



Aboriginal Way

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A publication of South Australian Native Title Services

Merry Christmas



The spirit of Christmas is alive and well in South Australia, none more so than at Kura Yerlo Children's Centre at Largs Bay.

Students from Kura Yerlo Children's Centre at Largs Bay are looking forward to Christmas holidays. *Aboriginal Way* visited the centre soon after the children had decorated their Christmas tree. Many thanks to the centre and children for sharing their Christmas spirit with us. The centre offers friendly, professional childcare for children from six months to five years. They can be contacted on 8449 7367. More on back page.

Court to decide fate of Lake Torrens sacred sites

An Adelaide court will decide the fate of the sacred sites at Lake Torrens and Andamooka Island.

The case was taken to court by the explorer Straits Exploration (Australia) Pty Ltd.

The move followed a decision by the Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation Minister Grace Portolesi, to authorise damage, disturbance or interference

with any aboriginal sites, objects or remains located within the vicinity of Lake Torrens and Andamooka Island.

The case seeks authorisation from the Environment, Resources and Development Court for Straits Exploration (Australia) Pty Ltd to commence a drill program on Lake Torrens and Andamooka Island.

Native title claim group Kokatha Uwankara is heavily defending the court action.

The case is part heard, with six people called by claim group members having given evidence against the proposed drilling.

Much of the evidence has been heard in closed court, as it involved gender restricted and highly sacred men's stories and information.

If the case is successfully defended, it will be the first time ever that the

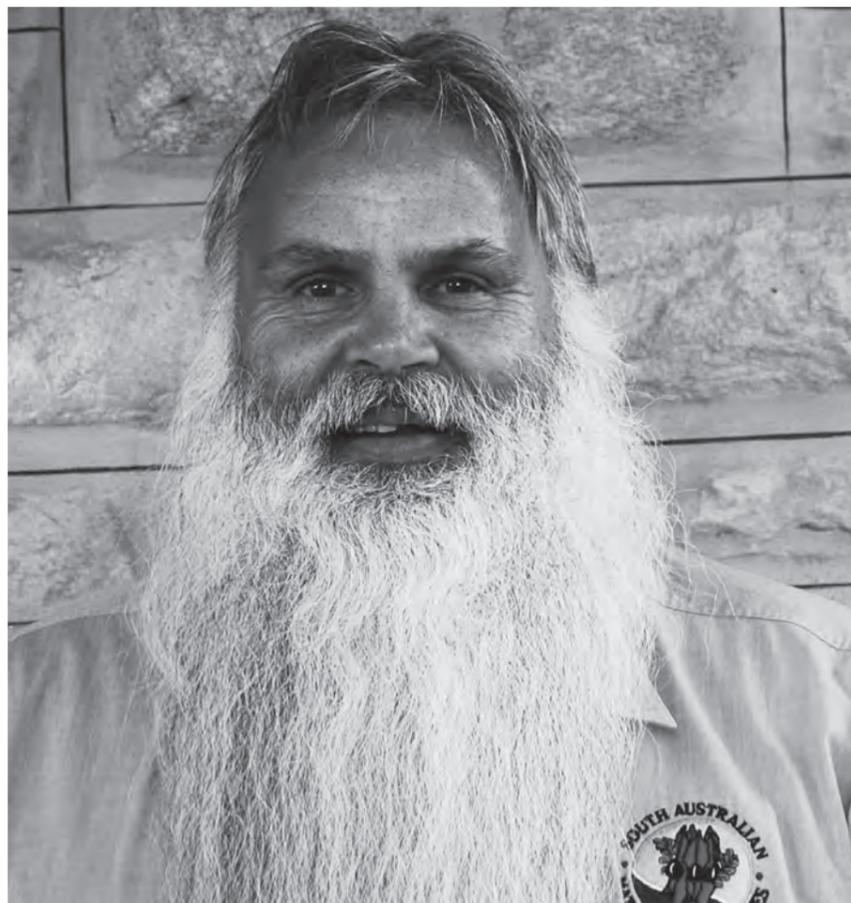
ERD Court or National Native Title Tribunal has said no to mineral exploration on native title land.

The case, if lost, may set a worrying precedent for mining companies who wish to drill on sacred sites, particularly large iconic salt lakes which are National Parks, such as Lake Gairdner and Lake Eyre.

