Future plans for urban development of Aboriginal land on the Cox Peninsula have been thrown into doubt after news that the Larrakia Development Corporation is in financial trouble.

The corporation, an offshoot of the Northern Land Council, had been nominated as the land developer when the long-delayed Kenbi land claim finally is settled.

Its financial woes have been known for some time but the latest crisis was triggered when land council chief executive Kim Hill attempted to sack the corporation’s board of directors.

Mr Hill resigned a week later and both he and the council remain tight-lipped about the reasons why. The corporation’s chief operating officer Dean Chambeyron also resigned.

A succession of audits indicated Larrakia Development has been losing money for several years despite the success of its Darla housing project in one of the new Palmerston suburbs.

Problems started when the corporation’s construction arm attempted to break into what appeared to be the lucrative defence housing program in the Darwin suburbs of Lyons and Muirhead.

Other home building companies have experienced similar problems, with tight margins, a demanding client and an expensive mandatory safety regime among the key issues.

As well as the proposed new subdivision developments on the Cox Peninsula, Larrakia Development established a bus service, obtained land for a caravan park and included a water pipeline, an old-timers home and a light rail system in its future plans for the area.

But all this depended on the land claim being settled, a process that had dragged on for more than 10 years and, despite regular predictions from both the federal and territory governments, still shows little sign of happening any time soon.

With no cash flow from land sales, the corporation’s grand plans collapsed.

A KPMG financial examination conducted earlier this year concluded that unless the land council could provide financial assistance, the corporation should go into official administration.

The big losers could be the Kenbi traditional owners.

With no credible Aboriginal-owned corporate body, the part of the claim identified for future development could become a battleground for those who see it as a chance for a quick quid while giving those living on the peninsula little thought.

With the chill dry season winds, the sturdy souls who get out of bed early enough to catch the 6 or 6.45 ferries sometimes wonder why they do. A sight like this makes it all worthwhile.

Kenbi plan doubts
Very small turtles a very big hit

Marine wildlife ranger Ray Chatto doesn’t look like a mum, but he’s a great foster-parent to baby flatback turtles.

Predators, hunters and vehicles on the beach make a small turtle’s life a risky one, so rangers remove the eggs from the nests until they hatch, then return them to their home beach to scramble to the sea.

After explaining turtle life cycles to about 50 people at Golden Sands, Ray released his small charges into the care of child “escorts” to get them to the sea.

Once most of them were safely swimming into the deep water, the last four mini flatbacks had the doubtful honour of being held and photographed with their helpers.

Six turtle species live in NT waters with four nesting regularly around the coast. Flatbacks are the most common.

Above: Ray Chatto tells turtle tales to the crowd.
Below right: This little bloke did it tough over the sand but (below) made it to the sea.

Happiness is two small boys looking after a turtle.
A last farewell to the tiny turtles.

Nigel and Shenagh gave the last four babies a lift past the wave break.
Police have been asked to investigate allegations of serious voting irregularities at Wadeye during the recent Territory election.

The complaint was made by Labor opposition leader Delia Lawrie after the party lost the seat of Daly.

New Daly Legislative Assembly member Gary Higgins (Country Liberal) won the seat comfortably from the former incumbent Rob Knight (Labor).

Bob Gosford, a contributor to on-line investigative news service Crikey, said in his column there had been serious allegations against an interpreter at the Wadeye polling booth.

Writing in his blog The Northern Myth, Bob based much of his information on legal advice given to Opposition Leader Delia Lawrie by constitutional lawyer Peter Hanks QC.

Bob wrote: “Hanks QC’s advice of 14 September said in part: “...I am instructed that, on ... [25 August] the person appointed to be an officer for the Electoral Act under s. 330(1) was present at the Wadeye polling place, and acted as an interpreter for voters ...”

“...I have been provided with 7 statutory declarations by voters, each of which alleges (name deleted) told that voter to “Vote for Gary”.

Bob’s investigations could find no trace of any prosecutions – in the NT or any other Australian jurisdiction – of an electoral official for this type of offence.

“The NT may be uncomfortably close to setting a very unfortunate precedent here,” he wrote.

In her letter to the police and the Electoral Commission, Ms Lawrie produced 10 signed statutory declarations claiming NT Electoral Commission officials told people to vote CLP.

Calling for an inquiry, she said it was a criminal offence to interfere in how someone voted.

In a statement, a commission spokesman acknowledged the alleged breaches included a claim that an Electoral Commission interpreter was instructing people to vote for the CLP inside the Wadeye booth.

