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NEWSLETTER

FROM THE CHAIR

The last few months have been a busy time for community celebrations. I attended two of these, one at Gapuwiyak and the other at Willowra.

The Gapuwiyak celebration was for Christine Birrkinbirrkin who retired after 35 years. She graduated from the Remote Area Teacher Education program and went on to have a wonderful career as a bilingual teacher, language and culture expert, a senior teacher and acting principal on several occasions. She worked for some time as the leader in the Families as First teachers program.



Retirement of Birrkinbirrkin retirement celebration, 26/09/2026
Source: Kathy McMahon

Willowra celebrated the 50th anniversary of their Warlpiri/English Bilingual program on August 18th. Members of NTEM did a great job helping the school get ready, getting photos organised, digitised and physically transporting materials back to the community. It is a long road to Willowra from Darwin, but Sean Ryan did the trek early and spent ten days at Willowra before the celebration helping the school and community get ready. Melanie Wilkinson and I did a road trip a few days before the Big Day. Lots of fun, speeches, awards, singing and dancing, a bit with a donkey, and finally a big concert in the evening.



Former Bilingual staff. 18/8/2026
Source: Kathy McMahon

People travelled from Alice Springs, Yuendumu, Darwin and further afield.



Current Bilingual staff. 18/8/2026
Source: Kathy McMahon

We are currently working to get collaboration agreements with LANT and the NT Education Department and look forward to doing a lot more work to record and digitise the wonderful history of NT Aboriginal Education.

Kathy McMahon

Finally, a Name

It has taken 14 years to land on a name for our digital keeping place. We work with people, organisations and communities and languages from throughout the Northern Territory and beyond. So landing on a name that could also be a metaphor for what we do has been a slow careful process.

We are honoured and proud to be able to call their Keeping Culture software license *Galamarra.*



Galamarrma with people standing in front of the Terminus Hotel c1914-1916
PH0413/0036,
Karilyn Brown Collection (Ted Ryko image)

Our website holds more information.

SAVE THE DATE

The Northern Territory Education Mob Inc (NTEM) Annual General Meeting, (AGM) has been set for Wednesday 18th November.

PROJECT UPDATES

Truth Telling Project

Activity continues to identify and negotiate the digital return of material related to Stolen Generations in the Northern Territory. One of our volunteers, Kerry Blinco has spent many hours at the University of Queensland's Fryer Library working through journalist Ernestine Hill's extraordinary collection of over 3 000 photographs.

Ernestine travelled extensively through remote Australia, including the Northern Territory in about 1930s writing articles for the Associated Newspapers as she went including the *Walkabout* magazine. After World War 2, she travelled again across Australia, covering over 1.5 million kilometres by truck, train, foot, camel, and pearling lugger.

She took many photos of Aboriginal people. While there is a catelogue, there are many gaps in knowledge about where images were taken and when. With the full support of staff at the Fryer Library, our volunteers are working through low resolution images to try find the location and date of images such as the one below.



Group of children from the Shultz St home behind Kahlin with May Dove, 1942
Source: Ernestine Hill Collection, Fryer Library, University of QLD

Finalising Talking Book Projects

1. Tiwi Books

Work on the Tiwi ebook project is now complete. All (98) epubs have been deposited to the National Library of Australia (NLA) and Library & Archives Norther Territory (LANT). The NLA have updated Trove so that the ebooks will play in interactive mode on a web browser which is

great news. The ebooks will be preserved and the interactive versions widely available without special software.

There is a public list in Trove of these books. The movies and audio are also loaded to the NT Education Mob digital keeping place and are publicly available. The easiest way to find them is to search by Kits and sets in the list search for "Tiwi" to find "Tiwi Bilingual Program Books". The movies and audio have also been deposited with LANT and training videos on how to find them are now developed.

2. Kunwinjku Books

49 epubs have been deposited to the NLA And LANT and supplied to Bininj Kunwok Regional Language & Culture Centre.

