



DEVIL'S ADVOCATE



SPRING 2017



A FREE PUBLICATION FROM
Healthy futures for arid lands and people
ARID LANDS ENVIRONMENT CENTRE
www.alec.org.au

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The Arid Lands Environment Centre
90 Gap Road, Alice Springs
PO Box 2796 Alice Springs NT 0871
Ph: (08) 89522497 Fax: (08) 89532988
www.alec.org.au info@alec.org.au

The Devils Advocate is the quarterly newsletter of the Arid Lands Environment Centre.

The deadline for submissions for the next Spring edition is Friday 14th October

Articles, pictures, poetry, letters, welcome.

Email communications@alec.org.au

All opinions expressed within Devils Advocate are those of the author alone, unless explicitly expressed.

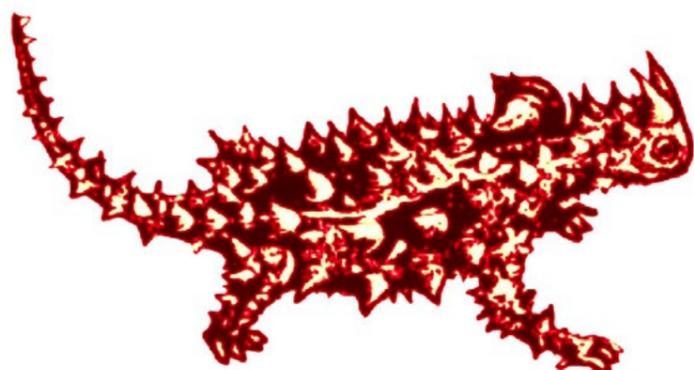
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Front image by Peachy,

The Arid Lands Environment Centre acknowledges and pays respect to the traditional owners, both past and present, of this region.

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**Arid
Lands
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Centre**



ALEC DIRECTORS' WELCOME

G'day folks,

Welcome to the Devil's Advocate, the tri-annual magazine of the Arid Lands Environment Centre (ALEC). ALEC is Central Australia's own environmental organisation dedicated to working towards its vision of 'healthy futures for arid lands and people.'

It's been winter here in Central Australia, though you wouldn't have known it. The weather has been beautiful, but also a little unnervingly warm. The most recent July was the hottest on record, 3-4.5C warmer than the long-term average. The Bureau of Metereology has confirmed that this is a direct consequence of climate change.

An important thing for us to consider is that on August 2, Earth Overshoot Day was calculated for this year <http://www.overshootday.org>. Overshoot Day is the day in the year where globally, we used up more resources and space on earth than what can naturally be regenerated. While it can be depressing to consider this reality, what's more worrisome is that if the world population lived like Australians, we'd have hit that date back in March.

Earth Overshoot Day is a reminder for us to keep on pushing for change in the way we live and use our natural resources. While it's important for us to work to reduce our impact on an individual level, it is critical that we work collectively to make systemic changes. Changes to our energy systems, our food systems, our town planning processes, transport and waste management systems are needed. It all has to change if we are planning to co-habit this spinning globe with the wonderful diversity of other living things for many generations to come.

Thankfully, there are many great things happening and millions of people working

tirelessly to turn the ship around.

Here in Alice we are making a difference. Inspiring community events like the Repair Café and workshops to teach people important skills and share knowledge. Our policy advocacy is generating ideas and raising objections to unsustainable practices, policies and industries. The community garden is thriving with both vegetables and people. Food systems are being created and numerous Council candidates are advocating for recycling.

Renewable energy is getting cheaper and cheaper. Alice Springs itself will be the recipient of a 5MW lithium battery (the biggest in the southern hemisphere for 30 seconds until the Tesla announcement in SA).

Alice Springs, thanks to the Alice Springs Town Council's 500kW of solar and commitment to developing a Climate Action Plan – has joined 34 other councils to become City Power Partners with the Climate Council. RePower Alice Springs continues to raise the bar and build community support for 100% renewable energy by 2030. The Regional Economic Development Committee is working on ReVitalising Alice Springs with cheap, solar energy and storage to drive economic development in the region.

The NT Government is also very close to having a Roadmap to Renewables with a plan for 50% renewable energy by 2030. This was helped last week with the announcement of 10000 solar panels across 10 communities as part of the Solar SetUP program.





This year's EcoFair is the 9th annual event. It has a focus on energy, local sustainability and tourism. Guest speaker Giles Parkinson of RenewEconomy talking energy trends and opportunities for Central Australia and Associate Professor Bernadette McCabe introducing us to the concept of food waste for biogas. The 3 day event is spread across 3 venues with local speakers and forums, combined with the Garden to Plate event at the Community Garden. We also welcome the Bicycle Film Festival joining in the fun and we couldn't keep EcoFair Ambassador Costa Georgiadis away either.

Fracking the Territory will be a climate carbon bomb

In a week where we have heard that the Northern Territory has had the hottest July on record, the Northern Territory Scientific inquiry into Hydraulic Fracturing has been told by a leading researcher that fracking the McArthur Basin could release four to five times as much greenhouse gas emissions as the proposed Adani Carmichael mine.

Chemical Engineer Tim Forcey has appeared before the Inquiry this week expressing concerns over the climate cost of opening up the Territory to fracking. His research has found that 22 billion tonnes of CO2 would be released into the atmosphere if the estimated 240 trillion cubic feet of gas in the McArthur basin was extracted through fracking, which equals 22 years of Australia's carbon emissions. Once the gas was burnt it would contribute 35 billion tonnes.

"In a week where the Bureau of Meteorology has contributed the three degrees above average temperatures in the NT to climate change, we have leading researcher Tim Forcey telling the fracking inquiry of the climate carbon bomb that would be released if the NT is opened up to fracking," said Jimmy Cocking, Director of the Arid Lands Environment Centre.

The key message is that despite the challenges and the struggles we individually and collectively face as a result of ecological destruction and climate change – we must remain hopeful in the knowledge that we are making a difference when we work together. Inspiration is a key in all this. Being inspired is what pushes us to action – this little publication is a pocketful of inspiration.

Enjoy this vibrant time in Central Australia.

Jimmy Cocking
ALEC Director

"These figures only reinforce what groups and community members opposed to the practice of fracking have been saying all along – the risk to our climate, our water and environment is too great and that fracking must be banned," said Mr Cocking.

"Wednesday 2nd August also marked Earth Overshoot Day, where globally we have used a years worth of resources in just 7 months. If every country in the world lived like Australia, Earth Overshoot Day would have been on March 12. Australians are the highest carbon emitters on the planet which highlights the irresponsible approach by our governments by continuing to invest in fossil fuels."

"If we are serious about tackling climate change then there must be a policy of no new fossil fuel projects or infrastructure. Solar is now the cheapest energy technology and there must be an urgent transition to renewable energy. The Northern Territory Government must fast-track their Roadmap to Renewables and urgently develop a climate policy that details how the NT will reduce emissions," said Mr Cocking.

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2017/aug/02/emissions-from-nts-mcarthur-basin-would-dwarf-those-from-adani-coalmine>



NT Government putting the gas cart before the climate horse

With the release of the Interim Report of the NT Fracking Inquiry, and the start of construction on the Northern Gas Pipeline this week, the Arid Lands Environment Centre is calling on the Northern Territory Government to immediately develop a climate policy to guide decisions on major energy infrastructure.

"It's been a big week about gas, renewable energy and climate change and what has been really highlighted is the lack of climate policy both here in the Territory and Federally. If we are serious about meeting emission targets there must be the climate policy in place to guide future decisions about major energy infrastructure," said Jimmy Cocking, Director of the Arid Lands Environment Centre.

"The Interim Report of the Scientific Inquiry into Hydraulic Fracturing in the NT provides a balanced view on the issue of fracking and acknowledges the depth of community concern on this issue. It acknowledges the real risks to our environment, the community and the climate.

