

.....building our capacity

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NT Area Consultative Committee
"ACCs – The Australian Government's Regional Development Network"

Newsletter #4 July – August 2004

Three New Rural Transaction Centres for the NT

Round 30 of the Rural Transaction Centre (RTC) Program was recently announced.

Successful communities from the NT were Nauiyu Nambiyu, Galiwinku and Yuendumu. Total funding for these communities from the RTC Program exceeds \$870,000.

These communities will soon have improved access to services. This round of funding will help bring a variety of services to these communities, including banking, business, information and personal services.

With 3 additional RTCs approved, there are now 11 RTC in the NT that

are either operational, or approved but not yet operational.

The RTC program was designed to assist small communities of less than 3,000 people to introduce new services and put back services lost to those communities.

The RTC Program has now been integrated into the Regional Partnership Program. Communities that would like to know more about RTCs should contact our RTC Support Officer Mark Ellard. For those wanting to find out more about Regional Partnerships, visit our website, www.ntacc.com.au

Regional Partnerships Funding for Alice Springs

Regional Partnerships Program funding of more than \$270,000 was granted in June to the Central Australian Regional Development Committee on behalf of the Central Australian Aboriginal Music Association Regional Indigenous Music Community Partnership project.

Regional Partnership funds will go towards creating music development opportunities for Indigenous people with the aim of increasing employment opportunities and addressing economic and social needs.

CAAMA will provide stepping-stones to this industry, thereby increasing Indigenous music and community access to the music industry.

Participation of musicians from five local communities will include participation of their families and community councils. Participation results include development through accredited training and rehearsals and aspects of video and CD production.

Savannah Way – Australia's Great Adventure Drive

The Western start to the Savannah Way was launched in Broome in June.

The Savannah Way will become one of the world's great tourism drives. It is a themed adventure drive from Cairns to Broome encompassing four World Heritage areas, 15 National Parks and 5 of the 10 most desirable 'adventure' destinations in Australia.

The development of the project has been a joint whole of government project involving QLD, NT, WA and local governments. Local industries and communities are very supportive of the development and believe it to be an internationally recognised tourism product.

The Savannah Way is targeted at the drive market both domestically and internationally. The project aims to generate an additional 10,000 visitors to regional Australia over 5 years. NT towns set to benefit include Katherine, Borroloola, Mataranka, Roper Bar and Timber Creek.

Below: Adventure Tourist numbers to the NT are expected to increase following the launch of the Savannah Way



Above: Dick Estens, Sheila Miller, Cathy Duncan and Karyn Anderson at the Estens/Duncan presentation in Katherine.

The NTACC held its second quarterly meeting for 2004 in Katherine in June.

Special guests at the meeting were Dick Estens and Cathy Duncan from the Moree Aboriginal Employment Strategy. Dick and Cathy met with a broad range of people and drove home the message that community members need to work together to get results.

Websites for Young People

www.thesource.gov.au

Links, fun and a voice for young people. Info on careers, lifestyle, money your rights and heaps more.

www.youthgas.com

Youth information, chat and posting available. Provides you with up to date information for youth including training, helpful web addresses, youth related jobs and grants.

www.actnow.com.au

ActNow is an innovative internet based matching service designed to foster volunteering and community involvement with young people. It offers online matching of volunteer opportunities, online information, profiles of what volunteers are doing and links to the community,

www.youth2youth.com.au

Head to their site to view all their fantastic resources. Check out their new innovative magazine call Frank!

www.vibewire.net

For artistic young people. Vibewire is a page for creative young people to unite.

www.myfuture.edu.au

Where will you be working in 10 years? Not sure. Head to My Future and get some direction.

www.jobjuice.gov.au

Need information on jobs and how to get the right career, head to Job Juice

For Grants and other youth information check out;

www.facs.gov.au

www.yarn.gov.au

www.enya.org.au

www.youngaustralians.org

NT Population Growth

Northern Territory's population increased by over 600 people in the 2003 calendar year, according to figures released by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) in June.

