



# CAPE YORK LAND COUNCIL ABORIGINAL CORPORATION NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 2 ISSUE I - JUNE 2007

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Chairperson's  
Update...p 3

Steps to  
Cultural Heritage  
Protection...p 4

Protecting your land  
rights...p 5

Native Title Act  
Amendments...p 6

Wild Rivers  
Update...p 7

Hopevale  
Update...p 8

Cape York  
Cultural Heritage  
listing...p 9

Kin and Country  
- the Cape York  
Indigenous  
Conservation  
Agenda...p 10

Corporations law to  
change...p 11

CYLC Staff  
Workshops...p 12

## THEY DID IT!!!



## KUKU YALANJI AGREEMENTS SIGNED AND SEALED

After 13 years of meetings and negotiations the most significant and complex set of Indigenous Land Use Agreements in the history of Queensland were signed off on by stakeholders at an emotional celebration in Wujal Wujal in April this year.

Queensland Premier Peter Beattie paid tribute to everyone who was involved in what he said was a "complex and at times very difficult process".

"Today, as a result of so many people's hard work and commitment, we are gathered to celebrate the most significant ILUA ever struck in Queensland, it is the most significant and to all of you, you should be congratulated," he said.

"It covers some 230,000 hectares of, as you know better than I do, beautiful, unique and precious Cape York land and this is, as I said, a milestone in all our histories.

"We'll be recognising the rights and ownership of the Eastern Kuku Yalanji people, we'll also be protecting 79,000 hectares of land in new national parks and we'll be putting Traditional Owners in control of their land.

CYLC chair Michael Ross said the Land Council would continue to support the Eastern Yalanji people.

"They've got a long journey ahead of them yet but Cape York Land Council will support them," he said.

"The people of Cape York have been standing behind Kuku Yalanji people for the last 13 years since they lodged their native title claim, especially the members of the executive committee, and on their behalf I first congratulate Yalanji people on their success.

*(Continued Page Two)*

Cape York Land Council  
32 Florence Street  
CAIRNS QLD 4870  
Freecall: 1800 623 548  
Fax: 07 4051 0097

CYLC Weipa Regional Office  
Evans Landing  
WEIPA QLD 4874  
Ph: 07 4069 7484  
Fax: 07 4069 7341

CYLC Cooktown Regional Office  
Charlotte Street  
COOKTOWN QLD 4871  
Ph: 07 4069 6066  
Fax: 07 4069 6066

# KUKU YALANJI CELEBRATE!

(From Page One)

"This agreement represents a change in the minds and hearts of all Australians ... (and) means Kuku Yalanji children can look forward to their future with confidence, strength and excitement."

Speakers and guests at the celebration included Yalanji traditional owners from as far away as Mackay, as well as Minister for Indigenous Affairs Warren Pitt, Minister for the Environment Lindy Nelson-Carr, Member for Cook Jason O'Brien, Wujal Wujal Mayor Desmond Tayley, Cook Shire Mayor Bob Sullivan, Douglas Shire Mayor Mike Berwick and representatives from the North Queensland Land Council, National Native Title Tribunal, Wet Tropics Management Authority, graziers, miners and and representatives from



various government departments who have been involved in the negotiations. Kuku Yalanji elder Eileen Walker said they had "lots of support from everyone".

"We want to see done for our futures and our old people," she said.

"We want to go back to our country and do what we want to do."

Many of the speakers, including spokesperson

Peter Wallace, acknowledged elders who had guided them through the process as well as those who had passed on.

"It was a bit emotional but a really good day, I looked back and thought of the elders, my uncle and so many other elders I've been with who taught me everything so it's good to come to this point," Mr Wallace said.

"We want to get out and care for country now, get out and try and create jobs and empower the younger generation so they can come behind us and learn the process, learn more about their culture and take more care of it."

Wujal Wujal Mayor Desmond Tayley said the Agreements marked a new era in the history of the Yalanji people.

"The achievement we celebrate here today represents a collective effort, vision, hard work, total commitment of many people, young and old," he said.



The agreements deliver:

- native title recognition;
- transfer of freehold land; and
- a greater role in land management including within national parks.

Mr Ross said the deal showed Aboriginal people were able to achieve good negotiated native title outcomes despite the drawbacks of the Native Title Act.

