



NORTHERN
LAND COUNCIL

Northern Edition

LAND RIGHTS NEWS

Our Land, Our Sea, Our Life

45TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION

June 2021 • www.nlc.org.au



EDITORIAL

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

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

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'We are really proud that *Land Rights News* has been telling our stories for five decades'

A message from NLC Chairman Samuel Bush-Blanasi



HELLO you mob! It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to the very special 45th anniversary edition of Australia's longest running Aboriginal newspaper, *Land Rights News*.

Since the first edition was published by the Northern Land Council in July 1973, *Land Rights News* has provided a strong voice in support of Aboriginal land rights and other issues that matter to our mob.

This issue's front cover shows a selection of *Land Rights News* covers through the years – from wonderful photos of the Daly River mob walking shoulder-deep across a flooded river to give evidence at their land claim to the iconic image that graced the cover under the words "We have survived!" And more. Much more.

We are really proud that *Land Rights News* has been telling our stories for five decades, for our people and in our way. This is a tradition we are determined to maintain by making *Land Rights News* bigger and better for the future.

We have plans to publish six issues of *Land Rights News* a year from 2022 – up from the four issues we currently produce. And we want to make sure that *Land Rights News* gets out to as many communities and homelands as possible. For many of our mob *Land Rights News* is the only newspaper available to them.

Please get in touch with our staff at *Land Rights News* if you want copies sent to your community store, school or homeland or contact us by email if you want to get an online subscription.

Finally, it was with great sadness that I, along with many NLC Full Council Members and staff, gathered in Darwin in early May to farewell our stalwart friend and colleague John Christophersen, best known to us all as Christo.

On page 28 you can read some wonderful words penned by Christo's good friend Chips Mackinolty, who pays a fitting tribute to the man who, as Full Council member Joy Cardona said on ABC News, was the real "fire in the belly" of the NLC.

Many of us will recall long, vigorous discussions with Christo about matters of great importance over the years. But we all know that even if we disagreed with him, we knew he was arguing for what he believed was right. For this we will always remember him and hold him close in our hearts.

Christo represented NLC constituencies in the West Arnhem region for over 35 years, as a local member for Coburg and later for Kakadu and for many years served on the NLC Executive Council.

I know I can speak for all NLC Executive Members who really enjoyed working alongside Christo for many years. I particularly enjoyed working alongside him as my Deputy Chairman.

Christo was at all times an NLC Member from the people and for the people. He will be sadly missed by all of my fellow Full Council and Executive Council members and by NLC staff.

Bob-bo friend.



Quotes from the bush: 'The whole of my world is my language'



NLC Councillor Jason Bill reflecting on the Land Claim for Muckaty at Kulumindini (Elliott):

"When we did the Land Claim for Muckaty Station, it made me feel real good. When Mum was still around and we got that land back at Muckaty. That was a big day!"



Elaine Sandy, co-ordinator of the Kulumindini Arts Centre:

"My hope is that the young people still want to work and make art here. Those youngsters are important, they are our future and with the art centre we can bring the community together."



Janey Dixon from Marlinja reflecting on her Mudbarra language:

"The whole of my world is in my language. If you have my Mudburra language you have the whole Mudburra world in your head."



Joy Cardona, Chair of the NLC Women's Council, speaking about the late Deputy Chair of the NLC, John Christophersen. Broadcast on ABC TV on 21 April:

"Oh yeah, he had fire in the belly. You couldn't beat him, you couldn't beat him. No way in the world. He'd be right the whole time. Even if he was wrong! (laughs)."

NLC CEO Marion Scrymgour speaking about the late Deputy Chair of the NLC, John Christophersen, to ABC TV on 21 April:

"I was talking to traditional owners in Kakadu a couple of weeks ago and they got quite emotional and they asked about him and his health. One of the senior traditional owners said to me: 'Who's going to fight for us now?'

"And you remember that, whilst they might not all have always agreed with his view, they knew that he fought for them.

"He represented every single one of them and that, I think, is what we're going to miss."



NLC's General Manager Executive Services Trish Rigby speaking on behalf of John Christophersen's children at his Memorial Service, Darwin Botanic Gardens, 7 May 2021:

"We are thankful to all those who are doing their bit to lay you to rest. I know how much it meant for you to be buried up the coast where you spent the last 40 odd years on and off, may your soul soar over Murrar and Ulbu Bunidj lands and waters, and that you rest in peace. Boh Boh Trish."



'The NLC is like an Aboriginal family's toolkit': Djawa Yunupingu's vision

EARLIER this year *Land Rights News* sat down with NLC Executive Councillor Djawa Yunupingu and asked about his vision for how the Northern Land Council works and how it relates to tools that Aboriginal people use in their daily lives.

Djawa told us that: "The NLC is like an Aboriginal family's toolkit – a spear, a woomera, a digging stick and dilly bag for daily life. For the law – a Yidaki (didgeridoo) and Bilma (clapsticks).

These things are the essentials – like we say at the Land Council, 'Our Land, Our Sea, Our Life' – all of these things work together to make us whole.

SPEAR

The spear represents the whole of the NLC, including the Full Council, the Chief Executive officer and all of the staff – it is like a spear, long and straight and true.

WOOMERA

The Executive Council of the NLC is like a woomera that is handed with authority from our elders to give power to the spear and remind us what our obligations are.

DIGGING STICKS

These are used to gather food – like information – from the ground.

DILLY BAGS

These are used by women to hold the food – the information – gathered with the digging sticks.

BILMA (CLAPSTICKS) AND YIDAKI (DIDGERIDOO)

These are the instruments used to hold the law together through song and dance.



NLC Executive Councillor Djawa Yunupingu

New houses for Gapuwiyak residents

RESIDENTS of the East Arnhem community of Gapuwiyak have recently moved into homes they helped to plan and build. The keys to ten new homes were handed over by Minister for Remote Housing and Town Camps Chansey Paech and Member for Arnhem Selena Uibo. Six three-bedroom homes, a three-bedroom duplex and a two-bedroom duplex were constructed in a new 26-lot subdivision.

Minister Paech said Territory company WTD Constructions Pty Ltd was awarded the \$4.7 million contract to build the homes at Gapuwiyak in September last year.

"Locals were involved in the housing project right from the planning stage through to involvement in construction," he said.

"A further 16 houses will be constructed in the new subdivision following further Local Decision Making and consultation with the community. Our Government is proud of our remote housing program. We have built and improved more than 2200 homes so far, more than any other Territory Government has ever done. We know it is making a huge difference to people in communities right across the Territory but meeting the people who are moving into new homes, hearing their stories reassures us that we're on the right track."

Friends since childhood, Teresa Ngurruwuthun and Amanda Dhagapan are amongst the new tenants. They went to boarding school together, have worked alongside each other at the Gapuwiyak Health Clinic for many years, and now they're neighbours in one of the new duplexes.



Teresa Ngurruwuthun and Amanda Dhagapan with the keys to their new duplexes.

Help tell your community's story - join the team!

ALMOST 100 Remote Area team jobs are available in the Northern Territory for the 2021 Census.

Census Remote Area teams will be responsible for ensuring that everyone in their areas are counted in the Census. This includes everyone in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, those who are travelling and camping, and those living on pastoral stations.

In this role, you won't just be helping the Census to collect and make statistics. You will be helping to make a difference in your community for the future.

Information from the Census tell us how many new hospitals we need. How many schools we need. Who lives where and what they need. It tells our story.

Once our Remote Area teams have been filled and they start visiting communities, they will be recruiting 766 Community Field Officers in communities across the Northern Territory in July and August.

If you're interested in joining your communities' Census team, speak to the team when they visit your community.

A good Census count helps the Government make informed decisions and helps community groups apply for funding.

For example, Census data is used to understand housing needs and priorities to plan affordable and culturally appropriate community housing for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

We're looking for people know their community, have good project management and communication skills, work well within a team, and want to make a difference in their communities.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are encouraged to apply.

For more information on the jobs and to apply, visit www.abs.gov.au/careers.

Applications are open now and close on 30 June 2021.



Ninety-two Remote Area team jobs are up for grabs!



Census

2021 Census

Remote Area Management Teams

We're recruiting teams of people to do the Census count in remote areas. 

Do you have good project management and communication skills, work well within a team, and want to make a difference in your community?

Apply now at: www.abs.gov.au/census



Help tell your community's story

Out and about: *Land Rights News* visits the Nightcliff Renal Unit to say hello!



