

PLATES 5.1 to 5.4: Protests by the 'Wallaby cross' mob. Photos by NT News.



Plate 5.1: (Above) On top of the iron ore stockpile, Darwin wharf, 14 July 1972.

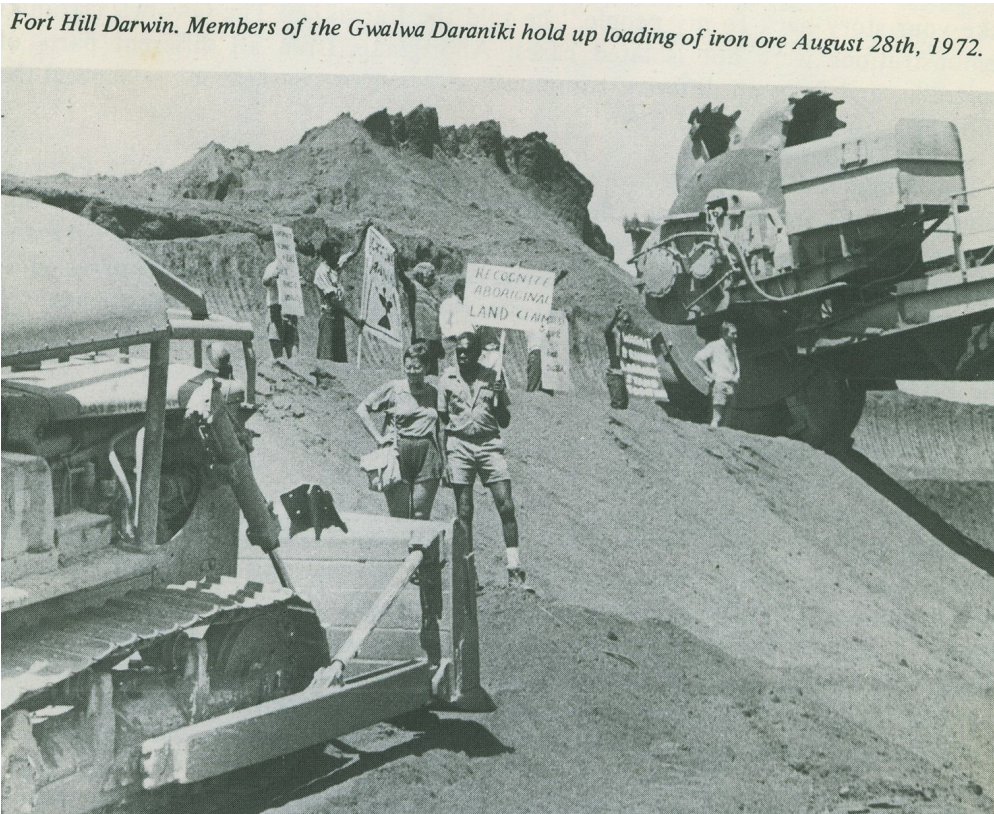


Plate 5.2: (Above) Stopping the loading of iron ore, Darwin wharf, August 1972.

Major Bangun and Roy Kelly are second and third from the left, top row.

PLATES 5.1 to 5.4: Protests by the 'Wallaby cross' mob. Photos by *NT News*.



Plate 5.3: (Above) Marching on Hiroshima Day, 1978. Roy Kelly ('Tommy Atkins') is on the right of the photograph. Photo by *NT News*.



Plate 5.4: (Above) Meeting Judge Woodward and Nicholas Peterson from the Aboriginal Land Rights Commission at Kulaluk. June 2, 1973.

PLATES 6.1 to 6.3: (Below) Protests by the 'Wallaby Cross' mob.

