

NGUKURR NEWS

Number 19, 24 August 2001

Ngukurr News

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

Enquiries: 89786 476

Reporter: Daphne Daniels

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

NT Elections at Ngukurr

The NT election was held last Saturday 18th August. Ngukurr is the final polling place on Mobile Run number five in the electorate of Arnhem. The candidates for Arnhem are the sitting member John Ah Kit (ALP), Cliff Thompson (CLP), Allan Wright (CLP) and Lance Lawrence (Ind).

This Mobile polling station has been visiting communities between Barunga and Ngukurr, including Jilkmingan, Minyeri, Badawarka and Urapunga. Ngukurr, the largest community with 480 people on the electoral roll, is the only one of these where people were voting on the day of the election. The polling booths were located in the Council meeting room.

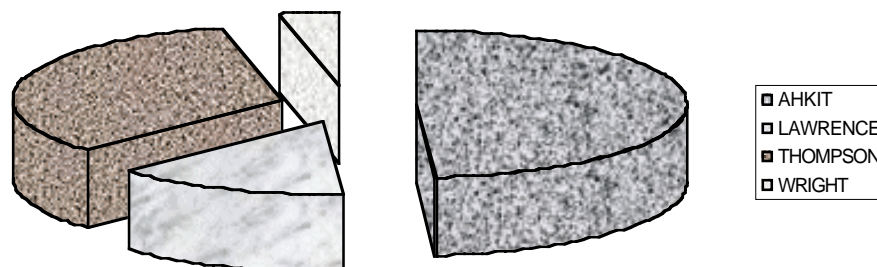
People showed a strong interest in the voting and the polling station was a centre of attention throughout the morning. The poll at Ngukurr opened at 8am with people already waiting outside to make their vote. The chief polling officer said that by 11am more than 300 people had voted and that participation by Ngukurr people was very high.

Informal discussions with voters by Ngukurr News reporters indicated that the voting pattern was complex with support being divided between the local candidate, Cliff Thompson, and the sitting member, with some support for the Independent who is also well known at Ngukurr.

Counting of votes for the electorate of Arnhem at Sunday 19th August

	Ah Kit	Lawrence	Thompson	Wright	Formal	Informal	Total
Alyangula	143	60	6	132	341	17	358
Mobile 4	716	78	85	233	1112	174	1286
Mobile 5	381	107	263	28	779	50	829

Mobile Team 5 voting distribution



John Bern, the Director, is currently in Ngukurr to follow local participation in the NT elections, the conduct of the National Census and to discuss with people their attitudes to mineral exploration and the prospect of mining in the region. On this visit John will be here till 26th August.

Last week John announced the University of Wollongong's appointment of Kate Senior to a one year position as Research Fellow. She will work as Research Fellow for SEALCP from the beginning of September. He said that the appointment is an important one as Kate has been associated with SEALCP as both research student and part time researcher from its early days. She brings to the

project a strong background in social research and a good knowledge of the community. We have great expectations of her and look to the community continuing to support her in her new position.

John stated that he and Kate would be working at Ngukurr for much of the rest of this year. Kate will have particular responsibility for research on household expenditure patterns and, the social life and attitudes of teenage girls and young women at Ngukurr. She will also participate in the other work of the project including the policy and practices of service delivery, training and employment and, contributing to the preparation and writing of the Project's final monograph.

Reference Committee Meeting

The SEALCP Reference Committee meeting was held at Ngukurr on 21st June. The work of the project was discussed and three publications produced since the last meeting were presented. The process of reviewing potential publications in the community was discussed and endorsed. Two working papers were at the review stage: one by Mary Edmunds and another by Paul Wand and Jeff Wilkie.

The Director informed the Meeting of the resignation of Dr. Mary Edmunds from her Research Fellowship with the University of Wollongong and her consequent departure from SEALCP. Her departure is regretted and was brought on by her increasing workload with the National Native Title Tribunal.

A full report on the Meeting will be available at the next meeting to be held in the first week of December.



Reference Committee Meeting



Maureen Murrarngulu & Rebecca Joshua

Ngukurr Art Exhibition in Canberra

Country, Culture and Stories is the name of an exhibition of 45 paintings to be held at Canberra Grammar School from 8th til 25th September.

Maureen Murrarngulu and Rebecca Joshua will be travelling with Brenda to set up the exhibition and to attend the opening. Maureen and Rebecca will be explaining the stories in the paintings – and will also be talking to the art classes and the general studies class about being artists and about living in Ngukurr.

The Art Centre has been really busy getting everything ready for this exhibition. One painting from each artist will be placed on the college web site. Brenda has emailed the information and images of the paintings to Canberra for this to happen.

We have been invited to the University of Wollongong on our way to Canberra – Maureen will be lecturing the students there about Aboriginal Art and Land.

And another exhibition – three women from Ngukurr Way

This is the name of the exhibition of paintings of Maureen Murrarngulu, Faith Thompson Nelson and Joyce Huddleston to be held at Raft Artspace in Darwin on August 31. This is the first exhibition for these Ngukurr artists. They will be travelling to Darwin for their exhibition and then Maureen will be travelling on to Canberra.

Rebecca Joshua

Women's Basketball results

Yugul Power are the Grand Final winners of the Women's Basketball competition. Following the finals of the women's basketball, awards were presented to outstanding players from all teams.