“Matters relating to the Enquiries Act are the responsibility of the Chief Minister,” he said.

“Matters of criminal conduct under the Criminal Code are appropriately dealt with by the Police Commissioner.

“Under the Electoral Act, election results may be challenged in a court of disputed returns.

“An application to dispute the validity of an election may be made up until October 19.”

The spokesman said no application had been lodged (up to September 28).
Grafitti sees national 'artist' deported

Police had to remove a well-known national serial grafitti "artist" from Wagait Beach last month after he started work on local landmarks.

Council chief executive Geoff Handicott told last month’s shire meeting that he’d been alerted when the man bought a texta pen at the supermarket.

“He proceeded to apply grafitti throughout the estate, including the sports ground,” Geoff said.

“I called the police who took him away but said they couldn’t lay any charges.

“Apparently he’s known all over Australia.”

Police said the man was known to have a mental condition.

Debate over the naming of the sports ground took an interesting twist when Peter Clee noted that he’d had a suggestion that it may be worth waiting to see if there was any interest in a commercial sponsorship deal.

Ian Crawshaw did not agree.

“I hate the commercialisation of sporting venues,” he said.

“I’d rather have it named after a local identity with links to the community.”

Other council members obviously agreed and the sports ground was officially named Cloppenburg Park.

Councillors also moved a vote of thanks to Lorraine Gardner who researched the history of the successful 19th century Cox Peninsula farmer whose lease included the land now occupied by the sports ground.

$50 000 towards a fire shed to be built on council land sounds like a pretty good deal for the local volunteer fire brigade.

But with the best available site in potentially boggy country, the new facility for the brigade’s water tanker will need a shed base and an access road – not a cheap proposition according to Geoff.

“It weighs about 5 to 7 tonne, it will need to have a substantial road and pad,” he said.

“It been bogged once in that area already.”

The council will investigate the possibility for some form of government grant and ask fire captain Ray Nicholls to investigate potential funding through NT Bushfires.

The 2012-13 budget presentation deferred from last month’s meeting has been put off again until October.

Geoff apologised for the delay but said circumstances had prevented the figures being ready for presentation to the meeting.

He did not elaborate but the council’s administrative assistant resigned last month.

The delay also prevented debate on the shire plan which has the budget figures as a key content.

Lil Prouse provided an update on the long-running memorial garden project.

Troppo architect Jo Best has volunteered to take on the designing of the project which has been hampered since its inception with large ideas and a very small budget.

“Jo’s basically working by herself at present so we’ll just have to wait,” Lil explained.

Peter Clee’s tilt for the presidency of the NT Local Government Association ended during the meeting with Peter withdrawing his nomination.

“Damien Hale, who is the Alice Springs mayor, is running and he’ll be very good – he has my full support,” Peter said.

He still has his hat in the ring for vice-president and for an executive member position.

Shire president Trish McIntyre drew the winning ticket for a full rates rebate during the meeting.

The winners were Erickson Cres couple R J and R R Abala.

Closed for repairs and maintenance;
reopening Tuesday October 30 at 10 am
Apologies for any inconvenience
Ph: 8978 5044 Fax: 8978 5060

Mandorah Beach Hotel
‘Your community hotel’
Bus service – either use it or lose it

Subsidy extended to January 31

Bus services on the Cox Peninsula should continue running until at least the end of January next year.

A funding agreement signed between the Lands and Planning Department and the Larrakia Development Corporation last month hopefully guarantees the buses keep running while data is collected for the department’s passenger transport division.

It is understood the data will be used to analyse options for a future service on the peninsula.

Sources said that ultimately, local use of the service will be an important factor in determining the future commercial viability of the buses.

Past becomes the present

Once upon a time in a strange land... in South Asia, there were two rival tongs that both believed the land would prosper only if they were in charge.

One, known as Sea-Hell-Pee, ran the land for almost 30 years before succumbing to an attack from the rival tong called Hay-Hell-Pee.

Their means of governing, like their names, were very similar. In the beginning, all was good and good things happened that kept the peasants pleased and the mandarins, scribes and pharisees (MSP) fat and well fed.

But the tong chiefs on both sides allowed the MSP to become overly fat and lazy. This prompted the peasants to rise up and overthrow the governing tong. The only difference was while the Sea-Hell-Pee took 28 years to be chucked out, the Hay-Hell-Pee managed to get fat and lazy in just 11 years.

