



# Arnhem

BARBARA McCARTHY  
Member for Arnhem **N E W S**



## THANKYOU ARNHEM!

It's been six months since I was elected as the new Member for Arnhem, and I am delighted and honoured to be your representative in the Territory's Legislative Assembly.

A special thankyou to everyone who contributed to my election campaign and in particular to the previous Member for Arnhem, John Ah Kit.

JAK was the Northern Territory's first Indigenous Minister and held the seat of Arnhem for 10 years. His commitment and contribution to paving a better future for all people in the Northern Territory inspired me to enter politics.



It was a symbolic and emotional moment to be danced in to the opening ceremony of the Northern

Territory's 10<sup>th</sup> Assembly in July by my Elders, the Yanyuwa people of Borrooloola in the Gulf of Carpentaria.

## IT'S YOUR PARLIAMENT!



Wugular School students visiting Parliament House in August. L-R Kira Jolly, Lancetta Ashley, Audrey Brown, Barbara, Justine Brown, Evangeline Cameron & Delvene Anderson

I encourage everyone to visit Parliament House on one of your trips to Darwin. It is quite an awesome building. Come and see the Chamber where the politicians all sit and debate laws and check out the Parliamentary library! It is a fantastic resource!

Even if Parliament is not sitting, there are still tours conducted for those who are keen to see how parliament works. The Legislative Assembly staff are always welcoming and bookings can be made with them on 8946 1434.

Some of the schools who have visited so far are Ramingining, Wugularr, Minyerri and Manyallaluk. I've been able to meet with the students and teachers and enjoy morning tea with them too.



## KEEPING IN TOUCH

I intend to use this term in Parliament to totally familiarize myself with all the issues within the Arnhem electorate, while keeping constituents up to date with what's happening in the Territory's Legislative Assembly.

I will also be lobbying our Federal politicians to fulfil their obligations in the areas of increased funding for community housing and a better road network. I will also encourage both Federal and Territory Government Ministers to visit our communities whenever possible so I can show them first hand the hardships this lack of infrastructure causes.

Already the Northern Territory Sports Minister Delia Lawrie joined me on a trip to Groote Eylandt in September.

We visited Angurugu, Umbakumba and Bickerton Island and enjoyed an evening meeting residents at the Alyangula Rec Club.

Minister Lawrie was pleased to see the newly established oval at Angurugu. Well done to Craig Coleman and the CDEP crew at Angurugu for the tremendous effort that went into establishing the oval. I hope you will be able to provide some handy hints to Ngukurr for the building of their oval.

# GOOD NEWS!

## Groote Eylandt Police

I am pleased to have had success with lobbying for a full-time School Based Police Constable position at Alyangula to service the five schools in the region:

Numbulwar, Alyangula, Angurugu, Umbakumba and Milyakburra.

A School Based Police Constable is an effective method of policing which encourages greater positive interaction between police and children and the wider community. We have seen the success of such positions in urban schools across the Territory, so why not in our remote regions.

A big thankyou to First Class Constable Ben Hamann and boat skipper Craig Pedder for transporting me from Alyangula to Milyakburra on Bickerton Island for the school's Blue Light Disco in June. It was a great evening and I look forward to attending more school discos as I travel around the electorate.

## Manyallaluk School

The school at Manyallaluk is just about completed and students are keen to kick off the new year in their new building. Well done to Yve Weinberg for her perseverance in teaching in such trying conditions. The students will miss you and we all wish you the very best for the future. Thankyou for seeing the students settle in to their new school. I look forward to the official opening next year.



*Ben Hamann and students from Alyangula Area School at a recent Blue Light Disco*

## Police Post Numbulwar

Early in 2006 Police Minister Paul Henderson will hope to open the Police post in Numbulwar. This will allow police officers a permanent base especially when courts are held in Numbulwar.

Territory producer Steve McGregor over many months with Moses and his family. Well done!

## Barunga Sports

For those who are not aware there are many young footballers in the Barunga/Beswick region who have had tremendous success in Melbourne this year.

Sports and Rec officer Paul Amarant has worked tirelessly to see the young men experience life in the big league of football through a footy exchange program with Geelong Cats club. Well done Paul and to all involved with the exchange and especially the young men who took part in the program!!

## Rose River

While on Numbulwar it is good to hear the crossing at Rose River is completed, as well as the upgrading of the Ngukurr to Numbulwar road.

Congratulations to the Numbulwar community, in particular Moses Numamurdirdi on the SBS documentary about the many weather seasons in Numbulwar. It was a documentary shot by Northern

## Airstrips

The Martin Government has also fulfilled its promise on building sealed airstrips at Minyerri, Ramingining and Bulman. The next step is to try to get lighting! (Don't worry, I'm already on to it!)

Ramingining celebrated the official opening of the airstrip, and we are yet to officially open Bulman airstrip.

A big thankyou to the Bula Bula Arts mob for coordinating the dancers for the opening and to Coralyn Armstrong and Ramingining School for providing the morning tea!

Thanks to Territory Times and Deila Allen for photos.