Best and Fairest

Janita Joshua

Grand final best player

Tammy Daniels

Competition highest scorer

Natasha Daniels

Best team players

Mirri
Manbilila
Yugal

Andrea Andrews
Luanna Daniels
Tammy Daniels

Ngandi A
Ngandi 2
Manbilila

Majorie Morton
Felicia Dingle
Janita Joshua



Sport and recreation would like to thank the following people who gave their time to make these games such a success: Robin Rogers, Darren Joshua, Sandra Darcy, Graham Turner, Keith Rogers.

The new basketball competition starts this month for both men and women. New teams are welcome.

Northern Land Council

Interview with Ben Scambary by Daphne Daniels on land claim work on Roper River

During June the NLC Anthropology crew visited Ngukurr. The visit was to gather information from the people of the Ngukurr region regarding the claim to the Roper River from Roper Bar to the mouth of the river. The NLC crew along with the local people have put a camp at Nalawan, an out-station about half hour drive to the east of Ngukurr. The work here took about two weeks.

The north side of the Roper River is Aboriginal land were Aboriginal can control what goes on with the land. If non Aboriginal people want to visit they have to have permits. But on the south side, St Vidgeon used be a pastoral lease. The NLC has put the Native Title claim and went through the process where lawyers have asked claimants for family trees, sacred sites, bush tucker, and when the Aboriginal people claiming Native Title have been there last. And what they want to do with the land in the future. The judge found that Native Title exist there but under that Native Title Act the judge can't just take the land off the Government and give it to the Ngukurr people. He says the Ngukurr people have to share the land with the Government. The Native Title is not as strong as the title to Aboriginal Land. NLC are not quite certain of what is going to happen with the land under the native title act and the pastoral law. If the Ngukurr people want to do something on that land they have to check with the Government,

same if the government want to do something on the land they have to check with the Ngukurr people.

The Roper River Land Claim is for Aboriginal Land under the Land Rights Act. The NLC team is basically looking firstly at the traditional ownership of the land and collecting family trees and sacred sites of the land. The claim area is from Roper Bar to the coast. It covers the banks and the beds of the river, from low water mark and all the land underneath the water, and rocks and Island on the river. This is just the beginning of the claim and it take a lot of information collecting of which people own the river Aboriginal way. All this information will then be written up for the lawyers. The lawyers will once again ask the same question to the owners of the land. All the information will then be presented, along with people talking about country, to the Land Commissioner. He will make his decision, but it will take a long period of time before decisions will take place a maximum of two to four years.

Report of Ngukurr Regional Council Meeting

The Ngukurr Regional Council Meeting was held in the Community meeting room on 21st and 22nd August. Kevin Rogers chaired the meeting. The members and community observers attending at its first session were Kevin Rogers, Phillip Bush, Betty Roberts, William Hall, Andrew Robertson, two

members from Minyeri. Seven NLC staff were in attendance, including the new Katherine Regional

Coordinator, Garry Richardson. The agenda included: Town and regional agreements; the gas pipeline and railway projects; tourism (Ruined City, Gulwiddi and buffalo safaris); planning and staffing in the Katherine region; local government; Ngukurr store; Urapunga bus run; ABA funding; ELA schedule; royalty distributions; and councillors code of conduct. The News report is only able to cover the opening of the meeting.

Edna Barolits opened with an announcement that the Land Council now needed to concentrate more on land management, as the era of Land Claims was drawing to a close. She then introduced the new Regional Coordinator. He emphasised the importance of developing land management and forward planning. He is strengthening the Katherine office and increasing its capacity to service communities. He is looking forward to working closely with the people in the region. Edna Barolits then gave a brief overview of the gas pipeline and railway projects, emphasising, that there were opportunities for work and contracting on the railway. The meeting then went into closed session.

Life Promotion Program

Leonore Hanssens (Co-ordinator) and Margaret Vigona (Indigenous Life Promotion officer) visited Ngukurr for the first time this week. They are talking to the community about setting up an Indigenous Life Promotion Model at Ngukurr.

The **Life Promotion Program** is a broad Public Health approach to the prevention of youth suicide and self harm by utilising the principles of Social Justice and Equity that underpin Community Development and Health Promotion. A community development framework sees young people and their health in the context of their social relationships rather than as vulnerable to a particular set of risk factors.

The **LivingWorks – applied suicide intervention skills** training is an intensive course that helps to reduce the incidence of suicide in our community. The two-day intensive participatory course is designed to help participants recognise and assess persons at risk and master a model for effective suicide intervention. The Life Promotion Officers in Darwin and Alice Springs are qualified Train the Trainers in LivingWorks Suicide prevention training.

The **Indigenous Life Promotion Model** – (Crisis Intervention Committee) is a community development model that promotes the physical, emotional, spiritual and cultural well-being of young people, families and communities. It promotes community responsibility through community owned and developed initiatives. It aims to heal and empower communities to reduce self-harm and suicide by providing options to move to a healthier lifestyle through culturally relevant initiatives.

Broken English

The legendary Ngukurr rock band Broken English has now achieved success with their new album *Broken English*. Thanks to Tony Joyce and the Skinny Fish recording studio for developing this particular album with the band.

Band members are: *Danny Thompson, Keith Rogers, Hubert Rami, David Daniels, John Rogers, Nelson Gumbuli and Tony Joyce.*

The album is available on CD and cassette tape from music stores