William Giese



Joy Cardona and Jacob Tungatalum

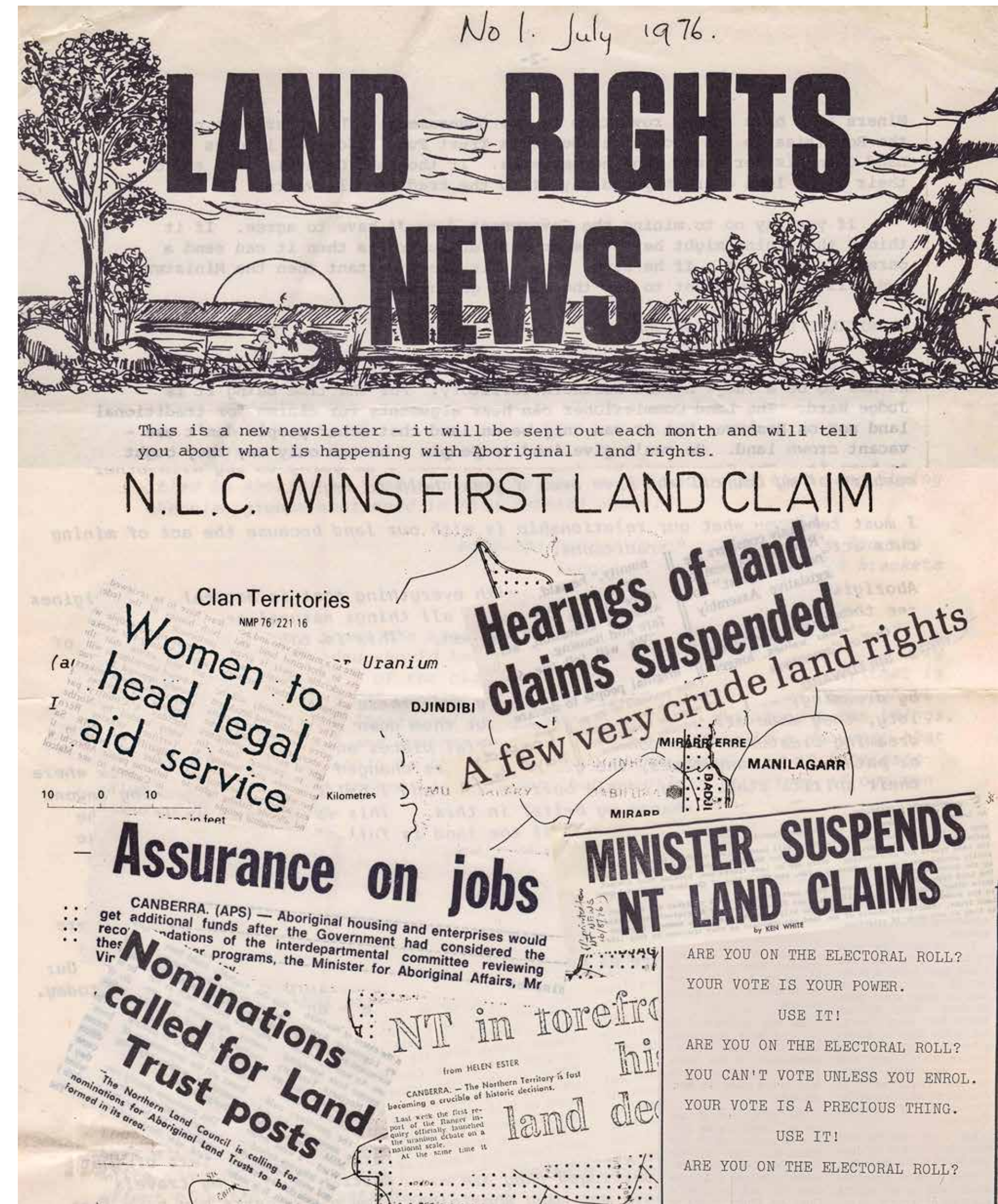


Jacob Tungatalum



Bella Anderson

'NLC wins first Land Claim': Headlines from the first editions of Land Rights News



Our land, our seas, our stories: *Land Rights News* celebrates 45 years of publication

By Chips Mackinolty

FOR more than 65,000 years, storytelling has been part and parcel of First Nations' cultures in what has become known as Australia.

The storytelling has always been about the lands and the seas, their histories, their importance and their role in everyday life.

So it is no small thing that this July marks the 45th anniversary of Australia's longest running Aboriginal newspaper: *Land Rights News*.

unavailable in the Territory were reprinted.

A very early example was one by the renowned journalist, Anne Summers with a feature article in the *National Times*, on the proposed McArthur River mine. Some things don't change!

Through the late 1970s and early 1980s, *Land Rights News*' major focus was on the developing landscape of land claims, and early land claim hearings, from the first ones at Yingawunarra to Borroloola.

the slow rise of Aboriginal broadcasting. CAAMA, based in Mparntwe/Alice Springs was among the first—it celebrates its 40th anniversary this year. This was followed by BRACS, servicing remote areas, and longer lasting organisations such as Warlpiri Media also set sail in the 1980s.

At the instigation of Patrick Dodson from the CLC and the late John Ah Kit—with strong support from Wenten Rubuntja and Galarwuy Yunupingu—*Land Rights News* "went tabloid" in a joint venture that

continued for 20 years or so. As such, it took on the form of a newspaper, and greatly expanded the scope of its coverage and circulation.

A notable early issue of the new format was the production of a special edition covering the historic visit to Mparntwe/Alice Springs by the Pope.

Perhaps the biggest edition—in terms of numbers of copies printed—was for the Bicentennial march in Sydney in January 1988.

The whole production team headed off to Sydney

to put the paper out—and 80,000 copies were printed!

So, there has been much to celebrate across the 45 years of *Land Rights News*.

We have covered hundreds of stories, from land and sea rights, to sport, the arts, the environment and our histories.

Our storytelling.

As a footnote, we would also like to congratulate *Kaori Mail*, the second longest running Aboriginal newspaper which celebrates its 30th anniversary this year. Another source of great storytelling!

'There has been much to celebrate across the 45 years of *Land Rights News*. We have covered hundreds of stories, from land and seas rights, to sport, the arts, the environment and our histories. Our storytelling.'

Across hundreds of issues since 1976, *Land Rights News* has been a source of information to Aboriginal people across the Northern Territory and beyond.

In the early days, it was best described as a newsletter rather than a newspaper.

At that time, the Aboriginal Land Rights Act had not been passed, so the land councils of the time were not even incorporated – let alone recognised under the Act as they are today.

Many of the first issues of the late 1970s focused on the very much day-to-day issues of the time: What would the Act look like? How would land claims be held? Who might be recognised as Traditional Owners? Would Traditional Owners be able to control what happened on their lands and seas?

At the same time – remember this was before television was available across much of the NT especially for people in the bush – many articles

This was the beginning of a very long process over many years as there was a huge amount of work that had to be undertaken by Traditional Owners, along with Land Council field staff, anthropologists and lawyers.

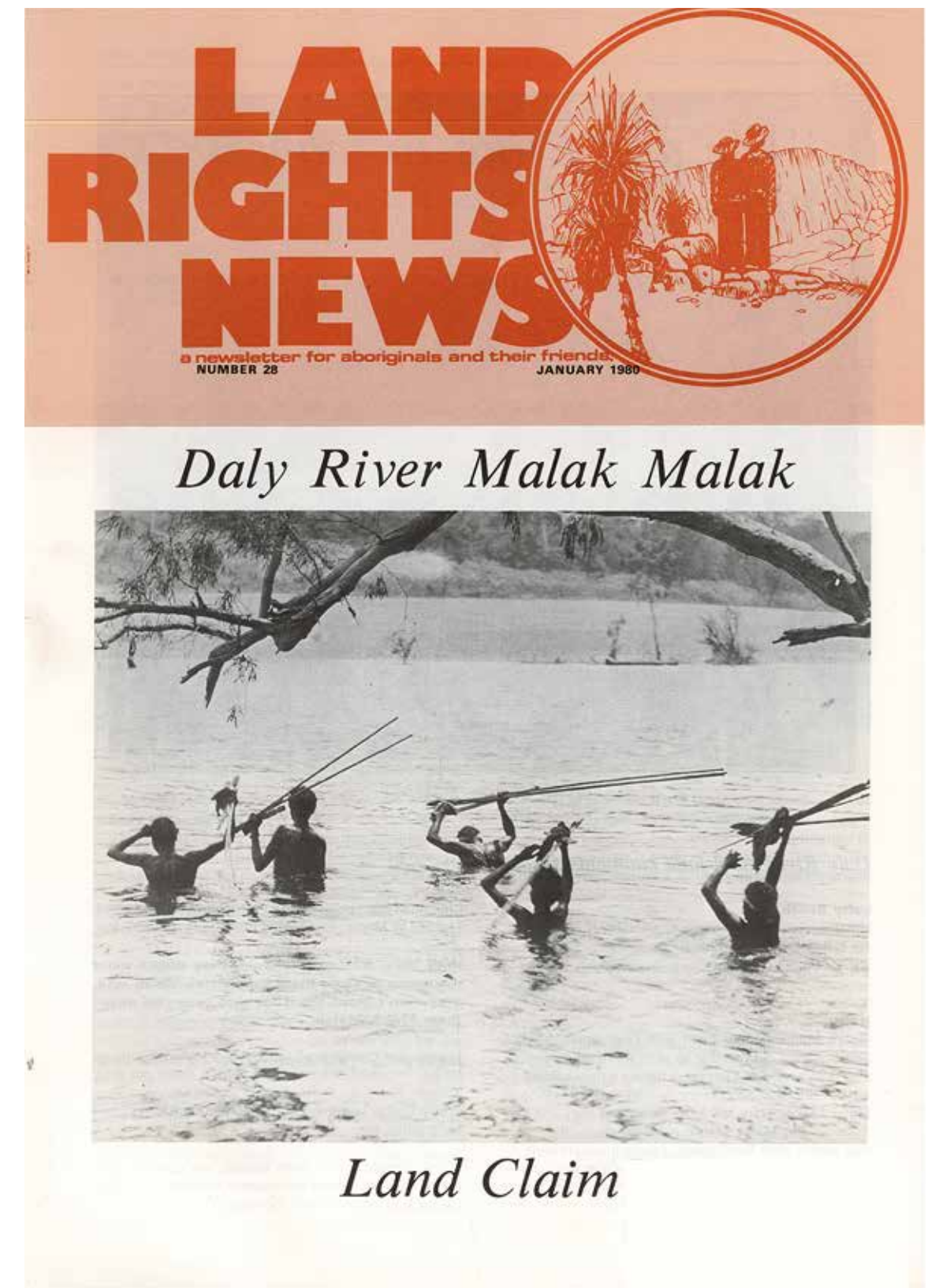
These early issues also covered, in much detail, the gradual shaping of the land council membership and Executive Councils.

In those days, the NLC was in a small group of buildings at Berrimah, before moving into Stuart Park in the early 1980s; then Casuarina and finally into the centre of Darwin city.

During this period there were a range of other Aboriginal newsletters across the Northern Territory – more often than not based at language literature production centres.

Some, such as the regional Katherine-based Yulngu Association, also produced magazines and newsletters. Nearly all of these have now been lost.