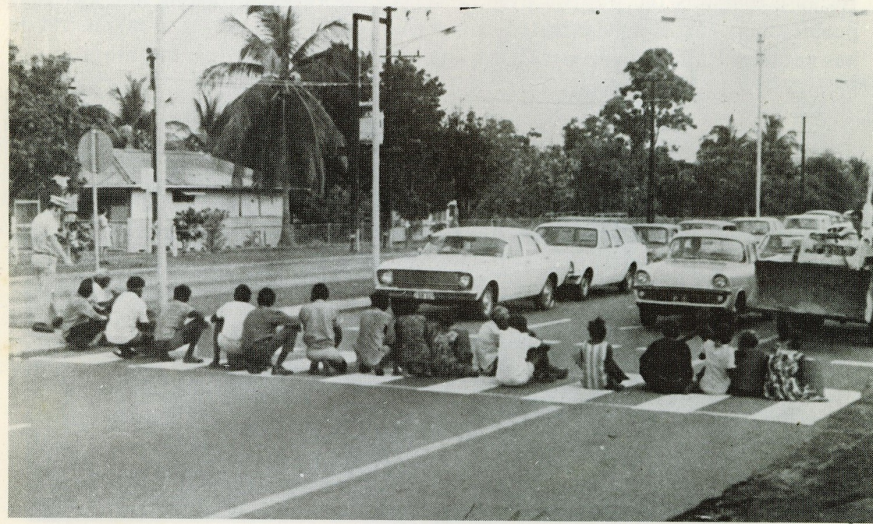


Plate 6.1: (Above) Sit-down across Bagot Road, November 1971



**Plate 6.2: 'Invading' the Larrakeyah Army Barracks, Darwin. August 1973.
Major is centre, looking back. Photo by Cheryl Buchanan**



Plate 6.3: Protest outside Darwin's Fannie Bay Prison. Left: Major ('Denton') is squatting with sign. Right: Roy Kelly third from left. ABC News film.



Plate 7: grave of Major Bangun's son at Knuckeys Lagoon, 1996. Photo Bill Day.



Plate 8: (Above) Homeless Aborigines marching to Parliament House, Darwin 1997. From ABC Television.

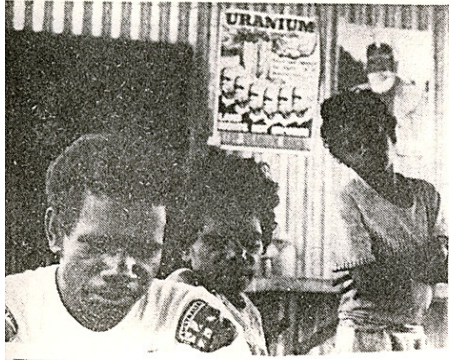


**Plate 6.5: (Above) Left, Major Bangun ('Denton Pollock') in 1973.
Right, centre: Roy Kelly ('Tommy Atkins') in 1973.**

Illustration 3: (Below) A page from the Darwin newsletter, *Bunji*, June 1978.

VII intro

SUNDAY AT KNUCKEYS LAGOON



Joseph Bishop, Ann Stevens, Neville Morton.



Helen Stevens



The Community vehicle calls in for water

Knuckeys Lagoon is a land claim for camping. It is about ten miles down the highway from Darwin, near Berrimah. This camp of iron huts is popular with people from cattle stations, like Gilbert Knowle from Finnis and Ronnie Yates from Annaburroo.

On this day, Major Bangun has taken a mob out fishing at Shoal Bay in the community ute. Neil Dargie, the camp's bush mechanic had been working on the ute. Today Margaret is giving Neil a haircut under the shade of the gum trees.

Roy Kelly is cooking some kangaroo. 'Long Willie' Gaydon cut up the kangaroo. Sitting on old beds under the verandah are Joseph Bishop with May and Helen Stevens, little Tania and a boy, Neville Morton, out from Bagot for the day.

The camp is very proud to have its own clinic where Major's wife Sally, looks after the first aid.

They have slashers to keep down the high grass, and a quiet place for ceremonies.

A battered old jeep bounces into the clearing. It is Robert Townsend looking for Tommy Petherick, who is out buffalo catching. Next, a Northern Land Council vehicle pulls up. They are looking for Oenpelli people. This group is sitting back in the bush cooking. Around the fire are Joseph Gerrimudie, Left Hand Johnny (Ngarmoo), Rankin Bayden and Nancy Kelly.

The Muddi Community ute comes back in a cloud of dust. Young Raymond Bangun, Hector and all the boys have been sent back to fetch more water to Shoal Bay.

Joseph Bishop tells a story about some trouble they have been having. It is about welfare funerals, something the Gwalwa Daraniki have been complaining about for years.

"An old man who lived here for very many years, he wanted to be buried here, not only him but everyone, so they cleared a place already. The people said, 'We go to town and find out about the body.'

