



Ramingining Community Education Centre

Alvin Gaykamangu and **Sharon Gaykamangu** worked very hard and got involved with some great projects which included setting up a volleyball competition (see story on page 6). They also did essays on traditional burning practices, a detailed study of local ant species and the impact they have on the environment, and completed a DVD to teach younger students about Yolŋu and Balanda seasons.

They also collaborated on a cooking show DVD called *Meat and Vegi Stew* about healthy eating. Filmed in Yolŋu Matha, it screened on Ramo TV and at movie nights. They also did the graphic design, recorded and produced anti smoking Audio Posters (push the button to hear the message) in Yolŋu Matha, which have attracted huge interest and secured funding from Miwatj Health to reproduce and distribute throughout the region. Both are doing work with OneTalk Technology translating, recording and editing voice-overs in language.

Alvin is also working at the ALPA Shop and looking at furthering his studies at either Batchelor College or Charles Darwin University to study for a teaching degree.

Sharon is working part time at the ALPA Shop as well, and may do a traineeship next year in office administration for a job at the Homeland Resource Centre.

Numbulwar Community Education Centre

Numbulwar is very proud of their two graduates this year: **Carmisha Ngalmi** and **Rose Nunggarlagug**. Carmisha is going to do a VET program to become a sport & recreation officer and is looking for work in that area. Rose has moved to Ramingining and is also looking for work in Sport & Recreation.

Big thanks to Pasquale Mammone



Gapuwiyak Community Education Centre

Laura Butjala won the award for best student doing Integrated Learning, based on her project that combined learning office computer skills with studying how different businesses in the community use computers. She currently has a work placement at Gapuwiyak Clinic which she hopes will lead to full time employment.



Thanks Peter McDonald for background info



Alyangula

Alisha McDonald studied at Kormilda College and successfully completed her Certificate II in Financial Services through the school based apprenticeship program. She is an extremely confident young woman and should do very well in her future endeavours.



Alyangula

Kyle Hansen has graduated from St Augustine's College in Cairns. I understand he has enjoyed his two years going to school there immensely, where he did very well in music (his passion, been drumming since he could walk) and mathematics, and was awarded the trophy for Most Outstanding Contribution to the Arts.

Kyle will be returning to Groote next year, where he hopes to do some work experience in the schools and work at GEMCO, to save money so he can go on to university to study as a music teacher.

Bulman

Troy Martin was elected Vice Captain for Kormilda College and has led by example to be a respected leader of the Indigenous students in the Residences.



Ngukurr

Janet-Vera Farrell studied at Kormilda College and has juggled her work commitments doing a school based apprenticeship, the difficulties of being a boarder, and her school studies very successfully. She completed her apprenticeship and was awarded a Certificate II in Financial Services in June, and now eagerly awaits her NTCE results. She is a credit to her family and I'm sure everyone at Ngukurr is very proud of her.

Thanks to Rebeccah Cuell and Kormilda College for photos and info

Graduates of the Future - GEMYDU & School Boarding Program - Groote Eylandt & Milyakburra Youth Development Unit (GEMYDU) are doing great work with their boarding school support program. This year saw several Groote youngsters go to boarding schools, with **Belinda Mamarika** and **Nelson Bara** being the standout achievers, stayed all year, conquered their homesickness and are on track to continue next semester. I look forward to featuring them as successful Yr 12 graduates in my future newsletters.

Also from Umbakumba, **Nelson Bara** successfully completed Yr 7 at Cathedral School in Townsville. Great hat Nelson - Well done.



Umbakumba's **Belinda Mamarika** received a scholarship from Foundation of Young Australians to study at St Patrick's College in Townsville, and will be returning next year to study Yr 11. Keep up the great work Belinda.

Thank you Christyne Love for all your great work at GEMYDU.

HOUSING FOR REMOTE TEACHERS

Lack of accommodation makes it difficult to recruit teachers to our communities, so the NT and Federal Governments are fast-tracking new teacher housing for Ngukurr, Ramingining and Umbakumba (and 6 other communities across the Territory) based on pre-fabricated buildings (cyclone-coded with split-system air-conditioning, verandas and shed) that can be put in place quickly.



Innovative and cost-effective, these pre-fabricated buildings can be transported and established in communities within a few months, and are expected to enable teachers to be moving in during the second semester next year.



More investment for Umbakumba, with new teacher housing to be established. Meanwhile Resilda Mamarika, Sandra Bara and Reodah Mamarika show off their painting skills for the School's beautification program.



Jessup Herbert shows his expertise on the spray gun.

A big thank you to Umbakumba School's principal Alessa Fremmer for photos.

