

# Power to NT people



POWER generated by wind and sunshine will soon be supplying electricity for three remote Northern Territory Aboriginal communities.

The \$14 million project involves the installation of three 15kW wind turbines and a solar power station at Alpurrurulam (Lake Nash), and solar at Ti Tree and Kalkarindji.

Barkley MP Gerry McCarthy said that once commissioned, the solar and wind

power stations would supply around 20 to 30 per cent of the total electricity for the three communities, or up to 80 per cent of the daytime energy supply.

"Combined, there will be almost one million watts of solar panels installed across the three communities," Mr McCarthy said.

The three renewable energy power stations are on track to begin generating electricity early next year.

Mr McCarthy said the three facilities would deliver savings of around 1200

tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions every year.

He said the communities would benefit from clean energy systems powering their lives.

"The major advantage here is the environmental benefits, which include improved air quality, and the reduction of transportation of diesel as a direct result of a cleaner, more constant power source," Mr McCarthy said.

"This will provide improved power supply

security during the wet, as distillate fuel consumption is reduced.

"The grounds maintenance will involve local people, and that's always a good thing."

The \$14 million project includes funding of \$5 million under the Australian Government Renewable Remote Power Generation Program, \$4 million from the Northern Territory Government under the Climate Change Policy and \$5 million private equity.

## New book offers good medicine



Authors Myrtle Luke, Alma Luke and artist Bernadette Boscacci with their book.



Alma Luke and her family. Photos courtesy of Virginia Louey and Dr Lara Wieland



A NEW book has been launched which celebrates the traditional medicines of the Oykangand-speaking Kungen people of Cape York's west coast.

The book, *Uw Oykangand Oy berr – Traditional Bush Medicine from the Kunjen of Kowanyama*, features 16 of the most commonly used plant-derived medicines from the Errk iygow country of Kungen Elder Alma Luke.

Ms Luke wrote the book with the help of her daughter Myrtle Luke, niece Annie Patterson and Townsville-based artist Bernadette Boscacci.

The book started as two pages of notes which developed into 80 pages with full colour photographs, as well as anecdotal healing tales and descriptions of how to process the traditional medicines.

Ms Luke said she was proud to continue a family tradition of conserving and highlighting the language and culture of her people.

"My father Nathaniel Native was a fluent Uw Oykangand speaker who worked with linguist Bruce Sommer to record our Uw Oykangand language into a written wordlist in the 1980s," she said.

"Like him I want to make sure that the scientific knowledge and the culture our people developed over tens of thousands of years on our country is not lost; this book is for our young people so they can know this business even after I'm gone."

Ms Luke, who is also a weaver, storyteller and teacher, as well as Kowanyama's first librarian, said she

hoped the book would be used in the Kowanyama community and beyond.

"I really want this book to inspire other people not to forget our culture and language and to make sure we can use our bush medicines as well as the new whitefella medicines," she said.

"It is my hope that other people do similar collaborative projects across Cape York and Gulf communities and outstations.

"This knowledge is so valuable to regaining our own physical health and the health of our culture and spirits; we can't afford to lose it."

The book launch also featured health promotion stalls held by Apunipima Aboriginal and Islander Health Council, Queensland Health and Dr Lara Wieland and her husband Ron who run the community garden.

Kowanyama kids danced and speeches were given by Rev Wayne Connelly, John Watson Dick, a Queensland Health community health worker, Alma Luke, Dr Lara Wieland and Wendell Luke.

The book will cost \$25 and has been published by independent Townsville-based publisher Black Ink Press, a not-for-profit organisation that is part of the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress.

Publication of the book was made possible by the support of the Apunipima Cape York Health Council and other not-for-profit and government organisations including Kowanyama Aboriginal Lands Office, NRA Environmental Consultants, Queensland Health's 'Which Way Our Way' fund, and Queensland Arts Council's Regional Arts Fund.



Darryl Gilbert (Dundee) sings for the children at the launch.