

LAND RIGHTS NEWS

NORTHERN EDITION



NORTHERN
LAND COUNCIL

FREE

WET SEASON 2022-2023 NLC.ORG.AU



**NATIVE TITLE SUCCESS FOR
NATHAN RIVER, LORELLA &
BILLENGARRAH**



**NLC CHAIRMAN NAMED NT
AUSTRALIAN OF THE YEAR 2023**

AUSTRALIA'S OLDEST ABORIGINAL NEWSPAPER. SINCE 1973.

EDITORIAL

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FRONT COVER

Main image: Students involved in the Learning on Country program celebrating the 10 Year Anniversary of the Learning on Country program at Nitmiluk National Park.

Bottom Left: Bobby Nunggumajbarr and Tina Tonson

Bottom Right: NLC Chair Samuel Bush-Blanasi (© Salty Dingo)

A message from the Northern Land Council Chairman Samuel Bush-Blanasi

WELCOME to the last edition of Land Rights News for 2022.

In late October I had the great honour of accepting – on behalf of the Council Members, staff and constituents of the NLC and all Territorians – the award of 2023 NT Australian of the Year.

As I said when the Chief Minister presented me with this award, I look forward to using this platform to talk about things that I've spent my life working on, in particular in my time with the Northern Land Council as a member, Deputy Chair and over the course of three terms as Chair.

I want to talk about the importance of education for our children and how we support this through one of the NLC's most important programs - Learning on Country (LoC) which is going from strength to strength. LoC provides a pathway from secondary school to work on country with local Aboriginal ranger groups.

Earlier this year I joined 13 LoC schools on country at Nitmiluk National Park to celebrate the ten-year anniversary of the program. It was a great week made all the better with the announcement the LoC program would be funded for another six years. From the lessons learnt from LoC in the NT I would like to see it rolled out across Australia.

I also look forward to spreading the good news about the Blue Mud Bay sea rights case. It has been a hard slog since the High Court handed down its landmark decision in 2008 that recognised our rights to our sea country across more than 80% (soon to be more than 90%) of the NT coastline.

This year we finally started seeing real progress with the creation of the Aboriginal Sea Company (ASC) which will empower Aboriginal Traditional Owners of sea country to be actively engaged in the commercial fishing and aquaculture industries. As I said earlier this year when the ASC was announced, "Aboriginal people are much closer to being in control of what happens in their own waters now." I look forward to continuing the promotion of Aboriginal sea rights over the next twelve months.

I have also been a strong advocate for increasing Aboriginal voter participation in Territory and Federal elections. We lobbied against



NT Chief Minister Natasha Fyles and NLC Chair Samuel Bush-Blanasi.
Image © Salty Dingo

the terrible Voter ID laws last year which would have been harmful for Aboriginal people in remote communities and we succeeded in getting them dropped.

Unfortunately, the 2022 Federal election saw very poor voter participation in the Northern Territory generally and in remote parts of the NT in particular. This means as many as 25,000 Territorians are unenrolled. I will hold the Government to account to "close the gap" in enrolment and participation rates between urban and remote areas of the NT and the rest of Australia.

Family is everything to me and I know most Aboriginal people feel the same. In my acceptance speech, I said this award is dedicated to NLC staff and Members and to a severely disabled member of my own family, who provides me with daily inspiration and strength.

I also want to use my time as NT Australian of the Year to focus on how we look after disabled people out bush. We must do better. Earlier this year the Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability looked at the experiences of First Nations children with disability generally and in out-of-home care, especially in the Northern Territory.

Many Aboriginal people with a disability live in remote communities and homelands and I want to raise awareness and ensure they get the services they need. For more information about this most important Royal Commission go to: ourroyalcommission.com.au/about/

During the COVID-19 pandemic,

my priority was protecting our old people as they were most at risk. I made sure NLC was very strong in getting the message out that our families and Elders were at the heart of keeping our communities safe during those difficult days.

In my acceptance speech I also spoke about the importance of recognising Aboriginal people in the Australian Constitution and the proposed referendum. This is about our future as a nation. White men wrote the Constitution over a hundred years ago. There was no Aboriginal voice.

The referendum and Voice to Parliament means we have a say on things that affect us. It means there would never be another Intervention. We must have a greater say and share this country we call Australia. I know that with goodwill and hard work we will get there in the end if we all work together.

Finally, in 2023 the NLC will commemorate and celebrate its 50th anniversary. The first meeting of the Northern Land Council took place on 25 and 26 September 1973 when 26 delegates met in Darwin to set the course of Aboriginal self-determination and land rights. We'll have more information in the New Year about the series of exciting events we have planned. Watch this space!

A lot has happened over the past 12 months but there is a lot to look forward to in 2023. I hope everyone has time to have a break over Christmas and enjoy time with friends and family.

Stay safe!

A message from Joe Martin-Jard, the Northern Land Council CEO



NLC CEO Joe Martin-Jard

When I look back on the past year and reflect on where we have come from and what we have achieved, I am incredibly proud of the Northern Land Council.

THIS time last year we were about to enter the darkest days of COVID-19. We went into almost complete lockdown from December to March. Our only priority was to safeguard the health and wellbeing of our Council Members, staff and Aboriginal people across the NLC's seven regions.

The Chairman was tireless and relentless in his efforts to buy time to get more of our people vaccinated. Thanks largely to his efforts, the NT and Federal Governments introduced biosecurity zones across the Northern Territory restricting travel between remote communities.

The Chair and I, as the Accountable Authority, introduced strict rules for staff vaccinations, meetings and permits. These were lifted recently following the decision of National Cabinet to end mandatory isolation requirements.

With the threat of COVID easing, in late March we hosted three ceremonies for the handback of Aboriginal land in one day – in the morning at Mataranka land was handed back to the Traditional Owners of Urapunga and Old Elsey Station; in the afternoon, 4 land claims in Kakadu National Park were handed back to 14 estate group in a

wonderful ceremony held at Cooida.

That day represented a real turning point. There are now only a few dozen land claims left under the Land Rights Act.

We are moving through the transition from an era focused on land rights to one increasingly focused on activating land rights.

A good example of this was the establishment of the Aboriginal Sea Company in February. This is about realising the full potential of the High Court's 2008 Blue Mud Bay decision. The Aboriginal Sea Company has a majority Aboriginal controlled board and its purpose is to support the participation of Traditional Owners in commercial fishing, aquaculture and other opportunities.

In August this year the Executive Councils of the four Northern Territory Land Councils came together at Kalkarindji in a historic meeting coinciding with the anniversary of the Wave Hill Walk Off.

The four Executive Councils passed joint resolutions on a number of matters including support for the Voice, Constitutional Recognition and the Uluru Statement from the Heart.

Finally, I should mention another piece of history that happened this year with the establishment of the Northern Territory Aboriginal Investment Corporation (NTAIC).

This was the centrepiece of reforms to the Land Rights Act passed by the Parliament in December last year.

This is historic because for the first time in its 70-year history, Aboriginal people will have control over payments from the ABA. The

last meeting of the ABA Advisory Committee (ABAAC) was held in late October.

The NTAIC commenced operations on 15 November, ahead of its official launch in March 2023.

As we head into 2023, we are holding elections for our Full Council.

Our new Full Council will commence its 3-year term when it meets on 5th to 9th December in Katherine.

So, 2023 will be another big year with a new Full Council and the new ABA Corporation. As I said, I am incredibly proud of our achievements this year.

Next year is also the 50th anniversary of the NLC's first meeting on the 25th and 26th of September 1973.

As we reflect on the last 50 years, the NLC is proud of its history fighting for land rights. But the fight is not over. Now we are thinking

about the next 50 years.

This year our Executive Council started a project I alluded to above called 'Activating Land Rights'.

This expression comes from former long-serving NLC Chair and Australian of the Year, Dr Galarrwuy Yunupingu AM.

What this means is realising the full cultural, social and economic potential of Traditional Owners' rights and interests in Aboriginal land, sea and waters.

So, there is a lot more work to be done.

But one thing will never change – the aspiration of Traditional Owners and Aboriginal people in the NLC region and across Australia will always be at the heart of the NLC and everything we do.

I wish you all the best for 2023. Take care over the break and stay safe!

MOZZIE? MOZZIE? MOZZIE?

NO! NO! NO!





TRY TO STOP MOZZIES BITING YOU!

Try to wear long, loose fitting clothes to cover up.

Fix and close the screens where you sleep, like homes and tents.

Apply effective mozzie repellent containing DEET, Picardian or oil of lemon eucalyptus.

Outside: light mosquito coils or use zappers!

Tip out any water around your home that doesn't flow--where mozzies can breed!

Voices from the bush



"I'm retired now and I live at my own outstation so all these workers here with me, they are still working with the Maningrida Fisheries and carrying on our vision into the future. So, thank you all for being here and inviting us."

Don Wilton, Maningrida Fisheries, Baniyala, 30 July 2022



"I'm really happy for this because it recognizes the voices of the old people – this is our cultural system that is still alive through their voices, their words and their knowledge. That's all I want to talk. Thank you."

Gwen Lansen, Native Title Consent Determination, Ngukurr, 9 August 2022



"You think about the phrase - Happy as Larry – and that was him. He loved to have a laugh and a joke."

Victor Johns talking about his late father, long-term NLC member Larry Johns



"I just come here for the Billengarra people and I'm really happy for family to see we've got that native title for that land back now, which is good, you know. So I congratulate everybody from all the groups here today. Thank you."

John Pluto, Native Title Consent Determination, Ngukurr, 9 August 2022

Who's reading *Land Rights News*?



Member of the Northern Territory Legislative Assembly Eva Lawler and Joy Cardona



J-Milla & Yung Milla at Garma Festival



Peter Lansen at Native Title ceremony, Ngukurr

Native Title success for Nathan River, Lorella and Billengarrah

Celebrating Native Title wins over 10,000km2 of country on Nathan River, Lorella and Billengarrah pastoral leases.

IN June 2021 the Federal Court recognised traditional owners' claims to their Native Title rights over vast swathes of the NT Gulf country on the Lorella, Billengarah and Nathan River pastoral leases.

