



# SUMMARY OF THE MUTUAL RESPECT AGREEMENT



Made between the following Parties  
YUGUL MANGI GROUP OF ELDERS (the ELDERS)

and

The POLICE FORCE OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

THE PARTIES wish to:

REMEMBER the events that went before and gave rise to the ceremony at Ngukurr on 29 June 2009 led by David Daniels on behalf of the Elders and Bruce Wernham the Deputy Commissioner of Police;

LOOK TO THE FUTURE to build on the lessons learned from those events;

AFFIRM that all people are equal before the law and are entitled to equal protection of the law;

ACKNOWLEDGE that the Elders and the Ngukurr Community have a duty to uphold the traditional law, culture and values of the seven language and clan groups (*Mara, Ngandi, Alawa, Nunggubuyu, Rittarrngu, Wandarang and Ngalkaan*) in the Ngukurr area;

ACKNOWLEDGE that members of the Northern Territory Police Force have sworn an Oath to keep the peace, uphold the law, protect life and property and faithfully discharge their duties according to law; AND RECOGNISE that to do their respective duties properly they must respect each others laws and values.

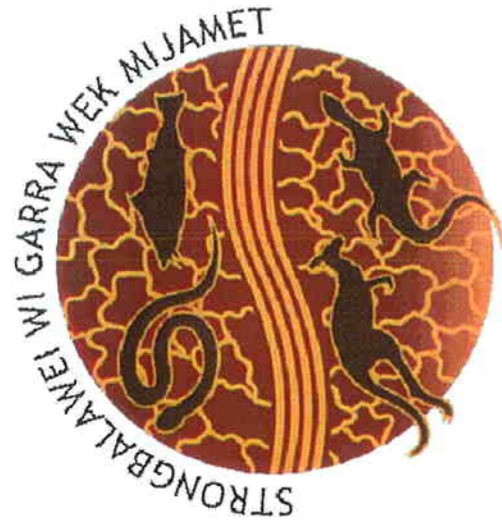
AND THE PARTIES AGREE that:

Police will LEARN about the language, culture, protocols of the Ngukurr Community and how to communicate and conduct themselves appropriately, how to respect land, sacred sites and traditional values and how to solve problems with the help of the Elders and the Community; AND the Elders will help EDUCATE Police officers in these things and the ways of the Community generally; AND the Elders will assist the Police in upholding the law and keeping the Community safe; AND the parties wish to DEVELOP PROTOCOLS to record these things and to ensure their mutual RESPECT and that this AGREEMENT is upheld.

This AGREEMENT will be CELEBRATED every year on the Anniversary of the Parties signing it.

**Mr David Daniels**  
Senior Elder  
Yugul Mangi

**Mr Bruce Wernham**  
Deputy Commissioner  
Northern Territory Police



# MUTUAL RESPECT AGREEMENT



This MUTUAL RESPECT AGREEMENT is made  
on the 29<sup>th</sup> day of June 2009 between

THE YUGUL MANGI GROUP OF ELDERS, being  
the peak body for all seven language and clan groups  
(*Mara, Ngandi, Alawa, Nunggubuyu, Rittarrngu,  
Wandarang and Ngalakan*) in the Ngukurr area

And

THE NORTHERN TERRITORY POLICE

## BACKGROUND & PUBLIC CEREMONY

On the 29<sup>th</sup> of April 2005 a disturbance occurred in Ngukurr. In the early hours of the next day Mr David Daniels, a respected Elder of the Yugul Mangi in the Ngukurr community, was arrested at his house at the Urapanga Outstation.

On 21 November 2008 at Ngukurr, Mr Daniels described the arrest by armed Northern Territory Police, as forcible in manner, wrong, hurtful and degrading to him, his family and to the broader community. The Police story included a clear explanation of their reasons for Mr Daniels being arrested from his house in the early hours of the 30<sup>th</sup> of April 2005 and how they considered the response was lawful.

Despite this, the Yugul Mangi Elders are unanimous in agreement that they desire a continued Police presence in Ngukurr. The NT Police explained how they wish to work with the people of Ngukurr to build a safer community and how it is their duty to protect and treat everyone equally under the law.

On this day, 29 June 2009, a public gathering took place at Ngukurr at which police told their story, Mr Daniels told his story and Police apologised for the hurt and humiliation caused to Mr Daniels.

A ceremony then took place in which a traditional Aboriginal dance was performed. Police then presented two plaques with the Northern Territory Police insignia. One plaque was for Mr Daniels and the other for public display by the Yugul Mangi. These measures show mutual respect, signify closure to the issues and gave confidence to both parties that the agreement is meaningful and will be implemented in full.

This document was signed by Police and Yugul Mangi agreeing to implement the rest of the agreement. This document will be produced into a permanent outdoor display and will be erected at a public place in Ngukurr determined by the Yugul Mangi.

