



Northern Edition

LAND RIGHTS NEWS

NORTHERN
LAND COUNCIL

Our Land, Our Sea, Our Life

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NLC's Newly-Elected Full Council



MARRALUM MAKEOVER



MASSIVE RANGER FORUM



WAGIMAN CULTURE CAMP

AUSTRALIA'S LONGEST RUNNING ABORIGINAL NEWSPAPER

EDITORIAL

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Message from the Chairman



Delegates to the Full Council meeting of the NLC, held in December at Jabiru in the Northern Territory, voted to return Samuel Bush-Blanasi as Chairman of the NLC.

It's been an honour to have been the Chairman of the Northern Land Council for the past six years. This year has been particularly important because we are within sight of reaching a fair and just outcome to the High Court's Blue Mud Bay decision of 2008.

We look forward in the new year to finalising long and complex negotiations between the seafood industry, the recreational fishers and the NT Government that will see recognised the interests of traditional Aboriginal owners for sea and land country across the 85 per cent of the NT's coastline that they control. The signing by all of these parties of the historic Heads of Agreement at the 120th Full Council meeting at Nitmiluk was an important and historic event.

The start of 2019 was difficult but the commitment of the Full Council and the strong resolve of the Executive Council since that time has meant the NLC has a bright future.

I also take the time to recognise the important role that staff have played in ensuring that the NLC got back on track and continued to provide essential services to traditional owners across the Top End

of the Northern Territory.

It is also important to recognise the vital role that Jak Ah Kit played in his role as interim Chief Executive Officer of the NLC immediately before our current CEO Marion Scrymgour came on board in May 2019. Since that time, Marion has worked tirelessly to ensure that all of us in the NLC concentrate on the core business of this important Aboriginal organisation.

Of course, the NLC has continued the process of internal reform to ensure that the way we deliver services to our constituents is constantly reviewed

and improved and we have several key reforms that will roll out over the coming months.

In particular, I note that a new permit system will be implemented soon and this will ensure that visitors to our lands and seas can have their permit applications processed quickly and that traditional owners will have a better idea of who is on their country and why. These reforms will also assist the many Aboriginal ranger groups that work with the NLC in doing their work and we look forward to more of our land and sea based rangers taking on higher duties so they can perform the same tasks

as government rangers. Another important and long overdue change is the finalisations of the NLC's ambitious regionalisation project. We've been pleased to work closely with the Minister for Indigenous Australians, the Hon. Ken Wyatt, to advance this project, which will result in the NLC having a purpose built central office and upgraded regional offices.

We need to have an office that allows our staff to work efficiently and that provides a welcoming place for guests and visitors from the bush. It is proposed that the redevelopment of our regional offices will also see improved service delivery and accommodation for our regional staff.

Finally, I take this opportunity to congratulate all of those members who have been reappointed or re-elected for the next three year term. Also I welcome the new councillors who have come on board and the five co-opted women who have been appointed on the consideration of the Full Council.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you and your families.

Samuel Bush-Blanasi



NLC's new Executive Council. L-R back row: Brian Pedwell and Chris Neade. L-R front row: Bill Danks, Calvin Deveraux, Samuel Bush-Blanasi, Djawa Yunupingu, Grace Daniels and Helen Lee. (Not pictured: Matthew Ryan)

Blue Mud Bay: Towards a 'just and fair outcome' in 2020

Traditional owners in the Top End of the Northern Territory are looking forward to finalising negotiations around the High Court's Blue Mud Bay decision.

In 2008, the High Court of Australia confirmed the rights of Aboriginal people to control access to tidal waters over their lands in the case commonly known as Blue Mud Bay.

"Significant progress has been made this year and in 2020 we look forward to completing negotiations between the NT Government, the seafood industry and the recreational

fishers," said the NLC CEO Marion Scrymgour.

For the past decade - while settlement negotiations have been taking place with the NT Government and other stakeholders - commercial and recreational fishermen have been allowed to keep accessing Aboriginal tidal waters. Traditional owners have become increasingly frustrated with the time it has taken to settle these

issues and that is why in June 2018, the NLC submitted a proposal to NT Government for a lasting solution.

Talks between the main parties involved then followed and a Heads of Agreement was signed in Katherine in June.

As part of this agreement, the NLC Full Council extended fishing access until 31 December 2020. This means that commercial

and recreational fishermen can enter Aboriginal tidal waters within the NLC region without a section 19 agreement or permit until that date.

This extension of fishing access provides time for the parties to do the important work from the Heads of Agreement.

The benefits for Aboriginal people in this work are many. These include: Aboriginal

people becoming involved with the NT commercial fishing industry; a full review and update of NT fisheries law and management to include Aboriginal people; helping traditional owners explore options to own recreational fishing tourism businesses on their land and waters; and developing a boat identification system and Codes of Conduct for recreational fishers.

A message from the CEO

I am pleased to bring you my end of year update. The past 12 months have been challenging for the NLC and it's good to look ahead and think about what 2020 may bring us. But first, a quick look back.

I took on the role of chief executive in May this year. When I joined, the NLC had been through significant internal disruptions and governance challenges.

Despite these internal disruptions, the hardworking staff of the NLC - including those located at our more remote regional offices - have achieved a great deal in the past 12 months and I want to thank them for their commitment and dedication.

What has been clear since I took on the role of CEO, is how much our organisation has achieved over the years. From the early days of advocating for land rights that helped to shape the Aboriginal Land Rights (NT) Act of 1976, to taking up the fight in the High Court of Australia in

2008 to secure sea rights over the NT coastline for Aboriginal people, and the first ever sitting of the High Court in Darwin in 2018 to hear the Timber Creek Compensation Case, there are many huge milestones that have been reached on the long road to justice for our mob.

More recently, we have fought for traditional owners to play an integral part in the development of the NT, we have hosted the biggest ever ranger forum to be held in the Top End, and we've lobbied for improved housing, health services and morgues facilities in remote communities. When the NLC first started, our main priority was getting our land. Now with much of that land now determined, we must look to the future, towards making sure investment benefits Aboriginal people.

It is evident that although much progress has been made over the years, many of the problems people faced in the Top End in the 1970s and 1980s continue



NLC CEO Marion Scrymgour at the Full Council meeting at Jabiru in December.

to affect our people today. Despite the ALRA and the Native Title Act being in place, traditional owners in the Northern Territory are often still disadvantaged when it comes to development occurring on their land.

A major focus now and over the next year will be looking at the strategic priorities of the NLC and the future direction of our organisation. The NLC Full Council are leading this process, guiding the organisation by identifying the needs of our constituents. The NLC is adapting to the changing needs of our

constituents and we look forward to reporting on this throughout 2020.

Finally, I would like to say a big thank you to all of the NLC Full Council members, our Chairman, Executive members and all of the NLC staff. At times our work is difficult, and many people

have experienced the trauma of the process of internal change. I urge all NLC members and our staff to look after yourselves and each other.

Wishing you a safe and restful Christmas break.

NLC offices Christmas closing:
Monday 23 December 2019 to
Friday 3 January 2020.

Still yearning for a treaty at Barunga

At the opening of the Barunga Festival, NLC Chairman Samuel Bush-Blanasi told the crowd that the appointment of Australia's first Aboriginal Minister for Indigenous Australians gave him hope for the progression of Indigenous rights.

The Barunga Festival in June saw political and community leaders lament the lack of a treaty, commenting on how the famous annual festival has been marred by the 'unfinished business' of a treaty that has never come to pass.

In 1988 at the festival, the Northern and Central land councils presented the late former Prime Minister Bob Hawke with the Barunga Statement, which called on the government to recognise the rights of Aboriginal Australians.

The Hawke Government adopted a policy to support a treaty between the Australian Government and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people — but no treaty has been signed in the decades since.

NLC Chairman Samuel Bush-Blanasi said he wished the issue of treaty had been resolved years ago. But he said the appointment of Australia's first Aboriginal Minister for Indigenous Australians, the Hon. Ken Wyatt, gave him hope for the progression of Indigenous rights in Australia.

"It's time that white Australia should really look at it and try and get behind us," Mr Bush-Blanasi said.



Dancers at this year's Barunga Festival.



The spear throwing competition at Barunga Festival.

Land Rights News flashback



Wenten Rubuntja, Galarrwuy Yunupingu and Bob Hawke shaking hands at the unveiling of The Barunga Statement, Australian Parliament House, 20 December 1991, from Unveiling of The Barunga Statement, Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation Collection, AIATSIS Collection

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Nitmiluk celebrates 30 years of sharing

Nitmiluk National Park was handed back to the Jawoyn people in recognition of their spiritual connection to the land three decades ago in September 1989.



Jak Ah Kit remembers the tumultuous time in Katherine following the Jawoyn people's land claim.

A large crowd gathered at Nitmiluk National Park on September 10 to celebrate 30 years since Nitmiluk was handed back to Jawoyn traditional owners. It also marked the day when Jawoyn people forged a historic agreement with the Northern Territory government to jointly manage the park under a new lease arrangement.

Jawoyn Association chair Lisa Mumbin said it was a time of much celebration. "It was the time when whitefella law finally recognised our traditional Aboriginal law, which goes back tens of thousands of years," Ms Mumbin said. "For Jawoyn, land rights has always been about respecting the land and its people and we stand

here today showing that it's something that can benefit all Australians." The handback celebrations came at the end of an 11-year battle Jawoyn people fought for recognition of their living cultural and spiritual connection to country.

