

# NGUKURR NEWS

Number 16, 16 March 2001

## Meeting To Discuss Setting Up A Broadbase Community Cattle Company

Thursday 22nd February 2001 at Ngukurr meeting room.

### Present:

Andrew Robertson **Bobby Nungamajbarr (Chair)**, Brian Daniels, Craig Rogers, Dudley Daniels, Ernest Daniels, Easu Thompson, Fred Conway, Glen Watson, Gordon Nawondupi, Irene Andrews, Ishamael Andrews, John Bern, John Huddelston, John Joshua, John Smiler, Jonathan Farrell, Lincoln Harrison, Lynn Mott, Mackie Roberts, Mathew Johnson, Nelson Hall, Owen Turner, Ralph Dingal, Richard Sandy, Roger Rogers, Solomon Daniels, Steven Daniels, Tommy Gibbs, Walter Roger, Warren Starkey, William Hall.

Bobby stated that the purpose of the meeting was to see if people wanted to manage a cattle company in Ngukurr. He said the decision is up to the 21 clans whether they should agree to have the company.

Warren Starkey spoke about the Bulman Buffalo Company as an example of how clan groups can own, run and make money from a cattle company. He said that Bulman made a \$72000 profit last year, with the whole group owning all of the cattle, with each clan group just looking after a certain number of cattle on their land.

Lynn explained that it is hard for individual groups to get loans and financial help for business. It is easier and cheaper for one big group to ask for financial help. She also said that the council and CDEP would not be able to run the cattle company. It would need its own administration group to operate it and look after its books. The group decided to give more time to think about the issue.

**Daphne Daniels**

### *Ngukurr News*

Published by Ngukurr Language Centre and South East Arnhem Land Collaborative Research Project, with the assistance of Ngukurr CEC.

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### **Reporter**

Daphne Daniels

**Views expressed in Ngukurr News are not necessarily those of SEALCP and Ngukurr Language Centre.**

## LANGUAGE CENTRE NEWS

### **Ngukurr News**

Ngukurr Language Centre has started off with a very busy year this year. One of our big projects this year is being involved with Ngukurr News. What this also means is that we hope to see more people involved in reporting and writing for the News, especially in Kriol and maybe, if some people feel like it, in other languages too.

### **Learning to Write in Kriol & Other Languages**

One reason why some people don't feel comfortable about writing in Kriol is because they are worried that they don't know how to write it. Others, who would like to be involved in working on other languages, especially writing down the stories that old people tell, are worried about doing it because they can't speak those languages. That's ok.

One of the jobs of the language centre is to provide a place where people can learn to do this, or even become comfortable with doing it. I hope to hold some **WRITING COURSES** possibly after Eastertime, or later, this year. A few people have already asked about it and I would like to put together something for them. At the moment, I would particularly like to do this for Kriol, Ngalakgan, Ngandi and Marra as these are the languages that the kids are working with and learning at Ngukurr and Urapunga Schools. If people would like to learn to write down other languages too, please come and talk to me.

Remember, you don't have to talk or hear the language that you want to write. **BUT LEARNING TO WRITE A LANGUAGE IS ONE WAY TO START LEARNING THE LANGUAGE.**

### **Languages In the Schools**

Urapunga School is continuing with Ngalakgan Lessons and while the teaching team from Ngukurr (myself, Frances Garadji & James Garadji) visits there once a week, the teaching assistants at Urapunga School have become involved in organising an extra lesson each week.

Ngukurr School is starting its language program in the secondary school this week, with Marra. Ngandi will be starting too but this will have to wait until after the funeral. We are hoping to teach the secondary students some basic words in the language and then later, to train them to put together language materials and to help teach the younger students in the primary classes.

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Together, with the courses for writing, we hope that people will start to learn and do this very important language work for themselves and feel a strong ownership over as many aspects of it as possible.

## NGUKURR SCHOOL

### *Rena & Family*

The Ngukurr CEC now has a new principal, Rena Tito, who originally came from Dargaville in New Zealand. She taught for six years before coming to Australia. Her first teaching position in Australia was as a post-primary teacher in 1979 in Milingimbi. Rena also taught in other Bush Schools in the Territory such as Tipperary Station, and Numbulwar. Palumpa Station (5 Years) was the last community before she came to Ngukurr. Rena's husband Ben Kiwikiwi and daughter Katie are also here with Rena. Ben is planning to do a program with the petrol sniffers and old people in the community. Their two sons, Wiki and Adrian live in Darwin.

### New Teachers at Ngukurr CEC



*Robin Rodgers*

### People working at Ngukurr Language Centre:

**Michelle Gibbs** – making Kriol & Ritharrngu materials

**Anne Huddleston** – Kriol/English interpreter and making Kriol materials

**Frances & James Garadji** – teaching team for Ngalakgan at Urapunga School

**Cherry Daniels** (Chair) – part of Ngandi teaching team

**Betty Roberts & Maureen Thompson** – part of Marra teaching team

If you would like to help **teach** or **do** or **learn** anything, please talk to me or call me on:

**89754 362**

**Eleonora Deak**

*Rena Tito*



### *Robin Rogers*

Teacher at the Ngukurr School. Robin has worked at the School for over 20 years. Robin likes working with kids but he decided to have a break last year, he is now continuing his teaching this year at the School. Robin has graduated from Batchelor College as Stage 1 Teacher. During his teaching study he was teaching Yr 3 & 4 as an assistant teacher.