"However the report clearly states the final decision on fracking will be with the NT Government. ALEC has serious concerns that without a climate policy the NT Government will be making decisions without a clear pathway towards reducing emissions.

"ALEC notes that in the Economic Development Framework recently developed by the NT Government an action listed in the appendix of the document is to develop a climate policy over the next three years."

"However climate is something that needs more than an appendix listing, It should be at the forefront of that document, and all other major government documents and processes – Developing the North, the Roadmap to Renewables and the Fracking Inquiry. The Government needs to take an integrated

approach to policy making as global warming transcends energy and economics."

"While G20 leaders (minus the United States) re-affirmed their commitment to the Paris Climate Agreement this week, the NT Government has been celebrating the construction of Jemena's Northern Gas pipeline."

"If the pipeline is completed as planned the Territory's emissions will increase over the next ten years, especially if the NT is opened up to fracking. This is not the road we should be travelling.

"We have written to the NT Government urging them to immediately develop a climate policy, and to continue the moratorium on fracking until it is clear how the NT Government will reduce emissions and meet its renewable energy targets."

Passing of Yami Lester

The ALEC community was saddened by the passing of Yami Lester on July 21. A survivor of the nuclear tests at Emu Field, Maralinga. He was an advocate for peace who inspired many of us to take up the fight against the nuclear industry. He also stood up for country and was instrumental in the land rights for the APY Lands in South Australia. We mourn the loss of Yami and we give our condolences to his family and friends. His passing strengthens our resolve in opposing uranium mining and nuclear waste dumps here. ALEC will always stand up for the rights of indigenous people and the protection of land from being connected to the horrors of the nuclear industry.

<http://www.icanw.org/hear-the-stories/yami-lester/>





Winter has been full of great projects for the Arid Edge team, and 2017 is proving to be another very successful year for ALEC's social enterprise arm. For the second year in a row AEES will turn a profit and put money back into ALEC, and doing so through projects that build contribute to ALEC's strategic vision of "healthier futures for arid Lands and people."

The Merne Murde Utopia Gardens project continues to roll on, with fruit and vegies being produced and harvested in 11 gardens across 14 outstations in the Utopia Homelands and cookups happening on a regular basis.

A new cohort of gardeners are getting involved as many of our regulars from 2015-16 are starting to find employment and training opportunities, showing that not only is the project supporting access to fresh fruit and vegetables in the homelands but is also contributing to building work experience and job readiness for those involved.

Particularly pleasing to see is the revival of the garden at Atheyle Homeland, which had been dormant for 3 years after the main gardener there, Kwementye Jones passed away in 2013. Atheyle Garden was one of the success stories early on in the Merne Murde project before AEES was involved, so it's great to see Kwementye Jones grandkids' generation picking it up and gardening again.

A real highlight for Arid Edge this year has been working on the Larapinta Trail for NT Parks & Wildlife with renowned Tasmanian track work specialist 'Snapper' John Hughes. We completed 12 weeks of work with him and his crew on the trail at Serpentine Gorge, Ormiston Pound, Cassia Hill, the Millers Flat High Route and Razorback Ridge.

Their drystone walls and steps are stunning, and their approach to carrying on only hand tools and using materials from on site to reduce impacts on these ecologically and culturally sensitive and unique sites is fantastic to learn from. Make sure you check out the Arid Edge Facebook page for photos of the work, and of the Arid Edge team hiking, paddling and even helicoptering in to some of the most remote sites on the trail.

The ever popular Work for the Dole project



Flourishing gardens as part of the Merne Murde project.



Utopia community members cook up healthy food



at the Community Garden has just begun it's third stint on site, and continues to have a huge impact on the gardens – both it's infrastructure and aesthetics. The team have been working on some beautiful stone walls and mosaics in recent weeks and have begun a ceramics and arts course at CDU one morning a week to bring even more beauty and creativity into the gardens.

A real success story from this project is three of the most committed workers being picked up by AEES as workers on the track maintenance and landscaping team. Eddie and Cameron completed a full 12 week season with the track maintenance team after working at the gardens for 6 months, and Paddy was filling in when they needed a rest and showing his great rendering skills on the landscaping team too.

Finally our landscaping team has been going from strength to strength. Some of our recent work is on public display in the front yard of 86 Hartley St, where Arid Edge was contracted to design and install landscaping to provide a shady sanctuary, while using central Australian native plants and preserving the heritage values of the property.

At the same time we have just completed

landscape designs for the second stage of redevelopment of Braitling School with Sue Dugdale Architects. We're looking forward to more exciting projects in this area in the coming months.

Keep an eye on our facebook for photos and updates, and check out the website for project details and our contact details if you'd like a quote for your back yard.

Alex McClean
AEES Manager

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Arid Edge Manager Alex McClean on the Larapinta Trail



From Seed to Security: Think Global, Act Local

The United Nations Food Agriculture Organisation (FAO) defines food security, as existing when all people at all times have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life (FAO 1996). Food security has four inter-related elements: food availability, access, utilisation and stability.

In the context of Australia, Aboriginal people represent 3% of the population in Australia and information sourced from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) highlights that some 80,000 Aboriginal people live in remote to very remote areas in Australia (ABS, 2017). In a place like the Northern Territory, with four major centres including; Alice Springs, Tennant Creek, Katherine and Darwin, it is relatively easy to be categorised as living remote or very remote due to the long distances to travel by road to get between remote locations and service centres. Many Aboriginal people have poor access to fresh and nutritious food, largely due to their distance from major centres. Poor nutrition has been linked to poor community health outcomes, and is recognised as a significant contributing factor to the total burden of disease for Indigenous Australians.

Across Australia, there is approximately 175 remote community stores. A community store is often the primary source of food and other goods in a remote community and, as such, has an important role to play in improving the social, economic and health outcomes of people in these communities.

National standards for food logistics and storage, healthy eating programs, best practice models for increasing the nutrition workforce (nutritionists, dieticians and advanced health workers) and improving the supply of healthy

food in remote Indigenous communities have been recommended in a National Strategy to address these significant inequalities. So how are Aboriginal people living in remote or very remote areas, achieving food security?

The Urapuntja Homelands is located about 280 km's north east of Alice Springs, Northern Territory and includes a collection of 16 outstations, spread over 70 km's with the main languages spoken; Alyawarra and Arrente. The largest outstation is Arparra with 100 residents and the average distance to travel to a community store is 40 km.

This region is serviced by four remote stores selling food of varying quality: one community store, and three station stores. All of these stores are a drive of up to 50 km's away for some families in the region, and diesel costs \$2 per litre. Food is generally expensive, particularly fresh produce, due to the costs of transporting and storing fresh fruit and vegetables. With minimal opportunities for employment, many families are reliant on centre link payments, and therefore are at high risk of food insecurity; food is not affordable or easily accessible. On the positive side, hunting is still common and traditional meats are regularly consumed.

Some people in the region experience the burden of chronic diseases, particularly diabetes, in which food choice and healthy lifestyles are a key component in health management. With the difficulties accessing healthy food choices, people are experiencing great difficulty in managing their health. People have also expressed great concern in not being able to feed their children healthy food.

The Merne Murde Project, meaning good food in Alyawarra language, began eight years ago with conversations between a visiting Public

Health Nutritionist and community members; who were expressing the challenges that they have in affording vegetables and knowing what to do with some of them, other than potato and pumpkin. Some community members had started purchasing foods such as tomatoes from the store, saving them and growing them close to their homes.

Over time, 16 gardens have been built, each unique to the outstations and expressed needs of the people living at the outstations. Some gardens are attached to one household and others are shared between a number of households in the outstations.