'Shots were fired above our heads'

Former Jawoyn Association executive director Jak Ah Kit said Katherine was a tough town during those times. "It was a time when what can only be described as racist groups formed in Katherine to oppose the rights of Aboriginal people to speak for their traditional lands — let alone lay claim over those lands," Mr Ah Kit said. "The then-CLP Northern Territory government fought Jawoyn people in the courts to try and stop the

land claim, just as they had to every other land claim in the Northern Territory."

One late afternoon after giving evidence to Justice Kearney, shots were fired over the heads of one of the senior claimants. "We did not have the power to speak out for country in the way we can today - we did not have

a voice. Today, things have changed for the better and Jawoyn have shown they're an important part of the fabric of the town and region," he said.

Anniversary celebrations involved official proceedings and the unveiling of a plaque at Gurriluk, the place where celebrations were held 30 years ago.



Attending the celebrations at Nitmiluk National Park were Yothu Yindi's Witiyana Marika and his son Yolngu musician Yirrama, with partner and baby.

Former NLC lawyer shines as she represents Top End in global race

With a keen sense of adventure and a son to set an example for, Darwin's 'Deadly Duo' Jasmin Onus and Jerome Cubillo have taken Channel 10's TV show 'The Amazing Race' and Australia by storm.

Proud Bindal and Gunditjmara woman and former NLC lawyer, Ms Onus said initially she had to convince her husband, Wadjigan and Larrakia man, Mr Cubillo, to join this year's season of 'The Amazing Race'. For the young couple, joining the show was about portraying a positive representation of Indigenous Australians on national television.

"I had to rope Jerome into it. I've always been a fan of the show and it kind of combines what we love. We love to travel we love to experience other cultures,"

Ms Onus said. "We also wanted to be present on TV. We turn on TV and a lot of the time we don't see people like us. We know there's so much strength in our communities, in our culture, in our families, we wanted to highlight and show that."

The couple said they also wanted to make their two-year-old son, Jerome Jr. proud of his parents.

"We want to show him that you can do these crazy amazing things and put yourself out there and challenge the whole notion of shame," Mr Cubillo said. "We wanted to share a bit about the culture and change the ... stereotypes."

"We wanted to show that there's no limit to what you can achieve ... put your hand up and be proud of

moving out of your comfort zone," Ms Onus added.

Mr Cubillo summed the entire Amazing Race experience into one word: unreal.

"I struggle to put it into words ... to be able to travel together, do these challenges together, and experience different cultures, to meet local people in their communities ... you wouldn't normally be able to access them and have this experience," Mr Cubillo said.

The experience wasn't without its challenges, however. "You're under so much pressure, you are in countries that you can't speak the language ... you're absolutely jet lagged ... we were away from our two-year-old son as well ... feeling like you're worlds



Former NLC lawyer Jasmin Onus and her husband Jerome Cubillo came second in the TV show 'The Amazing Race'.

away," Ms Onus said. "It all combines to be this crazy environment but it's just absolutely mad and we just absolutely loved it."

The experience was a mixture of terror and excitement for the couple. "When we were struggling, we thought of our son and we thought of why

we were here - for our boy, to represent our mob, our family," Ms Onus said. "To be a positive representation for our mob and also the Northern Territory, and our son."

*This article is reprinted with permission from the National Indigenous Times.

'A MAMMOTH EFFORT': Behind the scenes of the Indigenous Ranger Forum

The key role Aboriginal rangers play in caring for country and protecting northern Australia's biosecurity was on show as hundreds of rangers converged on the Cox Peninsula in August.

Here Kenbi Ranger Coordinator **Steven Brown** recounts the mammoth effort put in by rangers and NLC staff to stage this hugely successful event.

In February this year the Department of Agriculture engaged the Northern Land Council to host the 3rd Indigenous Ranger Forum 2019. The Kenbi Aboriginal Land Trust was chosen as the preferred site, hosted by the Kenbi Rangers, with the forum planned to kick off on 24 August 2019. The theme for the forum would be: biosecurity.

A working group was established with members of the Caring for Country branch and the Kenbi Ranger group. From June to August 2019, the Kenbi Ranger group began preparations for the forum. Site preparation involved the clearing of about 4.8 hectares of bushland. Over five weeks the spear grass, which was two metres high, was slashed, burned and slashed and burned again. The area was then mowed using ride-on lawn mowers.

Rangers relocated four 25,000 litre water tanks from the Belyuen Community Market Garden to the Charles Point site. Trenches

were dug and water pipes were connected from the bore header tank to the four other tanks. This enabled water to be reticulated to the main forum site to run sprinklers. Another four 25,000 litre water tanks were purchased to establish water points for toilet and shower blocks, which were situated in the men's and women's camping areas. All roads in this area were upgraded.

The Charles Point Lighthouse site also had a complete makeover. Again Kenbi Rangers slashed and burned two metre high spear grass exposing a number of heritage sites, including three wells that were built in the 1890s. This site was chosen for the Thursday night gala dinner. To allow access to this site, rangers reopened and upgraded a road to allow for easier traffic flow and a fence was constructed along the cliff edge to comply with our duty of care for visitors attending the dinner. A 10,000 litre water tank was placed on site.

A week before the forum, ranger groups in close proximity to the Cox Peninsula, including Wagaman, Malak Malak, Bulgul and Larrakia arrived to assist the Kenbi group with their final preparations.

Rangers set up both the men's and women's camping areas with VIP tents provided for visiting Department of Agriculture staff and NLC Executive Members.

Fire drums were located around both camping areas and fire wood was collected and allocated to camping sites. Many marquees and gazebos were erected throughout the site for our visiting stakeholders. This was a magnificent effort by all rangers and NLC staff.

The site office was used for the registration of all visitors and stakeholders. Rangers unloaded and stored nine pallets of camping gear (swags, sleeping bags, sheets, fold up beds and tents) and three pallets of water (224 cartons). A barbecue trailer was placed on site to provide meals for all the rangers assisting in the preparation.

Fast forward to the 24 August and in excess of 350 rangers, stakeholders and service providers gathered on Kenbi country to learn and share knowledge on ways to combat biosecurity threats through hands on workshops, on-country visits, networking opportunities and break-out sessions.



Standing: Sheila White, Charlene Moreen, Zoe Singh, Teresa BurrBurr
Seated: Raylene Singh

The first day began with opening formalities, including a Welcome to Country provided by traditional owner Zoe Singh, followed by presentations by Caring for Country Branch Manager Matthew Salmon, Department of Agriculture's Head of Biosecurity Lyn O'Connell, the NLC's Chairman Samuel Bush-Blasani and Warren Snowdon MP.

Caring for Country's Assistant Branch Manager Fiona Peek, with assistance from myself, launched the Kenbi Health Country plan, which represents the next steps on the journey of traditional owners and rangers around looking after their country and guiding the group's work for the next five years.

Attendees were then invited down to Hooleys Beach by traditional owner Zoe Singh for a personal welcome to country where they lined up to be bathed in the saltwater. This old tradition is done so the ancestors know who is on their country. The ancestors will then look after the visitors while on country.

Once washed, attendees returned to the main forum site to take part in over 25 workshops held on a diverse range of topics including: aquatic biosecurity; micro plastics and macro debris sampling; turtle monitoring; threat migration strategies; crocodile management principles and practice; drone usage; virtual reality training; and biocontrol of weeds and insects.

Returning from the lunch break, attendees were greeted by guest speakers, including the Hon. Selena Uibo, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Chansey Paech MLA and Malarndirri McCarthy, Senator for the NT.

A women's breakout session was held in the late afternoon facilitated by traditional owners Raylene and Zoe Singh with assistance from Caring for Country's Nicole Brown and Kate Van Wezel. Here, over 40 women discussed the work being undertaken on their country, economic security on their country and opportunities for increased women ranger participation moving forward.

On the second day of the forum, ranger groups and representatives of various government departments were taken on a tour around the Cox Peninsula in boats supplied by Jimmy Smith, the only tourism operator to have negotiated a lease with traditional owners.

Aboard the high-powered boats, visitors were given a glimpse of the 'office' in which rangers work. Whilst touring the harbour, the visitors were shown areas including Indian Island where Kenbi Rangers work closely with Melbourne University on the Northern Quoll Project and Bare Sand Island, a place where sea turtles return each year to lay their eggs. The Kenbi Rangers also take part in dolphin and dugong surveys, rubbish clean-ups along the coast and taking

care and regenerating country. Like many other ranger groups, the Kenbi rangers work on fee-for-service works to increase economic security with works including sampling seagrasses and monitoring feral animals, to name a few.

A formal closing of the forum was held in the afternoon where guests were thanked for attending, special acknowledgements were made and appreciation was given to all who worked tirelessly over the last three months to bring the forum together.

In the late afternoon, attendees and invited guests were treated to a fantastic Darwin sunset overlooking the cliffs at Charles Point Lighthouse for the final dinner.

Twenty rangers and 15 NLC staff began the huge job of packing up, with the aim of having 90 per cent of things packed away in one day. It took a mammoth effort by all to have all marquees and gazebos packed into containers and tables, chairs and beds collected and stacked.

Over the next four days, a number of rangers stayed on site to facilitate access for companies to collect toilets, showers, marquees, tables, chairs, IT and sound equipment.

They finished the total cleaning of the site some two weeks later.



On the last night participants and guests gathered at the cliffs at Charles Point Lighthouse for dinner.

Indigenous housing peak body launched in NT

The first peak body giving Aboriginal people in the Northern Territory a voice on housing has been launched to take the needs of Aboriginal communities to the government.

Housing continues to be one of the most important issues impacting Aboriginal people in the Northern Territory.

Now after four years of hard work, Aboriginal people in the NT have a powerful voice, with the incorporation of the Aboriginal Housing NT Aboriginal Corporation (AHNT AC).

