

CHAIRPERSON'S report



On behalf of the Board, I am pleased to report on the achievements of the Indigenous Land Corporation (ILC) for 2006–2007. This year, the ILC reviewed the National Indigenous Land Strategy (NILS) and developed a new version for the years 2007–2012. This NILS strengthens the emphasis on training and employment, as well as placing additional emphasis on supporting educational opportunities for Indigenous youth by committing to allocate funding to the establishment of boarding hostels in regional centres in targeted locations throughout Australia. The ILC is working with Aboriginal Hostels Limited and the Department of Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs on this exciting initiative.

The ILC training and employment program, focusing on the agricultural and tourism industries, again gathered momentum with the ILC's businesses providing work for 276 Indigenous people, including a large number of trainees. The ILC substantially completed the construction of additional accommodation and purpose-built training facilities at Roebuck Plains Station (WA), completed the upgrade of accommodation on Crocodile/Welcome Station (QLD), entered into a joint arrangement with the Victorian Government to establish a training facility on the ILC property of Boundary Bend (VIC) and agreed to jointly establish accommodation and training facilities at Elsey Station (NT).

I mentioned last year that I was pleased to note the Government's reform of CDEP to ensure that Indigenous people took up full-time job opportunities when they arose. As such, I am extremely pleased to have worked in close collaboration with Noel Pearson's Cape York Partnerships Program (CYPP) where 20 young Indigenous workers from the Cape York Peninsula worked on the ILC's orange orchard at Boundary Bend (VIC). I congratulate the efforts of these fine young people and CYPP in leading the way in showing that Indigenous people are able to work as hard as anybody else in Australia and do so far from home. I look forward to continuing and expanding our work with CYPP in 2007–2008.



ILC Chairperson Shirley McPherson and Director Ian Trust (right) receive the Host Employer of the Year Award for the Kimberly region presented to Home Valley by Kimberly Group Training CEO John Gummery.



A winning smile – trainee Dennis Corpus receives his TAFE Certificate II in Tourism Studies from ILC Chairperson Shirley McPherson during a special presentation ceremony at the ILC's Home Valley Station property.

ILC-owned businesses this year continued to perform well and grew from ten to 14. They included the start-up cattle enterprises at Bulimba (QLD), Hodgson Downs (NT) and Merepah (QLD) Stations, which have substantial potential to develop into first-class cattle businesses that provide ongoing training and employment to Indigenous people. Of particular note, the development of Hodgson Downs in the Roper River region of the NT has been embraced strongly by the community of some 800 people, and has seen a massive lift in pride by its members who have enthusiastically embraced training and employment opportunities.

The ILC accelerated its involvement in tourism development this year and has completed a \$7 million tourism and training infrastructure upgrade at Home Valley Station (WA) where its first trainees graduated with their TAFE Certificates in Tourism and Hospitality and the station won the Host Employer of the Year Award for the Kimberley region.

In partnership with Australian and State Government agencies and the private sector, the ILC committed substantial funds for tourism development projects at Coorong Wilderness Lodge (SA), Dugong Lodge, Groote Eylandt (NT) and Gunya Titjakala (NT). The ILC Board also approved the purchase of a parcel of land adjacent to the Mossman Gorge Aboriginal community in far north Qld to develop an exciting tourism project that will provide approximately 45 full-time jobs (up to 70 in the high season) in the tourism industry at the iconic Mossman Gorge.

ILC's partnership with States and Territories in the FarmBiz program saw more than 950 Indigenous people across Australia benefiting from training courses in financial management and corporate governance, rural skills and the development of property management plans. This collaboration has been an outstanding success for Indigenous agricultural landholders, together with Indigenous landholders involved in natural resource management on their lands. The Australian Government announced a revamp of the FarmBiz program during this year, which will see it directly funded and operated by the Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF). The ILC is working with DAFF officers to ensure the program provides at least the same, if not more, opportunities for Indigenous people to access and achieve training benefits.



Home Valley Station Manager Nick Bradley, Chairperson Shirley McPherson and Deputy Chairperson Sam Jeffries at the cattle yards during a recent muster on the property.

Last year, I also raised the ILC's concerns regarding the inconsistent and small returns from the \$1.6 billion Land Account, from which the ILC draws its only source of ongoing funding. The ILC has had discussions with Minister Brough regarding a minimum return from the Land Account and I am pleased to note that Minister Brough and his departmental officers are working closely with the ILC on a legislative change in the 2007–2008 financial year to allow such a payment.

I also take this opportunity to thank my fellow Board members for their ongoing energy and commitment, as well as those applicants who work constructively with the ILC to help meet their land acquisition and land management needs. Finally, I would like to thank the ILC's General Manager Mr David Galvin and the staff of the ILC for their continued commitment and hard work in ensuring the proper performance of the ILC and the provision of effective assistance to our stakeholders.

