

No.1.
MAY
1981

BUNJI



Many Tribes — One People

BOX 3743
DARWIN NT



Skeleton found at casino worksites

INSIDE —
TOWN CAMP
LAND CLAIM.

KOONGARA
URANIUM.

KALALAK
CREEK
IN DANGER.

NEMARLUK.

MAKARRATA.

ABORIGINAL
EDUCATION.

LETTERS.

A SKELETON was unearthed this week by workmen digging at the Mindil Beach Casino site.

The skeleton was dug up late on Wednesday

Police believe the skeleton to be the remains of a number of people apparently buried in the Mindil Beach area about the turn of the century.

Casuarina Hospital pathologist, Dr Anthony Jones, left, and Constable John Horswell of the police forensic section are pictured examining the skeleton.

ELEVEN ABORIGINAL SKELETONS HAVE BEEN DUG FROM THE GROUND UNDER THE NEW CASINO AT MINDIL BEACH. MANY MORE ARE UNDER THE GROUND NEARBY.

THE CASINO IS ON TOP OF A BURIAL GROUND. NOT FAR AWAY; YOLNU PEOPLE WANT SOME LAND. "NO" SAYS THE CITY COUNCIL. more next page.....



LOW-DOWN CAMP MAKES LAND CLAIM.

For the Yolnu, there is no place to camp when they come to town.
Darwin is built on Aboriginal land. The Balanda has become rich from stolen lands.
But the city Council says there is no place for the tribes when they come to town.

MINDIL BEACH YESTERDAY AND TODAY

In the photo on the next page you can see an Aboriginal Camp on Mindil Beach eighty years ago, in 1905. Today a big casino is going up at Mindil Beach. The City Council gave good public land to the Casino owners, but nothing for yolnu.

There is one law for the rich - they will get land easy. There is another law for Yolnu- they must fight for land rights.

LAND CLAIM NEAR MINDIL BEACH

Near Mindil beach is the "LOW DOWN CAMP". This is for people from NE Athem Land.
On March 16th the Low Down campers put in pegs for the boundary to their block.
Now they are asking for the title, so they can make improvements and get water on.
They have written letters and now they are waiting.



AKWESASNE NOTES

Mohawk Nation
Rooseveltown, New York 13683

Friends:

The staff of AKWESASNE NOTES and the People of the Mohawk Nation send you their greetings.

The NOTES is a unique newspaper, attempting as it does to represent the needs and aspirations of traditional Native Peoples all over the world. Our current issue includes detailed articles on: the land rights of Australian Aboriginal Peoples; sovereign education efforts in Native communities; Traditional Values in Childbearing; Our Strategy For Survival, excerpts from an interview with Mike Myers, the story of the Mohawk Nation's continuing struggle; plus updates on Central and South American Native struggles and much more.

As usual, this issue of NOTES represents a perspective on the questions of survival and on the meaning of existence not generally found in the Western media. It represents, too, the heartfelt attempt to offer our work to Peoples in struggle everywhere, to link up and to grow as a united voice, and thus begin to fulfill our obligation of ensuring a healthy and clear existence to our future generations.

We encourage you to stay with us.

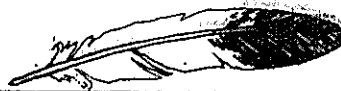
Our new rates are: Regular subscription - \$6.00 per year; NOTES EXPRESS subscription \$12.00 per year.

We hope this letter finds you and your family in good health and your thoughts strong.

