

Changes in NRCC positions in the last year.

1. **Women's Ministry co-ordinators:** Elizabeth Gurimangu was appointed co-ordinator for Arnhem Land and Yanyi Bandicha appointed co-ordinator for Centre and Kimberley.
2. Maratja Dhamarrandji was confirmed as **East Arnhem Area Ministry** Support Worker full time. He continues his studies for the Diaconate.
3. Rev Lindsay Parkhill's placement has changed from Frontier Services to NRCC as **West Arnhem Area Ministry** Support Worker with a grant from Frontier Services. Lindsay is also Minister for Jabiru congregation of PPNA.
4. Sailosi Sekitoga commenced as **Darwin Ministry** Support Worker in March.
5. The three Uniting Church placements at **Nungalinnya College** are now Synod placements with two funded by NRCC and one by Synod from CBD Plaza income.
6. Peter Greenwood concluded his placement as **Anangu Area Ministry** Support Worker at the end of March. Amos Egan was appointed Support Worker from April. Amos lives in the APY Lands of South Australia.
7. Robert Bos concluded his work as **Anangu Educator** with NRCC in December although he continues to provide support to the Pitjantjatjarra Old Testament Translation Project. Wayne Munster was appointed Anangu Educator from April and is based in Alice Springs.

Area Ministry Councils

Because of distance and language and cultural diversity within NRCC, four Area Ministry Councils oversee ministry across the region.

Anangu'ku Area Ministry Council

Three staff workers now support ministry with Anangu in Central Australia. This has meant a change in administrative support. The NRCC office has moved from the AuSIL office in Elder Street to the Alice Springs congregation's office on Todd Mall beside the church. This will enable greater contact and co-operation between NRCC members and Alice Springs congregation.

Another development in Alice Springs is the emergence of ITECA (Indigenous Theological Education in Central Australia), a co-operative training venture between Anglican, Catholic, Lutheran and Uniting Churches with close links to Nungalinya College. "Ntyethe" is the name chosen for the "college". It is an Arrernte word meaning the sparks that rise from the fire. ITECA is already offering Nungalinya courses in the Centre.

Easter at Pukatja (Ernabella) was a major celebration around the Easter story. The Pitjantjatjarra Translation of the Book of Daniel was launched. Peter Greenwood was farewelled and Amos and Wayne introduced.

The battle to provide dialysis on country continues with a slow response from South Australian Government in providing operational support. The Purple House organisation based in Alice Springs is ready to establish a service in Pukatja with support from the Commonwealth Government now available.

East Arnhem Area Ministry Council

Yolngu from Milingimbi in the west to Yirrkala in the East and Gapuwiyak in the south, with many homeland communities in between, make up the East Arnhem Ministry Area.

Last November, the Area Council met at Dhalinybuy, homeland for the Wangurri. During the weekend the translation of Mark in Wangurri was dedicated and a community baptism in the local river followed the Sunday morning worship. The weekend closed with a communion using local traditional food and drink as the elements. It was an inspiring time for all you participated.

The Area Council met again in April in Ramingining. A major discussion took place about the future of bible translation work in East Arnhem.

The call from Yolngu Nations Assembly for a treaty was supported at the NRCC meeting last year. The National Assembly last July also gave its support. The President and Assembly Standing Committee are continuing the conversation with First Nations about a treaty and constitutional recognition.

West Arnhem Area Ministry Council

People from Minjilang on Croker Island, Warruwi on Goulburn Island, Maningrida, Jabiru and many others in homelands across West Arnhem are involved in this Ministry Area.

The big event this year in West Arnhem is the centenary of the start of Methodist Mission work on Goulburn Island. The work that started at Goulburn spread across Arnhem Land in the years that followed. In the week before the Synod meeting, various activities are taking place at Warruwi including the dedication of the translation of Mark's Gospel into

Maung and the launch of a history of the Mission written by Rev Dr William Emilsen. More activities will occur as part of the Synod meeting.

Teams of Pastors carry out ministry in West Arnhem supported by Rev Lindsay Parkhill. Rev Teubiti Tapera has retired but continues to live at Minjilang and offer ministry. David Mirrwana has concluded his work as Community Minister at Maningrida and has spend some time in Darwin and at Warruwi.

Maningrida congregation is developing a Well-Being project to provide support for parents, children and youth in the community to develop physically, spiritually, emotionally and socially.

West Kimberley Area Ministry Council

Rev Josefa Mar concludes his three year commitment as Support Worker in West Kimberley at the end of June. After a consultation in May, he has agreed to extend his ministry there. Jo supports the small congregation in Mowanjum and the faith community in Derby. Jo is involved in prison ministry, together with Gail Cresswell, a early education teacher working at Mowanjum. They receive support from the WA Synod Prison Chaplaincy committee.

Conversations have begun around the Uniting Church's presence in the Fitzroy Valley in West Kimberley. This is seen as a joint venture between NRCC and PPNA ministries in the Kimberley. In the past, there have been Uniting Church Community Services there. The National Congress (UAICC) has been concerned about the threatened closure of homeland communities in the Kimberley and what support the Uniting Church can give. The WA Synod has been involved in advocating for continuing services to homeland communities.

Darwin Ministry

In February, Sailosi Sekitoga was appointed as Support Worker in the Darwin Area. Since March, Sai has been working at making connections with NRCC members and other indigenous peoples. This includes regular connection with groups of people living in the "long grass". The NRCC chairperson gave a vision for the ministry. It is like the Good Samaritan helping those who have fallen by the way and helping them to a safe place.

Sai is beginning to work with congregations to enable them to welcome in those who are looking to be part of a worshipping community. He is also becoming involved in hospital and prison visiting. A worship service for NRCC members has begun fortnightly on a Sunday afternoon. The first involving over 60 people met at Casuarina Uniting Church on Sunday 5th June followed by a BBQ tea prepared by the Fijian members at Casuarina. Evening bible studies have also commenced.

Conclusion

NRCC has had discussions in recent years around leadership. Models of ministry from the non-indigenous church do not always work in the different cultural context. The search continues for models of ministry and expressions of faith that genuinely reflect the cultural realities for NRCC members.

The translation work among a number of different language communities is vital in enabling members to understand and interpret the message of Jesus in their own context.

Rev Djawanydjawany Gondarra
Chairperson

Rev Steve Orme
Resource Worker