CYLC legal officer Michelle Cohen said once the Agreements were registered with the National Native Title Tribunal a Federal Court judge would make a determination that Yalanji people held native title.

"The land transfer process will start now with land title ultimately transferred to a Yalanji corporation over the next three years," she said. "Yalanji people still have a lot of community development planning and national park management planning ahead of them."

She said the first and most immediate step for Yalanji People was to set up the new corporations to hold the freehold land and native title.

**For more information on the Agreements you can contact CYLC lawyers Cordell Scaife or Michelle Cohen.**

*Pictured: Page One (courtesy Nicolette Kormendy, NNTT): Some of the Eastern Kuku Yalanji & Land Council Negotiating Team members: lawyer Marita Stinton, Barrister Susan Phillips; lawyer Jim Brooks, David Solomon, Peter Wallace, Andrew Solomon, Project Manager Jane Holden, lawyer David Yarrow, CYLC Chairman Michael Ross, Cedric Friday, Elisabeth Tayley, Eileen Walker, Doreen Ball, Hazel Douglas, Lizzie Olbar, Christine Friday, Delores Friday, lawyer Cordell Scaife, Marilyn Wallace, Christine Solomony.*

*Page Two: (Clockwise from Above - courtesy Christine Howes): Eileen Walker & Doreen Ball, Marilyn Wallace & Christine Friday, Queensland Premier Peter Beattie, CYLC chair Michael Ross.*

# CHAIRPERSON'S UPDATE

Since our last newsletter the organisation has undergone staff training, celebrated a major agreement settlement and actively pursued the State government in its Wild Rivers legislation and policies affecting the economic, social and cultural sustainability of Cape York.

The Executive Committee has met 3 times this year in January, March and April. These meetings have supported management in decisions including the direction of CYLC, re-recognition as a representative body and staffing.

In March we met with the Registrar of Aboriginal Corporations to discuss the changes that our land council will have to go through following the Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) (CATSI) Bill which will be introduced on 1 July.

This new legislation will replace the Aboriginal Councils and Associations Act that CYLC currently operates under and on which our current Constitution is based. These proposed changes to our Constitution will involve a great deal of consultation with our members through our Area Officers, Executive Committee members and staff.

I encourage all members to ensure that you look out for correspondence from CYLC over the next few months. As members, it is our role to consider all options proposed by CYLC management to make sure we follow the new laws.

Our next newsletter will provide further information about the proposed changes. These changes can only be endorsed by the CYLC Members at a CYLC Special General Meeting.

I was pleased earlier this month to join Kuku Yalanji traditional owners to celebrate the signing of their Indigenous Land Use agreements, after 13 years of struggle.

It was a great day of celebrations and along with the Executive Committee members I congratulate the Kuku Yalanji People.

*Michael Ross  
CYLC Chair*



*Pictured: Top Left: Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Partnerships Minister Warren Pitt, Environment Minister Lindy Nelson-Carr, CYLC Chair Michael Ross & Premier Peter Beattie at the Kuku Yalanji celebrations  
Above: The Mossman Dancers*

*Left: CYLC Chair Michael Ross and Premier Peter Beattie*

## TRADITIONAL OWNERS CAN CAMP IN NATIONAL PARK

Sometimes traditional owners of Cape York ask us: "Can we camp on our country if it's in national park?" The answer is "yes".

### Know your rights

- the national park does not take away your native title rights to camp on your traditional country
- you don't need a ranger's permission to camp in national park on your traditional country
- you are not breaking the law if you camp on your traditional country

Sometimes traditional owners say to us: "rangers or other people hassle us and tell us we can't camp where we've always camped, so we don't go there anymore". That's wrong.

### Know your rights

- if a ranger or anyone else tells you to move on, you can say to them "I am exercising my native title rights" and tell them to call the Cape York Land Council if they have any more questions
- you do not have to camp in a national park 'camp site' if that is not where you traditionally camp
- as you have always done, you need to make sure people look after your country and don't leave rubbish or damage the country
- if you would like a traditional owner card to keep in your wallet to show rangers or other people that you are a traditional owner, call us and we will post you a card

**If you'd like more information on what you can do in national parks, phone CYLC on 1800 623 548.**





## TAKING STEPS TO PROTECT YOUR CULTURAL PLACES

Are you worried about people doing the wrong thing at or near a story place, birth place, burial place, sacred site or with some artifacts?