Lastly, it was my privilege to visit a number of the ILC's businesses and training facilities throughout this year. It was such a pleasure to see the hard-working managers, staff and trainees at those businesses, who are exemplified by the two young female trainees on the cover of this Annual Report. A picture speaks a thousand words.

Shirley McPherson

Chairperson



The Australian Government's Minister for the Environment and Water Resources Malcolm Turnbull congratulates ILC Chairperson Shirley McPherson following the Canberra launch of a major joint funding agreement for the Indigenous Protected Areas Program.



Young workers from the Cape York Work Placement Scheme take a break from pruning citrus trees at Boundary Bend, east of Mildura in Victoria.

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BOARD OVERVIEW



MS SHIRLEY MCPHERSON, CHAIRPERSON

Born in Perth and raised in the Murchison region of WA, Ms McPherson is a chartered accountant and a board member of First Australians in Business.

Ms McPherson has held senior positions in the private, government and university sectors and has a wealth of experience at the regional, national and international levels of government in program delivery and private business development. Ms McPherson has worked as a consultant to the mining industry in negotiating land-use agreements in the Pilbara and Goldfields areas of WA, was formerly the Chair of the Aboriginal Development Corporation, is a past director of the Indigenous Business Network, has worked as a mediator for the National Native Title Tribunal and is a past director of KPMG Management Consulting Services.

Ms McPherson is a member of the Australian delegation to the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Peoples. Other professional and key associations held include:

- Associate Institute of Chartered Accountants in Australia
- Certified Practising Accountant – Australian Society of CPAs
- Member of the Pastoralists and Graziers Association of WA, on behalf of the ILC; and
- Member of the Senate of Murdoch University.

Ms McPherson was appointed to the ILC as Chairperson in August 2001 and reappointed in August 2004 for a further three years.



MR WILLIAM (SAM) JEFFRIES JP, DEPUTY CHAIR

Mr Jeffries is a proud Moorawoori man, born and raised in Brewarrina, the youngest of seven children. He has been involved in Aboriginal Affairs since leaving school. Mr Jeffries spent twenty years in Lightning Ridge in far north western NSW establishing the CDEP project, and purchased commercial businesses there to give the community an economic platform.

Mr Jeffries has held a range of senior positions including: Walgett Shire Councillor from 1999 to 2003, ATSIC Councillor from 1990 to 2005, Chairperson of the Murdi Paaki Regional Council from 1996 to 2005, Board member of the Aboriginal Housing Office from 1998 to 2005, and Chairperson of the NSW ATSIC State Council from 2002 to 2005.

Current appointments include: Chairperson of the Murdi Paaki Regional Assembly, Board Member of the Western Catchment Management Authority, Panel Member of the NSW Aboriginal Trust Fund Repayment Scheme, and Chairperson of the National Aboriginal Sports Corporation Australia. Mr Jeffries was awarded the Centenary Medal in 2001 for services to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities with a priority on governance.

Mr Jeffries was appointed to the Board as Deputy Chairperson in August 2004 for three years.

MR DAVID BAFFSKY, AO

Mr Baffsky is Chairperson of Accor Asia Pacific, the largest hotel and tourism company in Australia and the Asia Pacific region. The company employs more than 12,000 people in Australia, and it launched a pioneering Indigenous Employment Program with the Australian Government.

A graduate in law from University of Sydney, Mr Baffsky is also a director of Tourism Asset Holdings Limited and a life member of the Tourism Task Force. He was a member of the Australian Government's Round Table on Sustainable Development. He is a member of the National Tourism Infrastructure Investment Consultative Group, and the Business Government Advisory Group on National Security. He was Co-Chairperson of the National Indigenous Leadership Group for Tourism. He was a member of the Australian Government's Beef Management Quota Panel. In 2005, he was appointed a Trustee of the Art Gallery of NSW.

Mr Baffsky also works with a number of charitable and non-profit groups. In June 2001, Mr Baffsky was made an Officer in the General Division of the Order of Australia. The award was made for his "service to tourism, particularly in relation to industry development, provision and employment generation, and to the community through medical research, humanitarian relief and social welfare organisations". In 2004, Mr Baffsky was awarded Asia Pacific Hotelier of the Year.

In 2007, Mr Baffsky was appointed to the Federal Government's Northern Australia Land and Water Taskforce and the Prime Minister's Community Business Partnership.

Mr Baffsky was appointed to the ILC's Board in August 1999 and reappointed in August 2004 for a further three years.



MR KEVIN DRISCOLL, CBE, OBE

Mr Driscoll is a businessperson with extensive experience in the building and construction industry, both in business and property investment. In 2005, he celebrated fifty years of the establishment of the Driscoll Group of business interests. He is Chairman of Directors of his own family companies: the Driscoll Group, National Homes Pty Ltd, Driscoll Pastoral Company, Executive Air Travel and hotel interests. He has extensive pastoral interests in central Queensland.