The case continues in early 2011.

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Parry's view



Above: SANTS CEO, Mr Parry Agius.

It has been a very productive and fulfilling year for native title. In this, our second year of operation, we have continued to consolidate the company as a native title service provider with a continued focus on good governance, good management and the delivery of professional native title services.

Our board held its Annual Meeting in November and elected a new chair, Lucy Evans. I look forward to working with Lucy and the board during their term in office. Lucy replaces Tauto Sansbury who was our inaugural chairperson. His experience and expertise is not lost, as he remains on the board.

When SANTS first came about, we developed a mission statement which says:

Provide to the Aboriginal community leadership and their decision-making processes, expert services to solve complex legal and social issues and build the socio-economic capacity of the Aboriginal Community.

I believe we fulfil our mission, our staff work long hours and are dedicated and committed to South Australia's Aboriginal peoples. I thank them for their work and commitment and say to them that the work we do really is making a difference to peoples' lives.

Providing jobs, looking after country, changing other peoples' perception of native title, reminding people that traditional owners do have legitimate and lawful rights and interests and asserting those rights – this is the work we do. It is important and valuable to Aboriginal people.

With the vision, drive and determination expressed in practical application of native title, the South Australian Aboriginal community is growing at a tremendous rate. This action is setting the pace and creating positive examples of success, from creating and owning businesses, to employment to traineeships, to people at universities on scholarships.

Today, not everything is doom and gloom. What we have is Aboriginal people building their nations and building their assets through wealth creation.

Constitutional recognition

Change is good. It makes people step out of their comfort zones and think about their future direction. Constitutional recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples is long overdue.

The Prime Minister says Constitutional recognition is an important step towards building a nation based on strong relationships and mutual respect.

A referendum about the issue will hopefully see some change; positive change that recognises the rightful place Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have in this great country of ours.

Seasons greetings

Thankyou to the wonderful students and staff from Kura Yerlo for allowing us to be a part of their Christmas activities.

On behalf of the board and staff of South Australian Native Title Services I wish you and your families a happy and safe Christmas and New Year and we look forward to being of further service to you in 2011.

South Australian native title claims update

Adnyamathanha

Flinders Ranges
Part settled through approved determination (March 2009)
Balance of claim in mediation: Federal Court/National Native Title Tribunal.

Antakirinja Matu-Yankunytjatjara

Coober Pedy area
In mediation: Federal Court/
National Native Title Tribunal.

Arabunna

Central SA including Lake Eyre
In mediation: Federal Court/
National Native Title Tribunal.

Barnjarla

Eyre Peninsula
In mediation: Federal Court.

Dieri

Central SA east of Lake Eyre
In mediation: Federal Court.

Dieri 2

Eastern SA north of Lake Frome
In mediation: National Native
Title Tribunal.

Eringa

Far north SA including portion
Witjira National Park
Area over Witjira National Park
settled through approved
determination (September 2008)
In mediation: Federal Court/
National Native Title Tribunal.

Eringa 2

Far north SA including portion
Witjira National Park
Area over Witjira National Park
settled through approved
determination (September 2008)
In mediation: Federal Court/
National Native Title Tribunal.

Eringa 3

Far north SA
Not in mediation.

Far West Coast

Far West Coast SA
In mediation: Federal Court.

First Peoples of the River Murray & Mallee Region

Riverland and Murray Mallee Region
In mediation: Federal Court.

Gawler Ranges

North of Eyre Peninsula
In mediation: National Native
Title Tribunal.

Kaurna

Fleurieu Peninsula north to
Port Broughton. In mediation:
National Native Title Tribunal.

Kokatha Uwankara

Lake Torrens Region. Not in mediation.

Nauo

Eyre Peninsula. Not in mediation.

Ngadjuri

Southern Flinders Ranges in
Mid North SA. In mediation:
National Native Title Tribunal.

Ngarrindjeri

River Murray, Lakes and
Coorong Region. In mediation:
National Native Title Tribunal.

Nukunu

Spencer Gulf Region
In mediation: Federal Court.

Ramindjeri

Southern Fleurieu Peninsula
and Kangaroo Island
In mediation: National Native
Title Tribunal.

