Aboriginal people driving their own development in Central Australia

Community Development NEWS

OLIVE PINK ON THE BIG SCREEN
WETT PROMOTES WARLPIRI LANGUAGE
STRONG ANANGU FAMILIES

INDEPENDENCE DAY FOR MULBERA
RECOGNITION FOR WILLOWRA’S CULTURAL MAPPING
WATARRKA INVESTS IN HOMELANDS
YUENDUMU BUSH MEDICINE

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**Community Lease Money Project Facts**

The Community Lease Money Project started in 2012, after two new income streams started to flow:

- Five year lease money: the one off compensation payment the CLC negotiated with the Commonwealth for the compulsory leases it took out over communities during the five years of the Intervention.
- Other lease money: government organisations and service providers now pay annual rent for the blocks they lease in communities.

Thirty one communities take part in the project and most have set up working groups to plan community benefit projects – to date, the working groups have allocated funds to a total of 324 projects.

The 324 projects delivering social, cultural and economic outcomes have been funded by $12.76 million from 5 Year lease money and $4.67 million from other lease money. In total communities have allocated a total of $15.49 million to community benefit projects.

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**Senior men come together to talk about law and culture for future generations.**

Western desert men came together for a five-day meeting outside Kintore in June to think about new ways to pass on their law and culture.

"**IF YOU DON’T HAVE THE SONG FOR YOUR DREAMING MAYBE YOU ARE MISSING IT AND YOU FEEL BAD ABOUT IT,**" JAMIE MILLER TJUPURRULA, THE MANAGER OF THE MEN’S TJILIRRA (TRADITIONAL HAND TOOLS) MOVEMENT PROGRAM, SAID.

“Some people fill it with drugs and alcohol to make the bad feeling go away.”

Grandfathers, fathers and grandsons from across the region discussed issues that matter to them and the gathering ended with a big purlape (ceremony) for the well being of the community.

Kintore’s community lease money committee provided $11,000 for this important gathering where the senior men painted up and performed songs, made sand art and taught songs, dances and tool making.

Mr Miller said the youngest community members kicked off the preparations.

“The little boys started to gather around me as the men dressed me with the womalu (the natural fibres/down feathers that are used for body decorations for ceremonies).

**“THE LITTLE BOYS WERE SO HAPPY AND PROUD. THEN MORE MEN CAME AND STARTED TO DRESS UP. THIS WOULD BE THE FIRST TIME IN A LONG TIME FOR MEN TO DANCE, NOT JUST THE BOYS,”** MR MILLER EXPLAINED.
Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park Rent Money Project Facts

The Project started in 2005. Each year traditional owners spend a big part of their share of the park rent on projects that help their communities in the Northern Territory and South Australia. They meet three times a year to plan and monitor projects, and make decisions. They have completed many local and regional projects, including upgrading sports grounds, repairing and maintaining outstations, constructing and operating the Mutitjulu Pool, supporting renal dialysis, supporting education in local communities and at boarding schools, funeral support, and cultural support through cultural maintenance and inter-generational transfer of knowledge.

As well as regional projects the Mutitjulu Community also receives income from the park rent and gate money. The community has funded the ongoing operations of their swimming pool, upgrades to their recreation hall and sporting facilities, supporting men’s ceremony, and cultural support; including cultural trips, upgrades to their inma/ceremony ground to support cultural activities, and the renovation of an old building as a community cultural centre.

Uluru rent money is being used to support families.

Traditional owners from the Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park are funding the Waltja Tjutangku Palyapayi Aboriginal Corporation (Waltja) to support young families to keep their kids strong and healthy.

Waltja received almost $165,000 for Strong Young Parents, a project that aims to build the confidence of young parents and their understanding of what makes young kids healthy and well.

The project teaches young parents about nutrition and healthy eating, and how to manage their money.

In March in Utju (Areyonga), senior women held a bush camp for girls and women where they painted and talked about health and wellbeing.

At the Watarrka school in Lilla, the project taught healthy cooking and how to shop for healthy food when you live at least four hours’ drive from the nearest affordable store.

“The kids were really enjoying cooking their own lunch and the young mothers and some of us ladies joined in. They showed us some other things to cook and to plan,” Watarrka grandmother Linda Clyne said.

Waltja is trying to find new ways to connect young parents with the project, such as holding camps with attractions for young people. The camp offers horse riding and swimming so they are motivated to come and have fun together while learning.

Watarrka youth have some great ideas about sharing the knowledge they have of their own country and skills with other young people. They would like to show others how they conduct flora and fauna surveys with the rangers at the park and are thinking about tour guiding opportunities.

