

# TAKING ACTION IN THE DRY



Photo by Sandy Scheltema 1997

The folk at the Environment Centre NT make a point of celebrating the little, as well as the big wins. 30 years of work dedicated to protecting and maintaining the Territory's unique environment is one big win worth toasting.

By Anna Dowd

From campaigning against land-clearing in the Daly River region, seabed explosions in the Harbour, and Russian space stations at Gunn Point, to fighting the nuclear waste dump at Muckaty and helping householders choose more energy efficient appliances, the Environment Centre NT has worked in front and behind the scenes towards a greener, cleaner future for Territorians.

It's worth pondering what Kakadu might look like today without the work of Environment Centre NT and its seed organisations Darwin Conservation Society and the Environment Council. Environment Centre NT's Chair and volunteer for over 20 years Di Koser had her first flight over Kakadu in 1977 in a series of tours organised to raise public awareness of the value of the region. In 1979, Stage 1 of Kakadu National Park was declared and many years of campaigning made sure other areas were added to the now World Heritage listed Park.

Koser was one of many members inspired by Traditional Owner Yvonne Margarula, who took part in the campaign to stop the Jabiluka Uranium

mine inside Kakadu National Park. Environment Centre NT joined with the Traditional Owners the Mirarr to demand the mine not go ahead in a true life David and Goliath battle that gripped the nation. The famous blockade in 1998 attracted more than 5000 people from all walks of life, and the Environment Centre NT's office in Darwin was transformed into an information and coordination centre.

"People would fly into Darwin and come to see us for information, keen to get out there. So many people came through the office from different backgrounds, young and old. It was an amazing event."

The Environment Centre NT's Director Stuart Blanch says there's a long history of the Centre working with diverse groups to get the best for the environment and the people living in it.

"If you go to the Daly, you'll see 'Save the Daly' stickers on a lot of cars. When I see one of these stickers next to an Australian Fisherman's Association NT sticker, and then one on another car of an Indigenous sticker, it feels great. I know we're doing it right, providing the space for people to speak, to take part, to offer different solutions."

"We're passionate, we don't give up. We respect differences of view. We value the Territory's globally significant environmental values. And after 30 years, we're still in the game."

## Sunny Futures

The Top End is dripping with sunshine. So what might things look like in 50 years if we really got on board the solar powered, renewable energy train?

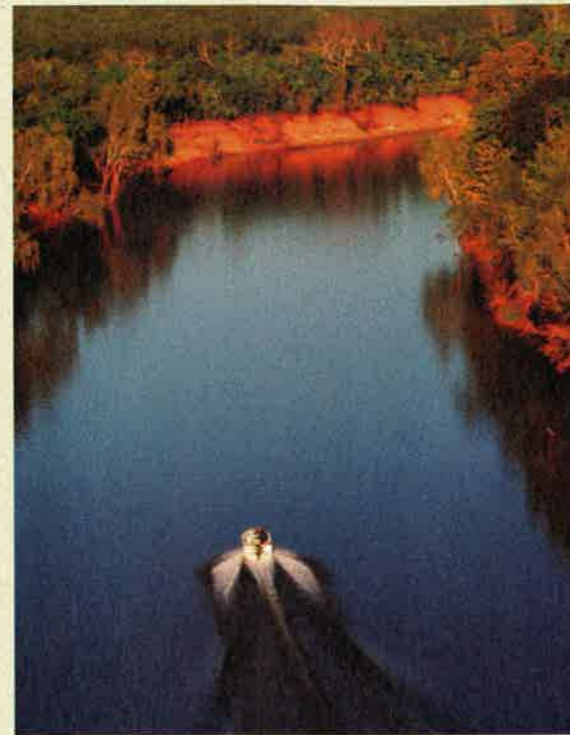
Engineer, General Manager of CAT projects and guest speaker at the NT Solar Summit, Lyndon Frearson has been involved in designing some of the largest solar systems in country.

"The amount of radiation from the sun that can be converted into electricity in Darwin is about 30-50% more than is received in Germany, which has the highest proportional of Solar PV of any national grid in the world."