Ramingining Volleyball competition

This year saw Ramo School's senior students initiate a volleyball competition as part of their health program. With no permanent Sport & Recreation officer to assist, they showed great initiative by laying out their own court with 2 posts for the net, organised training on Wednesday and competition on Friday afternoons for both junior and senior levels. Their season culminated with the finals with the winning team members receiving medals.

Everyone enjoyed the competition immensely, and I think it would be tremendous to see volleyball in the interschool sports program and at community festival events.

Students are keen to keep the competition going and have sought quotes on what a portable volleyball court equipment would cost, but I understand the East Arnhem Shire have committed to constructing a permanent court, so I look forward to watching some of the superstars in action on my next visit. Maybe I could join one of the teams for a game?

Well done to the entire Yr 11&12 Class, who were organisers, umpires and coaches. And thanks to Elijah Gaykamangu and Charlton Warrawarra who wrote and told me all about it.



Ramo Magpies won the senior competition: (L-R) Jinian, Jerome, Ricky, Alvin, Zacharia, Julius, Sharon and Jerika in the background making faces.



Tigers were triumphant in the junior competition: (L-R) Arustus, Shantel, Richell, Caprice, Martina, Rickisha and Anton with coaches Jerome Lillipiyana and Winema Wilson.

Special thanks to Geoff Guymer for his support.

Yolŋu Leader Rraywala Mildjingi Remembered

In May this year I was honoured to be asked to speak at Rraywala's memorial service at Marrara cemetery, where he was laid to rest in an unmarked grave in 1965. It was a long overdue recognition of this man's great life.

Rraywala was a Mildjingi man born around 1905 from the Welangarr clan whose country centres on an important sacred waterhole at a place called Garrinyal near the mouth of the Glyde River.

He spent his life working closely with missionaries and outsiders, including anthropologist Lloyd Warner and photographer Axel Poinant who produced the book *Piccaninny Walkabout* in 1927, based on an old story told by Rraywala.

However, Rraywala was most famous for negotiating safe passage for his friend and companion anthropologist Donald Thomson as he travelled through what was then very hostile and unknown Arnhem Land between 1935 and 1937. Thomson described Rraywala in his writings at the time as a 'man among men'.

When Australia was threatened by Japanese invasion in 1942, then Squadron Leader Thomson was given the task of setting up the Northern Territory Special

Reconnaissance Unit to monitor the coast against invasion. Rraywala was the only person to enlist and was responsible for recruiting Aboriginal people from across the Top End as coast-watchers. His contribution towards the defence of Australia is largely unknown.

After the war, Rraywala lived at Milingimbi where he helped build the airstrip and timber church, later moving to the mainland to Gaartji where he became famous for successfully growing vegetables.

During the 1950s, Rraywala moved between Coburg Peninsula and Darwin, working in the timber industry. He gained notoriety supporting the 'New Deal' policy that demanded Aboriginal workers be paid for their labour.

Rraywala and his wife Burrmilikili (a Marrangu woman) were living in Darwin in 1963 when they were given full citizenship status.

This year's memorial service was attended by Rraywala and Burrmilikili's surviving son Jimmy Burinyila and daughter Margaret Myall and their families and friends from Ramingining, Gapuwiyak and Milingimbi, by Donald Thomson's widow Dorita, daughters and son from Melbourne,

RRAYWALA MEMORIAL

May 3, 2009

MARRARA CEMETERY - DARWIN, NT



TPH1493 - PHOTO BY DONALD THOMSON

RAY RRAYWALA MILDJINGI
1905-1965

and many other people, including the two most responsible for this long overdue official recognition, Lindy Allen from Museum Victoria and Louise Hamby from Australian National University.

GROOTE EYLANDT REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT



Malarndirri and Tanya Plibersek, Federal Minister for Housing, caught up with the GEBIE workcrew building Angurugu's new housing under the SIHIP program in July. (L-R) Ash Sainsbury, Greg Clark, Malarndirri, Leon Murrungun, Clive Lalara, Varren Amagula and Tanya Plibersek.

Stage 2 also provides for 54 new houses, on top of the 26 new houses (80 in total) and 75 rebuilding of existing houses currently being constructed through the SIHIP program.

Other aspects of the Agreement include a new Health Centre at Umbakumba, more support for the Machado Joseph Disease Foundation, a greater emphasis on coordinating education services, the establishment of a local employment board, and particularly popular with everyone on Groote, support for the AFL competition, including club houses at Angurugu and Umbakumba.

Deputy Chair Tony Wurramarrba and Chair Walter Amagula, of the Anindilyakwa Land Council, joined with Federal Minister for Indigenous Affairs Jenny Macklin and Chief Minister Paul Henderson to sign Stage 2 of the RPA.

