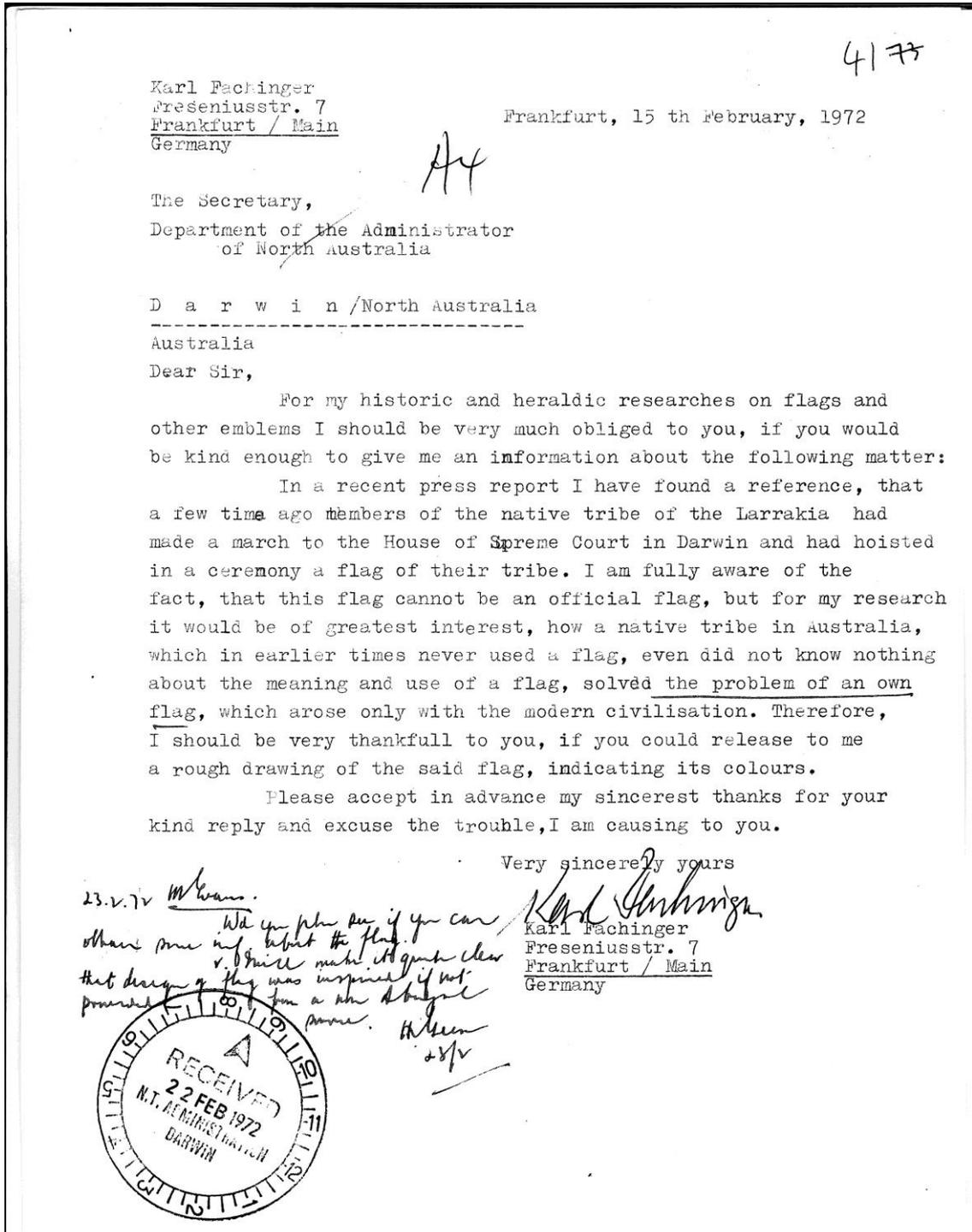


**An Illustrated History of the Larrakia Flag. Appendices 1 - 3.
Appendix 1: Correspondence in relation to the Larrakia or Kulaluk Flag, 1971**



Above: The Darwin Supreme Court flag raising aroused interest from overseas, as this letter shows.

