



Arnhem

MALARNDIRRI McCARTHY
Member for Arnhem NEWS



December 2008

Christmas Greetings

Another year gone and I take time to reflect over 2008...a year that saw a major redistribution to the ARNHEM electorate in June, a general Territory election on 9th August and my appointment as a Minister in the NT Government.

In the redistribution, ARNHEM lost Beswick, Barunga, Manyallaluk, Jilkminggan and Minyerri. I was very sad to have to say goodbye to constituents living in those communities.

But the good news was that I gained GAPUWIYAK and Homelands, including Raymangirr, Mirrhatji, Doinytji and Balma. I welcome residents from these communities as my constituents and look forward to meeting you personally during my visits in 2009.

I would also like to thank you all for your confidence in me as your local Member in the NT Parliament.

It is indeed an honour to have been elected as the Member for ARNHEM in 2005, and now to be re-elected unopposed

in 2008 is a clear acknowledgement of the work that I have done on your behalf.

I will continue to work hard to improve the standard of living conditions and employment for all people in the region. Thank you again for your support.



It is with sincere thoughts from my family to yours...that I wish you all a very safe and happy Christmas and New Year.

May the Spirit of Christmas bring you joy and peace during this special time.

Malarndirri



(Above) Groote Eylandt's Warnindilyakwa Dancers at Garma this year.

(Below) Their performance was a highlight of 2007's Gama festival.



A big thank you to Kristyne Love for these wonderful photos

Warnindilyakwa Dancers

CLASS OF 2008 - Congratulations to all our Year 12 graduates

Once again, I am thrilled with the number of students this year who have completed Year 12 and are anxiously awaiting the results to find out if they've achieved their Northern Territory Certificate of Education (NTCE). There are probably some students I have missed (particularly Alyangula students studying interstate), so if I have missed your son or daughter, please let me know so I can acknowledge their success in my 2009 newsletter.

Milingimbi Community Education Centre -
 Congraulations to **Albena Buyanggirr**, **Jacob Balbunhamirri**
 and **Kevin Dayngbitha** for completing their Year 12. Albena



is looking to move into a career in conservation and land management. Jacob is currently undertaking work experience at the pre-school, and Kevin is a keen musician in the Djambung Band and will look at possible jobs in the music industry.

(left) Albina Buyanggirr.



(Right) Jacob and Kevin receiving the Perpetual Trophy from Keith Lapulung Dhamarrandji on behalf of the winning team at the Milingimbi School Sports day.

Thanks to Amanda Maxwell for photos



Lawrence, Josiah and Joshua with their very proud families at graduation.

Milingimbi also had 3 graduates finish their studies at Shalom Christian College.

Josiah Burrarwanga enrolled at Shalom in July 2007 to complete Year 12 and liked it so much he returned this year to complete his Cert II in Sports and Recreation. He is an excellent performer and often led his peers in traditional and modern dance, showcasing his culture at events like the James Cook University and NAIDOC celebrations.

Lawrence Militjpi Gurruwiwi excelled at drama and music, producing original songs and dance routines whilst at Shalom and was a strong leader in the area of performing arts.

Joshua Yapinany Dhurrkay has strong communication skills and was thought of as a great role model for his fellow students. He did very well in the Shalom Academy of Sports and was chosen to travel to Shalom's sister school Geelong College in Victoria, where he got the opportunity to experience what school life was like in the south, having a go at surfing and visiting the Rip Curl factory.

Our four graduates from Ramingining Community Education Centre this year are **Joanan Garrawurra**, **Gina Wanybarrnga**, **Shannon Wagilak** and **Kylie D Gaykamangu**, who have studied a variety of subjects including Science, Maths, ESL, Health and Multimedia.



(Left) Gina is already working as a trainee receptionist at the Ramingining Health Centre and is looking at enrolling at Bachelor College to gain formal qualifications in the health area.



(Left) Shannon is hoping to continue her studies in Darwin with her highly developed multimedia and computer skills, and may document her community in full colour digital taking up where Donald Thomson left off in black and white.



(Right) Kylie D is heading to Canberra where she is hoping to attend University and is currently looking at what field of study she wants to take up. But with strong computer and word processing skills, she is well placed to cope with the demands of formal study.