This growth follows a slight decline between June 2002 and March 2003, with increases in each quarter since the end of March 2003. The population of the Northern Territory at 31 December 2003 was 198,700.

During 2003, the Northern Territory population increased by 2,900 due to natural increases (the excess of births over deaths). Net overseas migration added 600 people to the population. However a loss of 2,900 people through net interstate migration offset much of the gains through natural increase and net overseas migration.

Over the last 10 years, the number of people leaving the Territory for interstate has been relatively stable, ranging between 16,600 and 18,600 people per year. In 2003, 17,700 people departed the Territory for interstate.

However the number of people moving from other parts of Australia to the Northern Territory has declined. In 1996, 19,100 people moved to the Territory – the largest number of arrivals in the last 30 years. In comparison, 14,800 people moved to the Territory in 2003, the same as in 2001 and just below 2002 (15,100 arrivals).

\$515,700 for Indigenous Employment

Four employment projects in the NT were approved funding, announced in June under the Indigenous Employment Policy.

The successful projects were spread around the Territory;
Acacia Décor & Interiors Darwin

Providing 6 Indigenous Australians with apprenticeships and employment with this NT based private company.

Ngaanyatjarra Services Alice Springs

Assisting the employment of 2 Indigenous Australians in business administration skills over a period of 18 months.

Ngaliwurru-Wuli Assoc Katherine

Providing employment and training for 8 participants to undertake Certificates II and III in Natural Resource Management.

Thamarrurr CGC Wadeye

Funding approved will allow the Council to develop a business plan to map the future direction for employment, education and training at Wadeye.

The projects will provide employment and training opportunities for Indigenous people in the regions, and will also bring economic and social benefits.



Above: Part of the NT population growth at play

\$9 Million for NT Indigenous Communities

Funding of \$28.4 million was announced in June, to fund new initiatives in remote Indigenous communities.

Under the package the Northern Territory will receive \$7 million for housing and an additional \$1.5 million for the Wadeye COAG trial.

In a further announcement, Milikapiti, will benefit from \$500,000 for a new swimming pool, contributing to the NT Governments "No School, No Pool" program.

Swimming pools provide recognised health benefits and are used as incentives. Some of the health benefits identified include a reduction in skin and middle-ear infections.

NT Shipwreck Stories to be Told

The Australian Minister for the Environment and Heritage, Dr David Kemp announced in June \$28,542 in funding to help the Northern Territory raise awareness of its rich shipwreck heritage.

During a visit to Darwin, Dr Kemp announced the funding from the Historic Shipwrecks Program, to support two publications being prepared by the Northern Territory Museum and Arts Gallery.

Of the funds \$19,986 will help explore this heritage by producing a booklet called Historic Shipwrecks of the Northern Territory.

The booklet will focus on approximately 10 of the Territory's most significant historic shipwrecks to raise awareness of the region's maritime legacy and to let people know of the work that is being done to protect and maintain this heritage.

The second project, receiving \$8,556, is a brochure about the Filipino-owned supply ship the Don Isidro. The Don Isidro and its cargo was wrecked off Bathurst Island after being bombed by Japanese aircraft in February 1942. Eleven lives were lost.



Above: Mark Ellard, descendant of the NT's first lighthouse keeper, Hugh Christie, with a gun from the wreck of the Peary

Rural Women's GP Service

More women living in rural and remote communities will have better access to a female GP following the expansion of the Rural Women's GP Service operated by the Royal Flying Doctor Service.

Last year, the Commonwealth Government committed a further \$8 million over four years to the Royal Flying Doctor Service to continue the Rural Women's GP Service. This expansion means a further 24 communities will receive regular visits from a female GP and brings the total number of communities across Australia to benefit from the service to more than 200.

This extra money means more women in rural and remote communities can discuss their health needs with a female doctor.

Communities in the NT eligible to receive the service in the latest expansion are Wadeye and Lajamanu.