Sincerely,

Ismaelillo

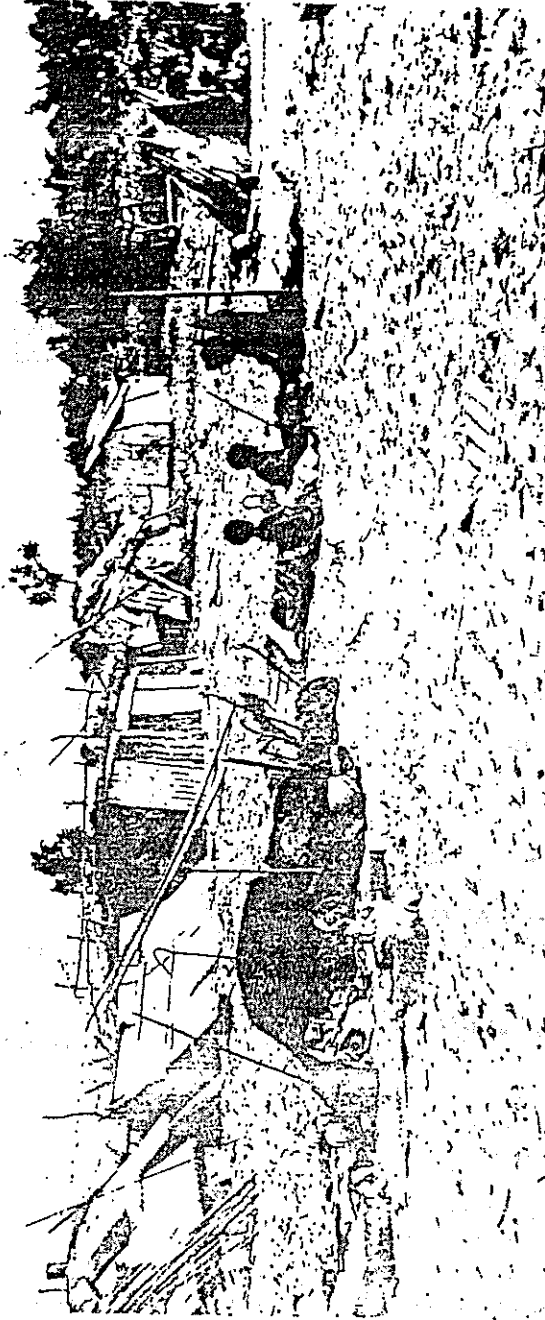
For AKWESASNE NOTES People



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Readers are welcome to photocopy or reprint any part of BUNJI. After you have read it, pass it on.

THE CAMP ON MINDIL BEACH EIGHTY YEARS AGO.



Woolna Camp at Mindil Beach
about 1904 (from Greenwood/
Gillstrom Collection, National
Library of Australia)

NLC TALKS MORE URANIUM

It looks like the Northern Land Council wants to start another uranium mine. The NLC must be thinking that dollars are more important than human lives. This telegram (below) was not printed in the Land Rights News.....

KOONGARRA NEGOTIATIONS STRIKE A SNAG

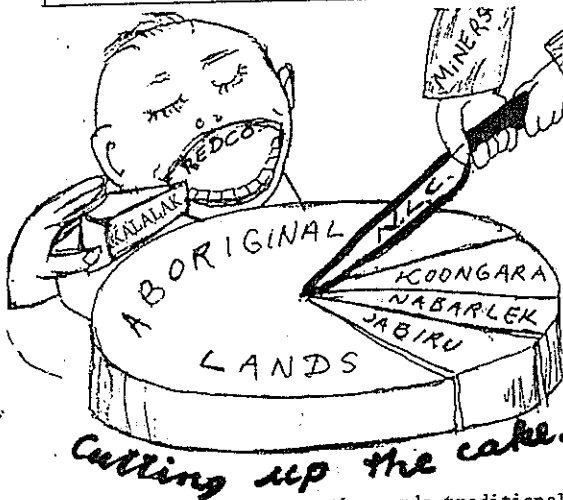
On the 23rd Jan it was reported in the press that initial approval had been given by traditional owners for the Northern Lands Council to start negotiations with Denison Mines over the Koongarra uranium deposit. There are five designated traditional owners at least two of them are not happy with the NLC's handling of negotiations.

In a telegramme to the NLC, Violet McGregor and Jessie Alderson stated :

"Please be advised that we will now not attend further meetings. Extremely dissatisfied with NLC's conduct of Koongarra meeting and subsequent press release implying Murrumburra totally support Koongarra mine.