(Right) I understand Joanan has worked very hard to stay at school while many of his friends have taken the easy option and stopped when the going got tough. He is thinking about attending Nungalinga College next year.

Thanks to Allan Skien & Trish Rea



(Left) **Michael Paddy** from *Urapunga* has completed his Year 12 studies at Kormilda College. Michael has been a boarder at Kormilda since 2006 and received the Top Student Boarding Award this year. He is a strong footballer and plays for the Nightcliff Tigers in the Darwin AFL competition, and is currently completing a VET Outdoor Education and Recreation course.



(Right) **Heath Thompson** from *Ngukurr* has also been boarding at Kormilda College for the past 4 years and has achieved great results in his Year 12 studies this year. He is a talented musician and plays bass guitar in the Lazy Boys Band, and also plays football for the Nightcliff Tigers in the Darwin competition

Numbulwar has two Year 12 graduates: **Juan Huddleston** who has been boarding at St John's College since 2005, and **Rudolph Wurragwagwa** is the first Year 12 graduate to complete studies at Numbulwar Community Education Centre. Congratulations to everyone at the School for this significant milestone.

Rudolph's Grandmothers have played a very important part of Numbulwar School's very successful Language Program. Ginyibuwa Murrungun was one of the original Linguists when the school began the Revitalisation Language Program, and worked there until she needed to go to Darwin for dialysis. Her sister Nganamugay Murrungun then took over and continues to work as a Linguist. Both women are strong speakers and value education very highly, and are very proud of Rudolph's achievement.

Thanks Hallie Hodder



(Left) Rudolph is a keen athlete and excellent singer/musician. Importantly, he also has an excellent knowledge of language and culture and showcases his talent for singing and language on the School's DVD.



(Right) Juan has been at St John's since Year 8 and this year was recipient of the Senior Boarder of the Year Award. He also captained the victorious St John's 1st 18s AFL side, which defeated Kormilda College in the Smoke Free Cup, and then travelled to Sydney and defeated the St Ignatius College twice. Juan has started an apprenticeship with the Indigenous Youth Mobility Program in Darwin.

GRADUATES OF THE FUTURE

Umbakumba Students SO CLOSE

Umbakumba School is working very hard to get its first students to graduation. I wish to send a big encouragement to Hannah Mamarika, Elsa Mamarika, Rubenstan Bara and Joel Marawili to continue next year and complete their NTCE. It was only my determination to learn to read and write well while at school that enabled me to become a journalist and then a politician. I look forward to featuring them in my 'School of 2009' feature.

Urapunga Student off to S.A.

And someone I'm sure to be featuring in a few years is Amara Tyson, from Urapunga, who has just completed Year 6 at Walford Boarding School in South Australia. Amara set her sights on attending Walford after a school excursion to Adelaide last year, and I wish her the very best for her studies in future years.



Amara looking beautiful in her Walford Boarding School uniform.

Thanks to Peter McDonald



(L-R) Sheena Dhamarrandji, Alvin Wunungmurra, Verna Butjala & Sherrie Dhagapan at the NT Open Education Centre's graduation dinner at the Frontier Hotel, Rooftop Restaurant, in Darwin in November.

Gapuwiyak Community Education Centre also has four graduates this year: **Sheena Dhamarrandji**, **Alvin Wunungmurra**, **Verna Butjala** and **Sherrie Dhagapan** are all nervously awaiting the final NTCE results. Sheena and Verna are interested in working in education, while Alvin hopes to be an apprentice mechanic next year and Sherrie is looking to further her education by studying nursing.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to all the students for completing Year 12 this year! The Henderson Labor Government is committed to ensuring all our teenagers have access to secondary schooling in their home communities whether in remote regions or urban centres like Katherine and Darwin. I am very proud of them all, well done!

Ngukurr's 100th Year Centenary Festival

The Ngukurr Festival was held at the end of August in conjunction with their 100th year anniversary since the establishment of the Ngukurr community, and to mark the occasion the Community also published a book and DVD: *We are Aboriginal*.

