

An Illustrated History of the Larrakia Flag 1971 – 2007

**compiled and written
by**

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The camp at Kulaluk



Members of the Larrakia tribe are settling a permanent camp at Coconut Grove to strengthen their claim for land there.

Their leader, Mr Bobby Secretary, said yesterday he hopes all surviving members of the tribe will go to live there.

Nine people are already camped behind a drive-in around a water-hole which the Aborigines claim is rightfully theirs.

They say it is the only place left in Darwin which has any significance to the tribe.

The Administration's Welfare Branch is considering their claim.

Mr Secretary and his wife have lived for several months on the site which the tribe calls Kulaluk. Since the others joined them last week, they have built two sleeping shelters and a toilet.

Mr Secretary said other buildings would be erected as more people arrived.

He said there were probably about 25 to 30 Larrakias left.

"I hope the Administration gives us this land so we can set up a proper village," he said.

"If they don't give it to us then we'll still stay here."

Picture shows some of the Larrakias at Kulaluk yesterday.

Illustration 1:
Photograph and story from *The Northern Territory News*, June 15th, 1971.

THE WEST AUSTRALIAN MONDAY NOVEMBER 8 1971

Aborigines lay claim to Darwin

From ALAN DEARN

DARWIN, Sun.—A group of Aborigines claiming to be descendants of the Larrakia tribe that originally occupied Darwin today hoisted a flag of their own design outside the Law Court building and reclaimed Darwin as their land.

Mr Bobby Secretary (46), a full-blood Larrakia and leader of the protest movement, said: "This land belongs to the Larrakia."

He said that he had supervised the design of the flag.

"It is brown to represent the colour of our skin and has a tree in the centre to represent where the jungle fowls nest at a place called Kulaluk, which is sacred to us," he said.

"Two hundred years ago the English raised a flag on our beaches. They said that our country would belong to their king. They did not ask our ancestors.

"If that is the English way, we now raise our flag and take back all the Larrakia lands."

The flag-raising ceremony claimed Darwin and its suburbs.

"The main piece of land we want recognised as Larrakia is a small waterhole at Kulaluk, which is behind the Darwin drive-in," he said.

At present the small camping area is vacant crown land, but the surviving Larrakia tribesmen, who number a dozen at the most, are afraid that the area is soon to be developed for housing.

In the past month the protesters have twice staged a sit-in on a pedestrian crossing, blocking Bagot Road, a major road into Darwin, stopping thousands of cars till they were ordered by the police to move.

The Aborigines all wear red cloth tied around their heads as a symbol of "the blood of our elders."

Illustration 2: From

The West Australian, November 8th, 1971

Contents

Plates

Plate 1: The Darwin Supreme Court.

Plate 2: Harry Adam unfurls the flag, November 7, 1971 (ABC TV)

Plate 3: Harry raises the flag at the courthouse (ABC TV).

Plate 4: Bobby with the flag at Kulaluk (ABC TV).

Plate 5: Polly and Bill Day in Darwin in about 1972 (Brian Manning).

Plate 6: The Larrakia flag described by Polly Day in October 1971 (Bill Day, 2007).

Plate 7: Police guard Aborigines waiting to stop a train on December 13, 1971 (*NT News*).

Plate 8: The Aboriginal Embassy, July 1972 (Australian Heritage Commission).

Plate 9: National Aborigines Day protest, Fort Hill, Darwin, July 14, 1972 (*NT News*).

Plate 10: The flag at Fort Hill, July 14, 1972 (NT Library).

Plate 11: The flag mural at Kulaluk, in about March 1973 (Bill Day).

Plate 12: A4 coloured photograph of the flag mural at Kulaluk (AIATSIS).

Plate 13: The flag flies at Fort Hill wharf on July 14th, 1972 (NT Library).

Plate 14: Judge Woodward at Kulaluk on June 2nd, 1972. (ABC TV).

Plate 15: The flag painted in colour on a board by Fred Fogarty, November 1973 (AFATD).

Plate 16: The tree motif on a placard outside the Darwin courthouse in 1973 (*NT News*).

Plate 17: The tree motif on the Totem Road gate to Kulaluk in 2001 (Bill Day).

Plate 18: Bill and Bobby at Larrakeyah Barracks, May 1973 (ABC TV).

Plate 19: The Gwalwa Daraniki return to the Barracks with Cheryl Buchanan and the National Aboriginal flag on 31st July, 1973 (Cheryl Buchanan).

Plate 20: The 25th Anniversary commemoration ceremony at Kulaluk 1996 (ABC TV).

Plate 21: Mary Lee, Wes and Bill with Mary's replica flag (Rob Wesley-Smith).

Illustrations

Illustration 1: 'The camp at Kulaluk' *NT News*, 15 June 1971

Illustration 2: 'Aborigines lay claim to Darwin' *West Australian*, 8 November 1971

Illustration 3: 'Larrakias raise flag to take over Darwin' *NT News*, 8 November 1971

Illustration 4: 'Their flag' *NT News*, 8 November 1971

Illustration 5: 'The Larrakia Flag' (NT Museum and Art Gallery)

Illustration 6: Letter from Polly Day to her Mother-in-law.

Illustration 7: Newsletter *Bunji*, December 1971

Illustration 8: *A Challenge to a City*, cover sheet

Illustration 9: 'A fine climax' *NT News*, 15 July 1971

Illustration 10: 'Stolen flag flies 25 years on' *NT News*, 8 November 1996

Illustration 11: 'Larrakia fly their flag with pride' *Koori Mail*, 4 December 1996

Illustration 12: 'Bringing them home' (photos by George Serras), *ATSIC News*, p.25.

Illustration 13: 'Who owns the flag?' *Land Rights News*, July 1995.

Illustration 14: 'Blacks flag not for whites' *The Australian*, 15 July 1996.

Illustration 15: 'Judge urges reconciliation on Aboriginal flag' *The Australian*, 24 July 1996

Appendices

Appendix 1: Reports (2) and Letters (2); 1971-1972, from *The National Australian Archives*; 'Train stopping land protest stopped by police', *NT News*, 14 December 1971

Appendix 2: Paper prepared for the *Action Conference on Racism and Education*, held in Brisbane in January 1972

Appendix 3: The Kulaluk (Larrakia) flag, *Aboriginal Darwin*, pages 73-74.

THEIR FLAG



● Members of the Larrakia tribe yesterday raised a flag to the top of the Darwin courthouse flagpole as a symbolic declaration of their ownership of their traditional tribal lands near the drive-in theatre. Pictured holding the flag are Harry Adam (right), Bobby Secretary (centre), and Freddy Dagwood, Gabriel Secretary and Teddy Banana.

Above: Report from NT News, 8th November 1971