"We consider opening of mine in this area of park (Kakadu) irresponsible. Consider pursuit of further land claims pointless if our land use of proposals over ridden in this matter.

"Request apology through media Australia wide for misrepresentation of our views and ridiculous claims of two years' prior consultation on Koongarra issue."



Cutting up the cake.

NOTE: BUNJI does not use the words traditional owners when talking about one area. The right words to use are, the people who look after that place. If those people do not look after the place, then they lose the right to speak. The only "traditional owners" of land are all the aboriginal people of Australia.

NEW VIDEO ABOUT KALALAK.

A video tape has been made about the land and people of Kalalak. The tape can be hired or bought from Shopfront Films, 26 Bage Street Diamond Creek, Victoria 3089.

BANNED BOOKS.

In the library are several little books called "A Social History of the NT", edited by Peter Read, published by the Curriculum Research Branch NT Education Dept. These books tell the true story of the NT. They should be used in schools.

HULLO READERS ! THIS IS OUR FIRST ISSUE FOR 1981! THAT IS A SPECIAL YEAR BECAUSE BUNJI BEGAN IN 1971. TEN YEARS AGO IN AUGUST. STILL BROKE. DONATIONS WELCOME. THE STRUGGLE CONTINUES.

KOONGARRA

Traditional Owners Meet

Dennison (Australia) Pty Ltd want to mine uranium at Koongarra which is in Stage 1 of the Kakadu National Park (already Aboriginal land.)

A meeting of Traditional Owners was held on January 21 to discuss the matter and about 135 people attended.

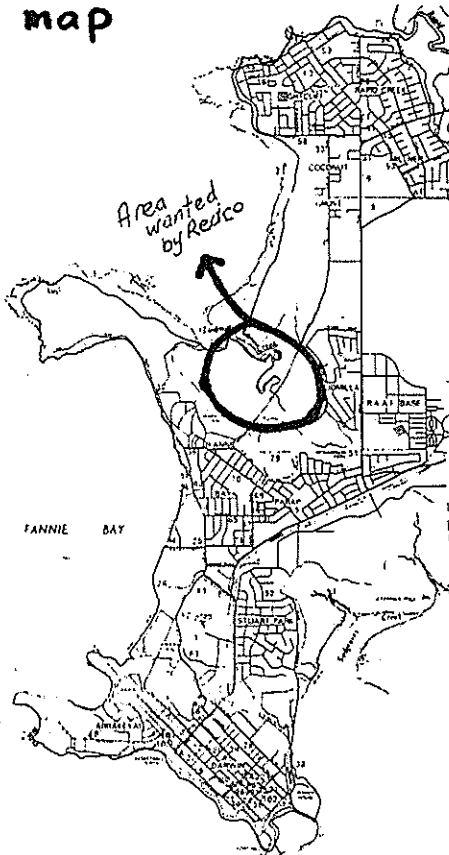
Approval was given to the NLC to commence negotiations with Dennison and to report back to the T.O.'s at the beginning of May.

The NLC has instructed the Bureau to begin the talks.

Kalalak is Aboriginal land in the city of Darwin. The land was returned after a long fight for land rights for the Larrakia tribe of the Darwin area. The land is a special purpose lease for communal use by Aborigines. The Gwalwa Daraniki Association holds the lease title. Ever since the land was returned, the white people have been trying to take it back, bit by bit. The latest trouble is caused by a company called REDCO REAL ESTATE.

KALALAK CREEK IN DANGER.

map



The HEART of Kalalak is a big salt-water creek and mangrove swamp. The company called REDCO wants to smash down the mangroves and dig up the creek. They want to cut out the heart of Kalalak and kill the land. REDCO wants to make a lake with houses for rich people all around. They will call this kind of housing, "canal Housing estates".

If REDCO want to dig up the creek on Kalalak land, they will have a fight. All the black people of Australia and our friends overseas will stand up against REDCO Real Estate Company.

FISHING

The mangroves and creek are very important to us. Every day families are fishing and hunting in the creek and mangroves. The creek and mangroves are home for many creatures big and small.

