



NORTHERN
LAND COUNCIL

Northern Edition

LAND RIGHTS NEWS

Our Land, Our Sea, Our Life

December 2020 • www.nlc.org.au

Historic day as Gagaguwaja land handed back



Jack Green receives lifetime achievement award



NLC slams illegal activity on Aboriginal land



Minister Wyatt talks Covid-19, remote housing and policing

Australia's oldest Aboriginal newspaper. Since 1973.

EDITORIAL

Land Rights News Northern Edition is published by Samuel Bush-Blanasi for the Northern Land Council.

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

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COVERS

Back cover: Coastal Birds of Larrakia Country

Towards 2021: Working together with purpose and determination

A message from the NLC Chairman Samuel Bush-Blanasi and CEO Marion Scrymgour



NT Minister for Aboriginal Affairs Selena Uibo, NLC Chair Samuel Bush-Blanasi, NT Chief Minister Michael Gunner and NLC CEO Marion Scrymgour at a bridge overlooking the Victoria River in Timber Creek.

WELCOME to the last edition of Land Rights News for the year. 2020 has been a difficult year for all of us, and especially for people in the business community.

But now is the time to reconnect, to re-set and re-energise our plans for the future.

Our Covid-19 response showed that Aboriginal land councils can readily lead from the front with both government and the non-government sectors to make good decisions for our First Nations people.

The Covid-19 response demonstrated land council leadership; but also that we can work together with purpose and determination to make things happen.

Now is the time to turn our attention to recovery from the disruption to our lives, learning from the Covid-19 emergency.

We have a fantastic opportunity to build on our partnerships established as part of the Covid-19 emergency and refresh the business plans of enterprises on Aboriginal land.

There are opportunities wherever we look: a new tourism future; opportunities to partner and develop

new activity in agriculture, fisheries and on pastoral lands; opportunities to be a part of exciting resource projects, big and small; and opportunities in the energy sector, both in terms of renewable energy and on-shore gas.

We also want to address administrative blockages, to make decision-making a positive experience, not a paper war.

The NLC will be part of this but there is one essential step in that reform.

Talk to us as early as you can. The sooner we get together on new ideas, the sooner we can start building a partnership with Traditional Owners and Native Title holders - that is central to good planning and decision making.

By working together in a respectful and informed way we can problem solve and share in building plans for economic development - just like we had a central part in working with government to respond to Covid-19 - making sure we had the best available information to inform decision-making, making sure we were talking to the right people, and most importantly

making decisions and implementing action.

Our land councils are stepping up the plate, with new ideas and investment opportunities; whether that be on the lands of the Central and Northern Land Councils, our seas, the Tiwi Islands or at Groote Island.

There are many great Aboriginal organisations we can get behind, building on their success to date; working with the Mirrar on the future of Jabiru; Project Sea Dragon; tourism developments in north east Arnhem Land; the Jawoyn Association and their award-winning businesses in Katherine and Nitmiluk; the AIG, Outback Stores and ALPA; the Gumatj Corporation; the LDC and their ideas for new development projects in the Darwin region, including a cultural centre; the establishment of an Aboriginal Sea Company under our Blue Mud Bay agreement with the NT Government; opportunities for a new approach to improving remote housing and the further development of our homelands; and our Learning on Country program.

There are exciting projects and great ideas wherever we turn.

It is critically important to all our futures that our families are all connected and benefitting from economic activity on Aboriginal land, including long-term jobs and the opportunity to grow our own businesses.

And we have Indigenous Australians Minister Ken Wyatt already showing his willingness and ability to support new opportunities for First Nations Territorians.

Minister Wyatt has spoken before about his personal commitment to progress. He has said: "For me, it's ensuring that the next generation of Indigenous Australians aren't framed by disadvantage - but by opportunity".

He has also said: "Partnership is about striving to achieve - together. As one."

That is the path we seek to take.

Finally, we would like to say thank you to the NLC Full Council members, Executive members and staff. Wishing you a restful Christmas break.

Voices from the bush on the recognition of Native Title rights: 'It's been a long journey'



Native Title holder Mary Noonan spoke at the Consent Determination over seven pastoral leases in the Barkly region, held at Old Banka Banka Homestead on 28 October:

"This ceremony today links up our ancestors, the current generation and future generations. We'll remember this day in history. I've got tears in my eyes. I cry because some of my old people, they didn't live to see this, the recognition today is just amazing."

Native Title holder Dick Foster told the Consent Determination over seven pastoral leases in the Barkly region, held at Old Banka Banka Homestead on 28 October:

"It was a long time you know, waiting to get our Native Title back. It's really important to make sure that the sacred sites of this country are protected. I'm really pleased that we got this country back."



Native Title holder Christine Farrar spoke at the Consent Determination in relation to the Nutwood Downs and Hodgson River pastoral leases, held at the Minyerri (Hodgson Downs) community on 9 September:

"I stand here today representing my fathers for our land. My fathers would be proud. My family and I are proud."

Native Title holder Raymond Dimakarra Dixon said at the Consent Determination in relation to the Buchanan Downs and Hidden Valley pastoral leases, held at Elliott on 29 October:

"We got this title for Hidden Valley and Buchanan Downs, we're so connected to it. It's been a long journey for my people and that country has always been in our hearts. We're going to cherish it, pass it to the next generations."



Native Title holder Jeremy Jackson said at the Consent Determinations in relation to the Buchanan Downs and Hidden Valley pastoral leases, held at Elliott on 29 October:

"We've got sacred sites and a lot of dreaming stories in that Buchanan Downs and Hidden Valley area. Our younger generation will carry on. This is really important to us because we won't be here forever."

Minister Wyatt's speech: the NLC played a 'critical role' in the response to Covid-19

An extract from a speech made by Minister for Indigenous Australians, the Hon Ken Wyatt AM MP, at an NLC-hosted event at the Hilton Hotel Darwin.



Minister Wyatt spoke about Covid-19, remote housing and remote policing in a speech he delivered on 24 November 2020.

LAND Councils have been and continue to be a key partner for ensuring the activation of the NT.

You played a critical role in responding to Covid-19.

Through the Aboriginal Benefits Account, we unlocked \$10 million across the Territory's four Land Councils to address immediate infrastructure and travel expenses associated with people returning to homelands.

It is a demonstration that you – the people on the ground – know what needs to be done and how it should be done.

Supporting the role of Land Councils and ensuring that you have the capacity to deliver for your people in the Territory is such a critical component of what we're trying to achieve.

Tonight, I'm proud to announce that I will sign off

on a Land Council proposal to unlock \$100 million from the ABA to deliver job creating projects through investment in infrastructure and projects that will ensure long term economic opportunity and viability of the Indigenous estate.

Over two tranches, the first being \$60 million, we will be -

- Investing in existing Indigenous community businesses so they can adapt and deliver.
- Investing in Aboriginal-owned infrastructure to connect people to economic opportunities, including pastoral, tourism, gas and mining opportunities.
- Building the skills of the men and women on Country through rangers, learning on Country programs and workplace experiences.

- Investing in small-scale infrastructure projects to create jobs and improve the potential of Aboriginal land, such as fencing, water infrastructure and homelands upgrades.
 - Maximising the ABA investment through co-investment and co-ordination with other government funding streams and contributions from the corporate and philanthropic sectors augurs well into the future.
- The first tranche will focus on immediate Covid-19



NLC CEO Marion Scrymgour and NT Cattlemen's Association CEO Ashley Manicaros

relief and job creation, and the second tranche will unlock and activate Indigenous-led projects across the Territory, in line with the principles I just outlined.

I want to see our partnership with Indigenous Australians through the Land Councils extend beyond this investment I've announced tonight.

It is unacceptable that so many Indigenous Australians in the NT live in over-crowded and inadequate housing.

This is despite the Commonwealth committing to providing the NT with \$550 million over five years to deliver 1,950 new bedrooms, equivalent to 650 houses, in remote NT communities.

The NT's roll out of these houses has been slow. In discussions today there is a strong commitment to accelerating that work with our people on the ground and through connecting to better opportunities.

As in my State, the NT Government is responsible for housing and essential services.

People in remote communities should expect their housing services to be provided just as they would in any other location in Australia.

The fact that this is not happening is disappointing and in the year 2020 – and looking ahead to 2021 – something that neither I nor the NT Government should allow to happen.

I am serious when I say – where there have been failings we must explore new ways of working.

To this end, I note that the Land Councils are continuing to develop a proposal, which would see a direct partnership established with the Commonwealth for the provision of housing services in the Territory – led by the Central Land Council.

We don't need to accept the current situation as the only option.

We should explore all options that are bedded in genuine partnership with

Indigenous Australians – people who live in these communities who are raising families and who are being let down.

There is no lack of funding or resources – and in fact – this is the last of the jurisdictions to benefit from the ongoing partnership with the Commonwealth in respect to remote housing.

The NT, as the responsible jurisdiction, have signed the new National Agreement on Closing the Gap, which for the first time establishes a housing target – aiming for 88 per cent of Indigenous Australians to be in appropriate (not overcrowded) housing by 2031.

That was a significant agreement by all States and Territories.

That they would look at what housing is being provided and then work to ensure they achieve that target.

To achieve this we have to get to work.

Last month, I announced a \$150 million equity injection into Indigenous Business Australia's Indigenous Home Ownership Programme.

This is an acknowledgment that Indigenous Australians have aspirations of home ownership, which I see reflected in the broader Australian society.

It is an investment that recognises the importance of having equity in a home – and the programme ensures that we can reduce or remove barriers to home ownership for Indigenous Australians.

I want our people to have aspiration – and to look to home ownership as a means to securing their future – and I note that there are a number of other proposals on the table that empower Indigenous Australians to own their own home, which I am more than willing to explore.

Again, we don't need to settle for the status quo. We can dream bigger. We can realise our aspirations.



Northern Land Council Chairman Samuel Bush-Blanas



Rev Dr Djiniyini Gondarra and Micky Wunungmurra from the Arnhem Land Progress Aboriginal Corporation (ALPA).



Ashley Manicaros, Jason Jones, Joe Martin-Jard, Jerome Cubillo and Richard Fejo

The man from Two Dollar Creek receives lifetime achievement award at TNRM Conference

GARAWA man Jack Green has received the lifetime achievement award at the 2020 Territory Natural Resource Management Conference, which was held in Darwin on November 18. For over three decades, Jack Green has been working to protect and care for Country along the southwest Gulf of Carpentaria.

Mr Green has empowered Traditional Owners to regain land rights through the *Aboriginal Land Rights (NT) Act 1976*. He has supported the formation of ranger groups, developed cross-cultural solutions and taught young generations cultural knowledge. He is a key campaigner

against the impact of mining pollution. The 67-year-old was born at Soudan Station, which is situated along the Barkly Highway, 130 kilometres west of the Queensland border. From Soudan he went to work as a ringer at Brunette Downs Station, Anthony Lagoon Station and Creswell Downs.

In the 1980s he settled in Borroloola and raised a family while working at the Mabunji Indigenous corporation, which began its life as a resource centre in 1983. In the early 1990s, Mr Green started his career with the NLC as a trainee field officer and has been associated with the NLC ever since. Mr Green now lives at Two

Dollar Creek in Borroloola and has multiple roles - he's a Senior Cultural Advisor to the Garawa and Waanyi/Garawa Ranger programs, an NLC Councillor and member of the Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority (AAPA). He's also a widely recognised artist.



Mr Green received a lifetime achievement award at the 2020 Territory NRM Conference.