The strengths of this project:

- Community engagement over an extended time (8 years) means the gardens are well established and seen as a 'normal' part of the community;
- Integration of horticulture, health, training/employment and environment to work with Aboriginal people at the grass roots community level to develop work ready skills e.g welding, building and fencing; and
- Use of quality infrastructure fit for purpose e.g high quality fencing, shade structures, self-watering garden beds ('wicking beds') has enabled gardens to provide food throughout the hot summer months.
- Challenged by on-going funding at different times, now managed by Arid Edge Environmental Services but has a; multi-sectoral approach with involvement from a range of agencies including The Northern Territory Primary Health Network and My Pathways;

The gardens are an opportunity to work with communities and households to provide an increased capacity to access vegetables and gain skills in the preparation of these foods through cook-ups at the gardens run by the project's nutrition worker. Current eating practices and habits in these remote areas have

been shaped by rapid changes to landscape and food availability. Economic, historical and social factors have shaped a diet that is high in energy dense in the form of sugars and saturated fat, nutrient poor, largely from convenience foods purchased day to day.

In summary, through the development of the food gardens, incorporating both fruit orchards and vegetable growing areas, the project is addressing food insecurity, providing an opportunity for meaningful physical activity (the act of gardening), and has also provided numerous opportunities for informal conversations about healthy food options between community members and visiting health professionals including dieticians. The infrastructure has now been provided in the outstations to provide an opportunity to grown healthy food, as has a great deal of education including an educational film, in local language, which covers all aspects of food production from seed to plate

Donna Digby (NT Director, Australian Women in Agriculture) and Ingrid Phyland (Public Health Nutritionist, The Merne Murde Food Project).

Organisations such as Australian Women in Agriculture empower women to network, to support each other and to, most importantly, create change.



THE REPAIR CAFE

As part of the 'Inspiring Australia Alice Springs Regional Hub', the Arid Lands Environment Centre hosted the inaugural Alice Springs Repair Café on Saturday 22nd July between 9am and 1pm at 90 Gap Road.

Funding by a grant from Inspiring Australia, the Repair Café was aimed to engage the community in the Science of Repair in an effort to keep waste out of landfill. Community members were encouraged to work with the repair expert to help fix the object and learn new skills.

The event was a real community hub, with 16 volunteer repairers dedicating their time and energy to help fix the community's broken items. Our sincere thanks to all the volunteer repairers on the day, including Electrofix, Deano's Test & Tag, Alice Springs Men's Shed, Bunnings and Central Craft. Thank you to the other ALEC volunteers who helped to manage the registration desk the tea and cakes stall.

There was a wonderful spirit and donations were made by community members who had an item successfully repaired. Outcomes of the day included:

- approximately 60 items were repaired and kept out of landfill, and over 80% of items



- were repaired successfully on the day.
- Items that were repaired included clothing and shoes, soft and wooden toys, objects such as an ironing board and suitcases, and electrical items such as solar lights, lamps and vacuum cleaners.
- community members learnt new repair skills, including sewing, carpentry, electronic repair and knife sharpening skills
- experts met new colleagues in their field and shared skills between each other
- a community resource was developed outlining all of the 25 local repair businesses in Alice Springs. This was distributed to community members on the day and will be made available on the ALEC website.
- local media promoting the importance of repair included a newspaper article in the Advocate newspaper and a radio interview by ABC Radio during the Drive program.

The Arid Lands Environment Centre is working with the volunteer repairers to see how this event could be replicated. Funding from this event was given through Inspiring Australia and is available to run a Repair Café in 2017 and 2018.

Rachel O'Leary
Science Engagement Officer



Local Repair Service Providers in Alice Springs

Section	Business	Contact	Repairs what
Bicycles	Bicycle Centre Alice Springs	Phone: (08) 8953 7297	Bicycles
	Smith Street Velo	Phone: (08) 8955 5623 or 0431 129 374	Bicycles
	The Penny Farthing Bike Shop / Avanti Plus	Phone: (08) 8953 8724	Bicycles
	Ultimate Ride	Phone: (08) 8952 8327	Bicycles
Electrical	AJ Services	Phone: (08) 8952 7951	Vacuums, whitegoods and air conditioning
	Alice Springs Device Hospital	Phone: 0438 310 718	Mobile phones/tablets
	iGear	(08) 8953 3663	Mobile phone repairs
	Deano's Test and Tag	Dean O'Connor Phone: 0428 523 321	Test and Tag of electrical appliances
Knives	Electrofix	Chris Kupke Phone: 0407 489 754	Any electrical goods
	The Television Workshop	Phone: (08) 8952 8555	Audio equipment and televisions
	Red Centre Technology Partners	Phone: (08) 8952 7400	Computer and laptop repairs
	Milner Meats	Phone: (08) 8952 1171	Sharpens knives
Leatherwork	Heart & Sole	Phone: (08) 8952 7463	All leather goods, eg. boots, belts, bags
Metalwork	Arnie Waithe	Phone: (08) 8955 0239	Metalwork
Musical Instruments	Adam Doyle	Phone: 0437 171 817	Guitars & metalwork
	Rock City Music	Phone: (08) 8953 2100	All musical instruments
Plastics	Plasfix	Bruce Reid Phone: 0448 536 033	All types of plastic household items
Sewing Alterations & Mending	Central Uniforms & Embroidery	Janet & Bruce Skein Phone: (08) 8952 2458	Sewing alterations and mending
	Dress maker	Helen Phone: 0427 972 293	Sewing alterations and mending
	Jan Black	Phone: 0400 303 123	Sewing alterations and mending
	Karen Marriott	Phone: 0439 833 115	Sewing alterations and mending
Toys	Teddy Bear Hospital	Todd Mall Sunday Markets	Toys
	John Bayliss	Phone: 0412 890 330	Industrial sewing, upholstery, repairs
Upholstery	McGouchie Upholstery	Phone: (08) 8952 7700	Shade sails, upholstery, furniture repairs, canvas, swags etc
	Spectrim	Phone: 0459 058 882	Shade sail, autotrim and upholstery service
Woodwork Repairs	Lachlan Ross	Phone: 0490 119 878	General carpentry

Note: This list is not extensive, if you would like your business to be included on this list, please email rachel.oleary@alec.org.au



POLICY, ENVIRONMENT AND ECONOMY

As the ALEC Policy officer lot of people have asked me “what is environmental policy”? Policy occupies the space between law and science. It includes the normative aspect of law, but the substantive and prescriptive character of science. This is what is happening so this is what we should do. It should be informed by evidence based thinking and govern the equitable use of resources.

However, environmental policy is value laden and often based on the assumption of environmental dominance as a necessary evil for growth and economic opportunity.

Economic growth and environmental protection is considered a mutually exclusive binary. Economic factors are supposed to be explicitly weighed against the cost to the environment and society. This is because the perpetual pursuit of growth is an unchallenged assumed societal good despite the obvious environmental and social costs. The separation of economics and environment is artificial as the earth’s systems are closed and finite.

The separation of economy and environment is evident in the concept of “environmental externalities”. Rod Campbell, an economist from the Australia Institute critiqued the political power of economic modeling during his visit to Alice Springs. There are no regulatory bodies or accreditation standards that justify the level of trust we put in economic modeling.

Anyone could commission an economic model to say that any fossil fuel project can bring significant jobs and growth while completely neglecting the embedded social and environmental costs. Such models are trusted because they reaffirm our blind bias in favour of growth and production. Environmental theory as it currently exists in

policy and law is limited to reducing impact and minimising conflict between interests. There is little scope for prevention or precaution, for example simply rejecting a mine because it’s emissions are too great. The law does not enable this to happen yet, so it must strive to do more.

There is another persistent tension when thinking of change; is it a question of individual action or collective political reform?

Buying from your local farmers market is a political act. It challenges the dominance of the major players in food distribution and reduces our reliance on carbon miles. Reducing your footprint for the waste that is produced through consumption is also necessary, despite on an individual level it being rather negligible compared to industrial production. Eating green and riding your bike help with our own sense of environmental conscience but they are not challenging structures that are causing systemic contamination and degradation of our air water and land.