You can help protect these places or things by following these steps:

**Step 1:** Make a note or get someone to help you make a note about what the place or thing is and where it is.

Do you know the nearest road, any nearby landmarks, who the landholder is and how big the area or thing is? Can you draw a map to show how where the place is?

For example, your note might say:

Place where my grandmother and elders were buried (Juljal)  
- near the quarry on Boundary Rd, next to Bill Smith's property  
- in the thicnk scrub but only a short walk (100m) from the road  
- the place is about half as big as a footy field  
- there are a few grey stones laid out there to mark the graves

**Step 2:** Phone, write or fax to:

Cultural Heritage Coordination Unit  
Department of Natural Resources and Water  
Locked Bag 40  
COORPAROO DELIVERY CENTRE QLD 4151  
Ph: (07) 3238 3838 or 1800 440 340  
Fax: (07) 3238 3842

Ask them to register your information on the Cultural Heritage Register. This is a public register which will help protect the place or thing.

If you're told you need to fill in a form, we suggest you:

- give the person the information you have and ask the person to fill the form in for you; or
- ask the person to send you the form so you can fill it in and send it back

**Step 3:** Phone CYLC and tell us about the place or thing, so we can help to protect it too. This is a very important step if you see signs that damage or development is happening in the area.

If you're not sure about telling people about the place but you still want protect it, or if you need some help with the first 2 steps, phone CYLC on 1800 623 548.

## TRESPASSERS ON YOUR FREEHOLD LAND?

If some of your people's traditional country is 'Aboriginal freehold' or 'ALA freehold', remember you have the right to:

- decide who goes on that land
- put up a fence, gate and sign to stop trespassers going on that land without your permission
- tell trespassers to leave

If someone goes onto your people's freehold without your permission, you can:

- tell them they are trespassing
- tell them to leave
- ask them for their name and address
- call the police, make a complaint, and ask for the trespasser to be prosecuted
- call Cape York Land Council for our help to contact the police

**If you would like more information about which land is Aboriginal freehold, or you're not sure about your land rights, call CYLC on 1800 623 548.**

# NATIVE TITLE ACT AMENDMENTS

The Federal Government has been considering changes to the Native Title Act since 2005, saying that it wants to make the native title process simpler and quicker.

CYLC supports any changes that will assist the native title process, but is very concerned that a lot of the changes that the Federal Government is making will not help Traditional Owners or Rep Bodies like CYLC.

The final detail of some of the changes is still being considered, but one lot of amendments to the Act has now been passed by the Parliament, and another round of changes is likely within the next few months.

There is not enough space in this newsletter to include all of the information about the changes.

If you want more information, please contact Jane Holden at CYLC, and we will arrange to give you some more details.

Some of the key changes are:-

- Each existing Rep Body in Australia, including CYLC, will be "recognised" for a fixed term of between 1 and 6 years, starting on 1/7/07. Funding to do native title work will only be provided while recognised as a Rep Body. CYLC has been offered recognition for a 3 year period. There is no guarantee of any further recognition after the first term. CYLC is concerned that the Federal Government will move to reduce the number of Rep Bodies, especially in Queensland, once the first term has expired;
- the Minister will be able to reduce Rep Body areas, or expand them, after a "consultation" process, even if the Rep Body/ies concerned opposes the change;
- native title claims which aren't registered or which were lodged in response to s.29 mining notices may be removed from the system by the Court, even where the native title claimants want the claim to stay in the system;
- the National Native Title Tribunal is given some significant new powers, relating to review of the existence of native title and inquiries into other issues – CYLC is concerned that some of the new functions have the potential to create a greater workload and pressures for native title claimants.

Unfortunately, although the Federal Government has made some minor changes which CYLC thinks will assist in getting claims through to a determination (such as the ability to get a consent determination of native title over only part of a claim area, where all parties with an interest agree), we think that the opportunity to make some real improvements to the native title system has been lost, and that the changes for the most part will simply require more time and resources on the part of Rep Bodies and native title claimants, while making life easier for the other parties.

# WILD RIVERS DOES AFFECT NATIVE TITLE

## 1. THE MINISTER'S RECENT COMMENTS

Recently the Minister for Natural Resources and Water, the Hon. Craig Wallace MP, stated that 'Indigenous communities in Cape York have nothing to fear from Queensland's new wild rivers legislation'. Mr Wallace went on to say that 'Native Title also is not affected by the Wild Rivers Act - because the Native Title Act is a Federal Act which can override State law.'