PROMOTING POSITIVE PARENTING FOR STRONG ANANGU FAMILIES

Ashani Coulthard gives Ena Tiger some leaves for a sand story
The Granites Mine Affected Area Aboriginal Corporation (GMAAAC) was set up to benefit nine Tanami communities affected by the Granites gold mine. GMAAAC projects aim to improve housing, health, education, essential services, employment and training. They also promote Aboriginal self-management.

Community committees are elected every three years to plan and allocate GMAAAC funds to projects annually. GMAAAC elections were held in 2017 and are due to be held again in 2020 across the nine communities. GMAAAC directors are also chosen every three years from the committees and they meet at least annually in Alice Springs to oversee GMAAAC. Directors are also participating in a three year corporate governance and finance training project.

The CLC’s community development unit works with the community committees in Yuendumu, Lajamanu, Willowra, Nyirripi, Yuelamu, Tanami Downs, Balgo, Ringers Soak and Billiluna to plan projects and oversee partner organisations to implement them. GMAAAC, the Warlpiri Education and Training Trust and Newmont Goldcorp support the CLC community development work.

Many Aboriginal people remember Ms Pink, who lived in Central Australia from the 1930s until her death in Alice Springs in 1975, as a friend and fierce advocate.

In 2016, Yuendumu’s Granites Mine Affected Area Aboriginal Corporation (GMAAAC) committee provided PAW Media with $55,000 for a research project about Ms Pink’s work in and around the community.

The project employed nine senior men for 20 weeks to carry out the research and prepare the treatment for the feature-length documentary.

The men recorded oral histories from Yuendumu elders, some of whom remember meeting Ms Pink when they were young.

The research project also collected information from the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS) in Canberra that Yapa can now access at PAW Media.

"Napaljarri tried to protect Warlpiri from other whitefellas,” Mr Kelly said.

“She was really worried about our women too. They were suffering from a lot of new diseases coming in, like syphilis. It could kill you early or make you blind.”

The research project concluded in September 2018 and PAW Media are now shooting the documentary at locations across the Tanami.
Yuendumu’s new bush medicine and bush tucker garden at the dialysis unit has become an outdoor classroom, teaching healthy eating and traditional healing.

The community used its mining compensation income to plant the garden.

Local workers Magda Curtis, Corey Dempsey and Sebastian Wilson dug trenches, put in the irrigation system and created the garden beds between October 2018 and March 2019.

“I like working there, it was fun,” Mr Wilson said.

“GOOD WORK HELPING THE OLD PEOPLE, SICK WITH DIALYSIS. THE OLD PEOPLE LIKE IT. THEY USE THE BUSH MEDICINE TO RUB THEIR SKIN AND THROAT. THEY FEEL GOOD. WHEN I WAS WORKING THERE WAS A GOOD SMELL OF THE MEDICINE.”

Yuendumu’s school kids helped with the planting and celebrated the completion of the project by painting a mural they called nganjaku miyi manu kuyu pirirjirdi (eating good food to be strong).

Yuendumu’s GMAAAC committee funded the $11,000 project.

The committee partnered with the Western Desert Nganampa Waltja Palyantjaku Tjutaku Aboriginal Corporation (better known as the Purple House) for the job.

The Purple House spread the word at the school about traditional bush medicines and how to stay healthy.

Teacher Ormay Gallagher, a dialysis patient, showed the students how to use the bush medicine plants and Otto Simms told them how some of the plants were used in hunting.

“Every time we see the garden it makes us feel proud,” Magda Curtis said.

“WE HOPE TO KEEP WORKING AT THE PURPLE HOUSE AND WATCHING THE GARDEN GROW.”
Nyirrpi artists are now able to paint in their art centre for most of the year, thanks to the community’s GMAAAC committee.

The committee allocated $165,000 to top up the wages of the art centre coordinator, allowing the centre to open its doors full time.

Until recently, artists could only use the centre occasionally. The coordinator did not live in the community so the centre was only open when they were visiting Nyirrpi.

“It’s good to have this art centre so we can work and earn money, and it’s also good to have it for our future,” Nyirrpi artist Hilda Nakamarra Rogers said.

“All our young ones can take it up and work and keep passing it on for our future generations.”

The GMMAAC investment also paid for a fence around the centre’s yard, a carport and art supplies.

The vibrant Nyirrpi paintings are highly sought after in Australia and overseas, and sales increased by 30 per cent last year.

The artists’ colourful designs have been licensed to be reproduced on cups, cushions and clothing, along with information that promotes Nyirrpi to the world.

The centre does not only generate income for the artists, it also benefits the wider community.