Welfare Division

73
43

AA/71/3474/75



Mr. Karl Fachinger,
Freseniusstrasse 7,
FRANKFURT / MAIN,
Germany.

Dear Sir,

I refer to your letter of 15 February in which you state that, because of your historical and heraldic researches on flags and other emblems, you would be interested in obtaining some details of a flag recently flown by a group of Aborigines on the Supreme Court Building in Darwin.

I have set out on the attachment details of the flag as publicised by the groups who were concerned to organise the demonstration.

I think I should point out to you that it is extremely unlikely that the Aboriginal members of the delegation were involved in the design of the flag; this, as I understand the position, would have been done by several European members who have been interested in promoting these demonstrations.

Yours faithfully,

H.C. GIESE

(H.C. GIESE),
Assistant Administrator (Welfare).

Enc.

Above: Harry Giese's reply to an enquiry about the Larrakia flag. Giese controlled most aspects of Aboriginal life in the NT in 1972.

42 74

Assistant Director (Welfare)

THE LARAKIA FLAG.

The Larakia Flag consists of three segments, in order red, white, red. The red at the staff end represents the blood of Aborigines who were killed by white people and the red at the other extremity represents the blood of those Larakias still living. On the white middle segment is a brown mound with a tree growing from it which represents the jungle-fowl's nest which is a feature of Kululuk.



E.C. EVANS
Senior Projects Officer

Above: Ted Evans's description (referred to on the previous page) attached to Giese's letter is not correct. In 1972 the flag did not have a white field or use white in any of its design.

35 49

NORTHERN TERRITORY POLICE

Reference:— Crime DIVISION
Special Branch STATION

TO:— THE COMMISSIONER OF POLICE. 25. November, 19 71

REPORT OF:— Detective Sergeant A/2/C. D.F.Alexander, Reg. No. 127.

SUBJECT:— LARRAKIA ABORIGINALS' LAND RIGHTS DEMONSTRATIONS.

I have to report that at approximately 7.25 a.m. Monday 22.11.71 my attention was drawn to a number of persons gathering outside the entrance of Bagot Reserve, Bagot Road. William Bartlet DAY, Bobby and Barbara SECRETARY were amongst the group and it was quite obvious that a demonstration of some type was about to commence.

2. Uniform Police were directed by radio to attend and were on the scene within minutes. They cautioned all persons present not to attempt to disrupt traffic and arranged that the demonstrators lined up along the roadside in an orderly manner so they could display their placards to the passing motorist if they wished to do so.

3. The names of the adult male persons were obtained and they are as listed below:-
 William Bartlet DAY,
 Roy Cameron COTTLE,
 Steven Lambert HEY,
 Bobby SECRETARY,
 Peter MONDAY,
 Fred WATERS,
 Major BANG-GUN, and,
 Fred FOOTRIG.

Several aboriginal women and children were also present.

4. After the demonstrators had stood on the roadside for about five minutes, Bobby SECRETARY walked away from the group and walked slowly across the pedestrian crossing. He was immediately followed by all the others with the exception of DAY and HEY. They walked slowly in single file. Bobby SECRETARY and one other aboriginal male person stopped on the crossing and attempted to sit down, but on request of police walked off the pedestrian crossing. The road traffic was stopped in the vicinity of one to two minutes only, but this caused a considerable back-up of vehicles.

5. The demonstrators regrouped on the R.A.A.F. side of Bagot road and stood alongside the roadway displaying their placards, which appeared to be those previously used in similar demonstrations. Shortly before 8 a.m. they dispersed of their own accord.

34 #6

LARRAKIA ABORIGINALS' LAND RIGHTS DEMONSTRATIONS.

6. It was obvious that although at least Bobby and Barbara SECRETARY were not drunk, they were well under the influence of liquor.

7. DAY, HEY and Bobby and Barbara SECRETARY drove off in Falcon Utility N.T. 44-700, which is owned by William DONNELLY.

7.30 am

8. The demonstration was orderly and nonviolent. No arrests were made and I personally believe that the manner in which the police acted could not help but form a favourable opinion by the general public that witnessed the incident. News reporters and a photographer were on the scene prior to the arrival of police.