CYLC has a very different opinion to the Minister and the State Government on the affect of wild rivers on native title.

CYLC is the opinion that the Wild Rivers Act, Code and Declarations affect native title rights and interests. State laws can undermine and negatively affect Traditional Owner's native title rights and interests. For example, national parks are dedicated under State law and as we know these dedications undermine native title rights and interests. The Wild Rivers Act, Code and Declarations act in a similar way. Wild Rivers is a state law, which undermines native title rights and interests, but, in some cases, is determined to be valid under Federal law.

## 2. THE EFFECT OF WILD RIVERS ON NATIVE TITLE RIGHTS & INTERESTS & OTHER ASPIRATIONS

The Wild Rivers Act protects all pre-existing statutory rights (rights exercised in accordance with a permit, license or under an authorisation or law) but does not protect native title rights and interests. Given this CYLC is of the strong legal opinion that the Wild Rivers Act, Code and Declarations negatively affect native title rights and interests.

This does not mean that the wild rivers scheme will stop people from fishing with a rod and camping near the rivers, but it does mean that:

- outstation development will be more difficult;
- aquaculture (eg: mudcrabbing, fish farming & crocodile egg harvesting) will be banned 1km either side of a wild river and its major tributaries, floodplains and wetlands;
- agriculture (eg: commercial orchards and crops) will be banned 1km either side of a wild river and its major tributaries, floodplains and wetlands;
- animal husbandry (eg: emu farms, crocodile farming and lamb feedlots) will be banned 1km either side of a wild river and its major tributaries, floodplains and wetlands.

These bans and restrictions will negatively affect the native title right to use and enjoy the land, the native title right to live off the land and the native title right to construct residences and other structures. It will also undermine Indigenous people's ability to set up economic enterprises and businesses.

As Minister Craig Wallace's latest comments suggest, the State Government is still refusing to accept that the wild rivers scheme affects native title and has not agreed to protecting native title rights and interests under the scheme. This is very frustrating given that CYLC has a copy of an internal government email (from Crown law) that expresses the view that wild rivers may affect native title rights and interests.

So in refusing to acknowledge that the wild rivers scheme affects native title the Minister seems to be disagreeing with CYLC and Crown Law, a State Government Department.

## 3. RECENT CHANGES TO THE WILD RIVERS ACT

On 22 February 2007 the State Government passed changes to the Wild Rivers Act.

One of the last-minute changes to the legislation was to allow landholders to effectively "get around" wild rivers laws if the Minister approves a Property Development Plan (PDP). These plans:

- can be approved for up to 10 years;
- will apply to Aboriginal held pastoral properties or Aboriginal freehold; and
- will allow for activities which would otherwise be restricted or banned under the wild rivers scheme to be carried out.

The Minister can approve a PDP is the Minister is satisfied that:

- The activities requested to be carried out under the PDP can be carried out without amending a wild rivers declaration;
- The activities are likely to be completed within 10 years of grant of the approval;

- The carrying out of the PDP will not have an overall negative impact on the natural values of the river; and
- The environmental values of the plan justify its approval.

These new changes may provide Indigenous parties with a way of overcoming the restrictions and bans imposed by the wild rivers scheme, but cannot be relied on by native title claimants or holders unless they have some other form of tenure as well.

The Minister has indicated that the State Government will be consulting with communities on other wild rivers declarations for Cape York once the wet season ends.

CYLC is still working hard to oppose the declaration of any more wild rivers on the Cape York Peninsula until such time as indigenous people's native title rights and economic development rights are protected and upheld under the Wild Rivers Act.

If you have any questions about wild rivers please contact Prue Gusmerini, Policy Officer, Cape York Land Council.

## HOPEVALE INTEREST REGULARISATION PROJECT UPDATE

The Hopevale Congress (on behalf of most Hopevale native title holders), blockholders and the Hopevale Council have been negotiating with the State Government to try and reach agreement about transferring the Hopevale DOGIT.

These negotiations are important because:

- blockholders want secure title to the areas of land they have been occupying for many years,
- Congress want to have a proper say about what happens on their clan areas, and
- the Council wants a clear and efficient decision making process for the future.