Wangkangurru/Yarluyandi

Simpson Desert Region and
extending into QLD
In mediation: Federal Court/
National Native Title Tribunal.

Wirangu 2

Eyre Peninsula and West Coast
In mediation: National Native
Title Tribunal.

Yandruwandha/Yawarrawarrka

Innamincka area. Not in mediation.

This information was accurate at December 2, 2010. Information provided by the National Native Title Tribunal – visit www.nntt.gov.au for more about native title. For information on claim activity (other than mediation) contact South Australian Native Title Services.

First Indigenous political party

A new political party, the First National Political Party, has applied for registration with the Australian Electoral Commission.

If successful it will be the first Indigenous political party representing Indigenous people.

The party has been established by former Labor party member and Indigenous rights campaigner, Maurie Ryan.

Objections to the party need to be lodged by January 4. The AEC is expected to officially register the party sometime in early 2011.

The Right to Negotiate

The right to negotiate is a procedure under the *Native Title Act 1993* that is followed to make sure that some of the things that can affect native title (called future acts) can be validly done.

The types of future act the process applies to are the grant of exploration licences, mining leases and some compulsory acquisitions.

These future acts require negotiations between native title parties, the government and the proponent.

Grants of other mining tenements, may not attract the right to negotiate.

The right to negotiate is not a right to stop or veto projects from going ahead but it does give native title parties a right to have a say about the project.

The right to negotiate applies to certain future acts if either the area they relate to is covered, wholly or partly, by a registered native title claimant application (one that has satisfied all the conditions of the registration test), or if the Federal Court has determined that native title exists in the area concerned and there is

a registered native title body corporate for that area.

The registered native title claimant or the registered native title body corporate is the native title party that has the right to negotiate.

If a claimant application does not satisfy all of the registration test conditions, the claim may continue in the Federal Court.

“The right to negotiate is not a right to stop or veto projects from going ahead.”

The claimant may also apply for reconsideration of the registration decision. While the application is not on the register, the claimants will not have procedural rights under the Act.

The right to negotiate does not apply to other types of future acts, such as the construction of public works or the management of water.

In these circumstances, claimants and native title holders may have other

procedural rights such as the right to be notified, to comment or to be consulted, to object and to be heard by an independent umpire.

The right to negotiate is triggered when a government issues a ‘section 29 notice’ that states the government intends to do a future act that is subject to that procedure. Notice is required by section 29 of the *Native Title Act 1993*, which sets out what must be done where native title will be affected by the future act.

The notice is given by placing an advertisement in major newspapers. It must also be given directly to any native title parties. If there is a native title representative body for the area, such as South Australian Native Title Services, it is also notified.

People who claim to hold native title in the area, but have not yet made a native title claimant application, have three months from the date given in the section 29 notice to file a claim if they want to have the right to negotiate about the proposed future act. To get that right, their claim must also be registered within four months of the date given in the notice.

If the right to negotiate applies, the government, the developer and the registered native title parties must negotiate ‘in good faith’ at least about the effect of the proposed development on the claimants’ registered native title rights and interests with a view to obtaining the agreement of the native title parties to the future act being done.

The parties can ask the National Native Title Tribunal to mediate during the negotiations. If agreement can't be reached, then one or more of the parties can ask the Tribunal (no soon than six months after the notification date) to decide whether or not the future act can go ahead, or on what conditions it can go ahead.

The Federal Attorney-General also offers assistance in developing standard form agreements. Guidelines for the provision of assistance in native title cases are available at www.ag.gov.au or by calling the Department on (02) 6250 6770.

Information supplied by the National Native Title Tribunal. More information is available online at www.nntt.gov.au or from SANTS.

Time for Constitutional Recognition

The Australian Government believes the time is right to consider amending the Australian Constitution to acknowledge the special place of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Constitutional recognition takes time and will involve a referendum either during the current term of the Gillard Government or at the next Federal election.

A referendum is a vote in which all the people are asked to accept or reject a question put to them.

Prime Minister Julia Gillard said that constitutional recognition is an important step towards building a nation based on strong relationships and mutual respect.

“Recognition will demonstrate that we are a country that is united in acknowledging the unique and special place of our first peoples,” said Ms Gillard.

“The national apology to Indigenous Australians, in particular the Stolen Generation, helped build a bridge of respect between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people. It helped generate the trust and respect needed for closing the gap.