The members of AHNT are the key Aboriginal housing organisations across the NT – organisations that have been actively supporting the establishment of AHNT for the past four years following the 2015 Housing Forum that was convened by the Aboriginal Peak Organisations of the NT (APONT).

AHNT has been formed to address the ongoing housing crisis for Aboriginal people



The recently incorporated Aboriginal Housing NT (AHNT) was launched at the National Housing Conference in Darwin.

in the NT and will advocate for better housing outcomes for remote communities, town camps, community living areas, homelands and outstations. AHNT will collaborate with government, land councils and key stakeholders to progress Aboriginal housing outcomes in the NT to effect substantive change and to ensure the

return of local decision making to communities.

"Gone are the days when we have others making decisions on our behalf," Aboriginal Medical Services Alliance Northern Territory (AMSANT) CEO John Patterson told a media conference at the launch in Darwin at

the National Housing Conference in August.

"Now we can be the voice of Aboriginal people to take their housing needs to the various levels of government."

AHNT will enable a direct dialogue with government, co-chair Barb Shaw said.

"We want Aboriginal controlled community housing to give back to the people, because past policies took that control away," Ms Shaw said. The body would also help highlight some of the key issues for Aboriginal people, including culturally appropriate housing and overcrowding, with more than ten people living in one house in some communities.

"We want to have culturally informed suitable designs,"

Ms Shaw said. "From location to layout and materials that are used, cooling and heating, and looking at more sustainable and cost effective housing for our mob."

NT grapples with 'severe overcrowding'

Earlier, the National Housing Conference heard from NT housing minister Gerald McCarthy that the Territory has 12 times the national homeless rate, with 16.5 per cent of all Territorians experiencing homelessness.

Twenty per cent of Aboriginal people in the NT are homeless and 81 per cent of those lived in "severely overcrowded" dwellings. He added the government was seeking solutions via a \$1.1 billion remote housing investment package.

Families in remote communities move into new homes

A mother of five from Wadeye has waited years to be allocated a new home. Now she is the proud owner of a three bedroom house with a verandah, allowing her family to move from her overcrowded mother's home.

The Territory Labor Government has completed 1,500 homes under its \$1.1 billion 10-year remote housing program that is giving Aboriginal families a key say in the designs of their homes.

New houses, upgrades, extensions and renovations are creating jobs and training for Aboriginal people in some of the Territory's remotest parts.

NT Chief Minister Michael Gunner said Territory Labor is making the largest investment in remote housing because "we know that good housing is the foundation for generational change and that's why we are working with communities to deliver safer, healthier, more functional homes."

"Our community-led model not only gives people a say in the planning and design of their own homes but it creates jobs for locals," he said.

In Barunga, 80km south-east of Katherine, traditional owner Nell Brown wanted a big veranda for her new home built under the program.

"I've been living in an overcrowded house with 12 or 13 family members... I just wanted somewhere I could sit out in peace and quiet and see what is going on," she said.

"The house is beautiful. It is the first house I have ever owned," she said.

In Wadeye, Anne Dungal, a 43 year-old mother of five, waited three years before she was allocated a new three bedroom home, allowing her family to move from her overcrowded mother's home.

"The new house has made a real difference to our lives," she said.

"It's a good design but we still spend a lot of time outside on the veranda."

Under the NT's remote housing program building contractors must have a minimum 40 per cent Indigenous workforce. On many sites Aboriginal people already represent more than 50 per cent of workers with the number growing.

"This is a really positive story for the Territory. Aboriginal people are learning skills to be able to maintain and build remote houses and to become tradespeople in the mainstream workforce," he said.

Minister for Local Government, Housing and Community Services Gerry McCarthy said the Government's commitment to redrawing the Territory's remote



Wadeye mother of five Anne Dungal says moving into a new house has made a real difference.



Traditional owner Nell Brown in her new home in Barunga.



Locals working on a remote housing site in Weemo.

housing model is improving lives in remote communities.

"Overcrowding is the most significant factor in homelessness in the Northern Territory and investing in more homes, and more living spaces in existing homes, is our plan to eliminate overcrowding and reduce homelessness," he said.

"Better homes mean better health, education, employment and social outcomes."

Mr Gunner said he hopes the Australian Government, which is providing \$550 million for the program over five years, will match the Territory's investment over 10 years.

"We want to see a 10-year investment from Canberra, which with our \$1.1 billion would go a long way to addressing housing overcrowding, while building better futures for Territorians in remote areas," he said.

*Article supplied by NT Government in Weemo.

Lots to Live For



Find breast cancer early and survive

How can I find breast cancer early?

The good news is there are things that you can do to find breast cancer early:

- 1 Get to know the normal look and feel of your breasts.
- 2 Have a free breast screen every two years for women aged 50 - 74 years.

Breast cancer is the most commonly diagnosed cancer in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women

How can I get to know the normal look and feel of my breasts?

You don't need to be an expert or know a special way to check your breasts. You can do this as part of everyday activities such as dressing, looking in the mirror, or showering.

All women should do this regularly; daughters, mothers, aunts and grandmothers.

What changes should I look out for?

- There are a number of changes you should look out for:
- A new lump or lumpiness
 - A change in the size or shape of your breast
 - A change in the nipple
 - Discharge from the nipple
 - Any unusual pain
 - A change in the skin of your breast

What should I do if I find a change?

Most breast changes are NOT due to cancer. If you find a change in your breast that is new or usual for you, visit your local health centre without delay.

Where do I go to have a breast screen? BreastScreen Australia provides free breast screening for women 50-74 years and has services in all states and territories. To find out more call 13 20 50.

canceraustralia.gov.au © Cancer Australia 2019

LABB or/

Watch the video: canceraustralia.gov.au/lotstolivefor



Time to read *Det Brabili Tjikiba Beya*

Ngukurr children loved it when family members play-acted the moose, lion, zebra and sheep from the popular children's book 'The Very Cranky Bear'.

The story of how the animals disturbed a bear in a cave was told in Kriol, the main language spoken in Ngukurr, a community of about 1,000 on the banks of the Roper River, 630km south-east of Darwin.

The book is one of several that are being translated into Aboriginal languages for distribution through Families as First Teachers (FaFT), the NT Government's key early years' education program. FaFT has partnered with the Indigenous Literacy Foundation, a charity of the Australian Book Industry, to distribute more than 5,000 translated picture books to remote Aboriginal communities.

Other books the foundation has translated include 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar' into Yolngu Matha and 'Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes' and 'Who's Hiding?' into Kriol.

In Kriol, The Very Cranky Bear translates into Det Brabili Tjikiba Beya.



Book reading time in Ngukurr where children can now read *The Very Cranky Bear* in Kriol.



Search for elusive fairy-wren in the Top End

The Northern Land Council's Timber Creek Rangers have enhanced their bird watching and scientific data recording, following the receipt of a grant from Birdlife Australia.

The grant supported training and provided equipment for surveys in key biodiversity areas.

Several ranger teams from both the NLC and



Central Land Council, including the Timber Creek, Wardaman and Gurindji Rangers, worked with Birdlife Australia's Simon Kennedy to record data of birds throughout the Victoria River District, with a particular focus on trying to find the elusive and endangered Purple Crowned Fairy Wren.



Lewis Raymond and Roderick Harney at work recording bird sightings throughout the Victoria River District. Photos by NLC's Wayne O'Donoghue.

The rangers were lucky enough to sight one male Purple Crowned Fairy Wren. Further research is needed to better



Kenny Allyson spotting a rare male Purple Crowned Fairy Wren.

understand populations of this endangered bird, which faces a multitude of threats including inappropriate fire management and invasive plants and animals.

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'They all spoke with hope and optimism for the future'

A visiting Aboriginal lawyer reflects on his experience of attending the Aboriginal legal conference in Darwin.

Sydney-sider **Trent Wallace** shares his first impressions of Darwin and his experience attending the 14th National Indigenous Legal Conference.

"Where are you off to?" I'm attending a conference in Darwin, it's my first time going there, I reply excitedly to the Uber driver.

"Ah, great time of year to go, it's a beautiful place...but lots of Aborigines..." added my Uber driver.

I told him I'd feel at home as I'm Aboriginal. He apologised and we had a meaningful discussion regarding appropriate naming and phrases. A similar situation occurred with the flight attendant: "Stunning scenery,

the 10 degrees of Sydney. The scenery is even more beautiful than the imagery we often associate with the Northern Territory.

Larrakia land is remarkable and unlike anything I've ever seen. The Larrakia people exist in numbers of approximately 2,000 and have actively preserved culture and language.

The English language is often a second or third language for many Indigenous people in the NT, and hearing Indigenous language spoken is a privilege



Trent Wallace

person who is keen to listen to their perspective and lived experience.

The opening plenary for the National Indigenous Legal Conference was delivered by David Woodroffe, Principal Legal Officer of the North Australian Aboriginal Justice Agency (NAAJA) and President of Winkiku Rumbangi NT Indigenous Lawyers Aboriginal Corporation, who noted that: "Where there is culture, there is community. Where there is community, there is law. Where there is law, there is justice".

The opening plenary for the Indigenous Health Justice Conference was delivered by Barb Shaw, Chief Executive Officer of Anyinginyi Health Aboriginal Corporation and Chair of the Aboriginal Medical Services Alliance NT, who highlighted that whilst the harsh realities cut through the national conscience, Indigenous people must not be seen as problems to be punished and managed.