Congress, the blockholders and Council have been working together constructively since 2004.

A Working Party including representatives of each group and the State, has developed a model for a land trust that balances the needs and aspirations of each group.

The model:

- is inclusive,
- has clear rules for decision making, and
- can implement the aspirations of the Hopevale community.

A report was given to the Department of Natural Resources and Water in June last year which the Government said it would respond to by October.

Unfortunately this has not happened yet.

CYLC, as well as Congress, will continue to ask the Government for a response.

The Working Party and Congress did not expect the Government to agree to all of the model straight away but believes that all the Aboriginal parties will work constructively together to address any problems the State Government might have.

There is a lot of frustration that the Government has been slow to deal with the report.

Congress has made it clear that they will not go away and that they are ready to continue negotiations as soon as the State Government has responded to the report.





# NOMINATION OF CAPE YORK FOR NATIONAL HERITAGE LISTING

**In December 2006 the Humane Society nominated the majority of Cape York Peninsula for National Heritage listing.**

The Cape York Land Council has written to the Federal Minister Malcolm Turnbull and the Chairperson of the Humane Society International to express our disappointment that this nomination has been made without any consultation with Indigenous people.

We have also written to the Humane Society International asking that the nomination be withdrawn.

The nomination of all of Cape York at this time ignores the reality that the area remains of vital cultural and natural significance to the Traditional Owners of the Cape York who should be intimately involved in the preparation of any listing in order for there to be effective long term conservation of Cape York.

Once an area is added to the National Heritage List it means that a person cannot take an action which will have, or is likely to have, a significant impact on the national heritage values of that place without the approval of the Commonwealth Minister for the Environment and Water Resources.

So for example mining projects, cattle projects, outstation development, residential buildings and road construction would need Commonwealth Ministerial approval on top of the existing local and State approvals if Cape York all become National Heritage listed.

While there are references to a National Heritage listing not affecting s.211 of the Native Title Act 1993, the reality is that the activities covered by that section, like hunting, fishing, gathering, spiritual activities for non-commercial purposes, are a very small part of the rights and aspirations of Indigenous people.

We anticipate that in June 2007 the Minister will pass this Cape York nomination and all other nominations to the Australian Heritage Council. Shortly after the Australian Heritage Council will

consider these and provide the minister with a proposed priority assessment list.

When a nomination is prioritised the Australian Heritage Council then investigates the nomination before recommending to the Minister whether it should be placed on the National Heritage.

During the assessment process the Australian Heritage Council must give Owners, Occupiers and Indigenous person's opportunity to comment.

The assessment period could take one year or more.

Also of interest is that very shortly new members will be appointed to the Australian Heritage Council (<http://www.ahc.gov.au/>).

As you can appreciate such a listing could have a huge impact on the development of Cape York Peninsula.

The Cape York Land Council will continue to argue that:

- the Cape York nomination should not proceed to a priority nomination or listing at this time.
- that further consultation and consideration by traditional owners should take place before any listing of such a large and diverse area.
- that a Cape York listing should only go ahead if it is agreed to by traditional owners.

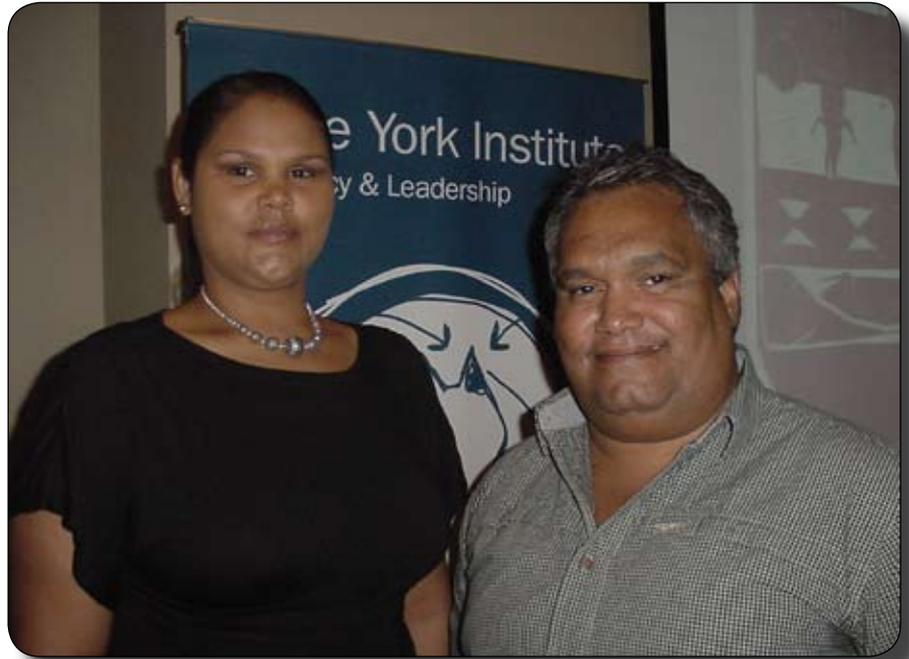
**If you would like more information contact Prue Gusmerini or Jane Holden at Cape York Land Council.**