“The recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in the Australian Constitution is the next step on that journey.

“The Government is pursuing an ambitious agenda to close the gap in Indigenous disadvantage, including undertaking major reform and delivering unprecedented investment in early education, health, jobs, housing and services, and infrastructure,” said the Prime Minister.

The Government is establishing an expert panel to help with the process

of recognition and the Prime Minister said it was important that Indigenous people were involved in the process and in building broader community support.

The expert panel will include Indigenous and community leaders, constitutional experts, and parliamentary members. It will lead a national discussion and broad consultation during 2011 to build consensus on the recognition question.

It will work closely with organisations with expertise and a history of engagement on this issues, including the Australian Human Rights Commission, the National Congress of Australia's First People's and Reconciliation Australia.

The panel, which will report to the Government in December 2011, will consider how best to progress constitutional recognition of Indigenous people, and provide possible options

on the nature of the amendment, which could be put to the people at a referendum.

Ms Gillard said the government did not under-estimate the challenge of achieving nation-wide consensus.

“There are diverse community views and only eight of 44 referendums since Federation have been successful,” she said.

To succeed, the referendum must attract the support of a majority vote nationally, and a majority of votes in a majority of states.

A wide range of politicians has expressed support for recognising Indigenous Australians in the Constitution.

People interested in nominating someone for the expert panel can do so by emailing constitutional.recognition@fahcsia.gov.au

Indigenous Cup winners



Above left: Kurna 1/87 defeated Port Augusta 10/86 in Adelaide in the Indigenous Cup played in Adelaide during November. Winner of the Vince Copley Medal was Jamie McCafferty pictured kneeling front left.



Above right: The SACA Under 20 squad played in the carnival. The squad includes: Marcus McGregor Cassady (Captain) (16), Ayden McGregor Baptista (13), Ethan Ericson (14), Dylan Fuller (16), Wayne Ericson (12), Dayne Hancock (16), Chris Schilling (15), Anthony Burgoyne (15), Luke Lavender (14), Jason Mamo (14).

Aboriginal Heritage News

To recognise the importance of Heritage and Native Title being considered together, the Aboriginal Heritage Branch (AHB) of the Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation Division (AARD) will have a small section in this newspaper to address what we are doing about important issues.

The State Aboriginal Heritage Committee (SAHC) and the AHB are working closely with the Congress Heritage Sub-Committee and the South Australia Native Title Services (SANTS).



Government
of South Australia

Aboriginal Heritage Branch

Got a Heritage question?

Want to be on our
distribution mailing list?

If you answered yes,
please contact us by
writing, emailing or
phoning via the contact
details listed below.

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From the Chairperson

Once again it is an honour to speak to the community about Aboriginal heritage and our activities during the last couple of months.

First let me start by paying my deep condolences on behalf of the State Aboriginal Heritage Committee (SAHC) to those families who have recently said goodbye to loved ones.

Our world is poorer for the absence of our friends and we vow to continue to fight to protect Aboriginal cultural heritage in South Australia on their behalf.

There has been some important work achieved by the staff of the Aboriginal Heritage Branch (AHB), Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation Division (AARD), Department of the Premier and Cabinet (DPC) in regards to registering a large number of sites within the Yorke Peninsula. This has pleased members of that community and AHB staff alike.

It is our hope to carry out this sort of work in many more areas over the years as it a useful way for AARD and Nungas to work closely together for the protection of our cultural heritage.

In the next six months communities across the State will have a further opportunity to comment on the Aboriginal Heritage Act 1988 as the final leg of the consultative process takes place in the early stages of 2011. At this stage it is likely that the meetings will take a different form with locations yet to be decided. More details will be given to the community closer to the final consultation dates. These consultations will again be carried out by AARD staff and the Joint Working Party, which is comprised of members of the Aboriginal Congress of South Australia and the SAHC.

Finally I pass on seasons greetings from the SAHC and look forward to speaking to you again in 2011.



Above: Syd Sparrow, Chairperson.

Syd Sparrow
Chairperson
State Aboriginal Heritage Committee

Database of Aboriginal Heritage Groups and Committees

The Aboriginal Heritage Branch maintains a database of Aboriginal heritage groups and committees for South Australia, this includes (where possible) the name, email, address and phone number of a representative/chairperson from each group. We often refer developers, mining companies and archaeology consultants to the relevant group by using this database, so it is vital that it is maintained and up to date.