LAND NOT FOR SALE

The Bagot people especially say, "Do not touch the creek."

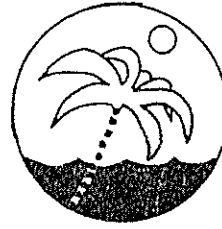
Mr Gamble, the manager of REDCO, says that some Kalalak people agreed to sell the creek.

Our land is not for sale. Mr Gamble is a con-man and a liar.

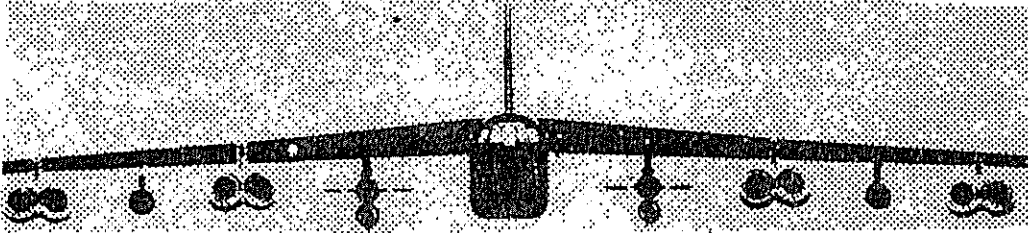
BUNJI READERS, PLEASE COMPLAIN TO REDCO. THEIR ADDRESS IS: KNUCKEY ST, DARWIN.

**KEEP WHITE INTERESTS
OUT OF BLACK LAND**

We are part of the Pacific



Uranium from the GREEN ANT DREAMING (Gabo Jang) is now spreading around the world. In 1978 this newspaper said, "like a boomerang, uranium will come back to us in rockets and bombs." This will start to come true in May 1981 when American B52 Atom Bomber planes start landing in Darwin. We become part of the NUCLEAR war zone.



PACIFIC ISLAND PEOPLE DONT WANT NUCLEAR

WE, the Aboriginal people of Australia, can help stop the spread of uranium and weapons made from this poisonous rock (nuclear weapons).

We can follow the lead of our brave cousins of the Pacific Ocean. The Pacific Island native people will declare their islands and seas to be nuclear free zones.

This means they will not allow uranium, uranium products or radioactive rubbish on their islands or seas.

ASK YOUR COUNCIL TO MAKE YOUR HOMELAND A NUCLEAR FREE ZONE.....

Sydney now nuclear-free

In October, the Sydney City Council took the significant step of declaring Sydney a nuclear-free city, thus joining the City of Wollongong and many other municipal councils throughout Australia.

Its decision included Sydney Harbour being a nuclear-free port, again joining with waterside workers and other maritime unions who have resolved that Port Kembla shall be a nuclear-free port.

"NEMARLUK - KING OF THE WILDS"

(a book by Ion Idriess, published by Angus and Robertson 1947) A TRUE STORY. Nemarluk and his people of the Port Keats area fought a clever war against the white and the Japanese, in 1933. After some people had been killed, the police searched the bush for six months to catch Nemarluk and his gang. The police were helped by a tracker called Bul Bul.

Nemarluk went to Fannie Bay but escaped after a few months. He ran back to his country but was caught again by Bul Bul.

Nemarluk died in jail in 1940.

ABORIGINAL FLAG

'The RED is for the land
The BLACK is for the people
The YELLOW is for the sun
or the life-giving force
that combines the people
and the land'

Flags can be ordered, at a cost of \$25.00, from The Foundation for Aboriginal and Islander Research Action Ltd.

P O. BOX 2025
BRISBANE, QLD. 4001

MAKARRATA

National Aboriginal Conference



A war started when the first settlers from England landed in this land in 1788. White settlers needed Black land. One hundred and ninety one years later, the National Aboriginal Conference is talking about a MAKARRATA. Makarrata is a yolnu word meaning "things are all OK again after a fight." (something like a peace treaty)

What DO YOU THINK ?

