba@official.niaa.gov.au**  
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# NT ELECTIONS - Who will get your vote? *Land Rights News* asked the candidates of the NT's main parties about their policies for the August election.



## What will you do to guarantee enough safe water for people out bush?

Water for people, families and communities must come first. Labor has a strong record of protecting our water resources so communities get reliable drinking water. We are investing more money to make sure bush communities have access to safe and clean water. There is more to do and we have plans in place. We will continue to invest more on water, and also work with communities to make sure we don't waste water. We are also investing in water services as part of the Remote Housing Investment Package which is delivering new and improved houses right across the Territory.

## What will you do to fix education out bush?

We have put extra funding and extra teachers back into bush schools across the Territory. We are establishing Local Engagement and Decision-making Committees (LEaD Committees) and Community Led Schools to decide how education should be delivered in your communities. We will continue to establish more Families as First Teachers (FaFT) programs and language and culture programs in schools. A good house means a good education for kids. The Territory Labor Government's biggest-ever project - a \$2.1 billion investment in remote housing and land servicing - has so far seen the construction and upgrade of around 1800 homes in remote areas across the NT.

## How will you ensure every dollar Canberra gives you for our mob is spent on the bush, not Darwin?

Since coming to Government:

- We have rolled out a \$1.1 billion remote housing program
- We have delivered over \$332 million of better bush roads
- We have invested in better schools and health clinics, and more police
- We have tackled itinerancy and anti-social behaviour
- We have delivered the Territory's first coordinated alcohol plan
- We are restoring local decision making in housing, health and education.

Territory Government expenditure on Aboriginal Territorians is, per capita, more than double that for non-Aboriginal Territorians. Our expenditure on Aboriginal Territorians exceeds 52% each year despite being one-third of the population.

## Will you raise the age of criminal responsibility from 10 to 14 years?

We support in principle the recommendation from the Royal Commission into the Protection and Detention of Children in the NT, that the age of criminal responsibility be raised from 10 to 12 years. In order for this law reform to be effective, services also need to be established that cater for at-risk children below the age of criminal responsibility. The Territory is collaborating with other states and territories on a national approach to this issue. We are also rolling out programs that focus on 8 - 12 year olds to get them back on track.



## What will you do to guarantee enough safe water for people out bush?

Territory Alliance hold the view that access to clean safe drinking water are foundations of a civilised society. We will work hard to deliver World Health Organisation quality of drinking water to make it safe for people to drink.

## What will you do to fix education out bush?

Territory Alliance believes we need more support for First Nations languages and to provide support for Aboriginal staff to become teachers, as well as providing further in-classroom support and to improve school buildings.

## How will you ensure every dollar Canberra gives you for our mob is spent on the bush, not Darwin?

Territory Alliance will work with Canberra to bring more money to the bush to meet the big needs to improve housing, health, roads, education and jobs.

## Will you raise the age of criminal responsibility from 10 to 14 years?

Territory Alliance takes very seriously the issue of support for the legal system and enforcement of that system. We also recognise that dealing with youth crime is not just a policing matter, there is a big role for education, mental health and family support as well as creating opportunities for youth to choose non-criminal actions. It is not appropriate to take one piece of this challenge and shift it without looking at all the other pieces. We will take very seriously the request to raise the minimum age and will consider it in Government after meeting with people and listening to them.



## What will you do to guarantee enough safe water for people out bush?

Every community is different but every community needs safe, secure and reliable drinking water. The CLP will utilise technology to ensure access to clean drinking water where it is not easily available. There are machines that can turn salty water into drinking water and others that can turn humid air into water that need to be explored.

## What will you do to fix education out bush?

The CLP knows young people are our future and those who live in regional and remote areas of the Northern Territory should have the opportunity for a first class education. We will focus on improving student wellbeing, increasing attendance and engagement, and attracting and training quality teachers and assistant teachers.

## How will you ensure every dollar Canberra gives you for our mob is spent on the bush, not Darwin?

The CLP believes the Northern Territory Government, the Commonwealth and service providers should work together to make sure that funding for Aboriginal communities is actually spent for the benefit of Aboriginal people

## Will you raise the age of criminal responsibility?

The CLP supports the current arrangements, where children under 10 years cannot be held criminal responsibility. There is also a rebuttable presumption against criminal responsibility for children aged 10 to 14 years, based on the judge's decision.



## What will you do to guarantee enough safe water for people out bush?

NT Greens will legislate a right to drinking water in the NT. Essential services will be available to all communities, outstations and town camps, driven by investment in renewable energy solutions.

## What will you do to fix education out bush?

- Reinstatement of the multilingual programs that were in place in the NT from 1973-2008, ensure the growth of further multilingual school programs where English is not a first language for the majority of students.
- Implement further multilingual opportunities for all Indigenous students in all government schools.
- Establish a dedicated Multilingual Education Work Unit in the NT Department of Education, to coordinate the development of resources for multilingual programs and support schools in the implementation of their programs.
- Support independent schools to develop and implement multilingual programs, while ensuring that the control of their implementation remains with the communities.

## How will you ensure every dollar Canberra gives you for our mob is spent on the bush, not Darwin?

Successive governments have diverted federal funding allocated on the basis of remote need to pork-barrel major population centres. In this way, mainstream suburban electorates have gorged on the deficit of unmet need in remote communities. All federal funding based on the needs of remote communities must be spent in those communities. The NT Greens will pursue empowerment of local Community Government Councils to rebuild community capacity to resume control of local service provision and replace the failed shires model. Reviving the status of local decision-making power and governance must be tailored to each community's vision, ambitions, capacity and needs.

## Will you raise the age of criminal responsibility from 10 to 14 years?

Yes. Our emphasis should be on supporting vulnerable youth to avoid a life of crime. Early intervention and diversionary approaches are not only much cheaper than running prisons but are also more effective at reducing a wide range of youth offending. We will redirect public funds from the expensive and ineffective prison system towards First Nations-controlled services that address the underlying causes of youth offending. These include but are not limited to: early childhood and parenting support to disrupt the care-to-detention pipeline; a substantial increase in funding for housing; and trauma-informed approaches to alcohol and violence.

# Footy fans served up great games at Katherine and Barunga



Arnhem Crows women's team playing at Barunga.



Ashanti Bush and Tameka Bullen



Ashanti Bush kicking for a goal.



Kalano Bombers versus the Northern Warlpiri Swans at Nitmiluk Oval in Katherine.



Nitmiluk Oval in Katherine



Arnhem Crows men's team at Barunga.



**Always Was,  
Always Will Be.**

Artwork: Shape of Land by Tyrone Waigana

The Rainbow Serpent came out of the Dreamtime to create this land. It is represented by the snake and it forms the shape of Australia, which symbolises how it created our lands. The colour from the Rainbow Serpent is reflected on to the figure to display our connection to the Rainbow Serpent, thus our connection to country. The overlapping colours on the outside is the Dreamtime. The figure inside the shape of Australia is a representation of Indigenous Australians showing that this country - since the dawn of time - always was, and always will be Aboriginal land.



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8-15 NOV 2020

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#AlwaysWasAlwaysWillBe

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