Forgive Us Our Trespasses:The struggle continuesHomeless Aboriginal people fighting for land in Darwin, NT.part two

After Gojok (Bob Bunduwabi) died a martyr at his Lee Point camp in 1997, homeless Aboriginal people in Darwin held protests outside Parliament House. Later, during the Arafura Games in Darwin in May, a protest camp was built at Lee Point. The campers were given trespass notices but refused to move. After 17 days the protest camp was closed in a dawn police raid with NT Government officials in a convoy of vehicles. They charged one man with trespassing. This 20 minute DVD tells the story of the dramatic events in 1997 using film from television news bulletins. Below: Report from NT News, 12th May, 1997, page 2.PLUS 7.30 Report item: 'ETHNIC CLEANSING AT RAILWAY DAM'

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Forgive us our trespassesGojok's complaint to the Anti-Discrimination Commission.Darwin 1996 - 1997Video Transfered to DVD in 20088 minutes

CHARGED WITH TRESPASSING ON CROWN LANDBob Bunduwabi was taken from Maningrida in Arnhem Land to the East Arm Leprosarium in Darwin, where he lived for over 25 years. When the hospital closed he set up his camp on the beach in Coconut Grove (below). For the next 14 years he was moved by the authorities from camp to camp around Darwin. After starting the 15 Mile Town Camp he lived at Lee Point for many years, until he and his people were evicted again in July 1996. Determined to defend his right to camp in the bush, he returned to Lee Point and refused to leave. The NT Government then charged him with tresspassing on Crown Land. After a complaint of discrimination was accepted by the Anti-Discrimination Commissioner, Dawn Lawrie, a last minute injuction against the NT Government allowed Bob to stay at Lee Point until his case was decided. However, Bob fell sick while living under a tarp during heavy monsoon rains. He died in January 1997. This 8-minute DVD tells his story as it was seen on television news in Darwin. Thanks to ABC and Channel 9.Read Bob's story in Bill Day's PhD thesis, 2001.

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"We Live in the Long Grass!"A Mousetrap Films DVDDarwin, NT - August 3rd, 2001

In 2001, on August 3rd, homeless Aboriginal people from long grass camps around the City of Darwin, Northern Territory, Australia, marched to Darwin's Parliament House in protest against laws introduced by the Country Liberal Government against anti-social behaviour, clearly directed at Aboriginal people. For years a campaign of harassment by the Darwin City Council had angered the campers, whose bedding was often confiscated. In addition, the Council officers regularly issued fifty-dollar infringement notices for sleeping in the open. At night, the 'yellow top' wagons from the Coconut Grove Sobering-up Centre and the 'blue top' police vehicles forcibly removed campers to the 'spin dry' (as the Centre is known). At the NT elections held two weeks after the August 3rd protest, a Labor Government was elected for the first time since self-government in the Northern Territory. However, the aspirations of the homeless were betrayed by the inaction of the first term of the Clare Martin Government and a subsequent racist election campaign leading to criminalisation of homelessness in 2005 during Labor's second term of government. The struggle continues in 2008. This unique documentary film was recorded live during the protest, then edited and later released by Mousetrap Films in Darwin. Copies of this DVD are exclusively available from a stall in Pavonia Place, the Nightcliff Markets, every Sunday morning. Front cover photographs, left: Jeannie Gadambua with newspaper; Right: Gary Meyerhoff with Aboriginal women speakers; Bottom right: Placards appeal for land at Lee Point in Darwin. Back cover: Gary Meyerhoff beside Bob Bunba (with microphone) and Bill Day (with sunglasses).

Stand Strong Together text not available

Gapuk (smoking) ceremony at Kulaluk, Darwin Northern Territoryheld on 6th May 1989In memory of Nipper RankinNipper Rankin and his wife Josephine lived with their family at Bagot Aboriginal Community in Darwin (cover). Nipper worked for the Darwin City Council for many years. Nipper and his family helped Bobby Secretary fight for land in Darwin. After Nipper passed away in 1989, dancers, friends and family came to the Kulaluk village in Coconut Grove, Darwin, for a big ceremony the Larrakia call 'Kapuk.' Strips of colourful materials were hung on a line to be given as gifts to the dancers and visitors. Nipper's last possessions were burnt and the ashes buried. Everyone was cleansed in the smoke and also washed with water. Then the cloth on the line was given out to the dancers. Kulaluk is Aboriginal land and a place where important ceremonies like Gapuk can be held in the City of Darwin. Thanks to Adrienne McConvell (nee Haritos) for sharing this DVD.

Gapuk 'Burning rag' Ceremony at Knuckeys Lagoon Community 30th May, 1996Above: Residents of the Knuckeys Lagoon Community remember the brave men and women who fought to win the land where they now live near Berrimah on the Stuart Highway south of Darwin, NT. The father, brother and son of Louise Bangun (in wheelchair) are buried in the little community cemetery. Louise also lost her grandfather at Knuckeys Lagoon during Cyclone Tracy in 1974 after he was hit by a falling tree. Some time after the funeral, the deceased person's clothes and possessions are burnt and buried in a 'gapuk', or smoking, ceremony. The house where the deceased family member used to live is also purified with smoke and friends and relatives are cleansed with water and smoke. The dancers and singerman are then paid with lengths of cloth that have been hanging on a line during the singing. You can read more about the struggle to win land at Knuckeys Lagoon in Bill Day's book, Bunji: a story of the Gwalwa Daraniki Movement, published in 1994 by Aboriginal Studies Press. Also Basil Sansom's book, Fringe Dwellers in Darwin: The Camp at Wallaby Cross (1980).Thanks to Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority for making this video of a gapuk ceremony at Knuckeys Lagoon in 1996. DVD 38 MINUTES