Mr Driscoll organised and was the founding president of the Queensland Home Builders Association which later merged with the Queensland Housing Industry Association; he was elected the combined organisation's first President.

He was elected National President of the Housing Industry Association in 1966 and served until 1968. In 1968, he was awarded life membership of the Australian Housing Industry Association. In 1972, he was appointed as a Director of the Australian Housing Corporation – an Australian Government instrumentality. He was a member of the Companies and Securities Advisory Board from 1989 to 1996. He was a Director of World Expo 1988, and a Board Member of the Prince Charles Hospital Foundation. He was also Deputy Chair of the Lang Park Trust (Suncorp Stadium) from 1991 to 1995. He was an original member of the Board of the Queensland Tourist and Travel Corporation. Mr Driscoll is currently the Chairman of the Business, Employment and Training Committee of the ILC.

In 1980, Mr Driscoll was awarded the Order of the British Empire and, in 1987, was made a Commander of the British Empire. Mr Driscoll has been a Justice of the Peace for fifty-two years. He is also a contributor to many charities and research foundations.

Mr Driscoll was appointed to the ILC's Board in March 1998 and reappointed in August 2004 for a further three years.



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BOARD OVERVIEW



MS NORMA INGRAM

Ms Norma Ingram, a member of the Wiradjuri nation, was born, the youngest of eleven children, on an Aboriginal Reserve in central New South Wales.

Ms Ingram has been actively involved in Aboriginal affairs for over thirty years, mainly in the inner city region of Sydney. She is a founding member of the Murawina Aboriginal Pre-school and its first CEO. Ms Ingram also has been a member of the Aboriginal Medical Service, the Aboriginal Housing Company and Aboriginal Children's Services. She is currently a board member of the Wyanga Aboriginal Elders program.

Ms Ingram has been employed as a lecturer at the University of Technology; an employee relations manager at QANTAS Airways Ltd, managing the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander employment and training strategy; and was formerly the Executive Director of the NSW Aboriginal Land Council.

Ms Ingram graduated from Harvard University with a Masters Degree in Education, and has always been an advocate of education and enterprise development for Aboriginal people.

Ms Ingram is currently seconded from the NSW Premier's Department to the Redfern Waterloo Authority. Her role is to work with the whole community on delivery of human services, with particular focus on Aboriginal issues.

Ms Ingram is the Chairperson of the ILC's Towns and Cities Land Needs Committee which deals with social and urban issues regarding the dispossession of Indigenous people in Australia. She considers that her current employment position and her role on the ILC's Board enhance each other in terms of service delivery to Aboriginal people.

Ms Ingram was appointed to the ILC's Board in August 2001 and reappointed in August for a further three years.

MR MAX GORRINGE

Mr Max Gorringe is Station Manager at Elsey Station in the NT where he lives with his family.

Mr Gorringe has been involved in the cattle industry all his life. His parents worked as drovers for the Kidman Cattle Company, and Mr Gorringe worked for Kidmans after leaving school and into his early twenties.

After marrying, he and his wife lived and worked on cattle stations in the Channel Country of far south west Queensland. In 1990, they moved to the NT, where Mr Gorringe worked as head stockman and overseer.

Mr Gorringe enjoys the challenges of managing an Aboriginal station. He gets great satisfaction from Elsey Station's achievements over the time he and his family have been there, noting that the station's traditional owners are very proud of where Elsey is heading.

Mr Gorringe has been involved in the Roper River Landcare Group, as Chairman and then member; the Mataranka Bushman's Carnival and the Gulf Bushfire Council.

Mr Gorringe was appointed to the ILC's Board in October 2005 for two years.



MR IAN TRUST

Mr Trust is Executive Director of the Wunan Foundation, an East Kimberly Indigenous organisation whose objective is to assist Indigenous people to help themselves. The Foundation does this by using its commercial investments to produce outcomes in employment and training for Aboriginal people of the East Kimberly, as well as building the capacity of indigenous organizations to provide a better service to their members.

He has a strong and coherent vision of a better future for Indigenous people in the region – a future beyond welfare and government dependency. Mr Trust has worked tirelessly to progress this vision through initiatives such as the Wunan Foundation and Kimberley Group Training.

Mr Trust was Chair of the ATSIC Wunan Regional Council for three consecutive terms and was also Zone Commissioner for the Kimberley for the final term of ATSIC. In addition to the ILC and Wunan, Mr Trust is also a member of a number of national, state and regional boards, including Indigenous Business Australia, Kimberley College of TAFE, Kimberley Group Training, East Kimberly Job Pathways and the WA Aboriginal and Education Training Council.

Mr Trust was appointed to the ILC's Board in October 2005 for two years.