It was a period, too, of



Reviving Kulumindini Arts: 'If those old people could do it, we can too'

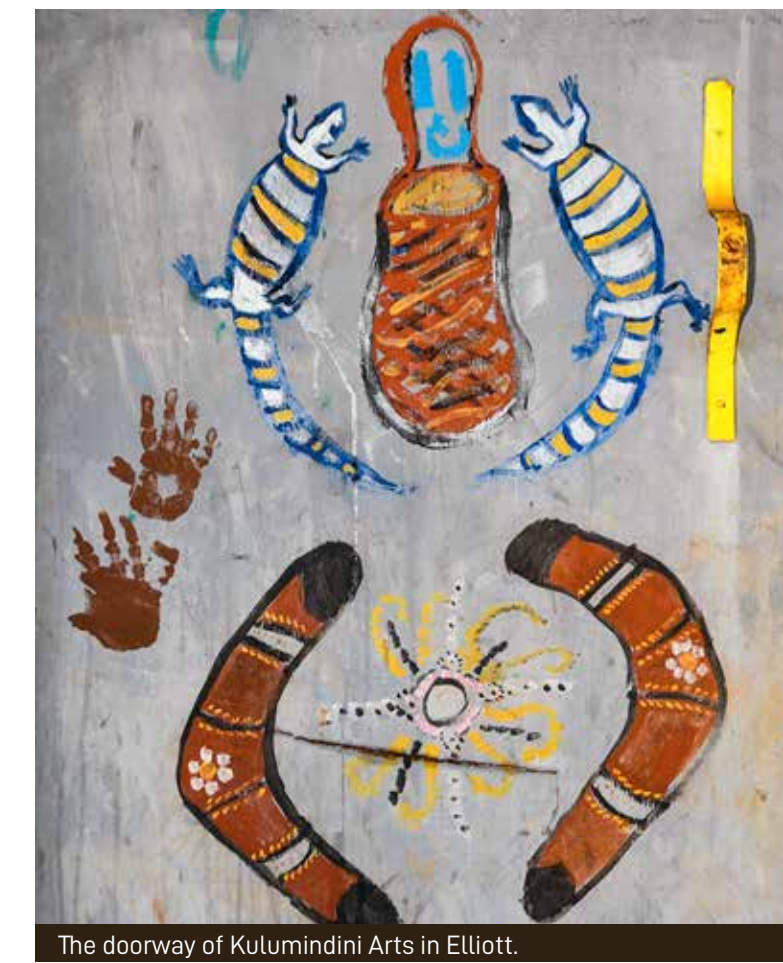


KULUMINDINI Arts Centre co-ordinator Elaine Sandy says that her art centre building is "falling apart."

"This building is very old ... it was originally the Gurungu Council office way back then, but you can see by the look of it that it is falling apart."

What Elaine Sandy and her fellow artists would really like to see is a new arts centre built in the centre of the Elliott township.

"That would be very good, we'd have access to visitors and to tourists. That is what we've been asking for the last couple of years and still there is no answer."



The doorway of Kulumindini Arts in Elliott.

Mudburra Arts was established in the late 1980s as an initiative of the Open College and with funding from the Federal government. The first Mudburra Arts exhibition was at the Desert Harmony festival in Tennant Creek in 1989 and in April the next year Mudburra Arts held a blockbuster exhibition - called Ngurra Mala - at Karen Brown's Shades of Ochre Gallery in Darwin.

The *NT News* carried a front page report on the show, saying that it "tapped the very pulse of the Elliott people, producing a fresh vision

of this hitherto regarded desolate environment, by way of vibrant expression, rich imagery and passionate mood".

Karen Brown says that Ngurra Mala was a revelation and a revolution.

"The title of the exhibition, Ngurra Mala, reflects the artists' unwavering recognition of their knowledge and identification of significant Dreamings and landscapes. The vibrancy of the art works exhibited in Darwin were a result of the exploration of a new palette of blues, yellows and reds that enhanced and enriched the long-held inspiration for art being the land.

"In 1991 and 1992 I travelled with Mudburra artists Lady Dixon Nimarra and Lizzie Dixon to major exhibitions in Grenoble and Lyon in France," said Ms. Brown.

Ngurra Mala included works and craft items by Lady Dixon Nimarra, her daughter Lizzie Dixon, Harry Jones Jalyirri, Marjorie Jones Nimarra, Beryl Raymond Nalyirri and Daisy Nuggett Nalyirri.

Land Rights News spoke to Lady Dixon Nimarra's daughter, Janey Dixon, at Marlinja last month. She told us how her mother translated her knowledge and love of country onto canvas.

"We used to sit down



and paint with her and she was always telling us about her painting, it was always about bush tucker in the wet season. Bush medicines. They were only from around here at Marlinja. The bush medicines, she would go and collect them around here with us."

But without continued support and resources, Mudburra Arts wasn't able to sustain that early promise.

over the years is now in private homes and galleries far away. Elaine Sandy believes that work should come back home so local artists can see what the earlier generations did.

"It is really important that local people get to see the art that was made here before, it should come back here so local people can see it and be inspired by it. Every one of us, all the family



An artwork by Elaine Sandy.

Now Elaine Sandy and the artists of Kulumindini want to get the local artists back on track.

They want the arts centre to again be "a stronghold for this place [Kulumindini] and for Mudburra arts and culture."

"The cultural integrity of everything we make is very important and has been passed on by artists who are family. The art flows from our culture. If we keep our culture strong the art will follow," said Ms Sandy.

Much of the early art produced at Kulumindini

members, we've got to be able to see the artworks that people made before."

Janey Dixon agrees.

"It would be a good idea to bring photos and the artworks back to the community. Some of the ladies still want to do painting. Those photos that will bring their memories, you know, and they can say 'if those old people could do it, then we can too'."

Flying the Aboriginal flag for the first time!

On a cold morning in Adelaide's Victoria Square the Aboriginal flag was flown for the first time. The date was 12 July 1971 - 50 years ago.

THE flag, designed by Luritja man, Harold Thomas, was raised on National Aborigines Day - four years before NAIDOC became an annual weekly celebration. It was not until it was adopted - largely at the urging of activist Gary Foley - by the 1972 Aboriginal Tent Embassy in 1972 that it slowly became recognised as the flag representing all Aboriginal people in Australia.

The symbolic meanings of the flag colours (as stated by Harold Thomas) are:

- Black - represents the Aboriginal people of Australia
- Yellow circle - represents the sun, the giver of life and protector
- Red - represents the red earth, the red ochre used in ceremonies and Aboriginal peoples' spiritual relation to the land

By the late 1970s/early 1980s it was increasingly being used by Aboriginal organisations and individuals in posters and murals, and by the early 1980s on t-shirts. From the early to mid-1980s Aboriginal artists were incorporating the flag in fine artwork. *Land Rights News* did not start depicting the flag until the mid-1980s. But of course flags did not arrive with Europeans and the planting of the British flag on so-called Possession Island by Captain Cook. For many hundreds of years, in developing trade and ceremonial relationships with the Macassans, Aboriginal people from north, north-east and eastern Arnhem Land, along with Groote Eylandt, have incorporated flags in ceremonies.

In 1995 the Commonwealth Government recognised the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags as official Australian flags. In 1997 the Federal Court recognised Thomas as the copyright holder in the flag's design, which has caused considerable controversy as he has in recent times, via his licencees, increased pressure on many Aboriginal organisations to pay for use of the flag on t-shirts and other items.

The exhibition, *Black, Red & Yellow: Unity and Identity*, commemorating the 50th anniversary of the first raising of the Aboriginal flag, will open at Library & Archives NT on 12 July.

Featuring photographs, art works and memorabilia the exhibition will track the journey of the flag from a symbol of protest to national icon.



A mural at Townsville Aboriginal and Islander Health Services.



Part of the Redfern mural that reads '40,000 years is a long, long time, 40,000 years still on my mind'.

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www.barklyregionaldeal.com.au/resources
and at your Barkly LA service centre

A short history of my grandmother: Larrakia elder Auntie Bilawara

By Robert O'Neil

Bilawara Lee is a Larrakia elder and healer. She works as the Larrakia academic-in-residence at Charles Darwin University and as an ambassador for the university.

SHE is also a cultural advisor and a major link for the public to Larrakia people. She was born Suzanne Juanita Lee. Her parents were Mary Agrapina Lee (maiden name Cubillo) and father was Herbert Daniel Lee. Her mother was a Larrakia senior elder from Darwin and her father was Karajarri from north Western Australia. Her parents also had parts of Asian background so her family is a very multi-cultural blend. She lived in Parap Camp (now Stuart Park) in a Sydney Williams Hut. She states that she had a pretty wonderful childhood except for the racism towards her and her spirituality.