Jack Green is a widely recognised artist.

'Out and about': Look who's reading LRN!



Matthew Ryan at Kakadu National Park.



Rebecca Haala at Kakadu National Park.



Traditional Owner James Nuggett at Tennant Creek.



NT Aboriginal Affairs Minister Selena Uiibo at Victoria River.

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'Shameless disregard': NLC slams safari hunters in Arnhem Land

The NLC has urged any person on Aboriginal land without a permit to leave after images of beheaded buffalo illegally poached were released.

IN November, the NLC slammed reports of safari hunters leaving buffalo carcasses to rot in the Mount Catt area of central Arnhem Land, urging anyone without a valid permit to leave.

Pictures provided by local rangers show alleged illegal hunting of buffalo, which Northern Land Council chairman Samuel Bush-Blanski said was done without a permit.

"This shameless disregard for Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal law has got to stop and stop right now," he said.

"Not only did those hunters enter Aboriginal land without a proper permit or section 19 licence to muster buffalo from the NLC, they also disrespected and ignored the clear instructions to leave country from a senior Traditional Owner for that country."

"They drove onto sacred sites, shot and beheaded valuable trophy buffalo and left their carcasses to rot."

Mimal Land Management said four poachers hunting buffalo around the Mount Catt outstation was just the most recent example of an increase in "brazen hunting and theft of stock and entry of sacred sites."

The NLC has vowed to investigate and work with NT Police to prosecute offenders and increase penalties.

"If you are on Aboriginal land without a valid permit or a section 19 lease or licence issued by the NLC you should leave, and leave now," NLC chief executive Marion Scrymgeour said.

"We are working with the other NT Land Councils to get increased penalties and an expanded range of offences under the Land Rights Act."



Mimal Land Management's rangers are helping investigate the unlawful killing of several buffalo (Photos: David Hancock)



Four men accessed Aboriginal land in Arnhem Land without permission and decapitated nine buffaloes.

'Tears of joy for the old people': Native Title holders of Barkly Region pastoral leases celebrate recognition

OVER 200 Native Title holders and their guests gathered over two days in late October for celebrations at the Old Banka Banka Homestead and in Elliott.

After nearly two decades in the courts the Native Title holders of the Banka Banka (East and West), Helen Springs and Powell Creek pastoral leases celebrated recognition of their ongoing connection to country at a Consent Determination on October 28.

The event was attended by Justice White from the Federal Court and the Native Title claimants who were represented by the Northern Land Council.

Native Title holder Mary Noonan said it was a special day.

"We'll remember this day in history. I've got tears in my eyes. I just cry because some of my old people they didn't live to see this, the recognition today is just amazing," she said.

The recognition means sacred sites will be conserved and protected, according to Native Title holder Dick Foster.

"It's really important to make sure that the sacred sites of this country are protected. I'm really pleased that we got this country back," he said.

The day after celebrations were held at Old Banka Banka Homestead, there was another Native Title celebration, this

time in Elliott.

Justice White from the Federal Court was there again to hand over recognition of the Traditional Owner's ongoing connection to country in the Buchanan Downs and Hidden Valley pastoral leases.

Native Title holder Raymond Dimakarra Dixon said it's been a long battle to gain recognition but he's proud of what the group has achieved.

"It makes us proud of

who we are. It's been a long journey for my people and that country has always been in our hearts and we're going to cherish it and pass it on to the next generations," Mr Dixon said.

The Native Title determination means Traditional Owners have the right to take resources from their country and use them for any purpose, including commercial purposes.

Native Title rights granted to Nutwood Downs and Hodgson River pastoral leases



Native Title holders for Nutwood Downs and Hodgson River pastoral leases at Minyerri community on 9 September 2020.

THE NLC congratulates Native Title holders of two Top End pastoral leases for their hard work resulting in the long-overdue recognition of their Native Title rights to country in an emotional on-country ceremony at the Minyerri (Hodgson Downs) community on September 9.

Justice White of the Federal Court handed down Native Title Consent Determinations in relation to the Nutwood Downs and Hodgson River pastoral leases. Both are located south-east of Mataranka.

proud," she said.

NLC CEO Marion Scrymgour noted the importance of those rights.

"It means there is recognition that Native Title holders had a functional economy at the time that this country was taken from them. It is long-overdue but it gives us all some small comfort to see that the Courts are finally recognising what Aboriginal people always knew - that there was a customary economy in place and that is being recognised in a modern

"My family and I are proud"

The Consent Determinations include recognition of Native Title holders' rights to take resources from their country and use them for any purpose, including commercial purposes.

In an emotional address to the ceremony at Minyerri, Christine Farrar spoke on behalf of her father, Barney Ellaga and his siblings (now all deceased) and spoke of the pride she felt to represent those countless generations that had gone before.

"I stand here today representing my fathers for our land. My fathers would be proud. My family and I are

context," she said.

The NLC congratulates the Native Title holders - the Murungun Yunulalda, Budal Lirijal, Mambali Amaling-Gan, Murungun Igalumba and the Mambali Lajarirr (for the Hodgson River pastoral lease) and the Mambali Amaling-Gan, Murungun Igalumba, Guyal Bardi Bardi, Dumnyun-Ngatanyana, Murungun Milgawirri and Budal Yuwaran groups (for the Nutwood Downs pastoral lease). The NLC acknowledges the leadership of elders, past and present, who successfully fought for recognition of their families' traditional connection to country.



Native Title holders for the Buchanan Downs and Hidden Valley pastoral leases celebrate at Elliott.



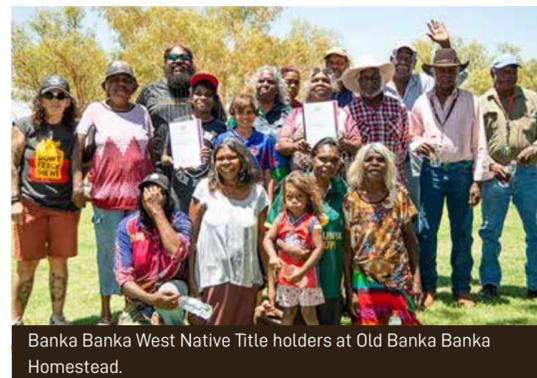
Dick Foster (centre) with the group of Helen Springs Native Title holders.



Powell Creek Native Title holders at Old Bank Banka Homestead.



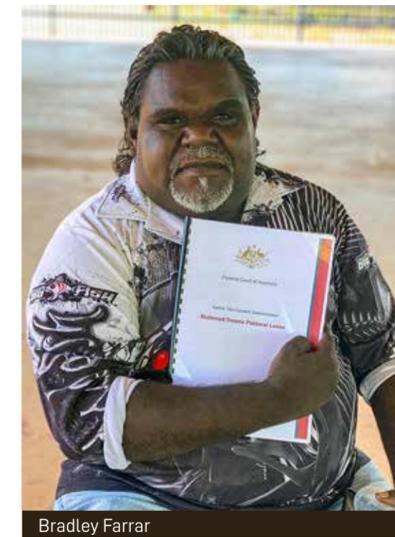
Jimmy Frank Jnr (in orange) with the group of Banka Banka East Native Title holders.



Banka Banka West Native Title holders at Old Banka Banka Homestead.



NLC lawyer Elena Zola and Native Title holder Vincent Fulton at Minyerri.



Bradley Farrar



Pearl Hodgson

'The old people can rest in peace': Long-overdue handback of Barkly land

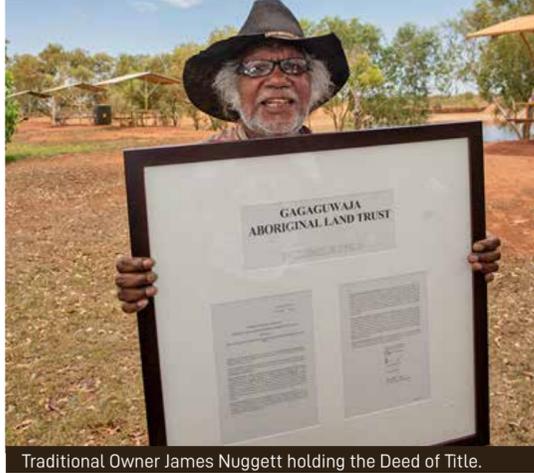


The Wampaya Traditional Owners in the Barkly region of the NT have finally had their land returned, nearly four decades after they first lodged their Land Rights claim.

TRADITIONAL Owners in Wampaya country, north-east of Tennant Creek, received the title to a six square kilometre parcel of land around Anthony Lagoon on November 26. Minister for Indigenous Australians, the Hon Ken Wyatt AM MP, delivered the Deed, confirming their exclusive rights to use and develop the land. "The grant of inalienable freehold land ownership recognises the enduring cultural and spiritual connection Aboriginal Traditional Owners have with their land," Minister Wyatt said. "Anthony Lagoon, or Karrkarrkuwaja, has many sites and stories of significance, and this Deed provides a strong form of title so the Wampaya people can protect these and realise the benefits of land ownership. "The Wampaya people have been fighting for a long time to have their rights recognised and I'm pleased that all interested parties have been able to reach

this agreement." The grant is the result of a Settlement Deed between the NLC, the NT of Australia and Australian Agricultural Company (AACo) to finalise the Anthony Lagoon Area Land Claim No. 74, which included a 'land swap' arrangement with pastoral interests. The deed has been granted to the Gagaguwaja Aboriginal Land Trust, which is administered by the NLC, to hold on behalf of the Traditional Owners. NLC member and cultural advisor Jack Green told the ceremony the Anthony Lagoon Area Land Claim was lodged in 1983 under the Land Rights Act. "Thirty-seven years to get this land back was way too long," said Mr Green. "Too many of our old people who struggled and strived to get that land back have passed away. "We have to honour their lives and their fight for their land. "They kept our laws, our language and our lives strong.

"Without them we'd have nothing." Traditional Owner Brenton Stacey told NITV News that the land should never have been taken away. "It should've been with us all the way through, but it's good that we've got it back now so our young people connect through to Country. "This place was originally a ceremony area, they've got to stay like that for life. We've got to take that back now. "I spoke to the Minister, we need water and living areas and employment to make it viable for us to live in the area. But it's a great story and our old people will be looking down on us very proud. "They can rest in peace. What they asked for we got back." NLC Chairperson Samuel Bush-Blanasi described the event as a "bitter-sweet and long overdue day". "It is a bitter day because the land won back is so small. But it is a sweet day because any day the NLC can help get land back is a good day."



Traditional Owner James Nuggett holding the Deed of Title. Labor MP Warren Snowdon with baby Kano Brahim.

Blue Mud Bay: Over 110 Traditional Owner groups consulted over Action Plan in last two months

Over 110 saltwater Traditional Owner groups have been consulted in relation to the Blue Mud Bay Action Plan since mid-September. Feedback so far has been generally supportive - Traditional Owners have said they want protection for marine sacred sites and recognition of their sea rights out to the horizon line. Coastal communities also want their food security protected and to start up local fishing entities.

The NLC continues to work towards an equitable agreement over the High Court's 2008 Blue Mud Bay decision, which recognised that Traditional Owners have the right to control access to waters overlying Aboriginal land including the intertidal zone. The NLC wants an agreement that will benefit Aboriginal people and ensure the fisheries are sustainable. "Any agreement going forward will need to be ratified and agreed to by the NLC's full council," said NLC CEO Marion Scrymgour. Over the past six months, the land council has met with various stakeholders, including the Tiwi and Anindilyakwa land councils, the Seafood Council, the

greater responsibilities for Aboriginal sea rangers," said Ms Scrymgour. The amended Fisheries Act will be released for community consultation in the form of a draft as soon as possible. The second step under the action plan is establishing an Aboriginal sea company. This entity will own fishing licences and quotas, and help facilitate more participation of Traditional Owners in the seafood industry. Also under the agreement, the NT Government has committed to expanding Aboriginal Coastal Licences, which will allow Traditional Owners to catch and sell a wider variety of fish using a greater range of gear.



