

PRESS RELEASE

Aboriginal Community at One Mile Dam in Darwin City Takes the Future into Its Own Hands

Launch of KUMBUTJIL ASSOCIATION 10 am Wednesday 28th April 2004

One Mile Dam Community, Dinah Beach Road, Darwin, Northern Territory
(See attached Invitation)

This year, the Aboriginal community celebrated 25 years of the land having been handed over by the Northern Territory Government under a Special Purpose Lease. Yet, little has been done since then to improve their living conditions. Members of the community are launching the Kumbutjil Association to run their own programs and projects for a safer, active and healthier community.

David Timber, Senior Spokesperson said:

"After 30 years of neglect, our community is excited to be creating our own organisation, and planning our future, together.

Right in the centre of Darwin, we live in intolerable conditions, with tin houses, no private toilets and showers, and almost no services. We have waited long enough for others to live up to their promises to do something.

We want decent housing, safe places for our children to play, and a healthy environment – and we have a plan. Setting up our own organisation is just the first step.

Join us for the celebration."

For Interviews, contact David Timber Phone Number 0418851014

One Mile Dam Community

Background

25 years ago, on the 26th March, 1979, a Special Purpose Lease was granted, to provide a permanent place for Aboriginal people to stay when they come to Darwin. The One Mile Dam Community (also known as Railway Dam), situated within the CBD of Darwin, was formally recognised as an Aboriginal Living Area, under the auspices of the Aboriginal Development Foundation.

Historically, people from the Belyuen area had used this place for convenient living and transit, with its natural spring feeding the dam providing permanent fresh water and its location giving easy access to traditional hunting and fishing grounds near the extensive mangrove swamps surrounding Darwin. These people played a key role in the years leading up to the granting of the lease, by lobbying and protesting for a permanent area to be granted for the purposes of aboriginal living. Direct descendants of David Timber were among the people living at One Mile Dam when the lease was granted. David is now the guiding personality in the modern, ongoing existence of this historic settlement.

David has worked for a number of indigenous organisations in Darwin including Night Patrol and Sobering Up Shelter. He is currently the Coordinator of the One Mile Dam CDEP that provides some employment to residents. David is considered by all residents and visitors alike to be the "boss". He facilitates any disputes, which arise on the community, and organises accommodation for people who come to One Mile Dam. He has acted as the manager of One Mile Dam, without any formal recognition or recompense, for 16 years.

During 2003 as aboriginal people were increasingly moved away from the CBD, One Mile Dam's population increased by 300 %, from 30 people to more than 100. One Mile Dam is the only place within the city of Darwin where Aboriginal people can stay, within their cultural comfort zone and within the law. One Mile Dam provides a sanctuary for indigenous homeless people, giving an alternative to living on the streets, providing shelter and basic facilities, and functions in a way that Aboriginal people feel welcome and accepted.

Services that rely on One Mile Dam Community to provide such sanctuary include the Police and Day and Night patrol. Service providers to One Mile Dam include Centrelink, Danilla Dilba and St Vincent de Paul.

Community Development

In 2003, a core group of permanent residents decided it was time that positive change was needed at One Mile Dam to address various and profound health and safety issues confronting the residents. They have sought broader community support in initiating community development projects in a professional and coordinated way and seek specialist assistance in planning such development. Part of this planning has included the establishment of the Kumbutjil Association to administer community objectives:

To undertake community development in health, housing, education, recreation, arts, entertainment, employment and cultural renewal. To generate and support employment opportunities and small business/enterprise of benefit to One Mile Dam Community residents. To encourage the wider community to participate in the development of the future of the One Mile Dam community. To encourage and actively seek employment Within projects concerned with the redevelopment of the area.

March 2004

Kumbutjil Association Community Meeting

Thursday 6 May 2004 at 10am

David Mindy Cassandra Joanne Stella

Agenda – What we talked about

Media – New news story in the Darwin Sun newspaper published 5th May. Front and second page story – We will not be moved. A really good story, represents OMD voice really well – great job David!. This story will go to more people than any other newspaper or TV all over Darwin and Palmerston.

Other media discussed from the launch. Cassandra to ask to get Channel 9 TV story. Stella already has ABC TV story to collect.

Film Night to be organised in the next month to show the videos from the Kumbutjil Association Launch.

#Dave Tolner came to see David on today to ask if he could bring Alexandra Downer – Australia's Foreign Affairs Minister to One Mile Dam next Tuesday. He is up here talking oil and gas with Nt Govt.

He could possibly take your story to Canberra – Federal Government.

He would probably want to meet with some of Kumbutjil Association Committee members and hear what some of your issues are and what you are doing about them.

It's important to plan what you are going to say and who is going to say it.

Might be media.

Dave Tolner did not follow through with a visit from Foreign Affairs Minister Alexandra Downer.

Larrakia Nation – David to establish talks with Kelvin Costello – let him know where I stand. Want Larrakia Nation to support us and us to support them. No point in one Aboriginal Organisation fighting against another, I don't want that to happen – Lets Talk.

