

Aboriginal Club in Darwin providing entertainment, cheap meals, family activities, meeting rooms and sporting teams

The Editor
NT News
GPO Box 1300
Darwin

Dear Sir

Way back in 1981 a meeting was called to discuss the formation of an Aboriginal Club. At this meeting it was argued that ethnic groups in Darwin have their own clubs and religious groups have land set aside for their places of worship. Why not therefore establish an Aboriginal Club in Darwin providing entertainment, cheap meals, family activities, meeting rooms and sporting teams with their own sports fields? The suggestion was to build such a club on the 301 hectare Kulaluk lease. Drinking would be controlled, but in a relaxed atmosphere in expansive beer gardens, while maintaining a family-friendly environment.

Perhaps it was the fact that profits would be returned to the Aboriginal community that incited opposition to the idea from certain interest groups who claimed a club for Aboriginal people would be racism in reverse. However, it was never the intention to limit membership or guests' entry by racial identity. Surely the concept of an Aboriginal Club would be preferable to segregated 'drinking camps' (NT News, April 24, 2012) that would seem to encourage uncontrolled drinking, domestic violence and child neglect. And rather than a light industry estate on the Kulaluk lease, bushland should be set aside for Indigenous religious ceremonies, perhaps in association with the club, such as those I have been fortunate to witness in the recent past.

Yours sincerely

Bill Day

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