It wasn't until the Covid-19 restrictions were lifted earlier this year that traditional owners could gather to celebrate their historic wins in a momentous ceremony at Ngukurr. But, like all NLC meetings this was a "COVID-19 Safe Event" and everyone was reminded in advance not to attend if they had flu-like symptoms like a cough, sore throat or fever.

NLC members Bobby Nungumajbarr and Peter Lansen asked the meeting to pay their respects to the senior traditional owners who worked on these native title claims but had since passed away.

Bobby read out a statement from the NLC Chair, Samuel Bush-Blansi. "This is why the NLC does what it does and fights so hard for the rights of traditional owners and custodians – not just because some mununga law says we have to but because we will always put your rights, your interests, first."

Special mention was given to Gordon Nawundulpi, Walter Rogers and Alan Watson among others who worked with the NLC's anthropologists and lawyers

to make sure the right stories were told to the Court to show connections to country.

Staff noted that for Billengarrah Robert O'Keefe, Douglas Pluto, Timson Lansen, Jerome Pluto, Desmon Lansen and Asman Rory needed to be recognised.

For Lorella that includes Jacob Riley, Rex Isaac, Gordon Nawundulpi, Julie Limmen Millar, Henry Nungumajbarr, and old Julaba Namamurdirdi and for Nathan River that included Peter Lansen, Grace Daniels, Yvonne Forrest, Damien Tonson, Julie Limmen, Denis Watson and David John.

Bobby Nungumajbarr then gave the microphone over to native title holders from each of the groups.

Gordon Nawundulpi gave an impassioned speech, noting, "we are all cultural people."

"We've all got ceremony, from this way [to the south] or from Minyerri. We all got one connection, you mob, no matter who you are, wannim tribe, wannim language you, we all got our identity, my people and we are all cultural people!"

Gwen Lansen spoke up for the old people and the strength of knowledge and culture, "I'm really happy for this because it recognizes the voices of the old people – this is our cultural system that is still alive through their voices, their words and their knowledge. That's all I want to talk. Thank you."

NLC member and Native Title holder Peter Lansen spoke of his vision for the future, "As a Murrungun man from Baluganda I say congratulations to all the clans, to all the clans. But we aren't stopping here! I always push hard at the land

council meetings because we want to be a part of that. We want an IPA (Indigenous Protected Area) – we

want an IPA in place so we can have our own (Aboriginal) Rangers."



Alan Watson



Gordon Nawundulpi

The following Native Title holding groups were represented:

- Budal Riley** (Lorella & Nathan River)
- Burdal Mingkanyi** (Nathan River)
- Mambali Walangara** (Lorella & Nathan River)
- Mambali Ngubayin** (Nathan River)
- Murrungun Baluganda/
- Langgaban** (Nathan River)
- Guyal Manaburru** (Nathan River)
- Wurdaliya
- Garambarini** (Billengarrah)

- Mambali Nangguya** (Nathan River & Billengarrah)
- Murrungun Wunubari** (Lorella, Nathan River & Billengarrah)
- Rrumburriya Ngurru/**
- Jawuma** (Billengarrah)

The total area of land over which Native Title was granted on the Lorella, Billengarah & Nathan River pastoral leases was 9,660.5 km²

What does it mean to be strong on country?

Learning on Country celebrates 10 years

IN August, 13 Learning on Country (LoC) schools came together on country at Nitmiluk National Park to celebrate the ten-year anniversary of the Learning on Country Program. Students, teachers, principals, steering committee, Cultural Advisors and Rangers, took the time to recognise the achievements of the ten years strong program.

The LoC Steering Committee came together during the celebration and elected two Co-Chairs—Cindy Jinmarabynana and Danny Dangadanga—who will lead the committee for the next 12 months.

On the first day of the celebration it was announced that the Learning on Country program received an additional six years of funding.

A spokesperson from NIAA announced \$29 million dollars of funding to ensure the program can strengthen and expand over the next six years to 2028.

So what does it mean to be “strong on country?”

This question was asked of the attendees during the Strong Men and Strong Women sessions.

There were both men's and women's yarning circles that tackled this question, exploring leadership in communities.

For the participants being strong on country meant many different things, here's some ideas that came up during the sessions:

- Listening to others with no judgement
- Dancing
- Taking kids on out on country
- Story telling with elders
- Painting
- Helping one another

These sessions proved to be an amazing opportunity for all the men and women at the forum to come together, share, and connect with one another.

The students who attended our ten-year celebration had the opportunity to take part in workshops and discussions.

The ten-year celebration was wrapped up on the final night and enjoyed a range of 'Jawoyn Street-Food' cooked by Nitmiluk Tours. This was made extra-special by rocking out to live music next to the beautiful Nitmiluk National Park.

Don't forget to follow the Learning on Country Program Facebook Page www.facebook.com/LearningOnCountryProgram/



NLC Chair Samuel Bush-Blanasi



Djilpin Arts Dancers



Timmy Duggan speaking with students



Edwina Murphy and Laneise Hall



Students learning in Nitmiluk National Park



Jawoyn Ranger Max Patrick



Learning on Country 2022 Steering Committee: L-R Top: Bobby Wunungmurra , Gathapura Munungurr, Rrawun Maymuru, Danny Dangadanga (Co-Chair), Joseph Diddo. L-R Seated: Rosetta Wayatja, Hilda Ngalmi, Cindy Jinmarabynana (Co-Chair), Jennifer Yantarrnga, Sifora Durrunga, Linda Williams.

“This is about the country ... This is what we are here for.”



In late July 2022 the Northern Land Council joined the Djalkiripuyngu—the “footprint people” from northern Blue Mud Bay—at Baniyala to celebrate the 14th anniversary of the High Court’s 2008 Blue Mud Bay decision.

FOLLOWING an impressive and welcoming bunggul performance by the community, Djambawa Marawili AM explained the significance of the day to the Djalkiripuyngu of Baniyala.

“It is really important to have a little bit of recognition, recognition of our sea rights. This is not about money, this is not about royalties. This is about the country. Country that has been alive, whether it is in the sea or on the land. It is about recognising those people who own those countries. This is what we are here for.”

Following a performance by the Royal Australian Navy’s Bungaree Dance Troupe, Navy Commodore Mal Rice spoke about the developing links between the Royal Australian Navy and land and sea country owners around the Australian coastline, especially the Yolngu of north-east Arnhem Land.

Rice talked about a meeting between Djambawa and the then Chief of Navy, Vice-Admiral Mike Noonan, on country at Baniyala to talk about what it meant to be a truly Australian Navy and to use the sea that had been cared for and owned by the Yolngu for tens of thousands of years.

Evidence of emerging links between traditional knowledge of sea country with modern technology was the graduation ceremony of a number Baniyala community members from their studies in the maritime program run by the Charles Darwin University. David Cubis from CDU presented a number of coxswain certificates to local graduates and recognised the role of the principals from the Baniyala School.

Kirsten Morley, principal at Baniyala School talked about the importance of the strong vision and support provided by the community to the students.

“Sea rights and sea country is our future and so are our kids and it is with great privilege that I am here to recognise the work of previous principals and teachers. These students have worked really hard but also had such strong support from the Yirralka rangers, from CDU and of course from their families and the community,” said Ms Morley.

NLC Chairman Samuel Bush-Blanasi thanked Djambawa and the Djalkiripuyngu families for inviting him and NLC staff to Baniyala. He congratulated Djambawa and his family: “You’ve done well. Djambawa, you won a High Court case with all the family that have passed on and you have made us all proud. The Northern Land Council will always stand side-by-side with you.”



“A voice for the people of Kulumindini” a new NLC regional office for the Barkly region.

Earlier this month Traditional Owners and custodians for the Barkly Tableland regional centre of Kulumindini (also known as Elliott) came together to celebrate the opening of the new Northern Land Council office in the suburb of Gurungu.

KULUMINDINI Traditional owner Heather Wilson welcomed everyone to her homeland and recognised that the new building represented a great opportunity for landowners and community members to realise their long-held ambitions for their town and country.

NLC Chairman Samuel Bush-Blanasi told the meeting that Kulumindini had been all but forgotten by governments for too long. “But now this office can provide a voice for the people of Kulumindini. An important thing about this office is that it is built on Aboriginal land – the Gurungu Aboriginal Land Trust.”

NLC CEO, Joe Martin-Jard told the meeting that the NLC could see a lot of economic opportunities coming up around Kulumindini, including more resource companies, but also tourism and the NLC is working hard to get support for Traditional Owners to explore those opportunities.

Member for Lingiari and former NLC CEO Marion Scrymgour talked about the history of the area. “What people often forget is that the first walk-off of Aboriginal stockmen and women actually occurred at Newcastle Waters station just up the road. This country is a very important part of the history of the

Northern Land Council.”

Jack Green, a member of the NLC’s Borrooloola Barkly Regional Council, also reflected on local history. “I was really young when I first came through here, probably 16 or 17, and we saw all the old people living in tents. They had come in from Anthony Lagoon and Cresswell stations after they got kicked off of there. It means a lot to me, this place.”

Rosanna De Santis, the NLC’s Regionalisation Project Manager who ran the refurbishment project recognised the significance of the new building.

Ms De Santis told *Land Rights News* that: “There will be three NLC divisions that will operate from here – the Caring for Country mob, our Regional Development branch and also our Minerals and Resources team, who will all have a focus on employment and economic development.”

The NLC’s Kulumindini Regional Office is located at Lot 226 Ijibarda Street, Gurnungu (North Camp), Kulumindini (Elliott).
Phone: 08 8963 3507
Or contact the NLC Head Office: 08 8920 5100



Senior Traditional Owner Heather Wilson



Borrooloola/Barkly Regional Council member Jack Green



NLC members, Kulumindini Traditional Owners and friends

Garngi rangers – the NLC's eyes and ears on the Arafura Sea

The Northern Land Council's Garngi ranger group operate out of Minjilang on Croker Island 200km north-east of Darwin and manage the land and coastal waters around Croker Island.

THE rangers carry out regular boat patrols in the region to look out for any illegal or suspicious fishing activities. Like many of the ranger groups operating across the northern coast of Australia, they are the eyes and the ears for regulators and law enforcement in this area. The rangers also look for marine litter including ghost nets.

On a recent patrol they set out to investigate a reported infestation of an invasive weed, *Mimosa pigra* that had earlier been spotted by the North Australian Quarantine Service while conducting an animal survey by helicopter.

