

NGUKURR NEWS

Number 30, June 2002

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Published by South East Arnhem Collaborative Research Project with assistance from Ngukurr CEC

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Views expressed in Ngukurr News are not necessarily those of SEALCP

AIR NGUKURR OFFICES DESTROYED BY FIRE

Air Ngukurr Offices in Winnellie Road, Darwin were gutted by fire early in the morning of the third of June. Police suspect that arsonists* are responsible for the fire and they are continuing their investigations into the cause of the fire. They are also appealing to the public to respond if they noticed anything suspicious. Police state that they do not know yet if anything was taken from the offices before the fire. The fire burned two offices of Air Ngukurr, destroying everything inside. Further damage to nearby buildings was prevented through the prompt actions of the fire brigade.

* Arsonists are people who start fires on purpose to damage property

Courtesy of the Northern Territory News

Yugal Power blast through to victory

The grand finals of the Women's Basketball were held on Thursday 30th May. Yugal Power and Mirri faced each other in front of a huge, excited and very noisy Ngukurr crowd. The teams were well matched and they played a close game. Mirri were three points ahead in the first half but Yugal fought back in the second half to win the game. Congratulations to Yugal Power and Mirri and all the teams that played in the competition.



Isobel Daniels receives trophy for Yugal Power



The Yugal Power

SEALCP Final Reference Committee meeting

The very last meeting of the South East Arnhem Land Collaborative Research Project will be held on the 25th June.

John Bern and the SEALCP researchers will talk about the project and what it has achieved. They will also talk about the future of the Ngukurr News. The meeting will also give John Bern and Kate Senior the chance to farewell the Ngukurr community and thank them for their hospitality over the last three years.

Representatives from Rio Tinto, The NT Government and the NLC will attend the meeting.

A special lunch and entertainment will be provided.

When: Tuesday 25th June, 10 am

Where: School Library

ALL WELCOME

Minister announces new Health Strategy

The Northern Territory Minister for Health, Jane Aagaard has announced a new strategy for improving Aboriginal health and health services. She described the Aboriginal population of the Northern Territory as being “largely sick” compared with the white population who are “largely healthy” and that there was an urgent need to develop services that would help Aboriginal people achieve the same level of health as the non-Aboriginal population.

The new strategy will involve the creation of 21 health zones across the Territory. Aboriginal people will be in control of each zone through health boards. Each health zone will have access to at least one permanent doctor.

At least one community member will be trained to become members of local health boards and these local health boards will be in charge of community clinics.

Daphne Daniels

Traditional Credit Union Opens in Ngukurr

The Traditional Credit Union opened its door for business in Ngukurr on the 28th May. Deborah Bone from Central Office is in Ngukurr to open the bank and to train the new bank tellers Peatra Robertson and Aaron Joshua.

Opening a new account is easy, there is a simple form to fill out and the staff are there to help you.

The opening hours of the TCU are 9.00am - 12noon and 1.00pm - 3:30pm Monday to Friday.



Peatra Robertson in her new job

Petrol sniffing workshop

Bronwyn Hagger and Stephen Kelly from the Alcohol and other Drug program came to Ngukurr to run a workshop about petrol sniffing. They explained that the Government wants to do something about Petrol Sniffing and they want to talk to communities to see what they can do about the problems themselves.

People who attended the workshop learnt about the history of petrol sniffing, what petrol sniffing does to people’s bodies, the effects that sniffing has on communities and about strategies to stop petrol sniffing.

A resolution of the workshop was that Ben, who currently runs the existing program should talk to the members of the previous Ngukurr Substance Misuse Program about strategies that can involve more community members to deal with the problem.

NLC at Nalawan

The NLC are at Nalawan out station on the Roper River. They are there to discuss the claim for the beds and banks of the river between the low water and the high tide mark. This includes what is inside the river, such as islands and rocks. The meeting will continue for two weeks.

Aboriginal landowners who are involved with the claim are the Ponto, Garradji, Rami, Hall and Thompson families for the Roper River up to Hawk Nest Island and the Daniels, Rogers and John Forrest families for the mouth of the Roper River. People also attended from Hodgson Downs and Waygiba.

The final hearing will be held at Nalawan on the 2nd August. Justice Howard Olney will hear the case.

Daphne Daniels

Urapunga School

Urapunga Community School has one head teacher who is assisted by several community members who work as assistant teachers. Local people work as assistant teachers helping with writing, maths and language. They also maintain the school and its grounds. The school population is made up of 20 to 35 children. The school values responsibility, good behaviour, cleanliness, respect and good manners. Charlotte, the head teacher talked about her teaching style being 'old fashioned' with a focus on reading, writing and mathematics. Children receive homework four nights a week. The primary focus of the school is the new Northern Territory Curriculum.

Thanks to Charlotte and the Urapunga Community for inviting us into their school.

Daphne Daniels and Selma Hall



Urapunga students learning



Urapunga students having morning tea

Treaty

Rick Fletcher and Daryl Cronin from ATSIC came to Ngukurr to run a Treaty workshop with the community. The workshop was to explain what a Treaty is to the community. Pamphlets were given to everyone at the meeting and further discussion will take place when ATSIC next visit Ngukurr.

What is a Treaty?

A Treaty is an agreement that is the result of negotiation. Once a treaty is in place each party is bound by obligation to respect the rights and responsibilities that are agreed upon. In the past European Nations formed treaties with the people of countries that they wanted to colonise, such as the inhabitants of New Zealand, Canada and North America.

Why are we talking about Treaty?

Australia has never recognised the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders by the way of a Treaty. When Captain Cook discovered Australia in 1788 he did not take possession of the land with the permission of Aboriginal People. Later the British occupation of Australia was explained through the term terra nullius, which means 'empty land' this meant that the British Government did not recognise the occupation of Australia by Indigenous people.

The formation of a Treaty between indigenous peoples and Australia may address the original failure to recognise the presence of Indigenous peoples. It may also protect Indigenous rights. The agreement may be a way of dealing with issues that are considered 'unfinished business'.

Selma Hall

Ngukurr News Sport

Football Grand Finals

The Katherine District Football Competition Grand Finals were held on Saturday 1st June. Many people from Ngukurr travelled to Katherine to watch the Ngukurr Bulldogs play against the Arnhem Crows. It was an exciting game, the three bus loads of Ngukurr spectators cheered loudly for their team, but the Crows were too good for the Bulldogs and beat them convincingly.

The final score was:

Arnhem Crows 10—4—18
Ngukurr Bulldogs 7—13—12

Daphne Daniels

Barunga Festival

The Barunga Festival will be held this weekend, and as usual Ngukurr will be well represented by the some of the best sporting teams and bands.

Teams from Ngukurr participating at Barunga Festival are:

- Ngukurr Bulldogs A grade-Aussie rules Football
- Ngukurr A grade-Women's Basketball
- Yellow Water B grade-Women's Basketball
- Yugul B grade-Aussie rules Football
- Yugul B grade-Women's Basketball

Bands are:

- Lonely Boys
- T-Linx

Daphne Daniels



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