Rubbish – still not collected. Should have been picked up last Friday nearly a week overdue. David to call ADF to speak to Bernie Valadian. If nothing remove rubbish ourselves. CDEP can buy OMD Community a trailer out of our fund. Tired of waiting for them to do things, time to do it ourselves.

Jamie Dellas to have a meeting with us here at 1 pm to talk to us about :

Community Development worker funding. Someone who can do the ongoing jobs like: Writing grants for small projects that the community wants to do. Finding funding for big projects.

Talking to other organisations about how they can support us / assist us with their knowledge. Helping to provide support to committee and community members who need advice about how to go about some jobs.

Keeping information flowing to the community members and keeping the Kumbutjil Association Meetings up to date by writing up what is happening and getting this info to Community asap.

Find Office equipment and other resources the community needs for cheap or free.

Training / employment opportunities for community members.

What do people want – where do we get it and how do we go about it?

Meeting with the Minister for Lands – Chris Burns

Go to Parliament House after this meeting with other community members – Joanne, Mindy, David, Kayla, Stella, Cassandra. Tell him what happened at the Launch. The meeting is about establishing a relationship with him. Make a date in the future to talk more. Get the message to him that Kumbutjil Association is serious/ that things are moving along.

Incorporation – Cassandra to work on Rules of the Association and follow up a lawyer to look over it.

Need to appoint Secretary and Treasurer of the Kumbutjil Association also find a definition of these roles in the association so whoever takes on the job is clear about what their responsibility is.

It is suggested Terosa Timber for Secretary (Meetings paperwork) and Rosemary Timber for Treasurer. (Reporting to the Kumbutjil Assoc about our money). It is suggested that Asia Pacific Support Collective (APSC) who handles the money from the Launch can give provide the financial service / advice until the community has the skills to take it on themselves. So at the moment the treasurer would talk to APSC and then tell the community what the situation with the money is.

Community Fund

Open a bank account for Kumbutjil Association – Commonwealth Bank suggested.

Ask about bank charges and interest / Can the bank make cash cheques for us, how much will this cost? Do we need to be Incorporated first to get a better deal with the bank?

Ask Jude Conway from APSC what is a good way to operate?

Four Signatures have been suggested to go on the account. Rosemary – Terosa – David – Lloyd.

100 points ID will be required by the bank from these people. If you already have an account at Commonwealth stella will ask if 100 points ID is necessary.

What will the money be spent on? We need a special meeting of the whole Community to agree on some rules about how the money can be spent. Some ideas are:

(1) Has to benefit everybody community – some examples are:

- to get the public telephone box running.
- Street lights
- Community washing machine? Or can we use CDEP money to fix this?
- Community Mail Box at front gate.
- Cover the sign with plastic glass to protect it from graffiti.

(The Community needs to prioritise which jobs will be done first and who will organise to do them?)

(2) Any amount over \$50 has to be agreed to at a Community meeting.

Community meetings every month so community can agree on what to spend the money/ or not and financial statements to be presented at meeting for people to talk about. If people have a problem about how the money was spent you can talk to committee members or come to the Community meeting.

(3) A financial Report on paper to the Community Meeting if money has been spent that month. This is a job for the Treasurer.

(4) \$20 a fortnight from each community member at OMD has been suggested.

Important: There will be a community meeting this Sunday at 9.30 especially for people to discuss Community Fund and to sign the Centrepay forms so the money can be automatically taken out of your Centrelink payment and put into Kumbutjil Association Bank Account.

Stella to find out about CDEP and Centrepay.

What did you think about Ken's Workshop?

Made people open their ears and realise how we can do things.

People learnt from the workshop how you can do it.

Liked hearing the stories from other communities around the world about how they improved their housing and communities.

Ken can come back for 2 days in September / October to do an assessment – look at how we are going. We could use this as a deadline. What sort of things do we want to achieve by September? What will we want Ken to help us with?

David says – Ideas that come but don't know how to go about it.

Send people to do some training if they want it.

Dogs - Stella has been speaking to Emma Watkins (a Vet) who said she can do a mange treatment of all the dogs for free if it takes too long to get the money to get a healthy dog program going.

Stella to ask Steve from Howard Springs Vet to come and discuss an ongoing dog program for the community to stop mange and to many dogs that the community can't look after. We need a contact person/s at OMD for the Vet to be able to pass the information on to and tell other community members. Ask Jacqueline from end camp and David Timber. Ask Steve to come to Sunday meeting or another time he can meet with David and Jacqueline.

Danila Dilba - David will speak to people at Danila Dilba about getting a regular service at OMD especially for people who are too sick to walk up the hill.

The Kumbutjil Association Sign got welded on the fence on Sunday with the help of Danny, David, Matos, Jermaine. Stella will find out how much it will cost to cover the sign with perspex to protect it from graffiti etc.

Darwin Community Legal Service has given Kumbutjil Association a desk for the office set up. We need to put the word out about a printer for the computer that Jamie Dellas is lining up for us and a filing cabinet.