Like all of the NLC ranger groups, the Garngi Rangers work closely with their neighbouring ranger groups and a variety of Territory and Federal agencies, including Quarantine, the NT Police and NT Fisheries.

Near Cape Croker the Garngi patrol spotted a vessel anchored close to mouth of the creek near the lighthouse and the rangers were concerned that this vessel was anchored above a sacred site. The vessel was a large guided fishing operator with three small tenders.

On this day the Garngi patrol was unsuccessful in initiating any further investigation for the alleged transgression on the sacred site but were able to use this event to assess how they could do better next time.

Since that event they have started working more closely with the NT Water Police, NT Fisheries and the NLC's Caring for Country Compliance Team, in order to gather the right kind of evidence that could support a prosecution in the future.

With the assistance of the Caring for Country Compliance team the Garngi rangers designed and installed a number of Information signs around Croker Island and the adjacent outer islands that will put fishers on notice as to where they can go and what areas they should avoid.



Garngi Rangers Sabrina Wauchope and Katrin Marranbya installing signage at the Timor Springs turn off



Garngi Ranger Group Coordinator Bryan Macdonald and Charles Darwin University researcher Natalie Robinson

Wagiman Rangers – a burning ambition to improve management of the Wagiman and Upper Daly Aboriginal Land Trusts



A Wagiman Ranger undertaking land management through controlled burning

Since 2021, the Northern Land Council's Wagiman Rangers have been working closer with their communities, neighbouring Ranger groups, local non-Aboriginal land managers and land-owners and external consultants and scientists to establish a sustainable fire and land management regime throughout their traditional lands.

LIKE many Aboriginal land managers across the Top End of the NT the Wagiman Rangers take responsibility and care not just for land that may be within an Aboriginal Land Trust established under the Land Rights Act or that may be subject to a Native Title determination—but all land within their traditional country.

In 2020 the Wagiman rangers and communities started work on the Wagiman/Upper Daly Savanna

Fire/Carbon Project. There have been many delays—particularly by the COVID-19 pandemic—that have slowed progress but the Wagiman are determined and look forward to finalisation of this project in the coming months.

The motivation for the project came from a community desire to change the destructive pattern of wildfires that have torn across the land trusts and neighbouring land in recent years, changing them from frequent late dry season hot fires, to earlier cooler and patcher burns.

Similar projects exist in Arnhem Land through the Arnhem Land Fire Abatement (ALFA) project, and closer with projects that the Thamarurr and Jawoyn Rangers had developed. It is hoped that eventually an ALFA-type program will be established in the Darwin Daly region.

Another important factor has been to continue to build bridges with pastoral leases to enhance effective fire management—a sore point in the past as non-communicating neighbours have tended to point the finger over the fence when late dry season wildfires rage across the landscape.

The Wagiman community, that represents traditional owners on the Wagiman and Upper Daly Aboriginal

Land Trusts, are keen to participate in initiatives that will promote the employment of young Aboriginal people and create opportunities for self-sustainability and long-term self-governance so that Wagiman people can get back onto and look after their country.

The Wagiman community realised that improved fire management could lead to the empowerment of the groups and the communities that they represent. Wagiman Rangers are proud to be part of this movement.



Smoke rises from a controlled burn



A burn in full swing

Bulgul Rangers install sea country signs

The Bulgul Land and Sea Rangers installed their first Aboriginal sea country sign at Dundee Beach on 14 July to educate the public about fishing access and encourage fishing compliance in the Finnis River area southwest of Darwin.

THE rangers, whose base is located within the Bulgul Community,

manage land and sea country across the Delissavale/Wagait/Larrakia Aboriginal Land Trust. The new sign will help to educate the public about fishing access and encourage fishing compliance in the Finnis River area. Bulgul Ranger Coordinator Timothy Burr Burr said "This is a great educational tool for the wider public to understand where our borders are, and which areas they can and can't go". "I'm happy it's done and I'm looking forward to the next step." Similar signage was installed by the rangers at Channel Point in September.



Marine rangers take hands-on training in fisheries compliance

First Nations rangers from across the Top End are training to become certified in fisheries compliance, learning valuable and practical skills through Charles Darwin University's (CDU) recently launched Certificate III in Fisheries Compliance course.

RANGERS are learning about legislation and how to monitor fish catches for legal compliance, record fishing operations and exercise compliance powers, as well as routine communication and administrative tasks. The course runs over a year in four, one-week theory blocks, with hands-on training and monitoring in between. NT Minister for Agribusiness and Fisheries Paul Kirby said the course adds an important step in educating marine rangers and ultimately the wider community about important fisheries legislation. "This course will provide important steps to develop and improve our fisheries sector, and



Marine rangers and trainers from CDU participate in the Certificate III in Fisheries Compliance course

will ensure essential knowledge is shared to our marine rangers, who provide a key role in protecting and maintaining a high quality in our fisheries," he said. The course has seen enrolments from ranger groups across the Top End, including Maningrida, Wadeye, Yirrkala and Bulgul. CDU Maritime Training Coordinator and Lecturer Paul

Williams is one of the trainers in the program and said industry expertise was a key feature. "First Nations rangers are invited to share their own knowledge and management processes with industry trainers, so that we're working together as a team to improve overall fisheries compliance in the Territory," Mr Williams said. Mr Williams said the course

supported vital First Nations knowledge about marine management practices. "Marine rangers already have unique knowledge when it comes to fishing practices on Country," he said. The Certificate III in Fisheries Compliance is provided in a joint training initiative of the Australian, state and territory governments.

Walking together in managing our parks

Since the first agreement over Territory parks 30 years ago at Nitmiluk—between Traditional Owners and the NT Parks and Wildlife Commission—there has been little coordinated planning, often poor management, and mixed government response to Aboriginal peoples inclusion to park management.

IN late August, the NLC Joint Management Forum sought a more effective way forward. The Forum brought together Traditional Owners representing all the Parks and Reserves in the NLC's region under joint management. The Forum was also attended by senior staff from the Parks and Wildlife Commission. It provided an opportunity to reset the relationship between Joint Management partners. It was the first time Traditional Owners were directly consulted about the draft Parks Masterplan, a 30-year vision for the Parks. NLC Chairman, Mr Bush-Blanasi opened the Forum by stating that only by "walking together" can true joint management be achieved. He stressed that the partnership cannot repeat the

mistakes of the past. Traditional Owners shared their experiences of what has and hasn't worked well in partnership with NT Parks, and had many ideas on how park management and how it could be improved. This includes flexible employment and time on country with family, respect for Aboriginal decision-making and training in governance, cultural awareness an involving the next generation in the joint management process. Traditional Owners were frustrated with poor communication, lack of consultation, support and resources for joint management committees. Everyone agreed that joint management is difficult but worthwhile, yet a lot needs to change to make it really work. Executive Director of Parks, Ms Sally Egan, attended the Forum. She said the Northern Territory Government is developing a new Masterplan that will provide a clear long-term vision for the future of the Territory's parks and reserves for the next 30 years. She announced that more funds will be available for joint management partners. Traditional Owners emphasised the need to be brought along at all stages of park management, including decisions on how this new money is spent. Based on feedback, the NLC has written a submission on the draft Parks Masterplan, available at the NLC website. The submission lists a number of recommendations, including the development of an Aboriginal regional governance group that has a voice to Parks decision

makers and the Minister. The key message from the forum was the need for Traditional Owners

and NT Parks to walk together to care for country for the benefit of current and future generations.



Senior Wardaman Traditional Owner Bill Harney and forum participants



Representatives from Judbarra/Gregory and Keep River National Parks.



Caring for Country Joint Management Forum group, Katherine

From Arnhem Land to the desert – 'Strong Women means Healthy Country'



Stronger Women for Healthy Country 2022 at Ross River

"We are strong Indigenous women of the Northern Territory. We stand united as one strong voice. We commit to a network that gives equal power to the rights of all our women. Strong Women means Healthy Country."

THE Strong Women for Healthy Country Network, with the support of Mimal Land Management, was initiated by women involved in Aboriginal ranger programs in 2019. Aboriginal healers, artists, and community workers were invited to join the conversation.

Women at this Forum, held in Arnhem Land at Bawurrbarnda Outstation, identified a number of challenges women face in Caring for Country, both at community and organisational levels.

At the 2021 Forum at Banatjarl, on Jawoyn Country, women set out how they would like to support each

other through strong advocacy, communication, collaboration, and governance.

"The most important message for us to give this forum is to share how Indigenous women can implement governance in a traditional context," said Shantelle Miller, Dalabon Arrernte woman, artist and network advocate.

Collaborative healing will be supported by the Arrernte expertise of the Akeyulerre Healing Centre, based in Mparntwe.

"What we want to see is strong Aboriginal women leading and encouraging other mob too.

Exchanging views, exchanging ideas about where we're at and what we can do," said Amelia Turner from Akeyulerre.

The art space will build on cumulative sculptural artworks from the previous two forums, while singer songwriters Dr Shellie Morris and Danielle Caruana (Mama Kin) will host a community choir song writing workshop.

"Last year, I was part of the event and saw the impact elevating the voices of these women and giving them agency over their own solutions for Country and community. I firmly believe in this process as a way forward that will have flow on effects to the greater community," said Dr Shellie Morris.

Calling for workshops to address

the systemic issues women face, Our Watch, an independent not-for-profit, and a national leader in the primary prevention of violence against women and their children,

will deliver workshops while the NT Child and Youth Mental Health Team will support women to draw on their connection to culture, spirit and mind to build self-care wellbeing plans.

After many years of development, there

was a heightened sense of pride and anticipation leading into this event as an incredible number of NT Aboriginal women congregate to continue to drive their network into the future.



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Roper Gulf Regional Council's Community Grant program: A decade of supporting community wellbeing and culture

In late September 2022 Roper Gulf Regional Council Mayor Tony Jack announced the latest recipients of grants in the council's 2022/23 program.

"WE are extremely proud to support initiatives that deliver a range of social and economic benefits to communities across the Roper Gulf region. We are also proud of the ongoing partnerships we have created with local community groups, organisations and clubs and the opportunities to provide support to these groups through the program," said Mayor Jack.

