

# **An Illustrated History of the Larrakia Flag 1971 – 2007**

**compiled and written  
by**

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## The camp at Kulaluk



Members of the Larrakia tribe are settling a permanent camp at Coconut Grove to strengthen their claim for land there.

Their leader, Mr Bobby Secretary, said yesterday he hopes all surviving members of the tribe will go to live there.

Nine people are already camped behind a drive-in around a water-hole which the Aborigines claim is rightfully theirs.

They say it is the only place left in the area which has any significance to the tribe.

The Administration's Welfare Branch is considering their claim.

Mr Secretary and his wife have lived for months on the site which the tribe calls Kulaluk.

Since the others joined them last week, they have built two sleeping shelters and a toilet.

Mr Secretary said other buildings would be erected as more people arrived.

He said there were probably about 25 to 30 Larrakias left.

"I hope the Administration gives us this land so we can set up a proper village," he said.

"If they don't give it to us then we'll still stay here."

Picture shows some of the Larrakias at Kulaluk yesterday.

**Illustration 1:**  
**Photograph and**  
**story from *The***  
***Northern Territory***  
***News*, June 15<sup>th</sup>,**  
**1971.**

THE WEST AUSTRALIAN MONDAY NOVEMBER 8 1971

## Aborigines lay claim to Darwin

From ALAN DEARN

DARWIN, Sun.—A group of Aborigines claiming to be descendants of the Larrakia tribe that originally occupied Darwin today hoisted a flag of their own design outside the Law Court building and reclaimed Darwin as their land.

Mr Bobby Secretary (46), a full-blood Larrakia and leader of the protest movement, said: "This land belongs to the Larrakia."

He said that he had supervised the design of the flag.

"It is brown to represent the colour of our skin and has a tree in the centre to represent where the jungle fowls nest at a place called Kulaluk, which is sacred to us," he said.

"Two hundred years ago the English raised a flag on our beaches. They said that our country would belong to their king. They did not ask our ancestors.

"If that is the English way, we now raise our flag and take back all the Larrakia lands."

The flag-raising ceremony claimed Darwin and its suburbs.

"The main piece of land we want recognised as Larrakia is a small waterhole at Kulaluk, which is behind the Darwin drive-in," he said.

At present the small camping area is vacant crown land, but the surviving Larrakia tribesmen, who number a dozen at the most, are afraid that the area is soon to be developed for housing.

In the past month the protesters have twice staged a sit-in on a pedestrian crossing, blocking Bagot Road, a major road into Darwin, stopping thousands of cars till they were ordered by the police to move.

The Aborigines all wear red cloth tied around their heads as a symbol of "the blood of our elders."

**Illustration 2: From**

*The West Australian*, November 8<sup>th</sup>, 1971

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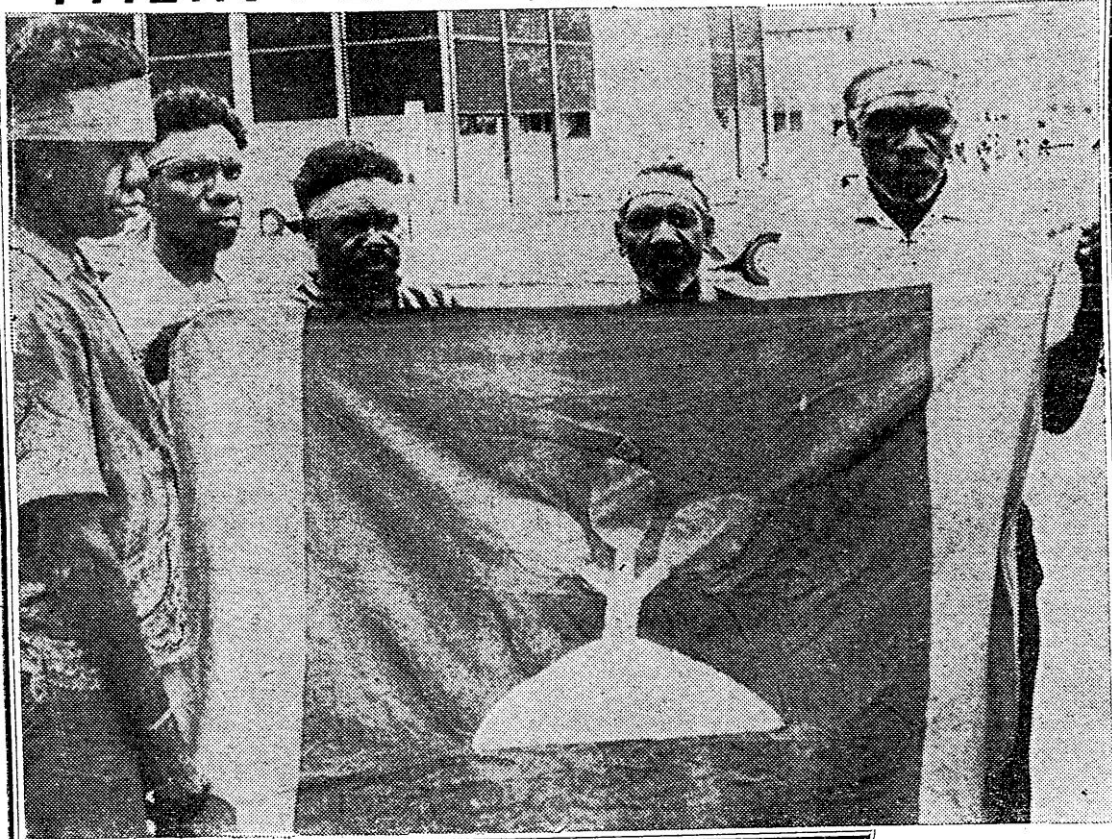
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# THEIR FLAG



● Members of the Larrakia tribe yesterday raised a flag to the top of the Darwin courthouse flagpole as a symbolic declaration of their ownership of their traditional tribal lands near the drive-in theatre. Pictured holding the flag are Harry Adam (right), Bobby Secretary (centre), and Freddy Dagwood, Gabriel Secretary and Teddy Banana.

Above: Report from NT News, 8<sup>th</sup> November 1971