



Johnny Balaiya's story

Nancy Djinba speaks

Bill Day

Human Rights up
shit creek in the NT

Housing Commission

KUJUK

Edition 1, July 2001

KUJUK

send contributions to:
P.O. Box 42991
Casuarina, NT 0811

Or e-mail: kujuk2001@hotmail.com

In 1971, some homeless Larrakia people and other long grass Aboriginal people living in the bush around Darwin started a little newspaper called *Bunji*. Even the people camping at Railway Dam, Knuckeys Lagoon and Kulaluk had no land or houses in those days. In August 1971, the first copies of *Bunji* was handed out around the pubs and streets and in Bagot.

"Stand strong together" and "Fight for your rights", said the newspaper (it was only one typed page).

The first TV news shown in Darwin told the story.

The *NT News* reported,

'Black Power comes to Darwin'.

Some people were angry, but most Aboriginal people and their friends supported the *Bunji* newspaper for thirteen years. 'We will never give up,' the people in the camps said.

In 2001, nothing much has changed for many Aboriginal people in Darwin. They still camp in the bush around town with no shelter, toilets, electricity, or even a tap.

The United Nations says everyone has the right to these necessities.

The Knuckeys Lagoon people still do not own the land where they live and at Railway Dam they are threatened with 'relocation'.

The government won't help.

It is time for another newspaper for Aboriginal people and their friends in Darwin who recognise that Darwin is built on Aboriginal land.

Congratulations and best wishes,

Bill Day
Perth WA



YUWARR GULLARR NGUBNABBARRUWARR BOL BARUDARR
UNGAWARR NGINGARPA GARRL NGINDIA JARL NGIDARR
JARL NGINDARR JARL NGINDARR GOOLOWARR

YU

DIDAY ME LOOK AROUND BLU YOU DIDAY U
NUMU SAVVY INDEED IT U TELLIM LA EVEBY
BODY THAT KIND THAT STORY U LIKE ME TOO
TRUKY U SAVVY NGUPPI

PLEASE GULLA NINDA BLOA ABULLA NGODA
NGIPA JARL NIDA GULA WARDIA MOLA WARKAI
ARBOI BARDIA ARRANINARR ARBOI YUWAR
GINBULLA NUNGARDA NINGARPA WOPABARDA
JARL NGUNIDIA GOOLARR YUWA

IF U MOB NOOMU BILEIVE LA ME TELL ME
PLEASE O DEAR MY BUTIFULL PEOPLE CAUSE
LIKE SO MUCH PEOPLE HERE IN NORTHERN TERRITORY

By Finity Gungurdan

EQUAL

DON'T HAVE TO MEAN THE SAME



Australia the lucky country, we've been told. Well you might be feeling pretty lucky, if you just immigrated from some war torn country somewhere and you're lucky to be alive, or if you're white, middle class or looking like one and have the race card on your side. However, if you are a blackfella or some other despised race or poor in this country you will be feeling anything but lucky.

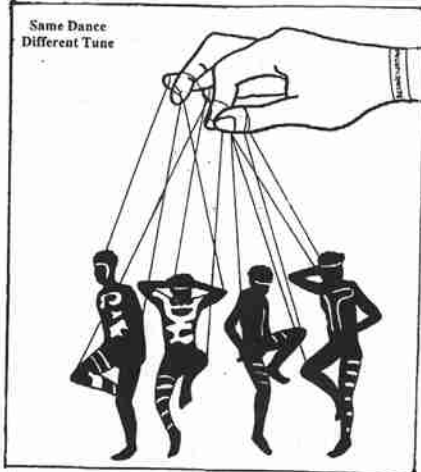
You will be feeling, harassed, discriminated against, ostracised, marginalised, victimised and relatively powerless against the over whelming power that the Government has at their disposal. The NT Police, The City Council, The Housing Commission, Night Patrol, Mandatory Sentencing, and to top it all off, no freedom of information.

Pretty big words, which may not mean much to you until you have lived through the circumstances that give them meaning. The bottom line is that the indigenous people of this continent now known as Australia have been at the frontline of this war on the people since invasion day. For instance, unless you are in the legal game or still fighting to claim back some rights as an indigenous person, you probably would not know that in this wonderful, so called lucky country, there is no law against genocide. Did you hear right? Does this writer know what he or she is talking about? As a matter of fact yes! And this writer was also at the Federal Court Hearing in Canberra in 1998 when the Australian Government was taken to Court for genocide and the Government Lawyer admitted in Court that the Genocide Law was deliberately left out of the constitution. Silence in the Court? Not on your life, there was cheering and laughter and stunned mullets in the courthouse. Not one black in the room could believe that he actually said it. I don't know if he realised what he had said. I immediately thought that it would make the headlines. No such luck. Like they say, "lucky for some".