And so it was that the See-Hell-Pee retook control and the peasants looked forward to the flow of milk and honey. The only difference was while the Sea-Hell-Pee took 28 years to be chucked out, the Hay-Hell-Pee managed to get fat and lazy in just 11 years.

Worse, an ancient senior elder, Chairman Koll, organised the putsch. Instead of ensuring the flow of milk and honey, Koll dredged through all the elders who had served the old regime faithfully – if not very well – and reinstated them as mandarins, scribes or pharisees.

The peasants were bemused. Many had not been around when the Sea-Hell-Pee was overthrown, so they believed the sick-o-fants’ claims that any criticism of the new arrangement was merely the other tong members quaffing the sour fruit from the vines.

The Gods in the Heavens looked down in wonder. “How is it,” they murmured, “that the peasants are ignoring the fact that many of the MSP anointed by Chairman Koll are the same deceased timber mob who were responsible for the Sea-Hell-Pee being overthrown not too long ago?”

And so they watched and wondered. Could the past really become the present? Had the deposed MSP learned anything from their previous downfall and loss of power?

Or had they spent the past 11 years chewing on immature grapes waiting to be returned to their ordained place in the world?

To be continued.
Jumping the gun at Cullen Bay


There is still the danger of a major bushfire this fire season. Construct firebreaks at least 4 metres wide around the internal perimeter of your property and clear fire access trails.

You should also slash long grass, clean up around your property and ensure there is adequate water supply.

As a landholder it’s your responsibility to protect your property. If you prepare in advance most bushfires will not pose a significant threat to you or your property.

So act now, don’t be complacent.

Bushfires NT: 8976 0098  
www.nt.gov.au/bushfires  
NT Fire and Rescue Service: 8988 0298  
www.safeterritory.nt.gov.au

Plans to reintroduce normal fares and concessions on the public bus service between Cullen Bay and the city turned out to be a little premature.

Work turned out to be far from finished on September 1 and the office and barrier fencing were still in place at the end of the month.

Contractors working on the job said there was still a “fair bit of last-minute tidying up” to do, although no details were available.

Movement in the retaining wall between the ferry pontoon ramp and the marina lock was the first sign of a problem and the work escalated from there.

Long job

“The more we looked the more we found,” one of the workers said earlier this year.

If nothing else is found, the flyer above may come true sometime this month.

Buy or renew your ferry ticket the easy way

Fast Ferries tickets are available now from the Wagait Beach Supermarket and the Belyuen Store Shop before you ship makes for hassle-free travel

twitter@fastferries | www.facebook.com/mandorahferry

The flier (above) that announced in August that everything was complete. Right: The “car park” on September 23.
Downpour a great end to 148-day dry spell

Wagait Beach’s 148-day dry spell came to a very damp end on the last day of the dry season when an early morning cloud-burst dumped 26 mm of rain.

That was followed by another 5 mm to kick off the 2012-13 wet season.

The fall gave Wagait Beach a total of 1802 mm for the rainfall year from October to September. The average since records began in 1988 is 1744 mm.

Bureau of Meteorology forecasters in Darwin are becoming less pessimistic about the outlook for the coming wet season following some subtle changes in their key indicators.

The Indian Ocean Dipole index is now predicted to remain positive during October before returning to a neutral state.

A positive index increases the odds of below average rainfall across central and southern Australia.

The Southern Oscillation Index also has remained positive over the past week with the latest value recorded at +2.4 late last month.

Normal

Forecaster Jo Lisbonbee said most atmospheric indicators continue to show neutral or easing towards neutral conditions – an indication of more normal wet season conditions in November and December.

He said October is expected to see above average temperatures and below average rainfall.

Wagait Beach averages for the month are seven rain days with 67 mm of rain and temperatures 33.1 to 25 degrees.

Growing season not far away

For those thinking about planting trees and shrubs this wet season, last month’s rain is just what the doctor ordered to get started.

Preparing holes for new plants is much easier with damp ground, although 30 mm does not go very far.

But it does mean the chance to get some compost into the holes so everything is ready to go when the big rains arrive in December.

Silent choir gives Mario a huge send-off

The strains of Luciano Pavarotti singing ‘Nessun Dorma’ echoed through the Mandorah Beach Hotel as members and friends of the Mandorah men’s mute choir farewelled Mario Klauzer last month. Mario, one of the choir’s foundation members, died after a short illness last month. Pavarotti’s best known hit became the choir’s anthem.

Mario Klauzer
A great mate that we had the pleasure to know and love.
We will miss you daily.
Not goodbye, just see you down the road.
Love always
Narelle and Todd

Vale Mario
One of those genuine blokes who was always prepared to have a go.