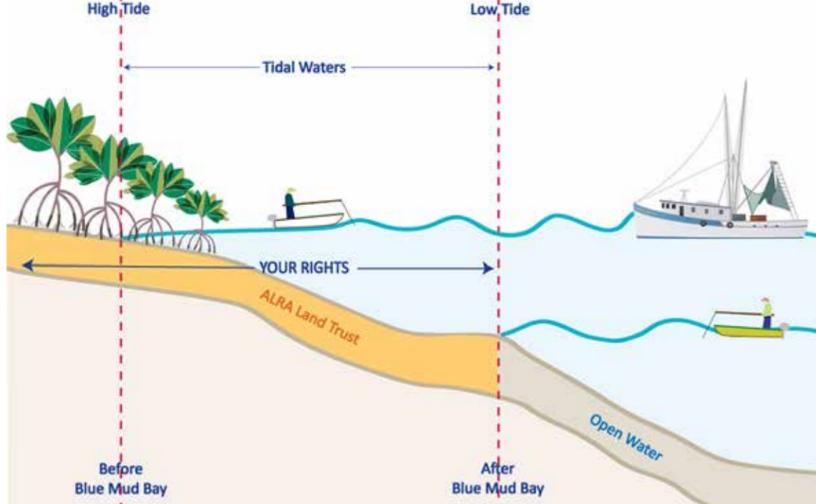
Djambawa Marawili, Madarrpa traditional owner and one of the lead figures in the Blue Mud Bay High Court case.



The NLC and NT Government signed off on the Blue Mud Bay Implementation Action Plan on 29 July.

"The NT Government has committed to expanding Aboriginal Coastal Licences, which will allow Traditional Owners to catch and sell a wider variety of fishing using a greater range of gear."

Amateur Fishermen's Association and NT Guided Fishing Industry Association. In July 2020, the NLC and the NT Government agreed in principle to the Blue Mud Bay Implementation Action Plan. Ms Scrymgour said the first step is the reform of the Fisheries Act 1988 (NT) to "accommodate Aboriginal rights and interests that flow from the Blue Mud Bay decision". "The NT has never had contemporary legislation that encompasses the sea-country rights of Traditional Owners, including increased involvement in fisheries management for Traditional Owners and



The intertidal zone is the area between the high-tide mark and the low-tide mark.

Celebrating NAIDOC with a difference in 2020

*Article supplied by Larrakia Nation Aboriginal Corporation

THE year 2020 has been a year like no other, Covid-19 hit us all hard and we rallied together to ensure our way of life was protected. We kept our people safe and we did it together. Each and every one of us had a role to play. In our playing our part, we built relationships with the wider community to celebrate and reflect on the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and how far we have come.

NAIDOC week, celebrated annually in the full first week of July, stands for 'National Aboriginal and Islanders Day of Observance Committee'. The week began in the 1957 when Aboriginal organisations, state and federal governments and a number of church groups came together to support its formation.

This year, NAIDOC week in the Darwin region was celebrated twice, a smaller number of events in July and the newly revised national date in November. Over 70 gatherings took place catering for the different demographics within the region. Since 2017, the Larrakia Nation Aboriginal Corporation have played an important role of coordinating NAIDOC celebrations on Larrakia country.

"This is very important to us to lead celebrations on our lands and involve the community in this process" says Nicole Brown, Deputy Chairperson of the Larrakia Nation Aboriginal Corporation (LNAC).

This year's theme, Always Was, Always Will Be has a history of its own – a history which illustrates the ongoing struggle for cultural recognition and land rights by Australia's First Peoples. Throughout history, this phrase has been heard in many different settings from the Aboriginal Tent Embassy in Canberra to street protests in Melbourne over the closure of Western Australian remote communities to international prominence as the theme for NAIDOC 2020.

Always Was, Always Will Be featured prominently in events this year with Thomas Mayor presenting the annual EJ Lecture talking about when the dreaming becomes us, a panel session hosted by LNAC and the NT Government with discussions held about connection to country and the City of Darwin launching the Parallel Hearts Audio Project, a series of podcasts sharing stories of our homeland with participants from Darwin's sister city Anchorage in Canada.

The community spirit is alive and well, there has been so much interest and support from individuals, businesses and stakeholders to be part of the celebrations which highlights the shift and move towards being more inclusive and creating harmony in the community.

Photos by Nufflife Photography and Tymunna Clements



Shaun Lee, Tony Lee, Stephen Cardona and Trent Lee at the NTIBN Barefoot Business event at Silks Darwin.



NLC's Tameka Bullen and May Bury at the NAIDOC Speeches event in Darwin's Civic Park.



Elisabeth Heenan, Anna Greer and Patricia Rankine at the NAIDOC Speeches event in Darwin.



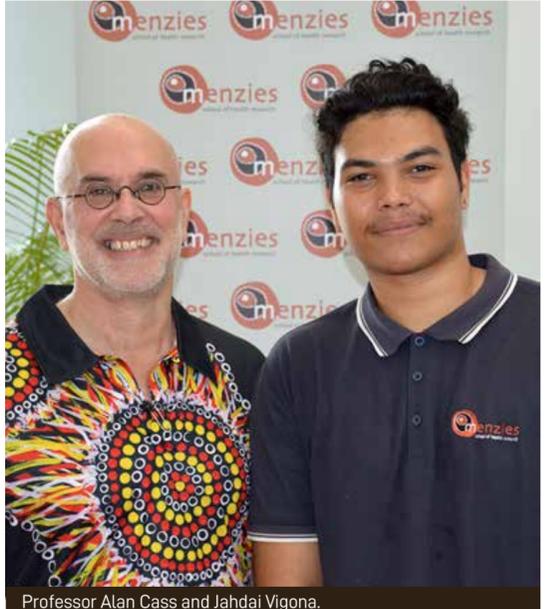
Leonie Patterson, Lenore Dembski, Carol Stanislaus and Nicole Brown.



Layla May, Elle Hardwick and Chaelaah McDowall.



David Kurnoth, Jeanneen McLennan and Richard Fejo Sr.



Professor Alan Cass and Jahdai Vigona.



Professor Mick Dodson, Nova Peris, Leanne Liddle, Lenore Dembski, Robert Cooper, Mischa Cartwright.



NLC's Karen Cubillo at the NAIDOC Speeches event at Civic Park.

NLC implements ranger compliance program



Mardbalk Rangers about to set out for a sea country patrol.

The NLC's Caring for Country branch has been provided with funding of \$2.6 million over 18 months to develop a pilot ranger compliance program for NLC rangers.

THE aim of the program is to ensure rangers are appropriately trained, resourced and supported to undertake targeted compliance activities on their traditional land and sea estates.

The ranger compliance support team – consisting of Andrew Wellings, Jamie Damaso and Carmen Taylor – have been busy this year consulting with Traditional Owners and conducting area planning with all NLC ranger groups.

Each Area Compliance Plan 'maps' compliance activity at each ranger group. The plans detail any non-compliant activity, for example access without a permit, and detail compliance education needs, including culturally appropriate signs, such as Welcome to Country signs featuring community rules.

The compliance team has also developed the NLC Compliance Support Help Desk so rangers can report any alleged breaches. All information received will be stored on a newly created Compliance Database to assist with investigations.

Senior Project Coordinator Andrew Wellings said through the consultation process with Traditional Owners, each ranger group has identified areas where permit signs need to be.

The team is also working towards replacing existing redundant signs and creating a GIS layer for all the sign locations so the permit signs are uniform throughout the NT, Mr Wellings said.

"We want to give community and visitors the right information and education to 'do the right thing' on country via

engagement, signage and information brochures and pamphlets," Mr Wellings said.

In 2021, all NLC rangers will have the opportunity to obtain a Certificate II in Government (Compliance Support).

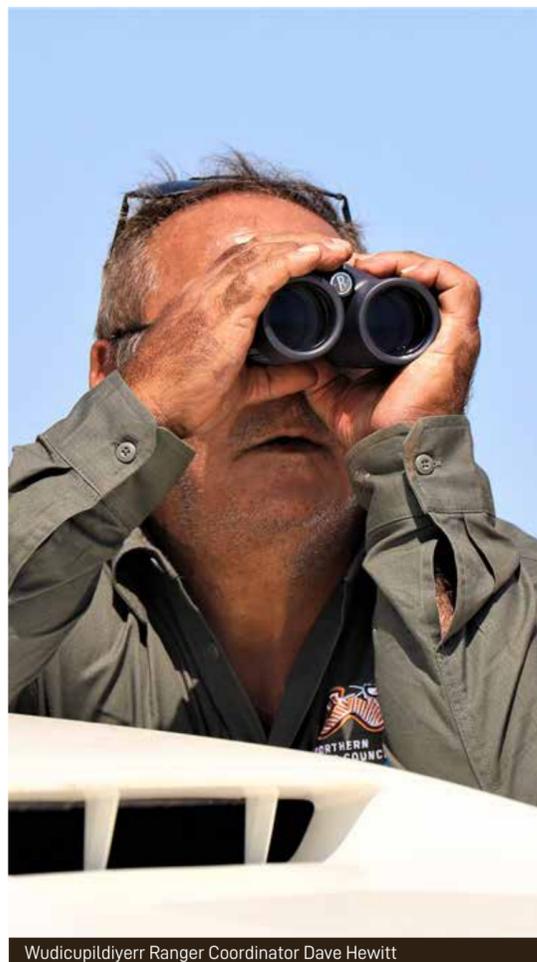
The training will support rangers in undertaking critical surveillance and environmental compliance activities on the land and seas under their care.

Post training, rangers will be better equipped to assist with investigations. Post training, rangers will be better equipped to request to see visitor's permits and to record their name and address.

The NLC is now more aggressive in pursuing prosecutions and wants penalties increased.

Traditional Owners have told the NLC that they don't ask much from visitors – just that they understand they are on Aboriginal-owned land and that they be as respectful as they would be on anyone else's property.

Contact the IRCS team on compliancesupport@nlc.org.au or (08)8943 9764



Wudicupildiyerr Ranger Coordinator Dave Hewitt



Kenbi Ranger John 'Mango' Moreen



Jack Green at Waanyi Garawa Ranger Base for a ranger compliance support meeting.



NLC's Caring for Country Compliance Project Coordinator Jamie Damaso talking with Wudicupildiyerr Rangers.



Signs at the edge of Burrnju and Nyanyalindiyi Aboriginal lands.

ADVERTORIAL

Batchelor Institute Responds to 2020 Covid Challenge

2020 has been a hard year for everyone, and Batchelor Institute has felt the impact. In March, the Institute implemented a shut down of training to ensure safety of all students and staff, and to avoid non-essential travel requirements to and from communities. Training was only able to recommence in July, and even then, only on a limited basis: but the Institute continues to rebuild its delivery of services to learners from across the Northern Territory. 2021 is looking to be a strong year of VET training delivery for the Institute.

