

Mirrar fighting for country

Information Kit
module 1: timeline



**protect our
living
tradition...**

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Ba-Ngurdmeninj Djabulukku!

**Yun Ngurri-Djalkgarung
Boiwek Gun Nugukbim**


*transl. Stop Jabiluka!
Don't dig the life out of the knob tailed gecko
dreaming*

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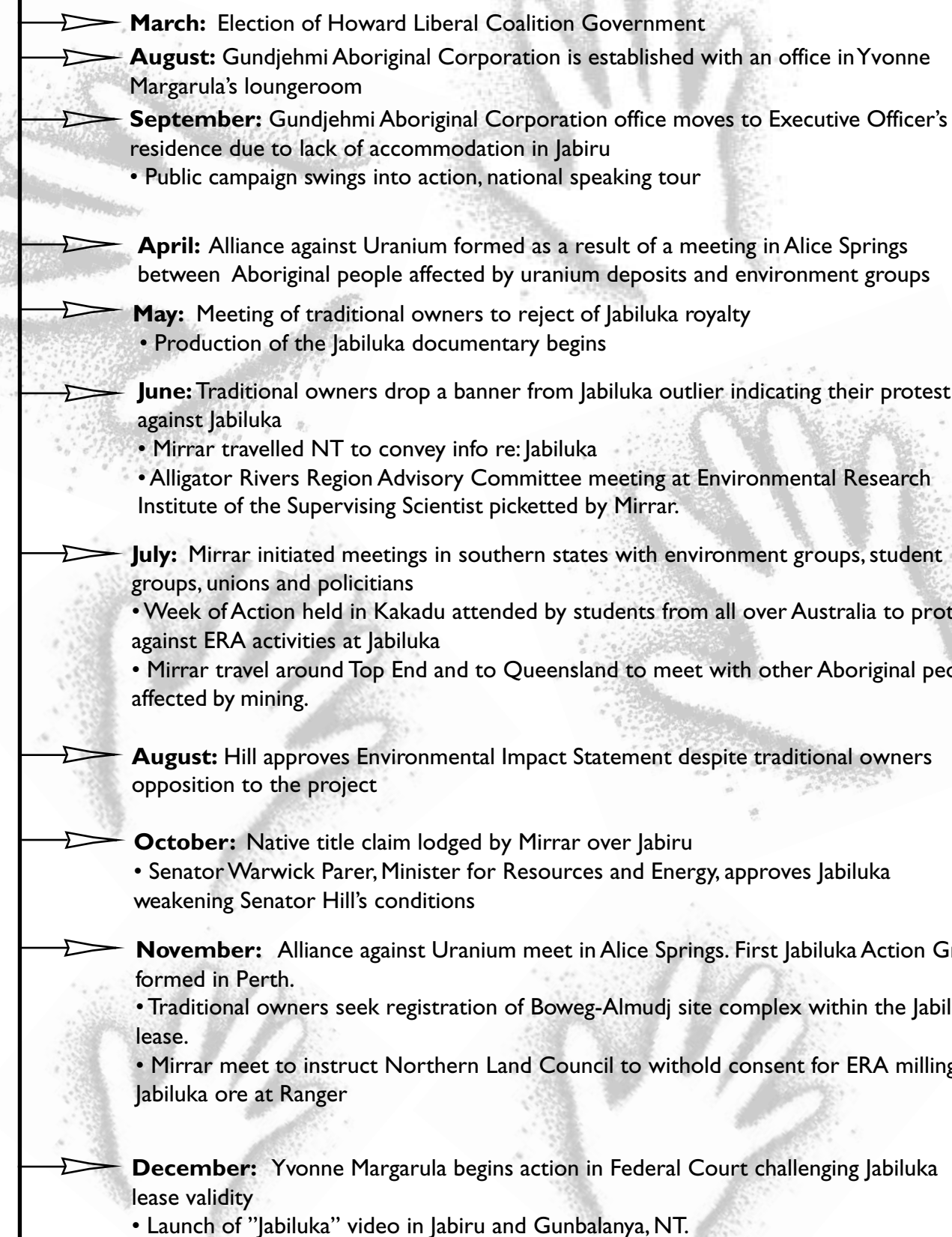
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Jabiluka: Timeline

Pre
1996

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- **1950s** Discovery of uranium in the Northern Territory
 - **1971** Pancontinental discovers a large uranium deposit at Jabiluka
 - **1975** The Fox Inquiry begins
 - **1976** Aboriginal Land Rights Act is legislated with a provision to extinguish the right of the Mirrar to withhold their consent to mining at Ranger
 - **1978** The Ranger Agreement is imposed upon Aboriginal people in Kakadu
 - **1978** Drilling at Jabiluka, completion of Pancontinental EIS
 - **1979** Social Impact of Uranium Mining monitoring project by the Australian Institute of Aboriginal Studies takes place. This project is chaired by Colin Tatz.
 - **1980** Mirrar and other clans in Kakadu area launch land claim
 - **1981** Pancontinental agree with Northern Land Council not oppose Mirrar land claim
 - **1982** Mirrar, under **duress**, consent to an agreement at Northern Land Council and Pancon negotiations
 - **1983** Election of Hawke Labor government, three mine policy suspends development at Jabiluka indefinitely
 - **1984** Social Impact of Uranium Mining monitoring project concludes its report.
 - **1988** Death of Yvonne Margarula's father.
 - **1991** Sale of Jabiluka from Pancontinental to ERA. Deed of Transfer negotiated with Northern Land Council
 - **1992** Yvonne instructs NLC and Federal government that Mirrar do not want Jabiluka to proceed