The branch regularly receives requests to search the Register of Aboriginal heritage

sites and objects. People who are listed on the database as Aboriginal heritage group representatives are included as a contact on most correspondence we send to developers, mining companies and consultants.

Representatives and chairpersons from Aboriginal heritage groups might change or people might move away and so it is important that we, here in the city, keep our records up to date. If you are a representative of an Aboriginal heritage group in South Australia and think that you should be included on our database please feel free to contact the branch so

that we can update our system.

If you would like to discuss the database of Aboriginal Heritage Groups and be included as a representative of a particular Aboriginal heritage group we will need your name, phone number, email address and postal address.

You can contact the Aboriginal Heritage Branch on 8226 8900 or via email heritagesites.aard@dpc.sa.gov.au.

The postal address is GPO Box 2343, Adelaide SA 5001

Aboriginal Heritage Branch
DPC-AARD

This section sponsored by the State Government of South Australia

Spirit Festival

The third Spirit Festival will be held in Adelaide in February at a new venue.

The location for the Festival is Mullawirraburka (Rymill Park) and it will be held February 19–27. Expressions of interest from artists and volunteers are being called for. Tandanya is managing the event and is planning some program changes including one major concert on Saturday, February 19. A family fun day will be held on the Sunday, which will include traditional and contemporary dance and song performances throughout the day. Tandanya will present a range of visual arts exhibitions and performances throughout the week as part of the 2011 Spirit Festival.

For more information please contact Carmel Young (08) 8224 3232.

Protecting rock holes in the Gawler Ranges

The Gawler Ranges native title claim group will be the first native title claim group in South Australia to establish a comprehensive, spatial database system for storing and managing their cultural and ecological information.

The database came about during the development of a whole of country management plan for the Gawler Ranges native title claim group.

South Australian Native Title Services continues to develop and deliver a partnership project with the South Australian Arid Lands Natural Resources Management Board.

This project centres on the cultural and ecological assessment and protection of rock-holes in the Gawler Ranges.

In 2010 SANTS received funding from the SAAL NRM Board to undertake the project in partnership with the Board, the Department for Water (previously the Department of Water, Land and Biodiversity Conservation), local pastoralists and most importantly the Gawler Ranges native title claim group.

As with previous activities through this project, claimants returned to country through field work to visit these important places and share their knowledge with other experts and jointly assess rock-hole condition and identify management options.

Under the guidance of consultant Troy Maille (Cultural Systems Solutions),



Above: State Government Ecologist Mel White examining a water sample during the Gawler Ranges rock-hole field work, June 2010.

the claim group has held workshops to develop a database system to meet their needs and aspirations for cultural information storage and management.

The group has also worked with other stakeholders in the SAAL NRM Board and staff of the State Government (Aboriginal Heritage Branch) to ensure that their database compliments and is consistent with existing ecological and cultural databases.

This will allow for information to be transferred to and from the Gawler Ranges database and other information management systems such as those

managed by the Aboriginal Heritage Branch, SA Museum and State Records.

Importantly the database is designed to be user friendly and to be self managed by the claimants.

The project and the partnership are important to the protection of Aboriginal heritage and to the exercise of native title rights and interests.

In January 2010, SANTS also submitted a competitive application to the Commonwealth under the Caring for our Country program.

It is hoped that the rock-hole project will continue through 2011 as a result.



Above: Peter De Rose on De Rose Hill Station.

Employing Aboriginal Rangers in SA National Parks

In July 2009, SANTS was informed that we had been successful in obtaining funding for four years (-\$430,000 per year) under the Commonwealth's Working on Country Program run through DEWHA.

This program provides funding specifically for the employment of Aboriginal rangers to work on Aboriginal owned or held lands and other tenures such as National Parks.

SANTS, in collaboration with the Gawler Ranges native title claim group, applied

for WoC funds to employ claim group members as National Park staff within the Gawler Ranges claim area.

The application required the development of an innovative partnership with the then Department of Environment and Heritage (now Department of Environment and Natural Resources or DENR) to negotiate mechanisms for claimants to work as DENR employees using DEWHA funds.