With every crisis comes an opportunity, and the limitations of 2020 have led to Batchelor Institute reimagining ways in which it can deliver training to community learners. This has included a pilot program of short course skill sets, delivered in two-week workshops, in communities, to meet identified needs. The short course model allows Batchelor to send staff and equipment into communities, so that learners can attain accredited units of recognised training in manageable periods of time. These units are then counted as credit recognition towards full Certificate qualification as learners undertake further training, either in community or on one of Batchelor's campuses in Batchelor or Alice Springs.

Short courses are being trialed in most of the areas of training Batchelor is already known for: from Community Services, Construction, and Conservation and Land Management, to Education, Early Childhood Education, and Family Well Being. Batchelor is also piloting short course programs for the Creative Industries sectors, including Music, Visual Arts and Radio Broadcasting. Many readers will remember that Batchelor has a long history of delivering training in Radio Broadcasting for the Northern Territory, and thanks to support from industry partners this legacy continues.

Another innovation for Batchelor in 2020 is the development of its first ever Online Graduation, which was broadcast live on the 5th of November this year. The recording of the Graduation can be viewed on the Batchelor Institute Facebook page www.facebook.com/batchelorinstitute/ or the Batchelor Institute YouTube Channel: www.youtube.com/BatchelorInstitute

Batchelor Institute invites all residents of the Northern Territory to view the 2020 Graduation online and join in recognizing and celebrating the achievements of Batchelor Graduates. For further information on courses offered by Batchelor, please contact Student Support on 1800 677 095, or visit our website: www.batchelor.edu.au



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L-R: Brendon Minkulk, Liam Gumbula and Lloyd Dhurrkay

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NLC traineeship program creates pathways for Aboriginal people

Traineeships are a vital tool in building a stronger, fairer and more diverse workforce, says NLC CEO Marion Scrymgour.

PROUD Aboriginal man Tyron Cannell joined the NLC as the front counter receptionist in his first job out of school in 2013.

Over the years, he has held other roles within the Minerals and Energy branch before commencing with the Caring for Country branch in 2019.

After a few months, Tyron wanted to strengthen his skills in different areas in order to broaden his employment opportunities in the future.

The Caring for Country Branch supported him to undertake a traineeship in administration, which he successfully completed in October 2020.

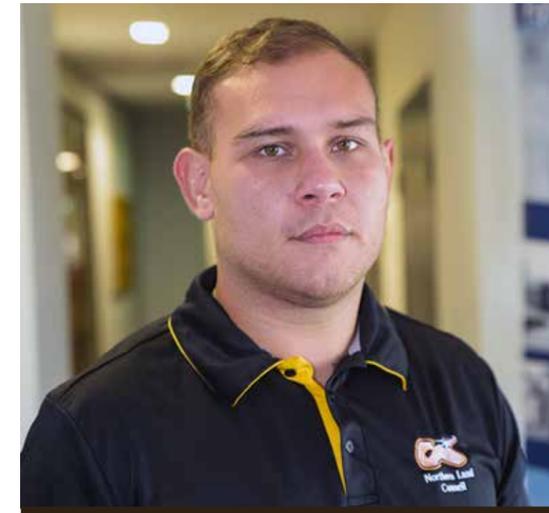
Tyron's journey has now taken him back to the Minerals and Energy Branch where he is assisting on special projects, including the NLC's Cultural Monitor Program.

"I enjoyed working with ranger groups the most and completing my study" said Tyron.

"Traineeships are an essential part of the NLC's Learning and Development drive and a vital tool in building a stronger, fairer and more diverse workforce", said NLC CEO Marion Scrymgour.

"By supporting Aboriginal people to achieve their full potential and raising skill levels to meet the NLC's needs, we can provide more job opportunities in towns and out bush, and create a more resilient workforce".

"Investing in Aboriginal traineeships is an investment in the future of the NLC and our constituents".



The NLC's Tyron Cannell who completed his traineeship this year.

Clontarf year 12s explore opportunities at NLC



Clontarf students toured the NLC's Darwin office.

Three year 12 students, accompanied by Clontarf's Andrew Wills and Ashton Hams, caught up with NLC's Education and Employment Pathways Manager Leigh Crossman at the Darwin office in September.

THE boys - Eli Guyula from Goulburn Island, Nichollas Dhurrkay from Elcho Island and Lloyd Raymond from Pigeon Hole - yarned with NLC's Regional Development team to get some insight into the type of roles available to them once they complete their school year and return to their communities.

The NLC wishes them the best of luck as they finish their schooling and start the next stage of their journey as young leaders.

Three days at NLC for lucky Haileybury year 10s

The NLC has been lucky enough to host two Year 10 students from Haileybury Rendall School for three days work experience.

JOVIAN Dalywater from Bulman and Sonny Wauchope from Croker Island spent time in a variety of different NLC

branches, from legal to regional development.

They also visited NLC's Caring for Country branch and the fleet workshop during their time with us.

"Work experience is just one of the many ways we can make a positive contribution to the education and development of students within our region," said NLC CEO Marion Scrymgour.

The NLC is committed to getting out to more schools, discussing and providing the many opportunities we have within our organisation.

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Jovian Dalywater, NLC CEO Marion Scrymgour and Sonny Wauchope.

Study to examine wellbeing kicks off in Wadeye

The Djarradjarrany Native Title holders from Legune Station started using a survey tool in September to see if they are achieving their vision for Strong Lives and Futures.

KNOWN as Mayi Kuwayu (from the Ngiyampaa-Wongaibon language, meaning to follow people over time) the survey tool aims to help the group understand the impacts of a long term project on their family's wellbeing over a period of time.

Seafarms is developing Project Sea Dragon, a prawn aquaculture project across five sites that includes a grow-out facility at Legune Station that will produce more than 150,000 tonnes of black tiger prawns.

For over a year, the Djarradjarrany Native Title holders have been discussing wellbeing at their meetings. They've been investigating what wellbeing means to them and how they might keep track of it, or 'check-up' on it.

With help from La Trobe University they identified the

most appropriate survey tool and determined to use it.

Djarradjarrany members Mary Simon and Veronica Simon have now become community based researchers after undertaking training in Wadeye in September. The two women, with support from Miriam Simon, worked together to explain the survey to participants. They created a comfortable environment for participants to fill-in the survey form and supported participants to complete it.

The next step is to undertake the surveys with Native Title holders living in Western Australia, which may be possible after the Western Australian border opens to the NT from 14 November.

The aim of the Mayi Kuwayu survey pilot project is to generate robust data to enable the quantification of cultural engagement,

expression and practices and link these to health and wellbeing outcomes.

This pilot is one of the three monitoring approaches being trailed by the NLC's Community and Planning Development Branch.



Mayi Kuwayu wellbeing survey starts in Wadeye.

Meetings in the time of COVID:

'Tears of joy' as Traditional Owners meet online with family members stuck on either side of the border

COVID-19 has made it hard for NLC to continue its meetings as usual so to keep progressing with projects, Traditional Owners have been using video conferencing tools.

Djarradjarrany Native Title holders for Legune Station live in both Kununurra in Western Australia and Wadeye in the NT.

Due to the borders being closed since March, the Djarradjarrany Native Title holders haven't been able to meet face-to-faces.

Instead they have utilised the new video-meeting tools at the NLC's Wadeye office so they can 'meet' and make decisions together.

The Native Title holders met together for the first time online in July to talk

about royalty distribution.

Everyone was excited to greet their relatives over the video conference

There were tears of joy as family members waved, chatted and took photographs of each other.

In September, the Djarradjarrany met again online from Wadeye and Kununurra to discuss updates on their community planning and development projects.

By using video to keep meeting regularly, the group can keep making decisions that affect them – as well as sharing the joy of seeing family they haven't been able to visit for some time.



Legune Traditional Owners in the new NLC Wadeye office having a videoconference with Traditional Owners in Kununurra.

Video conferencing a game changer

Groups share development stories from remote communities

Three Aboriginal groups from across the NT came together on video link to 'meet' and share their community development stories and experiences in September.

THE Native Title Holders from Legune in the west and Gapuwiyak Traditional Owners from Arnhemland in the east both work with the NLC's Community Planning and Development Program.

The third group tuning in via video link, was the Warlpiri Education and Training Trust (WETT) Committee, which represents the desert communities of Yuendumu, Nyirrpi, Lajamanu and Willowra. This committee is supported by the Central Land Council's Community Development program.

and comments from those listening.

Compared with WETT, the groups from Legune and Gapuwiyak are still young in their community development journeys and hearing stories about starting small and realizing how far you can go was inspiring for them.

The groups from Legune and Gapuwiyak also shared their community development stories, and the WETT Committee were equally as fascinated by the different projects they are funding.

"Sharing stories via video link gives us ideas and we tell that story about what we are doing here in Gapuwiyak and we see that they are supporting us Yolngu [Indigenous] to Yolngu [Indigenous]".

The WETT Committee members have been supporting training and education in communities for almost 15 years now, and travelling around Australia sharing their story.

They were invited by the NLC's Community Planning and Development Program to share this journey with the Gapuwiyak and Legune groups.

WETT Committee members Fiona Gibson, Verona Jurrak and Cynthia Wheeler (Yuendumu) talked about when they started putting royalty money from the Newmont Tanami Gold Mine towards community development in 2006.

They shared their vision, showed pictures explaining how the program had slowly grown and told stories about all the projects they now fund across their four communities. There were many questions

Gapuwiyak Traditional Owner Clancy Marrkula said sharing stories via video link "gives us ideas, and we tell that story about what we are doing here [in Gapuwiyak] and we see that they are supporting us Yolngu to Yolngu".

A face-to-face exchange will take place at a future date so each group can meet in person and understand more about each other's community development stories.

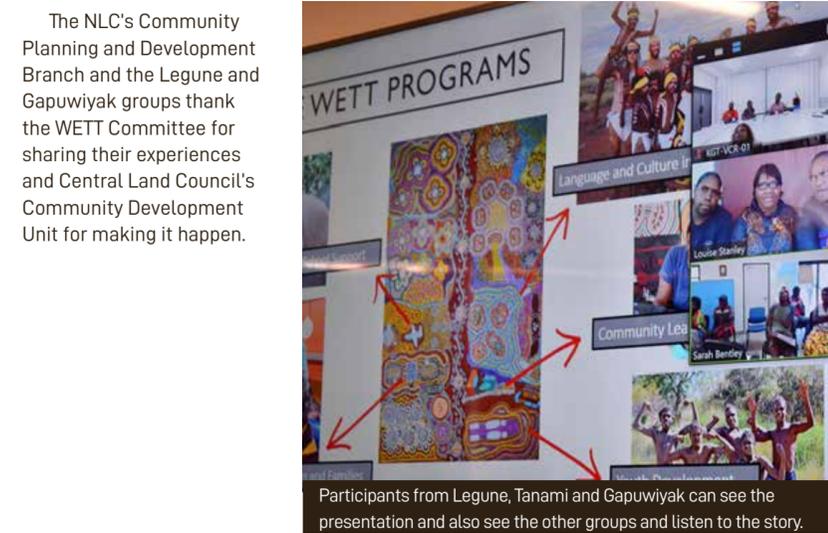
The opportunity for these three groups to connect from such distant places via video link was a learning experience for all. The value in seeing each other on the big screen, the importance of taking turns to speak and sharing the uniqueness of each other's location was invaluable. It showed us that connection can still take place 'virtually'.



Gapuwiyak Traditional Owners sharing community development stories with the Warlpiri and Legune groups.



Legune Native Title holders hear about Warlpiri community development programs.



Participants from Legune, Tanami and Gapuwiyak can see the presentation and also see the other groups and listen to the story.