She has written two books. The first one is *Star Dreaming*, which is a spiritual handbook on how to live life through difficult times and has been ratified by the International Council of Thirteen Indigenous Grandmothers. Her second book, *Healing from the Dilly Bag*, which is all around effective cross-cultural communication in the Western medical system, particularly here in the Top End where the majority of patients are Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders. "It just gives people an idea of our strong connection to our land, about the Dreamtime and the Dreaming," says Bilawara. In coordination with David

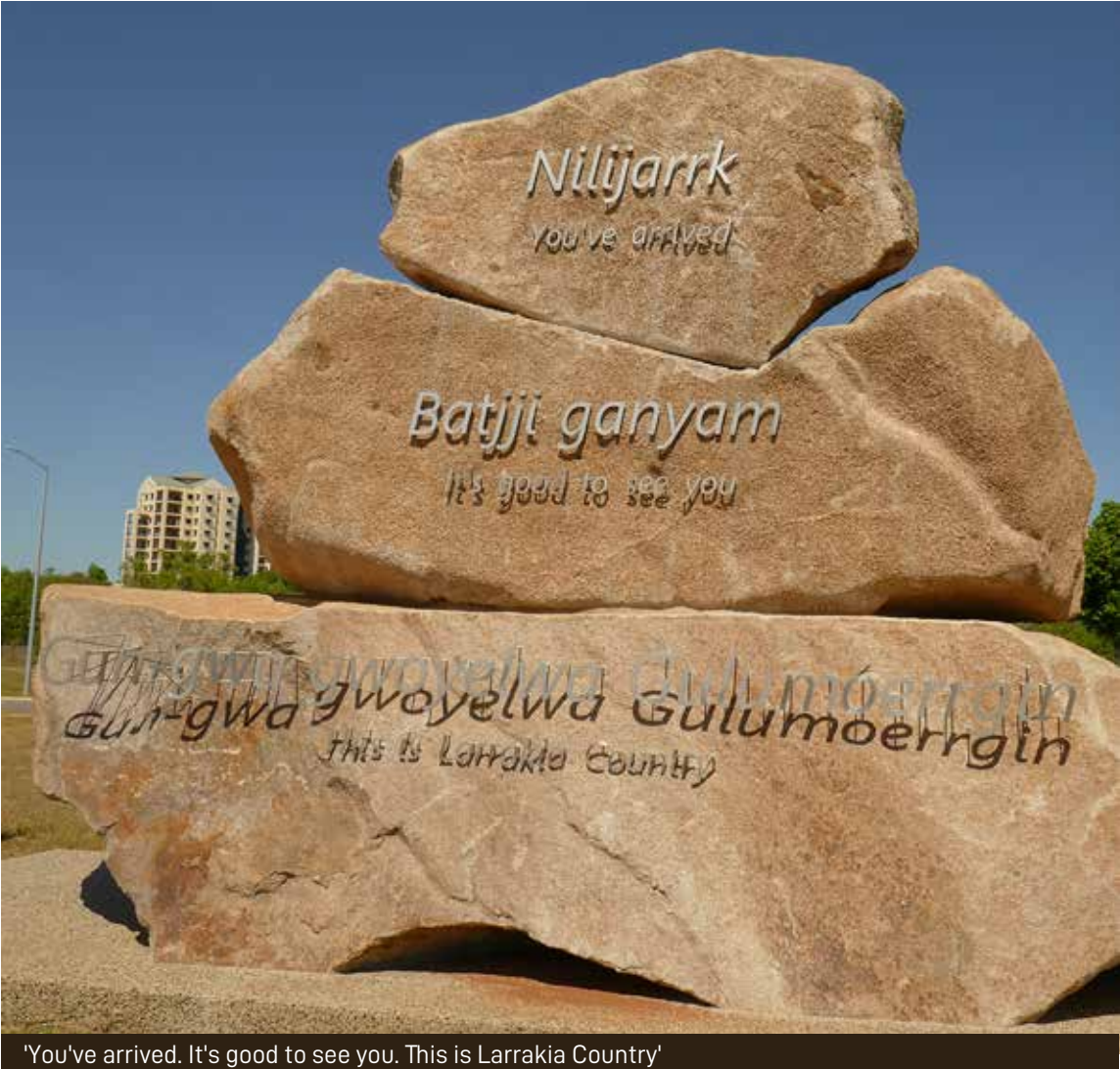
Kurnoth and the Larrakia Nation, she has been working hard to revive the Larrakia language and getting materials into schools. She is also on the NT Government's Darwin Regional Reconstruction Committee, where she submitted a Larrakia master plan. This states that when someone enters Darwin, they will instantly know that they are on Larrakia country. The Committee is currently hoping to be able to rename streets within the city of Darwin, as they have already started naming buildings. Her name, Bilawara, in the Larrakia language means 'red-tailed black cockatoo', which is an ancestral spirit being that brings about change. This name was gifted to her due to her work as a healer and a teacher of the ancient wisdoms of Aboriginal spirituality and healing.



Bilawara Lee



Year 10 student Robert O'Neil undertook work experience in the media unit at NLC and wrote this article about his grandmother.



"You've arrived. It's good to see you. This is Larrakia Country"

Farewell to Caring for Country Branch Manager Fiona Peek

A message from NLC CEO Marion Scrymgour

"ON behalf of the NLC I thank you from the Chairman, Executive and all elected Members for your unwavering dedication to uphold the values and principles of the NLC. "Caring for Country is a foundation of what our mob say is important for 'Our Land, Our Life, Our Seas'... it is this foundation that we all sign up to in our work for the Land Council. Our Traditional Owners in our regions, rural and remote, place their trust in us to deliver to make this happen, and that in particular, country is looked after. "You have strived and worked solidly to deliver on those values - and from me as CEO of this proud institution I say thank you for all your work."



NLC's General Manager Community and Regional Services Sharon Hillen, Caring for Country Branch Manager Fiona Peek and NLC Executive Member Helen Lee on Fiona's last day.

Nhulunbuy mob is on the move!



Staff working with NLC in Nhulunbuy will have new digs soon.

The NLC's Nhulunbuy office is moving to a new address in June.

OUR new office will have lift access for people with limited mobility, larger meeting rooms and it will be refurbished to meet our needs. If you have any questions about the move, get in touch with NLC's Regionalisation Project Manager Rosanna De Santis on 0409 865 378.

OUR NEW ADDRESS IS: SHOP 6, LEVEL 1, ARNHEM HOUSE, NHULUNBUY



NORTHERN LAND COUNCIL



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National Flags also supplies promotional and identification products such as medals, badges, insignia and medallions.

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BARUNGA

TASTE



MUSIC • SPORT • CULTURE • 11 – 13 JUNE 2021

Friday 11th June – 10am – Gates Open		
SKINNYFISH MAIN STAGE		
FRIDAY 11 th	SATURDAY 12 th	SUNDAY 13 th
7:30pm Mibala Histri (a collaborative project between the Northern Land Council, the Barunga community and Libraries and Archives NT that showcases some of the wonderful collection of photos that Ruth Jones took while working as a classroom teacher and librarian at Bamyili (Barunga) from 1976 to 1981.	9:30am Justine Clarke's children's show featuring Barunga school kids	
	10:15am PHL The Beat Dance group	
	10:30am Wimun Step Out On Kantri (Fashion Parade)	
	2:30pm Barunga Festival Official Opening Ceremony	6:30pm Sport trophy presentations
6:30pm – late Live Music	7:30pm – late Live Music	11:00pm Winner of the George Rurrambu award for best community band
APRA TENT		
FRIDAY 11 th	SATURDAY 12 th	SUNDAY 13 th
6:30pm – 8pm Sunset	3:30pm Music workshops	
	7:30pm – late Live Music	
*** Refer to Information Board for performance times		
CULTURE PARK		
SATURDAY 12 th & SUNDAY 13 th	SUNDAY 13 th Only	
Dampier cooking Yidaki (didgeridoo) making and demonstration Weaving workshops Bush tucker Bush Medicine workshops Spear making workshop with the Jawoyn Rangers 4:30pm – 7pm Bungul/Traditional Dance	2pm Spear throwing competitions: traditional and contemporary	
	3pm Yidaki (didgeridoo) playing competition	
INFORMATION BOOTHS		
Saturday 12 th and Sunday 13 th (9:00am – 5:00pm) – The information booths showcase local businesses, community organisations and all in between!		

FOOTBALL OVAL		
FRIDAY 11 th	SATURDAY 12 th	SUNDAY 13 th
10:00am – 2:00pm Junior Football Carnival	8:30am – 5:00pm Senior Football Carnival	8:30am – 3:00pm Football Carnival continues 4:30pm Women's Football Grand Final 5:30pm Men's Football Grand Final
BASKETBALL COURT		
FRIDAY 11 th	SATURDAY 12 th	SUNDAY 13 th
8pm Barunga Beats! Barunga kids run their own dance party.	8:30am – 5:00pm Men & Women's Basketball Carnival	8:30am – 3:00pm Basketball Carnival continues 4:30pm Women's Basketball Grand Finals 5:30pm Men's Basketball Grand Final
SOFTBALL DIAMOND		
SATURDAY 12 th	SUNDAY 13 th	
8:30am – 5:00pm Women's softball	8:30am – 3:00pm Women's softball	
HERITAGE PARK		
VARIOUS TOUR TIMES – Barunga Junior Guides tours (walking tours and bike riding tours) of the community and surrounds – led by Barunga School children. ALL WEEKEND – Healthy food and drinks available from Canarian Cuisine, Roma Bar, Thai Nee Kitchen, Milkwood School and others. Catering from early until late. Community General Store from 8am until 9pm. A Festival Information Booth and Board located at Heritage Park will display festival updates including special guests at the APRA Music tent, and Barunga Junior Guided Tour Times		
ART SHED		
Saturday 12 th and Sunday 13 th (10:00am – 5:00pm) – Meet artists and buy works of art from local community artist and art centres from across the top end		
SHIRE OFFICE		
Saturday 12 th and Sunday 13 th (10:00am – 5:00pm) – Come and engage with organisations that sponsor the Festival and others that provide support and services to remote Indigenous communities – find out what is happening in the bush!		
Monday 14th June – Midday – Gates Close		

Project Sea Dragon ILUA Committee meets face-to-face for first time since COVID-19

THE Project Sea Dragon Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA) Committee, made up of Native Title Holders, NLC and Seafarms representatives, met in Kununurra in April 2021.

Seafarms is developing Project Sea Dragon, a prawn aquaculture project across several sites that includes a grow-out facility at Legune Station, which will produce black tiger prawns.

The Committee plays an important role in keeping track of each party's commitments under the ILUA, including cultural awareness, jobs, training, indigenous business opportunities and the development of a ranger program.

This was the first time the Committee has been able to meet face to face since 2019 due to COVID-19 restrictions.



