

## EO Goes to Canberra

## \$558,000 for Women's Hall of Fame

**Our Executive Officer, Heather Sjöberg attended the ACC Executive Officers' Conference in Canberra, 29 - 30 April 2004, held in Old Parliament House.**

The conference had a full agenda with a variety of topics covered, from business planning to whole of government.

The conference highlighted the importance of the Regional Partnerships programme for ACC business. It offers a major strategy for implementing the ACCs core responsibilities. There have been a large number of applications submitted since December and DoTaRS is increasing resources to process the applications as fast as possible.

Research into the names and branding of ACCs has been completed, with the recommendation that the name Area Consultative Committee be retained, but generally shortened to ACC, so welcome to the Northern Territory ACC. The ACC logo will remain, but with the tag: ACCs - the Australian Government's Regional Development Network.

When asked to summarise the conference Heather said that the conference was informative, providing direction for the coming 12 months.

The Federal Government will provide \$558,000 from its Regional Partnerships program to enable the National Pioneer Women's Hall of Fame to move to larger premises in the old Alice Springs Gaol.

In announcing the funding on 1 June 2004, CLP Senator Nigel Scullion, said it would help pay for architects and capital works to transform the abandoned gaol into a permanent home for the Hall of Fame.

"The old gaol is a heritage-listed site and will be upgraded to preserve its integrity and make it a tourist attraction in its own right."

Senator Scullion said he was particularly pleased the funding had been provided as he

had fought hard, along with the Territory's Area Consultative Committee (ACC) and the people behind the Hall of Fame to get the grant.

Mrs De-Anne Kelly, Parliamentary Secretary to the Federal Minister for Transport and Regional Services, congratulated the local community for working together to access Regional Partnerships funding.

"I would particularly like to thank the Northern Territory ACC for helping to bring this project to fruition," Mrs Kelly said.

"Communities should contact their local Area Consultative Committee if they wish to seek funding through Regional Partnerships."

## Rural Unemployment

The Northern Territory Area Consultative Committee (NTACC) is sponsoring a visit to the Northern Territory by Dick Estens and Cathy Duncan during June.

A successful cotton farmer from Moree NSW, Dick conducted the Federal Government's enquiry into regional telecommunications. In addition to this, he and Cathy were instrumental in turning around the negative social image of Moree through a large scale Aboriginal employment programme. Cathy chairs the Aboriginal Employment Strategy.

The Chairman of NTACC, Ken Cohalan said 'Dick and Cathy will talk to various groups in Darwin and Katherine about an approach to social issues which has proved to be constructive in Moree, Tamworth and Dubbo.'

Dick and Cathy will discuss Indigenous engagement with Darwin's business community at a breakfast hosted by the Chamber of Commerce NT on Tuesday 15 June. They will then be the guest speakers at a NTACC dinner in Katherine on Wednesday 16 June and again at a forum conducted by the Fred Hollows Foundation and Katherine Regional Harmony Group on Thursday 17 June. On Friday 18 June they will conduct workshops in Darwin for the NT Department of Community Development Sports and Cultural Affairs.

### Funding Alert!

- **Indigenous Capital Assistance Scheme**
- **Small Business Enterprise Culture Programme**
- **Regional Partnerships**

See inside for more details

## More Than \$1.7M to Regions

Small regional communities will soon have improved access to banking and other essential services, with the help of more than \$1.7 million in Australian Government funding.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Transport and Regional Services and the Minister for Trade, Mrs De-Anne Kelly, announced the extra funding today as part of the latest round of grants under the Rural Transaction Centres (RTC) Programme, totalling more than \$1.7 million.

“The Australian Government is committed to restoring services to small communities, and the continued successes of rural towns associated with the RTC Programme are a demonstration of that.

Rural Transaction Centres are already located at Mataranka, Oenpelli, Maningrida, Wadeye and Numbulwar. Four more have been approved but are not yet operational at Arltarlpilta, Nganmarriyanga, Bidadanga WA and Ngiuu. A further two are still under assessment, and three have been referred to the Regional Partnerships Programme for consideration.

RTC funding helps communities provide access to services such as banking, Medicare easyclaim facilities, Centrelink, visiting professionals, serviced office space, business support services, phone, fax, computer, and Internet access.

“In the last Budget, the Government announced the decision to integrate key DOTARS regional programmes, including the RTC Programme, into a new Regional Partnerships programme. No existing grants or applications for our regional programmes, including RTCs, will be affected,” Mrs Kelly said.