'Fantastic work books': Junior rangers embrace new resources



Mardbalk Rangers with students from Warruwi School have enjoyed using their new Junior Ranger resources.

NLC's Caring for Country Branch has produced a range of resources aimed at budding rangers.

THE resources - consisting of a guide, work book and activity cards - were developed by and for Aboriginal rangers. All ranger groups are welcome to use them and they can be adapted at the local level without restriction.

it easier for Aboriginal ranger groups to deliver Junior Ranger programs. "Teaching upcoming generations of custodians about how they are connected to country and culture is a priority for elders and rangers," Ms Mules said. The Mardbalk Rangers

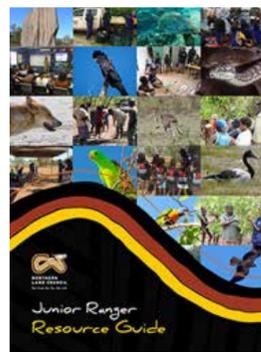
"All ranger groups are welcome to use the resources and they can be adapted at the local level without restriction."

Caring for Country Branch's Women and Youth Coordinator Penny Mules said the resources will make

on South Goulburn Island had their first session with the Junior Rangers using their new work

books in November.

"The kids loved them and they kept trying to jump ahead to look at all the upcoming activities," said Mardbalk Ranger Coordinator Peter Philips. "We did the mapping activity on page two and the kids had a lot of fun. They're looking forward to next



week's activity," he said.

Warruwi School Principal Keira Stewart thanked the NLC for sending the resources to the school. "[Mardbalk Ranger Coordinator] Peter showed me the pack and work

books, they are fantastic! Such a great resources for students and teachers. Thank you for putting this together," she said.



Mardbalk Rangers help Junior Rangers with their work books.

Network hub launched to support the Indigenous Carbon Industry



THE Indigenous Carbon Industry Network (ICIN) supports Indigenous organisations that develop and deliver Indigenous-owned carbon projects, mainly through savanna fire management.

INDIGENOUS rangers use cool burns in the early dry season, or right-way fire, to prevent widespread hot wildfires later in the year. Together they save around 1 million tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions each year through 30 savanna carbon farming projects managing fire across 17.9 million hectares of north Australian savanna.

The world's scientists agree that we all need to rapidly reduce our greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 if we are to avoid the worst impacts from climate change.

camp, education programs, infrastructure, research and other projects.

ICIN is overseen by a Steering Committee of eight Indigenous organisations, including the Northern Land Council.

We are united by our vision to promote and facilitate an active, innovative and Indigenous-led carbon industry supporting healthy country and better livelihoods for Indigenous people.

ICIN enables and empowers Indigenous carbon producers and Traditional Owners of

"Through their fire management work, Indigenous ranger groups are not only saving the planet by reducing emissions, but they are caring for their country by using right-way fire to look after important cultural sites, animals and plants."

The carbon credits generated from the projects across north Australia are worth about \$20 million each year.

This is reinvested back into communities and outstations by Traditional Owners and used to employ more rangers for land management work, as well as supporting priority projects such as culture

carbon projects to benefit from carbon markets through their land and sea management practices by supporting an active network of Indigenous carbon businesses and supporting agencies.

It hosts the annual North Australia Savanna Fire Forum, which last year brought together 320 Indigenous fire managers,



NLC rangers and colleagues at last year's Savanna Fire Forum at Darwin's Charles Darwin University.

scientists, carbon industry representatives and government representatives in Darwin to discuss fire management issues.

The Network has just launched a new online hub where you can connect with Indigenous organisations supporting savanna carbon farming projects, find out more about Indigenous savanna fire management and get the latest updates about the industry.

Go to www.icin.org.au or find us on [facebook/Indigenous Carbon Industry Network](https://www.facebook.com/IndigenousCarbonIndustryNetwork).

For more information contact the Coordinator, [Anna Boustead at icin@warddeken.org.au](mailto:anna.boustead@icin.org.au) or call 0417 989 577.



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Department of LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



No justice in ignoring voices of littlest victims

Two ideas that would help First Nations children and young people are a confidential children's help line and a different way of working with victims, writes Danila Dilba chief executive officer Olga Havnen.

FIRST Nations young people and children are being failed by a system that does not help them to report abuse and get support and protection.

There have been two recent coronial inquiries in the NT that looked at the deaths of six young First Nations people. They have heard about a disturbing failure to protect and

Nations children and young people that stop them from telling someone about abuse or violence and getting help.

If victims do tell someone and ask for help they end up in a legal system where the victim is less important than the legal process and a child protection system that despite some improvements still can't place the child or young person at the centre.

'Everyone has the right to be safe from violence and abuse' – Danila Dilba CEO Olga Havnen.

support vulnerable children and young people and a system where the young people and their families could not safely tell someone about abuse or sexual violence or to get help is they did tell someone.

At the same time, the newspapers across Australia have been writing about sexual abuse of children and the terrible results that can follow the victims all their lives. Politicians and the media have been reacting by calling for stricter laws, more mandatory reporting, more taskforces and interventions – more of the same things that haven't worked so far. But there is no talk about what is really needed to help our children.

It is hard for victims to tell someone when they have been abused. Most victims find it hard to tell someone about sexual abuse and might stay silent because they feel powerless, shame, guilty or scared especially if the person harming them is a family member or someone they know well.

There are too many barriers for vulnerable First

It is time to make a big change in how systems and communities respond to sexual violence. There is good evidence of 'what works' and First Nations communities, parents, young people and leaders have been telling this to decision makers for many years. In Europe a lot of work has been done about what works to protect children from sexual abuse and violence and to help victims recover.

They say that we should:

- put children front and centre
- make sure that everyone working with children understands about trauma and make the system work for victims who have suffered trauma
- support child victims with therapy and social integration and rehabilitate child perpetrators
- private/public partnerships to eliminate sexual violence against children.

To do this, children and young people – particularly Aboriginal children – need to be part of the re-design of a system to better protect them.



Danila Dilba CEO Olga Havnen.



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A conversation could change a life.

Two ideas that I have learnt about that would help First Nations children and young people are a confidential children's help line and a different way of working with victims.

A confidential children's helpline run by an Aboriginal organisation would help children and young people to understand what sexual abuse is, encourage victims to tell someone, refer to services, and support the child or young person to report formally when they are ready. Easy access to the helpline and letting the child stay anonymous are part of the success of children's helplines in other countries. The most important thing is protecting the children's rights - children are treated

with dignity and respect, they get connected to services that can help them, they get counselling and are helped to make formal reports when that is what they want. These helplines have worked to help children in other countries

The second thing that is needed is a different way of dealing with formal reports of sexual abuse or sexual violence. At the moment, the perpetrator and the lawyers and judges are the focus when formal reports are looked at, not the victim. Some countries have a new system - a child-friendly system for victims rather than a frightening legal system. A model called Barnahus (Children's House) is being used across Europe,



Iceland, and Nordic countries and in the UK.

In the Barnahus service the child or young person comes to child friendly place to do all the things that need to happen when

sexual abuse or violence are reported – talking to the police, medical examinations, interviews, getting their evidence for any court case. At the same place, the child or young person can get the counselling and support they need. The child or young person doesn't have to go to a court but has all their interviews at the Barnahus. The lawyers and the judge can observe the interviews and ask their questions through the Barnahus workers. The people who work at Barnahus are specialists in supporting children who have suffered trauma – psychologists, nurses, doctors, social workers and specially trained lawyers. A service like Barnahus would really help First Nations children and young people to get the support they need and to cope with the processes of reporting and giving evidence.

As First Nations people, we don't shy away from difficult issues like child sexual abuse and sexual violence. While this is not

exclusively or even mainly an "Aboriginal problem" we do know that First Nations children are at particular risk. It is not out of sight or out of mind for us. All the discussions, meetings, briefing papers, and submissions about better ways to protect and support First Nations children and young people have not led real interest and action by decision-makers. Its time for decision makers to listen to First Nations people and those at the front line of working with families and children, to understand why the current system is failing and to look at the evidence of what works and do things differently to support the health, wellbeing and safety of all children. Our children must be able to safely tell someone if they are abused and feel safe that the right things will happen next.

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High Ground shown as part of NAIDOC week: 'Challenging accepted notions of the settlement of Australia'



Covering a violent chapter of colonial history, Stephen Johnson's film excavates ugly truths.



Producer Witiyana Marika and Stephen Johnson.

MORE than 200 people gathered in Darwin for a NAIDOC week showing of the new movie High Ground.

Directed by Stephen Johnson of Yolngu Boy fame the new northern Australian frontier movie was shot in Kakadu National Park and Arnhem Land.

The film's producer Witiyana Marika said he hopes it will act as a bridge between Australia's black and white communities.

The story is a fictional reimagining, steeped in the stories of an Aboriginal resistance to white settlement drawn from Arnhem Land's traditional owners and elders, including lands in Kakadu National Park.

"It's the history of this country and showing it through the movie worldwide, from the little corner of Arnhem Land, but representing the whole of Australia and Tassie about what happened," Mr Marika told ABC News.

For Mr Marika, the 20-year process to create High Ground has been about correcting history: to reflect the stories his

grandmother told him.

"It was something sad, but as I was growing up I thought maybe one day I'll get to that point and I'll show the world what happened," he said.

"And then this man [Stephen Johnson] came along just at the right time."

At that time, when Mr Marika and his friend Dr M Yunupingu AC were part of Australian rock band Yothu Yindi, Stephen Johnson shot the clip for their hit song Treaty.

Dr M Yunupingu passed in 2013, before he could see the film completed, but is remembered in the credits and his friends have stayed close to their original vision of the film.

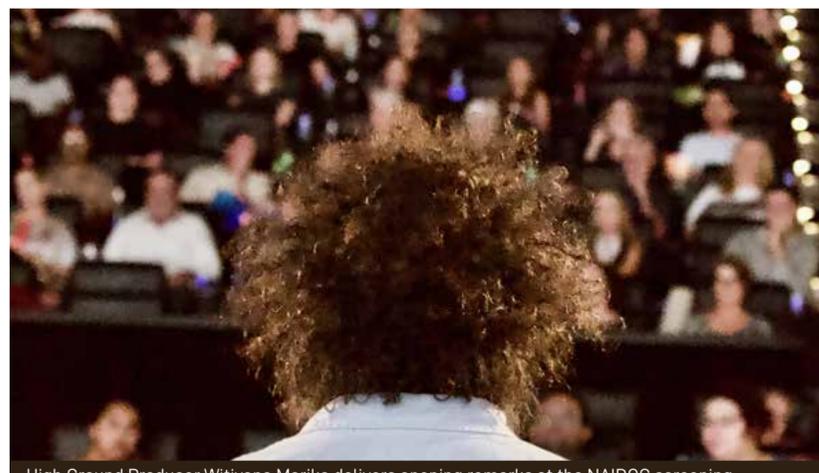
"We decided to go with a fiction because it allowed us to open up the story in a sense and tell a greater truth," Mr Johnson told ABC News.

"The narrative is very truthful of what has happened in this country."

*High Ground will be released in cinemas around Australia on 28 January 2021.



Shay Vigona-Goudge, Desmond Campbell, Mitch Dyson and Steve Rossingh at the NAIDOC 2020 screening of High Ground at Event Cinemas Palmerston.



High Ground Producer Witiyana Marika delivers opening remarks at the NAIDOC screening.



Kenbi Rangers working on the installation of a new nursery.



Garngi Rangers undertake a boat patrol north to Forth Bay and south to Sandy Bay point.