Numbulwar Numburindi Arts is one of the organisations which Council has been able to support through the Community Grants Program and funding was provided to develop their Connections on

Country videography project.

Successful applicants from the first round for 2022/23 also include the Borrooloola Old Police Station Museum, the Borrooloola School, the Jilkminggan and Mataranka School Families as First Teachers (FAFT), the Urapunga School and the WANTA Aboriginal Corporation based at Ngukurr.

The activities and facilities assisted by the grants included purchase of a lawnmower and equipment to assist and improve students' ICT skills, sports equipment, travel to Darwin for a mini camp, a two-day fishing competition, a special exhibition at Godinymayin Yijard Rivers Arts and Culture Centre in Katherine, school library rejuvenation and refurbishment and training for Ngukurr students.

Dates for Round 2 of the 2022/23 program will be announced at the Roper Gulf Regional Council's website soon.



Numbulwar Numburindi artists

Galiwin'ku gets "a safe place, a cultural healing space"

After seven long years of hard work, the Galiwin'ku Women's Space on Elcho Island is now open.



THE Galiwin'ku Women's Space is a safe house, a safe place and cultural healing space for women and children in the community.

Chair of the Women's Space and Senior Aboriginal Community Police Officer, Bettina Danganbarr said the community is very happy to see the space open.

"We have worked tirelessly over many years to lobby government and seek funding to make this happen. This space will make our community safer. I am a proud Yolngu woman, and the opening of this centre will be one of the best days of my life," she said.

The new centre is a milestone achievement for the Elcho Island community and the efforts, from inception to delivery, have

been community led.

Joan Malku, Galiwin'ku Women's Space Member said the Centre took into account "having the Balanda law and Yolngu law together with firm foundations, and with a secure knowledge and understanding from both worlds."

The Women's Space is operated by a group of Yolngu women who engage with the community to provide a stronger and safer community free from domestic and family violence. It supports women, children and families (including men) to overcome domestic and family violence by providing a range of crisis and preventative support resources and services.

Four NT Land Councils gather at Kalkarindji

In late August, Executive Councils of the Anindilyakwa, Central, Tiwi and Northern land councils came together for an historic meeting at Kalkarindji, on Gurindji Country on the eve of the 56th anniversary of the Wave Hill Walk-Off.

EXECUTIVE Council Members discussed a range of topics including Uluru Statement from the Heart, the Voice to Parliament, progress with the Northern Territory Treaty and how to close the electoral gap reflected in the poor turnout out bush at the last election.

Other important issues included remote housing and homelands and imminent rent increases for remote communities planned by the NT Government, and township leasing arrangements on Aboriginal land under the Land Rights Act.

Senator Patrick Dodson, Special Envoy for Reconciliation and the Implementation of the Uluru Statement, and Member for Lingiari, Marion Scrymgour, spoke about a range of matters including the Voice to Parliament. The combined

Executives passed a resolution supporting implementation of the Uluru Statement from the Heart in full and changing the Australian constitution to enshrine a Voice to Parliament within this term of government.

Chairman of the NLC, Mr Samuel Bush-Blawasi said he was proud to support this historic resolution. "We have been waiting too long for the Voice. I heard Prime Minister Albanese speak at Garma about changing the Constitution to recognise our peoples. I'm glad to see things are moving forward again."

Chair of the Central Land Council, Kunmanara Hoosan, said he was proud to host Executive Council Members from the four land councils.

"Gurindji Country is the birthplace of Land Rights and this week the anniversary of the Wave Hill Walk Off. History was made 56 years ago this week and history was made again today," Mr Hoosan said.

Gibson Farmer-Illortaminni from the Tiwi Land Council was concerned about the gap between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal enrolments and turn-out. "I heard today as many as 25,000 Territorians are not enrolled to vote. This is about getting our young men and women involved and educating our people about having a say in elections," he said.

Council Members also welcomed

the Government's \$100 million election commitment for NT homelands. Members passed a resolution seeking a commitment from the Government to ongoing funding for homelands and to co-design a process for the distribution of homelands funding.

"This is important for all Aboriginal people on homelands in the Anindilyakwa region," Thomas Amagula, Deputy Chair of Anindilyakwa Land Council, said.

The combined Executives also discussed township leasing arrangements on Aboriginal land. The NLC Chairman noted that funding for township leases and the cost of administering these leases comes from the Aboriginals Benefits Account.

"The Government should pay for this somewhere else. It should not come from ABA—that is Aboriginal money," said Mr Bush-Blawasi.



Gurindji Festival parade



Council members from the Anindilyakwa, Central, Tiwi and Northern land councils come together on Gurindji Country.

The 21st Vincent Lingiari Memorial Lecture – 26 August 2022

Thomas Mayor

WALKING on our land our way – The momentum towards a constitutional right to be heard

This afternoon, I will speak to the greatness of Vincent Lingiari's legacy. I will speak about what we can learn from what happened after the handful of sand, and how we can complete the Gurindji dream – to make Australia a place where First Nations people can live on our land our way. I will speak to why we must enshrine a Voice to Parliament, so that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples can be heard as a chorus, so we can no longer be ignored. So our nation can come together – stronger than before – from whatever backgrounds we come from – living together as mates.

I hope it shines a light on your path. You do not walk alone.

Let us remember Vincent Lingiari, a man who dared pursue a dream to live on Gurindji land, the Gurindji way. A visionary man who dared to pursue a dream of a new relationship with broader Australia – one where First Nations people and kartiya could live as mates. Let us learn from his legacy as we continue our walk toward our rightful place in our country.

Let us have courage, as Lingiari did.

The entire nation should learn about the story of Vincent Lingiari and the Wave Hill Walk-Off.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people need a Voice that is protected from being silenced by hostile governments. We need a Voice where our representatives are not chosen in preselection processes run by the Greens, Labor, or the Coalition.

We want a Voice with representatives who are chosen by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. We want to be responsible for holding our representatives to account, according to our culture and values and the priorities that we determine. And we want the rule book – the constitution – to guarantee that what we say will be listened to, transparently, and with due respect.

In a representative democracy, being heard by all parliamentarians, and all Australians, in the centre of decision making, is the most practical thing we can do.

And there is nothing more lasting and powerful than establishing a representative body by a vote of the Australian people at a referendum.



Thomas Mayor with countrymen and women in Kalkarindji

When the Australian people say YES to an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice, they are saying to Parliaments for all time to come that what we say about our community and country must be listened to with the respect that we deserve.

Our aim is for fairness. And that is not a bar too high.

- We cannot aim low.
- We must not dampen our aspirations for change.
- We must work hard, as Lingiari did.
- We must have courage, as Lingiari did.

We must unite people across cities and towns, across religions and ethnicities, across the length and breadth of this great country, as Lingiari did.

It has been my experience that the answer will be a loud and resonant Yes.

Through the Referendum Council process of 13 regional dialogues that began in late 2016 and ended in May 2017, to that question of a constitutionally enshrined Voice, firstly, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people said a loud and resonant YES.

When I took the sacred Uluru Statement canvas throughout the

country, rolled up in a patched together postal tube, starting right here, in the golden grass of Gurindji Country – the Australian people said a loud and resonant YES.

The answer to the question of if Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people should have the dignity and respect of a Voice WILL BE a loud and resonant YES!

I say this to all Australian people as I approach the conclusion to this memorial lecture.

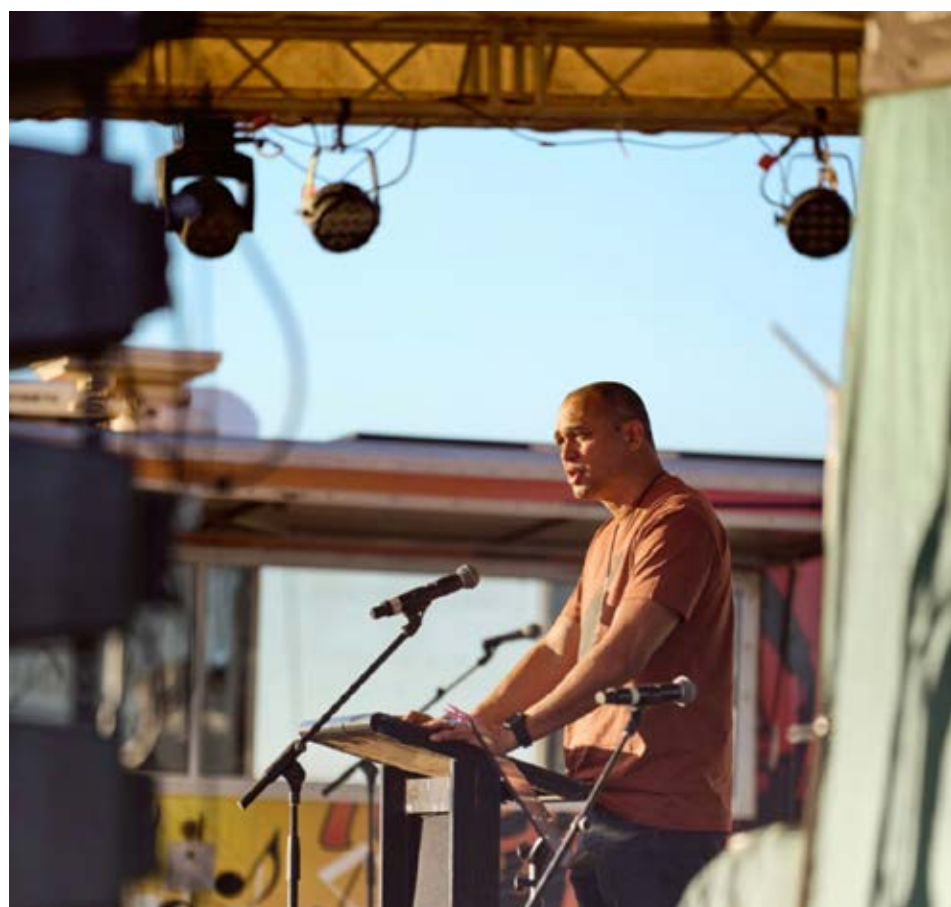
Let us learn from that great man Vincent Lingiari. Let us learn from the strength of his legacy: this generous, caring, loving people who have followed in his footsteps to build this beautiful community.

