

## VIDEO OF TELEVISION NEWS ITEMS ABOUT LAND CLAIMS IN DARWIN

The video opens with dancers beginning a mourning ceremony (burning rag) for the son of Louise Bangun (the daughter of Denton in *The Camp at Wallaby Cross*). Knuckeyes Lagoon on the Stuart Highway twelve kilometres from the GPO is where Basil Sansom did his field work although the camp has vastly changed since 1980. The dancers approach the house to be smoked while aeroplanes take off over head. This brief clip is shown to pay respect to those Aboriginal people in this 30 minute video who have died.

The Darwin band Wild Water made a video for their song Diff'rent Colours at the Lee point Camp in the northern suburbs. It is the only record of the camp, as the people were evicted shortly after the music video was made. The singer with the short hair, Paul Djulpa McKenzie, is the son of Dulcie Malimara, the woman he greets in the tent.

**Item one:** May Day march in Darwin in 1972. A humpy on the back of a truck shows how people lived on the cattle stations like Victoria River Downs. Norman Horrace from Ombulguri (without shirt) holds a banner "Black is beautiful". Behind him are Larrakia elders Peter Unia and Bobby Secretary.

**Item two:** The Larrakia flag raising outside the Darwin Supreme Court on November 7, 1971. Harry Adams from the Malak Malak people (brother of Bobby Secretary's wife Bessie Mureen) raises the flag sewn by Polly Day to a design by Bill Day. With him are Bobby Secretary, Gabriel Secretary, Freddy Dagwud. Paddy (a Tiwi) is not in the picture.

**Item three:** The flag is then raised at the Kulaluk camp (looking towards Nightcliff shops). Bobby's humpy is shown under the tree growing on the little hill. This is the tree shown on the flag. There is a marquee tent donated by Bill Day. The other small shelters were built after the claim began when more people came to join Bobby and Bessie. The small tin building is a pit toilet. Kulaluk is now a substantial village.

**Item four:** The Larrakia visit to the old initiation ground at Emery Point (Gundal) inside the Army Barracks in Darwin) on May 14, 1973. It took a long time to organise this visit. Bill Day is shown introducing Bobby Secretary ( in T shirt), Dolly Gurinyi (senior Larrakia woman), Norman Harris (Barral). The fourth man is Captain Bishop. Major Couzens drives the elders around the barracks. Norman, Captain and Dolly point out the ceremony ground. Dolly gets very emotional to see her country again after forty years. Victor Williams (Larrakia elder) talks to Norman (in tartan shirt). There is a glimpse of Cullen Bay at the foot of the cliffs, which was part of the site.

**Item five:** The Aboriginal Land Rights Commissioner Mr Justice Woodward visits the Kulaluk camp on June 2, 1973. The long banner (made by Bill) is across the end of Ostermann Street where one month later the Kulaluk people were to have trouble with surveyors extending the road to the beach. People came for the meeting from Railway Dam and Knuckeyes Lagoon. Tommy Lyons (Imabul) is shown sitting on the ground with Bobby Secretary. Fred Fogarty (the man who threw petrol bombs at the surveyor's truck a month later) is the chairman next to the Judge. Roy Mudpul, the leader from Railway Dam, is sitting on the end of the bed wearing a red headband. Major Bangun (Denton), the leader from Knuckeyes Lagoon, is standing (shown in close up). Bobby Secretary is also shown in close up.

**Item six:** Judge Woodward then visits Bagot Reserve. Only the Bagot Councillors attended that meeting. The anthropologist Nicholas Peterson is sitting beside the judge at the table under a shady tree at Bagot.

**Item seven:** Protest outside the Bagot Conference on June 14, 1973. When Fred Fogarty told the conference that the builders had ripped down the land claim sign at Coconut Grove, the delegates to the conference voted to support the Kulaluk people and nail the sign up again. After blocking the traffic on Bagot Road (the fourth protest on Bagot Road since October 1971), the people walked down Bagot Road to Ostermann Street. Two Gurindji men (Mick Rangiari and one man in a hat) are shown on the road holding signs. Rikki Sheilds from Darwin is almost hit by a car breaking through the barricade. Mrs Jean Jimmy from Mapoon takes photographs. Violet Adams and Mary Kunyi from Kulaluk are seen walking to the side and next to the front banner as the march arrives at



the building site. Jackson Lee from Kulaluk is then holding one corner of the front banner. Fred Fogarty is talking to the police. Valentine McGinness brings the ladder. Violet and Mary are shown in close up. Bobby Secretary hammers the sign back on the tree warning the subdividers that this is an Aboriginal Land Claim (sign painted by Bill Day). The petrol bombs were thrown here a month later.

**Item eight:** A Minister of the Labor government (Kep Enderby) visits the Kulaluk camp in 1973 after the people had fought the road builders on July 6, 1973. Some people are sitting outside a house which Fred Fogarty was building out of scrap iron. The little bridge is across the drain dug by the subdividers. Jack Doolan from the Dept of Aboriginal Affairs is beside Mr Enderby. They are talking to David Daniels from Ngukurr who was living with Violet Adams at Kulaluk (also shown). This was a surprise visit on a Sunday morning, so the visitors must have brought along the TV cameras. The 'Keep Out' signs were put up because of threats made against the camp.