They found out the funeral had been two days before in Darwin cemetery without these people being told. Everyone felt upset and cried a lot."

The community is also angry that they haven't got the lease after so many years. Without the lease papers for the land, they are told they cannot build better facilities.

One thing for sure, whatever happens, The Knuckeys Lagoon crowd will never be shifted!

By afternoon time, about half the people had walked the mile down to the Berrimah crossroads. It had been a quiet, lazy day.

BLACKS TAKE OVER DAA OFFICE IN DARWIN



By now everyone must have heard how our people camped in the Darwin office of Aboriginal Affairs. This is what happened.

The Pine Creek blacks were fed up with no answer all the time. They wanted decent housing. Norm Brown and Lynn Kirk wanted an answer about the Aboriginal Medical Service. So they got together and walked into Mr. Pitman's office at D.A.A. They said, "we are not moving out of here until we get an answer."

That night, the word got around, By midnight there were forty blacks sleeping in the office and down the corridor. Major Bangun wanted an answer about the land at Knuckeys Lagoon (the have been waiting five years).

For three days and two nights the group camped and ate in the office, ringing up Canberra. One morning there was a bomb-scare. Everyone left the building. "It might be a trick" said Norm Brown. There was no bomb, of course.

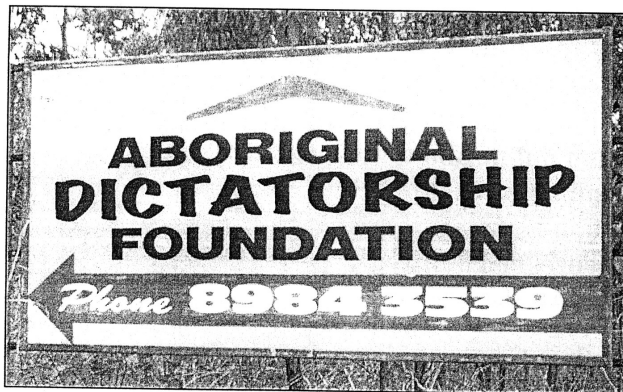
In the photograph are the people who slept in the corridor. It was taken about two o'clock in the morning on the first night.



Issue 2, June 2003

**TOWN CAMP
SPECIAL**

Interviews from One Mile Dam,
Knuckey s Lagoon and 15 Mile.



“Bernie Valadian was supposed to be working for the people, look after the interests of the people and not the other way round. But ever since ADF was formed, it’s always been Bernie doing this for the people and the people is doing what Bernie wanted them to do.

“He has all the say of what goes on in the community. He hires and fires who ever he wants. He’s been just a one man show and no one’s been able to say anything against him during the past, even if you were a member on in the committee, he’d have you voted off or kicked out.

Not that you vote so much, he’s manipulative and the way he gets other people on the committee to agree with him to get rid of people, he’s cunning like that. He’s very good at that.”

David Timber - 1 Mile Dam (Railway Dam)

Police threat to
shoot
longgrassers
Speaking out in
Raintree Park

Jeannie
Gadambua
interview

Medical bus
needed

Interview with
June Mills

Interview with
Bakamumu
Marika,
Chairman,
Yirrkala Dhanbul
Community
Assoc

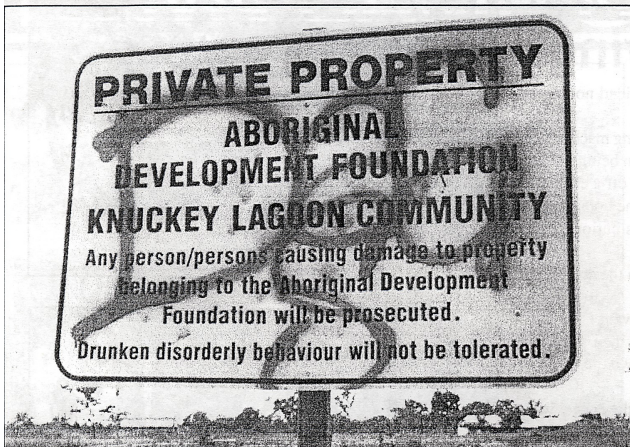
Tiwi toilets

Arts Space

Busting Grog

Poetry from
June Mills

Appendix IV: The cover of issue no. 2 of *Longgrass*.