9. When Bobby SECRETARY had returned to the general area of Kalulak camp a warrant of commitment was executed on him and the fine was paid by DAY. This warrant was not executed earlier during the demonstration because of the adverse effect it could have caused bearing in mind that the default of the warrant was one day hard labour.

10. I spoke to the N.T. News Reporter Christopher Mc.COMAS who told me that James BOWDITCH had telephoned him at 5 a.m. that morning and ordered him to fully cover the demonstration.

11. Police enquiries in regard to Roy Cameron COTTLE, born 24.4.26 in Australia revealed that he is employed at the Baptist Hostel, Parap, as a handyman/kitchen hand. It appears that he has no criminal convictions and is not known adversely through Special Branch. He stated that he knew Bobby SECRETARY during the war years in Darwin, and was at one time married to an Aboriginal woman, who has since died.

12. Police enquiries in regard to Steven Lambert HEY, born 1.5.53 Yorkshire, England, revealed that he uses the alias Steven LAMBERT and has a lengthy criminal record in N.S.W., Queensland, and the N.T. He is not known through Special Branch, but I understand that he is well known to the N.T. Welfare Branch in Darwin. HEY has recently traveled from Alice Springs to Darwin and was residing at the Kalulak camp. Because he was unemployed he was cautioned by police regarding vagrancy. He stated his intentions of leaving Darwin and has not again been sighted in the Darwin area.

I do remember this suggested our plans why was this done? + who? Bill W. 16/9/05

13. On 23.11.1971 when I spoke to HEY he stated that during the early hours of Monday 22.11.71, prior to the demonstration, a young European man only known to him as ' Sonny ', and who apparently was employed by the Commonwealth Railways at Darwin, had brought two flagons of wine to the Kalulak camp apparently for no other reason other than to be consumed by the persons who were to take part in the demonstration. He also stated that arrangements for the demonstration had been made on the previous Thursday (18.11.71), and attempts had been made to gain the assistance of other aboriginals willing to attend the demonstration, but these attempts had been negative on this occasion.

14. Bobby SECRETARY also showed police the ' Larrakia flag ' which he stated had been made for them by the Maori lady Mrs. DAY.

15. I have been advised by very reliable and confidential sources that William Bartlet DAY is not a communist and recently declined to be associated with them by joining the Communist Party. He is apparently personally inspired by his own ideas on this matter.

(Page 3)

33 45

LARRAKIA ABORIGINALS' LAND RIGHTS DEMONSTRATIONS.

16. There is no doubt that this type of demonstration will be organized again, but it is interesting to note that with the exception of DAY and the SECRETARYs none of the persons present at the demonstration on 22.11.71 were present at the demonstration on 1.11.71, and that three demonstrations have been held at the same place and on Monday mornings.



(D.F.Alexander.)
Det. Sgt. A/2/c. Reg. No. 127.
A/O.I.C. Special Branch.

S/B. / / .

38 65
FORM N.T.A. 938

FORM 4

NORTHERN TERRITORY POLICE

Reference:—

Crime DIVISION

Special Branch STATION

TO:—

COMMISSIONER OF POLICE.

13 December, 1971.

REPORT OF:— Detective Sergeant 2/C. D.F. Alexander, Reg. No. 127.

SUBJECT:— LARRAKIA ABORIGINALS' LAND RIGHTS DEMONSTRATIONS.

I have to report that as a result of information received Constable Chase and I attended at the 9 mile area, Stuart Highway, Darwin, at approximately 5.30a.m. 13.12.71, where it was expected that some Larrakia Aboriginals and others would attempt to stop a Railway Train and stage a Demonstration in regard to Aboriginal Land Rights.

2. At approximately 7.40 a.m. Toyota registration N.T. 59-231, owned and driven by Guisepe Antonio VIECIELI, and passengers William Bartlet DAY, Bobby SECRETARY and Gabriel SECRETARY, arrived at the Aboriginal Camp area at the 9 mile. A group of Aboriginals, which consisted of at least 37, men, women and children were gathered in that area. VIECIELI drove off after letting off his passengers and drove to the 13 mile area for no apparent reason, and later returned to the 9 mile area alone.

