

The

Student's Desk

ON LOCATION

Hello from Alice Springs (again),

My travels to Canteen Creek and Tenant Creek were well worth my time. Canteen Creek is a bit of a success story in terms of Aboriginal communities. That's not to say they don't and haven't had problems. There are Aboriginals who do want the best for their communities, and are prepared to work hard to this end. I realised that the solutions to Aboriginal problems needs to come from the black fella, not the white fella. While there does need to be co-operation between the two, at this point in history, it would appear as though it's the white fella who needs to co-operate with the black fella. Having only heard snippets of news, this would seem relevant to the Federal Labour party at present.

Tenant Creek was a very encouraging experience seeing a church led by Aboriginal people. I returned for the night service which is a sharing service, and the displays of faith were something to marvel at. Usually, a person sharing would end with a song. This sounded woeful, but no one cared. It was a expression of faith. I could not help but contrast this to the white church. Unless the person knew they had the ability to sing, they'd be no way they'd stand up in front of people and sing. If per chance they did, it would probably come up at the next Session meeting, or equivalent church leadership meeting, as a complaint!

The Delica Club Meet at Ularu has fallen through, much to my disappointment. I can't say I'm surprised. So I spent a day and a half in the East MacDonnell Ranges viewing incredible landscapes and spending this morning at Arltunga, the remains of a mining town at the turn of last century. I leave for the West MacDonell Ranges tomorrow.

I'd love to write more, but my power supply is limited, and my laptop is very hungry.

Feel free to reply, but if you do, please don't send the original message back. I'm aware of what I sent – I wrote it. This will reduce internet traffic and save my phone bill a little.

JASON