L-R Sophia Simon, Sarah Rennie (NLC), Ray Clydon, Liam Golding (NLC), Paul Mitchell (NLC), Marcus Simon, Annie Thomas (Seafarms), Chris Mitchell (Seafarms), Rod Dyer (Seafarms), Malcom Simon, Maurice Simon Jnr, Jimmy Paddy, Freddie Gerrard, Maxine Clydon, Kylie Burn (NLC), Bernadette Simon, Maureen Simon (front).



Project Sea Dragon ILUA Committee members Bernadette and Maureen Simon reading *Land Rights News*.

Advertise in LAND RIGHTS NEWS

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

If you want to place an ad, simply email media@nlc.org.au and ask for our ad rates.

Welcome Kylie! A new team member for Community Planning & Development



Kylie Burn has recently joined the CP&D team after several years with the Caring for Country Branch.

KYLIE Burn is an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander woman, Darwin local, and descendant of the Stolen Generation.

Kylie started at NLC in 2009 at the age of 18. She has worked in various roles including in the then Jobs and Career Unit, the Anthropology Branch, and most recently as a Regional Project Officer with the Caring for Country Branch, supporting Aboriginal Ranger Groups, Indigenous Protected Areas and the Joint Management of NT Parks in the Borroloola Barkly region and the Victoria River District.

Now Kylie has stepped into the role of Community Planning & Development (CP&D) Project Officer. Her role involves supporting Traditional Owners in the NLC region to self-determined development using income from their land ownership.

The NLC's CP&D Program started in 2016 with the purpose to work with groups to build their governance and planning capacity to manage their own interests and benefit economically, socially and culturally from the secure possession of their lands, seas and intellectual property.

The CP&D Program continues to grow its reach and impact, including the expansion of the team.

"My first few months working in the CP&D team has been a great experience. There's a lot of incredible work happening in this space and I'm looking forward to being a part of it," Kylie said.

"I'm happy I've been able to develop my career with the NLC and do work I am passionate about and see some beautiful country.

"I'd love to take on opportunities to support younger staff coming in to the NLC, as the strong mentors I had supported me along the way and helped me build the confidence and motivation to continue to grow and take on new challenges."

Meet Galiwin'ku community researcher Nyomba Gandangu

NYOMBA Gandangu is a Traditional Owner for the eastern side of Galiwin'ku in Arnhem Land and is working as a senior community-based researcher with Charles Darwin University on a Ground Up monitoring and evaluation project.

This project supports Traditional Owners in their vision for Galiwin'ku and their work with the NLC's CP&D Program.

Nyomba is guiding this work, checking in with Traditional Owners and asking questions about how their projects are going.

Projects include: raypirri' camps for young people, a law and justice program, youth diversion project and their new playground for primary school children.

These projects are supported by Traditional Owners through community benefit funds derived from their land use agreements, and administered through the CD&P Program.

Nyomba is also enrolled in a Diploma of Indigenous Research at Charles Darwin University and is co-author on an academic paper discussing Yolngu approaches to monitoring and evaluation (in preparation).

Watch this space for more exciting work being done by Nyomba.



Nyomba Gandangu is working with Charles Darwin University on a monitoring and evaluation project.

Kunibidji woman's passion for change drives push for legal career

THERE were times it felt impossible, but for Indigenous young mum Anthea Cartwright, she wouldn't let anything stand in the way of her passion for law.

And the determination has paid off this month with Ms Cartwright being admitted as a lawyer in the Supreme Court of the NT in Darwin on 4 May.

The proud Kunibidji woman from Maningrida in North East Arnhem Land, completed her Bachelor of Laws across six years with CQUniversity.

The hectic time also

saw Ms Cartwright grow her family to five kids, take on a full-time role as an Indigenous teacher aide, and live on the other side of the country from her Top End community.

"There were definitely times it felt impossible and I felt like giving up, but I had that dream from being a young girl, that I want to be a lawyer," she said.

"I did everything online, all my Zoom sessions with my tutor, all my oral and video assignments online – it was the only way I could have done it."

Living in Hervey Bay, in Queensland, Ms Cartwright said initially she'd travelled to Maryborough for exams.

"I remember once I took my husband and my newborn with me, then fed the baby just before the three-hour exam, then the baby sat for three hours with Dad in car, then I came out and fed again, and then we drove home," she said.

"Looking back you have no idea how you did it, but now it's all worth it!"

"Lecturers like Professor Stephen Colbran, and Wayne Jones, Anna Farmer, Dr



Anthea Cartwright and family.



Anthea Cartwright and NAAJA's Greg Woodroffe

Amanda Stoker (now Federal Senator) and Dr Anthony Marinac were so supportive, it was great to have really knowledgeable and wise people around you."

She also recalls Hervey Bay lawyer and lecturer John Milburn (Acting Magistrate) offering local students a weekly tutorial at his law offices.

"Even though all the study was online, you didn't feel alone, there was community."

Ms Cartwright's interest in law began with her passion for conservation.

"I originally wanted to become a park ranger – and where I was living in the bush outside Darwin, they were doing a lot of mining there," she said.

"There's a really vulnerable species in that area, the Red Goshawk, and I spotted one of the birds there and reported it to conservation and land management authorities, and they weren't really interested."

"I realised you don't actually have much of say in protecting wildlife and heritage in a hands-on role, and my Dad said to me maybe a lawyer can make more of a difference."

Ms Cartwright graduated from CQUniversity in 2018, and hopes to begin an Environmental Science degree once she's practicing as a lawyer.

Now living back in Darwin with her family, her efforts to get admitted included a six-month internship with North Australian Aboriginal Justice Agency in Alice Springs.

Ms Cartwright's now looking for junior lawyer roles, and her long-term goal is admission into the High Court of Australia.

All her five kids, husband and close family attended her Darwin admission ceremony, and Ms Cartwright said becoming a mum at 21, and her big family, was a vital part of her success.

"When I was studying I was waking up at 3am to do an assignment, then cook a cake for lunchboxes, then run the dog on the beach, it was just go-go-go to keep up, but it gave me energy too," she said.

"I feel powerful being a mum, and now I've achieved what I set out to do, I've shown my kids anything is possible."

**This article originally appeared in CQUniversity Australia*



"I became an interpreter because of the language barrier between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people."

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Coxswain qualifications a pathway to future employment



A Maningrida student learns how to drive a boat.



Students from Maningrida community are taking part in a maritime program.

IN the coming months, the Maningrida community will celebrate student completions in the

Stage 2 accredited Coxswains qualification. Headed by teacher Matt Danvers, the maritime

program is well supported by the LoC Program and its partnership with the Bawinanga Djelk Rangers.

These student outcomes will lead directly into employment opportunities as Maningrida further

develops sustainable enterprises in fisheries and seafood, tourism and compliance.

Maningrida Learning on Country mob visit NLC in Darwin

IN March, the Maningrida Learning on Country mob spent a few hours at our Darwin office and provided us with a more intimate understanding of their program at the 'grass roots' level.

Cindy Jinmarabynana, LoC Co-Chairperson and Maningrida School teacher, and Joseph Diddo, LoC Senior Cultural Advisor, were joined

by Maningrida Assistant Principal Mason Scholes and LoC Coordinator Alex 'Batman' Ernst.

Two star graduates of the LoC Program, Grestina Wilson and Jonah Ryan, also called into the NLC Darwin office. Grestina and Jonah have come through the school program and are now full-time Bawinanga Djelk Rangers.

It was their first visit to



Special visitors from Maningrida drop into NLC Darwin office.

NLC signs MOU with NT Department of Education

Second stage of LoC Program Evaluation taking place this month

This month, Dr William Fogarty, the Deputy Director of Australian National University's Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research (CAEPR) and researcher Kate Bellchambers, also from ANU, will be based in Darwin for the second stage of the Learning on Country Program (LoC)

Evaluation for 2020-2021. They'll be undertaking confidential interviews with LoC stakeholders in seven remote communities across the Top End. The previous evaluation was undertaken by Dr Fogarty in 2015 and all recommendations from that report have now been addressed by the NLC

The Northern Land Council formalised the program partnership with the NT Department of Education (NT DoE) by signing the Learning on Country (LoC) Program Memorandum of Understanding in April.

Both the NLC and NT DoE recognize the contribution LoC plays in engaging remote Indigenous students, and the cross cultural educational outcomes being achieved.

Under our contract with the National

Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA), the LoC Program supports remote secondary student participation in an employment pathways program, so our partnership with the NT DoE is vital in ensuring engagement and delivery across our 15 program sites.

Both parties look forward to strengthening this commitment through the development of a Monitoring and Evaluation framework for the LoC Program.

Meet the first Aboriginal female Fisheries Inspector in the NT

AFTER three years of training, NLC ranger Theresa Lemon has been appointed a Fisheries Inspector Class 1 after successfully completing her Certificate III in Fisheries Compliance.

Friends and family gathered at Malak Malak ranger station in the Daly River Region to celebrate Theresa's graduation, with the local Water Police and members from Fisheries NT present for the handover and induction.

The Fisheries Inspector Program was developed by Fisheries NT to 'provide fisheries compliance powers to appropriately skilled and experienced land and sea rangers'. The first inspectors (class 1) were appointed in May 2018.

Theresa's appointment as a Fisheries Inspector allows her to enforce recreational fishing regulations with more authority.

Under the Fisheries Act 1988, fisheries inspectors can:

- approach vessels
 - record evidence, including taking images, video and audio recordings
 - collect personal information, including names and addresses
 - ask to see any type of licence and permits
 - inspect fishing gear
- NT Fisheries Marine Ranger Support Manager, Simon Xuereb, says it became evident that rangers needed more power when they would want to inspect certain fishing gear, such as crab pots, but weren't allowed to touch it. In these situations the Water Police would be required to attend.
- "What this enables Theresa to do is to inspect to allay suspicion: to say 'yes it's OK' or 'that needs follow up'. So rather than a knee-jerk reaction sending police in all the time, all over the coast... we now have Indigenous Fisheries Inspectors who can relay that information and make things a lot more targeted and efficient,"



Theresa Lemon and Senior Constable Wade Marshall at the Malak Malak Ranger Station.

said Mr Xuereb.