The NAC wants to know what you think. Can they talk to the government about a makarrata ? How can the Government make "things OK" ? Can we trust people like Charlie Court, Paul Everingham or Joh Bjeike Ptersen ?

BE CAREFUL

The Central Land Council says the NAC must be careful. The NAC cannot say it speaks for all people yet.

GETTING STRONGER

Tasmania says it is not a good time to sign a treaty. Each month sees the tribes getting stronger, with more understanding. We are making more and more friends overseas. Let us keep going. This is probably why the government is willing to talk about a treaty with us at this time. They are afraid

PLEA TO GOVT FOR TREATIES

Aboriginals camping at Kulaluk, behind the Nightcliff drive-in, have called on the Government to sign treaties with all tribes.

The request is contained in a petition sent to the Prime Minister, Mr McMahon.

The petition is signed by five leaders.

It says the Government should appoint a commissioner to visit every tribe and work out a treaty to suit each group.

The petition reads: "When the first settlers

came to the Northern Territory, the tribes fought them with wooden and stone weapons.

"Hundreds of our people were shot.

"The Gwalwa Daraniki is a group of proud blacks who will keep fighting for the land as our grandparents did until:

1. The Government appoints a Commission to go around to every tribe and work out a treaty

to suit each tribe.

2. Each tribe will have legal assistance, and help from anyone else they wish.

3. All members of the tribe shall come together to vote and decide if the finished treaty is fair.

RIGHTS

4. If the treaty is rejected, then that tribe will go on fighting for their land rights.

5. If the treaty is accepted, then all the tribe will sign it and make it good for all time.

6. The treaties will also be signed by the Prime Minister, his Cabinet, and the Governor-General.

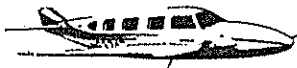
"We invite all people of Aboriginal descent to join the tribe of their ancestors.

"These are the demands of the Gwalwa Daraniki, and we shall not stop until the treaties are signed."

The petition is signed by Mr Bobby Secretary, Mr Leo Jackaboy, Mr Harry Adam, Mr K. W. Chulung, and Mr J. Maler.

THE GWALWA DARANIKI MEMBERS WERE TALKING ABOUT PEACE TREATIES BACK IN 1972. Here IS A CUTTING FROM THE NORTHERN TERRITORY NEWS ON THE 30th MARCH 1972.

OF THE FIVE WHO SIGNED THAT STATEMENT, ONLY TWO LIVE TODAY. SINCE THAT TIME BUNJI HAS DESCRIBED THE MANY WAYS THE GOVERNMENT HAS BETRAYED US. IT IS HARD TO BELIEVE THEY WANT TO TALK THE TRUTH, WHO CAN TRUST THE CLP, WHO TALK FOR THE RICH MINERS AND SQUATTERS.



LETTERS.



Dear BUNJI,

Your June 1980 issue says, "separate classes for black children in Darwin." (at Ludmilla and Nightcliff) Have you any objection to Kormilda being segregated, because the Aboriginal people in this area want a "Kormilda Style" college in the Katherine area. I put it to you that your article is slightly biased.
With Kind Regards,

Les MacFarlane.
MLA for Elsey.

BUNJI's answer to Les MacFarlane's letter. Firstly, there is no excuse for separate classes for the children who are born and grow up in Darwin, and speak mainly English language. Kormilda does not have a good record. It should be independent from the Education Department. There should be higher education in more places, so the adults can be involved, but Mr MacFarlane's Govt. has closed down Dhupuma College at Yirrkala. Not much hope for a college at Katherine, Les!

Dear BUNJI,

While I was in Australia last year to collect material on Aboriginal Education, of course I came across your publication and want to get copies of it. I've only got Number 2 of June 1980. If you could send me all the other issues that have come out, I would be pleased. I'll be writing a thesis at Frankfurt University which will have a lot to do with what you people talk about.
All the best,

Renate Dittlof
West Germany.