Our voice can tell Australia the truth. Our voice can help make treaties. Our voice should be in the rule book – the constitution – as it should have been long ago.

The Uluru Statement is an invitation to all Australian people to walk with us, like you, our mates, walked with us Gurindji before.

Now, will you walk with us again?

This is an edited version of the Vincent Lingiari annual oration at the Freedom Day festival at Kalkarindji in late August



Thomas Mayor delivers the 21st Vincent Lingiari Memorial Lecture at the 2022 Gurindji Festival

Barunga 2022 – looking forward, looking back

COVID-19 might have delayed the Barunga Festival for a few months in 2022 but that didn't dampen the spirits of the dozens of sports teams, artists and performers, and thousands who came from far and wide to join in a grand celebration of Aboriginal art, culture, sport and music on the heartlands of the Jawoyn people south-east of Katherine in the NT.

IN 2023 Aboriginal people from across the country will once again gather at Barunga to commemorate the momentous events of 1988 when Prime Minister Bob Hawke joined Aboriginal people from the red sands of central Australia and

the salt water country of the Top End to pledge that Australia would enter into a Treaty with Aboriginal people and to accept a copy of the Barunga Statement.

The Barunga Statement is a remarkable document and an essential part of contemporary Aboriginal history that was the result of careful negotiation between Aboriginal people and reflected decades of engagement—often intensely disappointing—between Aboriginal leaders and the Northern Territory and Australian Governments.

In 1988 the Northern Land Council commissioned Kim Mackenzie to make a film about the making of the Barunga Statement and the events at the 1988 Barunga Festival.

In 2023 the NLC will have an especially re-mastered cut of the film—called “Make it Right!”—that will be played at a special session at the 2023 Festival.

That will be very much a coming attraction – in the meantime here are some pictures of this year's fun!



The spear throwing demonstration was as popular as ever



Dancers perform a bunggul



A fierce tackle during the Barunga footy competition



Kankawa Nagarra performing at the 2022 Barunga Festival



Visitors to the festival spent time making their own didgeridoos.

TALKING HISTORY:

Deborah Jones. At Kalkarindji, 25 August 2022

Deborah Jones is a Ngaliwurru/Nungali woman who lives at Timber Creek. Her traditional land is Wanimin Yirijpirnti, in the upper Victoria River area.

MY proper birthplace was at Bamyili – now called Barunga – at the old Maranboy Police Station. The Katherine Hospital was full up with a lot of patients so my mum was put out there in the community with other ladies.

The NLC's Chairman's mother, Clair Bush, was my mother's midwife. She delivered me. He treats me like a sister now!

I grew up on Fitzroy Station – we own that station now. Its my traditional land. When I was growing up we moved around on a lot of stations. My dad was a stockman back then. We went all around the country – Northern Territory, Western Australia.

My first school was on Bradshaw Station. Then I went to Clyde Fenton Primary School in Katherine, that was my first real school.

I got scared of white kids, I didn't really like white kids. I didn't hate them but I was really scared you know, because I thought they were going to do something to me. Bash me or something!

But, yeah, I grew out of that and made a lot of friends there.

Then I went to the Timber Creek primary school. That was back in 1984. Then in 1985 I went to Kormilda College.

In 1987 I went to Katherine High School until November and then I started working as an assistant teacher out at Timber Creek school.

Then I worked for Ngaliwurru Aboriginal Corporation – back then it was called the Ngarinman Resource Centre. Ngarinman started off at Yarralin on VRD station ... but moved up to Timber Creek, because that was central to all the outstations and communities it serviced. Ngarinman provided support and services to about 13 communities.

I worked at Ngarinman for 14 years and after that I worked with the Katherine West Health Board for about 11 years. I started off as an NLC member around 2008 or 2009 I think it was.

It was when Galarrwuy was Chairman and Samuel was on the Executive from the Katherine Region. Now I'm on the NLC Executive – it's good, going to meetings and catching up with other members from other regions.

As an Executive member you get a lot of countrymen and women come and talk to me about a lot of issues where they want me to help them get their message out. This includes stories about their land. Our culture means a lot to us, to all the Aboriginal people.

I'm also a Regional Councillor for the NLC and we bring all of the issues that community members bring to us. We bring them to our Regional Council meetings – we meet twice a year on country and also before each Full Council meeting. This means we can bring those issues to the attention of other

members and to NLC staff so they can do something about it.

This is really important – for all of us in the VRD region we get to put our concerns to either the Executive or to the Full Council. We all come together as one mob, one really strong voice.

If we didn't have the one voice – without the NLC and all the NLC members our issues wouldn't be heard – by government, people we work with, all that.

Another way is when all of the four land councils – the Tiwi, Anindilyakwa, Central and Northern land councils – all get together to meet. We are all heard as one strong voice for our community, our people.

Next year the Land Council will have been working for our people for 50 years and my family has been with it for many years of that time. Well, in another 50 years I still want to see the Land Council still here, I want to see it still fighting for the rights for our people. It has been established for a long time now – 50 years – and now we need to keep going!

We need the next generation to take on this job too and be part of this Land Rights fight. That next generation – they've gotta go to school, learn about their history and culture through listening to the old people and then they've got to come behind and walk along our path. Follow their elders.

50 YEARS
OF LAND RIGHTS
1973-2023



Inez Te Reiiti White at Garma Festival

LAND Rights News caught up with Inez Te Reiiti White from Rotorua, NZ at the Garma Festival earlier this year.

At Garma she was working with a Yolngu family from the small homeland community of Mandjawuy in north-east Arnhem Land that sell Knowledge Water—water that is taken from a pristine spring near their homeland.

I belong to the Te arawa tribe and I grew up on country, a place called Ohinemutu, my homeland, my whenua.

Both my parents are from the same tribal area. Our grandfathers would send us out to get an education so we could bring those skills back home. We would then come home and work for our people.

I returned home when I was about 33 years old to raise my kids and now I own my own business, I'm a property valuer. The Mabo case inspired me to go home so I went home and set up my own business where I teach our people to buy our land back from the Queen—one quarter acre at a time!

I also work for Shopify where I am the Indigenous Ambassador and take care of programming for indigenous entrepreneurs for the whole Asia Pacific region.

I came to Garma because of the indigenous businesses that uses the Shopify platform is Knowledge Water from a small homeland called Mandjawuy near here. We heard about their business at a conference and they want to use it to raise money so they can employ and train their own teachers on country and keep their kids close.

This was the first time that I met them face to face and it was a great privilege to meet them on country. This Garma Festival is so meaningful, and the culture is just so beautiful. I'm walking around trying to work out what the rules are but the law seems so strong, powerful.

We asked Inez what she thinks about the proposal for a Treaty for Australia.

A Treaty? Well, I've lived and worked in Australia and work with First Nations people in Canada—Shopify is a Canadian company—and obviously I come from Aotearoa (New Zealand). When I think about a Treaty I think that a Treaty that is honoured—and it hasn't always been honoured for us.

A treaty that is honoured does make a difference, a big difference.



Inez Te Reiiti White at Garma Festival 2022

Lingara flicks the switch on life-changing mobile and internet coverage

Residents of the very small and very remote community of Lingara will now be able to access phone and internet reception thanks to the successful launch of a mobile phone booster and satellite internet in the homeland.

LINGARA is about 30km south of Yarralin, deep in the heart of the VRD district. Road access is via the Humbert River Station road, a rough dirt road that becomes impassable during the wet season.

That lack of physical communication is one reason why a virtual connection to the outside world can be vitally important to a small community like Lingara and the dozens of small communities scattered across the vast Northern Land Council area.

This connectivity is particularly important for Lingara, which during the wet season becomes completely isolated due to flooding of the four surrounding creeks.

Brian Pedwell, Chair of the NLC's Victoria River District Regional Council and Mayor of the Victoria Daly Regional Council, said the successful installation would mean a better quality of life for people in the homeland.

"When you can't make or receive a phone call or get onto the internet, it means you're cut off from family and essential food and health services," Mayor Pedwell said.

"It was incredibly frustrating, especially during the wet season where flooding around the community meant you couldn't leave at all."

The installation of the small-cell satellite is part of a wider Homelands Project, supported by the Aboriginal Benefits Account (ABA).

The \$174,950 in grant funding provided from ABA covers upgrades to sewerage systems in the community and the installation of a common effluent drain and connections up to 30m per house, to service community homes.

Mayor Pedwell thanked ABA for its support in the project, and said he was looking forward to working with the agency in the future. "For the people of Lingara, this is going to be life-changing."



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Ngukurr and Urapunga get a \$19.3m housing boost

The Binjari Community Aboriginal Corporation will build and upgrade homes in two Arnhem Land communities, with works to roll out over three years.

THE Katherine-based Aboriginal and operated company has been awarded a \$19.3 million tender to build and upgrade homes across Ngukurr and Urapunga (also known as Rittarangu).

Homes at Ngukurr will be built on a 17-lot subdivision that was completed in 2019.

In the first six months of this year, the Territory Labor Government awarded 38 contracts worth more than \$153 million as part of its \$2.2 billion investment in remote housing.

Minister for Housing and Homelands Selena Uibo told *Land Rights News* that, "Community members have been actively involved in the delivery of services for some

time now and have helped to plan and design these housing works. "This is also fantastic news for the people of Ngukurr and Urapunga who have also been looking forward to being a part of building and improving homes in their communities." Since 2016, the Territory Government has delivered more than \$1 billion worth of remote housing works through a range of programs funded by both the Northern Territory and Commonwealth governments. Around 3280 homes have so far been built, extended and upgraded, including works completed and underway. "The three-year contract gives locals job surety and the opportunity to complete certifications and apprenticeships which is important because our remote housing program is part of the Territory Labor Government's holistic approach to building the capacity of communities such as Ngukurr and Rittarangu," said Minister Uibo.



Works underway to prepare for the construction of new houses at Ngukurr

Local council cleaning up East Arnhem

Waste management in East Arnhem is a difficult operation. Communities are spread across large areas of isolated and hard to access land and there's limited space for landfill, particularly within island communities.

