

NGUKURR NEWS

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Ngukurr News

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Final SEALCP Reference Committee Meeting

The South East Arnhem Land Collaborative Research Project has its final Reference Committee meeting on 25th June at Ngukurr. SEALCP has been working at Ngukurr for three years and while this is the last formal meeting the project team will continue its writing on the work done here and continue to offer support for Ngukurr News for some time yet.

We owe particular thanks to Rio Tinto for their innovative thinking. They provided the funding and infrastructure support which made the project possible, and with their support we have set new benchmarks for social assessment studies through our University/Industry collaboration.

The current Wollongong members of the project team of John Bern and Kate Senior express their deep gratitude to the Ngukurr people for their support, encouragement and friendship throughout the time here. We particularly want to acknowledge the dedication and commitment of Daphne Daniels as Research Assistant to the project, and as reporter and then co-editor of Ngukurr News. Daphne has become a close friend and colleague to us.

Former members of the team, John Cook, Aaron Corn and Mary Edmunds, wish the community well and have expressed their gratitude for the reception they had while here. So too does Rosie O'Donnell, our PhD student, who will be returning to complete her work later in the year.

Book Down

Aboriginal people, mostly in the Northern Territory use book-down as a form of credit. We don't know exactly how long ago, maybe it was

long before or just recently (in the last 10 to 15 years). Book-down may have also changed the way or how we manage our money.

There are advantages and disadvantages of book-down and I am sure most people at Ngukurr know what they are or have experienced the ups and down of it. We need to know how we can use book-down to our advantages, people know it's a good thing and if we use it properly, people may even benefit from it.

We ask, why do we book-down, I guess there are many reasons why people book-down, one reason is that people book-down because they are hungry. I also think that people and/or parents should not let their children be involved in this because children do not understand anything about it. It is a bad influence on children just like smoking cigarettes or drinking alcohol, it can be very addictive and will put you or your families in debt for so long. Children need to have a good start in life.

There is a report that has been written for the Australian Securities and Investments Commission, which is called "Book-up" – Some Consumer Problems. I think these reports should be written while on communities, they should at least stay on the communities for more than just six months.

Every community is different, we have different customs, cultures even our marriage system is different. These reports are done and people outside, especially the Munanga population automatically think that we are all the same when in reality each Aboriginal community is totally different altogether. **Continued on page 2**

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Customers do not realise that they are breaking the laws that are made by the Banks. For example, leaving their key cards with pin numbers at stores. Also, signing blank Bank withdrawal slips.

Anita Thompson

Barunga Festival

Every year in June many Aboriginal people in the Northern Territory visit Barunga. Many Munanga from all over Australia visit the festival to learn about Aboriginal culture. Two bus-loads of people went from Ngukurr to the festival. The festival is about sharing cultural events and sporting activities. For example

Sports

- Aussie Rules Footy
- Basketball
- Softball
- Tug o'war
- 100m Sprint

Music

- Dancing Competition
- Live Band

Cultural Activities

- Spear Throwing
- Corroboree Dancing
- Didgeridoo Competition
- Fire Making

Walter Thompson won \$20 for best dancer in the disco competition. Alvester Dingle, Kirren Daniels and Andy Andrews went on the 100 metre sprint. Alvester was too fast and he was awarded with \$100 in cash. Cliff Thompson and Keith Rogers participated in the spear throwing event.

Tribal Vision Band, T-Linx and Lonely Boys made a fantastic performance accompanied by Keith and Kevin Rodgers on stage.

NORFORCE Demonstration

NORFORCE Recruits from Ngukurr along with those from other communities did a demonstration showing the activities that NORFORCE are involved in. Danny Daniels and Ricky Thompson, showed how to track the enemy. Marcia Roberts and Besma Murrungun played the role of the enemy.

End of term assembly



MLC Students entertaining the Ngukurr assembly

School holidays have begun and teachers and students have a month off. On the second last day of term the school had its end of term assembly. Rena, the school principal talked about the work the students have been doing and the accelerated literacy program. She said that there have been real improvements in student's reading, writing and ability to speak English since the program began. Rena said that it is very important for students to attend everyday to get the best out of the program.

Awards were presented for the students who had the best attendance records.

Cynthia's class Ernest Daniels Jnr Carleen Farrell	Godfrey's class Sandra Blitner Sally Thompson
Anne Marie's Class Tanya Thompson Renona Thompson	Michael's class Bronwyn Turner Jake Farrell
Tracey's class Christie Rami Kameron Farrell	John's class Janet Vera Forrest Antionette Farrell Rico Blitner
Helen's class Eunica John Forrest Kimberley Rogers	Joyce's class Leonie Blitner Cynthia Turner
Jacinta's class Stefan Rami Nico Farrell	Robin's class Laurie Harrison Lee Shaun Dingle

Ngukurr CEC also farewells Mick and Tracey Chalk who have been in Ngukurr for three years.