“We like having this place for the artists, it gives us somewhere to go” Nyirrpi resident Kirsty-Anne Napanangka Martin said.

“All the old people and young people together. We like keeping busy and listening to our elders, it’s good for us and our culture. We also look through all the old people’s paintings on the computer from our families and people who have passed away. Young people can look and start doing it the same way.”
The community of Tanami Downs, near Lajamanu, has been connected to solar power.

The installation is part of a major upgrade planned by the community’s GMAAAC committee. “It’s been real helpful for the community, the power is on now in the houses, street lights. The community looks more like a community now,” Tanami Downs resident and GMAAAC committee member Robyn Lawson, said.

After years of planning, Tanami Downs is looking forward to more upgrades.

Two years ago, the committee developed an infrastructure upgrade plan with the Centre for Appropriate Technology to guide improvements to the community’s buildings and services.

The solar installation was part of the first stage of the plan. It cost almost $370,000, and included the electricity upgrade, a new solar power station and a back-up generator.

Australian Solar Industries completed the job in July.

The residents have no trouble dealing with the latest solar technology.

“My granddaughter has been taking the [electricity] readings and is excited about it. Maybe in the future she might look for work as an electrician, that’s what she was saying,” Ms Lawson said.

The Tanami Downs GMAAAC committee has also funded the next stages of the plan - fixing the plumbing and water supply and building a community meeting space.

Family from far and wide will be invited to a community barbecue to celebrate the achievement next year.

“Maybe it will help other homelands when they see it,” said Ms Lawson.

SUN COMES UP ON TANAMI DOWNS SOLAR PROJECT

New street lights at Tanami Downs (below) The new solar array at Tanami Downs

Robyn Lawson
**PURPLE TRUCK HEADS TO WILLOWRA**

Renal dialysis patients and their families always eagerly await the Purple Truck, a self-contained dialysis unit on wheels.

For the patients, the truck means much needed respite from having to live in Alice Springs, away from Family, country and everything important.

The truck helps them to reconnect with home.

Last year, Willowra’s GMAAAC committee spent almost $40,000 to take the purple truck to Willowra for six weeks.

On board were six renal patients who used to live in Willowra. One of them was Nangala Samson.

Sadely, the visit was Ms Samson’s last opportunity to spend time on country.

She passed away a few months after returning at Old Timers in Alice Springs.

Since 2012, the Purple Truck has allowed dialysis clients to go home, take part in family life, teach their grandchildren and find some peace.

Image of Nangala Samson has been printed with permission from her family.
Two women from Willowra flew to an indigenous mapping workshop in Perth to learn about digital mapping and returned with a grant for the community’s cultural mapping project.

Keziah Ah Kit Kitson, Marissa Brown and anthropologist Petronella Vaarzon-Morel attended the 2019 Indigenous Mapping Workshop Australia with digital mapping experts from Canada, New Zealand and Australia.

Ms Vaarzon-Morel presented on Willowra’s cultural mapping project which has seen families travel to sites on country to listen to senior Wirliyajarrayi (Lander River) custodians and record their stories for a large canvas map.

The $10,000 grant recognises the community’s impressive cultural mapping work and will allow it to develop digital maps about Yapa culture and country.

Ms Ah Kit Kitson and Ms Brown said they gained new mapping skills at the workshop and shared stories with indigenous participants from across Australia and New Zealand about looking after country, passing on knowledge and connecting young people to the land through digital technology.

“We got ideas from other indigenous people from Australia and overseas - how we can map dreamings, places, burial sites and birthplaces for Willowra people,” Keziah Ah Kit Kitson said.

They also gave the global technology corporation Google, one of the event organisers, feedback on the icons it uses for Aboriginal sites and history in its maps.

“We gave them ideas for new icons. They only had an icon for waterholes but we said: ‘you need to have one for soakages and different types of waterholes. You also need an icon for massacre sites’,“ Ms Ah Kit Kitson said.

“The most important thing for me was learning about computers,” Ms Brown said.

“The workshop will make a difference to my life because I learnt more skills and they were connected to country. I want to work more on the mapping project at Willowra.”

Willowra’s GMAAAC committee funded the trip to Perth as well as field trips to record new stories at sites in the Wirliyarrayi region.

The custodians have worked on Willowra’s mapping project in collaboration with Ms Vaarzon-Morel and Central Land Council anthropologist Luke Kelly since 2013.
The Warlpiri Education and Training Trust (WETT) was set up in 2005 to support education and training in Nyirrpi, Lajamanu, Willowra and Yuendumu. The trust receives more than $3 million every year from the Granites gold mine. The Kurra WETT directors meet twice a year to make all funding decisions and the WETT advisory committee meets three times a year to plan and monitor WETT’s programs.