Individual choices should not be taken at the expense of engaged and informed collective political action. We need both but it is undoubtedly time to seriously challenge the growth assumption and push for alternative narratives like a circular or steady state economy. Only through resisting and disrupting political and economic structures of production can we reduce pressure on environmental systems.

As a collective we need to engage with political reform through avenues such as lobbying, submissions and protest. This is so that we can continue to redefine our relationship with the non-human world from one of exploitation towards that of stewardship and cooperation.

Alex Read
ALEC Policy Officer

ALEC POLICY UPDATE

It has been an active few months for ALEC in the policy space. We have been able to contribute to a broad range of consultations ranging from water, mining, economics and law.

Water

The Western Davenport Water Allocation Plan was up for its five-year review. A draft plan was released for public comment in May. The plan proposed to drastically increase the total amount of water allocated for extraction to facilitate horticultural development. The proposed number is justified in the plan by defining the “sustainable yield” through a managerial balancing act that permits the “mining” of the groundwater. This means that the plan in its current state allows for extraction that exceeds the rate of recharge.

ALEC made a submission on the plan calling for a revision of the policy definition of sustainable yield to be based off recharge. Expert advice from the Department of Environment supported this position as recharge would be more than sufficient to enable horticultural development. We have also called for more research into groundwater dependent ecosystems and a concerted effort to include indigenous ecological knowledge about the uses of water.

Environmental Regulatory Reform

The Northern Territory is undergoing the largest shift in environmental regulation since such regulation was introduced. Most other states have undergone major shifts in policy or are currently changing their laws. A discussion paper was released in May which outlined the plan for the new system for environmental assessment of development and projects. The reform proposes a shift from sectoral approvals to project based environmental approvals for all projects that will have a significant environmental impact.

ALEC has been engaged with the Department

as the proposal progress, making a submission that called for a progressive, innovative and robust system that rivals any other in Australia. The current framework is limited and highly discretionary. We called for the introduction of environmental justice, as is being proposed in Victoria and other principles of environmental law such as the principle of restoration and non-regression.

Environmental law should strive to do more than merely alleviate the impact of development, but should also strive to restore environmental value and ensure that environmental law is invulnerable to the political and economic agendas of successive governments.

Mining update

The Chandler Salt Mine and Waste storage facility is progressing through assessments. A supplement to the environmental impact statement was released late July which is basically a response from the company to questions raised in submissions. The supplement stated in response to ALEC’s submission that they would source 50% renewable energy if the



government remains committed to their policy. They are yet to clarify the geological assessment of the liquid waste storage methods and it remains to be seen whether the community of Tjitjikala is capable of consenting to this project while they continue to be told a skewed perspective of the proposal. We will remain engaged to ensure the region can make an informed decision about the project considering it is capable of having an immense and lasting impact.

A Copper and base metal project is being proposed roughly 200km East of Alice Springs. The Jervois project will have a significant surface footprint. There are serious environmental risks involved with copper mining because of the leaching from tailings and stockpiled ore. A Terms of Reference has been released by the NT EPA to direct the development of the Environmental Impact Statement for the project. It is fundamental that the EIS establishes the environmental obligations of the proponent to assess all environmental risks and demonstrate capacity and capability to comply with rehabilitation requirements. Legacy mines in the NT are causing significant contamination and it is imperative that this is prevented if mining is able to be considered "sustainable".

Lake Eyre Basin

The Kati Thanda-Lake Eyre Basin is the subject of an intergovernmental agreement administered by the Commonwealth Department of Environment. Since its inception in 2007, there has been a concerted effort to monitor the biological and hydrological health of the catchments in the system. A state of the Basin Report was released for comment in June. The report concluded that the fish, birds and streams were in generally good health. However there were several limitations with the study. ALEC made a submission on the report to recommend the inclusion of more environmental indicators, such as riparian condition, the usefulness of the report and stressors such

as mining and agriculture. While the system is undoubtedly in far better health than the Murray Darling Basin, there are significant pressures that remain uncertain, especially the impact of climate change. The Todd and the Finke are significant contributors to the system in especially wet years. We will stay engaged with the monitoring and management of this globally significant Basin that supports large populations of rare wetland birds.

ICAC

The NT is finally getting an Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC)! After calling for an ICAC for many years the Department of Attorney General and Justice has finally developed a draft Bill. The bill is robust and comprehensive and will allow for the retrospective investigation of improper and corrupt conduct in public office. ALEC has made a submission on this process to push for far reaching accountability reforms and new offences to ensure that the ICAC is empowered to pursue incidents of systemic corruption. The efficacy of this ICAC will lie in its ability to cause a shift in the culture of accountability and transparency in the environmental governance of the Territory.



RePower Alice Springs

Repower has had a very productive few months. We have worked hard to deliver several important goals; we are building community momentum, and are starting work towards developing a community power initiative.

We would love to see more people being involved, and a good way to start is coming along to a coordination group meeting - these are on the first Monday of every month at 5pm at ALEC.

Coordination Group

Having the monthly coordination group meetings with reports from the sub groups, and an overview of current actions is working well.

We have had several successes including:

- World Environment Day dinner at the Gap View Hotel. Residents of Alice joined members and shared what inspires them to make a difference. One notable contribution was from the Catholic priest Father Raass who talked about the plight of the Pacific Islands of Tuvalu and Kiribati that are being flooded by seawater now.
- Climate Action Network Australia (CANA) Grant Success - CANA received 67 grant applications, they awarded ten grants for a total of \$51,250. Repower were awarded one of the ten grants worth \$5,000 and will be using this money to:
- Develop a stall kit with resources and printed collateral for engaging with the broader community
- Running a facilitated community energy workshop to map out a feasible business case for a community power initiative for Alice Springs.

Policy

- An overview of what Repower is, our strategies, key activities, key milestones, with copies of historical information has now been drafted. This will be a live document and will be an excellent way of maintaining our group's knowledge, history and as an induction for new members.
- We have formed linkages with the Climate Council and the Cities Power Partnership <https://www.climatecouncil.org.au/cpp>. We have written to the CE of the Alice Springs Town Council asking to meet about this and will be meeting with residents nominating for the Local Government elections to lobby for their commitment to this.
- There have been several articles in the media recently about the battery storage Territory Generation is installing, which repower are fully supporting.

People

The main focus of the people group at the moment is getting lots of surveys completed. We are aiming for 1,000 surveys being completed by a large cross section of the town, ensuring a statistically representative sample.

Recent actions included:

- Having members at the ALEC stall at the Show. This proved to be an extremely effective venue for engaging with people and getting surveys completed.



RePower Alice Springs - World Environment Day

- Having surveys at coffee shops for people to complete whilst they have a coffee.

We would gradually like to engage with a broader range of the community and have started this process by presenting to the Stuart Rotary Club. The presentation covered Repower objectives and we were able to have the survey distributed to its members. If you are a member of a community group and would like Repower to come and present to you send us an email.

Power

- Seniors currently receive un-capped concessions for their electricity bills, which in effect means they have no financial incentive to install solar. Repower are currently developing a strategy to combat this disincentive.
- We met with members of Pingala – a community power initiative group - to learn about how they developed their model, them sharing their learnings with us and the different models out there.
- We have met with the Catholic church's environmental group to discuss options for the church to switch to solar. We will support them to complete an audit of all their energy use in the coming months.



Harshini collecting solar surveys at the Alice Springs Show

- We have secured a grant from CANA to help kick-start a community energy project and will apply for further grant support and seek local partnerships to get a project off the ground
- We are planning a panel discussion at the EcoFair to spread the word and build our support group for a community energy project
- We have written to the NT Government asking to meet with the Energy Minister to see how they can support us in developing a community power initiative.