Junior Rangers holding up turtles they found while working with the Mardbalk Rangers.



Adele Godfrey, Aleeta Dixon and Natasha Godfrey at Elliott.



New Jabiru staff member Saffron Lamilami.



Garngi Ranger Charlie Wadaga at Darch Island holds a turtle tag from Karratha, showing that the turtle his family caught swam at least 2000kms.

Meet the first female Aboriginal Speaker in Australia

Ngaree Ah Kit made the life-changing decision that would lead her to the prestigious Speaker's chair of the NT's Legislative Assembly while sitting in a boat in the Italian city of Venice.



New NT Parliament Speaker Ngaree Ah Kit.

Ngaree Ah Kit made the life-changing decision that would lead her to the prestigious Speaker's chair of the NT's Legislative Assembly while sitting in a boat in the Italian city of Venice.

It was 2015 and friends and family back in the Territory were wondering if she would stand for Labor pre-selection to contest the 2016 Territory election.

Ms Ah Kit had told her father JAK Ah Kit, the Territory's trail-blazing first Aboriginal Labor cabinet minister, she wanted to pursue a career in politics.

"I was very proud to be my Dad's daughter. For years I'd seen him progress from an opposition MLA to a cabinet minister. I'd seen how hard Dad worked and what he achieved...I knew what I would be in for," she says.

Ms Ah Kit had emerged as a strong advocate for suicide prevention after the death of her younger brother Bardi in 2007, including helping

to establish the Darwin Region Indigenous Suicide Prevention Network.

She worked in the Department of Health's Mental Health Directorate and contributed to numerous discussions and agendas for suicide prevention as a member on various national boards.

She was a Territory finalist for the Australian of the Year Awards in both the Young Australian and Local Hero categories.

But before Ms Ah Kit went on holidays in Italy that year she felt her life was at a turning point.

"I was a bit disenfranchised. I realised that my life was all about death. I'd wake up thinking about suicide prevention and then go to work to do what I could to prevent it. I would go home and continue working to prevent suicide in my voluntary capacity. It became too much", she says.

"I needed to flip the script, to find a new way to live my life. I changed my mind-set.

Instead of trying to stop people ending their life I started supporting them to find a reason to live. And that changed my entire life."

By the time Ms Ah Kit was sitting on the boat in Venice she felt "much happier, healthier and in a good head space."

"I asked myself how could I make an even bigger difference doing what I'm passionate about? And so there I was, in Italy on my own. Away from pressures of work, family and community. Being on my own gave me the opportunity to consider my life and the direction I wanted to head in. It was lunch time and I was travelling in a water taxi down the canals of Venice when I decided that I was ready for a tilt at parliament."

Ms Ah Kit rang her father and told him of her decision, cut short her holiday and returned home. She was selected Labor's candidate for Karama, and then won the seat in Labor's landslide victory in 2016.

Ms Ah Kit, 39, was sworn in as Speaker of the Territory's Legislative Assembly on 20 October after Territory Labor won a second term in office at the Territory election in August.

Her elevation to the position was recognition of the standing she is held by her parliamentary colleagues.

"I never set out to be Speaker, but you take the opportunities when they come. It's an absolute honour and privilege," she says.

"I'm looking forward to bringing a lot of me and what I stand for to the Speakership."

Ms Ah Kit is a proud Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander woman of Chinese descent who was born in Katherine in June 1981.

Her mother Gail, an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander woman originally from Queensland, met and fell in love with Ngaree's father JAK at the Aboriginal Task Force in Adelaide. They then moved to Katherine and

started their own family.

Ms Ah Kit remembers a happy time growing up in the Katherine where she played rugby and "everyone basically was family."

As her father, who passed away in July, became a powerful voice for Aboriginal Territorians, she grew up thinking it was normal for political figures like Patrick and Mick Dodson to be sitting at the family's dinner table, which stoked her interest in politics.

Ngaree was 14 years old when she first visited Parliament House in Darwin when her father was being sworn in as the Member for Arnhem in 1995.

"I remember having mixed emotions during the ceremony as I sat beside my mum and brothers and stared at the empty chair that my sister Patricia should have been sitting in," Ms Ah Kit recalled in her Maiden Speech in Parliament.

"But this was not to be as my sister had lost her battle with leukaemia days before our Dad won his seat."



Ngaree Ah Kit is the first female Indigenous Speaker in Australia.

Ms Ah Kit says from a young age in primary school "I'd always gravitated towards those in need."

"I was always trying to find ways to help people who were in need, to give them a voice. I found myself to be a natural helper."

Ms Ah Kit started working in the Territory's public service when she was 19.

By the time she had been elected to Parliament in 2016 she had worked her way up through the ranks of the public service in a range of agencies.

She had also worked in the federal intervention in remote communities where "She took the opportunity to help ensure that Aboriginal people in remote communities benefitted as much as possible from the intervention."

Ms Ah Kit says she set about earning people's trust in the Karama electorate, drawing on her experience to help them transverse the different tiers of government.

"I always explain to my constituents that government and the public service are there to serve them and that they should never settle for less than they deserve," she says.

Ms Ah Kit also continued her advocacy for suicide prevention and mental health "which will always underpin the work I do,



The late John Ah Kit with daughter Ngaree Ah Kit on the left.

including as Speaker."

"It's even more important during these times of a global pandemic to provide support to Territorians and for elected representatives to be at the top of their game every single day," she says.

Ms Ah Kit sees her role as Speaker as being caretaker of the people's house and a partner with all

the politicians and staff who work in Parliament.

Ms Ah Kit believes passionately in Territory Labor's reforms that aim to break the cycle of disadvantage for Aboriginal Territorians.

"We're returning control to remote communities through our Local Decision Making Strategy. What I particularly like about this policy is that we are returning control at a pace that suits the communities. This is vital, as we don't want to set communities up to fail," she says.

"I think local decision making is a great concept, as it supports communities to take control of their own destiny. I'm looking at how local decision making can be established in my own electorate of Karama."

Ms Ah Kit says Labor's \$1.1 billion remote housing program is not just delivering new homes and upgrades it is providing skills training and lifetime jobs for Aboriginal Territorians.

She says the Territory

cannot afford to wait for the Federal Government to move on a Treaty.

"We've got the a great Treaty Commission established through the leadership of Professor Mick Dodson as Treaty Commissioner. He and his team are engaging with Territorians to find out their thoughts on a Treaty and have released a discussion paper for public comment. I encourage everyone to take a look and have their say".

Ms Ah Kit says many of the issues she faces on a daily basis relate to issues confronting Aboriginal Territorians. "Thirty percent of the Territory's population is Aboriginal but we are represented in 90 percent of the wrong statistics," she says.

"Aboriginal people represent 50 percent of the suicide rate and more than 90 percent of the incarceration rate. We are almost 100 percent of juvenile detention on any given day."

Ms Ah Kit says she is focussed on finding culturally appropriate ways to overcome the issues that Aboriginal people are facing.

"I have been working with a lot of agencies on these issues and community members who want to be part of the solution. We know that there are limitations in the way agencies and organisations are operating to address the issues we face and it is important that we work smarter not harder to achieve the outcomes we all want. Our entire community deserves better," she says.

Ms Ah Kit acknowledges that everyone struggles at times to overcome problems.

"I'm always going to be a glass half full person. I'm always going to be focusing on opportunities to make greater change and celebrating successes," she says.

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Book 30 years in the making preserves endangered Yolŋu Sign Language

The people of the north eastern land used an alternative language sign language to communicate for more than 60,000 years. Now a new handbook preserving these signs has been distributed to schools - including children at Yirrkala school - near the township of Nhulunbuy - in the hope of saving the language.

A chance meeting at Galiwin'ku in 1994 between Dr Bentley James and the late Laurie Baymarrwaŋa or Big Boss as she was affectionately known, has several decades later resulted in the publication of a new book The Illustrated Handbook of Yolŋu Sign Language of North East Arnhem Land Project. "Back in 1994 Elaine Maypilama, Dany Mari Carla Adone and I proposed to write this book," said Dr James. "Since then, Yolŋu elders from sunrise in the east of

Blue Mud Bay to the sunset west at Murrunga in the Crocodile Island have shared their signs to educate, inform and entertain a new generation of young people." The importance of passing on this language to a new generation of Yolŋu children is equalled only by the need to share Yolŋu Sign Language (YSL) with all Australians, he said. "As each indigenous language disappears, all our worlds are diminished. For this reason, we have volunteered to bring together some 500 signs of YSL

collected from the east to the west of Yolŋu country." The book describes the grammar, vocabulary, structure and conventions of YSL in a full-colour guide featuring photographs taken by Therese Ritchie and David Hancock. Dr James has been handing out copies of the book in Milingimbi, at Murrunga and at Galwin'ku. "What a wonderful feeling it is to see the looks on the children's faces when they receive the book. Baymarrwaŋa provided impetus, signs and the initial

funding for the work. "In some way this is her unfinished work. She lived to celebrate many victories, creating a homeland, a bilingual school, saving her language, recognition as title holder over her sea country, 2012 Senior Australian of the Year and much more. "Baymarrwaŋa spent a lifetime promoting the intergenerational transmission of local language and knowledge to sustain authentic livelihoods on the homelands." The Crocodile Islands Initiative, Crocodile Islands Ranger and junior rangers program a Turtle Sanctuary and a Yan-nhaŋu Atlas were part of her dream.

For more visit www.yolngusignlanguage.com.au
Images: Therese Ritchie



DHĀRRA (exist). Model: Michael Ganambarr

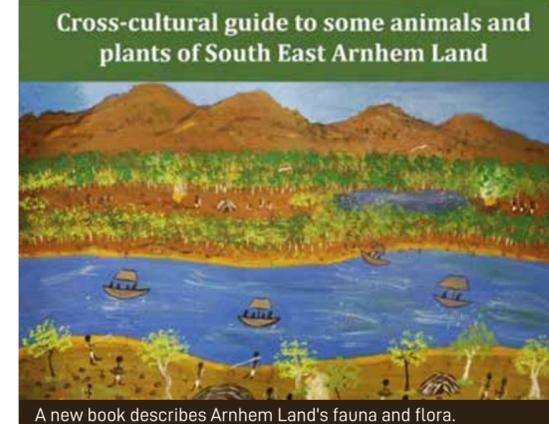


GANYIMTHUN (surprise). Model: Michael Ganambarr

Indigenous knowledge combines with Western science in new book



Have you ever heard of a wungujang? This is the name for water rat in Wubuy and more details about this creature can be found in a new cross-cultural reference guide to Australian wildlife.