SANTS secured WoC funding to employ three Aboriginal Rangers as DENR employees to work in the Gawler

Ranges National Park and a Project Coordinator in SANTS.

A steering committee comprised of Gawler Ranges native title claim group, SANTS, DENR and the Commonwealth was established to oversee the project and formalise the partnership.

The three Rangers and the Project Coordinator had commenced by March 2010 to finalise the establishment of the project. The three Rangers are all based at Wudinna, working out of the Gawler Ranges National Park and servicing the

other Parks within the Gawler Ranges claim area.

The Project Coordinator is based in Adelaide with SANTS and collaborates with DENR in liaising with the Rangers and overseeing their environmental and cultural responsibilities and works program.

The roles of the Rangers include the management of environmental values in the Park, visitor and visitor facility management, the recording of Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK), and the identification, assessment and protection of culturally significant areas.

In their first year, the Rangers have also undertaken various training in Park management and other activities to meet Government and legislative requirements.

This project is making an important contribution to the exercising and protection of native title rights and interests and the protection of country.

Employment is also a strong aspiration for many native title claim groups and this project is providing such an opportunity. It is hoped that SANTS in conjunction with native title claim groups and DENR can expand on this project and develop similar opportunities elsewhere in the State.



Above: National Park Senior Ranger Ken Smith employed under the Working on Country project in the Gawler Ranges with Commonwealth Government representative, Rob Walter, at Lake Gairdner.

Christmas period contact numbers

Christmas is not always a happy time for everyone. For those people feeling isolated or in need of some company or assistance the following services may help you.

Crisis Care	13 1611
Lifeline	13 1114
Child Abuse Report Line	13 1478
Domestic Violence Helpline	1800 800 098
Kids Help Line	1800 551 800
Mental Health Assessment and Crisis Intervention Service	13 1456
Veterans & Veterans Families Counselling Service	1800 011 046

Christmas meals

The following organisations will be open on Christmas Day 2010, offering a Christmas meal:

Byron Place Community Centre

Open on Christmas Day 8am – 11.30am for homeless or disadvantaged people – Christmas brunch provided from 10am

61–67 Byron Place, Adelaide SA 5000
Tel. 8217 9600

Gawler Community House

Christmas lunch provided from 12 noon – 2.30pm

Gawler Elderly Centre, 37 Fourteenth Street, Gawler South
Tel. 8522 4601

Hutt Street Centre

Open on Christmas Day from 9am – 1pm.
Christmas lunch provided from 11am

258 Hutt Street, Adelaide 5000
Tel. 8418 2500

Maughan Church

Christmas Day tea at 5.30pm for people who would otherwise be alone

Way Hall, 10 Pitt Street, Adelaide 5000
Tel. 8202 5832

St Lukes Whitmore Square

Open for usual services until Friday 24 December 2010.
Providing lunch on Christmas Day from 11.30am – all welcome

35 Whitmore Square, Adelaide 5000
Tel. 8231 4149

Westcare

Providing a Christmas meal from 12 noon for people who are disadvantaged or isolated

216 Wright Street, Adelaide 5000
Tel. 8231 2850

Funding boost for better quality food for APY Lands

Food production, preparation, nutrition and education will be the focus of a new strategy aimed at improving the quality of food available on the APY Lands.

The Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation, Grace Portolesi has announced the *Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara (APY) Lands Food Security Strategic Plan 2011–2016*.

The strategy will bring together a variety of government and non government programs and will provide a further \$820,000 over two years for new initiatives.

The Minister witnessed first hand how expensive food was and it's poor quality during a visit to the APY Lands in May 2010 and vowed to address the problem.

"During my first visit to the Lands I was struck by the price and poor quality of the fresh food available and I made a commitment to work with the local people, government and non government agencies to improve this situation," Ms Portolesi said.

"While we have made significant gains in closing the gap in some areas, the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal people living on the APY Lands can be vastly improved by increasing the availability and consumption of healthy foods.

"Access to good quality, affordable, nutritious food is fundamental for overall health and wellbeing and the APY Food Security Strategic Plan will help us deliver better options on the Lands."

The strategy includes three new initiatives that focus on food production, food preparation skills, nutrition and education and these will build on the programs already run on the Lands.