THE East Arnhem Regional Council (EARC) are making a change though, with multiple strategies and projects currently underway to improve the environmental impact and sustainability of waste management in the region. The Council's "10 Year Waste Strategy" has seen the implementation of bi-weekly residential kerbside rubbish collections, "Clean-up Weeks" four times a year, a "Cash 4 Containers" program that's currently closing

in on 2 million recycled containers diverted from landfill and facilitating close to \$200,000 back to community members directly involved and a region wide scrap metal recovery project that since 2019 has recycled approximately 2213 tonnes of scrap metal across six communities. Shane Marshall, Director of Technical and Infrastructure Services for EARC, said "the Council tries to develop community-based initiatives that focus on incentive-based programs that promote behaviour changes. Initiatives such as "Cash 4 Containers" have been successful as they promote long-term positive waste management practices, improve the environment, and provide a small cash incentive directly to individuals who want to participate" "Improving waste management practices is important to the region as it improves the environment through reduced litter and dumping, promotes a healthy lifestyle, reduces long-term costs of landfilling, and improves the sustainability of the region by promoting a circular

economy through the diversion of different waste streams out of the landfill and sending them back to industry to reuse and recycle." EARC organises many of the waste management events throughout the region and receive support from local organisations such as ALPA, CDP, ranger groups and schools as well as participation from local residents. Communities involved in the EARC waste management program are Angurugu, Umbakumba, Milyakburra, Galiwin'ku, Gapuwiyak, Milingimbi, Ramingining and Yirrkala.



'Cash 4 Containers' program in Milingimbi



Some of the 2213 tonnes of scrap metal that's been recycled so far

Dhukurrdji Traditional Owners define vision and plan first project

OVER the past year, Dhukurrdji Traditional Owners from Maningrida have been shaping their vision for the future. Dhukurrdji have been thinking about what is important for the group as a whole — exploring strengths and challenges of the past, and shaping their goals for a strong future. There are two parts to their vision — "balance" and "on-country". They have created an image to illustrate what these words mean to them and to help them keep focus as they plan their projects. In a recent meeting, Dhukurrdji

Traditional Owners discussed which of their project ideas align with their vision. The group agreed that their first project would be an Interpretive Signage Project –including welcome signs for Maningrida, signs at cultural sites in the community, and portable ceremony signage. A number of organisations presented proposals to explain to Traditional Owners what they could do to work on the project. Traditional Owners will decide which organisation they would like to partner with by the end of the year.



Dhukurrdji Traditional Owners with their illustration of their vision

NLC staff at Jabiru - prepared for 'life-threatening' situations



NLC staff in Jabiru undertaking remote first aid training

Staff at the Northern Land Council's Jabiru regional office recently completed remote first aid training with Remote Safety Solutions. With staff covering the entire Kakadu/West Arnhem Region, remote travel

is a regular occurrence and coming across a motor vehicle accident or medical emergency is highly probable.

NLC West Arnhem Regional Manager, Andy Ralph said "We're frequently on the road organising NLC meetings for our members, and in all probability we will encounter a life threatening situation at some point ... in town, at

an outstation, or on a remote track in the middle of Arnhem Land." "It's very important to be able to provide urgent lifesaving interventions for potentially fatal illnesses and injuries, not only to NLC staff but also our Aboriginal constituents and members of the general community," he said. The course, "Provide First Aid in remote or isolated site" is the next level above the standard first aid training and is spread over three days with students put through time critical

real-life practical scenarios, with the emphasis on stabilising casualties to the point of handover to CareFlight or other health professionals. Mr Ralph said, "The training with Remote Safety Solutions has also been a terrific bonding session among NLC staff ... we are often out and about and hardly ever all in the same room, so to train and work together as a team was awesome." The remote first aid qualification is recognised nationally and valid for three years.

Wugularr proves that community licensed venues can work!

RECENTLY the Wugularr (Beswick) community celebrated the grand opening of a new community bistro, made possible through the local store's community benefit fund.

Wugularr's new bistro is a family-friendly dining area, seating 80 people inside and a further 170 people outside and is an extension of the existing Beswick Club, now refurbished and located on the site of the former store.

Chair of the Wuduluk Progress Aboriginal Corporation, Peter Lindsay, proudly welcomed locals and visitors to the new bistro.

"It has always been a dream of the directors to renovate the old store and create a place for families to enjoy. I couldn't wait to show everybody. It's something that will

last a long time. We're all proud of it" Mr Lindsay said.

The grand opening included a barbeque and jumping castles, a bunggul (traditional dance ceremony), and a ribbon-cutting by traditional owners Rayleen Bulumbara and "Tango" Frankie Lane.

Mr Lindsay outlined the community store's journey from voluntary administration to working with Outback Stores and then making a profit.

"We saw changes straight away, with fresh produce and grocery shelves full. The store was making a profit, paying the bills, paying the local staff and banking some money," said Mr Lindsay.

Outback Stores started providing retail services to Beswick in 2008,

when the store was recording losses. The past 14 years saw the store rise out of administration and build up its financial position to allow for annual distributions to the community, as well as for the construction of the

Beswick Bistro.

The Beswick Club has been in operation since 2012. The region's police believe that this locally-owned licensed venue provides an invaluable service to the community.



Peter Lindsay standing in the new bistro with an image of the old layout

GYRACC builds on cultural investment for the Katherine Region



Artists impression of the upgrades to Katherine's Godinymayin Yijard Rivers Art and Culture Centre.

Following on from the stunning redevelopment of the iconic Mimi Aboriginal Art and Craft centre earlier this year, a new plan to transform Katherine's Godinymayin Yijard Rivers Art and Culture Centre (GYRACC) into a landmark facility has achieved another milestone, with the construction tender

awarded to a well-known local building company.

KATHERINE Constructions has been awarded \$6.7 million to bring an innovative design by Troppo Architects to life.

NT Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage Chansey Paech said that GYRACC "is already a much-loved community hub, and these works will promote its creative and cultural diversity, and ensure it is at the top of the must-do list for national and international visitors."

The upgrades at GYRACC will improve visitor engagement, operational efficiency and

functionality and support the Centre to develop new arts and cultural experiences for locals and visitors.

The design features an expanded amphitheatre for outdoor performances, as well as upgrades to improve the functionality of the centre for arts and cultural events.

Works will also include architectural features that acknowledge the Aboriginal land on which the centre is built, and the important cultural connections with Aboriginal people. There will be a flexible indoor and outdoor server area leading onto an expansive timber deck for hosting and providing refreshments for visitors and event audiences.

The new works will also provide improved visitor entry and box office facilities, upgraded backstage facilities for performers along with a generous-sized retail area to sell local arts products and new office space and improved storage and security.

Arts and cultural centres in Tennant Creek and Arnhem Land are also set to benefit from works that will help to position the Northern Territory as a global tourism destination for Aboriginal arts and culture.

The upgrades are expected to be completed by July 2023.

TOb head for the stars!

The NLC is proud to support the involvement of Traditional Owners in the NT's space industry, which reached an historic milestone in late June with Australia's first commercial space launch.

NLC chairman Samuel Bush-Blanasi said the Council has supported Traditional Owners' involvement in the space launch project since day one.

"There were some people who said it would never happen. But we stuck by Traditional Owners and proved the sceptics wrong," Mr Bush-Blanasi said.

"Championing new approaches to creating economic opportunities

for Traditional Owners is a priority of the NLC."

Mr Bush-Blanasi said the NLC played a key role in facilitating negotiations between Equatorial Launch Australia (ELA) and local contractor Gumatj Corporation, which has undertaken a significant proportion of the works for the construction of the facility.

"I am very proud the Northern Land Council was able to support the Gumatj people on this new industry for the Northern Territory."

"With most land claims now finalised, we are shifting our focus to projects like this. This is about realising the benefits of Aboriginal rights and interests in land."



Yugul Mangi Ranger Coordinator Andrew Vocke, Senior Numbulwar Ranger Clive Nunggarrgalu and Yugul Mangi elder and cultural advisor Winston Thompson



Image courtesy of NASA

Military history comes alive at the re-enactment of the 1942 Makarrata

Community members at Gapuwiyak in north-east Arnhem Land came together with the Australian Army and the Australian Defence Force to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the formation of the Northern Territory Special Reconnaissance Unit—the NTSRU.

THE NTSRU was created in 1942 to protect Australia's north during World War II and the Australian Army's modern day NORFORCE (North-West Mobile Force) traces its history back to those days. The NTSRU, which was an irregular

unit of the Australian Army during World War II, was mainly comprised of Aboriginal people from the Northern Territory.

NORFORCE Commanding Officer Lieutenant Colonel Stephen Medlin said NORFORCE led the commemorations of the 1942 Makarrata in the Eastern Arnhem Land communities of Raymangirr and Gapuwiyak.

"Makarrata is an ancient Yolngu ceremony which united warring groups to join with the Australian Army to form the NTSRU. This is an important, but largely unknown piece of Australian military history where Aboriginal people came together with the Australian Army to defend our nation," LTCOL Medlin said.

"The Yolngu soldiers of the NTSRU showed incredible cultural leadership in 1942 by unifying warring groups. This is a proud legacy which still has lessons for all of us. This is particularly true within NORFORCE,

where the example of Private Raiwalla Mildjingi, who led the 1942 Makarrata, is revered and continues to be celebrated."

The history of the NTSRU and the 1942 Makarrata continues to

be important to indigenous ADF members, particularly Yolngu soldiers in NORFORCE, with more than 30 descendants of original NTSRU veterans.



