



**Malarndirri McCarthy**  
MINISTER FOR WOMEN'S POLICY

March 05 2009

## Tribute to Northern Territory Women

Five Territory women were today recognised for their contributions to the NT community through the 'Tribute to Northern Territory Women' award.

The NT Labor Government initiated the award in 2002 on International Women's Day to give Territorians the opportunity to recognise, celebrate and commemorate the achievements of outstanding Northern Territory women.

Minister for Women's Policy Malarndirri McCarthy said the Territory has a proud history of strong women making real and effective contributions in our community.

"Today we're celebrating the achievements and the contribution of these women to the economic, social and cultural life of Territorians," Ms McCarthy said.

"These women have shown a powerful contribution to the NT community as inspirational role models and leaders, through improving the lives of Territorians, and overcoming unique challenges."

This year, the five women to receive the Tribute are:

- **Ms Bilawara Lee** – for her involvement and contribution to the NT Community and improving the lives of Territorians.
- **Mrs Rosanna Breed** – For being an inspirational role model and leader through her professionalism and work in a male dominated field.
- **Ms Yananymul Mununggurr** – For the significant challenges, difficulty of achievement, contribution as an inspirational role model and leader.
- **Ms Shirley Brown** – For her passion of history that led to her being heavily involved and contributing to the NT community
- **Mrs Catherine Rogers** (known as Kate Warrington Rogers) – Territory pioneer woman

'While it's important for us to remember the important role this year's *Tribute* recipients have played in the community, I would like to pay tribute to all Territory women, who everyday and in different ways contribute to our unique way of life,' Ms McCarthy said.

The five women received their award at a ceremony at the Darwin Convention Centre.

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See attached page for more detail on each of the recipients.



## ***Tribute to Northern Territory Women 2009 Award recipients:***

- **Ms Bilawara Lee** – *for her involvement and contribution to the NT Community and improving the lives of Territorians.* Ms Lee is a respected communicator, healer and teacher of ancient wisdoms and Aboriginal spirituality and healing. She is a tireless volunteer worker committed to achieving reconciliation and breaking down the barriers between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people.
- **Mrs Rosanna Breed** – *For being an inspirational role model and leader through her professionalism and work in a male dominated field.* Ms Breed is the first Aboriginal woman to reach the rank of Sergeant in the NT Police Force. She was awarded the 'Most Outstanding Leadership Medal' last year for leading by example, courage, honesty, respect and inspiration.
- **Ms Yananymul Mununggurr** – *for the significant challenges, difficulty of achievement, contribution as an inspiration role model and leader.* Ms Mununggurr was the first Yolngu woman to hold the position of CEO of Laynhapuy Homelands Incorporation.
- **Ms Shirley Brown** – *For her passion of history that led to her being heavily involved and contributing to the NT community.* Has authored the books 'My Alice: A Personal History of Alice Springs', 'Alice Springs: Past and Present', 'Chatting with Centralians', and much more. Ms Brown has been instrumental in setting up a small archival group of local people interested in preserving the history of Alice Springs.
- **Mrs Catherine Rogers** (known as Kate Warrington Rogers) – *Territory pioneer woman.* Regarded as one of the greatest woman pioneers of the NT and is known as one of the Petticoat Drivers. She single handily managed her own stockyards, mustered cattle and, with assistance from her Aboriginal workforce, drove cattle from the Roper to Camooweal.