"The new initiatives will be undertaken in partnership with Aboriginal people, government agencies and the non-government sector and align with the priorities set out through the COAG national partnership with the Commonwealth Government."

The new initiatives are:

Cooking and Eating Together: a community education program focusing on healthy eating and nutrition. It is an intensive community-based nutrition program that will be conducted in various locations across the Lands.

It will provide the opportunity for community members to sign up to regular sessions and learn more about healthy eating and food preparation.

This initiative will focus on helping support people to create healthy meals for their families

The Arid Lands Garden/Horticulture Project: will establish raised garden beds utilising arid- gardens horticultural techniques at Watarru and Sandy Bore.

As part of this food production trial, run by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, a quandong plantation will be established inside the fenced effluent ponds at Pipalyatjara.

The Come and Cook with Your Kids – School Holiday Program: will target school aged children and involve their families. The program will provide nutritional education, food preparation skills and involve the daily preparation of meals that are then consumed.

Children will also experience growing a fresh food they can then eat or take home.

The Australian Red Cross will be one of the key organisations involved in running two of the new initiatives.

These Food Security initiatives are complimentary to the existing nine breakfast programs throughout the APY Lands that Red Cross supports.

"To ensure whole-of-government coordination and action on the strategy, an APY Food Security Executive Action Team (APY-EAT) will be established.

"This team will also involve the Commonwealth Government and be responsible and accountable for progress in the implementation of the Plan.

It will also pursue new initiatives and evaluate the outcomes of these new programs.

"The strategy also brings together the current South Australian Government investment in programs that improve food security, nutrition and related health outcomes on the APY Lands.

"Effective food security and improvements in nutrition on the APY Lands requires effort across policy, governance and service delivery and this strategy tackles food security on all three levels."

AGM elects new SANTS board

The new chairperson of the board of South Australian Native Title Services is Lucy Evans.

Ms Evans was elected chairperson at the SANTS Annual General Meeting held on 29 November. Ms Evans, a Narungga woman, from Terowie was previously a board director. She replaces Tauto

Sansbury, who was the inaugural SANTS chairperson. Mr Sansbury remains on the board as a director. Allan Hunter has been elected as Deputy Chair. The other directors are Ian Proctor, Andrea Nicholls, Paul Case (Treasurer) and newly appointed Jacqui Nelson (Secretary). Ms Nelson replaced Darcy O'Shea. The board meets bi-monthly.

Congress Nominations re-open

The National Congress of Australia's First Peoples has opened nominations to elect for the first time its Co-Chairs who will lead the organisation over the next two years.

Nominations have opened for Congress members to nominate as Co-Chair and as one of the 120 delegates to the first national forum in Sydney in June 2011.

The current Co-Chairs Kerry Arabena and Sam Jeffries encouraged the community to become members and nominate.

"It has been a great honour for the current Directors to help establish the Congress," said Dr Arabena.

"The success of the Congress and the calibre of our delegates and Board can only be as good as our membership.

"To have a direct say and the chance to stand for election, you must be a member of the Congress.

"Our membership is always open but if you want to stand as one of the Co-Chairs or be a delegate you must apply for membership and nominate **before February 11th 2011.**

"Membership is still free, so sign up today," said Dr Arabena.

Mr Jeffries said he was proud of the enormous amount of work that had been achieved to bring the Congress to this point.

"We already have a very healthy and strong membership base which will deliver a good cross section of candidates.

"When you combine our individual members and organisations, we will already represent thousands of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

"The work of the first Congress meeting is one of the most important priorities for the Congress.

"The delegates and the newly elected National Board of Directors will chart a course and set our agenda for the next two years.

"We know there are many accomplished and emerging leaders in our communities, it is now time to stand for election and build on the good work already underway," said Mr Jeffries.

Information packs are available from the website www.nationalcongress.com.au

First National Congress meeting: June 2011

Dear Members

Applications are now open for Delegates to the first annual meeting of the **National Congress of Australia's First Peoples Ltd (National Congress).**

Applications are also open to stand for election as one of the two Co-Chairs (one male & one female).

The first full meeting of the National Congress will take place in **Sydney, NSW, from 07 to 09 June 2011.**

Information and forms can be downloaded from our website www.nationalcongress.com.au

By being a delegate to the National Congress, you will have the opportunity to participate in the development of a national policy agenda for Indigenous issues and be part of a new and exciting organisation that will advocate on behalf of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples across the country.