Dear BUNJI,

I recently read the latest edition of your paper and was delighted and impressed by the articles it contained. Please put me on your mailing list for future editions.

Daphne Nash
Haasts Bluff NT.



Dear BUNJI,

Your observation that the Education Department is part of "the machine that destroys the aboriginal people" is very true.

The Education Department is forcing upon Aborigines a form of education which is totally irrelevant at this point of time in their history. It is actually an agent of destruction of aboriginal people.

This is what Kevin Gilbert said in his book, "Because A Whiteman'll Never Do It."--

"Probably the toughest thing that blacks are going to have to come to grips with is their own psychological condition. Sure, the whiteman put you there but even if he wants, he can't get you out. Materially; yes, psychologically no. What then are you are we going to do about the self hatred that he has imposed upon us."

The most important thing at the moment is not the 3r's as the Education department thinks, but to raise the self esteem of Aboriginal people to fight their own debilitating self-hatred. They must see themselves as worthwhile people in their own right, with an incredibly long and rich and valuable culture and history.

Education just now works actively against this, taking kids and placing them in a permanent failure situation. It imposes on them the imaginary need for whitefella skills which the large majority of kids do not want and do not need and which is taught in a foreign language and denies them their own cultural beliefs. Every time a kid enters school he or she is hammered right in the face with his or her own inferiority on white terms.

THE NT EDUCATION DEPARTMENT DOES NOT NEED IMPROVING - IT NEEDS A BOMB UNDER IT. Then one day when Aboriginal people feel like it, they can genuinely choose and control their own form of education.

Education in the current form is just another subversive force for the continued oppression of aboriginal people.

Yours sincerely,
"A Teacher With The NT Education Department."

TEACHING ASSISTANTS NOT REPLACED.

The NT government has taken black teaching assistants from the schools, to Bachelor Teachers College. That is OK. But the NT Government has not replaced these black teaching assistants in the schools. That is very bad because we need hundreds of Aboriginal teachers in the NT.

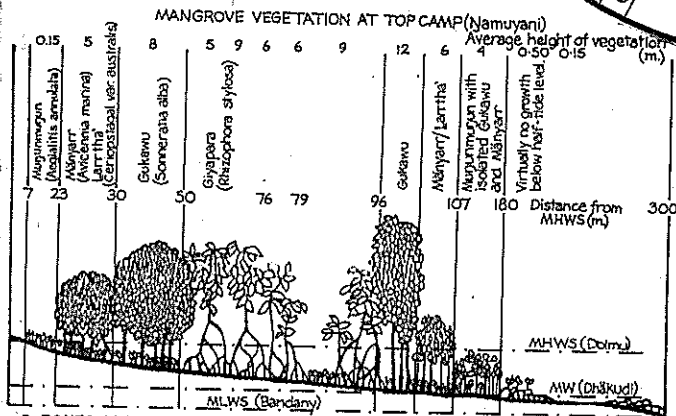
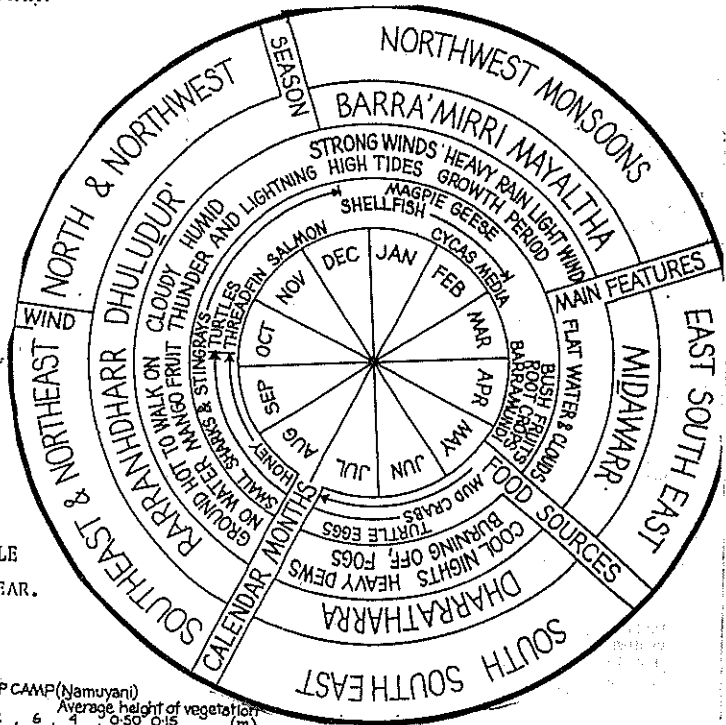
BUNJI HAS CRITICISED THE EDUCATION OF ABORIGINAL CHILDREN. ON THE GOOD SIDE, community Based science programs for aboriginal schools