NO LAW AGAINST GENOCIDE IN AUSTRALIA, I repeat,
NO LAW AGAINST GENOCIDE IN AUSTRALIA.

NO FREEDOM OF INFORMATION IN THE NORTHERN
TERRITORY
NO FREEDOM OF INFORMATION IN THE NORTHERN
TERRITORY

NO TENANCY RIGHTS IN THE NORTHERN
TERRITORY
NO TENANCY RIGHTS IN THE NORTHERN
TERRITORY

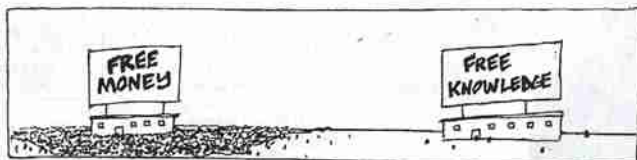


What no public outcry, no riots in the streets, no tearing down of the establishment, no tarring and feathering of corrupt politicians? Why the hell not? Doesn't it matter, because it is only happening to one race of people and we're not it. Not good enough Australia. Now you know why they were so slow to recognise the human rights abuses in East Timor, Irian Jaya and other places in our region. They don't see anything wrong in what they are doing. It is called colonisation and it has it's own set of rules which the invading colonies adhere to.

This country still has the potential to be the lucky country that it professes to be but that will only happen if the social justice is lifted for the indigenous people of this country. The people of Australia must recognise the fact that they are illegally occupying indigenous lands. If the people fully recognised and acknowledged their illegal occupation and made proper efforts to correct the past and present injustices and to compensate for those injustices, the social justice will be lifted for everyone in this country.

COLONISATION, ASSIMILATION, INTERGRATION,
INCARCERATION, INSTITUTION, INSTITUTION,
INSTITUTION, INSTITUTION, INSTITUTION,
INSTITUTION, INSTITUTE.

By BlackHole



Johnny Balaiya - Proud, Old and Unbeaten

Johnny Balaiya is a 70 year old man who has lived in the Palmerston area for the last 15 years and in the Darwin area since 1945 after walking from his home land, Yilan near the mouth of the Blyth River in Arnhemland when he was about 15 years old.

Johnny was in the NT News recently a couple of days before he was forced to move from Pipeline camp. The NT News failed to mention why Johnny had to move and named Johnny an itinerant, which is clearly untrue as Johnny has lived in throughout Darwin living in bush camps for years at a time. The reason why people are now being labeled itinerant is because they are forced to move daily / weekly by council by law fines for sleeping, littering and lighting a fire.

In Johnny's case the bushland he was camping on was leased to DMD Holdings for subdivision into 43 lots for commercial development. A bulldozer started work on the top of the hill. One afternoon as Johnny was walking back from the shops he saw his bush land was on fire. Subcontractors had lit the dry long grass without notifying Johnny or helping him protect his camp. Johnny spent all night with a metal rake defending his camp from the bush fire. Following the fire the bulldozer started work near Johnny's camp.



"I am an old man. I am tired of being moved by Balanda from place to place like the kangaroo, hiding in the bushes, being hunted from place to place. I am tired of being told by Balanda that they will give me a house or a place where me and my family can stay, when nothing happens." - Johnny Balaiya

Nobody came to talk to Johnny about what was going to happen. Johnny and his family group watched and waited as the bulldozer cleared the trees around their camp.

Family and friends helped to move the caravan, water tank, two old vans used for sleeping, cooking gear and mattresses. This is the second time in six months

Johnny and his family group has been forced to move further away from water, shops and the medical clinic.

Johnny's main worry is that he will be to far from the shops to buy food. He is an old man and cannot walk very far without getting short of breath, he has to sit down and rest often.

He is worried about access to water as one water carrier who has been filling Johnny's water tank previously said the road to the new camp is to narrow his truck. Another water carrier will cost \$85 a fortnight to fill Johnny's water tank. The dust in the new camp is also a big problem and will call foreseeable health problems throughout the dry season.