**Item nine:** Protest outside Fannie Bay Gaol on January 15, 1973. The Knuckeyes Lagoon, Railway Dam and Kulaluk people support Bobby Secretary and David Daniels inside. Too many people were in prison for not paying fines. Walking around the walls are Norman Harris, Roy Kelly, Violet Adams, Edwin, Roy Mudpul, Jack Phillips, Maggie Kwako and others. Major Bangun crouches down with a sign. Bill Day is in white socks and shorts.

**Item ten:** August 25, 1979. Picture of Chief Minister Paul Everingham handing over the Kulaluk lease to Bobby Secretary with Alan Treves ( a Maori, but husband to Kathy Secretary) standing by.

**Item eleven:** Mosquito drains at Kulaluk, September 23, 1984. Drain digging machines which moved on to the Kulaluk lease down from Totem Road were damaged overnight by people who were against the digging up of Kulaluk mangroves to get rid of areas which the City Council said were breeding ponds for mosquitoes. The Kulaluk manager , Richard Baugh (driving the tractor) and Kathy Secretary (the President) were in favour of the drains. Bill Day had been living in the area for six years and was strongly against the drain digging by the City Council on Aboriginal Land. The sign, 'Kulaluk kids say get lost', was

painted by Bill's friends and is a warning to the drain diggers (not a sign against Bill). The drains were dug and sea water has since killed a lot of the freshwater vegetation. Kathy died in February 1986. Richard became seriously ill.

**Item twelve:** The book launch in Darwin for *Bunji: a story of the Gwalwa Daraniki Movement*. Robert Wesley-Smith is shown talking to Sandra Holmes. Barbara Nasir is looking at a photo of Fred Fogarty (evidence of police violence). Richard Barnes (grey hair), talking to Wes and Felix Holmes, was the President of the Larrakia Association. Prince was the son of King George.

**Item thirteen:** The twenty-fifth anniversary of the Larrakia flag raising (item two). Mary Lee made a copy of the original Kulaluk flag. The colours were changed a little so that the flag is red , black and yellow in Aboriginal colours. The ceremony was held at the same mound where Bobby Secretary had his humpy (see item three) but on the northern side. Johnny McMahon (Topsy's husband) and Mary Lee carry the flag to the pole with Prince and Richard Barnes behind them. Russell Cubillo (president of the Larrakia Association) says a few words.

**Item fourteen:** November 1996. The NT Government says the Railway Dam lease will become a park when the oil tanks are moved (not water tanks). The Minister for Lands Planning and Environment, Mike Reed, is talking. Mr Mills explains the Aboriginal significance (see Bill Harney's *Life Among the Aborigines*). The manager of the Aboriginal Development Foundation, Bernie Valadian, says they people at the community will not move (the ADF holds the lease). David Timber, who lives at the community spoke on Channel 8 TV news.

**Item fifteen:** Larrakia native title claim over Darwin. On Sunday December 1, 1996 the Larrakia Association and the Northern Land Council announced a claim would be lodged with the Native Title Tribunal. The speakers are Billy Risk from the association, Chief Minister Shane Stone and Galurwuy Yunupingu, from the NLC.

**Item sixteen:** Burarra people at Fish Camp. September 1996. Dulcie Malimara



tells how the group were evicted from their camp at Lee Point, Darwin on July 7, 1996. They were moved to Fish Camp on the Kulaluk lease where there is no fresh water. Her uncle Bob Bunduwabi lived at Lee Point for many years. Bill Day, Billy Cooper and Dulcie show the reporter from Channel 8 where the camp used to be at Lee Point.

**Item seventeen:** The people living at Fish Camp (see item one) moved back to their old camp at Lee Point on 26 November 1996. After they had been there for three weeks the NT Government came and threatened to call the police if they did not move in one week. They sought legal advice to fight the eviction. Billy Zitha (with dreadlocks) and Bob Bunduwabi are talking to the ABC. Billy is from Thursday Island but married a Maningrida woman. Bob came to Darwin from Blythe River more than thirty years ago.

**Music** by Wild Water follows with photos of : Sit down on Bagot Road in November 1971; Jackson Lee and Mary Kunyi at Kulaluk in 1973; Fred Fogarty in his garden in 1978; Violet Adams at Fish Camp in 1978; Colin James and Norman; Rhonda McKenzie and Nathan at Fish Camp 1996; Dulcie and George at Lee Point 1996; Yolanda Roberts making Damper at Fish Camp; Bob Bunduwabi being bathed at Lee Point by Kevin.

Note: Bob Bunduwabi died on 22 January.

Reference: BUNJI; A STORY OF THE GWALWA DARANIKI MOVEMENT by Bill Day, published by Aboriginal Studies Press, P O Box 553, Canberra ACT in 1994. See also NT News on the above dates.

Thanks to the ABC Archives, Darwin for providing this video record. Please acknowledge where appropriate.