There is a public list in Trove of these books. The movies and audio are loaded to the NT Education Mob digital keeping place and are publicly available. Again, the easiest way to find them is to search by Kits and Sets in the list search for Kunwinjku Bilingual Program Books

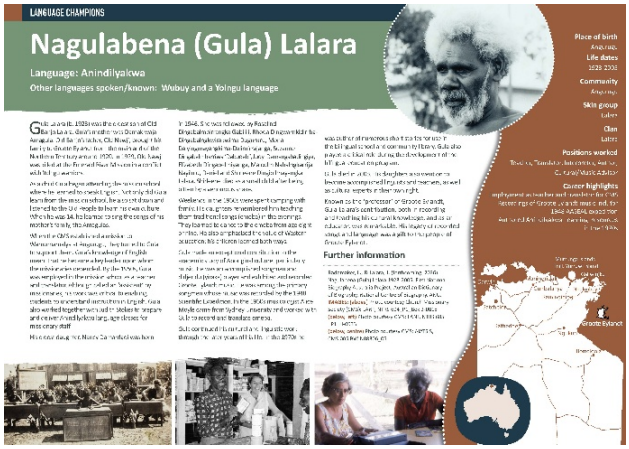
The movies and audio have also been deposited with LANT and training videos on how to find them are developed. Bininj Kunwok mob are keen to assist with recordings for additional books.

Many lessons have been learned and was the subject of a recent online professional learning session.

Posters

Work on the two poster series continues thanks to painstaking work undertaken by our volunteers and Batchelor Institute for continuing to support the production of Language Champion Posters.

Laura Rademaker worked with Gula's daughter Judy to make this poster.



Significant dates

To recognise and celebrate important dates in the Northern Territory education calendar, we are building a section of our website called Important Dates. We are taking a continuous improvement approach to this.

We are currently developing a piece for World Teacher's Day (Australian Celebration)



RATE Trial at Yirrkala 1976
Photo: John Bonney, NTEM NE1-0007095

Northern Territory History Grant

To continue the work begun through the digital return of Stolen Generations material, we were successful in winning a Northern Territory government history grant to create multimedia material related to the making of the communities on Grotte Eylandt.

The work is guided by a Reference Group representative of the Anindilyakwa Land Council, Church Missionary Society and Stolen Generations Families. The work is generating a lot of interest

NEW COLLECTIONS

NTEM is very grateful to Albert Bergman and Geoff Gleave for generously donating their collections to assist with celebration at Willowra and Alekarenge.

In addition to copies of photos, Albert provided a collection of Warlpiri books gathered during his time at, Willowra, Lajamanu and Yuendumu in the 1970s and 1980s. Many of these are not part of the Living Archive of Aboriginal Languages Collection available though Library & Archives NT. Once complete, digital copies will be provided to the three Warlpiri schools and the originals donated to Library & Archives NT for preservation.

Geoff and Elisabeth Gleave were teachers at Alekarenge in 1977-1978 and Willowra from 1978 to 1982. They generously shared over 2000 images which were able to be used in the recent celebrations at Willowra and Alekarenge.



Emily Rankin, Elisabeth Gleave and Norma Joshua, 1978
Source: Geoff and Elisabeth Gleave

PROFESSIONAL LEANRING

NTEM has organised five professional development sessions to run in October and November. Four are online and one is both face to face and online.

3:00 Wed 7/10/26	Creating and publishing 'Interactive' Talking Books'
3:00 Mon 19/10.2026	Introduction to *Galamarrma* - searching
3:00 Mon 26/10/2026	Introduction to *Galamarmma* Community Collections using Batchelor collection as a focus
3:00 Mon 9/11/2026	Enhancing metadata on *Galamarrma* – for Administrators

There is a booking system to allow NTEM members to have priority.

The fifth session will be a collaboration between us Library & Archives NT, Northern Territory Stolen Generations Inc Aboriginal Corporation and will be advertised separately.