Stop Press

Johnny was visited by two police men last night, this is the story Johnny told me. "they told us we had to start moving, you couldn't stay here. Johnny asked "where are we going to go? We didn't make any trouble here, you the ones making trouble." The police said "go to 15 mile or Bagot and start walking or we get the big truck and come pick up all your mob, and take you Berrimah lock up." Johnny said, "What for, what did we do wrong? We sitting down quiet here, nobody fighting or arguing." One police man tried to force Johnny's door on his caravan. Johnny told him, "don't break that, why you want to break that?" The police kept on telling them they had to, "start walking", Johnny said, "how I'm going to walk? How this blind man going to walk, he can't see, I can't leave my dogs - they can go with you", the police man said. "I can't leave my stuff here, I'm not going anywhere, I'm going to stay here" Johnny said. " they where really wild with us and swearing but we didn't leave, they came at 5 o'clock and 8 o'clock night time, they tell us same thing you got to move, start walking."

The Senior Sergeant in charge of Palmerston this morning visited Johnny's camp after complaints where made to him about the two police men. He told Johnny that he did not have to move and that he would talk to the police officers who made the trouble for Johnny last night.

It seem the police do not need to wait for the new

Public Order and Anti Social Conduct Act proposed by the CLP.

Under this Act, a member of the police force could apply for the declaration of a stated area to be a notified area. Once accepted as a notified area, the area will be signposted to that effect for up to two years.

During that time the police will have the powers to enter the area and move people on and even seize property. Notification orders can apply to shops, licensed premises, parks and amazingly PRIVATE HOMES.

"Can somebody help me please?

I need a place to live with my close family here. I need a place to be secure and which is right for me to live as a black man. I need a place that lets me live in the way of my culture. I need a place where I can sit quietly. I want to stay in this place until I die." - Johnny Balaiya

"This is a Blackfellas place. First place we never seen the white man, only missionary. Rain time we make it paperbark, sitting down, no clothes. When that Captain Cook said, we'll make it right here, they put themselves, they got big name, but not really one, this country belongs to Black man - Larrakia people they know me, I been camping here a long time." - Johnny Balaiya



Jimmy Morgan



Nancy Djinba Speaks

How come you're camping in the back yard?

He (housing commission man) come round and see the house first and then he said to me, me and my sister, they you two are gonna pay \$1500 for maintenance. Then he said to me can't stay here 'cause drunken peoples inside. Then next minute he said, "drunken people keep going in and follow you?" And I said yeah, they follow me. If I go inside, they follow me. I want to stay in my house. I stay outside and they going to clean that house and they want to come back and they want to fix it up and everything for maintenance.

But why are you camping out here?

Because housing commission people tell me you want to take your mattress and all of your stuff, that's all and nothing else. I can't take my family inside, because my family, they'll come in from Maningrida and we can stay outside. If Marcia come back she can stay inside. They gonna let Marcia (my daughter), that's alright and her kids, not me.

And what did the housing commission say to you about this house?

They want to fix up the house then, the maintenance. They want to fix up all the windows, all the doors and paint it up or something. Toilet and shower and any rooms inside and out. They want to get flat for myself. Just for myself.

And what do you think about that?

I said no, I'm not going in flat. If I got flat, they kick me out again. If all my family comes and drink at the house, next door they'll say you go away, too much noise, too much screaming. And I said alright, I want to stay outside then. You can have a clean one in the room.

How long have you been living here, outside?

Two and a half weeks living out here, since they told me only I can go back in. I not go back in yet.

How long you been living in this house, all together?

Fourteen years living in this house.

I went there (housing commission) by myself, Wednesday, and seven people there in the office. I started crying, made me cry, for this house. "You not going there. You not staying anymore at this house. We going to put you a flat," they said.

So you were in that office, by yourself, and all the housing people, seven people... And what did they say to you?

They say you want to write this paper. Five paper, then you can go out. But we getting you a flat, by yourself.

And what did you say to those people?

And I said, no, I'm not going. If I want to get a house and flat, you want to get a house for me first, because I want to get a house. I want to stay there. If you're going to get a flat for me for 3 or 4 days, some 3 weeks or four weeks. I want to move out from the outside. I don't want to get you a flat, and that's it.

Because you need the family.

Yeah, I tell them, if they come around, my family's they can stay there for 3 days or 4 days or 1 week for shopping, not long. They can stay with me. They don't want to stay your place, they said. You and Marcia, that's it, you mob stay there that place. If we sort of move out Marcia from that place there, you going out for another place. Marcia is moving out for another house.

So your daughter moving out with her kids, but you still got a lot of family staying with you?

