

Elders have seen how it was before, how our land was held. They have seen all our ancestors fighting for the land. This was the one day when the land was handed back. Our leader was very fragile. When the judge gave it back to him, he passed away two weeks after. He won it not just for himself, but for all Karajarri and Karajarri into the future. The old people, they are the foundation. They put in this position now to continue on, developing, fighting, and continuing on our culture for our future.

The KLC were trying since 1978, since Noonkanbah, trying for land. They could see something coming. After all those years of fighting, they could see something that was winnable. They never thought they could win that land back. They fought so hard for us. They never let us down. The people we had working with us from KLC, they stuck with us, through all the field trips. Driving us around, recording information, we covered some 40,000 square kilometres of country. We had 30 to 40 flat tires. Different parts of the country had different information from our Elders. Some of our Elders were arguing with the KLC staff, because there was so much pressure and stress. Some KLC staff got emotional, and started crying. We had to bring it all back together, to hold this group of people, not only keeping the Elders together, but keeping all Karajarri together. If you don't have all family groups together, you might not win native title. The strongest thing about Karajarri was all family groups are all together. There are some small arguments, but we stick together. After native title, we still keep the family groups together. One thing I am really happy about is that no matter what family group, we don't take sides with each other. We all listen to each other.

They have put all this trust in me, to take to the next step. It's been hard, hard to run. You only get support from your own family, and your own tribe, but not from anywhere else, to try and get something very important running. I've got to look at every little thing. In the last couple of years our committee has been struggling a little. Our AGM [Annual General Meeting] has been falling a bit. I have got to look at every little avenue to manage our country. How can we manage our country without government funding? We set up lots of Karajarri projects with project funding. They help with managing certain things, like the cultural management plan. Project grants for managing bush medicines. They all fall under PBC work. The government says 'we will give you

money for the project, but we won't give you money for the PBC.' Even the Yirriman project, which we are the founders of, which runs cultural projects with young kids, maintaining culture. The downfall for our PBC is trying to administrate and manage our country. We have no fax, no phone, and no place where people can come. People who play an important role could come to our office.

We need to have a plan, and achieve our plan year by year. There is day to day management work, and we need someone to do paperwork, bills, set up meetings, and the filing. We had Jarrod Coote.* He walked into the KLC office, thought he was coming into something small. But he was blown away by something so big.

At the end of the day we want to be able to do things independently. Break away from the KLC. My aim and dream is to see my Karajarri office. I had this picture in my mind a long time ago, before native title, about how it would look like. Leaders can do so much, but the pressure is on them, and they get worn down too quick.

'Getting the Djabugay back in town': Djabugay Native Title Corporation Planning Workshop

By Toni Bauman, Research Fellow, NTRU

A three day planning workshop was held with the Djabugay PBC in Kuranda from 24th to 26th September 2008 as part of the NTRU's PBC Project. The workshop was facilitated by Ross Johnston and Ian Kirkby of

* Jarrod Coote worked for Karajarri between February and July 2005, in a full-time and then part-time capacity

Bushwork Consultants and took place under the kinds of funding uncertainties which beset most PBCs. Just prior to the workshop, the PBC learnt that it had received only half of the funding requested from FaHCSIA which is insufficient to keep its office open and employ a co-ordinator. A 'roadmap' document will be produced from the workshop which sets out a plan for consolidating fundamental building blocks for the PBC and a range of options for the Governing Committee to discuss and make decisions about in the future. Learnings from the workshop will inform an NTRU PBC planning paper will be published in 2009.

It is critical that the Djabugay locate funding for the continuation of its office and coordinator position. This is a particularly urgent issue given that the Department of Natural Resources and Water in Queensland is seeking to finalise a Draft Plan of Management for the Barron Gorge National Park over which the Djabugay received a determination of native title rights and interests in 2003. Without an office and coordinator, it will be impossible to co-ordinate Djabugay activities including a formal response to the Draft Plan which is a central aspect of Djabugay's Indigenous Land Use Agreement. Neither has the North Queensland Land Council received funding to prepare a response to the Draft Plan.



*Front: Rosetta Brim, Tommy Brim, Rhonda Brim, Edwin Donahue, Kerry Brim, Geraldine Hobbler, Michelle Hunter, Gerald Hobbler;
Back: Hanz, Ross, Wally Brim, Rhonda Duffin, Ian, Valeska Kapteyn, Ian Cannon, Andy Duffin and Toni.*

House of Representatives Report Recognises Importance of Indigenous Enterprise

By Ingrid Hammer, Research Officer, AIATSIS

The report of the Standing Committee on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs follows an inquiry into the support that is available for Indigenous enterprise, and the avenues available for expansion of Indigenous businesses.

Indigenous business participation is relatively low, at only six per cent compared with 17 per cent for non Indigenous self employed. Non Indigenous people are also three times more likely to own and run their own business than Indigenous people, whose low outcomes are exacerbated with remoteness. During the inquiry the Committee heard that Indigenous people— young and old, from urban to remote regions— increasingly see business as an opportunity to benefit their communities and are keen to engage with the mainstream economy. The range and diversity of Indigenous owned businesses currently in operation was also impressive. The Committee recognised that it would be ineffective to create a standard program to respond to Indigenous business needs, and that in order to assist Indigenous businesses to grow, further action is required. The report details, amongst other things, that more comprehensive trend data, greater research into natural resource management and, further education as to enterprise based opportunities and the availability of governmental assistance would be beneficial to Indigenous businesses across Australia.