School starts again on Tuesday 23rd July

Methodist Ladies College Students Visit Ngukurr News

Students from the Methodist Ladies College in Melbourne have been visiting Ngukurr. They have been working with the secondary classes and the art centre. They have also been on camping trips to Numbulwar, and the Slate Mine at the Wilton River. Some of the girls also visited the Ngukurr News office to find out what we do. The students also painted two large murals, one of Yellow Water and one of the Fellowship meeting place, which they presented to the school.

The Journalist Paul Toohey wrote a story about the MLC visit for *The Australian* and there was a picture of Maggie Raymond and Cerys Farrell at the Wilton River with Emma and Elizabeth from MLC.

Later in the year, students from Joyce and Jacinta's classes will go on a trip to Melbourne to visit MLC. The students who go to school most regularly will go on the excursion.

Ngukurr Arts Exhibition in Canberra

Norman and Benjamin Wilfred travelled to Canberra with Brenda for the *All About Ngukurr* exhibition. During that time Norman and Benjamin spent time every day with the Canberra Grammar students teaching them how to dance, play the didgeridoo and telling them about the paintings and about life at Ngukurr. The school assembly was held on the Tuesday morning, about 1200 students and teachers were gathered into the hall when Benjamin and Norman were introduced by Mr Murray the School Principal. When the Ngukurr men made a speech and played the didgeridoo the people gathered in the hall were amazed and the clapping went on for a long time. On Wednesday Norman Benjamin and Brenda were interviewed on ABC radio about the art exhibition and about playing the didgeridoo, and later on that day the *Canberra Times* took photos and story for the newspaper. On Thursday we were invited to the National Gallery of Australia to see the Ngukurr collection stored in the archives. Also there was time for Norman and Benjamin to go through Parliament House, the

War Memorial, The National Museum and look out over Canberra from the Telstra Tower.

The exhibition opened on Friday night - it was very successful and most of the paintings were sold. Brenda Croft from the National Gallery of Australia opened the exhibition. Brenda Croft is related to families from Ngukurr and was very excited to trace that part of her family. Norman and Benjamin danced special way for the opening and it turned the night into a celebration of art and culture.

It was a very busy week for the Ngukurr people and the Canberra Grammar School and teachers were very supportive of our efforts, especially Trevor Dunbar, Art Teacher and Gallery Director. In a few weeks the Canberra Grammar students will be visiting Ngukurr with Trevor Dunbar and it is hoped that later on some of the Ngukurr boys can go on a visit to Canberra.

Deadly Snakes and other paintings

On Friday 15th June Faith Thompson Nelson's exhibition of paintings opened at Helen Maxwell Gallery in Canberra. The exhibition is called *Deadly Snakes and Other Paintings* and is a collection of 15 of Faith's best paintings - one of the paintings is called *Deadly Snakes*, and there is a collection of Faith's beautiful Country paintings. She is a hardworking artist and is congratulated on this level of achievement.

TB information day at the pool

The Centre for Disease Control came to Ngukurr to conduct a special BBQ on Tuesday 18th June. They wanted to have a special community talk about the TB problem. Dr Vickie Krause came down from Darwin and showed a video and some flip charts to the audience.

The video showed how people catch TB, how to prevent it and how it is cured.

Some of the signs of TB are weight loss, sweating a lot, especially at night, cough, enlarged glands and feeling tired and weak. If you have any of these symptoms you should go to the clinic to be tested.

NGUKURR NEWS SPORTS

The presentation evening for sporting achievement was held in Ngukurr last week. The awards were presented to players who demonstrated the best skills and also those people who consistently played fairly or had improved most.

Girls Basketball

- Ngandi – best and fairest Elizabeth Joshua
- Mirri – best and fairest Raina Rogers
- Yugul Power – best and fairest Tammy Daniels
- Puma – best and fairest Janita Joshua
- Panther – best and fairest Peatra Robertson
- Sonic – best and fairest Priscilla Roberts
- all over best and fairest – Tammy Daniels
- best goal shooter – Tammy Daniels

Ngukurr Bulldogs.

- best defender 2002 – Clive Nunngarugala
- best club man – Ricky Thompson
- Best and fairest – Adam Joshua
- Runner up – Fabian Rami
- Most improved player – Howard Turner
- Most valuable player – Phillip Robertson
- Best junior player – Queron Daniels
- Best forward – Ronnie Larsen

Selma Hall

Barunga Results

Several Ngukurr teams attended the Barunga Festival. Ngukurr A women's basketball played a tremendous game to win the women's basketball competition and were awarded with \$350 cash prize. Yugul Power B Grade footy team made it to the loser finals and lost the game. Yugul Power women's basketball team went up to the preliminary finals in the basketball competition, but lost the game against St Johns' High School. The Bulldog's and the Yellow Water School Girls Basketball team tried hard all through the competition.

Daphne Daniels



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