3. Constable Chase and I approached the group at the 9 mile area and found that DAY and Gabriel SECRETARY had moved to an area approximately 300 yards further along the railway track towards Darwin, and were sitting on the side of the railway track. As we approached the main group of Aboriginals I noticed that three Aboriginal men were actually standing on the railway track, they were Leo JACKABOY, Bobby SECRETARY and another person. The other Aboriginals were sitting on the water pipe or in the area between the water pipe and the railway track.

4. Leo JACKABOY stated that he was one of the leaders of the group and they intended to stop a train as a demonstration for land and housing, which they expected the Government to supply to them. Bobby SECRETARY stated that he was assisting, but was not a leader of this Demonstration. He was in possession of his Larrakia 'flag'. The other leaders were Fred WATERS, Nugget MUGJIR, Roy KELLY, Johnny MAHLER and William GALUNG. All the Aboriginals appeared to be sober.

5. I spoke to all present and explained the many dangers of such a Demonstration dealing with trains, and possible legal actions that would be taken against anyone who interfered with the passage of trains. On request the three Aboriginals actually standing on the train line, moved off the track. JACKABOY stated that DAY was the main organizer of the Demonstration.

6. Constable Chase and I approached DAY, who was in possession of a white cloth with a red coloured word painted on it, which appeared to be 'STOP'

cont....

75M-770-48026

continued... to be ' STOP '.

which he sat on, in an effort to hide it. I said to him " I am Sergeant Alexander, from the Police. What are you doing here ?" Day said " Just sitting down. We are tired." I said " What was that notice you had when we first stopped ?" He said " I haven't got any notice." I said " Are you involved in this demonstration with the train ?" He said " No." I said " The Aborigines have told me that you are one of the organizers, are you ?" He said " No. I heard that these people wanted to demonstrate by stopping a train, and I thought that I would get the train driver to slow down so that no one would get hurt." I said " Well you are on the railway track and could be in danger yourself. Would you please move right of the railway track and well away. I must also warn you that if you attempt to stop the train you could leave yourself open to legal action." Gabriel SECRETARY and DAY then walked off the Railway track but remained in the general area.

7. A Northern Territory News Photographer arrived and told me that he had been instructed late last night (12.12.71) to go to the 9 mile area and take photographs of the Aborigines stopping a train.

8. I also spoke to VIECIELI who stated that he had taken other photographs of Larrakia Aboriginal demonstrations and on this occasion had attended to take photographs only if the N.T. News Photographer did not arrive in time. He did not take any photographs this time.

9. At approximately 8.30 a.m. Inspector Cossons, Sergeant Crellin and three other members of the Police arrived at the area. Sergeant Crellin remained in the vicinity of DAY and the other police attended in the area of the main group of Aborigines, who lined up alongside the railway track and flew the Larrakia 'flag'. As the train approached from the direction of Darwin at approximately 8.45 a.m. DAY took off his hat and took several running steps towards it, apparently in an effort to stop the train, but the Sergeant called on him to stop and he did so. As the train passed slowly the Aborigines stood quietly by and no attempts were made to stop the train. Photographs were taken by the N.T. News Photographer. Later the Aborigines dispersed quietly.

10. Photographs were taken by Constable Chase and are attached. *cover*



(D.F.Alexander.)
Det. Sgt. 2/C. No. 127.
A/O.I.C. Special Branch.

Note: No photographs were in this file from the National Archives in 2004.

Train-stopping land protest plan stopped by police

Police foiled an attempt by more than 50 Aborigines to stop a Larrimah-bound goods train outside Darwin yesterday.

The Aborigines, mainly Brinkins, had planned to lie across the tracks and stop the train for 10 minutes.

Tribal leader, Mr Fred Waters, said his people were protesting against the Administration for failing to provide them with adequate living quarters.

Police, after receiving information about the planned demonstration, were sent to the 9-mile

WARNED
They warned the Aborigines they would be arrested if they attempted to stop the train.

The band, which included women and children, stood beside the tracks as the train passed.

Mr Waters said later his people would not be pushed aside in their claim for proper living quarters.