After nominating, a vetting process will take place that includes a National Police Check and a fitness to hold office test by the Ethics Council.

All successful Delegates will be advised of their participation in April next year.

There are different info packs for each of the positions open for nomination: **Chambers 1 & 2 (Organisations), Chamber 3 (Individuals)** and one for standing for Co-Chair.

Inside the packs you will find:

- A nomination form
- Membership forms
- A National Police Check Application form (the Congress pays the fee and submits the form)
- A Declaration of fitness to hold office form
- A Policy document outlining the roles and responsibilities for each of the positions

You need to complete and submit all forms by close of business on **11th February 2011. No late or incomplete applications will be accepted.**

You also need two referees to endorse your nomination.

If you have any questions please email: nominations@nationalcongress.com.au

Good luck with your nomination.



Above: Dr Kerry Arabena, Dr Lowitja O'Donoghue and Sam Saffries at the Adelaide information meeting of the National Congress of Australia's First Peoples.

Aboriginal Lands Trust review

A consultation paper on the review of the Aboriginal Lands Trust Act 1966 has been released by the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation Grace Portolesi.

The review of the act is already underway and the consultation paper brings together the initial round of public consultation and sets out the vision for a modern and reinvigorated Aboriginal Lands Trust.

"The review of the Aboriginal Lands Trust Act is an important step towards a stronger, independent, effective Aboriginal Lands Trust," Ms Portolesi said.

"It is important for all voices to be heard in every step of this review process and the release of this

consultation paper is part of our commitment to ensuring this occurs.

"There will be a variety of public meetings in regional and metropolitan communities and I encourage all interested people to make submissions or attend the consultation meetings."

The review was implemented to ensure the Aboriginal Lands Trust reflects the aspirations of Aboriginal people around self-determination and independence.

"This review will allow the Aboriginal Lands Trust to move towards a more strategic role in assisting Aboriginal people to manage lands and strengthen its governance structures," Ms Portolesi said.

The public consultation period ends on January 31, 2011.

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The Editor has the final decision on all stories and advertising that appear in this publication.

Desert Country: Aboriginal artists in major exhibition

A major exhibition at the Art Gallery of South Australia is showcasing the diversity of desert art and charting the evolution of Australia's most influential art movement.

Desert Country is running at the Art Gallery until January 26 before it will go on tour through regional Victoria, New South Wales, Queensland and Western Australia.

All the works on display in *Desert Country* are drawn entirely from the extensive holdings of Aboriginal art from the Art Gallery.

100 paintings are on display, from the watercolours of Albert Namatjira to the ground-breaking canvases of the Papunya Tula artists, and the latest stunning works to emerge from the APY Lands.

The *Desert Country* exhibition continues the Art Gallery's pioneering tradition in the area of Indigenous art.

The Gallery was the first cultural institution to purchase a work by an Indigenous artists (Albert Namatjira in 1939) and in 1981, became the first to start collecting western desert 'dot' painting.

Art Gallery Director, Nick Mitzevich says, "without a doubt, desert painting is Australia's single most significant contribution to the art world and it deserves to be celebrated."

"I am very proud that the Art Gallery of South Australia is continuing to lead the way in the promotion of Aboriginal art, by being the first to document the rise of the desert art movement," he said.

The curator of the exhibition, Nici Cumpston, hopes that beyond its artistic goals, the exhibition will also be a step forward to improved race relations with the wider Australian community.

"*Desert Country* allows us into an ancient existence and to witness history through the contemporary art of the oldest living culture in the world. Taking the time to learn the stories behind the paintings is one of the ways that enables us all to understand this culture and to enhance our respect for it," she said.

Pictured: below:
Tjungkara KEN
Australia, 1969
Pitjantjatjara people, South Australia
Ngayuku ngura - My country
2010, Amata, South Australia
synthetic polymer paint on linen
152.5 x 101.5 cm
d'Auvergne Boxall Bequest Fund 2010
Art Gallery of South Australia, Adelaide
© Tjungkara Ken, Courtesy of Tjala Arts



Above: Staff and children from the Kura Yerlo Children's Centre.