**A copy of the listing can be found at <http://www.environment.gov.au/heritage/> by searching the database for 'Cape York Peninsula'.**

**The Place ID is 105968.**

# KIN AND COUNTRY: THE CAPE YORK INDIGENOUS CONSERVATION AGENDA

On Monday 23rd April, the Cape York Institute for Policy and Leadership held a public seminar in Cairns called Kin and Country: The Cape York Indigenous Conservation Agenda. The speakers were Gerhardt Pearson CEO, Balkanu Cape York Development Corporation; Tania Major Young Australian of the Year, 2007 and Kokoberra woman (both pictured right) and Tim Flannery Australian of the Year, 2007. Approximately 130 people attended from all different areas including government, pastoralists, conservationists, students and traditional owners.



This seminar hoped to explain some key issues to non-indigenous people and organisations concerned with Cape York's environmental future. It was about reminding people again that Cape York Indigenous people are committed to conservation however conservation efforts must not discriminate against your legal rights and should not cut across the efforts being made in the areas of welfare and social reform because healthy people are needed to keep country healthy.

The seminar also discussed the need to uphold three pillars of Indigenous responsibility which are all as important as each other – social responsibility; economic responsibility and responsibility for land and culture. There was strong emphasis on the Traditional knowledge systems of Cape York's Indigenous people and how these are invaluable in protecting the environment but have been largely ignored by decision makers. It was explained that responsibility for environmental protection is integral to

Indigenous culture and Indigenous peoples' relationship with land.

Tim Flannery supported Cape York people by agreeing to speak at the seminar. He is a whitefella from Adelaide who is concerned with climate change and is an internationally known conservation scientist. He supported the view that strong communities are needed for long term conservation. He acknowledged the amazing knowledge systems traditional owners have for country and that Indigenous rights need to be recognised. He stressed the importance that traditional owners need to be intimately involved in planning and implementing conservation strategies.

Gerhardt Pearson also talked about the need for future investments and conservation decision making structures to not perpetuate racist policies of the past. In particular he advised that the Natural Resource management board for Cape York needs to have at least 50% traditional owners on it as soon as possible.

Tania Major also expressed her anger at the State Government over its Wild Rivers legislation, which passed through parliament as part of a deal to secure the voting preferences of the Greens and the endorsement of environmental groups, such as the Wilderness Society, at the 2004 election. The Wild Rivers legislation aims to eventually declare nearly all river systems on Cape York as 'wild rivers' making any development either prohibited or highly regulated.

Mr Pearson explained why Wild Rivers was such an explosive issue for traditional owners, because:

- it does affect native title;
- It is not just about native title rights as it potentially locks away the future economic opportunities for traditional owners who were not given any time before the law came into effect to properly consider and plan for their future; and

...continued next page...



# CORPORATIONS LAW TO CHANGE ON 1 JULY

*...from previous page...*

- economic rights are only given to some under this legislation (like existing water licences). Traditional owners assert ownership of all of these rivers however not one traditional owner group has these economic rights yet.

Mr Pearson also emphasised that no one wants to protect the rivers more than traditional owners. Rivers are the past and the future for traditional owners who use them for their social and cultural activities. However the protection for the rivers needs to take into account the future economic rights of traditional owners and not discriminate against us.