David and Barbara both shared a number of things in common, but most notable was their passion, belief and hope for the future. After the opening of the conference, we heard from various speakers that weaved the ideas of health, law and justice together as one. Ariana Tutini from Miwajit Health Aboriginal Corporation looked to the power of partnerships – a raft of social inequalities

that could be remedied in one service. It was also said that solving civil law issues for clients often alleviated a host of other issues. The goal for Ariana is to get the community from surviving to thriving.

John Rawnsley, Manager of Law and Justice Projects at NAAJA, provided a Territory perspective on reforming the Constitution, which drew on the perspectives from Aboriginal lawyers in the NT.

Professor Mick Dodson AM spoke to the audience at length in his address: To Treat or Not to Treat. The discussion took on a plethora of views, ranging from historical, social, economic and legal issues.

The audience were then captured by Leanne Liddle, Director of the Aboriginal Justice Unit, Department of the Attorney-General and Justice. Leanne highlighted the importance of asking the Indigenous community what is needed as opposed to assuming, as they are happy to answer respectful questions and seek to be heard. However, Leanne also noted that it's important to come back to demonstrate integrity and respect to the community that have provided their answers. This will ensure their voices aren't forgotten.

Arthur Moses SC and President of the Law Council of Australia called for action, noting that no child should be placed in detention. This was supported by medical evidence of no criminal responsibility. Arthur stated that children belong in community and that the \$500 million plus spent on juvenile detention could be better placed with assisting communities to heal with children. He closed with a quote from a letter Martin Luther King Jr. composed in Birmingham jail: "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."

The audience was then fortunate enough to hear from Commissioner Andrea Mason OAM who utilised the phrase "nothing about us, without us", a powerful reminder of the need for Indigenous voices to remedy Indigenous

affairs. Andrea shared that of the three per cent of Indigenous people, 1.5 per cent suffer with a disability. Such statistics shared throughout the conference often induced audible gasps and sorrowful head shaking.

The conference covered various topics from a diverse range of key Indigenous figures with a handful of non-Indigenous speakers; I noticed they all spoke with hope and optimism for the future.

Tremendous efforts have been made and are continuing throughout Australia, an example within translators used for emergency services to support Indigenous languages. However, the message was presented clearly: put Indigenous affairs in Indigenous hands.

I spent time with some law students who had been in jail, choosing to understand the law and to help them understand the current justice system in place. To take from Toni Morrison, "the function of freedom is to free someone else", I feel it is my role to empower the students and let them know their past does not dictate their future.

I will carry this Darwin experience with me and continually refer to it for guidance.

In closing, I will share this: "You have come by the way of the Larrakia land. You will hear the voice of Larrakia ancestors. When you leave, the Larrakia message will stay with you." – the late Reverend Walter Fejo.

"Trent Wallace is the Australian Pro Bono Centre's Second Project & Project Officer. This article was originally published on the intranet of Australian Government Solicitor and the Australian Pro Bono Centre's website."

Hundreds attend Aboriginal legal conference in Darwin

Legal conference explores theme of 'True Justice: Integrating Indigenous Perspectives'

Over 400 lawyers, doctors, advocates and other interested delegates filled the rooms of the Darwin Convention Centre for the 14th National Indigenous Legal Conference on 13 and 14 August 2019.

Hosted by the Winkiku Rumbangi NT Indigenous Lawyers Aboriginal Corporation, the conference theme was 'True Justice: Integrating Indigenous Perspectives'.

Delegates included many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander lawyers and law students supported by their universities, law firms and law associations from across Australia.

Principal Legal Officer of North Australian Aboriginal Justice Agency (NAAJA) and President of Winkiku Rumbangi NT Indigenous Lawyers, David Woodroffe, delivered the opening plenary,



Labi Gumbula plays the role of defence counsel

alongside Barb Shaw as Chair of the Aboriginal Medical Services Alliance NT and in line with the concurrent theme of 'Health Justice'.

One of the highlights of the conference was a role play held at the Supreme Court where interpreters at the Aboriginal Interpreter Service acted out a Yolngu-Matha reverse court role play. Mr English was on trial.

After this session a new course was launched called Legal Education for True Justice: Indigenous Perspectives and Deep Listening on Country. Winkiku Rumbangi NT Indigenous Lawyers Aboriginal Corporation and the North Australian Aboriginal Justice Agency (NAAJA) are seeking to engage and partner with law schools, legal organisations, firms, institutions and agencies to support an Aboriginal-led initiative to transform legal education.

The first course will be held near Uluru in mid-2020. This intensive, on country course, delivered through a partnership with the Australian National University's College of Law, aims to equip students with knowledge to critically assess law's history, characteristics and impacts from the perspectives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.



Mr English was on trial at the Yolngu-Matha reverse court role play.



NLC Legal Practice Manager – Native Title, Tamara Cole, who worked on the Timber Creek compensation claim from the trial to the High Court appeal.



Adam Drake speaks about Balanced Choice, which he founded with the aim of improving outcomes for young people in the justice system.

Connecting school students to learn on country

More than 80 school principals, teachers, rangers and ranger coordinators, Learning on Country coordinators and Indigenous cultural advisors came together for a Learning on Country forum in Darwin in September.

Managed by NLC's Caring for Country branch, the Learning on Country program is a secondary school based Indigenous ranger facilitated program that links Australian curriculum subjects with field based experiential learning and data collection.

During the Darwin forum, the newly established Learning on Country Steering Committee met for the first time and one of its first actions was to elect a chairperson, Lirripiya Mununggurr, Cultural Manager for the Yirrkala Rangers in Yirrkala.

The NLC's Learning on

Country program manager Anna Morgan said the program is expected to grow over the next 12 months.

"Based on advice from the Learning on Country sites, it is estimated student participation in the program's activities will exceed 1000 students during the 2020 school year," she said.

Ms Morgan said collaboration between remote community schools and Aboriginal ranger groups was essential to the success

of this flagship program to deliver community identified outcomes by bringing together the school curriculum and on-country activities.

Newly elected chairperson of the Learning on Country Steering Committee Mr Mununggurr said the Committee would be taking action around future proofing the program.

"We will also continue a program evaluation to demonstrate the cultural appropriateness and educational success achieved through student participation in the program," Mr Mununggurr said.



The Learning on Country Steering Committee. Back row L-R: Matt Salmon (Caring for Country), Sylvia Maroney (Barunga), Kathleen Lane (Beswick), Linda Williams (Ngukurr), Stephanie Anderson (Borrooloola), Lester Barra (Angurugu), Lirripiya Mununggurr (Yirrkala Laynhapuy Homelands), Joseph Diddo (Maningrida). Front row L-R: Hagar Nadjmerrek (Gunbalanya), Cindy Jinmarabynana (Maningrida), Hilda Ngalmi (Numbulwar), Lesley Wurrawilya (Umbakumba), Rosetta Wayatja (Milingimbi).

Follow the Learning on Country Program on Facebook @LearningOnCountryProgram

THE NLC'S NEW FULL COUNCIL 2019-2022



BORROLOOLA BARKLY (13 MEMBERS)

Brian Limerick - Alexandria; David Harvey - Borroloola; Shaun Evans - Borroloola; Keith Rory - Borroloola - Outstations; Jack Green - Brunette Downs; Chris Neade - Elliott; Jason Bill - Muckaty; Jeffrey Dixon - Murrarji; Maxine Wallace - Nicholson River; Joy Priest - North Barkly; Richard Dixon - Robinson River; Gordon Noonan - Rockhampton Downs; John Finlay - Wombaya.

DARWIN DALY WAGAIT (15 MEMBERS)

Joy Cardona - Daly River; Matthew Shields - Daly River North (Woolianna); Norman Miller - Daly River South (Upper Daly); John Sullivan - Daly River West (Woodycupildiya); Bill Danks - Darwin; Christine Jenner - Darwin; Margaret Daiyi - Darwin South (Adelaide River); Graham Kenyon - Darwin East (Humpty Doo); Calvin Deveraux - Darwin South West (Litchfield); Rex Edmunds - Darwin West (Belyuen); Roger Wodidj - Palumpa; John Wilson - Peppimenarti; Aaron Banderson - Pine Creek; Tobias Nganbe - Wadeye; Mark Tunmack-Smith - Wadeye (North).

EAST ARNHEM (16 MEMBERS)

Bandarr (Michael) Wirrpanda - Blue Mud Bay - Outstations; Makugun (Brendan) Marika - Blue Mud Bay - Outstations; Peter Yawunydjurr - Galiwinku; Jason Guyula - Galiwinku; Kenny Guyula - Galiwinku & Outstations; Johnny Burrawanga - Galiwinku & Outstations; Bobby Wunungmurra - Gapuwiyak; Jason R Butjala - Gapuwiyak; George Milapuma - Milingimbi; Michael Ali - Milingimbi; David Warraya - Ramingining; David Rumba Rumba - Ramingining; Djawa Yunupingu - Ski Beach; Djawa Murrurrna Burarrwanga - Yirrkala; Yananyumul Mununggurr - Yirrkala; Witiyana Marika - Yirrkala.

KATHERINE (7 MEMBERS)

Helen Lee - Barunga; Samantha Lindsay - Bulman; Lisa Mumbin - Katherine; Dwayne Rosas - Katherine; Ossie Daylight - Mataranka/Djimbra (Jilkminggan); John Dalywater - Weemol; Samuel Bush-Blansi - Wugular.

NGUKURR (9 MEMBERS)

Sheila Hall Joshua - Minyerri; Walter Rogers - Ngukurr & Outstations; Grace Daniels - Ngukurr & Outstations; Gregory Daniels - Ngukurr & Outstations; Hubert Nunggumajbarr - Numbulwar & Outstations; Virginia Nundhirribala - Numbulwar & Outstations; Ernest Numamurdirdi - Numbulwar & Outstations; Peter Lansen - Nutwood/Cox River; Clifford Duncan - Urupunga.