If you would like to get involved with Repower Alice Springs please email us at repoweralicesprings@gmail.com

Keep updated via Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/repoweralicesprings/>

Solar is now the most popular form of new electricity generation worldwide

Solar has become the world's favourite new type of electricity generation, according to global data showing that more solar photovoltaic (PV) capacity is being installed than any other generation technology.

Worldwide, some 73 gigawatts of net new solar PV capacity was installed in 2016. Wind energy came in second place (55GW), with coal relegated to third (52GW), followed by gas (37GW) and hydro (28GW).

Together, PV and wind represent 5.5% of current energy generation (as at the end of 2016), but crucially they constituted almost half of all net new generation capacity installed worldwide during last year.

Read more at: <https://theconversation.com/solar-is-now-the-most-popular-form-of-new-electricity-generation-worldwide>

Local Leadership: Tracking Local Government Progress on Climate Change

In Australia, local councils and communities have long been at the forefront of climate action, continuing their efforts, despite periods of instability and inaction at the state and federal climate policy level. In recent times, shires, towns and cities have stepped up their efforts and profile on climate change action both at home and internationally.

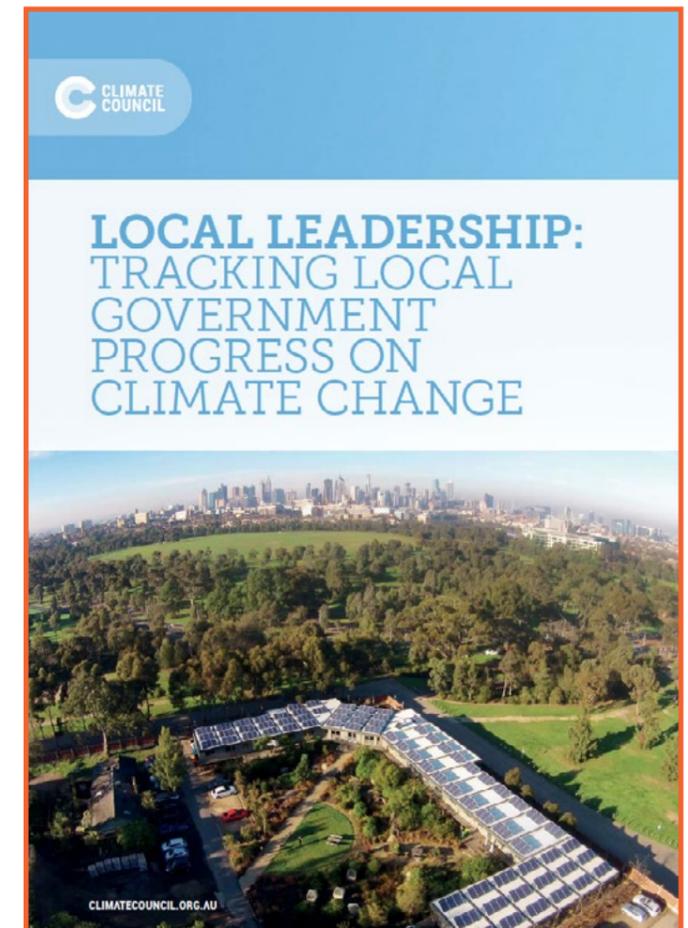
The Climate Council have developed a that report introduces the Climate Council's Cities Power Partnership program which highlights the leaders of councils and communities that are switching to renewable energy and building greener, more efficient and resilient communities.

KEY FINDINGS

1. Australian cities, towns and shires are at risk from worsening climate impacts, such as rising sea levels, floods, bushfires and extreme heatwaves.
 - Climate change is a major risk facing Australians living in towns and cities.
 - Australia's capital cities are experiencing hotter, longer and more frequent heatwaves.
 - The Angry Summer of 2016/17 set over 200 temperature and rainfall records, affecting cities and regional centres across Australia.
 - Climate change is increasing the risk of bushfires, exposing people and property on the urban bushland boundary.
 - More than 80% of Australians live on the coast, and climate change is driving sea-level rise, increasing the risk of flooding our coastal towns and cities.
 - Sydney, Melbourne, Bundaberg and Darwin, for example, are likely to experience very large increases in the frequency of coastal flooding events if we do not rapidly reduce our greenhouse gas emissions.
2. Australian cities, towns and shires are major

drivers of pollution, but can also be critical hubs for climate change solutions.

- Urban centres are major contributors to climate change, producing around three-quarters of the world's greenhouse gas emissions, mainly from electricity and energy use in buildings and transport.
- By changing the way we use and produce energy, 70% of emission reductions required to meet the global climate agreement made in Paris can be achieved in cities.
- Solutions already employed by cities include: shifting to renewable energy for electricity generation (e.g. Adelaide); increasing the energy efficiency of buildings (e.g.



East Arnhem Land); and supporting more sustainable transport measures

3. Australian councils and communities are leading State and Federal governments on tackling climate change and capitalising on opportunities in renewable energy.

- Australian cities, towns and shires are at the forefront of climate action, despite periods of instability and policy changes at state and federal levels.
- One in five councils surveyed across Australia are aiming for “100% renewable energy” or “zero emissions”. Examples include capital cities like Adelaide, Canberra, Melbourne and Sydney as well as smaller councils such as Byron Shire, Lismore, Yackandandah and Uralla Shire.
- Already, investments in renewable energy worth millions of dollars are being rolled out across Australia by local councils and community groups. Examples include the Sunshine Coast Council’s 15MW solar farm, Lismore’s community owned and council operated solar farms, and Alice Spring’s solar city, to name but a few.

4. Australian case studies demonstrate how local governments can:

- Make renewable energy more accessible through programs that encourage landlords, tenants and low-income households to take up solar power generation.
- Partner with other organisations in their local area to purchase renewable energy.
- Set and achieve high renewable energy targets.
- Improve energy efficiency of council buildings, street lighting and set higher standards for new developments and retrofits in their council area.
- Provide new public transport infrastructure and encourage people to shift away from driving to walking, cycling and public transport, and promote electric vehicles powered by renewable energy.



“Alice Springs Town Council has long been a leader in renewable energy and climate action. Council was the first Northern Territory member of the Cities for Climate Protection Program in 1998, and adopted its Local Action Plan to Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions in Alice Springs in 2006.” Mayor Damien Ryan

Alice Springs Town Council was the lead agent in the Alice Solar City project, which ran from 2008 until 2013 and led to the installation of energy efficiency measures, solar PV systems, and solar hot water systems for hundreds of homes and businesses across the municipality. Council dedicates significant ongoing funding toward increasing its solar power capacity.

At the close of 2017, Council’s eighth solar PV system will be installed at the Alice Springs Aquatic and Leisure Centre, bringing the total amount of solar electricity generated at Council facilities to over 500kW. Further to this, Council has recently committed to develop a Climate Action Plan to address greenhouse emissions in Alice Springs. The Climate Council’s Cities Power Partnership aligns with the goals of Alice Springs Town Council.



How our food has changed

Recently I was lucky enough to be invited to talk to the local Alice Springs Probus Club about Food for Alice. Besides a call out for rhubarb to be grown here in Alice I had some really good discussions about how they have seen food uses change over the years.

When we moved from hunting and gathering to farming people had more food available. We had grains that were ready to cook, and some foods that had been mixed and cooked for us. However it has only been in the last 50 to 100 years that there has been an explosion of processed food.

One of the things we talked about was even the meaning of the words “cooking from scratch”. Not that long ago this meant having most of the raw ingredients. For example a cake was eggs, milk (potentially either of these from your own cows or chooks), butter (that you have churned yourself) flour, baking soda, salt, maybe some fruit or jam from the local trees. These days when I have heard the words “cooking from scratch” used it usually means a packet cake.

I remember growing up with “busy” parents and a lot of what we had for dinner was packet food, or processed sauces. I remember having Rice-a-Reso so much that if you attempted to serve it to me now I would probably hand you the plate back (potentially with a few expletives!).

