In Darwin, the concept of strong foundations has even deeper meaning. Christmas 1974 was the time Cyclone Tracy blew away the new Combined Church & Research Centre and it was from those ruins that Nungalinya evolved.

Our library, with about 17,000 items, is mainly a theological and an Aboriginal Studies collection. We hold a lot of videos, popular with students, as well as necessary when English is a second language for most of them.

Our difficulties—well, as everywhere, time and money are in short supply. Being small, we seem to battle constantly with IT difficulties and being isolated (we are the only theological library in the Northern Territory), it’s hard to keep in touch with the wider world of libraries.

Our rewards, in helping students and staff in study and teaching, are many. We can promote the library in the college by wandering over to the schools and having a chat, and in this technological age, assistance from larger libraries is usually just a phone call or email away.

Nungalinya is an Aboriginal word used by the local Larrakia people. It means “old man rock”, and is the name of a very sacred place, a reef out in Darwin Harbour which can be seen only at low tide. The Larrakia people themselves suggested Nungalinya as the name of our college: so we are the “Rock College” in the Christian and Larrakia sense and our foundation stone is a large, round granite rock. (The photo above shows the rock on the left with the library in the background.)