Robin is now a Band 1 Teacher and he is teaching Yr 4/5. Robin is looking for an assistant teacher at the moment, as he is teaching a very big class on his own.

***Helen Rogers***

Helen likes working with kids and she was also teaching at the School as an assistant teacher. She decided to do further studies on teaching. Helen graduated from Batchelor College Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education with Stage 1, 2, 3 & 4 Diploma of Teaching in Aboriginal Schools. This is her first year as a full teacher and she is teaching the Transition class.

***Margo Smith***

Margo come from a small country town in NSW. Margo's first position was teaching migrants and adults in Sydney. She's also taught high school students from different countries in Canberra and Darwin, as well as spending some time in the school at Maningrida and Gapuwiyak. Her last position was at Darwin High teaching secondary students. Margo is taking the General Studies class this year.

*Stephen & Margo****Stephen Hill***

Stephen also has a position (Foundation Studies teacher) at the Ngukurr CEC. Stephen come from Adelaide SA. His background includes studying linguistics and languages at Sydney University and his first job was as a linguist at the Katherine Language Centre (Diwurruwurru-Jaru Aboriginal Corporation). This gave him the opportunity to come out to Ngukurr (as well as Jilkminggan and other places) a few times

during the 90's to work on the local blackbela languages. Stephen is interested in language and is an ESL teacher. He has worked in Gupuwiyak community as a primary teacher and his last job was in Darwin at Sanderson High, as a secondary teacher.

**Other School Positions**

<i>Fiona Black</i>	Special Needs	<i>Cathy Huddleston</i>	Asst. Teacher F/T permanent
<i>Godfrey Blitner</i>	Year 2/3	<i>Rose Ponto</i>	Asst. Teacher F/T
<i>Michael Chalk</i>	Year T-1	<i>Yvonne John-Forrest</i>	Asst. Teacher/library
<i>Joyce Dirdi</i>	Study leave -Postgraduate studies in Education	<i>Justine Rogers</i>	Asst. Teacher P/T
<i>Geoffrey Manners</i>	Year 7	<i>Rhoda Watson</i>	Asst. Teacher.
<i>Alison Miller</i>	Pre-School	<i>Paula Roberts</i>	Emergency Relief Teacher
<i>Annemarie Rogers</i>	Study leave – Postgraduate studies in Education	<i>Raina Rogers</i>	General Support Staff - canteen (afternoon), Breakfast Program, Asst. Teacher
<i>Garry Power</i>	Year 8	<i>Oksana Sokolenko</i>	Year 6
<i>Hazel Farrell</i>	Non-Contact & Emergency Relief Teacher	<i>Ernest Daniels</i>	Home Liaison Officer -F/T
<i>Patricia Farrell</i>	Asst. Teacher F/T permanent	<i>Lindsay Hall</i>	Janitor (Full Time)
<i>Bernard</i>	Cleaner - Full Time		
<i>Jambeyapde</i>			

## Stories from Students

There has been very good attendance in the school this year, including in the secondary school. Students in the secondary classes have been writing stories in English. Well done to everyone and we have picked out three of the stories that were written in good English and came with pictures.

Ola sekondrimob jeya la skul bin lanimbat rait langa Kriol du. Mela wandi luk sambala stori langa Kriol la thad nekswan Ngukurr Nyus.

### *Ghost Dog*

*Last week when we went to Yellow Waters, we found Garrett getting some barramundi. So we went back home and we got our fishing lines and we went to another fishing spot called the Policeman's Crossing I caught three big bream. I cooked them in the fire and when they were ready, I got them out and I gave them to my dad to eat. He was very happy. Suddenly we heard some puffing sounds. We ran back to our Toyota and then we looked around and we saw two red eyes.*

**Nicko Farrell**

### *Ghost Dog*

*One day, a big fat man and his friends were fishing. When they got there, they saw a big ghost dog run across the road. The dog was behind the car and the very fat man tried to shoot him but the dog tricked them. It fell into the dark creek and it was still alive. Then it went back and looked for the car but the very fat man was far in the town so the ghost dog went back to his cave and waited.*

**Renita Wurramara**

### *Ghost Dog*

*Last week when we went fishing at Walmaja Billabong, there was a big dog on the other side of the billabong. As we threw our fishing lines in the water, the big dog climbed back on to the big hill and went to his cave. After that, my dad caught three big barramundi. Then after the sun went down, we packed all of our stuff and went back home.*

**Garret Daniels**

## **Back Where We Started?: Schooling In Ngukurr**

Students living in remote communities in the Northern Territory are often disadvantaged in the education they receive. Many parents are concerned that their children are not learning the things that are most important for their future.

While I was in Ngukurr part of my job was to find out what people thought about education and the role of the school in the community. I talked to the staff at the school and people who had worked at the school previously as well as parents and students. Community-wide views about schooling were also collected through the household survey. This information has been combined with a discussion about the history of the school to become the first working paper of the South East Arnhem Land Collaborative Research Project, which is called: *Back Where We Started?: Schooling in Ngukurr*. There are several copies of the report in the community, you can find them at the school and in the library. Have a look at the report if you can, as it not only describes the issues that you as a community considered to be important about the school and education, but it shows what happens to the information that we have been collecting. We would be very happy to receive any comments about this publication.

**Kate Senior**