

# COMMEMORATION OF THE 40<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE RAISING OF A LARRAKIA FLAG TO CLAIM BACK DARWIN.

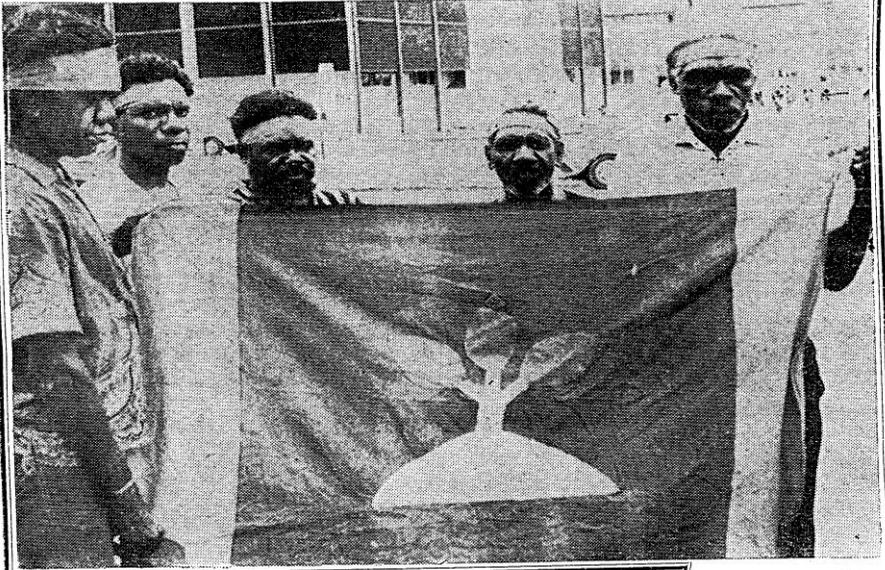
To be held in Darwin on November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2011.



**Above: the 'Kulaluk' or 'Larrakia' Flag as displayed at the entrance  
of the Northern Territory Museum and Art Gallery 2011.**

At 3p.m. on Sunday, November 7<sup>th</sup>, 1971, five Aboriginal men wearing red head-bands “took possession” of Darwin by raising their flag to the top of the Darwin Supreme Court flagpole to claim back the traditional lands of the Larrakia people. Larrakia elder, Mr Bobby Secretary, declared: “If it was good enough for Captain Cook to put up a flag to claim all of Australia for the Crown, then it is good enough for us to claim Darwin back.” Those in the flag-raising party were: Bobby Secretary and Gabriel Secretary (Larrakia); Harry Adam (Daly River); Freddy Dagwood (Belyuen) and Paddy Banana (Tiwi Islands). The flag had a dark brown background with a red band at each end. In the centre was a green tipped representation of a tree growing on an old jungle fowl’s nesting mound at the Kulaluk camp in Darwin’s northern suburbs. Bobby Secretary told the waiting media, “The flag is red at one end for the blood of our old people who died for their land, and red at the other end for the blood that may be shed.” After the short ceremony, the flag was lowered and taken back to the Larrakia camp. The flag later featured in several local land rights protests until it was eventually superseded by National Aboriginal flag. In November 1996 a replica flag was raised at Kulaluk to commemorate the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

## 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: *The Northern Territory News*, November 8<sup>th</sup>, 1971.

**On Monday November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2011, at 3 p.m. 1971 the flag raising will be commemorated by the raising of a replica flag at the site of the old Darwin Supreme Court in Darwin.**

Thanks to: Larrakia Nation Aboriginal Corporation and the Darwin 'Flagman', Ronald C Strachan, (08)89816343. GPO Box 4829, Darwin, NT 0801. Email: [flagman@austarnet.com.au](mailto:flagman@austarnet.com.au)