Jabiluka: Timeline

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- 1996**
- March:** Election of Howard Liberal Coalition Government
 - August:** Gundjehmi Aboriginal Corporation is established with an office in Yvonne Margarula's lounge room
 - September:** Gundjehmi Aboriginal Corporation office moves to Executive Officer's residence due to lack of accommodation in Jabiru
 - Public campaign swings into action, national speaking tour
- 1997**
- April:** Alliance against Uranium formed as a result of a meeting in Alice Springs between Aboriginal people affected by uranium deposits and environment groups
 - May:** Meeting of traditional owners to reject of Jabiluka royalty
 - Production of the Jabiluka documentary begins
 - June:** Traditional owners drop a banner from Jabiluka outlier indicating their protest against Jabiluka
 - Mirrar travelled NT to convey info re: Jabiluka
 - Alligator Rivers Region Advisory Committee meeting at Environmental Research Institute of the Supervising Scientist picketed by Mirrar.
 - July:** Mirrar initiated meetings in southern states with environment groups, student groups, unions and politicians
 - Week of Action held in Kakadu attended by students from all over Australia to protest against ERA activities at Jabiluka
 - Mirrar travel around Top End and to Queensland to meet with other Aboriginal people affected by mining.
 - August:** Hill approves Environmental Impact Statement despite traditional owners opposition to the project
 - October:** Native title claim lodged by Mirrar over Jabiru
 - Senator Warwick Parer, Minister for Resources and Energy, approves Jabiluka weakening Senator Hill's conditions
 - November:** Alliance against Uranium meet in Alice Springs. First Jabiluka Action Group formed in Perth.
 - Traditional owners seek registration of Boweg-Almudj site complex within the Jabiluka lease.
 - Mirrar meet to instruct Northern Land Council to withhold consent for ERA milling Jabiluka ore at Ranger
 - December:** Yvonne Margarula begins action in Federal Court challenging Jabiluka lease validity
 - Launch of "Jabiluka" video in Jabiru and Gunbalanya, NT.

Jabiluka: Timeline

- 1998**
- **January:** European Parliament passes a resolution condemning the Australian government's approval of Jabiluka.
 - **February:** Mirrar launch national speaking tour, campaign grows nationally
 - **March:** Blockade Camp established in Kakadu which undertakes protest activity at the Jabiluka lease drawing national and international attention to mining in Kakadu.
 - **May 19:** International Day of Action to Stop Jabiluka. Yvonne Margarula arrested with three other bininj for trespass on land which she holds title.
 - **June:** Senator Robert Hill proposes Public Environment Report to investigate Jabiluka Milling Alternative as a result of insufficient information provided by ERA in Environmental Impact Assesment process.
 - **June:** Yvonne Margarula attends UNESCO World Heritage Bureau meeting in Paris resulting in a Mission nominated to visit Kakadu to report to the World Heritage Committee.
 - **July:** Mass arrests at Jabiluka blockade
 - **August:** Yvonne Margarula, Jacqui Katona and Christine Christophersen attend over 40 meetings and conferences in Europe
 - **September:** Legal challenge brought by Yvonne Margarula to the approval of the Public Environment Report by Senator Robert Hill
 - **October:** Senator Robert Hill approves Public Environment Report prepared by ERA.
 - Within twenty four hours, amending and weakening conditions Senator Warwick Parer approves Jabiluka Milling alternative
 - Federal election is called. Howard re-elected despite intense media campaign
 - UNESCO World Heritage Mission visits Kakadu and Canberra to assess threats to World Heritage Listing
 - **November:** World Heritage Mission report handed down findings showing significant serious accertained and potential threats
 - Yvonne Margarula is awarded inaugural Nuclear Free Future Award for Resistance
 - Mirrar travel to Kyoto for WHC meeting
 - **December:** World Heritage Committee accepts the UNESCO Mission findings and recommends voluntary suspension of construction at Jabiluka until Australian government respond to Mission report.
 - Australian government refuses to comply with recommendation to suspend construction activity.

Jabiluka: Timeline

1999

February: Yvonne Margarula appeals her conviction for trespass in Supreme Court of Northern Territory

- Jacqui Katona and Christine Christophersen go to gaol rather than pay trespass fines
- Hill rejects Mirrar concerns regarding sacred site threatened by ongoing construction at Jabiluka at a meeting with Yvonne Margarula in Canberra.

March: Supreme Court rejects Yvonne Margarula's appeal against trespass charge

- North Limited premises blockaded for four days by protests against Jabiluka

April: Yvonne Margarula and Jacqui Katona win the Goldman Prize for grassroots environmental activism



✦ Banner Drop at the Jabiluka Outlier in protest against the development of a second uranium mine at Jabiluka. In the background are the Magella wetlands, which are the traditional hunting and fishing grounds of the Mirrar