Now I know that my Grandma cooked from what she could get out of her garden, that she preserved as much as she could when the fruits and vegetables were in season. I remember as a child we would get jars and jars of tomato sauce

every year when tomatoes were in season (and I have never yet had a tomato sauce that tasted as good as what she cooked). So I know my mum grew up with this, and probably had to help.

Yet when growing up we never did any of this and I know so many people my age with a similar story. There was no need, when you could grab a jar from the supermarket.

To continue to be able to feed our growing population in a world with a changing climate local solutions will be critical. We need a model of smaller farms, local food markets and to be healthy - less processed food. Relearning to cook wholefoods will be essential.

I often think about Food for Alice as our little local produce market, when in reality it is so much more. Slowly the amount of produce available has grown as more and more people build up their backyard gardens. In 2 hours it is common for us to have served 30 to 35 customers, when this time last year it was more like 25 customers (and the year before when it was 15 to 20 customers every second fortnight). This means more and more people are cooking with preservative free, local food, a win-win!

Carmel Vandermolten

Join the Food for Alice Facebook Group:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/108715702520033/>





Southern Deserts Rangers Shine

As people settle in back at home from the inaugural Southern Deserts Ranger Forum held at Ilkurlka in the Spinifex lands, approximately 900 km east of Kalgoorlie, Western Australia - all participants are reflecting on a highly successful and inspiring event.

The event attracted more than 85 people from across Western Australia, South Australia and the Northern Territory – 60 of whom were indigenous rangers. Collectively the ranger groups in attendance manage an area of 1.2 million square kilometres across Western Australia and South Australia.

They included:

- Spinifex Land Management rangers (Tjuntjuntjara, WA)
- Maralinga Tjarutja rangers (Oak Valley, SA)
- APY Lands rangers (various communities, SA)
- Ngadju Rangers (Norseman, WA)
- Birriliburu (Wiluna Martu, Wiluna, WA)
- Ngaanyatjara Rangers (Blackstone, Warburton, Warakurna, WA)
- Yalata Rangers (Yalata, SA)
- Goldfields Land & Sea Council rangers (Kalgoorlie)

Other participating organisations included Alinytjara Wilurara Natural Resources Management (SA), Rangelands NRM (WA), Parks SA, NG Media and Morningstar training.

The highlights included:

- Welcome to Country by Spinifex Elders
- Ranger stories – sharing experience and knowledge
- Managing camels – diverse approaches
- Waterholes – new and old ways of managing them
- Ranger Coordinator meeting
- Men's cultural activities
- Cultural exchanges
- Rifle safety
- Tourism management and compliance
- Technology engagement - using drones and other tools to monitor threatened species and record data
- Soft skills – presentation, increased public speaking confidence and networking

'It was a fantastic week', said Ten Deserts Coordinator, Jimmy Cocking. 'The rangers were engaged in a variety of knowledge areas including management of feral camels, tourists and buffel grass. It really hit the mark, the flexible program enabled cultural activities, soft skills to be developed and a much needed ranger coordinator meeting.'

The inaugural Southern Deserts Ranger Forum was organised by Pila Nguru, Spinifex Land Management with the support of the Indigenous Desert Alliance, Ten Deserts Initiative with funding provided by the WA Government, and sponsorship by AngloAshantiGold.

Jimmy Cocking
Ten Deserts Coordinator



CAFFA has had a busy couple of months. From strategic planning with multiple stakeholders, to outreach and advocacy at market stalls and the Alice Springs show, to hosting an economic forum, and ramping up lobbying efforts with our local politicians. Lots happening, and even more to come.

Whilst the Government has asked an independent scientific inquiry to advise them on the environmental, social, cultural, and economic risk associated with hydraulic fracturing in the Territory, they have also made it crystal clear that the final decision rests with the Government. Or more to the point, the final decision rests with Chief Minister, Michael Gunner.

So while for the time being the Government can hide behind the inquiry process it has never been more important to be building strong relationships with your local member. Never been more important to remind them of the strong community sentiment towards the issue of Fracking and that they are representing a constituency that says NO to fracking.

With this in mind CAFFA, and Frack Free groups across the Territory are ramping up their political lobbying efforts. Meeting with your local MLA is a really easy and fun way to get involved with the movement and make sure your voice counts. Lobby groups will be meeting with their local representative regularly. There will be ongoing training opportunities to develop the skills to be a strong advocate and representative for the Frack Free movement.

Upcoming Opportunities to be involved in CAFFA:

Market Stalls - Over the coming months CAFFA will be holding market stalls on Sunday, stalls are staffed by 1-2 volunteers for 2 hour shifts.

Eco Fair - Sunday 13th August CAFFA will have a stall at Eco Fair. Volunteers are needed for 2-3



hour shifts throughout the day.

Lobbying Meetings/Petition Collecting - Regular meetings with local members to ramp up pressure towards the end of the year.

CAFFA Meetings - CAFFA meets every second Monday from 5:30-7:00 at the Arid Lands Environment Centre, 90 Gap Rd, The Gap.

Email Jesse at frackfreecoordinator@gmail.com or call on 0488558215.

NT FRACKING INQUIRY

The Inquiry into hydraulic fracturing in the NT recently released its Interim Report. This report is based on community consultation across the Territory over the past year. A total of 293 submissions were received by the Inquiry, 37 public hearings were conducted, and the Inquiry visited 17 towns and communities across the Territory, as well as numerous other stakeholder engagement activities.

The Interim Report is a testament to the hard work that many of you put in to making sure the voices of Territorians were heard. "Overwhelmingly, the message received from the people who attended these meetings was that fracking was not safe, was not trusted and was not wanted in the NT".

The report also acknowledges the real knowledge gap that currently exists in assessing the impacts that fracking could have in the Territory, "In most cases, however, the Panel's interim opinion is that more information is required before the risks and any possible mitigation options can be fully assessed."

So take a moment to be proud of what the Frack Free movement has achieved here. Take a moment to reflect on the lesson that when we speak up for what we believe in, we can be heard. And take a moment to brace yourself for the response of a well resourced onslaught of spin and rhetoric from the Gas lobby, NT News, and the Federal government that will do their utmost to tell us that fracking is safe and a must do for a strong economic future for the Territory.

Now is a critical time for Territorians to have their final say on the future of Fracking in the Territory.

The Inquiry is currently conducting a second and final round of hearings across the Territory. If you haven't had the chance to speak to the

Panel face to face, you are still able to have input through written submissions. You don't need to be an expert to be a part of this - the Inquiry wants to hear from everyone.

Why are you concerned about fracking? What would it mean for you if fracking were to go ahead in the Territory? Do you think it's safe to risk the limited water supply we all rely on?

Let the Inquiry know by a written submission at <https://frackinginquiry.nt.gov.au/community-consultation>

ACIL Allen economic consultancy appointment designed to drive fracking

Lock the Gate Alliance NT have written to the Chair of the NT Government's Fracking Inquiry to express their concerns with the recent appointment of ACIL Allen to advise the Panel. ACIL Allen are an economic consultancy firm with a very poor track record of unproven and overblown claims to support major clients in the oil and gas industry.

ACIL's client list includes gas companies with significant interests in developing NT shale gas and the outcome of the NT Fracking Inquiry, including Santos, and Northern Gas Pipeline proponent Jemena. ACIL Allen has a history of significant errors in forward projections that have favoured their coal and gas industry clients.

Lock the Gate have requested greater transparency and expert oversight of the economic analysis to be provided to the NT Fracking Inquiry panel.

We encourage you to write your own letter to The Chair; frackinginquiry@nt.gov.au.



Biodiversity Matters volunteers assisted with a buffel management task at the Simpsons Gap Ghost Gum Walk in June. Over two hours volunteers cleared a 5 metre buffer zone from the buffel away from the base of one of the significant ghost gums on the walk

Buffel Grass has made a significant impact on our environment impacting both flora and fauna. While it would be near impossible to completely remove the plant we are able to aid the current fauna and flora species by removing the Buffel Grass from sensitive areas. semi-regular basis over the next few years.