Theresa says she is looking forward to putting her training to use on the Daly River, to make sure recreational

fishers are doing the right thing. In her graduation speech, she thanked the Northern Land Council, NT Fisheries and the Water Police for the opportunity,

training and support.

NLC's Women's Co-op Council Chair Joy Cardona described Theresa as a 'trail blazer' for other female rangers to follow.



NLC staff and representatives from NT Police and NT Fisheries gathered at the Malak Malak Ranger Station to celebrate Theresa Lemon's graduation.



Theresa Lemon's speech

"My name is Theresa Lemon, I was born here on the iconic Daly River.

In 2019 two of our rangers became fully qualified Fisheries inspectors – our coordinator Rob Lindsay, wish he was here today, and brother Aaron Green.

This made us very proud and it also created a pathway for my journey to become the first Aboriginal female Fisheries Inspector on the Daly River.

In September 2020, the Malak Malak Healthy Country Plan was launched, identifying many serious threats to the country, including the ongoing impact of fishing and the need to continue with Fisheries Compliance training with the rangers, and working with scientists from Charles Darwin University to measure erosion in the River.

A massive thank you to NLC's Caring for Country Branch, Water Police, and Fisheries for giving me the opportunity and providing training and support."

Young NLC rangers dream big



Young rangers came together in April for a forum focused on skill development and networking.

EIGHTEEN young rangers from the NLC's ranger groups came together in mid-April for a forum focused on mentoring, development and networking.

The forum was held at Noonamah, just outside of Darwin. The rangers participated in a variety of activities including goal-setting workshops and action planning.

NLC's Women & Youth Engagement Coordinator

Penny Mules reported that the forum went incredibly well, with all the rangers working hard to explore their roles and their futures in the ranger program.

As part of an activity focused on resource allocation, rangers were asked to identify needs and concerns in relation to the future of their ranger groups. The most identified needs included more ranger positions available

for women, young and casually employed rangers; as well as more equipment and training to build skills and confidence.

When asked why they had become a ranger, the most frequent response from the group was 'to look after country'. They also expressed that more work with elders on country would be useful in strengthening cultural knowledge and language.

The Young Rangers

Regional Olympics was a highlight of the forum, where ranger groups competed against each other to complete vehicle checklists, incident reports and quizzes on animals and art. The Arnhem Land Rangers took home the trophy, beating the Western Top End by just one point!

Penny said the forum provided a fantastic opportunity for new and



Mary Blyth and Sheila White at the Noonamah forum.



Artwork: Care for Country by Maggie-Jean Douglas (Gubbi Gubbi)



When creating 'Care for Country' I kept in mind that this meant spiritually, physically, emotionally, socially and culturally – I chose to create a bright and vibrant artwork that included the different colours of the land but showed how they come together in our beautiful country and to make people feel hopeful for the future. I've included communities/people, animals and bush medicines spread over different landscapes of red dirt, green grass, bush land and coastal areas to tell the story of the many ways country can and has healed us throughout our lives and journeys.

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NAIDOC Week
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#NAIDOC2021 #HealCountry



Acknowledging the 50th Anniversary of the Aboriginal Flag. Reproduced with kind permission and copyright of Harold Thomas. Original Black and White Flag designed by Harold Thomas. The Torres Strait Island Regional Council. Designed by Mr Bernard Namok.

Toyota says electric Land Cruiser could be coming to a store near you

TOYOTA says it's considering bringing an all-electric version of its popular Land Cruiser to consumers. The world's biggest car maker is in the middle of a trial with a Land Cruiser converted to electric propulsion for a mining company. Earlier this year, Toyota embarked on a project with BHP to convert a Land Cruiser 70 to run on a battery-electric powertrain and use it at its Nickel West mining project in Western Australia. According to BHP's President Minerals Australia, Edgar Basto, the partnership

is another step in the company's ongoing studies into how it can reduce the emissions intensity of its light vehicle fleet. "Reducing our reliance on diesel at our operations will help achieve our medium-term target of reducing operational emissions by 30 per cent by 2030," he said. Toyota Australia's general manager of product planning and development, Rod Ferguson, commented on the trial to CarsGuide and said that it might lead to an actual consumer version of an electric Land Cruiser. "We've delivered one

vehicle so far to BHP as far as a pilot and testing project. And part of that is co-development – they're interested in emissions reduction, vibration reduction, they want to see how the range works, and how it works with a daily load. So we can get feedback to level up, with the intention of at some point, timing not known... to do something more for more customers." Mr Ferguson said it's a possibility that customers would be able to get an all-electric Land Cruiser at their local Toyota dealership in the future without a clear timeline.



Would you like to drive this Land Cruiser? Image: Toyota Australia

Crocs mean more than money for Kakadu ranger



One of 100,000 or so saltwater crocodiles in the NT.

FOR Kakadu ranger and Bunidj woman Desiree Nadji there is nowhere she would rather be than the waters of the South Alligator River, protecting her totem – the saltwater crocodile (*Crocodylus porosus*). Ms Nadji featured on national news for ABC's 7.30 program, where she told reporter Elias Clure about the crocodile's significance for her clan. "I have to respect them and look after them, as anybody would...if you come into the waterways, that's their environment." Top End saltwater crocodile numbers have risen to historical heights since their protection in the 1970s, prompting discussion about the reintroduction of hunting. During the first half of the 20th century, the saltwater crocodiles was hunted to near extinction both for

its skins and to eradicate what pastoralists believed to be a pest species. In 1971, protection of the species in Australia was introduced under Northern Territory and Commonwealth legislation. The saltwater crocodile population at that time had crashed to around 4,000. Since then it has been recovering to strong, almost uncontrollable numbers – it is estimated there are over 100,000 saltwater crocodiles in NT waterways. Some groups are calling for culling of wild crocodiles due to the threats to human safety and agricultural production. Professor Grahame Webb told the ABC he believes croc hunting should be reintroduced. He considers it a "win-win situation" from which economic development and pest control can be achieved. In a separate interview in 2019, Dr Webb pointed

out that harvesting wild animals also put a value on natural habitats — rather than the land clearing, pesticide use and wetland draining that can accompany domestic agriculture. CDU Researcher Dr Keller Kopf told the ABC in 2020 that very little is known about directly how the crocodiles influence the environments they are in. Crocodile egg farming has been beneficial to

Aboriginal communities in recent decades, such as the 'Croc in a Box' program in Ramingining which grows over 100 crocodiles per year out of two tanks. Across the Top End, an estimated 20,000 eggs a year are harvested with the assistance of ranger groups who also have the wider responsibilities of caring for country. Ernst & Young reported that during the 2014/15 financial year, over \$2.3 million dollars was

paid directly to Traditional Owners and those tasked with egg collection. Desiree Nadji will continue to protect her totem, and she says her attitude won't change. "I'm careful – everyone's gotta be careful around crocs, and safe...but I'm not scared of them."



Kakadu Ranger Desiree Nadji and ABC reporter Elias Clure.

Strong Women for Healthy Country Network grows at Banatjarl forum

MORE than 280 women gathered at Banatjarl, south-east of Katherine, to attend the NT Strong Women for Healthy Country Network (SWFHC) forum in late May. They came together with the aim of strengthening the women-only network that strives to protect country. "We are really happy to host this forum. This is really good and important to be meeting women from everywhere," said Chiyo Andrews, Banatjarl Strongbala Wimun Grup and Chairperson Jawoyn Traditional

Owner of Banatjarl. "We are sharing our culture and women are sharing their culture with us. Working together as the ladies. "It's important for us to come together, to make us strong together, share our voice and support all women caring for country and families. This is important work." The NT Strong Women for Healthy Country Network started as a way to connect female rangers living in remote areas of the NT. The inaugural forum

was held in 2019 on country at a sacred site, Bawurrbarnda near Bulman in Central Arnhem Land. Hosted by Traditional Owners and Mimal Land Management, the event attracted about 150 Aboriginal women who spent one week together discussing their work on country. This year, the number of attendees was nearly double, with membership expanded to include women working in domestic violence, the arts and as healers.



Chiyo Andrews and Samara Andrews



"Sharing responsibility is important for making sure the land is looked after... the whole family is involved and that's how they keep country healthy." **Shantelle Miller, Banatjarl Strong Wimun's Grup and designer of the SWFHC logo**

NT Minister for Aboriginal Affairs Selena Uibo joined the forum for a panel discussion, where participants called for more female rangers and stronger communication between government and communities. "As government we need to hear that strong voice from community, particularly from strong Aboriginal women, of what communities and families need so we can support that."



"If you're standing someone can come and bump you. You are no longer standing strong, you got wobbly legs. But when you are sitting strong, you cannot be moved." **Singer/songwriter Shellie Morris**

"It's so good to see how far so many women have come from, and to see so many female rangers. It makes me want to do my work more." **Gennivea Aplin from Nudjabarra**



Senior Ranger Maureen Simon, her daughter Sophia Simon and her granddaughter Ashely Simon all attended the forum where they had the chance to talk about establishing their new women's ranger group at Marralum near Kununurra. "We have a lot of work to do to care for our country, with weeds and burning," said Maureen.