I tell them what would my family's and my sisters want to stay with me, with their little boy with them, I wouldn't see them my life...

Then they would write it. Five paper, 3 pink ones and 2 blue ones I would write it and that's it.

And you signed your name?

And I signed my name, I'm coming.

You signed your name for that flat? Like I said.

And did you want to sign your name for that flat?

No, no move.

But why did you sign your name?

That man, he tell me, he pushed me to. They don't ask me nothing. I would go in straight in, ...she said sit down, you can't stay there anymore.

She said you're not going to stay...?

You can't stay anymore there, you're getting a flat ...You're not staying there, that place. You going out, another flat. I don't say nothing, don't tell them nothing. They make me shut up. Then another one even come sign your name, another one even come, sign your name, another one even come, sign your name. I would've got mistake see.

And do you know what's happening now? Did the housing commission tell you what's happening?

I can't understand what those people talking with me. I listen a little bit english and I can't understand properly what's true, like you listening...

I can't listen properly, at what they saying for me. I can understand a little bit, can't understand the whole lot. I went there and tell them one girl is here helping me. That's all I tell them. Nobody else. Nobody side with me, nothing.

And when will you move back into the house?

I don't know, they haven't said.

So you going to wait and see what they say? I want to fix up this house everything first before I move and that's it.

And they're giving you one month to fix up?

I don't know, that's all I said.

And then last one I would say, I love that place and I would stay there and I got angry with them and got my bag and I walk away. I walked out and that's it. They said "wait, wait, wait", I don't listen, I walk away, that's all. No more story for you, because they not listening to me.

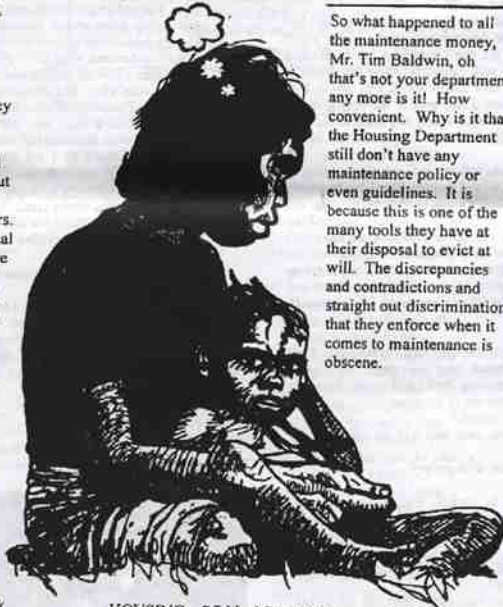
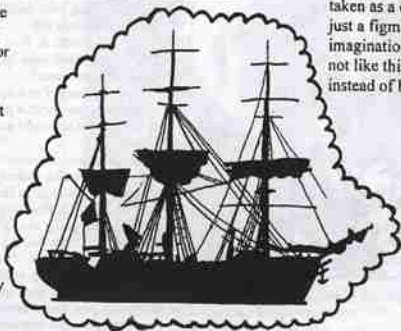


LANDS, HOUSING AND ENVIRONMENT (HOUSING COMMISSION)

It never ceases to amaze me, just how much this government department has been able to get away with. Or maybe there hasn't been enough people around long enough to observe their behaviour for a long time like this long term resident. This long term resident had the fight of her life on her hands when housing tried their best to evict her over maintenance that they should have done as a matter of course. They obviously don't give a damn about you or your family or the fact that they will be putting you and your children out on the street for no good reason. Forget that they are supposed to be in the business of providing housing not real estate.

This is precisely what they are becoming more and more, though they will never admit it. They still have not come clean about how many people they evicted in the last 10 years. How many were aboriginal families. How many were children. So much for children's rights. That is the only reason you get a house in the first place. When it comes to being evicted over a couple of bucks or maintenance issues forget the kids. (HUMAN, CHILDREN RIGHTS, UP SHIT CREEK IN THE NORTHERN TERRITORY).

When you talk to these housing representatives, it's like talking to aliens. You think that you are talking logic and they look at you like you're the alien and you're talking some unearthly language that does not compute. That's cause it's logic. They can't communicate, because they are just dreaming up ways to get rid of you so they can sell to the highest bidder.



HOUSING COMMISSION

Immediately after evicting a family. Housing Commission will put the house up for auction. So people coming into the NT with the bucks from elsewhere can pick up a cheap house and the local population is still where they always were. Homeless! Darwin's locals are being displaced by the rich from elsewhere. The evidence is everywhere. The old Darwin is barely there any more. Big business is changing the face of our landscape. That is another story!

