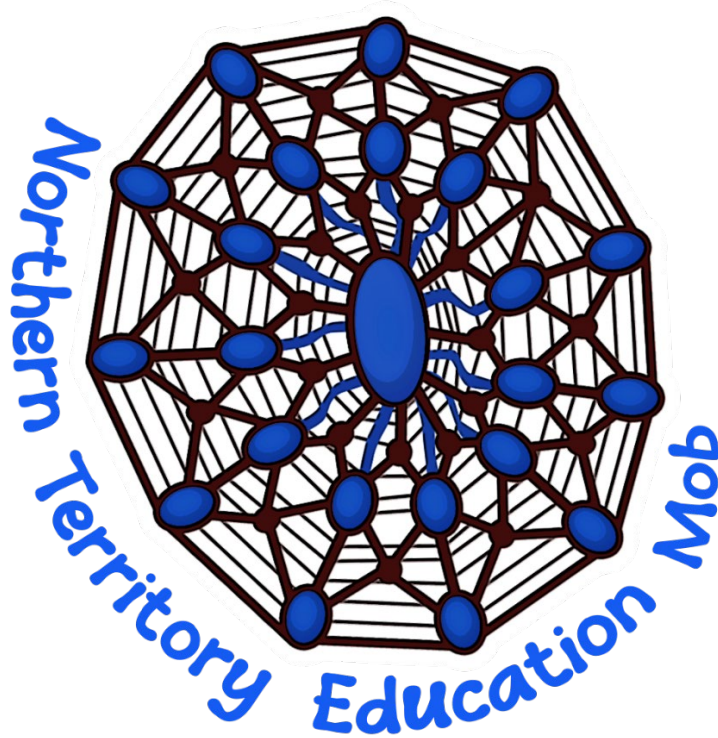


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NEWSLETTER

FROM THE CHAIR

I would like to welcome our new members and take this opportunity to thank the outgoing committee for their contribution to the Northern Territory Education Mob. Welcome also to our new, smaller, committee.

It has been a big year with two major projects and our first AGM. While there is always more to do, nothing would be possible without the cooperation and support of members, volunteers and partner organisations. Together we achieve more.

Have a relaxing festive season and all the best for safe and healthy 2026.

PROJECT UPDATES

Truth Telling Project

This project would not be possible without the support and cooperation of collecting institutions across Australia and beyond.

We organise these collections on the Northern Territory Education Mob Digital Keeping Place, respecting each one's copyright and use permissions.

To date, more than 2,800 photos, 12 documents, 32 films, and 23 audio recordings have been uploaded for the project. We are currently working to determine which of these materials are relevant to Stolen Generations communities and families, and which belong to other groups. So far, we have identified over 850 images.

Partners in this project, Library and Archives NT has digitised, and allowed us to digitise collections that relate to the communities with a Church Missionary Society (CMS) heritage: Roper River Mission, Ngukurr, Emerald River, Gunbalanya (Oenpelli), Angurugu, Umbakumba and Rose River (Numbulwar). We're coordinating with the CMS for publishing permission, while identifying image locations and working with relevant communities to review them for cultural sensitivities.

We have recently received 1920s Bungalow images from the State Library of South Australia and plan to release them early next year. The library is also digitising materials on Croker Island and Otford from World War II.

The State Library of NSW has also been extremely helpful in providing high quality images from their collections. They have more to digitise.

Netta Hunter from Stolen Generation Aboriginal Corporation and our Chair Don Christophersen organised a group of Stolen Generations elders to visit the new Library & Archives NT (LANT) space at Danala to show images from a LANT collection digitised by our volunteers.

The images, taken by Therese Ritchie, are from The Long Road Home Conference held at Kormilda College in 1994. Don emphasised the need for the knowledge of who was in the photos to be shared so that the people are remembered in 50 years' time. The event was well-attended, and it was agreed have more of these gatherings with other images.



Photo courtesy of Don Christophersen

We were also successful with an NT Government History Grant of \$ 6 375. The funds are ... *to produce bilingual digital media telling the early history of Anindilyakwa-speaking communities, potentially leading to a physical exhibition.*

We are in the process of setting up a Reference Group of stakeholders who will oversee this work.

Posters

We have a few more posters in the pipeline which should be available early in the new year.