Phone Box – who was going to find out?

Other IDEAS

*Website for Kumbutjil Association – Where can we get the \$\$ to pay someone in Darwin to do this for us and to keep on updating so people from around the world can see what you mob are doing.

*Darwin Festival in August. Is Kumbutjil Association interested in holding an event at OMD for the Festival? Kenbi Dancers / Film Screening? Other ideas? Would be great publicity for Kumbutjil Association.

*Market Garden at OMD – contact NT Horticulture at University. Students to help set up Market garden with Community members. Partnership with the Uni. Uni has money for this kind of projects.

*Publicity Team of people who are interested to support Kumbutjil Association when we have specific events to do all the contacting of media and getting them to the event.

*Community 5 year Plan – what we want to see change / improve in this community over the next 5 years. Present to the Minister for Lands when he comes to visit.

Resolution passed at the first meeting of the KUMBUTJIL ASSOCIATION

We, the undersigned people meet at One Mile Dam Community, on Tuesday, 27th April 2004 and pass the following resolutions:

- (1) We come together as members of 'KUMBUTJIL ASSOCIATION'
- (2) We give David timber of 16 Dinah Beach Road, Stuart Park, our permission to apply to the Commissioner of Consumer affairs to Incorporate the ' KUMBUTJIL ASSOCIATION'
- (3) We elect the following members of Kumbutjil Association to be our Management Committee.
 - David timber
 - Lloyd Thompson
 - Rosemary Timber
 - John Amital
 - Joanne Timber
 - Warren Phillips
 - Damien Moreen
- (4) We elect David Timber to be the Chairperson and Public Officer of Kumbutjil Association.

Signed by:

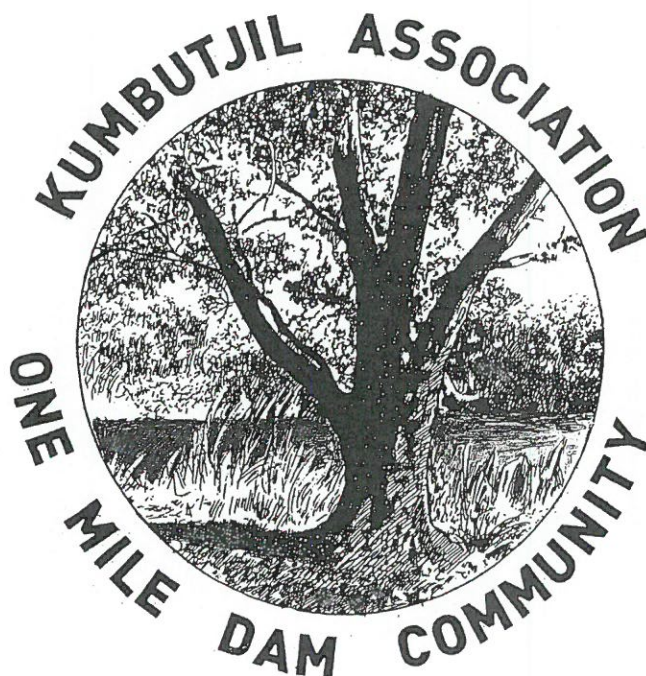
Alfred Woody
Glen Moreen
Pio Wundjar
May Stevens
Eric Jongmin
Gerarda Nilco
Mindi Timber
David Timber
Warren Phillips
Andrina Wundjar
Lloyd.S.Tompson
Gilbert Knowles
Noreen Timber
Joanne Timber
John Amital
Rosemary Timber
Dean Timber
Damien Moreen
Daniel Jongmin
Sheree Banglin
Betty Muluk
Samantha Bilbil
Terosa Timber
Nicky Jorrock

Dated 27 April 2004

Residents of One Mile Dam invite you to come and celebrate

Kumbutjil Association Community Launch

Wednesday
28th April
10am till 12 noon



At **One Mile Dam Community** Dinah Beach Rd, Darwin.

In 1979 - 25 years ago a lease was granted for an aboriginal living area known as One Mile Dam Community or Railway Dam. In the 1970's the old people fought hard and long for their right of place in Darwin. Kumbutjil Association was a name that was used at the time representing the old people that fought for and lived at One Mile Dam.

Residents at One Mile Dam have long family histories of living in this area. 'Kumbutjil' means at the foot of the Black Wattle Tree from 'Mantha Angul' language. Mantha Angul peoples were originally from Anson Bay, Cape Ford and Cape Scott regions.

Kumbutjil Association has been established by the One Mile Dam Community to run their own programs and projects for a safer, active and healthier community.

There will be

Speakers from One Mile Dam, Bagot and other communities in Darwin

Indigenous Music and performance

Free Community BBQ

History Display

Unveiling of Kumbutjil Association sign.

Join us in celebration of Kumbutjil Association
and the future of One Mile Dam Community



CELEBRATING THE PAST

Building
the
Future