Once upon a time, the fact that you had been in a house for ten or more years, gave you the right to buy your house and it was taken as a deposit. Is this just a figment of all our imaginations? Why is it not like this anyway, instead of being evicted

after ten, twenty or thirty years over maintenance issues! Tenants need to get together and fight for a better deal. Tenants and past tenants need to have their say. There should be an investigation into Housing Commission. I repeat, there should be an investigation into Housing Commission.

STOP THE EVICTIONS
STOP THE HARRASSMENT

So what happened to all the maintenance money, Mr. Tim Baldwin, oh that's not your department any more is it! How convenient. Why is it that the Housing Department still don't have any maintenance policy or even guidelines. It is because this is one of the many tools they have at their disposal to evict at will. The discrepancies and contradictions and straight out discrimination that they enforce when it comes to maintenance is obscene.

Of course they have all the arguments under the sun, all the rationale, all the resource to convince you otherwise.

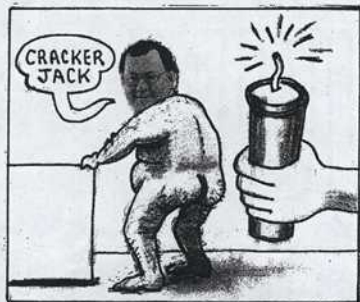
It is time all the tenants that feel that they are victims of Housing Commission should come out and speak up. All the people who have been evicted over the years. All the people who have been forced to fix things that were normal wear and tear should come out. It is time for a full investigation of Housing Commission and it's workers. Don't government workers have to be educated, intelligent, and honest people able to do they're employed to do?

It is time for some class action against the Housing Commission and the Housing Officers or whatever they call themselves these days. STOP THE SELLING OF HOUSES, STOP THE LYING, STOP THE INTIMIDATION, STOP THE FALSE PRETENSES, STOP THE EVICTIONS, STOP THE EVICTIONS, STOP THE EVICTIONS, COME CLEAN NOW!

By BlackHole

TERRITORY DAY

A day to commemorate the spirit of those generations of Territorians who fought for the rights we all enjoy today.



HAVE A BLAST! - LIGHT A
CRACKER UP BURKE'S BACKYARD



What's Gough Whitlam
doing in this picture?
Find out next edition...



AUSTRALIAN POLITICS?

Parents of the Past

What world have you given us?
You who took control of the heart
Of the root of each spirit
And shattered all hopes that remained
With your mirrors of sorrow.

Parents of the Present

What world are you giving us?
You who let power eat all of our food
And the wind of each world
With destruction that has burst
Even our sky and our soil.

What world will you give us?

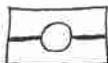
When all of your choices
Have evaporated with your deception
And left us,
Your Children of the Future,
Awake.

KUJUK

send contributions to:

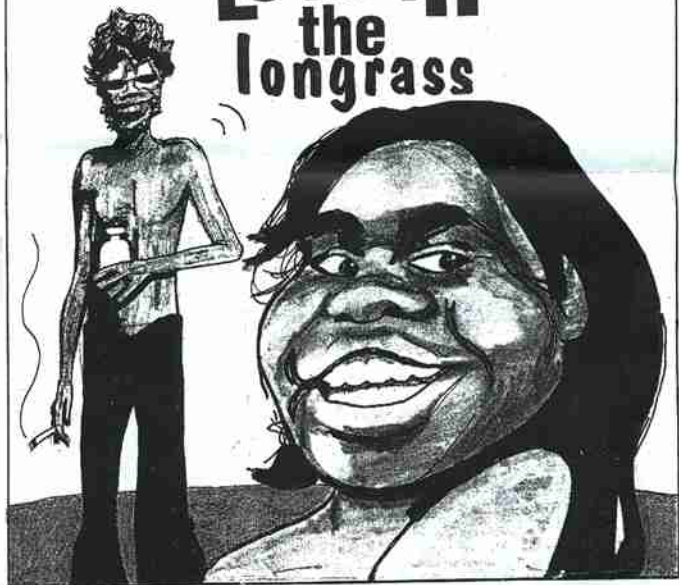
P.O. Box 42991
Casuarina, NT 0811

Or e-mail: kujuk2001@hotmail.com



KUJUK

**Love in
the
longgrass**



Feel free to make copies.

Donations
will ensure
survival.

Share Kujuk.