I was thrilled to be present at the signing of Stage 2 of Bickerton and Groote Eylandt's Regional Partnership Agreement (RPA) recently.

The original RPA, established between the Anindilyakwa Land Council (ALC) and the Northern Territory and Australian Governments in May 2008, was an historic first for the NT, and with Stage 2 of the Agreement now including the East Arnhem Shire Council and GEMCo Mining Company, is a comprehensive model of how we can all work together to improve education, health, housing and employment outcomes in our regions.

A key feature of Stage 2 is the commitment by the Anindilyakwa Land Council to provide up to \$14 million in royalty equivalent income towards RPA projects. This is an extraordinarily far-sighted step by the ALC to contribute their own resources to initiatives that will deliver long-term benefits, and I acknowledge the strong leadership provided by Tony Wurramarrba and Walter Amagula on behalf of Warnindilyakwa Traditional Owners.

The total value of Stages 1 and 2 will exceed \$80 million, including \$20 million for sealing of the road between Umbakumba and Angurugu to give people better access to jobs, education and training, medical services, and social and sporting events.



Ngukurr and Bulman football ovals upgraded

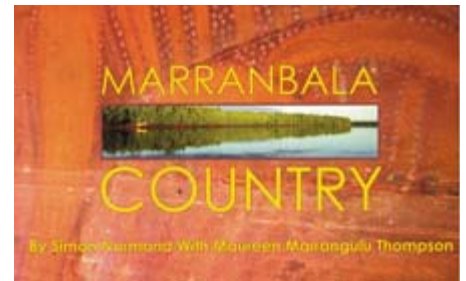
The ovals are looking green and lush! Ngukurr has also established changing rooms and public toilet facilities and are planning for the construction of a club house. Their Roper Gulf Shire workforce has built a scoreboard out of completely recycled material, and I'm so looking forward to when the Ngukurr Bulldogs host their first home and away game.

Bulman has also been renovating the Sport & Recreation hall, which sits alongside their oval, so they've also got somewhere for the teams to change with toilet facilities.

Plant operators from Bulman went to Ngukurr early in the 2009 dry season to do the earthworks on that oval, gaining the necessary skills, and by working on both ovals they built up enough plant operating hours to qualify as certified operators. With the amount of road maintenance and recreation oval upgrades required in the Arnhem Land region, they should have plenty of work for many years to come.



(L - R) Gavin Bell, Malarndirri, Lisa Jelenic, Stuart Martin and Eddie Chisholm inspecting progress on upgrading the football oval in June.



"... everytime you visit country, it comes closer to you."
- Maureen Marrangulu Thompson

Ngukurr has a long history of publishing some of the best art and historical accounts in the country.

This book about Maureen Thompson is a wonderful read and full of images of beautiful art, historical photographs and magnificent landscapes of the Roper and Limmen Bight region in the Gulf of Carpentaria.

I was privileged to launch the book earlier this year on behalf of Maureen and author Simon Normand, and suggest if you're looking for a Christmas or birthday present, buy 2 copies because you'll want to keep one yourself.



Bulman Students brave the cold to meet Hawthorn idols

Six students from Bulman School were sponsored by Hawthorn Football Club to travel to Melbourne in late August as part of the AFL Kickstart Community Exchange program.

Velonia Dalywater and Irene Gillespie

travelled with students Lenny Lawrence, Sean Manyita, Nikitas Rurunga, Karleen Andrews, Jason Champion and Sharia Moore to attend the Club's home ground for a training session, went to a wave pool and water slide at the Sports & Aquatic Centre

(I hope that was an indoor venue, and heated!) and visited Roberts McCubbin Primary School in Box Hill for a day of sport and activities. On the Saturday they attended the Hawthorn vs Essendon game at an almost full MCG, and then on Sunday attended the St Kilda vs Essendon game.

The highlight of the trip was when they combined with students from Milyakburra and some of the Melbourne clubs to play a game of Auskick, on the hallowed turf of the MCG, during half time.

I understand they experienced great hospitality and generosity from their hosts and billet families, and made some strong friendships as they built up valuable experience during their trip to the big smoke.



Hawthorn's Cameron Stokes (and Darwin boy of course) accepted this beautiful painting from (L-R) Lenny, Sean, Nikitas and Karleen. It was done by Sean's dad Brian Manyita to hang in the Hawthorn AFL clubrooms, to thank them for sponsoring the students' trip. From Sean's expression, you can just imagine him thinking "Boy it's cold here". They also presented another of Brian's beautiful paintings to show appreciation for their day at Robert McCubbin Primary School.