## **FUTURE COOPERATION**

Recognising the mutual benefits to be gained through cooperation, Yugul Mangi and the Northern Territory Police enter into this Mutual Respect Agreement and agree to the following:

### **1. Cross-cultural training**

Cross-cultural training will be delivered by the Yugul Mangi to Police working in Ngukurr. The cross cultural training will focus on relationships and communication including an understanding of Yugul Mangi culture and an understanding of Police roles and perspectives. This course will cover the fundamental social practices for Police to learn and follow whilst in Ngukurr. It will also cover how these practices can work with police officers' sworn duties to serve and protect the community and uphold the law. If the officer has a spouse living in Ngukurr, the spouse will also be invited to undertake the course. So far as practicable, this course will last for around five days and should be completed within the first four weeks that the Police Officer is placed in Ngukurr. The details will be agreed and may be changed from time to time. By way of a guide, Police and Yugul Mani Elders will meet in the morning at an agreed place. Yugul Mangi Elders will rotate as instructors. The instruction will last most of the day. Over the five days the total number of hours of instruction is estimated to be between 30 and 40. This training will guide the formulation of Ngukurr Community protocols to be determined jointly by Yugul Mangi and Police as set out below in this Agreement.

#### **a) Relationships**

Yugul Mangi Elders will provide instruction to Police on the importance of relationships within the community. Police will learn who relates to who, learn about the moiety groups, language groups, know who are the moiety and language group elders, the Yugul Mangi Elders, the Northern Land Council employees and Council members, the church leaders, the interpreters, the traditional owners, the key government employees and night patrol. This is so that Police know who to consult with in relation to police operations.

The Yugul Mangi Elders will also assist the Ngukurr community to understand the duties of Police and the way Police and the Ngukurr community need to assist Police to operate to make the community safer and to uphold the law.

## **b) Mutual Respect and communication**

Yugul Mangi Elders and Police will explain and discuss the importance of respect and how respectful behaviours are expected of everyone in Ngukurr including Police. Yugul Mangi Elders will cover topics such as what is appropriate respect for senior cultural leaders of both sexes, how to conduct effective policing so they do not appear to be 'the boss man', that is acting without authority, show search warrants when they exist, listen and learn from elders, use culturally appropriate body language including eye-contact and avoidance and not walking in front of older persons, handle people in a friendly manner including people with mental illnesses, learn some Kriol language, approach and talk to someone, approach a household together with an Elder, advise (when appropriate) the Land Council and land owners when going to someone's land for official police business and always seek permission for recreation such as fishing, shooting, camping.

## **c) Awareness of sacred sites and ceremonial grounds**

Yugul Mangi will explain to Police where all the sacred sites and ceremonial grounds are, when cultural activities are held and when Police should not enter those places, other related practices such as not to go past ladies on ceremony ground, and how police can consult with Yugul Mangi in emergency operational situations when ceremony is being held.

## **2. Introductions to Elders and other key people in Ngukurr**

Police will meet representatives from the four moiety groups of *mambali*, *murrungurn*, *guyal* and *burdal*. Each moiety group will be represented by their most senior man and woman. These are the people in Ngukurr who have the most respect and authority. These people require

protection and respect. Signs must be made by Police and Yugul Mangi working together and placed at the Police Station and in public that show who these people are by including their names and photos. These are the people to be consulted with for all serious things.

Police will also be introduced to the other significant people in the community who were learned about in the training on relationships, such as language group elders, the Yugul Mangi elders, the land council people, the church leaders, the interpreters, the traditional owners, the key government employees, and night patrol.

The introductions will begin in the first days of the officer's placement during the cross-cultural instruction.

### **3. Ongoing cooperation between Yugul Mangi and Police in Ngukurr**

Once a month police will meet with the Yugul Mangi group of elders for regular consultations on crime, safety, law and justice issues within the community. Police will be invited to the Yugul Mangi's monthly corporation meetings for this purpose.

A Community and Police Protocol for community crime, safety, law and justice issues in Ngukurr will be worked out over time between Police and Yugul Mangi at these meetings.

These meetings will also include discussions towards establishing a Police and Community problem solving forum of Elders and Police to assist in dealing with law and order issues within and affecting the Ngukurr community. The Arnhem Operational Service Division Superintendent and the Commander Katherine & Northern Regional Command commit to actively being involved in this process.

Once a year on the anniversary of this agreement, Ngukurr police will invite the Yugul Mangi to put together a group of residents who will be given a tour of the Police Station at Ngukurr. Police will explain the roles of staff and various functions of the Ngukurr police station and provide a brief organisational overview of the Northern Territory Police

Force. All parts of the Police Station will be viewed and the event will finish with refreshments.

On the same day as the Police Station tour Police will give a Ngukurr Community and Police Protocol report in writing and orally to the public in Ngukurr. The Ngukurr Community and Police Protocol report will contain the agreed policing protocols between Police and Yugul Mangi that have been worked out since this Mutual Respect Agreement began. A Yugul Mangi representative will also speak to the report. The place of this event will be the location of the permanent outdoor display documenting the original agreement and ceremonies.

In witness whereof **Mr David Daniels, Senior Yugul Mangi Elder,** and **Mr Bruce Wernham, Deputy Commissioner Northern Territory Police,** affixed their signatures on 29 June 2009.

*David Daniels*

**Mr David Daniels**



**Mr Bruce Wernham**



**In the presence of:**

*D. G. Thomas*

*Robert Roberts*

*Nelson Hall*

*David Daniels*

*Robertson*



*Daniels*  
*David Daniels*

*Ben Mitchell*

*Gregory Daniels*

*Robertson*

*Majorie Wangimari Hall*

*Ashley Rogers*

*Betty Robertson*  
**BENJAMIN WILFRED**

*Walter Rogers*

*Gerry Ashley*