NORFORCE parades through Gapuwiyak during their 80th anniversary celebration

DEADLY KIDS

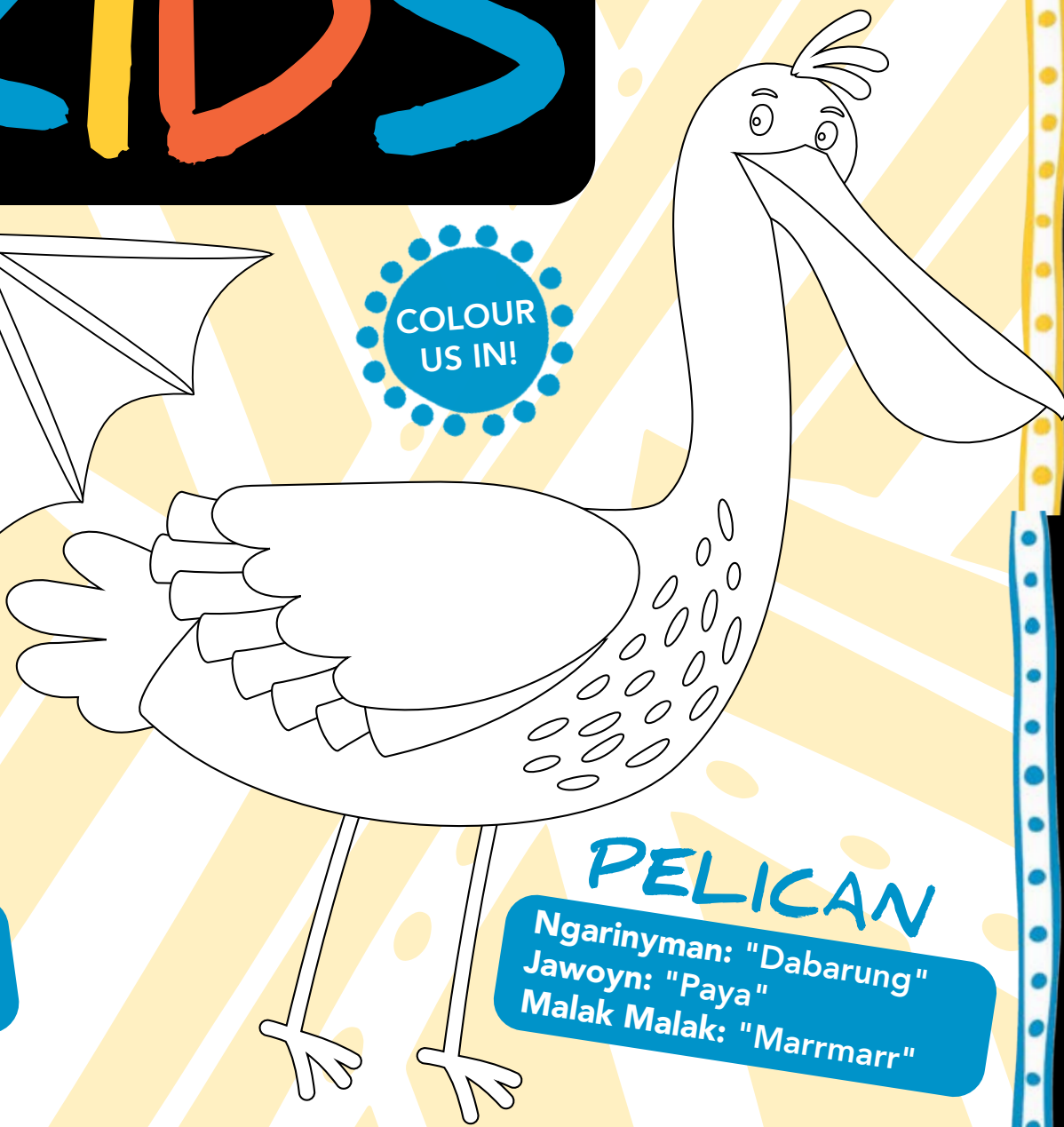
Q: WHAT'S THE FIRST THING A BAT LEARNS IN SCHOOL?

A: THE ALPHABAT



LITTLE RED FLYING FOX

Ngarinyman: "Galanbuga"
Jawoyn: "Purrit"
Malak Malak: "Bityma"



PELICAN

Ngarinyman: "Dabarung"
Jawoyn: "Paya"
Malak Malak: "Marmarr"

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE



6 DIFFERENCES TO FIND

1. Reel has switched sides 2. Top loop missing 3. Different coloured lure 4. Jig is missing 5. Hook has extra point

DID YOU KNOW?

- PELICANS CAN BE FOUND ON EVERY CONTINENT EXCEPT ANTARCTICA
- PELICANS CAN HAVE A WINGSPAN OVER 3 METRES
- THE DALMATION PELICAN CAN GROW UP TO 9.5 KILOGRAMS IN WEIGHT
- PELICANS EAT FISH, TURTLES, SMALL MAMMALS, INSECTS AND EVEN OTHER BIRDS

Q: WHATS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A SEAGULL AND A PELICAN?

A: YOU CANT SEE A PELICAN

An Aboriginal voice to the NT's oldest theatre venue



Clockwise L-R: Nadine Lee, Rachael Chisholm, Rob Collins and Rosealee Pearson

REPRESENTING the artistic and cultural priorities of the First Nations community, Nadine Lee, Rachael Chisholm, Rob Collins and Rosealee Pearson have joined the newly established First Nations Artistic Advisory Group at Brown's Mart, one of Darwin's leading performing arts venues.

These highly respected artists bring considerable insight, invaluable knowledge and extensive experience to this important role.

Working closely with Brown's Mart CEO Sophia Hall and the Browns' Mart Board, they will provide consultation and advice on how best to support First Nations artists and projects. They will provide leadership regarding cultural safety, learning and development opportunities.

Nadine, Rachael, Rosealee and Rob said of their appointment, "We are looking forward to ensuring that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander voices are heard, that they are respected and supported at Brown's Mart, and that opportunities are created for First Nations artists and arts-workers from Darwin and the NT. We will also work with them in making sure that Brown's Mart is a safe space for collaboration and participation and that First Nations' audiences feel welcomed to the precinct."

CEO Sophia Hall said "Over many years, Brown's Mart has been privileged to work with many of Australia's leading First Nations artists. We are committed to deepening our relationship with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community, our country's first artists, recognising that it is essential that there are First Nations voices in the leadership of Brown's Mart. Our first priority together will be to recruit a First Nations person in an Artistic Associate role at Brown's Mart."

Barrumbi Kids – Wugularr kids hit the big time on the small screen

Renowned Top End author Leonie Norrington's book, *The Barrumbi Kids*, has been made into a 10-episode TV series for broadcast on NITV beginning in November 2022.

FILMED around Wugularr (Beswick), Barunga, Katherine and Bitter Springs, the story follows acting debutantes Tomias (Nick Bonson) and Dahlia (Caitlin Hordern), two best friends who live in remote NT communities.

Through fishing, hunting and schooling, the children learn about themselves, each other and living in both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal cultures.

Jawoyn Traditional Owner and Wugularr resident, Esther Bulumbarra says everyone in the small community was excited during filming.

"I'm really excited to see our kids making this series, changing it from a book into a television series ... people, especially the kids, will be able to see our culture," she said.

Earlier this year author Leonie Norrington travelled to Wugularr south-east of Katherine for the filming and told the ABC that she hopes the "wonderful relationships between black people and white people" come across on screen.

Leonie Norrington also spoke of the long-term relationship she had with the communities of Wugularr and Barunga and particularly a woman who was a key inspiration for her work.

Leonie Norrington told the ABC that she was inspired to write the novel by her late "Aboriginal mother" Clair Bush, a Yolngu woman who took her under her wing when she was a child. Ms Bush was the mother of Northern Land Council Chair, Samuel Bush-Blansi.

"She's the one who taught us and I've written under her supervision all these years," she said.

"Her mission was to have remote Aboriginal people shown as really powerful strong characters."

Norrington credits Ms Bush as being the powerhouse behind the success of *The Barrumbi Kids*, and said she would have been proud to see the stories from Barunga make national television.

"I hope people love it, I hope people identify with the kids and I hope that the Aboriginal characters come across as really powerful and strong in their own right," she said.

Barrumbi Kids was produced by Danielle Maclean, Monica O'Brien and Julia Morris in partnership with First Nations partners Esther Bulumbara, Frankie Lane, Revonna Lane and Scott Hall with Djilpin Arts and Wugularr community members also helping.



Nick Bonson (Tomias) and Caitlin Hordern (Dahlia)

'Close Don Dale NOW'

'Close Don Dale NOW' are a dedicated group of activists working hard to keep the notorious Don Dale Youth Detention Centre in the spotlight this year amidst worsening conditions, human rights breaches and shocking rates of self-harm. They have rallied every week since Christmas to demand that the government close Don Dale NOW.

IT is our unshakable belief that child protection and youth justice in the Northern Territory are a continuation of genocide and colonisation. Don Dale is merely a symptom of a system that seeks to eliminate First Nations peoples. It is in breach of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Genocide Convention, the Torture Convention, and the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Five years ago, the Royal Commission into the Detention and Protection of Children in the Northern Territory exposed the torturous, cruel and inhumane treatment of our babies. Despite millions spent since then, these systems remain unchanged. All of the children in Don Dale are Aboriginal and most are on remand. They have not even been found guilty

shackled in ankle monitors. The psychological effects of branding children as criminals in the NT's racist and hostile public eye cannot be underestimated.

Years after spit hoods and restraint chairs were banned in detention centres, police continued to use them on children in the watchhouse. Guards in Don Dale still use force and solitary confinement to manage children's behaviour. Overcrowding and understaffing in the centre has created a pressure-cooker environment that has seen rates of self-harm, attempted suicides and hospitalisations skyrocket.

Now, they are building an even larger prison to round up and incarcerate kids from all over the NT. A new prison will not change racist policing and systemic oppression.



Young activists outside Don Dale Youth Detention Centre



Activists campaign to close the Don Dale Youth Detention Centre



Josie Crawshaw and June Mills from the 'Close Don Dale NOW' group

of a crime, yet they are locked in cage-like cells for up to 23 hours a day. Some are as young as ten.

In fact, the government has passed legislation to make it even harder for kids to get bail. The police not only fail to divert children from court, but over-charge them to deter the courts from granting bail. Children who are granted bail are

Institutionalising children will not reduce crime. They are in fact creating the criminals they seek to imprison.

Make no mistake, the atrocious conditions in Don Dale are not an accident or a case of a few bad apples. This is not incompetence or apathy. It is the inevitable consequence of settler-colonialism

and the ongoing elimination of First Nations peoples. We cannot trust the government to reform this system. It is broken by design.

First Nations grandmothers and activists around the country have joined our call to close Don Dale and abolish youth prisons. We are calling for restorative programs and services that are led and fully controlled

by local Aboriginal communities—including in major centres. We demand the right to raise and rehabilitate our children. We demand nothing short of self-determination.

For more information and to find out how to get involved, please visit www.closedondale.com or join us every Friday at 5pm outside Don Dale Youth Detention Centre.