Mario Klauzer
5.1.1940 – 23.9.2012
Respected founding and Life Member of Cox Country Club.
Always ready to lend a hand.
He will be missed by the community.
Who does what at Wagait Beach

Accommodation
Lure Inn Bed and Breakfast 8978 5484
Mandorah Beachside Hotel 8978 5044
Wagait Beach Bush Retreat 8978 5123

Airconditioner installation/maintenance
Michael Vaughan (MJ Electrical) 0427 180 379
Colin Dunne 8978 5166

Belly dancing
Christhol Swanson (43 Cox Drive) 0413 199 928

Block and home maintenance
Mark 0427 029 966
Matelot (Phil) 0412 506 999 or 8978 5372
Warren 0407 546 275 or 8978 5175

Builders
Peninsula Bldg (Paul) 0428 890 108 or 8978 5488
Rob Eaton 0418 894 564
Michael Collins (sheds, fencing) 0418 638 170

Boilermaker
Mark (Anything Steel) 0411 230 918 or 8978 5466

Commissioners for Oaths
Linda King 8978 5064
Rhonda Solien 8978 5241

Concreting
Rick Gosper 0404 656 270

Earthworks & installations:
Mick & Donna 419 822 320 or 8978 5034

Eating out
Under the Banyan Tree (Cox Club) 0411 748 386

Electrical contractor
Michael Vaughan (MJ Electrical) 0427 180 379

Flying lessons (gyrocopter)
Max 0418 856 143

Gas fitting
Colin Dunne 8978 5166

Jewellery
Michelle 0428 852082

Meat supplies
Matt & Lil (Meat Direct) 0416 942 519

Minibus
Bookings 0407 325 957

Native plant nursery
Chris and Jack 8978 5111

Pest control
Pest Off – Andi Russell 0488 520 029 8978 5141

Plastering
Michael Milton 8978 5126

Printing and publishing
Wagaitear 0417 089 528 or 8978 5111

Property conveyancing
Naomi Irvine 8981 1086
Trish McIntyre 8981 6733 or 8978 5237

Supermarket & hardware
Chris, Sue and the team 8978 5008

Taxi truck and garden supplies
Mark 0427 029 966

Water deliveries
Mick & Donna 0419 822 320 or 8978 5034
Mark 0427 029 966

Welding and metalwork
Rick 0404 656 270

Windows, louvres, doors and fly-screens
Peter Wolf 0458 362 197

Who does what is a free service to Cox Peninsula businesses. To be included call 8978 5111 or email wagaitear@gmail.com
Wagaitear trades and services

MJ Electrical
Electrical Contractor
Michael Vaughan
All classes of electrical installations, maintenance and repair. Licence C1502
Licensed split system installer L061106
Phone 0427 180 379
Fax: 8988 2093

Mark’s Rural Services
- Slashing & spraying
- Post/plant holes
- Large bucket & backhoe
- Taxi truck 5 m tray – 8 m lengths on racks – back-load rates
- 5000 litre water delivery any time $50
- Tractor and operator $90/hr
Ph 0427 029 966 or text if no answer

MATELOT
Phil ‘I’ll cut your grass’ Parker
For all your needs including: lawn mowing, brushcutting, chainsaw work, yard clearing, general yard cleanup, gutter cleaning
Reasonable rates
Phone: 8978 5372 or 0412 506 999
If unattended (or unheard) please leave a message and I will return your call. ABN 37 199 580 163

The Wagaitear, October 2012 – 9
Scorpio: October 24 – November 22
Don’t let the heat get you down this month, it’s going to be nasty. It gives you an excuse to maintain the body fluid levels so check out this month’s specials at the shop. Lucky No 2.

Sagittarius: November 23 – December 22
Time to start thinking about the Christmas shopping so you don’t run out of time again this year. Check the tides so you’re not dragging heavy stuff up the jetty stairs. Lucky No 18.

Capricorn: December 23 – January 20
Carrying an umbrella is not going to improve the chances of early rains regardless what the MT Blues tries to tell you. Just relax, enjoy the buildup and sweat a little. Lucky No 35.

Aquarius: January 21 – February 19
There is a damp moment coming into your life. It could be a very pleasant change of luck or a buildup shower you didn’t see coming. Lucky No 77.

Pisces: February 20 – March 19
The stars are showing a good month for wetting a line. Don’t miss the opportunity because the next couple of months will be shockers. Lucky No 15.