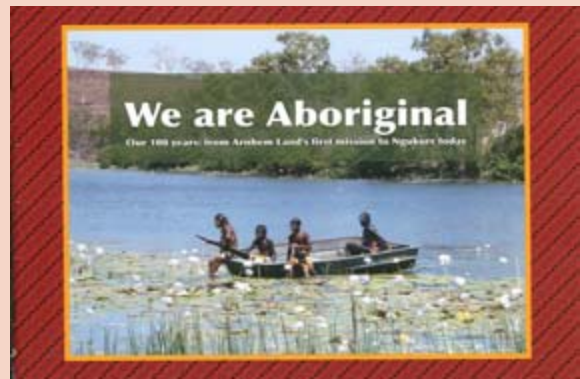
Many people have contributed to the book to tell us about all the happy memories, the different languages, where their traditional lands are, their dreaming totems, skins and moieties, the structure of relatives and marriage.

They tell us about the plants and animals and how children are still taught to harvest all the bush foods.

They talk about how their ancestors lived, the long history of contact with the Macassan traders, first contact with European Australians who travelled up the Roper with materials to build the overland telegraph line, the genocide of the land wars that followed.

And they talk about all their many and famous leaders and distinguished people, of how they live today, their work, their sport, their art, and of their dreams, aspirations and hopes.

Ngukurr is a close-knit community with a strong and rich cultural heritage and I congratulate everyone involved in reaching this special milestone.



'We Are Aboriginal - Our 100 Years: from Arnhem Land's first mission to Ngukurr Today' has a great story to tell and can be purchased online at weareaboriginal@gmail.com for \$25 (includes DVD).

Thanks to Lindy & Peter Berthon



(Above) Young and old celebrated Ngukurr's 100th Year.

Wetting a Line at Alyangula Proposed Safe Fishing Jetty



(L-R) Groote Eylandt Game & Sports Fishing Club's Bomber Farrell and Dave Allen with youngsters Jacob, Connor and Matt at the preferred site for the safe fishing jetty and boat ramp.

I recently met with the President of the Groote Eylandt Game & Sports Fishing Club 'Bomber' Farrell to discuss a proposed safe fishing jetty for Alyangula. The Club has thrown its support behind this fishing jetty and boat ramp project so that our youngsters (and us Mums and Dads) can fish in a safe environment.

I'm advised the current boat ramp in the wharf area is less than ideal, with the increasing security demands for Ports to reduce access to the general public, and the exposure to high seas during certain weather conditions.

So a new facility that combines another option for getting boats into the water, including the Police launch, and a fishing jetty that everyone can use, is a great initiative that I will be supporting in talks with GEMCo and Government.

Stop Press Stop Press Stop Press Stop Press

Bulman Business

It's great to hear things are happening at Bulman: the hybrid power station is currently being rebuilt. The RIBS (previously BRACS) broadcasting unit is also being upgraded, and work has just started on irrigation and landscaping of the football oval. I'm looking forward to my next visit to Bulman to see how work is progressing on these projects.

Milingimbi Gattjirrk and Ramingining Bäk'bididi Festivals

These two recently held Festivals merge tradition *bungul* with contemporary music during the evenings, and highlight athletic prowess with football, basketball and other sports during the days. For the Clans of the region, it is a celebration of survival of their unique culture.

Thanks to Amanda Maxwell for photo.



Djambung Band hit the stage at Gattjirrk. Djambung started as a Milingimbi School band a few years ago, staying together and evolving into a tight professional unit since completing their education, including our Year 12 graduate Kevin Dayngbitha (on far left).

Milingimbi's Gattjirrk Festival was a wonderful celebration of strong culture, art, music and dance, or *bungul* to use the Gupapuyngu word, which can mean dance, song, music or ceremony. It is used to describe those artistic and ceremonial occasions when people come together to celebrate life and teach their law,

Gapapuyngu is the main language of Milingimbi which is Yirritja moiety land belonging to the Batjimurrungu and Walamangu clans. The northern part of the island is Dhuwa moiety land belonging to the Gorryindin and Gamalangga clans. Milingimbi was one of the early missions established in the NT in 1923.