Tenants urged to get ready for new remote rent framework



Hon Selena Uiibo

The Territory Labor Government has deferred the implementation of its Remote Rent Framework as the rollout of information in language continues across communities, town camps and community living areas.

THE Framework will now be launched on 6 February 2023. The new Framework creates a system that is fair, easy to understand and administer, removes the need for bond, and charges tenants a flat rate of \$70 per bedroom, per week. Information is being rolled out in language to ensure tenants know about the changes. Messages can be heard on radio and social media in Top End and central Australian

languages: Anindilyakwa, Arrernte, Burarra, Westside Kriol, Eastside Kriol, Kunwinjku, Murrinh-Patha, Pintupi-Luritja, Tiwi, Warlpiri, and Yolngu Matha.

NT Housing Minister Selena Uiibo said the new Framework will streamline the management of tenancies as the Territory Labor Government continues to build and upgrade more homes, and improve liveability right across the NT.

“The new Framework will replace an out-of-date system that was confusing for tenants, and challenging to administer,” she said.

“However, we want to ensure our tenants and stakeholders feel informed about the changes and that is why we have been revisiting communities, town camps and community living areas to explain the new Framework in more detail.”

Around 65 per cent of households will see an increase in rent under the new framework but it is important to note this is the first increase for remote public housing tenants in over a decade.

The Territory Labor Government will automatically provide a rental safety net to tenants identified as ‘at risk’ of rental stress when the new Remote Rent Framework comes into effect.


In tandem with rolling out the new Framework across remote communities, legacy rental debts have been waived up until

11 December 2021.

For more talk to your local housing office or visit: tfhc.nt.gov.au/housing-and-homelessness/rent-reform-framework

TERRITORY FAMILIES, HOUSING AND COMMUNITIES


Remote rent is changing



Please visit our website to read more and listen to information in language.

tfhc.nt.gov.au

TERRITORY FAMILIES, HOUSING AND COMMUNITIES



Northern Land Council Policy Submissions

Submission on the NT Government's draft Environment Protection Legislation Amendment (Chain of Responsibility) Bill 2022

The NLC's submission on the NT Government's draft Environment Protection Legislation Amendment (Chain of Responsibility) Bill 2022 supports the introduction of environmental chain of responsibility laws and calls on the government to apply the laws to all industry sectors, not only onshore petroleum. The submission focuses on the mining sector, where applying the laws would help to mitigate the significant risk of further legacy mine sites and their detrimental environmental outcomes

Submission on the NT Parks Masterplan

The NLC submission on the NT Parks Masterplan urges the Parks and Wildlife Commission to commit to working in partnership with Traditional Owners and Land Councils to improve joint management of the parks estate and deliver long-term ecological, social, cultural and economic benefits for Traditional Owners and other stakeholders. The submission makes recommendations regarding governance, implementation and review of the plan, supporting local Aboriginal employment and economic development, and cultural protection.

Submission to the Commonwealth Inquiry into the Federal election

At least 14,000 eligible Aboriginal people in the NT aren't on the electoral roll, and many of those who are on the roll aren't voting in elections: the division of Lingiari, which covers the whole of the NT outside of Darwin, has the lowest turnout of voters in Australia. With the Voice to Parliament referendum fast approaching, it's important for Aboriginal Territorians to have their say. The NLC submission proposes a number of actions the Commonwealth Government can take to increase the electoral participation of Aboriginal people in the NT.

To read submissions in full, visit: bit.ly/nlcpolicysubmissions

“Always on the lookout for Country”

Vale Larry Johns—Nungali-Ngaliwurru traditional owner, stockman, father, grandfather and great-grandfather who was “always on the lookout for country”

A funeral service for the revered long-term NLC member Larry Johns was held at the Godinymayin Yijard Rivers Art and Culture Centre in Katherine on Friday 16 September 2022.

He was 77 years old when he passed. His son, Victor Johns, spoke to the ABC's Max Rowley following the service.

My father was one of the stolen generations, but being one of the lucky ones he wasn't taken far, he was taken away to Humbert River Station. At the age of sixteen or seventeen, when he knew how to read and write and how to work he headed towards Western Australia and there he met his first love, my mother Peggy Gallagher, at Newry Station.

Around 1966 the hard-working stockman became a father for the first time. And from there he had other kids, me being the youngest born in 1975.

He lived and worked out at Newry Station, had two other kids and then he moved onto other stations like Auvergne, Lissadell, Mount Elizabeth, Carlton Hill in Western Australia. He's been around.

Later he landed a job as a horse-breaker at the Fifteen Mile Farm—we know it today as the Rural College—outside of Katherine. He taught all of these young kids how to shoe a horse, how to saddle a horse. Even how to ride a horse. He just had the patience, you know, to teach kids.

When he passed away he had six kids and something like 20 or more grandchildren and maybe 34 great-grandchildren now. He was proud of each and every one of us, from the eldest right to the youngest.

He was quite the protector of the land I guess, there were certain areas that you couldn't go, that you weren't allowed to go into. He was the kind of man that was always on the lookout for Country.

Even when he retired from working for government for 37 long years he still wanted to be active. He was chairman of the joint management committee for the Judbarra National Park and chairman of the committee for the Outback Stores supermarket in Timber Creek.

You think about the phrase “Happy as Larry”—and that was him. He loved to have a laugh and a joke. He'll be remembered for a lot of things—his laugh, working with cattle, chasing after weeds and also being a traditional owner and elder, a leader for his community.

I'll always remember him as my King, my idol, my Dad.

This is an edited version of an interview with Victor John, the son of long-time NLC member Larry John that was broadcast on the ABC's Country Hour.



A collection of images from Mr John's life were projected at his funeral service



Sharona Bishop speaks at the funeral of Larry Johns



Roger Steele speaks at the funeral service for Larry Johns

Raymond Peter Morrison

(7 April 1948 - 7 February 2022)

Ray was known by many names: Uncle Crusty, The Phantom, Eric Vin Zipper and most affectionately and widely accepted as Goodboy.

RAISED in Darwin at the Police Paddock and Parap Camp, he attended Frog Hollow Infant school and Parap Primary and High schools. He then commenced work with the Postmaster General in the telegraph section before becoming a senior postman and then later worked at the telephone exchange. In the late 60s, Ray left the PMG to work in the department of works and housing at the two-and-a-half-mile depot. After Cyclone Tracy devastated Darwin in 1974, Ray then commenced work at the old Darwin hospital rebuilding program. It was there he met his wife to be, Julie Harris, who was at the time a nurse at the hospital. After some time, they decided to leave Darwin to travel the world on a working holiday. As they never stayed in one place for long, they purchased a 25ft

caravan and a Toyota Landcruiser and travelled up the east coast of Australia visiting family and friends along the way. It was on this trip that they spent time with extended family in Cairns, especially the large extended Morrison nee Savage family from the Torres Strait. Over the next few years Ray worked in various roles before finding his niche and love for Indigenous policy at the Northern Land Council as the Deputy Director. This career change saw Ray flourish through his love of traditional culture and country and reconnected Ray back with his ancestral roots working and connecting with not only Aboriginal people in the NT but also other Indigenous people from around the world. The firm friendships and professional networks made during this time, lasted for the rest of his life. In particular, he became close friends with Galarrwuy Yunupingu and Mr G Djekurra, who later went on to be the Chair of ATSIC. Ray was never happier than when he was loading up his beloved Nissan Patrol and heading out bush for a few weeks to survey cattle stations that would be purchased for Traditional Owners and establishing the pastoral unit at the NLC which

helped to support the management of these properties – Balbirini, Fitzroy, Bauhinia and Muckaty Stations to name a few. Ray left the NLC and took on a role at ATSIC as assistant to the Chairman, Mr Djekurra. This role proved to be one of Rays greatest achievements. There was no doubt of his happiness and pride at being by the side of the Chairman throughout their travels all over the world and the many ceremonies and events they attended. After leaving ATSIC, Ray went on to work at the Commercial Development Corporation better known as the CDC. His easy manner and charm saw him once again quickly build a cohesive team and strong bond with his colleagues, as anyone who worked with him would know he liked getting work done but having a good laugh along the way. Ray then moved back to Darwin where he undertook various roles within the NT Government. In one of these roles, Ray worked at the infamous Don Dale Youth Detention Centre. It was here, working in challenging circumstances that he ensured children in detention were looked after at Easter and Christmas with generous gifts and treats which he personally paid for from

his own pocket. This is a true testament to Ray having the kindest heart and his belief that there is always time to give people another chance. He wanted the younger generation to thrive and to understand they can be the best they can be and to overcome adversity and hardship with support that is never ending. His siblings were John (Dec.), Patricia (Dec.), Elizabeth and Paula. He was very fond of his mother Ellen and stepfather, Poppa Joe or Joe Garcia. Rest In Peace, Goodboy.



Indigenous Electoral Participation Program (IEPP)

In the Northern Territory a small but mighty team of five are working to give Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people a bigger voice in Australian elections.

As part of the national Indigenous Electoral Participation Program (IEPP), the team works with communities and organisations to deliver culturally appropriate electoral services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. This includes promoting:

- Enrolling to vote

- Voting
- Opportunities to work at the election.

Asked why he thinks this work is so important, Senior Engagement Officer for the NT, Neville Khan, said "it's very important to get people to understand the electoral process. "Our program provides communities with that opportunity by conducting community visits, voter education sessions, developing language resources and partnerships with local organisations that have a foothold in those communities. "With a Referendum coming up its extremely important we get people not only enrolled to vote, but also understanding

and participating in the electoral process." The AEC is committed to improving outcomes for all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Building and maintaining respectful and sustainable relationships with First Nations Australians is core to our values and the way we do business. The AEC delivers and produces a range of resources and materials to help Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's electoral participation. Through the IEPP, the AEC engages communities and listens to local elders and community leaders to deliver effective, culturally

appropriate services. Your vote is your say. To vote, you need to be enrolled. Enrol today, visit aec.gov.au/Indigenous



**MOZZIE? MOZZIE?
MOZZIE?
NO! NO! NO!**



**Mosquitos can bite—we all know that.
But they can also make you feel bad with a
new sickness called
Japanese Encephalitis.
This is a big danger for our countrymen and
women living near wetlands.
It spreads to us from mosquitos biting pigs
and birds—and can then affect us.**