"We are asking for a small section of Knuckey's Lagoon," he said.

"How can the Government expect us to live the way we are now.

"We feel like refugees in our own country."

HUMPIES

Mr Waters pointed to three tin humpies set about 50 yards back from the railway line.

"We have to live there," he said.

"Our water comes from a stream about a mile away.

"When it rains we are flooded out."

The humpies which are about 12ft square sometimes house up to 39 Aborigines.

"It is impossible at the best of times," Mr Waters said.

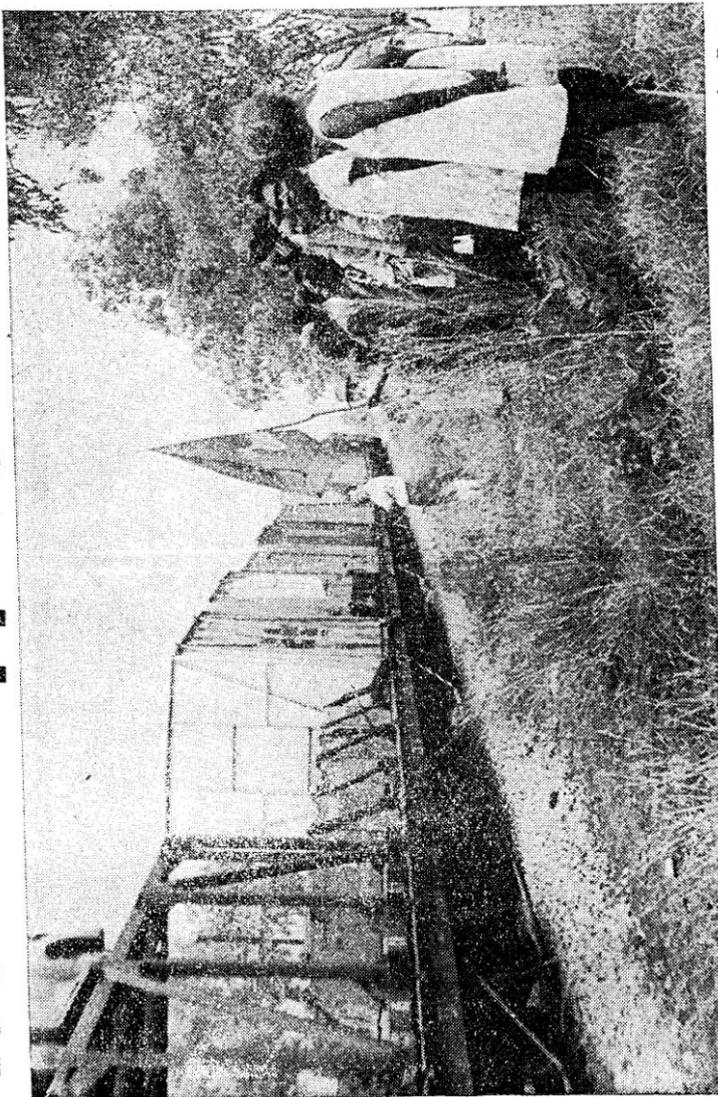
Leader of the Larrinkias, Mr Bobby Secretary, joined the Brinkins in their protest.

"We must help our people," he said.

"It is our land and we have a right to it.

"I came here this morning with some of my people to help Mr Waters.

"We fight for what we believe is right — This is fight."



Some of the Aboriginal women who assembled at Berrimah with plans to stop a train watch as the train creeps by. Two of the reasons the plot failed can be seen standing in the rear.

Above: Report from *NT News*, 14th December, 1971. Bobby Secretary in the front of the protestors is holding the flag, held on a stick.

Appendix 2.

A copy of Bill Day's paper delivered to the Brisbane Action Conference on Racism and Education, January 1972 (see next page)

**Larrakias will put
land case to
national conference**

NT NEWS
13/12/1971
P.7

A Larrakia Aboriginal will go to Brisbane next month to tell a national conference about his tribe's claim for land rights in Darwin.

The delegate, to be selected in the next two weeks, will address the Action Conference on Racism and Education, to be held from January 28 to February 2.

