

# NGUKURR NEWS

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*Ngukurr News*

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## **Ngukurr's power problem**

On the evening of Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> November the lights went out in Ngukurr, and they stayed out until lunch-time on Monday. Ngukurr residents were left without power and water, the school had to remain closed, and people stayed at home and tried to keep cool without air conditioners.

Local council said that the problems were caused by bats who had caught on one of the main power lines in the community. A team from Katherine had to drive to Ngukurr to fix the problem and said that it is unlikely that these problems will happen again on such a large scale, but just in case, Ngukurr residents should be prepared with candles, matches, torches and bottled water.

## **Substance Misuse in Ngukurr: what can we do about this problem?**

Graham Turner and Nathaniel Miller, are the Community Police Officers in Ngukurr. They are concerned about the number of young people sniffing petrol and smoking marijuana in the community. They say that drug abuse is hurting families and is a major cause of domestic violence. "Kids, mothers and grandmothers live in fear" said Graham.

"Parents who spend all their money buying drugs don't have enough to buy their kids food or clothing. This means that they can't go to school".

Graham and Nathaniel say that the community should work together to solve this problem. This means that the police should work with the school, sports and recreation people and the health workers to find out ways of dealing with the problem and to educate people about the dangers of drug abuse. They suggest that the community might need a sobering up shelter for young people with drug and alcohol problems, where they can get counselling and learn how to say no to drugs.

They say that families also must take responsibility for the youth in the community and take time to talk to youth about their problems and listen to them. "Talking is like medicine", said Graham.

## **Ngukurr rock festival**

Stephen and Lucy Teakle from the Northern Territory University have spent six weeks in the community teaching music classes, they stayed in accommodation belonging to the education department base at Ngukurr. They held the music lessons at the old Women's

Centre. Fifteen people participated in the band music sessions each day. They were given instrument lessons, taught band techniques, rehearsing as a group and performing. They were also given industry and recording information. The lessons were so successful that a weekend rock festival was put on for the community. Sponsorship for the festival was received from Clan 2 program and other resources were donated by the shop and the council. During the day there were school sporting activities and music evenings at night.

## Education and Identity

This is the speech that Cherry Daniels gave to mark the opening of the Batchelor Study Centre.

“My first speech is about education and why we need it. It is something we need to improve our lives and the lives of our families and communities. First imagine a world without education. Without successful education, people would not be able to better themselves.

Without successful education, communities would have to rely on outsiders to fill key positions. Without successful education young people would see no hope for themselves and can take up substance abuse. Now let me paint a picture of a world with successful education. With successful education, communities would be able to better themselves. With successful education young people would have hope for themselves and would not take up substance abuse.

To end this speech I say: **Education – we need you!**”.

“Now my second speech is on identity. Identity plays an important role in our culture. We need identity. It is important to keep our identity to show who we are.

Imagine a world without identity. We wouldn't be able to attend our tribal ceremonies. Without identity we wouldn't speak our language.

Now let me paint a picture in you mind. Identity allows us to be brave. Identity allows us to participate in our tribal tradition. Identity allows us to be significant. Identity has given us our languages. To end this speech I say: **Identity is our life.**”

## Domestic violence education at Ngukurr School

Helen Turner and Ellen from Katherine Family Unit visited Ngukurr community to talk to people about how families are affected by violence in relation to:

### Alcohol and drugs

Their work is to share information to families who are facing these problems with drugs and alcohol. There are ways for families to get help and support if they are having these problems. Many Aboriginal people in remote areas are still facing problems with drugs and alcohol and it has badly affected many families. Some effects are:

- Kids being abused (beaten up);
- People are frightened;
- Parents are sent to jail;
- Lack of responsibility with kids, not sending them to school;
- Kids being lonely;
- Family pressures;
- Parents fighting;
- Drinking problems;

There is help for families who are affected by Drugs and Alcohol and can change families to becoming happier

## Secondary Writing

### Something “strange” in Ngukurr

Usually at the shop there are lots of people doing shopping and kids crying and everyone is busy and rubbish is everywhere. But this morning it was different, there were no people, there were no kids, there was no rubbish. It was strange.

*Cerys Farrell*

Usually at the school there were students playing sport and teachers walking around and the boys were playing music. But today it was strange, no one was at the school playing sport. The teachers were not walking around and the boys were not playing music.

*Manchi Farrell*

Usually at Ngukurr there are people walking around, kids riding bikes and cars racing up and down the street. There were no people walking and no cars racing up and down the street.

*David Thompson*

Usually at the shop there were people shopping, kids crying and dogs walking outside the shop. But this morning there were no people shopping, no kids crying and no dogs walking outside the shop. It was strange.

*Olga Daniels*

Usually at the street there are people walking and dogs barking and people fighting, but today the street was quiet and no fighting.

*Jeremy Hall*

### Similes

The secondary students have been learning about similes. Similes are used in writing to describe one thing by comparing it to another thing. For example you could describe a very old person as being “as old as the hills”. These are some similes that Ngukurr students have made up.

Like an angry buffalo the man stood there in the dark wood stamping his feet.

*Angelina Joshua*

Like a snake that sneaks along, the Roper River goes through Ngukurr.

*Chonal Larsen*

Like an old man growling the lightning struck Ngukurr.

*Narelle Farrell*

Like a wild cat the car raced to our town.

*Stefan Rami*

Like a lion running, my friend ran to the oval.

*Jeremy Hall*

## Sport

### Women’s Basketball

Women’s basketball started in August. It is now the fourth round battle of the six women’s teams – **MIRRI, YUGUL, NGANDI, PANTHERS, RAIDERS, PUMA.**

Results of round four:

Ngandi 41 defeated Puma 24. Best players were - Marjorie Turner (Ngandi) and Teresa John Forrest (Puma).

Yugul 49 defeated Panthers 40. Best players were – Belinda Robertson (Yugul) and Ellisa Nelson (Panthers).

Mirri 39 defeated Raiders 37. Best players were – Felishia Dingle (Mirri) and Sherina Warramara (Raiders).

Three highest scorers:

Sherina Warramara (Raiders) – 22 points.  
Tammy Daniels (Yugul) – 17 points  
Roberta Roberts (Puma) – 11 points.