THE guide is the result of a five year collaboration between South East Arnhem Land knowledge holders, the Yugul Mangi Rangers, Ngukurr Yangbala (Youth) Project, Ngukurr Language Centre and staff from Macquarie University. This innovative project blends two kinds of conservation - biological

and cultural - in a full-colour book that brings together Aboriginal knowledge and Western science. The book features cross-cultural species names and knowledge in 10 languages. These include Kriol, seven traditional languages that are considered threatened - Marra, Ngandi, Ngalakgan, Wubuy, Rembarraŋa, Rithharngu/Wagilak and Alawa - and English common and Latin scientific names. Featuring input from nearly 50 contributors, the field guide was developed for on-Country cross-cultural biodiversity surveys that aim to build and maintain knowledge of South East Arnhem Land's fauna and flora with scientific and cultural significance. Anyone interested in cross-cultural approaches to science and land

management, and conservation of species and cultures will also find it useful. It's also a valuable contribution to the integration of Indigenous science and Western science, and to the preservation of languages. The guide is published by the Batchelor Institute Press and is available via www.batchelorpress.com

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Jabiru calling: Gallery opening part of exciting change and renewal in Kakadu

MARRAUDDI Arts opened on October 10 at beautifully refurbished premises in the heart of Jabiru. The centre is owned and operated by Gundjeihmi Aboriginal Corporation on behalf of the Mirarr Traditional Owners. An exciting occasion in itself, the opening event also signified a new chapter in the Mirarr-led transition of the town of Jabiru. Mirarr Senior Traditional Owner Yvonne Margarula said at the opening event: "Join Mirarr to celebrate the beginning of this new chapter in Jabiru: for community, country and culture." Mirarr Traditional Owner Simon Mudjandi said: "Today is the start of a new and exciting chapter for Jabiru and Kakadu. With the opening of this beautiful new Marrawuddi Arts Centre, Jabiru's transition from mining town to an

Aboriginal owned community centre and tourism hub really begins". Previously located at the now closed Bowali Visitors Centre (at Kakadu National Park headquarters) Marrawuddi has been a popular destination for tourists and locals looking to find a beautiful souvenir or gift for many years. In recent times, nurtured by the vision and strong commitment of Mirarr and the gallery management team, Marrawuddi has evolved to become a community arts centre working closely with local artists. In September 2019, Marrawuddi coordinated local and interstate artists to paint a stunning mural on the external walls of the old bakery building in anticipation of the move. This visual transformation signals the change that

is coming for Jabiru once a formal township lease commences in 2021. "Marrawuddi Arts is a truly exciting next step for us," said Marrawuddi Manager Katie Hagebols. "We have been working closely with artists from across the region to develop their arts practice for some time. The bigger spaces at this new site will mean we can offer welcoming areas for artists to work as well as a larger retail area and more central location for tourists to find us. "With our new café and LaMarzocco espresso machine we're also offering Kakadu's best coffee. Visitors and locals alike should come and have a great coffee and spend some time admiring the marvellous West Arnhem art available at the gallery," Ms Hagebols said.



Jabiru's new Marrawuddi Arts gallery opened in October.



Sandra Djangjul and Kaden, in front of Patsy Kelly's Marebu at the opening.

NT media awards: winning article gives voice to remote Territorians 'often left out of policy conversations'

THE NLC congratulates all the winners and finalists of the NT Media Awards, which were held in November. In the NT the ABC was the overwhelming winner on the night, with Jano Gibson named Journalist of the Year and Sowaibah Hanifia awarded Young Journalist of the Year. The NLC sponsored the Best Feature Writing award. It was won by Kylie Stevenson and Tamara Howie for their article published in The Walkley Magazine and The Saturday Paper called "The Land

the NDIS Forgot". The judges said: "We applaud the boots-on-the-ground approach to the reporting, which included dozens of interviews - many of them in remote and

hard-to-reach locations. In doing so, Kylie and Tamara have given voice to remote Territorians often left out of these important policy conversations."



Kylie Stevenson won for her article "The Land the NDIS Forgot".

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Kicking life and footy goals in Barunga



The Arnhem Crows Women's Football Team ahead of their Grand Final Day game at Katherine.



Colleen Gwynne and Huia Haerewa.

IN BARUNGA, about 80km southeast of Katherine, sport has always been an important part of community life. Home to just over 300 people with a footy oval at its centre, this Aboriginal community is the hub for the Arnhem Crows Australian Rules Football Club, which plays in the local competition. And while playing football has always been popular with boys and men in Barunga, now women's footy is taking off in the small community. Earlier this year, local

Shiona Farrell approached the Northern Land Council's Katherine region Executive Member Helen Lee to discuss ways to tackle boredom in the community. Not much was happening for her age group in Barunga, Shiona said, and she wanted to do something about it. Helen, with the assistance of Roper Gulf Regional Shire's Soozie Gilles, established the Arnhem Crows Women's Football Team. The majority of women that play for Arnhem Crows Women's Football Team are Barunga locals, but a

few members come from surrounding communities, including Beswick, Jilkminggan and Ngukurr and range in age from 16 to 50. In their first year the Arnhem Crows were crowned Big Rivers Football League women champions after a big win over Katherine South. Ashanti Bush won the Best-on-Ground medal in the Grand Final and Huia Haerewa was runner up in the Women's Doug Kelly medal count. All players in the Arnhem Crows team are expected to sign a Code of

Conduct at the beginning of the season to show their dedication to training, team building and the game. Sunrise Health Service, one of the sponsors of the women's team, asked the team's committee to add a clause into the Code of Conduct to ensure all players are up to date with their health checks. The players would like to thank Helen and Soozie, along with the community, for their support, "which has been instrumental in encouraging the women in the team to grow and try something new".

We look forward to watching the Arnhem Crows Women Football's Team in the 2021 Big Rivers Football League.

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In memory of members of the NLC family who have passed

DENELLA BEER

THE Chairman, CEO, members and staff of the NLC mourn the passing of former NLC Executive Councillor Denella Beer, a proud member of the Malak Malak language group and senior traditional Aboriginal owner for the Daly River area.

Denella served as an NLC Councillor between 1991 and 1998 and as an Executive Councillor for the Darwin Daly Wagait Region and will be fondly remembered as a resolute and determined fighter for Aboriginal land rights and for her active involvement in the NLC's Community Planning and Development and Healthy Country programs on her beloved Malak Malak lands.

She was instrumental in the establishment and operation of the Women's Resource Centre in Darwin in the 1970s and 1980s and later gained a degree in Community Management and Development from Curtin University and contributed to a number of valuable research projects, particularly concerning cross-cultural management in Aboriginal community controlled health and related services.

Denella is survived by her children Dwayne, Denella, Bridgette, Robert and Reece and many loving grandchildren. Her family were proud followers of the Darwin Buffaloes Football Club and she was a dedicated supported of the Sydney Swans AFL club. She will be sadly missed by the NLC Family.

ELIZABETH DALY 'BETTY BOO'

THE Chairman, members and staff of the NLC mourn the passing of former NLC Councillor Elizabeth (Betty) Daly (also known affectionately as 'Betty Boo').

Betty Daly was a very proud Dukul woman from the Bulman/Weemol area in central Arnhem Land and was a member of the Stolen Generations who was taken from her mother when she was 13 years old.

Betty Daly provided long and valued service as an NLC Councillor from 1991 to 2013 for the Daly River region, where she had settled with her family. In 1996 Betty, with the late Mary Yarmirr and other women, was instrumental in the establishment of the NLC Women's Sub-Committee.

In 1988 Betty Daly, along with many other NLC councillors and staff, travelled to Sydney to protest against the Bicentennial celebrations and defend the rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Betty Daly was always a happy person to have around at meetings and always made us feel comfortable in her presence.

Betty Daly is survived by 9 children, 38 grand-children, 50 great-grand-children, and 1 great-great-grandson.

Betty Daly will be sadly missed by the NLC family.

JABANI LALARA

THE Chairman, members and staff of the NLC send our heartfelt sympathy and condolences to the family of the late Jabani Lalara, who sadly passed away on 27 September 2020.

Jabani Lalara was born at Emerald River Mission on Groote Eylandt on 1 December 1942 and during his lifetime he worked as a diesel mechanic, driver of mining trucks, artist and in many other roles.

Prior to the establishment of the Anindilyakwa Aboriginal Land Council in 1991 Mr Lalara represented the Angurugu ward of the NLC and subsequently represented the Blue Mud Bay ward on the NLC Full Council until his retirement in 2019.

In 2012 Mr Lalara was one of a number of Traditional Owners of sea country that objected to a proposal to mine their precious seabed between Groote Eylandt and the mainland. Unsurprisingly, they prevailed.

The NLC Council and staff mourn Jabani Lalara's passing. He will be sadly missed by us all.

NORMAN GORGE 'CROW'

THE Chairman, members and staff of the NLC mourn the passing of Norman 'Crow' George.

A member of the Stolen Generations who was taken from his family in the 1950s and reunited with them a decade later, Crow spent many years working on cattle stations and road building throughout the Katherine region.

In the early 1990's Crow brought his immeasurable skills and knowledge to the NLC and provided invaluable services as an NLC Field and Project officer in the Victoria River, Borrooloola and Katherine regions.

Crow is survived by his children Sherrise, Preston, Dolly and all his grandchildren.

The NLC Council and staff send our heartfelt sympathy and condolences to Crow's family and friends.

LINDSAY BARRY AH MAT 'SUTTI'

THE Chairman, members and staff of the NLC mourn the passing of former NLC staff member Lindsay Barry Ah Mat (known affectionately as 'Sutti').

Sutti worked at the NLC from 1982 to 1990 in a variety of key roles. Starting as a Land Claims Officer in the Field Operations Unit, he then served at different times as the Head of the Land Claims Unit, Manager of Field Operations and Executive Officer of the NLC's Southern Region among other vitally important positions that supported the NLC's work for Traditional Owners claiming to get their land back.

In 1988 Sutti was the cook on the Aboriginal convoy from Darwin to Sydney to protest

against the Bicentennial celebrations and defend the rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

After he left the NLC Sutti went on to work for Aboriginal people across the NT in a variety of roles.

Sutti Ah Mat will be sadly missed by the NLC family and the Darwin community generally.

KUMUNJAYI DIXON 1947 - 2020

IT is with great sadness that the Chairman, members and staff of the Northern Land Council record the passing of Kumunjayi Kurrnganykarri Jimija Dixon, who passed away on 15 November 2020.

Our heartfelt sympathies and condolences go out to Kumunjayi's family and kin across his beloved Mudburra country and beyond.

Kumunjayi was first elected to the Full Council of the Northern Land Council as representative for the Murrnaji ward from 1984 to 1986 and served again from 1989 to 1992. He most recently served as a member of the NLC Full Council from 2012 to 2019.

Kumunjayi started work "in the cattle" at an early age and by the age of 15 he was driving cattle from Newcastle Waters to Camooweal and Dajarra in western Queensland.

While most of his working life was spent on Newcastle Waters - where he rose to the position of Head Stockman - Kumunjayi also worked on pastoral leases across the NT, including Beetaloo, Flora Valley, Birrindudu, Mungabroom, Walhallow, Delamere, Murrnaji, Humbert River and Hayfield pastoral leases.

On 28 April 1966, Kumunjayi, his fellow stockmen and their families walked off Newcastle Waters pastoral lease and camped at the Union Paddock, near to present-day Marlinja. Their strike was in protest at their poor working conditions and wages on the station. Many of the strikers remained at the Union Paddock through to June 1967.

The Newcastle Waters strike predated - but is less well-known than - the Wave Hill walk-off in August 1966 but Kumunjayi and the brave men and women he was with deserve our enduring respect and admiration for their early and vital contribution to the Land Rights struggles in the NT.

Following his retirement from the cattle Kumunjayi dedicated himself to the protection and maintenance of his language and culture, working alongside his Mudburra and Jingili countrymen and women to preserve their language and culture for future generations to share, learn and celebrate in books and other publications that recorded the bicultural knowledge of the Jingili and Mudburra peoples. Kumunjayi was a key contributor to the Mudburra to English Dictionary published in late 2019.

Vale Kumunjayi Kurrnganykarri Jimija Dixon.



MIGRATORY SHOREBIRDS
Common Sandpiper

Small migratory shorebird with dark head and a white 'shoulder' patch. Commonly found on its own and bobs tail constantly. Found on coastal mudflats, sandy intertidal zones and creeks and rivers. Found in Darwin in Dalirrgang, Balnba, Dalay and early Mayilema.