Aries: March 20 – April 20
The alignment of the planets indicates that this is a month for deep and meaningful meditation. But no strange ommm noises or you’ll wind up explaining your behaviour to the cops. Lucky No 10.

Taurus April 21 – May 21
Now this is no bull but just a warning that crashing through china shops can be a bruising and very expensive past-time, so don’t! Lucky No 22.

Gemini: May 22 – June 21
Sunrise over the harbour and waves lapping softly on the sand hold the answer to this month’s mysteries. And yes, it does mean getting out of bed before 9 am. Lucky No 6.15.

Cancer: June 22 – July 22
Softly, softly you were told last month, not go and sulk in the corner. This is a month where you must check Uranus before you make any big decisions. Lucky No 7.

Leo: July 23 – August 23
Is someone in your life taking you for granted? Consider your answer carefully but like Colgate, you may need to take the worry out of being close. Lucky No 5.

Virgo: August 24 – September 23
Your stars are taking a fascinating alignment this month. Hope you know what it’s all about because it doesn’t make any sense to anyone else. Lucky No 88.

Libra: September 24 – October 23
A good month to try the luck on lotto at the shop. Choose your numbers carefully then add 1 to the first, take 2 from the second, add 3 to the third ad nauseum, Lucky No – yeh, right!

The Wagaitear

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10 – The Wagaitear, October 2012
Time travel now at Wagait Beach

Those who attended the successful cabaret ball in August were amazed and impressed by the tardis that transported them to the year 3013.

For those who don’t follow the long-running Dr Who television series, tardis is an acronym for Time and Relative Dimension in Space.

None the wiser? Think of a time-travel spacecraft with the ability to cart the occupants to any point in time anywhere in the galaxy.

So after all the time and effort that went into making the Wagait Beach version for the August event, it would have been a dreadful waste not to put it to good use.

The tardis has been reinstalled in the Mungalo Road home of Matt and Lil Prouse, making a very unique and most impressive set of doors.

While the owners continue to travel by ferry and car, neighbours have noted that they are absent from time to time.

But a tardis is not a good thing to think about stealing. Dr Who fans can tell those with light fingers that they can be set to take the culprits to a place and time they will find most unpleasant.

Strong response to cash for containers scheme

Envirobank’s second visit to Wagait Beach proved to be beneficial for both the company and locals with plenty of cans and stubbies to exchange for cash. After a previous visit, the company arrived with a much larger truck which — as the picture on the right shows — was a very good decision. Plenty of locals turned out to unload their surplus containers and go home with a pocketful of cash. Envirobank staff also were pleased with response, saying the truckload they hauled away made the trip worthwhile. Watch for notices at the supermarket with the dates of the next visit.
Ferry travellers who have noticed things getting a bit warm in the lower deck cabin may need to rug up in the near future.

A whopping big split-system airconditioner is waiting to be installed in the cabin.

If the size is any indication, it could be colder than the captain’s club on Whale 1’s upper deck.

Discussion at last month’s shire council meeting included an application to hold church services in the community centre.

While there were no objections, it seems the sky-pilots need to have the necessary insurances in place before the council gives the green light.

The admiral agrees; there’s a few potential parishioners around who would sorely test the reinforced roof if they dropped in during a church service.

A panel of the beaut new NT Seafood Council sign near the jetty bike racks went missing last month, leading to suspicions that it may have been nicked.

But it seems the manufacturers got some of the text wrong that needed to be corrected. It has.

The seafood council folk would like to thank all those who called to advise something may have been amiss.

Those grumbling about the Mandorah Hilton being closed again should go into the plumbing business if they want more time at the bar.

Mine host Nifty Nick spent much time chasing water leaks last month as the 50-year-old premises began to feel its age.

Some of the old pipe laying was pretty unique and despite many attempts to fix or replace it, mysterious bits that no-one knew about keep popping up and spraying water everywhere.

Hopefully this break (in trading, not the water pipes) will mean there’s enough water to get through to the wet season.

Shire council’s Geoff Handicott was given short shrift by the army corporal who ordered 11-tonne army trucks to do u-turns on the bike path.

The path is not designed for such loads but the corporal reacted aggressively to Geoff’s request to desist and would not agree to reporting the incident.

Geoff, a former army member himself, is following up with the army bigwigs.

Darwin Harbour tide times October – sponsored by

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DISCLAIMER: These tidal predictions are supplied in good faith and believed to be correct. No warranty is given in respect of errors, omissions or suitability for any purpose.