## LUCKY ESCAPE!



*Jakob (centre) holding Sheila with his daughter Lisa and son-in-law Lazarus Murray. Thanks to Maranboy Police for the photo.*

Luck must be in the shape of a small dog called Sheila. Thanks to him he kept a wild buffalo at bay as 65 year old Jakob Jelenic wandered in bushland near Bulman.

Emergency Search and Rescue were called in when Bulman Council Chairman Lazarus Murray feared for the safety of his father-in-law when he did not return from a fishing trip.

Thankfully all ended okay when Jakob was found safe and well and shared his story about his courageous dog Sheila, who lured the buffalo away by repeatedly biting its ankles.

## NATIONAL PERSPECTIVE

Since the election I have visited all 15 communities and the mining town of Alyangula a number of times in order to get to know the communities and for people to get to know me. I have tried to take family members with me on occasions so that my family can meet you also.

Some of the national political issues raised across the Northern Territory and in the July, August, October and November sittings were:

- The Federal Government's imposition of a Nuclear Waste Dump in the Territory – three sites have been identified as possible locations, one at Fisher's Ridge south of Katherine and two in Central Australia
- the full sale of Telstra
- the Federal Government's Work Choices legislation

## HOT LOCAL ISSUES:

Ongoing issues to work on:

- Doctor and Dentist recruitment for Groote Eylandt
- More housing particularly for Ngukurr, Numbulwar, Gulin Gulin and Weemol
- Policing issues at Minyerri and Umbakumba
- Wugularr school building
- Road concerns for Central Arnhem Road, Roper Highway, Minyerri road and "the goat track" from Ramingining to Central Arnhem Road
- Swimming pool requests for a number of communities
- Sports and Rec positions/funding in some communities

## WE REMEMBER!

The Jawoyn community farewelled an amazing man this year, Bangardi Lee.

Hundreds turned out to pay their respects at Barunga in November. They included politicians of all persuasions, Federal and Northern Territory, and Aboriginal leaders from across the country.

Bangardi Lee was a visionary and instrumental in establishing the Jawoyn Association in 1985. He was determined to further economic development through training organisations and business activity like tourism

ventures at Manyallaluk and Nitmiluk. Prior to this he spent much of his early life at Barunga where he was town clerk and later a Commissioner with the Aboriginal Development Commission during the 1980s. He was also an executive member of the Northern Land Council, a Parks and Wildlife Commissioner, and a member of the Kakadu and Guring National Park Boards.

Bangardi Lee was a senior leader in Aboriginal cultural life with strong links to Arnhem Land and beyond and will be deeply missed by everyone who knew him.



*The Lee family & friends during their visit to Parliament House in November when the Assembly moved a condolence motion on the passing of Bangardi Lee.*

# CONGRATULATIONS!!



In the October sittings of Parliament I spoke of the tireless work of Aboriginal Health Worker, Ms Beryl Mayanini Djakala who retired in September after 41 years working in Aboriginal health.

We celebrated her work with a huge tribute at Milingimbi attended by Health professionals and Minister Chris Burns.

Born in 1946 Djakala was six years of age when she arrived in Milingimbi from Galiwinku. She went to the missionary school in Milingimbi when it was a Methodist Mission. Djakala left school at 15 years, to have her only child Gangalpa.

In 1963 at 16 years of age, she did bible translating and interpreting for the church services. In 1965, as a young woman Djakala temporarily left her community to complete a nurse's aid course at the Old Darwin Hospital at Myilly Point.

In 1973 the Department of Health in the Northern Territory took control of health service provision to rural and remote Aboriginal people, and it was then that the concept of today's Aboriginal Health Worker was first introduced.

Djakala received one of 10 government awards presented by the Australian Government, and spent five weeks in PNG learning how to run a health centre independently. She then worked with the missionary Jessie Smith, at Milingimbi until 1978 when the Methodist mission departed.

From 1980 – 1989 Djakala became the independent manager of the Milingimbi health centre. She also spent two occasions working with Dr John Hargraves in the observation and treatment of Hansen's disease at the East Arm Leprosarium.

Aside from her direct contribution to patients as a clinician, Djakala was also committed to school-based health promotion where for five years she would discuss all health related issues including sexual health.

During Djakala's career, she was involved in establishing and supporting the "Strong Women, Strong Babies, Strong Culture" program and was a mentor for other Aboriginal health workers and trainees. With her religious background she still leads the day with a bible reading and prayer.

During Djakala's retirement she will visit her mother's homeland Langara, an outstation on Howard Island. She will continue basket weaving, baby-sitting grandchildren, and help out at the clinic when they're short staffed.

Thankyou Djakala for your outstanding contribution to the health and well being of Aboriginal people, and indeed all people of the Northern Territory and Australia. I wish you well in your retirement.



Thanks to Territory Times and Della Allen for photos.

## CHRISTMAS CHEER

*Finally I would like to wish each and every one of you*

*a safe and happy Christmas!*

*and*

*all the best for the New Year!*



Please drop in any time you are in Darwin and visit my Electorate Officer Phillip Powling and I at the Casuarina Village shopping complex. Or you can contact us on:

Electorate.arnhem@nt.gov.au or phone on 89 276677

*Barbara*