Ms Major said that although government were supporting indigenous people to take responsibility for re-building healthy communities, governments were damaging the strongest pillar of responsibility - "our connection to land". "What government must understand is that by undermining indigenous people's connection to land, my people's right to take responsibility in the area where it is strongest will be eroded and destroyed," she said. In the area of culture and land the potential for positive, sustained and regenerative Indigenous engagement in the real economy is massive.

Ms Major said there was a need to return to the use of the Cape York Heads of Agreement to secure rights to land, to uphold and protect connections to the country.

**If you would like more information on the Heads of Agreement or this seminar please contact Jane Holden or Prue Gusmerini at CYLC.**

On 1 July the Corporations Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (CATSI) Act will be introduced to replace the Aboriginal Councils and Associations Act currently used to govern many Aboriginal organisations, including Cape York Land Council.

While this act will mean a number of changes aimed to make reporting easier for Aboriginal Corporations, it will also mean that CYLC must amend its Constitution in line with these changes. Cape York Land Council will be drafting proposed changes to the CYLC Constitution which it will be providing to all of our members.

One of the major changes will be to our Governing Committee, which will become known as the Board of Directors with the introduction of this Act. The CATSI Act requires the Board of Directors (formerly the Governing Committee) to be reduced to 12 members. At the moment CYLC has 34 Governing Committee members, made up of two members from each of the 17 communities represented on the CYLC Governing Committee.

At the recent Governing Committee meeting the Governing Committee confirmed that Cape York needs to maintain representation from each of the communities that we represent.

For this reason, we will be seeking permission from the Registrar (the body that looks after Aboriginal Corporations who operate under the CATSI Act) to be able to continue to have representatives from each of these 17 communities.

We will still need to reduce the Governing Committee numbers, so the Governing Committee are proposing to reduce the Board of Directors to one representative from each of the 17 Communities presently represented on the CYLC Governing Committee.

This means that every community will still have a member on the CYLC Board of Directors and no communities will have to merge together at this stage, but they will only have one member and not two.

Our staff will be working on these proposed changes over the next few weeks and sending further information to the CYLC members. We will also be sending information to the Community Councils asking them to display this on the Community Notice Boards.

**If you would like to know more about this, please contact Kirsty Broderick at CYLC on freecall 1800 623 548.**

# CYLC STAFF DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

In March CYLC staff participated in a full staff development program aimed at increasing participants awareness of native title, CYLC's history and the role that they will play in the future of the Land Council.

The training was run by the Aurora Project. This project was set up to implement a number of programs which were a result of a Report made on the challenges and issues facing Native Title Representative Bodies (NTRBs) and their staff.



The 3 day training program included sessions on CYLC, its history and future development, Native Title Overview, Functions of NTRBs and Roles in Native Title, The Benefits and Challenges of working in Multidisciplinary and Multicultural Teams, Cultural Awareness and Communication, Stress Management, Conflict Resolution and took part in a number of role plays aimed at helping staff to understand the different situations that clients seeking assistance from CYLC may find themselves in, stress management and conflict resolution.



With a lot of positive feedback from these workshops, CYLC management and the Executive Committee are confident that this will assist staff in their jobs and helping traditional owners get their native title rights recognised.

## ARE YOU A MEMBER OF CAPE YORK LAND COUNCIL???

Cape York Land Council is the Native Title Representative Body for the Cape York Region.

Membership is open to adult Aboriginal persons with traditional or historical interests in Cape York Peninsula.

2007 is an election year for Cape York Land Council Governing Committee members. If you would like to have a say in the management of CYLC, make sure you are a member. Only members can participate in the community elections for Governing Committee members.

If you are a member, but have not received information from CYLC in a while, we may not have your correct mailing address and details.

**To update your details, call CYLC on freecall 1800 623 548 and ask to speak to Kirsty Broderick, CYLC Public Officer.**

**Remember... you need to be a member to have your say at election time.**

Cape York Land Council 32 Florence Street CAIRNS QLD 4870 Freecall: 1800 623 548 Fax: 07 4051 0097	CYLC Weipa Regional Office Evans Landing WEIPA QLD 4874 Ph: 07 4069 7484 Fax: 07 4069 7341	CYLC Cooktown Regional Office Charlotte Street COOKTOWN QLD 4871 Ph: 07 4069 6066 Fax: 07 4069 6066
--	--	---

**COMING SOON! CYLC WEBSITE AT [HTTP://WWW.CYLC.ORG.AU/](http://www.cylc.org.au/)**