The conference is being sponsored by Abschol, the National Tribal Council, Brisbane Tribal Council and the ACT Confrontation Movement.

It will be in the University of Brisbane union building.

The sponsors invited the Larrakias to send a delegate after reading their news sheet Bunji.

This is distributed to back the Larrakia claim for rights to land in the area they call Kululuk, near the Nightcliff drive-in theatre.

SIT-DOWNS

The Larrakias have also backed their claims with a series of sit-downs on Bgot road, and an unsuccessful attempt to delay a train by sitting on the North Australia Railway.

In their letter inviting a delegate, the conference organisers said the Brisbane conference would be "mainly academic."

"But we are hoping there will be a number of Aboriginals attending to get together and discuss problems they are facing in their home areas."

"The conference will try to develop programs to overcome the problems."

PAY WAY

"We will be able to provide fares and accommodation for a speaker from your tribe who would be prepared to get up and tell the whites the truth about what is going on."

"As Aboriginals, we must fight together," the organisers said.

A spokesman for the Larrakias said yesterday they would select a delegate soon, and all other members of the group would help prepare material for presentation in Brisbane.

The Larrakias wanted to use every possible means to bring their land claims before the people of Australia.

They believed public opinion would eventually compel the Government to give them title to a reasonable area at Kululuk.

Above: A newspaper report describing the invitation for the Larrakia to attend the Brisbane Conference (*NT News*, 13 December 1971). The Larrakia paper to be delivered at the conference called for a national Aboriginal flag. The cover of the paper showed the Larrakia flag flying over a map of Darwin (Illustration 8).

Appendix 3.

Pages 73 and 74 from *Aboriginal Darwin: a guide to exploring important sites of the past and present*. Toni Bauman, Aboriginal Studies Press, 2006.

The Aboriginal flag

The Aboriginal flag was designed by Darwin-based Aboriginal artist, Harold Thomas, a Wompai/Luritja Desert man. The red, black and yellow colours are highly significant: black represents Aboriginal people of the past, present and future; red symbolises the mother earth, red ochre used in ceremonies and spiritual relationships with the land; and yellow represents the sun as giver and renewer of life. The flag was first raised by Harold Thomas in 1971 at the Aboriginal Day demonstration in Victoria Square, Adelaide. In 1972, it was flown at the Aboriginal Tent Embassy at Old Parliament House in Canberra. Since then it has become a proud symbol of Aboriginality in Australia. It brings unity, strength and pride to many Aborigines. It is carried in NAIDOC processions all over Australia and flag raising ceremonies have become an integral part of NAIDOC celebrations in many towns, cities as well as schools. In July 1995, the Aboriginal flag was proclaimed as a 'flag of Australia' under the Commonwealth *Flags Act 1953*. The Mirambeena Tourist Lodge in Cavanagh Street has a significant collection of Harold Thomas's paintings.



The Aboriginal flag, designed by Harold Thomas, is officially recognised under the *Flags Act (1953)*.

Kulaluk (Larrakia) flag

The Kulaluk flag was designed in a collaborative effort by Larrakia elder Bobby Secretary and others and was aimed at getting recognition of Aboriginal ownership of lands in Darwin and an authorised living place at Kulaluk (precinct 8). The red strip at each end represents the blood shed by Aboriginal people defending their land. The brown represents the Larrakia people. In the centre of the flag, green leaves represent the 'Kulaluk Tree', an Indian beech tree (*Pongamia pinnata*), which is an evergreen native that provides excellent shade and under which people originally camped when they moved from Bagot to Kulaluk. The yellow represents the scrub (jungle) fowl's (*kunngu*) nesting mound.



The Kulaluk (Larrakia) flag.

The first flag was made from scraps of material and sewn together by Polly Day, wife of Kulaluk activist, Bill Day, and became the symbol of the Gwalwa Daraniki group (site 3, p.15). Larrakia

woman, Mary Lee, made a modified version of the original flag in 1996 to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the raising of the Kulaluk flag in one of the earliest Larrakia land rights protest outside the Darwin Supreme Court. Over time, the Kulaluk flag has come to represent Larrakia interests more broadly and is commonly referred to today as the Larrakia flag.