



Australians for Native Title and Reconciliation

Wednesday 26th January 2005

## **ANTaR mourns the loss of one of its finest activists**

On behalf of ANTaRs across the country we extend our deepest sympathies to the family of Charlie Pahlman, who died tragically on Thursday 20th January in Samoa.

The loss of Charlie is being mourned by hundreds of people in many different parts of the world who have been inspired by and connected with his inexhaustible commitment to social justice.

Charlie started giving energy to the campaign for Indigenous rights in August 1997. Seven years later Charlie was still at the heart of activism at many levels of ANTaR.

Charlie's contributions were numerous ranging from organising rallies and snap-actions; the first Sea of Hands in Canberra followed by several others; activities associated with the first National Sorry Day; newsletters and email bulletins to members; community meetings; and, as recently as December 2004, helping organise the reception for Michael Long at the end of the 'Long Walk' to Canberra.

Charlie was a mainstay of ANTaR ACT, also serving on ANTaR's national board and contributing his considerable expertise towards the development of the national organisation.

Charlie's vision and ability to build linkages across issues and communities was without equal. He drew upon his diverse experiences as a water rights activist, development worker and community campaigner in all that he did.

Most of all, those who worked with Charlie will miss the boundless energy, humour, intelligence and clarity that he brought to every interaction with others.

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