Morning tea was provided by Territory NRM. The event was supported by NT Parks & Wildlife and Arid Edge Environmental Services.



The Biggest Buffel Bust Ever



Local artist Franca Barraclough is shooting a super-sized buffel weeding photo to raise awareness about the huge buffel grass take-over in our region.

This photo is part of a larger project called the Visitors: a photo series documenting contemporary impacts on the desert, captured with all the gloss of a tourism advert.

We need heaps of volunteers to be part of a world record length weeding line by modelling for the photograph and weeding the site for the shoot. Come and be a superstar for your environment!

BUFFEL BUSTING PREP SESSIONS:

Sunday 20 Aug 2-5pm

Sunday 27 Aug 2-5pm

THE BIGGEST BUFFEL BUST PHOTOSHOOT:
8am, Sunday 3rd of September

If you want to be part of Alice history in the making, please email Franca at info@francabarraclough.com

This event is supported by the Arid Lands Environment Centre.

Download the draft National Recovery Plan for the Central Rock-rat *Zygomys pedunculatus*

<http://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/threatened/recovery-plans/comment/draft-recovery-plan-central-rock-rat>

Submissions due September 9th.

Alice Springs Community Garden



Regular working bees are on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of every month.

www.alicecommunitygarden.org.au

The established community garden plots are flourishing at present which is great to see. Recently we showed Lisa, an enthusiastic member of Brisbane Local Food gardening group, around the Garden. She was mightily impressed with the breadth and quality of the veggies and the general productivity and maintenance of beds.

Lisa was amazed to find such a resource in the middle of Australia. Very encouraging words!

Removal of Mulberry Trees

Gardeners have been finding their plots full of roots from trees and shrubs growing nearby on the dunes. Tree roots can be pretty invasive and competitive and so over the past few years we have been slowly removing many of the more aggressive trees, including the mulberry trees and acacia Salicinas. Reluctantly, after much procrastination, the Garden committee decided this month that the three remaining mulberry trees in the northern dune should be dug out to maintain the longevity of the plots.

New Committee Member

A warm welcome to Kim Mackay! Kim has managed community development initiatives in remote WA communities including a community garden.

Current Committee members are:

Bruce (Convenor & Healthy Gardens POD Rep)), Jimmy (Vice-Convenor & ALEC Director), Wendy (Sec/Treasure), Philippe (Plots POD Rep), Allan (Infrastructure & OH&S POD Rep), Anna and Jodi (Communications, Fund Raising & Events POD Reps) and Kim. New committee members with special or general interests are most welcome.

Meetings are held from 5-6pm on first Tuesday of month at the Garden – interested people welcome.

New Plot Holders Invited

We've had a few plots relinquished this month so we are keen to find a few new plot holders. If you know of anyone interested, please let Philippe or me know. As ever, we'll do all we can to help them get started.

Save water! Turning off taps with hoses.

Always turn off hoses at the tap. Never rely on turning water off using the sprinkler head. Sprinklers under pressure get blown off and can waste a lot of water.

Maintain Garden Health! Timely picking!

Plot holders please try to pick or pull out all your plants when they are ready for picking and/or beyond use. Old plants attract and harbour pests and every nearby plot suffers. Take to compost area. Chop it up.

Work For the Dole team powering along!

Ben is supervising the beautiful stone wall surround for the mandala garden and other projects completed, underway or planned. Please say hallo to Ben and team if you are in the gardens.

Friday Night Social

We also have our 'last Friday of the month' social gathering from 5-8pm when gardens and many other topics local and beyond are chatted about.

Working Bees 1st & 3rd Sunday every month

The garden welcomes more volunteers. Tasks include trimming trees and shrubs on the dunes. Letter boxes need to go in on every plot. There's always lots to do!

Become a Friend of the Garden

First become a member of ALEC (\$50 family, \$30 individual, \$10 concession). This provides access to the garden and the ability to apply for a plot. Plot holders pay \$20 per month for access to the compost/manure mixes and self watering system.

Join at www.alicecommunitygarden.org.au

Bruce Simmons
simmonsbruce@hotmail.com

Keep updated via the ASCG Facebook page:
<https://www.facebook.com/AliceCommunityGarden/>



WORKSHOPS

ARID LANDS ENVIRONMENT CENTRE IS RUNNING MONTHLY WORKSHOPS AT THE ALEC COMMUNITY CENTRE.

COME ALONG AND GET INVOLVED.

WE'VE GOT SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE.

6	MAY	EARTH LAW AND ENVIRONMENTAL JURISPRUDENCE	FREE
3	JUN	BEESWAX WRAP MAKING	\$15/10 CONC/MEMB
8	JUL	TOFU MAKING	\$15/10 CONC/MEMB
12	AUG	BUSH MEDICINE	\$15/10 CONC/MEMB
2	SEPT	MAKING CHANGE THROUGH COMMUNITY ACTIVISM	FREE
7	OCT	GREEN BEAUTY	\$15/10 CONC/MEMB
4	NOV	WHOLE FOODS/MEAL PLANNING AND THE CULT OF PRESERVATION	\$15/10 CONC/MEMB

RSVP FOR WORKSHOPS ONLINE AT ALEC.ORG.AU
OR EMAIL COMMUNITY@ALEC.ORG.AU



Arid
Lands
Environment
Centre

BEYOND NUCLEAR INITIATIVE

National nuclear waste dump

Barndioota in the Flinders Ranges region of South Australia is under assessment to host a national radioactive waste facility. Adnyamathanha Traditional Owners have been fighting against the federal government proposal since last April when the area was announced as the only site to be shortlisted for further study.

Regina McKenzie, whose family manages the Indigenous Protected Area directly adjacent to the nominated site has spoken out since the beginning. "It is arngurla yarta (spiritual land). The proposed dumpsite contains thousands of Aboriginal artefacts. Our ancestors are buried there. We don't want a nuclear waste dump here on our country and worry that if the waste comes here it will harm our environment and muda (our lore, creation)."

In April, two sites in the Kimba region on the Eyre Peninsula in South Australia were also added to the shortlist and will be further studied. Kimba community members, SA and national environment groups have called on the federal government to abandon the sites, citing lack of broad community support.

Austin Eatts, a direct neighbour to one of Kimba sites, said "There is a long history of dishonesty about politicians, they told us then and after that Maralinga was safe. This is the same message they are giving us now, things will be safe, why should we believe them? My feelings about Eyre Peninsula and the state having anything nuclear has not changed since then. Once we accept this site here, we have opened the door to further nuclear activity."

With Senator Matt Canavan recently forced to quit his Ministerial role due to holding dual citizenship, we will be watching closely to see how new Resources Minister Barnaby Joyce

approaches and progresses the plan.

Nuclear Weapons Ban supported at UN meeting

On 7 July 2017 – following a decade of advocacy by the International Campaign Against Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) and its partners – an overwhelming majority of the world's nations adopted a landmark global agreement to ban nuclear weapons, known officially as the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. It will enter into legal force once 50 nations have signed and ratified it.

Prior to the treaty's adoption, nuclear weapons were the only weapons of mass destruction not subject to a comprehensive ban, despite their catastrophic, widespread and persistent humanitarian and environmental consequences. The new agreement fills a significant gap in international law.

It prohibits nations from developing, testing, producing, manufacturing, transferring, possessing, stockpiling, using or threatening to use nuclear weapons, or allowing nuclear weapons to be stationed on their territory. It also prohibits them from assisting, encouraging or inducing anyone to engage in any of these activities.

A nation that possesses nuclear weapons may join the treaty, so long as it agrees to destroy them in accordance with a legally binding, time-bound plan. Similarly, a nation that hosts another nation's nuclear weapons on its territory may join, so long as it agrees to remove them by a specified deadline.