NT Minister for Aboriginal Affairs Selena Uibo



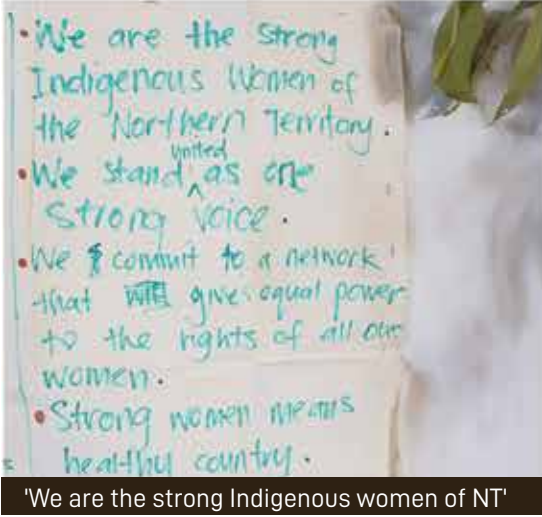
Preparing pandanus to make dilly bags



Bulgul Ranger Teresa Burr Burr



Artwork on display at the forum



'We are the strong Indigenous women of NT'



Yugul Mangi Rangers Jana and Cherryanne Daniels



Time for a yarn with ABC's Jane Bardon (2nd on left)



Christine Lindsay from Mimal Land Management



Preparing pandanus for cultural weaving



Chair of the Jawoyn Association Lisa Mumbin



Mimal Rangers Chloe John, Josephine Ashal, Caitlyn John



Lining up for yummy food!



Drawing session at the forum

Nominate now for the 2021 NT Natural Resource Management Award

THE NT Natural Resource Management Awards recognise the efforts of Territorians who contribute their time and energy to looking after our natural resources – our land, water, soil, plants and animals.

Territory Natural Resource Management (TNRM) Chief Executive Officer Karen May is encouraging Territorians to nominate someone they know for an award.

"We all know individuals, groups and organisations that do fantastic work looking after our natural resources – community groups, landcarers, Indigenous rangers, pastoralists, farmers, scientists, businesses and conservation organisations" she said.

"Sometimes people are a

little shy about nominating themselves so, if you know someone doing a great job, consider nominating them – they'll be thrilled."

Winner of the NT Ranger of the Year Award in 2020, Sonya Braybon, said winning the award helped her feel recognised for her hard work as the Western Arrernte Coordinator for the Tjuwanpa Women Rangers, and how much she had pushed herself.

"I really enjoy being a ranger and I want to show younger generations that when you work hard you can earn something like this. I feel proud working for community, and for community to see how much their support means to me too, and how it can pay off," Ms Braybon said.

"This award could be

seen by young women as an inspiration to improve and to work hard. If you're working with young woman on Country it is important to walk alongside them, train them, mentor them, support them and inspire them".

Nominations for the NT Natural Resource Management Awards close on 16 September 2021.

The awards will be celebrated and winners announced at a gala dinner on 17 November in Darwin, as part of the three-day 2021 Territory Natural Resource Management Conference.

For more information about the awards and to access the online nomination form visit the TNRM Conference website: tnrmconference.org.au/nt-nrm-awards



Tjuwanpa Women Ranger Sonya Braybon

Wardaman Traditional Owners and rangers protecting culture and rock art sites

WARDAMAN Traditional Owners and the Wardaman Rangers have been moving forward with fire management on their Land Trusts.

A carbon abatement project is expected to be registered in 2021, and the rangers and Traditional Owners have been taking great care to implement a thorough burning program in the late wet and early dry seasons.

Rangers have undertaken three phases of aerial burning on the Menngen ALT so far in 2021.

In conjunction with ground burning, a good network of fire breaks is now in place across the Land Trust.

About 20 per cent of the Land Trust has now been burnt, and if there are not many fires between now and the end of the year, a good outcome for carbon abatement will be achieved.

Sale of these carbon 'credits' will raise useful funding for the fire program in future years.



Basil Murrimal undertaking skilled patch burning of spear grass



Angela Katherine operating the aerial incendiary machine in the helicopter on Menngen ALT



Sonya Braybon, Western Arrernte Coordinator of the Tjuwanpa Women Rangers. Winner of the 2020 NT Ranger of the Year Award.

Winning the NT Ranger of the Year Award in 2020 has helped me feel recognised for all the hard work I have put in and how much I have pushed myself. I really enjoy being a ranger and I want to show younger generations that when you work hard you can earn something like this.

If you're working with young woman on Country it is important to walk alongside them, train them, mentor them, support them and inspire them.

The NT Natural Resource Management Awards recognise the efforts of Territorians who contribute their time and energy to looking after our natural resources – our land, water, soil, plants and animals.

Nominate now for one of the 9 award categories, including Ranger of the Year and the Indigenous Natural Resource Management Award, to help recognise excellence in NRM in the Northern Territory.

The awards will be celebrated and winners announced at the much loved gala dinner on the 17th of November in Darwin, as part of the 3-day 2021 Territory Natural Resource Management Conference.

Nominations can be made for the following prestigious awards:

- ▶ Best Collaboration in NRM Award
- ▶ Farmers & Fishers Sustainability Award
- ▶ Indigenous NRM Award
- ▶ Environment & Conservation Award
- ▶ Next Generation NRM Award
- ▶ Ranger of the Year Award
- ▶ Research in NRM Award
- ▶ Resilient & Sustainable Enterprise Award
- ▶ Lifetime Achievement Award

NOMINATE NOW!
Nominations close on Thursday the 16th of September



 Territory Natural Resource Management

Contact us for more information or support with your nomination
@ 08 8942 8300 events@territorynrm.org.au www.tnrmconference.com.au

'A cherished event on the Yolngu calendar': Garma Festival cancelled over COVID-19 concerns

GARMA Festival, Australia's premier forum for the discussion of Indigenous affairs, has been cancelled due to COVID-19 safety concerns.

"It is with enormous regret and sadness that we advise this year's Garma Festival will not proceed," YYF CEO Denise Bowden said in a statement.

"For the past 6 months, the Yothu Yindi Foundation (YYF) has worked extremely hard in partnership with the relevant authorities to plan a COVID-safe event for our guests and our communities. We have thrown all our energy into establishing an environment that would meet with the approval of the Northern Territory's Chief Health Officer.

"This has included making arrangements for all interstate attendees to be tested upon arrival in Arnhem Land, and providing a 24-hour COVID clinic on site, staffed by the National Critical Care & Trauma Response Centre. Organisers were confident that these and other safety measures were rigorous enough to all but eliminate the public health risk associated with staging the event.

"Unfortunately, the NT's Chief Health Officer has

determined that Gulkula's remote location poses too many logistical and safety challenges in the unlikely event of a COVID incident, such as the difficulty of evacuating people from the site, and the unsuitability of quarantine facilities in northeast Arnhem Land.

"Keeping the region COVID-free has always been YYF's number one priority, so we accept the CHO's decision, which also highlights the logistical and infrastructure challenges that exist in relation to any COVID outbreak in the remote Aboriginal world.

"Garma is a cherished event on the Yolngu calendar and the cancellation of this year's event is a big blow to the local community in many ways.

"The event is a source of enormous pride and satisfaction to Yolngu people, and each year Garma injects up to \$13 million into the Northern Territory economy, about \$5 million of which lands in Nhulunbuy and surrounding communities. The economic loss to local Territory businesses and Yolngu people will be significant again this year.



We will have to wait until 2022 to experience the Garma Festival again.

Culturally appropriate support available for Aboriginal people who experienced sexual abuse in an institution



THE National Redress Scheme can provide Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who experienced sexual abuse as a child in an institution

with safe and respectful support and information.

There is support available through a range of free, confidential and culturally-appropriate services that can help people to understand their options.

Redress Support Services can provide people throughout the Northern Territory with support to share their experience and access the Scheme.

George 'Burri' Butler,

Aboriginal and Islander Cultural Officer at Relationships Australia NT, said these services can answer people's questions, help people to fill out the application form, and support people along the way.

"We're here to help you take the Redress journey," Mr Butler said.

"We understand it can be difficult to share your experience, and we're here to listen and

support your choices."

"Redress can mean a range of things that may be important to you, including a direct personal response from an institution, counselling, and a payment of money."

Mr Butler encouraged Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to reach out, ask questions and find out about the support they could be provided with.

"You might want to ask about our record searching

and family tracing services too," he said.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people can contact the National Redress Scheme for free and confidential information and support, and to find the service that can help them in their area.

Visit nationalredress.gov.au or call 1800 737 377.

Rangers graduate from Batchelor Institute



Back row L-R: Sheila White (Malak Malak), Timothy Burr Burr (Bulgul), David Mardi (Bulgul), Victor Moffatt (Bulgul), Bernie Lewis (Bulgul), Theresa Lemon (Malak Malak), Wesley Shields (Malak Malak). Front Row L-R: Charlene Moreen (Bulgul), Teresa Burr Burr (Bulgul), Aaron Green (Malak Malak), Travis Maloney (Malak Malak).

ON Thursday 3 June 2021 hundreds of guests from all corners of the Northern Territory and beyond gathered at the Batchelor Institute just south of Darwin to celebrate the Graduation Ceremony for the latest crop of graduates, including Northern Land Council Rangers from the Bulgul, Malak Malak and Wudicupildiyerr ranger groups. Wagiman rangers

who graduated will receive their certificates later in the year.

Keynote speaker Dr Miriam-Rose Ungunmerr Bauman AM gave a heartfelt and inspirational welcome to all at the ceremony, telling the graduands that:

"Look, with all the qualifications we get ... that's what education is all about. It is important for the little people that are here with

us today that their families that are supporting you in what you've achieved. You are role models for them. Congratulations, and I know you are all going to make your families proud of you when you go back to your communities. God bless you all."

Chair of the Batchelor Institute, Ms Pat Anderson AO presented the graduands with their certificates.



Ms Pat Anderson AO and Sharon Jimarín.

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Ms Pat Anderson AO and Teresa Lemon.



MS Pat Anderson and Timothy Burr Burr.