VICTORIA RIVER DISTRICT (6 MEMBERS)

Kenivan Anthony - Amanbidji; Shadrack Retchford - Bulla; Raymond Hector - Pigeon Hole; Lorraine Jones - Timber Creek; Brian Pedwell - Yarralin; Charlie Newry - Yingawunari.

WEST ARNHEM (12 MEMBERS)

June Fejo - Cobourg; Otto Dann - Gunbalanya; Timothy Nabegeyo - Gunbalanya - Outstations; Wayne Wauchope - Gunbalanya - Outstations; John Christophersen - Kakadu; Valda Bokmarray - Maningrida; Wayne Kala-Kala - Maningrida; Matthew Ryan - Maningrida - Outstations; Julius Kernan - Maningrida - Outstations; Matthew Nagartbin - Minjilang; Bunug Galaminda - Warruwi & Outstations; Jenny Inmulugulu - Warruwi & Outstations.

Happy birthday! NLC's Community Planning and Development Program turns three

Started in late 2016, the CP&D Program is now working with eight traditional owner groups across the Top End of the Northern Territory to achieve their development aspirations.

The Community Planning and Development (CP&D) Program might be young but Aboriginal people are already seeing results from their work with the program.

"Maynmak way... using money for community... We are working and benefitting the community," said Jane Garritju from Galiwin'ku about working through the CP&D Program.

Traditional owner groups want to drive change in their community. Groups already using the CP&D Program are choosing to set aside more income from

"Money is being used the right way – and it's an on-going thing" – a Malak Malak traditional owner explaining how important it is to keep investing in community development.

their land use agreements and to undertake more community projects.

The total income set aside for community development by Aboriginal groups in the Top End has grown to over \$7 million.

Driving community development builds traditional owners' capacity and self determination.

They decide how to make their community stronger, plan community development projects that will achieve this, and find partners to work with to make the projects happen. Across the Top End traditional owners have approved 32 community development projects, that's double the number of projects approved a year ago. Many groups are

investing in projects that support languages, culture, young people and living on outstations.

Winston Thompson, traditional owner and Yugul Mangi Assistant Ranger Coordinator explained why it was important for the South East Arnhem Land Indigenous Protected Area to fund culture camps using some of their income from the rangers carbon abatement work. "We wanted to pass our traditional knowledge to young ones there, we don't want them to lose that cultural connection with

the land," said Mr Thompson.

Other groups are investing in community infrastructure, law and justice and setting up strong governance bodies.

There is good support from Aboriginal people for the CP&D Program and the NLC looks forward to working side-by-side with more groups and supporting them to drive their own development towards stronger lives and futures.

To find out more email the cpd@nlc.org.au or freecall 1800 645 299.

Yolgnu lore and 'Western law' combine in Galiwin'ku

Galiwin'ku traditional owners have joined forces with legal experts to improve justice outcomes for the community by combining Western law and Yolgnu lore.

Galiwin'ku traditional owners have worked through the NLC's Community Planning & Development (CP&D) Program to design a law and justice project, partnering with North Australian Aboriginal Justice Agency (NAAJA).

Funded by traditional owners, the project employs local Yolgnu people to work alongside NAAJA staff. Together they have been delivering community legal education sessions and helping Yolgnu people prepare for court weeks.

"We learn both laws and teach both laws," said a Galiwin'ku traditional owner. "It is a way for Yolgnu lore and Western law knowing each other and learning from each other."

Before each court week, project participants assist community members to write reference letters for defendants. The aim is to help locals to

achieve more meaningful justice outcomes.

"We communicate to the judge so he knows that we practice our lore and that we are trying to teach our young people about the Australian law as well as Yolgnu lore," said a Galiwin'ku traditional owner.

As part of the project, Yolgnu employees also run information sessions about peer pressure and group offending entirely in Yolgnu matha. One participant commented on how useful the sessions have been for the community: "This is what we have been missing... learning about different legal issues and using them to help our community".

The law and justice program is one of seven projects that Galiwin'ku traditional owners have funded using money from their land use agreements and working through the NLC's CP&D Program.



Galiwin'ku school kids learn about peer pressure and group offending during legal education sessions.



A meeting between Galiwin'ku community leaders and the judge.

New signs help share Malak Malak story with visitors

If you're visiting Malak Malak country keep your eyes out for the new signs that have been put up in the Daly River area.

Using their own income from land use agreements, traditional owners worked with media company Bellette to design and produce the signs. The project was planned and delivered through the NLC's Community Planning &

Development Program (CP&D).

"I feel so proud seeing the work we've done," said Valemina White as she viewed the signs on-country.

The traditional owners chose to undertake this project to acknowledge their ancestors, promote their people and language, and to share information with visitors.

Malak Malak traditional owner and ranger Theresa Lemon created the artwork for the signs, which depict how her community use the river.



Valemina White, Theresa Lemon and Joy Cardona at the new signs in Daly River.

Realising a dream of living on country with new home

In their first meeting back in mid 2018, Rak Papangala traditional owners raised the idea of building a family home on country. Now, after much planning and construction that dream has been realised.

"It's good to have a place for family to live," said Anzac Minjin about the new infrastructure his family has just been finished, the



Anzac Minjin and his family outside their new building at Papangala bore, east of Palumpa community.

access track is freshly cleared and there is water flowing from the tap connected to the bore.

The Minjin family from the Rak Papangala traditional owner group have been collaborating with the NLC's CP&D Program since mid-2018 to develop a project that would drive long term outcomes for their family on their country. They set aside income from a gravel extraction agreement in order to establish basic shelter, water and power

facilities on their land.

After careful planning around long-term housing options and costs, the group chose two partners to make their goal a reality. Tangentyere Constructions were engaged to build the basic house shelter and to equip a bore and West Daly Regional Council cleared a road and area for housing. Family members worked closely with these partners to ensure the project ran smoothly. One of the younger family members

gained work experience on the project as well. The Minjin family has now moved into the building.

"All my family is out here. It is good and we've been using the water, the tank is always full," said Hector Minjin.

Anzac Minjin said the new building will provide long-term shelter and a place for the family to come together. "All my family will stay out here. It will be a good place for many years to come," he said.

Legune Station Native Title holders reach first milestone

Native Title holders upgrade of Legune Station reaches first community milestone with Seafarms.

Native Title holders in the Top End of the Northern Territory have been working with the NLC's CP&D Program to complete an upgrade of their outstation at Marralum on Legune Station, 100km north east of Kununurra.

The Legune Native Title Holders negotiated for the upgrade as part of their land use agreement with Australian aquaculture company Seafarms Group as one strategy to drive positive change and benefit for their community.

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

"We have used money from our agreement with Seafarms to build and improve our housing at Marralum so we can live out there when jobs start at the prawn farm or with the Northern Land Council's proposed ranger program," said Native Title



Marcus Simon (centre) and family at Legune Station. Photos by Sarah Daguid.

holder Marcus Simon.

Native Title holder Bernadette Simon said: "It has been good working with NLC through its CP&D Program. It has helped us make good decisions about planning the upgrade. Now we've got the community up and going we can start a business plan to keep people out there and working. The upgrade to our outstation is a great opportunity for my family and will support us into the

future," she said.

Project Sea Dragon Managing Director Chris Mitchell said the company looks forward to further project work and cooperation with Native Title holders. "We have a continuing relationship with the Native Title holders and are very happy that the upgrade is complete and that they are able to use Marralum to welcome Seafarms people to Country (Mantha)," said Dr Mitchell.



Children play while the adults work on upgrading the outstation.



Maurice Simon Jr applies new paint at Marralum.

Over 30 funding proposals approved: ABA HOMELANDS PROJECT UPDATE

The Aboriginals Benefit Account (ABA) Homelands Project has been allocated \$40 million to provide a one-off infrastructure investment in selected NT homelands. So far, Minister for Indigenous Australians, the Hon. Ken Wyatt, has approved proposals from 33 homelands in the NLC region.

The Aboriginals Benefit Account (ABA) Homelands Project has been allocated a total of \$40 million from the ABA; \$35.5 million has been allocated for the delivery of activities in homelands across the four Aboriginal land council regions in the NT. These funds are accessed through a grant application process coordinated by the NLC.

The budget break down across the NT land council regions are as follows: Northern Land Council - \$15.75 million; Central Land Council - \$15.75 million; Tiwi Land Council - \$2 million; and Anindilyakwa Land Council - \$2 million.

The balance of funds are a contingency for the engagement of technical specialists, as required.

The project has 3 key stages: Consultation: Land councils identify and consult with selected homelands in their respective regions. Land councils submit proposals for assessment on behalf of the homelands' residents.

Assessment: Each proposal is checked by the National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA) to ensure benefit, need and capacity criteria are addressed. Proposals are presented to the ABA Advisory Committee and their recommendation is considered by the Minister for Indigenous Australians in making his decision on each proposal.

Delivery: Local Indigenous providers are approached by the NIAA to submit an application to deliver approved infrastructure activities. NIAA formally assesses applications and, if successful, NIAA enters into a funding agreement with providers.

Project management NLC initially consulted Aboriginal Homeland Service Provider Boards to identify priority communities and potential projects in their area of operation.

These service providers have a strong relationship with homeland communities in their service footprint and are the local experts in understanding community need. There are about 20 homeland essential and municipal service providers.