Gunbalanya 100 Years celebration

For most of this year we worked with present and past school staff to do six major things:

- brokered the standing up a Gunbalanya instance of the Keeping Culture software (same as ours) including the loading of digital content from the former Gunbalanya Community Stories software kept safe by Library & Archives NT (LANT)
- tidied up the Gunbalanya collection in the Northern Territory Education Mob Digital Keeping Place
- focussed our digitising efforts on collections relating to Gunbalanya
- paid for enhancements to the Keeping Culture software to enable a transfer of our collection to the Gunbalanya version to happen seamlessly
- researched and created 14 pictorial timelines that tell a story of the community and school (including one for pre the coming of explorers and buffalo shooters)
- created 'Talking Books' from the former bilingual program.

None of this would have been possible without a strong partnership with the school and the effort of two volunteers in particular: Wendy Kennedy and Camerson Plastow. The willingness of former staff (and their children) to allow us to digitise their material was humbling. Some wrote a memoir of their time which provide amazing insights about teaching and the community in their time.

From all the reports, the day was an outstanding success. Of course, the benefits go much deeper. The digital

keeping place for Gunbalanya was launched on the day with nearly 9 000 photos, 150 documents, 70 movies, 60 audio and 350 objects.

The long-term school staff understand the capability of the Keeping Culture software for curriculum content and community engagement. Apparently at the recent Principals Conference, the collaboration was suggested to be nominated for a Chief Ministers Award.

Graphic Designer Sarah Martin did an outstanding job.



Photo courtesy of Wendy Kennedy

More collections relating to Gunbalanya have come our way since the celebration. The work will continue for some time to come as we follow up with these new collections and new stories.

One such collection was from the Jonathan Harris, grandson of missionaries Dick and Nell Harris who were at Gunbalanya and Groote Eylandt commencing in 1929. The material includes photos, slides and language work documentation.

Mary (Katie) Chrome, appointed to Roper River Mission as a teacher in 1913, also managed the girls' dormitory. She married Alfred (Alf) Dyer in 1917, and in 1921, they moved to Emerald River to help establish the mission for Stolen Generations children.



Students and Mary Chrome Roper River Mission, Harris Family Collection NTEM, NE1-0199151

The Dyers then began the Mission at Oenpelli (Gunbalanya) in 1925. Almost immediately Mary started teaching. It did not take her long to realise that the students spoke five different languages.

I had started school some time before with 15 scholars. One result of Christmas was that 8 more came along when we started again in January. We both felt we would rather let other things go than school, and we had been letting them come in each day to dinner and stay for the afternoon school. It was not very satisfactory, and some of the bush ones wanted to leave their children for Jura their word for anything in the nature of writing on paper.

Mr Dyer fixed up what had been the dairy when the place was used to supply Darwin with butter, into a boys' dormitory. The place where they sleep is mosquito proof, and they have a very nice place. There are not so many girls, but they are anxious to come, so he fixed up the old gaol with a mosquito proof door and window for them. They are very proud of it.

Cole, K, 1975 A History of Oenpelli p25-26, Nungalinga Publications

Access to a collection of writings by Alf Dyer had been shared by Moore College in Sydney and we will be working with them in the new year.



Katie Dyer at Oenpelli (Gunbalanya), 1925 Harris Family Collection, NTEM, NE1-0199045

NEW COLLECTIONS

We have begun digitising a collection of some 45 photo albums from a former YMCA worker who lived and worked in many remote communities over a long period of time. The YMCA used to run the sports program in schools and communities. This will keep us busy!

Some of you would know or know of Cecil Neilson, former head of English as a Second Language (ESL). Good for us Cecil was a bowerbird, and she has THE BEST Bilingual and Homeland collection we have ever seen. Her collection is at CDU and we have been granted permission to digitise. Another collection for the new year.

IMPROVEMENTS Volunteer Policy

Our Volunteer policy and role descriptions for the tasks undertaken by volunteers is written. Thank you to member Craig Davies for volunteering to facilitate the policy implementation. One of the things Craig will be doing is following up on all those who volunteer to ensure we all have a current Working With Children (Ochre Card) and that if you work from home, your workspace meets OHS requirements.

We now track volunteer hours monthly. November saw just under 450 hours of volunteer work. Such a figure can be costed. The hours become one measure of our value and be used in grant applications.