Above: Tiwi Island artwork at Ngiuu Airport

## Remote Art & Music Funding

As a result of correspondence from the NT Area Consultative Committee, Deputy Chief Minister Syd Stirling has confirmed that in 2004 it is projected \$2.5M of the Vocational Education and Training (VET) budget will be committed to arts/music VET.

This commitment includes:

- \$125,000 for VET in Schools arts/music programs
- \$47,000 for rural and remote programs delivered through the Training for Remote Youth Program (TRY)
- the balance of the \$2.5M being for recurrent profile funding

In addition to this, DEET is directing \$209,000 to the NT Indigenous Music Project, to be delivered by the NT Music School. This project delivers a secondary based Indigenous instrumental music delivery program for remote community schools across all regions of the NT.

Flexible Response Funding (FRF) continues to support arts/music with 14% of the current 2004 allocation to date, directed to this industry group in the Barkly and East Arnhem regions.

Mr Stirling states “Arts/music programs continue to play an important role in the engagement of Indigenous youth in learning and preparation for further training and education. In recognition of this a significant investment has been made and continues to be committed to arts/music programs in remote communities.”

## Regional Partnerships Programme

The Government is strengthening its commitment to promoting self reliant regional communities by providing \$78 million over four years to the Regional Partnerships programme. This funding will support initiatives for regional business development, and improved access to services.

You can apply for funding if you are one of the following:

- Non-profit organisations;
- Local Government;
- Community Councils (Indigenous Councils);
- Co-operatives;
- Associations;
- Registered Charities;
- Private sector.

If your organisation is not registered under State or Commonwealth legislation you will need a sponsor. A sponsor is a registered organisation that will administer the grant on your behalf, if your application is successful.

More information about Regional Partnerships programme is available from [www.regionalpartnerships.gov.au](http://www.regionalpartnerships.gov.au) or by calling NT Area Consultative Committee on **89417550**.

We strongly suggest you contact our Project Officer, Lorraine Harris on the number above, to discuss your project prior to commencement of application.

## SEGRA 2004 “Big Ideas for Regional Australia”

The eighth National Conference of SEGRA (Sustainable Economic Growth for Regional Australia) will be held at the Alice Springs Convention Centre from 6-8 September 2004. In addition to the focus on ‘big ideas’ SEGRA 2004 will cover topics such as:

- Testing ‘big ideas’
- Research for actions
- Enhancing regional attractiveness
- Using events for regional growth
- Visioning, community engagement and outcomes
- Measuring and evaluating regional development outcomes
- Governance for regional sustainability
- Building business sustainability
- Infrastructure – its part in regional growth
- Politics for regional problem solving
- Trends; economic, environmental, social
- Skill formation for achieving goals

**Registration hotline Tel 07 3210 0021**

### Small Business Enterprise Culture Program (SBECP)

SBECP aims to develop and enhance the business skills of small business owner-managers and demonstrate the contribution that such skills can make to business viability and growth.

It will achieve this by providing competitive grants for initiatives designed to enhance small business access to skills development and mentoring. This forms part of the Australian Government’s broader \$60 million Small Business Assistance Programme.

Applications are accepted from industry associations, women’s professional and business organisations, community organisations, educational institutions and business enterprise centres.

**Round 8 of the programme is now open. Applications close on Friday 18 June 2004.**

For programme information, call the AusIndustry Hotline on **13 28 46** for the cost of a local call anywhere in Australia. Information on this and other programmes is available on the website: <http://www.ausindustry.gov.au>

## Technology Advisory Service for Small Business

INDUSTRY TECHLINK is a free advisory service to assist small to medium sized businesses become more competitive by adopting new technology.

Developed as part of the Australian Government’s Backing Australia’s Ability initiatives, INDUSTRY TECHLINK provides a free service for owners and managers of small to medium sized businesses.

Skilled technology consultants from a wide range of industry backgrounds are available to help businesses identify the technology best suited to their needs. Assistance can range from over the phone or on site, face to face visits.

INDUSTRY TECHLINK is available Australia wide from 9.00am – 4.00pm Monday to Friday.