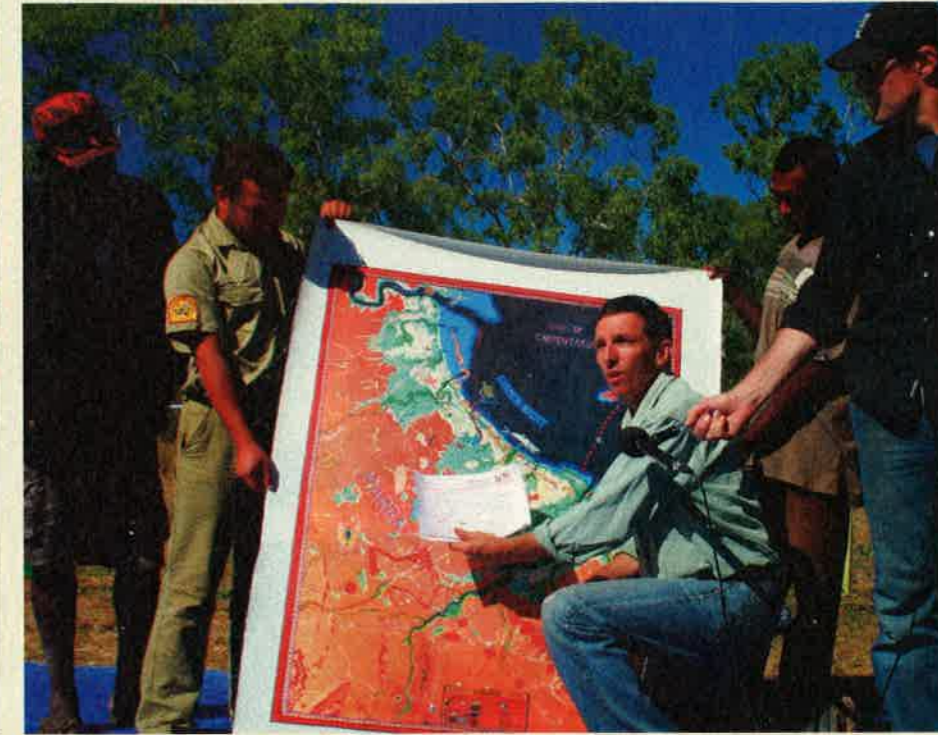
Frearson says sun powered communities and businesses in the Top End equals long-term material economic benefits and the vision is within reach: households, businesses, schools, shopping centres and large industry with solar infrastructure is a sure way to keep costs down while the sun keeps coming up, free of charge, every day.

### NT SOLAR SUMMIT 2013

**WHERE:** Darwin Convention Centre | Meeting Rooms 3 & 4  
**WHEN:** Wed 12 Jun | 8.30am-1.30pm | Lunch included  
**COST:** Free | RSVP essential



Daly River: Stuart Blanch



Limmen: Hannah Seward

## CELEBRATE THE ENVIRONMENT

Here's a hot list of fun ways to show your support. Get amongst it and help the Environment Centre NT celebrate 30 years.

### WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY CAMPAIGN SHOWCASE

Come see what your local Environment Centre does to protect our unique NT environment and wildlife. Learn about current campaigns Don't Frack The Territory, Sustainable Neighbourhoods, Car-pooling, Top End Sea Life, Nuclear Free NT, and Save Darwin Harbour.

**WHERE:** Groove Cafe | Nightcliff  
**WHEN:** Wed 5 Jun | 6.30-8.30pm  
**COST:** Free

### TRANSITIONS INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

This visionary film festival is about solutions to global and local environmental issues. The films in this program include Chasing Ice, Promised Land starring Matt Damon and the premiere of E2NT about NT energy futures.

**WHERE:** Various venues  
**WHEN:** Sat 8 - Sun 16 Jun  
**INFO:** [transitionsfilmfestival.com](http://transitionsfilmfestival.com)

### COOLmob's LIVING SUSTAINABLY FAMILY DAY

This day of youth-focused activities will have kids learning about sustainability through story telling, games and activities, while adults can kick back in the shade and find out about local programs running at COOLmob. There will be a free BBQ for all involved.

**WHERE:** Jingili Water Gardens  
**WHEN:** Sat 8 Jun | 10am-1pm  
**COST:** Free

### MUSIC FOR MUCKATY CONCERT

Join musicians Dave Garnham, June Mills, Super Raelene and more for an afternoon of music, food and fun all in the name of stopping a nuclear waste dump being built at Muckaty. There will be speakers, face painting and food.

**WHERE:** Nightcliff Foreshore | near Chapman Road  
**WHEN:** Sat 15 Jun | 2-6pm  
**COST:** Free

### PEARL ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION PARTY

From tiaras to thongs, dress in your fanciest and help us celebrate turning 30. With fabulous food by the Knockabout Chefs and live music with Robbie Mills, Allen Murphy and Brendan Hicks this is an event not to be missed. RSVP essential.

**WHERE:** Holtz Lawn | Botanic Gardens  
**WHEN:** Sat 22 Jun | 6.30pm  
**COST:** \$110 | \$90 Memb