THIS IS A SMALL PART OF AN ARTICLE FROM THE MAGAZINE CALLED "DEVELOPING EDUCATION" VOLUME 7, NUMBER 4, FEBRUARY 1980.

by Steven Davis, Milingimbi School; John Harris, Kormilda College, Darwin; & Stuart Traynor, N.T. Dept. of Education, Darwin.

Why a Community Based Program?
 Aboriginal people are concerned about their own future and that of their children. They are concerned about their children's education and the perpetration of traditional knowledge and skills associated with their environment. The authors argue that any program of science education for Aboriginal schools should be community-based. This requires the direct involvement of Aboriginal teachers and the eliciting of information from the community. Furthermore, it is argued that traditional Aboriginal knowledge of the environment should form the content from which is developed learning skills, scientific process skills, and those appropriate European concepts deemed essential for life in the wider community.

THE TEACHERS TELL ABOUT A SUCCESSFUL SCIENCE PROGRAM AT MILINGIMBI SCHOOL. THE CIRCLE SHOWS HOW YOLNU PEOPLE UNDERSTAND THE SEASONS OF THE YEAR.



WITH THE HELP OF THE OLD PEOPLE, THE CHILDREN STUDIED MANGROVES FROM LOW TIDE MARK TO HIGH TIDE MARK. ON THE LEFT ARE THE TRUNKS AND THEIR NAMES.

ZONES ARE NAMED ACCORDING TO THE SPECIES OF MANGROVE VEGETATION WHICH IS DOMINANT. OTHER SPECIES FOUND AT MILINGIMBI ARE: Barrawu (Scaevola agallocha), Bitjininy (Osbornea octodonta), Wuguku (Aegiceras corniculatum), Lummitzera racemosa, Yulpu (Bruguiera gymnorhiza), Yin'tji (Xylocarpus australasicus), Yulumuru (Bruguiera sexangular).

High Water Springtide, MW - Mean Water, MLWS - Mean Low Water Springtide.

BUNJI IS PUBLISHED BY WILLIAM DAY, KALALAK, COCONUT GROVE, DARWIN N.T.

Throughout its 110 year history, Darwin's had its share of unofficial titles - the damned, the doomed, the front door of Australia, a tropical Mecca and a corner of hell.

But the description most consistent with the town's beginnings is perhaps Ernestine Hill's - "The city-that-hoped-to-be".

To appreciate that we must go back to 1869 when South Australia's surveyor general, George Goyder, was sent to plan and survey a capital city for the Northern Territory of South Australia.

The circumstances surrounding his original Palmerston town plan set the pace for ad hoc development and town planning rebellion which, some would claim, still plagues Darwin.

When South Australia finally annexed the Northern Territory in 1863, it had several things in mind.

Pastoralists were anxious to open up the country around the Victoria River.

And the government was keen to have a northern port for shipping local horses to India and China and to pave the way for the construction of a telegraph across the continent.

Many colonialists had also been led to believe, from perhaps over-optimistic reports of early visitors to the Territory that the country had great agricultural potential, especially for cotton and sugar.

Some claimed at the time, and in retrospect, that such "myths" had been spread by speculators keen to buy and sell land in the unknown north.