The Festival first started around 1986 as a way to establish local musicians, and it slowly grew into a Festival over the years, attracting more and more performers, initially as the Milingimbi Music Sound and Light Competition, and then in 1990 it evolved into the Gattjirrk Festival.

It now attracts musician and dancers from across the region and the NT. I and everyone else who attended just had a wonderful weekend, and I congratulate all those involved. I urge everyone to put it in your diaries for next year as a 'must attend'.

Ramingining's Bäk'bididi Festival is another 'must attend' and showcases the artistic, musical and sporting talent that is so evident throughout the region, and this year as many as 1,000 visitors travelled to Ramingining to make it a very successful weekend.

There was also the inclusion of an Art Competition this year which highlighted contemporary visual and fine arts and multi media works, including the recent short films 'Yaka Nhumul Petrol' and 'Connection Kids' that received awards at the recent Connecting Through Film competition.

The 'Chooky Dancers' also came back to Ramingining to perform a rendition to their own dance by Ramingining's own 'Liya watu'. The crowd was very amused. There has been

a realisation through the success of the 'Chooky Dancers' that their own unique dance style is valued and appreciated by people everywhere, which has been a positive motivating factor. I'm sure we will see much more of them in the future.

Many Community members gave their time to ensure the Festival ran smoothly, because they are proud of what Ramingining has achieved on the Australian and world stage in recent years, particularly with Rolf de Heer's Ten Canoes, co-directed by Peter Djigirr, and the recently released follow-up series of short stories Twelve Canoes.

Well done everyone!



Great skills were on display during the Women's basketball comp at Ramo, with Gapuwiyak winning the ball in this encounter.



Thanks to Bruce Thompson for photos

New Shires up and running

This year has seen the amalgamation of local councils into regional Shires, a reform that will provide a more efficient use of resources to deliver core local government services. A big thankyou to Michael Berto and Ian Bodill for helping everyone through the transitional phase, and congratulations to all the successful Councillors.



Welcome Roper Gulf Shire Councillors

(L-R front) Kathy-Anne Numamurdirdi, Sheila Joshua, Stephen Anderson, Jacob Lansen, Clair O'Brien (Deputy Mayor), David Lane and David Daniels.

(L-R back) Rohan Sullivan, Andrea Andrews, Frazer Baker, Tony Jack (Mayor) and Lazarus Murray.

Welcome East Arnhem Shire Councillors

President: Banambi Wunungmurra

Deputy President: Keith Hansen

Councillors:

- Lionel Jaragba
- Barayuwa Mununggurr
- Keith Mamarika
- Yananymul
- Ronnie Barramala
- Kaye Thurlow
- Munyarirr Gurralpa
- Daymirringu Warraya
- Mavis Danganbarr
- Wininba Ganambarr



MJD Foundation launched on Groote Eylandt

The Machado Joseph Disease Foundation was established last May to improve the quality of life for sufferers and their families. MJD is a genetic disease that has no cure, and within 5-10 years of onset, a sufferer requires 24 hour complete care.

Previously known as "Groote Eylandt Syndrome", the effects of MJD have been known to people of Arnhem Land for at least four generations.

Spread of the disease has been attributed to contact between the 16th Century trading and exploration activities of Portuguese sailors and the Macassan people of Indonesia, who in turn introduced the disease through their trading relationships with people of Arnhem Land.

There are currently a total of 277 people thought to be 'at risk' of

developing the disease in the east Arnhem Land region, 128 in the Groote communities, 97 at Yirrkala and 52 at Galiwin'ku. www.mjd.org.au to donate.



Brian Massey and Frederick Lalara visiting Sea World on a recent respite journey to Brisbane, sponsored by MJD Foundation.

2009 NT Senior Australians of the Year Award - congratulations to Kathy and Bryan Massey.

Kathy & Bryan Massey lived and worked on Groote for 38 years. Some of their achievements were developing the alcohol and substance abuse program, the meals on wheels program, and establishing and managing the aged care facility at Angurugu for 20 years. That facility is wonderfully designed and built in the shape of a swordfish, which is the Angurugu totem.

Bryan and Kathy retired in August but are still actively involved with Groote residents through their ongoing involvement with the MJD Foundation.