Knuckey s Lagoon

Interviews
19th May 2003

(The names of some people in this interview have not been written for security reasons)

Knuckey's History

TS: Lot of old people been here, live around like all the longgrassers doing. Well that's the same, they been live here, found it from Batchelor. They been travel and found it here and they live here, so they been recognized properly. So they been take em all the tin irons that they used to make a shed here.

Old Major, Old Nugget, Old Willy Gaden, all that mob. Louise and all that Major family, Willy family – they used to be out in the college, Berrimah.

So Bill Day found that mob and started to help that mob, and he did it. He built that house. Louise's father was president then – Major Rankin.

And he was living on, before cyclone time, wandering around, up and down, nothing doing, back here.

We had just started to live here, came in from out station at Finnis River with my wife. We been live here and they started to recognize this place and they like to live here.

Might be couple of days used to come around, talk to the old people, specially Old Major. Bill Day – yeah, he's a nice bloke. Then oh, lots of people been coming in, Mudananga tribe live here.

So, after a while still got a tin house we been live in before. Tin shed we made from collect at rubbish – not really house. And

after a while we had a meeting with Bill Day and Jack Phillips. We'll put a building, built that house.

We used to drink but no fighting, sometimes argue.

When the cyclone been coming in we didn't know, we just got shock that day. We just hang around collecting all the pie and cake and booze.

We just sat down and talk, talk. Drunk people been lying down everywhere. And that Old fella went out with a bottle of wine, big bottle. He drink it himself before cyclone been coming in, before 6am I think. He wiped it out, we lost one old man.

We couldn't sleep, we just stand up, standing sleep – too cold. Everything this way been wet, cant do anything. No one drinking, except Alec Garrawee – he drunk all night. He didn't care about wind, cold.

And after the cyclone, we all been spread. Some people been went away and I went back to Port Keats with my wife early morning.

We found that old fella dead. Big mob log from foot to head. We been looking for him til we find him. Found him with bottle of wine, but he never cracked that bottle.

And we run up there – one vehicle been running and help us to set that body right, take it. That's Old Major's father. Very, very strange hey. In cyclone time, wind. A lot of mess up here tree been die that morning we got up.

Very long not much trouble we been getting it from white fella. Used to go with Roy Kelly, Old man Buk Buk, Old Jaga boy and Old Fred Waters, Willy, Nugget Captain – they used to go with that welfare

bloke to have meeting for this place, until they been win. All the Old people been gone – only that old place there, number 1,2,3,4,5 house really.

When the ADF started here, I wasn't here then. I went back home to Port Keats. I came back I seen all them house there. I been stop at Port Keats 4 or 5 years.

Since I come back, because my wife's father been pass away. That's why I came back.

Roy Kelly, all that old people been still alive. Normally every morning, sometime every week they come, need to have meeting here for housing, how people want to live here. But me never been work for CDEP, nothing.

DT(David Timber): There was only 2 town camps here at the time – One Mile and Knuckeys.

TS: Yeah, that's it.

Q: Could anyone go to the meeting and talk?

TS: Used to be that what they did, now different. Very hard and we getting down poor too. Not much help. They did help for these houses last year, that's it. We don't see much.

We sitting down, no help, no nothing.

Q: Do you feel that you could talk to ADF about what's going on?

TS: Some time Bernie Valadian come round here. We ask them, he talk to them sometimes.

But we need something to do you know. We not gonna sit down, leave rubbish around laying everywhere. Maybe sometime we got a problem with water blocked up like that, or house damage like that. Sometimes workers come up and we tell that mob to fix it up house. ADF doing nothing much.

Town Camps pay to use ADF Slasher

GM: We need this grass down cause a few of us nearly got bit by a snake. That little boy nearly got bit at the back of his house there.

Q: So why can't you get that equipment from ADF?

GM: Because it's not available. Bernie won't supply it. He wont give it out, he cant give it out.

I don't know what's wrong. Like if Knuckeys Lagoon Community want to use equipment from ADF, CDEP has to give funding to ADF to use. I think he goes by the hour.

DT: I think he's making his own rules that Bernie.

GM: CDEP offered, if they gave us the

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