White Wedge

20cm

MIGRATORY SHOREBIRDS
Far Eastern Curlew

Largest shorebird with a long down-curved bill. Tall with long legs. Brown streaky appearance all over. Has a white eye-ring and a brown rump in flight. Call sounds like its name cur-loo cur-loo. Listed as critically endangered. Found on coastal mudflats and sandy intertidal zones. Found in Darwin in Dalirrgang, Balnba, Dalay and early Mayilema.

Down-curved bill, almost as long as body

63cm

MIGRATORY SHOREBIRDS
Greater Sand Plover

A small migratory plover with a large thick bill and big eyes. Listed as vulnerable. Found on coastal mudflats and sandy intertidal zones. Found in Darwin in Dalirrgang, Balnba, Dalay and early Mayilema.

Breeding plumage

Large bill

21cm

MIGRATORY SHOREBIRDS
Great Knot

Small-to-medium sized migratory shorebird with a bill that is longer than the length of its head. Streaky feathers and smaller than a Silver Gull. Has a light white rump in flight. Listed as critically endangered. Found on coastal mudflats and sandy intertidal zones. Found in Darwin in Dalirrgang, Balnba, Dalay and early Mayilema.

Breeding plumage

Bill longer than head

Streaks on side of body

Legs pale greenish-grey

27cm

MIGRATORY SHOREBIRDS
Grey-tailed Tattler

Small-to-medium sized migratory shorebird that looks like Common Sandpiper but is slightly larger and lighter grey. Has a white eyebrow and yellow legs. No obvious markings when the bird is in flight. Found on coastal mudflats and sandy intertidal zones. Found in Darwin in Dalirrgang, Balnba, Dalay and early Mayilema.

White eyebrow

Plain grey

Grey chest

Yellow legs

25cm

MIGRATORY SHOREBIRDS
Terek Sandpiper

Small migratory shorebird with a bill that curves upward, has bright orange legs. Found on coastal mudflats and sandy intertidal zones. Found in Darwin in Dalirrgang, Balnba, Dalay and early Mayilema.

Upturned bill with orange base

White belly

Orange legs

23cm

MIGRATORY SHOREBIRDS
Whimbrel

Medium migratory shorebird that is a smaller version of a Far Eastern Curlew. The Whimbrel has a smaller bill and is smaller all over. White triangle on its back/rump in flight. Found on coastal mudflats and sandy intertidal zones. Found in Darwin in Dalirrgang, Balnba, Dalay and early Mayilema.

Dark cap on head

Eye stripe

White rump

Down-curved bill half as long as Eastern Curlew

42cm

RESIDENT SHOREBIRDS
Beach Stone-Curlew

Large resident shorebird with a thick bill with yellow at the base, big yellow eye, yellow legs, white patches on the wings in flight. Commonly found on its own or in pairs. Found on coastal mudflats, sandy intertidal zones, beaches and rocky reefs. Found in Darwin all seasons, breeds on sandy beaches from late Mayilema to early Balnba.

Plain brown back

Massive bill

Yellow legs

54cm

RESIDENT SHOREBIRDS
Black-winged Stilt

Large resident shorebird. Distinctive black and white bird with long red/pink legs, long neck, black plumage at back of head and neck, juvenile has black feathers around the eye and top of head. Found on coastal mudflats, some beaches and freshwater wetlands. Found in Darwin all seasons, breeds in freshwater wetlands.

Black back

White belly

Red legs

37cm

RESIDENT SHOREBIRDS
Masked Lapwing

Medium resident shorebird. Common plover found around urban areas, grassy ovals and coastal mudflats and wetlands. Masked Lapwing has spikes on its wings, but they are not venomous. In northern Australia the lapwing does not have a black plumage around the neck. Found in Darwin all seasons.

Brown and black wings

Yellow bill and face

White belly

33cm

RESIDENT SHOREBIRDS
Pied Oystercatcher

Large resident shorebird. Distinctive black and white bird with short red legs, red eye, red bill, short neck. Commonly found on its own or in pairs. Found on coastal mudflats, beaches and sandy intertidal zones.

Black head, back and chest

Red bill and legs

46cm

WATERBIRDS
Australian Gull-billed Tern

Medium tern, slightly bigger than a Silver Gull. White plumage all over, black cap, short and chunky bill. Found on coastal mudflats and sandy intertidal zones. Found in Darwin all seasons.

Black cap

Thick bill

35cm

WATERBIRDS
Common Gull-billed Tern

Medium tern, smaller and shorter than the Australian Gull-billed Tern. Breeds in Asia and migrates to Australia. Does not have the black cap when it's in Australia. Found on coastal mudflats and sandy intertidal zones. Found in Darwin in Dalirrgang, Balnba, Dalay and early Mayilema.

Black dot behind eye

33cm

WATERBIRDS
Great Egret

Largest egret, all white bird with s-shaped neck, yellow bill and black legs. Most common in Darwin Harbour. Found in freshwater wetlands, coastal mudflats, and sandy intertidal zones. Found in Darwin all seasons.

"S" Shaped neck

Yellow-orange bill

Black legs

92cm tall

WATERBIRDS
Little Egret

Smallest egret, all white bird with black bill and black legs. Found on coastal mudflats and sandy intertidal zones. Found in Darwin all seasons.

Black bill

Black legs

60cm tall

WATERBIRDS
Little Tern

Migratory tern. Smallest tern, all white with a black cap on its head, yellow bill and yellow legs. Often in flocks, diving-bombing to catch fish, can be an indicator of good fishing spots. Found on coastal mudflats and sandy intertidal zones. Found in Darwin in Dalirrgang, Balnba, Dalay and early Mayilema.

Black cap

White and grey

Yellow and black bill

Short legs

25cm

WATERBIRDS
Pied Heron

Large heron with dark navy blue and white plumage, white neck, yellow bill and legs. Often feeding at the edge of the water following the tide. Found in freshwater wetlands, coastal mudflats and sandy intertidal zones. Found in Darwin all seasons.

Blue cap on head and wings

Yellow bill

White chest

Yellow legs

49cm tall

WATERBIRDS
Reef Egret Grey

Large heron/egret grey all over with a dark bill and yellow legs. Stocky/chunky appearance. Found on mangroves, coastal mudflats and sandy intertidal zones. Found in Darwin all seasons. Breeds on rocky cliffs and in mangroves.

Grey all over

Yellow bill

Yellow legs

62cm tall

WATERBIRDS
Reef Egret White

Large heron/egret white all over with a dark bill and yellow legs. Stocky bird looks like other white egrets, but with chunky legs and bill. Found on mangroves, coastal mudflats and sandy intertidal zones. Found in Darwin all seasons. Breeds on rocky cliffs and in mangroves.

White all over

Thick yellow legs

62cm tall

WATERBIRDS
Silver Gull

Waterbird, only gull found in northern Australia. White all over with light grey wings and black wing tips. Has red bill and red legs. Plumage varies in colour based on their age with young birds appearing spotty. Found on coastal mudflats and sandy intertidal zones. Found in Darwin all seasons. Breeds on offshore islands.

White and grey

Red bill

Red legs

40cm

WATERBIRDS
Whiskered Tern

Small tern, some are migratory and some stay in Australia all year. Mostly white with some light grey on wings and sometimes with a black belly. Short body and short legs. Has a black cap but this varies. Commonly found in flocks with other terns. Found in freshwater wetlands, rivers and creeks, coastal mudflats and sandy intertidal zones. Found in Darwin all seasons.

Grey and white

Red or black bill

Red legs

26cm

WATERBIRDS
White-winged Black Tern

Small tern, migratory, breeds in Asia and migrates to Australia. Mostly white with some light grey on wings and sometimes with a black belly, head and back in breeding plumage. Short body and short legs. Looks like Whiskered Tern but has ear muffs. Found on coastal mudflats and sandy intertidal zones. Found in Darwin in Dalirrgang, Balnba, Dalay and early Mayilema.

"Ear muffs" black behind eye

Dark white and grey

Black legs

25cm

RAPTORS
Brahminy Kite

Coastal raptor with chestnut wings and body but with a white chest, neck and head. Most commonly seen flying over mangroves or over the mudflat. Found around mangroves, coastal mudflats and sandy intertidal zones. Found in Darwin all seasons.

White head and body

Chestnut back and wings

48cm tall

RAPTORS
White-bellied Sea-eagle

Coastal raptor with white body and head and grey on the wings and tail, upswep wings in flight. Culturally important to Larrakia People, totem to some Larrakia family groups. Found around mangroves, coastal mudflats and sandy intertidal zones. Found in Darwin all seasons.

White head and belly

Grey wings

80cm tall

COLOUR KEY

Gulumoerrgin (Larrakia) Seasons

MIGRATORY SHOREBIRDS Breed outside of Australia	DALAY (monsoon season) January, February, March	MAYILEMA (Speargrass, goose egg & knock'em down season) March, April	DAMIBILA (Barramundi & bush fruit time) April, May, June	DINIJANGGAMA (Heavy dew time) June, July, August	GURRULWA GULIGI (Big wind time) July, August, September	DALIRRGANG (Build up) September, October	BALNBA (Rainy season) November, December
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LARRAKIA RANGERS work on saltwater country generally around Darwin Harbour and Shoal Bay but Larrakia country extends down to the Finniss River and Manton Dam and along the coast. Larrakia People are saltwater people and there are many culturally significant sites around Darwin Harbour. The Larrakia Rangers work on lots of different work including coastal patrols and monitoring shorebirds. These are the common birds we have found on the shoreline during shorebird surveys. Some of these coastal birds we work on are endangered or threatened. In this booklet the threatened species status of each bird is based on the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999.

In this poster we have listed migratory shorebirds, resident shorebirds, coastal waterbirds and coastal raptors. Some of the birds that visit Darwin each year breed in the northern hemisphere in Siberia, Alaska and northern China, they then fly to Australia where they spend the summer season on the coastline feeding on shellfish in the mud at low tide.

In Darwin Harbour when the tide is falling from 3m the mud is exposed and that's when the birds are out on the mudflat. If you access the harbour by boat, you can see these birds as the tide falls but be careful to not get stuck in the mud!

We thank BirdLife Australia (artist: Jeff Davies) for providing images of migratory and resident shorebirds. Thanks to Charles Darwin University for funding this booklet. This project received support from the Australian Government's National Environmental Science Program through the Threatened Species Recovery Hub. Thanks to Santos for funding research on wildlife in Darwin Harbour in 2020.

Thanks to the Larrakia artists, Jason Lee and Mim Cole for collaborating with us, and John Girham for graphic design and layout of the booklet. Thanks to Amanda Lilleyman for coordinating this project.

"You have come by way of the Larrakia land. You will hear the voice of Larrakia ancestors. When you leave, the Larrakia message will stay with you."
The late Reverend Walter Fejo.

BirdLife Australia's Migratory Shorebird Conservation Action Plan aims to protect migratory shorebirds and their habitat; conserve wetland habitats; reduce anthropogenic threats to shorebirds; and provide knowledge on shorebird ecology to decision-makers to better manage and protect shorebirds. We are working with BirdLife Australia to help fulfil the aims of the Conservation Action Plan. BirdLife Australia birdlife.org.au/shorebirds

Larrakia Nation Land and Sea Rangers
<http://larrakia.com/services/larrakia-rangers/>
Contact: Ranger.manager@larrakia.com 08 89484685