Managing expectations - with the limited funds available, extremely high need, and the cost of doing business in the bush it is likely that up to 80 homelands may benefit from this project; and NLC consulted the residents of prioritised communities, potential projects identified by service providers guided the conversation; however, it was the community residents who identified their funding priorities and NLC prepared detailed funding proposals on the behalf of the community not the service provider.

What the project can fund New and upgraded essential services infrastructure; upgrades and repairs to infrastructure that supports access to a homeland; new or upgraded radio/telephony infrastructure; new and upgraded infrastructure to improve the amenity of a homeland; and vehicles and machinery.

All regions to benefit NLC has used the following planning figures (see above) for a fair distribution of funds so each region benefits from this project.

NLC Regions	Homeland Communities	Homeland Residents	Recommended Regional Allocation
East Arnhem	54	1,457	\$4,000,000
West Arnhem	57	1,045	\$4,000,000
Darwin Daly Wagait	20	333	\$2,011,250
Borrooloola Barkly	33	436	\$2,700,000
Katherine	3	120	\$600,000
Ngukurr	19	136	\$1,100,000
Victoria River District	14	437	\$1,338,750
Total	204	3,964	\$15,750,000



Residents pose for a photo at 20 Mile, Borrooloola region.

First round of funding proposals approved NLC submitted 33 community proposals in February 2019. In a bid to share the funds around the highest priority activities for priority communities were put forward based on need and benefit. A significantly high percentage of the proposals were for essential service activities that address environmental health issues, reducing diesel consumption and carbon emissions, and creating significant savings from operating budgets over the next 10 plus years.

By the end of May 2019, the Minister for Indigenous Australians had approved all 33 community proposals, these projects once delivered will directly benefit 260 homes, about 1,670 homeland residents and will upgraded critical

infrastructure to just over 40 per cent of all Aboriginal people living on homelands in the NLC jurisdiction.

The value of approved activities from the first round of funding is estimated to be in the vicinity of \$11.2 million which includes a \$450,000 contribution from the NT Government for three large renewable energy projects



NLC's Stuart Worthington with Sandridge residents, Borrooloola region.

in East Arnhem. All the homeland communities mentioned below have approved projects that have moved into the negotiation and delivery stage:

East Arnhem - Baniyala, GanGan, Dhalinbuy, Mapurru, Bunthula, Gawa, Nyinyikay, Langarra, Bodiya, Murrungga, Galawdjapin,



Armorrnan, West Arnhem.

Garanydjirr, Ngangalala, and Birany-Birany.

West Arnhem - Ji-Marda, Buluhkadru, Bolkdjam, Manmoyi, Gumarringbang, Araru Point, Mudjinberri, Cannon Hill, Kapalga, and Kabulwarnamy.

Darwin Daly Wagait - Fossil Head, Nemarluk, Old Mission, Emu Point and Bulgul.

Borrooloola Barkly - Corrella Creek and Burudu.

Victoria River District - Lingarra.

Second and third round of funding proposals - pending a decision

NLC second and third round of proposals was submitted to NIAA in early June 2019 and August 2019, with a recommended funding package that included 28 communities with the vast majority of the proposals from the Borrooloola Barkly



Residents in Dhalinbuy, East Arnhem, participate in consultations.

(17), Ngukurr (3), and Katherine (3) regions.

All 28 homeland proposals have been considered by the ABA Advisory Committee and are pending a decision from the Minister.

A significantly high percentage of these proposals are for essential service upgrades and mobile communications.

Future consultations and funding proposals

The last region to be consulted is the VRD Region and these consultations started a couple of weeks ago. NLC aim to complete the consultation by the end of 2019 and submit the remaining proposals to NIAA by the end of this year.

Interesting points to consider

The overall need to upgrade homeland infrastructure is significantly high, of the 100 plus homeland communities consulted

to date there was \$36.9 million worth of identified need, which consisted of at least \$22 million of essential services upgrades alone. Overall homeland community infrastructure needs will only be partially addressed with the ABA Homelands Project. The need for additional investments in homelands remains high.

NIAA has been in negotiations with potential service providers to deliver these projects and with the 2019/20 monsoon season approaching it is unlikely providers will be able to commence these infrastructure projects until that start of the 2020 dry season.

Consultation with homeland residents identified that a number of communities had housing maintenance issues that their service provider had limited capacity to respond and address.

Some of the larger homelands had growing populations with no new housing on homelands for more than a decade.

Homeland residents would appreciate further assistance with tackling housing issues through improving repairs and maintenance, replacing houses that are beyond economical repair and building new houses where needed.



NLC's Richard Singh conducts community consultations at Bodiya, East Arnhem.



Mooloowa Vanderlin Island, Borrooloola region.



NLC's Richard Singh doing community consultations at Langarra, Howard Island, East Arnhem



NORTHERN LAND COUNCIL
Our Land, Our Sea, Our Life

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Or call your regional office:	Borrooloola/Barkly 8975 7500
Katherine 8971 9899	Ngukurr 8977 2500
Tennant Creek 8962 1884	Victoria River District 8974 5600

'Exchanging culture with our Aboriginal sisters was greatly empowering': NLC rangers visit New Zealand

Three Aboriginal rangers from the Northern Land Council embarked on a once-in-a-lifetime journey to New Zealand to connect with Maori women of the Te Rarawa Iwi in August.



Meirene Birch-Hardy, Eslyn Wauchope, Sheila White, Bronwyn Bauer-Hunt and Julie Roy on Te Oneroa (90 Mile Beach)

Three rangers from the NLC travelled to the far north of New Zealand to learn how other Indigenous women are involved in land management, conservation and cultural revitalisation.

The trip gave Julie Roy, Yugul Mangi assistant coordinator, Eslyn Wauchope, Eslyn Wauchope, Gargi Rangers acting coordinator and Sheila White, Malak Malak assistant coordinator, the opportunity to share their experiences about the challenges they all face, particularly in being able to use cultural knowledge to manage lands in a western context and how to ensure traditional knowledge is valued.

The journey was made possible by a NT Government grant and was part of the research being carried out by NLC Women

& Youth Coordinator's Penelope Mules during the course of her Winston Churchill Fellowship. Ms Mules' research is focused on investigating ways other countries employ Indigenous women as rangers and in conservation.

"The challenges of working in a male dominated field, and how women could support each other to overcome that through networks, mentoring and leadership programs, were also explored."

"The generosity of the Te Rarawa women in sharing their culture and expertise was greatly appreciated by the rangers," said Ms Mules.

The traditional Maori healing, a hangi lunch, and the personal tour of the Te Ahu Museum were highlights of the exchange, she said.

"The mentoring session from Meirene Birch-Hardy, a Maori women in a senior position at the Department of Conservation, was particularly valuable to the rangers in setting goals for their future and identifying how to achieve those goals."

During the exchange, the rangers visited several conservation projects, including Lake Ngatu, a dune lake restoration site and Te Oneroa (90 Mile Beach), which has been fenced in some areas to restrict illegal dumping. The rangers also visited Herekino Forest, where Kauri trees are at risk from die-back and feral possums.

The exchange experience gave the rangers the opportunity to develop leadership skills through representing their communities and their ranger programs overseas, Ms Mules said.

"It was an important step in gaining confidence, and they were able to connect, be inspired, and learn from other Indigenous women who are also working to protect their country and maintain their culture."

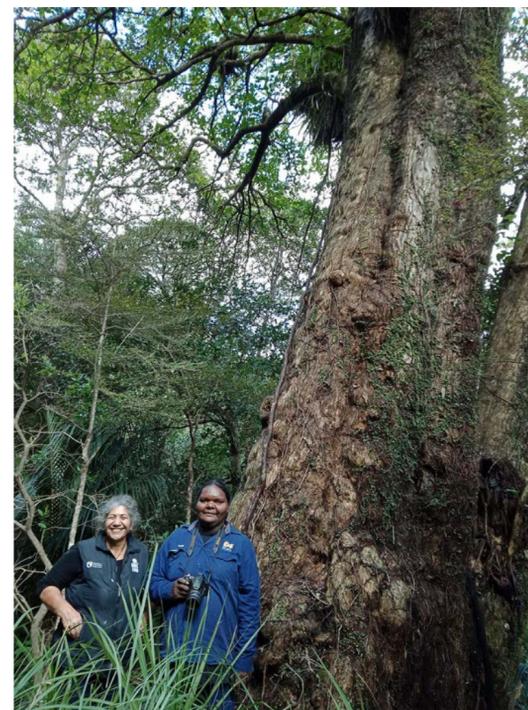
Two-way learning

Hosting the NLC rangers was also a valuable experience for the Te Rarawa women.

"The opportunity to spend time and exchange culture with our Aboriginal sisters was greatly empowering and insightful on both sides," Te Rarawa principal advisor Bronwyn Bauer-Hunt said.

"At grass roots the challenges the Indigenous people in the Northern Territory face are very similar to those we face here in the far north."

Common issues included things like lack of resources and the scale and complexity of the work we need to do to protect and restore the environment.



Bronwyn Bauer-Hunt and Eslyn Wauchope at Herekino Forest

Fresh water meets salt water

Earlier this year Malak Malak ranger **Theresa Lemon** wanted to learn more about the Dhimurru Rangers so she reached out to Dhimurru Aboriginal Corporation.

Dhimurru manages 550,000 hectares of land and sea country on behalf of Yolngu custodians of land around Nhulunbuy in Northeast Arnhem Land. Ms Lemon was then invited to visit their country.

Here Theresa Lemon shares her experience of spending time with the Dhimurru Rangers.

"Thank you to the Dhimurru Rangers and the Traditional Owners who so warmly welcomed me onto their country. We Malak Malak Rangers want to welcome Dhimurru onto our country in the future.