Aboriginal leader defended land and ocean rights

JOHN LYLE CHRISTOPHERSEN: 1952-2021

By Chips Mackinolty

IT'S hard to imagine, nearly seven decades on, what the kid growing up in the caravan on Little Mindal Beach near Darwin thought life would hold for him. Most meals were caught fresh from the sea in front of him, though goannas were sometimes a nuisance as they stole bread from the caravan.

If nothing else, it was a childhood introduction to saltwater country that would inspire him for 40 years of activism around Aboriginal land and sea rights.

John "Christo" Christophersen was born at the old Darwin hospital to father Chris, a labourer and gardener, and mother Judy Jane (known as Jane), an Ulbu Bunidj woman who had lived the first eight years of her life in the bush in and around Mt Borradaile and Cape Don before being sent to Darwin for schooling.

The family pretty quickly grew to seven kids so the move was made to Fannie Bay, where Christophersen met his maternal grandmother, Lucy Wilmarga, and adopted father Milbur, focusing his existence as a member of the Murran clan — one of the four traditional owner groups from the Cobourg Peninsula— and what became a lifetime connection with western Arnhem Land.

Christophersen went to Parap Primary before finishing his school days at Darwin High in third year. As a young bloke, along with many other Aboriginal kids in the day, he became an active sportsman, playing for the Nightcliff Dragons in rugby league and Aussie rules with Waratahs before turning into a diehard Buffaloes player and supporter.

In 1969, he started an electrician apprenticeship with the Department of Works, and in 1975 became an electrical tradesman

working on remote community power stations. He eventually became foreman supervisor in 1976. The destruction of Cyclone Tracy led to a period with his wife, Jenny, and the first of their young family moving to Cressy in Victoria where, in between working at a timber mill, he played as the only blackfella with the local footy team.

The big change in Christophersen's life came in 1979-1980 at Aboriginal Task Force in Adelaide along with others such as Owen Cole, Tracker Tilmouth and John Havnen. He completed a diploma in business administration before returning to Darwin in 1980. In 1983, he returned to the north as regional manager of the Aboriginal Development Commission for the northern region, helping establish community economic development projects.

It was a period in which his activism in defence of saltwater country came to the fore. After his marriage break-up, he spent much of his time "on country" either by himself or among brothers and family at the Gul Gul and Marreyah areas. He had little money but became an international traveller advocating for rights of traditional owners around the country and overseas. As one of the Cobourg representatives on the Northern Land Council, he would serve on its executive from 1986 to 2000, including a two-year stint as its deputy chair.

It was as deputy chair that he played a major role among the thousands who travelled from the Kimberley and Top End of the Northern Territory to join the anti-bicentenary march in Sydney for Australia Day, which was termed Invasion Day, in 1988. A growing convoy of buses left Darwin, Katherine,



NLC's longest serving member Mr Christophersen will be missed by many.

Tennant Creek and Alice Springs before heading to Port Augusta and across to Mildura and Mittagong before ending up at La Perouse, by which stage an estimated 1000 Aboriginal people had joined the convoy.

Christophersen's account of the 11,000-kilometre journey in the *Land Rights News* of May 1988 should be required reading for all Australians. It is an at-times emotional tale including bus breakdowns and a death, of driving all night, of dancing and singing, of hope and solidarity. Above all, it is a story about determination and unity for "all Aboriginal people in Australia".

Throughout this period, Christophersen was involved in key actions around sea rights, especially in the face of commercial fishing.

From 1989-2001, he was a member of the Cobourg Peninsula Sanctuary and Marine Park Board, which he went on to serve as chair until 2006. He served on the Cobourg Fisheries Management Advisory Committee, the National Federation of Land Councils, Indigenous Protected Areas National Working Group, as well as

serving as vice-president of the World Council of Indigenous Peoples.

He visited South Africa on the eve of the elections of its first post-apartheid government and made trips to North America, Asia and Europe. As he would tell it, he would pack his "bush bag", drive in to Darwin and then head off with little but a change or two of clothes and his passport. Once, he recalled, he discovered to his horror three bullets in his bush bag minutes before going through security at Sydney Airport. He turned them into an official only to find on his return to Cobourg some weeks later that he still had a remaining bullet which he had carried through security across the world.

After living in the bush for some years, he returned to Darwin in 2000 to establish and manage the first men's health clinic at Danila Dilba, the Aboriginal community-controlled health service. Between 2005 and 2008, he worked at the Northern Land Council as its sea policy officer. It was a period of intense legal and political battles which resulted from the High Court Blue Mud Bay decision which

recognised Aboriginal rights extending between high and low water marks adjoining Aboriginal land.

Across much of the past decade, Christophersen's activities focused on the Northern Land Council, and he became its longest serving member.

Those who knew him will recall his passions, and of course his willingness to engage in argument, whether it was about footy, politics or sea and land rights.

Sitting down at Uluru Kata Tjuta National Park last year, celebrating the closure of the Climb by Anangu traditional owners, he recalled what he said at the last Garma Festival he attended: "It must be understood that for the white to man to acknowledge and recognise Aboriginal people in the constitution, they don't lose 200 years of history, but they gain 60,000 years of history."

He is survived by his mother, Jane, and siblings, his daughters Natalie, Jackie, Mia, Nova, Vanessa, Ashley, Shilo, Channoa and son Credence and nephews, nieces and grandchildren.

Let's eat bushtucker! Taste of Kakadu food festival a hit with visitors

The Taste of Kakadu Festival returned this year with a jam packed program over a long weekend at the end of May.

THE festival celebrated the culture, art and food of the Traditional Owners of the region.

The popular food festival was cancelled last year because of COVID-19.

Kakadu National Park rangers took visitors on tours of sites, such as Burrungkuy (Nourlangie), Nanguluwurr and Nawurlundja, to see rock art and to view some of Australia's most diverse wildlife and stunning landscapes. At Mamukala Wetlands, ranger Jacqueline Cahill took a large group on a bush tucker tour.

At Burrungkuy seasonal ranger James Morgan gave visitors insight into Kakadu's 65,000-year-old culture by sharing the stories of the rock art, including Namarrkon, the Lightning Man.

The festival hub at Bowali Visitor Centre was a hive of activity with workshops including painting, women's weaving and men's spear making, cooking demonstrations with Fervor's Paul 'Yoda' Iskov and live music.

Festival favourites including the Yellow Water Canape Cruise and the Taste of Kakadu Buffet at the Mercure Kakadu Crocodile in Jabiru also returned to showcase the best flavours from across Kakadu and the NT.

At The Croc, visitors joined Kunwinjku artist David Cameron on an art and culture tour, complete with bush food-inspired canapes.



Burning country in Kakadu.



Patsy Raiclin from Animal Tracks Safaris.



Seasonal Ranger James Morgan at Burrungkuy.



Patsy Raiclin's damper on Animal Tracks Safaris.



Croc, wild boar and buffalo for dinner.



Patsy Raiclin hold some bushtucker in her hand.



Julie Scheibe shows visitors around the bush near Bowali Visitor Centre.



Jacqueline Cahill at Mamukala Wetlands.



Weaving with Patsy Raiclin on her Animal Tracks Safari.



Katherine Camels versus the Arnhem Crows.



Imalu versus Garrak.



The Garrak Men's Team celebrate their Grand Final Win.



The trip was worth it for the women's Tiwi Bombers team.



Umpires Kiara Jean-Baker and Stewart Whiteaker.
Image: Katherine Times



Tiwi Bombers goal kicker



Impressive mullets from the Naiuyu team.

Mullets dominate the field at pre-season carnival

MORE than 300 footy players from all over the Top End kicked off the season at the Big Rivers Umpires Carnival, held at Katherine's Nitmiluk Oval in late April.

The carnival occurs annually as a pre-season fundraiser for the local Umpires Association. This year's carnival brought in over \$2400 which will go towards young umpire development and equipment. Umpire Kiara Jean-Baker said the carnival marked the beginning of her third footy season. For her, umpiring is about keeping fit and getting a chance to run around the field.

Teams travelled from far and wide, with the Tiwi Bombers and Imalu Tigers making the 350km journey to warm up for the season ahead.

The trip was worth it for the women's Tiwi Bombers team who took home the trophy after winning every game by a margin of at least

40. They finished strong by defeating Ngukurr in the final with a score line of 9.5-59 to nil.

President of the Tiwi Bombers Mary Dunn was extremely proud. "We're showing other communities that the women have something to look forward to," she told the *Katherine Times*.

"Ms Dunn said the club wants to push their players as far as possible, first to the premier NT competition, and then get their best players all the way to the AFLW clubs if they are good enough."

Local men's team the Garrak Bombers took the win against Northern Walpiri in the final, 4.5-29 to 1.1-7. After an initial loss to Ngukurr early in the day, the Bombers had a steady stream of wins.

Naiuyu took third place, followed by Ngukurr Bulldogs, Arnhem Crows, Imalu Tigers and Eastside.

Not only was it a chance for the players and umpires

to brush up on their skills, the carnival was also a showcase for some of the Northern Territory's finest haircuts. Mullets dominated the field, and the Naiuyu team from Daly River took the unofficial win for the strongest 'mullet mob'.

Legendary footy veteran Keith Rogers was one of the Ngukurr Bulldogs' strongest assets on the field, not just because of his mullet. As one of the oldest A-grade players in the Big Rivers League, Rogers has a 40+ year footy career under his belt and doesn't look like he'll be hanging up his boots any time soon.

Naiuyu player Felix Slater said he enjoyed the social aspect of the footy the most. "It's good to verse other people and get to know other people."

Regional Development Manager Gavin May said the carnival was a success both on and off the field.



Keith Rogers of Ngukurr Bulldogs.



Naiuyu player Desmond Bush.



Spectators Kade Wilson, Naiuyu player Felix Slater and Kye Ahfat.



Watch out whistling kite!

Words and concept by Mary Yarmirr,
Minjalang, Croker Island.

We cannot survive without the
sea and its lands,
for it breathes, controls and
gives life.

Northern Land Council Native Title Unit