An additional 15 communities will take part in a 12-month trial to consider improvements to service delivery including Timber Creek and Yarralin in the Northern Territory.

Over the past four years, the Rural Women's GP Service has provided more than 32,000 consultations to rural and remote communities.

The success of this service depends on local cooperation and it is pleasing to see community organisations, local government and health providers in regional and remote areas working together for the benefit of their town.

Boost for NT Indigenous Landcare

Indigenous groups in the Top End will receive \$143,000 from the Australian Government to help boost their contribution to the sustainable management of the Territory's natural resources, Agriculture Minister Warren Truss announced in June.

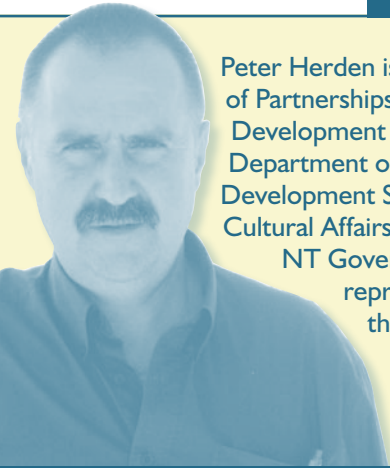
The project, to be managed by Greening Australia, will pass on land care skills to remote Indigenous communities through on-site workshops and demonstration works, enabling them to improve the productivity of their land.

Individual projects will involve rehabilitation and revegetation activities and encourage the use of sustainable and regionally specific management practices.

Projects will also help identify commercial uses for native plants, such as bush tucker and bush medicine and involve the establishment of a farm forestry program.

Profiles

Peter Herden Director of Partnerships and Regional Development



Peter Herden is the Director of Partnerships and Regional Development with the Department of Community Development Sport and Cultural Affairs and is the NT Government's representative on the NTACC.

Peter has worked in a range

of Government Departments in the Territory since 1972 and has also lived in Alice Springs, Katherine, Batchelor, Nhulunbuy and Darwin during that time. He still supports a strong regional network through his work and other major interests of the Army Reserve, the Variety Club and sailing.

Peter believes the NTACC offers many opportunities for closer cooperation between the

Commonwealth, Territory, local governments and community organisations to achieve significantly improved regional development outcomes.

The recently established Regional Development Boards are also an example of the cooperative approach now being taken, with a number of Board members also holding appointments with the NTACC.

Kent Peak Deputy General Manager

Kent Peak has been the Deputy General Manager of Julalikari Council Aboriginal Corporation in Tennant Creek since August 1993.

Prior to this he spent most of the previous 9 years working in development programs including positions in the Cook Islands,

Bangladesh and Poland. Kent is originally from Canberra and had been a public servant for many years.

This is his second stint with the NTACC. Kent was recalled in January this year after having previously been a member for six years.



Barbara Spencer Administration Officer



Barbara Spencer has been NTACC's Admin Officer since 1997. As manager of a fine art gallery in Sydney, she came to Darwin in 1966 and has never left. She regards it as a great privilege to have worked until 1996 as co-Executive Officer, with Lance Bennett, of The Aboriginal Cultural

Foundation, where her bosses were the traditional ceremony leaders of tribal Australia, from the Kimberley to Cape York, and from throughout the Territory.

As well as ongoing, year-round support for traditional ceremony, ACF highlights included an acclaimed series of high-profile overseas tours to the USA, Europe, the Pacific and Africa with large companies of dancers; and eighteen annual inter-

tribal festivals of dance, song and the related arts, in which more than 1000 performers would come together from throughout tribal Australia for a memorable week of intensive performances.

Barb particularly enjoys supporting NTACC's role of seeking to foster sustainable development in the Territory's remote and rural communities.

Our People

Members

Ken Cohalan,
Chairperson
Mike Newton,
Deputy Chairperson
Tracey Brand,
Secretary
Norm Buchan,
Treasurer

Julie Newton
David Suter
Craig Catchlove
Mathew Fagan
Peter Herden
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.