Darwin's Birth: The pain lingers



By BARBARA JAMES

But the real reason behind encouraging land speculation seems to have been a method of obtaining revenue to defray the expenses South Australia would have in settling the north.

And, to that purpose, the bill providing for colonisation of the N.T. also provided that certain land should be sold prior to any northern settlement being founded.

The government set about selling 500,000 acres of Northern Territory land - half to be sold in South Australia, and half in London.

Purchasers were required to buy 160 acre country blocks together with a half acre town block and could select their land within five years of the first sale.

When the N.T. sales fell short of government expectation, South Australia should probably have taken the hint and reassessed the wisdom of its settlement plan.

But instead it spent the period financing badly briefed expeditions to find and survey a northern capital and then blamed the leaders - like Finnis - for "Bungling" the job.

And by the time five years was almost up,

the South Australian Government found it had some very impatient land holders, in London and South Australia who wanted to know where their land was.

The South Australian Government was in political upheaval at the time - changing governments every few weeks - and found it difficult to make any lasting decisions.

However, when Strangways constructed a government late in 1868, stability finally everged and Goyder was sent, post haste to select a capital site and complete the surveys - thus hopefully calming the anxious land investors.

Because of the tight time schedule, Goyder's conditions were met without much argument.

They were that a party of 120 men, selected by himself, be sent to commence surveys in the neighborhood of Port Darwin.

Within hours of arriving at Port Darwin on February 5, 1869, Goyder had the men organised sinking wells, making camp and preparing for the surveys.

Goyder perhaps was the first to suggest

"regional planning" for Darwin.

He chose the sites for four townships - Palmerston (present city and Larrakeyah area); Southport (about 26 miles away on the Blackmore River); Virginia on the Elizabeth River); and Daly (at Fred's Pass, near the Adelaide River).

Palmerston was divided into 1,019 half-acre residential blocks and was designed in a grid pattern - like Adelaide - with a central square and several small parks.

An early map of the town even shows a railway running in the centre of Cavenagh Square, which, like the major wide street in the town, was named after the South Australian Land Commissioner, Wentworth Cavenagh. (see separate story).

Goyder named the streets and other landmarks after members of his surveying party.

He did his work in record time and, after arranging for part of the party to remain at Palmerston, he returned to Adelaide with the news that landorder holders could take immediate possession of their land.

The "Register" seemed to believe that this

announcement would mean automatic settlement and economic development of the Northern Territory.

Like so many assumptions made about the Territory's future over the past 110 years, ~~it was a fact - did not~~ induce people to settle and develop the place.

In this instance it did not even deter them from demanding their money back for land which had not been made available in the allotted time.

And, after several legal tangles with various companies which had been formed to buy land, the South Australian government had to pay about \$160,000 to the disenchanted landholders.

It was only the construction of the Overland Telegraph in 1871-72 which assured Darwin of at least a small permanent settlement.

And it was only the chance discovery of gold that lured more people to the town - to erect makeshift-homes and shops wherever they could.

Absentee landholders, who had no desire to live in Darwin themselves, made it difficult and too expensive for people wanting to settle the place and by 1882 only 40 private blocks were occupied and, of those, only four were owned by those residing on them.

Most incentive to develop the town was left to luck rather than to longterm plans based on tropical assets and not on mere southern hopes, implemented by remote control.

The stage was thus set from Darwin's birth for a long series of boom and bust periods, marked by rebellion and abandonment of almost every town plan subsequently produced.

REPRINTED FROM 'DARWIN STAR'

A VERY EXPENSIVE FILM.

paul Everingham asked Film Australia to make a film about the worries of the tribes. "Let the people themselves tell you what to put in the film", said Everingham.

The people spoke about land rights, mining, illegal fishing in the creeks, and other political matters. "It is good to have a film saying what we want" said the people. "Thankyou Film Australia."

When Everingham saw the film, he was angry. "The government will not show this," he said. The film was cut back from 45 minutes, down to only 20 minutes.

This made it the most expensive film ever. The film-makers were embarrassed because they had told everyone they could say what they liked. So it is in the N.T.