Nations are obliged to provide assistance to all victims of the use and testing of nuclear weapons



and to take measures for the remediation of contaminated environments. The preamble acknowledges the harm suffered as a result of nuclear weapons, including the disproportionate impact on women and girls, and on indigenous peoples around the world.

The treaty was negotiated at the United Nations headquarters in New York in March, June and July 2017, with the participation of more than 135 nations, as well as members of civil society. It will open for signature on 20 September 2017. It is permanent in nature, and will be legally binding on those nations that join it.

More information at www.icanw.org

In memory of Yami Lester

Beyond Nuclear Initiative would like to pay respects to family and friends of Yankunytjatjara Elder Yami Lester OAM. Yami was an atomic test survivor, Aboriginal rights activist, father, grandfather and great grandfather. He was blinded by the 'Totem 1' nuclear test of 1953 but never gave up fighting for his country and people. Yami played a vital role in exposing the terrible impacts of the British nuclear testing program on both communities and the environment.

His voice and support was key to the formation



Karina Lester presenting the International Indigenous Statement to the UN nuclear weapons ban negotiations. Image by ICAN

and successful work of the No Dump Alliance in South Australia to fight against the threat of an international nuclear waste dump. Together with his daughters Karina and Rose he spoke loud and strong against nuclear waste dumping in South Australia.

We have lost a remarkable person and the movement fighting against the nuclear industry will miss his leadership and strength. You can leave a tribute message for the Lester family via the No Dump Alliance website at www.nodumpalliance.org.au.

Australian Nuclear Free Alliance - 20 years strong!

This year marks 20 years of the Australian Nuclear Free Alliance (ANFA). Initially known as the Alliance Against Uranium, the network was initiated by Arabunna Elder Uncle Kevin Buzzacott at a small gathering in Alice Springs.

Meetings have happened almost every year since, with over one hundred people now consistently attending. The ANFA national meeting is the main forum in Australia for face-to-face information exchange between Aboriginal community members affected by the nuclear industry. It involves regional and national campaign planning and development of



Clive Rosewarne, Dave Sweeney and Uncle Kevin Buzzacott at an ANFA meeting in Alice Springs. Image by Jessie Boylan.

culturally appropriate resources for outreach and education on nuclear issues. It is an opportunity for people to come together and find strength through the shared aims of protecting country, culture and communities. The 20-year meeting will be held in Adelaide in September and will celebrate the resilience of front line communities who have stopped or held off uranium proposals for decades.

ANFA national committee members volunteer their time to coordinate the network and annual meetings. ALEC and other community organisations provide invaluable in-kind support that allows the Alliance to thrive on minimal funding.

POWERSHIFT

Power Shift. AYCC. Adani. These are the three things I have never had the pleasure, or the annoyance, of hearing until last week, when I travelled to Melbourne to attend the 2017 Power Shift Conference. For those who do not know, Power Shift is a three day youth conference where they discuss the importance of the youth's role in the climate change cause. It is a joint initiative between the Australian Youth Climate Coalition (AYCC) and Seed.

At the conference, the main issue we discussed was the Adani coal mine, which is supposed to be built in Northern Queensland. The founder, Adani, needs the government to lend him \$1 Billion of tax payer's money to lift the project off the ground and build a railroad between the mine and the ports, which will be located along the coast and will ultimately destroy the Great Barrier Reef. This project is not only a discrimination against the environment, but it is also Indigenous land rights and it needs to be shut down.

However, this conference was not only about stopping Adani, it was also about educating and informing the youth on how to use their own

**More information at www.anfa.org.au
To support ANFA please visit <https://www.givenow.com.au/cause3494>**

All donations to ANFA will assist people fighting current uranium mine and nuclear waste proposals to attend the 20-year meeting.

Natalie Wasley

**<http://beyondnuclearinitiative.com>
Facebook: **Beyond Nuclear Initiative**
Twitter: **@BeyondNuclearOz****

strengths to contribute to the climate change fight. Currently, the AYCC has no Northern Territory representative and lack in involvement from the Top End. This message is a calling call to any youth in Alice Springs, or across the NT, that want to make a difference and become a representative for our Territory in the AYCC's initiative to fight against climate change. Please contact us for more information.

Melanie Gunner
melanie.gunner@outlook.com





IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN THE
PRESERVATION & CONSERVATION
OF THE **ILPARPA CLAYPANS**

COME TO ONE OF OUR REGULAR EVENTS:

~ **ACTION GROUP** ~

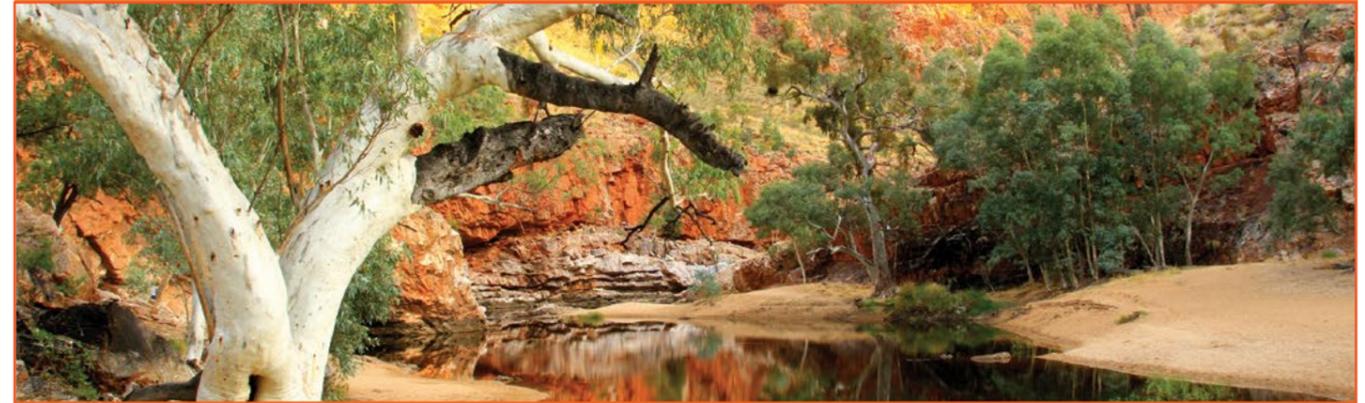
10am, FIRST SATURDAY OF EVERY MONTH
GAZEBO TABLE, BEAN TREE CAFÉ
OLIVE PINK BOTANIC GARDENS

~ **WALK & TALK** ~

5pm TO SUNSET
LAST TUESDAY OF EVERY MONTH
WESTERN CLAYPAN

*We acknowledge the Arrernte people as the traditional custodians
of the area commonly known as the Ilparpa Claypans.*

facebook.com/IlparpaClaypansLovers/
Email: ilparpaclaypanslovers@gmail.com



**Support the work of the
Arid Lands Environment Centre**

For more than 36 years ALEC has been standing up for the outback and catalysing change in the arid lands. With unprecedented threats facing the NT environment we need your support.

Can you help?

Become an ALEC 100 member:

Donate \$100 a month each year, or contribute a one off \$1000 tax deductible donation. 100 supporters will provide the ongoing essential operating funds of ALEC. https://aridlands.nationbuilder.com/desert_defenders

Become a Desert Defender:

Desert Defenders give monthly or one off tax deductible donations that provide critical funds to support ALEC programs and campaigns. https://aridlands.nationbuilder.com/desert_defenders

Make an Electronic Transfer

Account Name: ALEC Inc - Gift Fund
Bank: Alice Springs - Bendigo Bank
BSB: 633 000 Account #: 1343 58688

Join or renew your ALEC membership

http://www.alec.org.au/become_a_member

Donate at www.alec.org.au



Healthy futures for arid lands and people
ARID LANDS ENVIRONMENT CENTRE
www.alec.org.au



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