

BARKLY ABORIGINAL ALLIANCE COMMUNIQUE



New Aboriginal Alliance Members Welcomed

The membership drive to gain new members into the Alliance and have wider representation of the 11 Language groups has been gaining momentum, with recent community visits to Elliott to meet with the *Kulumindini Aboriginal Corporation* Manager Kim Pastrokos and Board members, Ali Curung and Mungkarta who also had members sign up. At Canteen Creek we met with *Owairtilla Aboriginal Corporation* CEO, Matt Davidson and Board members who will decide on community reps at their next Board meeting. New members were invited to join the monthly Alliance meeting, with existing members, in Tennant Creek to talk about issues going on in their communities and homelands. Guest speakers from the University of Queensland, 'Project Starfish', NTIBN (Northern Territory Indigenous Business Network) and Literacy For Life Foundation were invited to talk about how their work could involve the remote Barkly regions.



The Barkly Aboriginal Alliance represents 11 Aboriginal language groups across the Barkly, and as a member of the Governance Table, has a core role in representing Aboriginal communities as the Deal is implemented and beyond the Deal itself.

The Opening of The Barkly Business Hub

The Barkly Business Hub (The Hub) opened it's doors as part of October Business Month in Tennant Creek, which members of the Alliance were invited to be a part of. The Aboriginal Alliance Coordinator, Cyril Franey and Alliance Interim Chair, Mervyn Franey joined the *Senator Hon Anthony Chisholm*, *Councillor Sharen Lake* and local business owner Darrin Whatley to talk about the Barkly Economic Growth Strategy and Regional Workforce Strategy and how they related to the remote communities and homelands. They spoke about the how the Alliance promoted, supported and encouraged communities to gain economic stability through local business ventures which could lead to sustainable long term employment, training opportunities, empowering youth to want to live and work in their own homelands and keep Barkly economy in the Barkly.



Alliance Meets With Minsters

The Alliance took advantage of the recent visit to the Barkly from *Senator Hon Anthony Chisholm*, (Australian Government Assistant Minister for Regional Development and Assistant Minister for Education) and *Minister Selina Uibo*, (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Minister for Treaty and Local Decision Making) by inviting them to meet. They had the opportunity to discuss the ongoing concerns of remote communities and homelands regarding housing shortages, ongoing maintenance and upgrades, quality of delivery from service providers, further ongoing funding of the Alliance and ongoing support from the Government. Minister Uibo suggested the Alliance accompany her to site visits in the Big Rivers and East Arnhem regions to meet with local Aboriginal Corporations to gain an on ground understanding about Local Decision Making agreements and other important functions that may benefit the Alliance. This will hopefully take place in the not too distant future.



Local Community Projects Fund Recipients

Three successful community applicants were lucky enough to receive grants through the Local Community Projects Fund. Alliance members had the honour of being handed the certificates from *Senator the Hon Anthony Chisholm*, *Minister Hon Selina Uibo* and *Councillor Sharen Lake* on behalf of Arlpwe Aboriginal Corporation, Owairtilla Aboriginal Corporation and North Barkly Aboriginal Corporation. Each Corporation received funds that will go towards a community 24-seater coaster bus in Ali Curung, a new Skid Steer Loader and Excavator for Canteen Creek and Community Strategic Planning for Burudu, Corella Creek, Likkaparta and Blue Bush.

Deep Collaboration pt 2

Alliance members joined a host of others, including Government partners, Aboriginal leaders, local business and service providers in a second round of Deep Collaboration, with Mark Yettica Paulson and Regina Hill (Collaboration For Impact) with the aim to continue building working relationships, trust, information sharing and truth telling. Another focus point was workshoping ideas around how things might look beyond the Barkly Regional Deal for the Alliance and stakeholders involved in the work around the 28 initiatives of the Deal.