"I come from a place with a river, but when I went there I saw beaches. The country was just so beautiful. Most of the time, I went out with the girls. Brushcutting, mowing... it was lovely working in the sea breeze. It was good to get the opportunity to work with them. They were working with inmates. I'd never done that before. I learnt that people can get along, no matter who you are, or where you come from. We were just different people all working together. It was a special feeling.

To me Daly River has always been my home, but you can go out! It's what life's about: connecting with other people. This makes me a stronger person in life. I want to go back for a holiday with my family. I think they are expecting me!

The women at Dhimurru Rangers saw me as an older woman, so I encouraged them to be strong and to encourage young girls to become rangers. And, I congratulated them for being a ranger, because rangers have the courage."



Malak Malak Ranger Theresa Lemon on Dhimurru country



Malak Malak Ranger Theresa Lemon with Dhimurru rangers Grace Mununggurritj, Yama Banu, Wulwat Marika, Guruguru Hick, Gathapura Mununggurr, Rrawun Maymuru, Grace Wunungmurra, Hamish Gondarra and Dhimurru Managing Director Mandaka Marika



Dhimurru Ranger Georgina Gellett, Malak Malak Ranger Theresa Lemon, and Dhimurru Ranger Grace Wunungmurra inspecting a dead hawksbill turtle



Dhimurru Rangers Grace Mununggurritj, Georgina Gellett, and Grace Wunungmurra told Theresa Lemon: "This is our Coles, we get our tucker here, oysters, fish, eggs"



The NLC's Nicole Brown will be travelling to Melbourne and Sydney as part of the First Nations Fellowship

Congrats to NLC's Nicole Brown

Caring for Country's Nicole Brown has been selected to take part in the inaugural First Nations Messaging & Communications Fellowship 2019.

Run exclusively for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander campaigners, communicators, advocates and journalists, the fellowship is a leadership course covering everything from best practice messaging research and narrative development, to digital communications, media and shifting public discourse on key issues.

As one of only 20 fellows selected for the program, over the next four months Nicole will work across a range of issues. As part of the fellowship homework, she will complete a language analysis on a specific topic that will then inform later stages of the message research project.

For more information about the fellowship visit firstnationsfellowship.org.au



Any questions about NLC business?

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Victoria River District
8974 5600

'Challenging 2019 fire season': ALFA NT

* By Dr Jennifer Ansell

Each year across Arnhem Land, Aboriginal ranger groups and Traditional Landowners undertake extensive fire management over an area of more than 80,000 km² – an area larger than the size of Tasmania.

The 2019 fire season was always going to be challenging. The 2018-2019 wet season was particularly poor and like other areas in northern Australia, Arnhem Land received well below its average rainfall. With the poor wet season, the window for cool burning started early and finished early.

Given the large operational areas, the fire projects in Arnhem Land use aerial burning (incendiary pellets dropped from helicopters) during the early dry season to reduce fuel loads and establish a network of strategic burnt fire breaks across the landscape. A massive effort was undertaken within a few short months to create an intricate "spaghetti" of helicopter flight lines covering more than 50,000 km. Importantly, extensive ground burning using matches and drip torches was used along road corridors, and to protect outstations, sensitive vegetation and cultural sites in the dry and windy conditions.

By August the hot, dry and windy conditions meant that fire management work switched towards managing wildfires. Many of the creeks, springs and rainforest jungles in Arnhem Land were very dry this year and unable to assist as natural firebreaks. Once lit,



Jethro Guymala, a member of the Adjumarrli Rangers, undertakes fire management.

these wildfires quickly became hot, destructive and spread very fast. This year the ranger groups in Arnhem Land have been working extra hard to limit the destruction from these wildfires. The rangers use the early dry season fire scars in the landscape (the patchy cool fires burnt earlier in the year), natural landscape features and wildfire fighting tactics to stop these wildfires – its hard, hot work! Unfortunately, even now in December, the extreme fire weather conditions of 2019 are not over. The Bureau of Meteorology is still predicting that the end of the dry season will be both hotter and drier than average.

Fire management in Arnhem Land is a really big job and requires a lot of work from Aboriginal ranger groups and Traditional Landowners every year. All operations, including planning, consultation, early dry season burning, wildfire fighting and data recording are undertaken by Aboriginal people in Arnhem Land. As a result, the fire projects employ hundreds of full-time ranger positions as well as specialist consultant and casual work for Traditional Landowners. The scale of these fire operations are expensive and beyond the scope of 'business as usual' for Aboriginal Owners. Fortunately, the ranger groups are able to coordinate and undertake this important fire management work because it is funded through creating and selling Australian Carbon Credit Units (ACCUs).

A recent study published in the International Journal of Wildland Fire, demonstrates that this investment in fire management is demonstrating many positive results for country. In particular, the fire project areas in Arnhem Land have shown a decrease in the total area burnt each year, a decrease in the area of late dry season fire and early dry season fires have become smaller and more numerous. These are considered to be positive indicators of "patchy" fire regimes and important for supporting Arnhem Land's biodiverse landscapes.



Aside from the environmental benefits to country through fire management, the fire projects in Arnhem Land are also making a very real contribution to reducing Australia's greenhouse gas emissions. To date, the Arnhem Land fire projects have prevented more than 3 million tonnes of greenhouse

gas from entering the earth's atmosphere. Each year around half of the carbon credits from the Arnhem Land fire projects are delivered to the Government to help meet Australia's international greenhouse gas reduction targets. The other half are sold to organisations and corporations who wish to

voluntarily offset their carbon emissions whilst also supporting the environmental, cultural and social co-benefits associated with Aboriginal fire projects such as those in Arnhem Land.

* Dr Ansell is the CEO of Arnhem Land Fire Abatement (ALFA NT)

Savanna Fire Management Project

A carbon abatement project is being worked on by the Joint Management partners of Judbarra/Gregory National Park in the Victoria River District.

The Joint Management partners of Judbarra/Gregory National Park have been considering a carbon abatement project for the park.

The project is a collaborative effort between traditional owners, the NLC and Central Land Council, and Parks and Wildlife Commission NT.

A widespread consultation phase has been funded by the Indigenous Land and Sea Corporation's Savanna Fire Management program,

which is funded by INPEX. The NLC has facilitated three regional consultations meetings in the eastern, northern and southern regions of the park. The week-long camps have provided an opportunity for traditional owners and rangers to spend time on-country and consider the project proposal.

If traditional owner support is widespread the project will proceed to an operational year in 2020.

This will enable traditional owners to undertake casual employment and be actively engaged in planning and implementing on-ground early season burns each year.

The Wardaman and Timber Creek ranger teams and the Mungkurru Mungkurru rangers from Kalkarinji/Daguragu will also be involved in fire management within the park, in collaboration with NT Parks and Wildlife rangers.



Traditional owners, guests and NLC staff gather to discuss the fire management plan for Judbarra National Park.

Increased powers for Aboriginal rangers to manage traditional lands

Aboriginal Rangers can now be recognised as conservation officers under changes to the Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act 1976.

More than 1,000 rangers working across almost 50 ranger groups protecting 460,000 square kilometres are now eligible to be trained to become conservation officers by law. This includes the Northern Land Council's Caring for Country rangers operating across almost 200,000 square kilometres of land owned by Aboriginal people in the NLC's area.

The new powers will enable rangers to work towards getting legal authority to manage illegal activity on their lands, such as unauthorised fishing, camping and hunting.

Amendments to the Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act 1976 are in-line with the Territory Labor Government's Local Decision Making

policy to return control and governance to local communities.

NT Minister for Tourism, Sport and Culture Lauren Moss said Aboriginal rangers have long-held cultural and traditional responsibilities to protect and manage land and sea country but under the new laws they will be better able to carry out those responsibilities.

"The amendments recognise the immense work that Aboriginal rangers undertake in caring for the country and provide more tools for rangers to continue protecting the incredible cultural and environmental assets that exist across Aboriginal land," she said.

"Aboriginal rangers are highly experienced in performing the functions of a conservation officer because of their traditional, cultural and technical skills and their intrinsic connection and understanding of the lands."



Arnhem Land Aboriginal ranger groups come together

Around half of the Territory's landmass and 85 percent of its coastline is Aboriginal owned and or managed.

Rangers already play an important role in fisheries management, border security and biosecurity surveillance.

A survey of ranger groups across the Territory found

their major concerns are people entering Aboriginal land without a permit, unauthorised hunting and illegal access to sacred sites.

Under the new laws, rangers need to be resourced to receive training and mentoring to become accredited conservation officers. This will allow them

to enforce compliance with laws and to work more closely with police, parks and wildlife officers.

Accredited rangers will be able to gather evidence, request names and addresses and direct people without a permit to leave an area.

New wheels for the Mardbalk Marine Rangers

Based at Warruwi on South Goulburn Island, the Mardbalk Marine Rangers have received delivery of their new sea patrol vessel 'Mardbalk 1'.



Mardbalk 1 near the Goulburn Islands.



Mardbalk Marine Rangers Ralstin Djortam, Roy Winunguj and Nicholas Hunter on patrol.

Through funding from the NT Ranger Grants Program and the Aboriginals Benefit Account (ABA), the 'Mardbalk 1' enables the Mardbalk Marine Rangers to extend their area of operations to neighbouring mainland areas and islands.

Built to 2C survey (up to 30 nautical miles offshore) it's fitted with a Suzuki

150hp outboard motor, satellite navigation and communication equipment for safe, extended sea operations.

Mardbalk rangers have already commenced patrols in the vessel and are planning future works in close consultation with traditional owners.

