

## January 2005

### Appeal Lost: New case will begin

Barkandji Aboriginal claimant Dorothy Lawson is preparing to seek compensatory payments from the NSW Government following the removal of her native title rights at Lake Victoria. Mrs Lawson has opted to take this action following the loss of appeal against a decision by the Federal Court in November 2003 which extinguished native title rights at Lake Victoria allowing for water to again fill the lake and provide vital storage for South Australia. The appeal loss also did not allow the admission of new evidence.

*Mildura Independent Star*, pg 1, 23-Jan-05

### Men defend alleged cruel dugong killing

Bruce Little and Dale Leslie Brown recently appeared at the Bundaberg Magistrates Court for a summary hearing. Both men are charged with illegally harpooning a dugong at Woodgate Beach on 08 July last year. Dalungbara Elder John Dalungdalee-Jones, in support of Mr Little and Mr Brown, has stated that both men had the right to hunt dugong under native title legislation. The trial currently continues.

*News Mail*, pg 2, 20-Jan-05

### Tribe wants to dump dune track

The Kombumerri people wish to stop the construction of a 5m wide 550m long walkway along the dunes adjacent to Main Beach saying it is culturally offensive. The Kombumerri people, traditional owners of a portion of the land, have written to the city council asking that it stop the project. The group have said they are prepared to take the issue to the Federal Court using customary custodianship laws to stop its construction.

*Weekend Gold Coast Bulletin*, pg 9, 15-Jan-05

### Land Agreements

More than 200 South Australian pastoral leaseholders have been sent information packs about the process of developing an Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA). The information pack took three years to produce through joint efforts from the South Australian Government, farmers, other industries and Indigenous

Groups and demonstrates the advantages of agreement rather than litigation through the court system.

*Border Watch*, pg 17, 14-Jan-05

### Native title agreement recognised by State

The Yungngora people near Fitzroy Crossing have come a step closer to recognition of their native title rights and interests, with the Western Australian Government announcing support for the native title agreement. The claim is 1811 sq kilometres in size and located west of Fitzroy Crossing and covers the Noonkanbah pastoral lease. Parties to the agreement will include the Shire of Derby West Kimberley, Diamond Rose NI and the Kimberley Land Council on behalf of the Yungngora people.

*Kimberley Times*, pg 3, 13-Jan-05

### Delay for NT parks plan

A Northern Territory Government spokesperson has said the government is well on its way to establishing the nation's most advanced national parks system. So far there have been 27 agreements reached with traditional owners over parks and reserves, with one outstanding which involves the Keep River Park. Special legislation will be introduced in February 2005 to allow the traditional owners time to consider their position.

*Koori Mail*, pg 6, 12-Jan-05

### Interest in industrial estate at Hughenden

Hughenden's industrial estate is up and running with one block of land already sold and a number of others in the pipeline for sale. The land in question was transferred into freehold land after Flinders Shire Council signed an ILUA with the Yirandali native title group in early 2003. In December 2003, 35 hectares of land to the west of Hughenden was also sold in an attempt to boost development in the region. The area is located between the Flinders Highway and the cattle saleyards with block sizes ranging from 1800sq metres to 10,000 sq metres. Two hectares of the land will also be transferred to the Yirandali people as part of the agreement.

*North-West Star*, pg 5, 12-Jan-05

**Native title plan**

City of Swan councillors have agreed to negotiate an agreement which will allow the City of Swan to consult with the South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council regarding the Noongar peoples combined native title land claim in the South West of Western Australia.

*Midland Reporter*, pg 9, 11-Jan-05

**Flora, fauna sale plan**

Queensland Conservation Council coordinator Toby Hutcheon has denounced calls by a

North Queensland Indigenous Leader, Terry O'Shane, to allow Indigenous people to harvest endangered Australian species and sell them to private overseas collectors. Hutcheon argued that the proposal may be detrimental to Australia's international reputation as a leader on conservation issues. Mr O'Shane who is Chairman of the North Queensland Land Council, said the animals and plants would be harvested in native title areas, national parks and where Indigenous people had an Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA), with the monies injected into struggling Indigenous communities.

*Bendigo Advertiser*, pg 12, 11-Jan-05