**Free Call:** 1800 111 485\* **Fax:** 03 9362 5166

**Email:** [enquiries@industrytechlink.com.au](mailto:enquiries@industrytechlink.com.au)

**Web Site:** [www.industrytechlink.com.au](http://www.industrytechlink.com.au)

\*Calls from mobile phones are at normal rates

## Indigenous Capital Assistance Scheme (ICAS)

The aim of ICAS is to increase the level of employment of Indigenous Australians by increasing access for Indigenous businesses to appropriate commercial finance and culturally appropriate business advisory and mentoring support.

The scheme is targeted at potential Indigenous recipients who may find it difficult to obtain a business loan through normal commercial channels. Through Westpac, financial support is available for loans ranging from \$50,000 to \$500,000, in conjunction with business advisory and mentoring services.

To find out more about ICAS and the eligibility criteria, please contact the Indigenous Employment Line on **1802 102** or the website [www.workplace.gov.au/indigenous](http://www.workplace.gov.au/indigenous)

### Websites of Interest

- Funding sources – <http://www.granstlink.gov.au>
- Funding source – <http://www.philanthropy.org.au>
- Regional Partnership info – <http://www.regionalpartnerships.gov.au>
- Funding sources – <http://www.grantsearch.com/>
- Funding programmes – <http://www.ausindustry.gov.au>

## Profiles

### Norm Buchan Committee Member



Norm Buchan has been the CEO of the Tiwi Islands Training and Employment Board since 1999 taking up the position after being approached by the Tiwi Land Council.

Norm, from Scotland, and wife Denise, from England, met in New Guinea, were married in

Darwin, and have 3 children and 3 grandchildren.

Norm worked as an electrician on the reconstruction of Darwin after Cyclone Tracy, then joined the Federal Department of Housing and Construction in 1977. Since then he's worked with NT Transport and Works and held various NTU positions. Norm studied part time and finished his Degree in Education through Adelaide University as an external student.

Prior to taking up his current position he held several senior positions with NT Employment and Training Authority and participated in numerous national committees involved in framing the new National Vocational Education and Training Systems.

Norm says he loves a job with a challenge, especially if it involves helping others to reach their own potential.

### Mark Ellard Rural Transaction Support Officer



Mark Ellard has been appointed Rural Transaction Centre Support Officer with NTACC, covering Northern Territory and Kimberley. He took up the position in late March.

Mark arrived in the Territory as a schoolboy in 1985.

Since finishing at Darwin High School, he has worked in Banking and Finance. After gaining experience in all areas of general banking, from teller through to international trade, Mark proceeded to specialise in Small Business Financing and Agribusiness Financing. With a depth of knowledge of small business operations, he is familiar with the many challenges

faced in operating a business from a remote location with limited resources.

The recently-created role of RTC Support Officer has drawn Mark away from banking, as he saw an opportunity to help broader community groups as opposed to specific individuals or businesses within a community.

### Lorraine Harris Project Officer



Lorraine Harris, a long term Territorian, commenced work as a Project Officer with NTACC in early April. Lorraine spent more than 12 years carrying out a wide range of field work in remote traditional Aboriginal communities, before becoming Regional Manager of DEETYA

regions within NT, and NW WA, specialising in education, employment and training. She set up and concurrently managed two employment offices in Perth, worked within an Aboriginal controlled community health service in Katherine, and most recently has been running her own consultancy business. With this background, Lorraine brings to the ACC strong skills in undertaking a broad range of community consultations

to tailor programs and services to suit communities' developmental needs, in both remote and urban locations.

Lorraine is a qualified trainer and workplace assessor, specialising in management, administration and personal empowerment, and an experienced mediator and counsellor. She is also a past Committee member of NTACC.

## Our People

### Members

Ken Cohalan,  
Chairperson  
Mike Newton,  
Deputy Chairperson  
Tracey Brand,  
Secretary  
Vacant - Treasurer  
Julie Newton

David Suter  
Norm Buchan  
Craig Catchlove  
Peter Herden  
Kortlee Marshall  
Djuwalpi Marika  
Kent Peak

### Ex-Officio Member

Sharon Woon

### Staff

Heather Sjoberg, Executive Officer  
Barbara Spencer, Admin Officer  
Lorraine Harris, Project Officer  
Mark Ellard, Rural Transaction Support Officer

## Advice to Federal Government

NTACC works in partnership with government, business and the community to promote economic, social and environmental development in the Northern Territory. We welcome suggestions that will enable the provision of constructive and regular advice to federal government in order to maximise support for the development of the Northern Territory.