These operations will include fisheries and visitor management patrols, ghost net and beach debris collection, cultural site maintenance, monitoring biosecurity, fire and weed management, terrestrial and marine mammal surveys.



Mardbalk Rangers collecting marine debris on North Goulburn Island.

Rangers come together for fire management exercise

Wagiman and Wardaman rangers took part in a three-day joint fire management exercise earlier this year. They also brought along elders from both Wagiman and Wardaman sides.

The burning exercise went well, with Wagiman traditional owner Jabul

Huddleston teaching rangers what he knows about burning. The rangers also caught bream and long neck turtles to eat whilst out bush. It is hoped that the two ranger groups will collaborate on more projects (not just in burning) in the future.

Photos by Kathrine Carver.



Health program teams with Indi Kindi and John Moriarty Football



Indi Kindi, an early literacy and numeracy program for children under six years of age, delivers daily messages to eat well, drink well, clean well and play well. Hand washing routines are a key message to reduce the incidences of communicable diseases.

Moriarty Foundation's Indi Kindi and John Moriarty Football programs have partnered with the Menzies School of Health Research in Darwin to bring its HealthLab to the community of Borroloola.

HealthLab measures participants' health against benchmarks of chronic diseases, results and health implications explained by trained clinical staff.

HealthLab worked with John Moriarty Football at Borroloola School to encourage positive lifestyle choices, such as better nutrition and more physical activity.

Moriarty Foundation will also facilitate a HealthLab visit to Robinson River, and a further

four NT communities over the next three years.

Another initiative, U5 HealthLab, visited the mums and children at Indi Kindi to promote health awareness and practices targeting children under five years.

This initial session was part of the design process in consultation with community over the coming weeks to improve health outcomes in Borroloola.

Since 2012, Moriarty Foundation has worked in collaboration with local advisory groups in Borroloola and Robinson River to shape its programs and implement best practice strategies to enable Aboriginal communities and families to unlock their own

children's potential.

To create long lasting impact and outcomes, Moriarty Foundation runs early years and football programs that follow a child's lifecycle from birth to 18 years.

Moriarty Foundation is named after John Moriarty, the first ever Indigenous football selected to play for Australia.

For more information email info@moriartyfoundation.org.au

*Article supplied by the Moriarty Foundation.

'There's strong interest in treaty and the work we're doing'

Professor Mick Dodson was appointed as the NT Treaty Commissioner in March this year. Here he provides an update on the developments of recent months.



NT Treaty Commissioner Mick Dodson with Deputy Treaty Commissioner Ursula Raymond.

Well another magnificent dry season has come and gone and we have continued delivering education and awareness sessions across the NT, our research and our planning.

So far I have addressed 44 large Aboriginal organisations across the Territory including a number of Regional Councils and I have delivered talks at 9 conferences and workshops in the NT. I have also presented to several interstate meeting and conferences.

Since my last update we have been to Tennant Creek, Nhulunbuy twice - including the wonderful Garma weekend, the Tiwi Islands, Wadeye, Katherine for a second time and of course more organisations around Darwin.

Key themes that have emerged from meetings

- A strong interest in Treaty and the work we are doing;
- A desire for Treaties at a local level - which may also involve a Territory wide Treaty setting minimum standards and ground rules rather than just one Territory wide Treaty on its own;
- Some scepticism of the value of NT Treaties without national Treaties;
- A desire to understand what difference Treaty can make on the ground;
- A keen awareness of the Constitutional and legal issues facing the Territory as well as the risks if we went it alone without Federal government involvement;
- An acceptance that even if the framework I ultimately recommend is implemented, similar to Land Rights claims and Native Title applications, the negotiation of Treaties will take a generation;
- Concern about the longevity of Treaties; and
- Concern for what happens if there is a change of Government in the NT.

Related to the last point I am pleased to advise that the NT Government has committed to introducing legislation to convert my appointment as Treaty Commissioner into a Statutory Appointment into the February 2020 Parliamentary Sittings.

The idea behind the education and awareness sessions was to facilitate a common understanding of what a Treaty is, what my role is and how I plan to fulfil my responsibilities under the Terms of Reference in order to set the scene for the Discussion Paper I expect to release in March 2020.

Planning for our Interim Report and Discussion Paper is well advanced and we will be doing some serious writing between now and Christmas. As a minimum, the Discussion Paper will: discuss the level of interest in Treaty in the NT; advise and share information and ideas on national and international best practice; provide explanations of the legal context; and explore possible models for a Treaty.

Given the critical nature of the legal context of treaty, I have briefed a Senior Counsel to provide me with independent advice to ensure that I cover all bases.

Finally, I am extremely pleased that the NT Treaty Commission now has its own premises on the Ground Floor, 16 Bennett St in Darwin. Whilst we have appreciated sharing premises with the Strategic Aboriginal Partnerships staff in the Department of the Chief Minister whilst our premises were being sourced, it is important that an independent Commission has its own independent premises.

"I hope that all Aboriginal Territorians will feel comfortable to come to our office and talk about Treaty business knowing that they are in a culturally safe and trusting environment." - NT Treaty Commissioner Mick Dodson.



Meeting at the Language Centre in Tennant Creek.



Meeting at the Laynhapuy Homelands office at Yirrkala.

'Young Aboriginal voices important in treaty consultations'

Young Aboriginal people must be involved in treaty consultations if they are to be successful, Northern Territory Treaty commissioner Mick Dodson and his deputy Ursula Raymond say.

Speaking at the Garma Festival in Arnhem Land in August, Mr Dodson provided an update on their Treaty consultation process.

"Firstly, I have to consider and report on the level of interest in a treaty, what outcomes are possible and what it will achieve," Mr Dodson said.

He said the consultations were a frustrating but necessary measure towards developing

an effective treaty framework.

"It's not my job to negotiate a treaty or treaties, that comes after I've done my job," he said.

Mr Dodson said a treaty would be a "settlement or an agreement" between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander nations and the government.

Treaty agreements have been influential in repairing the relationship between Indigenous people and their government overseas, but here in Australia despite years of promises on a national level, no such agreements have been reached.

In recent years, states and territories have begun their own discussions.

"In the first stage, I have to provide a report to the Chief Minister ... I then have to develop a discussion paper outlining the key issues that we need to be consulted about," Mr Dodson said.

Mr Dodson, who was appointed to the role in March, stressed the importance of not viewing treaty as singular.

"Whenever I talk about treaty, I'm talking about multiple treaties, that's what people seem to be telling me at this stage," he said.

Keeping families connected to culture and country

The NLC's Caring for Country branch supported several ranger groups to deliver culture camps over the dry season school holidays.

The camps aim to get families out on country and to provide time and space for intergenerational knowledge exchange.

Wardaman Women's Camp

Over an August weekend, Wardaman women and children participated in the Wardaman Women's Country Camp at the Giwining (Flora River) Nature Park. They spent their time fishing, bushwalking and exploring the Flora River and Djarrung's spring.

A lot of time was also spent telling stories, learning Wardaman language, and teaching the law and

painting. Tracey Rainger and Amanda Arnold, rangers with Parks and Wildlife NT at Nitmiluk, assisted with the camp and talked to the young women about how to become a ranger. The older women talked with the younger women about many topics and shared their wisdom and advice.

The camp was supported through the NIAA Wardaman Indigenous Protected Area (IPA) funding.



Children paint pictures at the Wardaman Women's Country Camp.



The Waanyi Garawa and Garawa ranger groups hosted a Women's Culture and Health Camp at Black Rock.

Borrooloola Women's Culture & Health Camp

The Waanyi Garawa and Garawa ranger groups hosted a Women's Culture and Health Camp at Black Rock, thanks to funding the NLC secured from the Department of Health's Alcohol and Other Drugs Youth Grants. Over 70 women living in Borrooloola participating in workshops, of which about 40 women were young Indigenous women. The aim of the camp was to educate young women in Borrooloola about social and health issues within the community.

The women learnt about managing drug and alcohol consumption, nutrition, sexual and reproductive health, and healthy relationships. They also learnt how to access healthy food, birth control, and the local support services available to women.

"This education program was achieved because elders were able to work alongside health professionals based in the Borrooloola region to run workshops that tackled sensitive issues in culturally appropriate ways," said Penny Mules, Women & Youth Coordinator in the NLC's Caring for Country branch.

Wagiman Culture Camp

The Wagiman Rangers organized a culture camp at Sawmill Outstation in July for children and their families. Cultural



A child at the Wagiman Culture Camp holds up a long neck turtle..

activities for the children included story telling with elders and fishing.

The children particularly enjoyed the Rarrk art workshop organized by Paul Miller.

Bulgul Culture and Turtle Camp Report

The Bulgul Rangers invited families and Central Land Council Rangers to join them at a Culture and Turtle Camp. This was held during NAIDOC Week and aimed to strengthen relationships between each other and country. Activities included turtle patrols, crocodile safety awareness, sustainable hunting practice, art workshops, sports activities and a bushtucker feast.

The Bulgul Rangers showcased their work during the camp and gave a

presentation about their pig monitoring program.

During the camp rangers found seven sea turtle nests. One of them had been laid below the high water mark. Bulgul families harvested one nest which contained 53 eggs and left the others to hatch. The rangers are working to teach families to leave most eggs behind so there can be more turtles for future generations.

Everyone at the camp learnt about hunting and cooking different types of bushtucker, including sugarbag, pandi (witchety grubs), murdumurdu (long yam), wurrdi (clams), marwan (Carpentaria palm shoots), yarram (pandanus nuts), fresh fish and damper.



CLC rangers Josephine Grant, Gladys Brown, Helen Wilson, Angela Purvis and Lynette Burrburr with turtle eggs.



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