The WETT supports five programs: children and families, language and culture in schools, youth development, learning community centres and secondary school support.

The WETT and the CLC have built strong partnerships with community schools, the Warlpiri Youth Development Aboriginal Corporation and Batchelor Institute to deliver these programs. In 2018/19, Kurra’s WETT directors allocated $2.2 million to continue these programs.

GMAAAC, the Warlpiri Education and Training Trust and Newmont Goldcorp support the CLC community development work.

The United Nations International Year of Indigenous Languages has given educators from Yuendumu and Nyirrpi the perfect opportunity to showcase how they’re keeping the Warlpiri language strong.

The UN celebration highlights the importance of Indigenous people around the world keeping their languages strong and reclaiming their languages that have previously been lost.

To celebrate, representatives from Yuendumu and Nyirrpi presented at the Puliima Indigenous Language and Technology conference in Darwin in August.

Advisory committee members from the Warlpiri Education and Training Trust (WETT) and Yapa staff from Yuendumu school shared the story of the trust and the Yapa school curriculum, the Warlpiri Theme Cycle.

Barbara Martin, a founding WETT advisory committee member and literacy worker, travelled to Darwin to motivate others to take up similar work.

"IT’S GOOD TO SHARE OUR STORY AROUND WITH OTHERS. THEY CAN GET MORE IDEAS AND FEEL INSPIRED TO DO PROJECTS LIKE THIS BACK IN THEIR COMMUNITIES," MS MARTIN SAID.

Yapa teachers from Yuendumu demonstrated to a large audience how they work with the students in Warlpiri.

"I felt shy at first, but then I felt really confident to speak to everyone,” Nancy Collins said.

“We were showing them how we teach Warlpiri in the school, and the language project we are working on, called Warlpiri Talk,” Ms Collins said.

Ms Martin felt inspired by a special ‘Women in Language’ day, where the women shared their experiences in language preservation and teaching.

"US WOMEN HAVE TO STAND UP STRONGLY TOGETHER TO KEEP OUR LANGUAGE STRONG FOR OUR KIDS. WE ARE THE ONES WHO CAN MAKE THINGS HAPPEN,” SHE SAID.
Tyrone Spencer, who teaches the senior boys in Yuendumu, enjoyed meeting new people.

“It was a good experience. I will have some good stories to share with the kids back home,” Mr Spencer said.

Up-and-coming Yapa educator Verona Jurrah, from the Nyirrpi school, agreed.

“I was really excited to go on this trip. I got a lot of ideas from the workshops and presentations, which I can take home to Nyirrpi and share with the other Yapa school staff,” Ms Jurrah said.

Ms Martin said training up young Yapa educators is the key to strengthening bilingual teaching.

“We brought these younger ones with us so they can learn more. They will be the ones who take our places in the future. They are the next generation of teachers in our schools,” she said.

While attending the Puliima conference in Darwin, members of the WETT advisory committee had the chance to meet with a Malak Malak traditional owner group who are working with the Northern Land Council’s community planning and development program – they shared stories about the programs they are funding and the challenges of negotiating with traditional owners to get support for community development programs. Malak Malak traditional owners are developing a vocabulary builder app to help young people learn their language which is only now fluently spoken by a small number of elders. WETT spoke about their five education programs.
Willowra has embraced a workshop to develop the Warlpiri curriculum.

Yapa educators, elders and other residents came together for a three day workshop at the community school that looked at the seasons and agreed on the Warlpiri words students should be learning about each season.

“We really appreciated having the workshop here in Willowra,” Rhonda Larry, a member of the advisory committee of the Warlpiri Education and Training Trust, said.

“I was listening and learning about what we are going to teach the kids,” she explained. “They can learn the important things in Warlpiri. It’s important that we learn from the elders like this.

“They tell us the stories about how they used to go hunting and what stories they would teach the kids at that time. I was happy to see the other WETT committee members there along with me,” she said.

Similar workshops are being held in Lajamanu, Nyirrpi and Yuendumu with funding from the trust.

In 2018, WETT invested $97,200 for three years of activities to strengthen bilingual education in the four communities.

Co-founder and former chair of the advisory committee, Maisie Kitson, helped to facilitate the workshop.

“IT’S VERY IMPORTANT TO BRING ELDERS INTO THE SCHOOL LIKE THIS. KIDS NEED TO BE LEARNING ABOUT WARLPIRI THROUGH THE ELDERS WHO HAVE THE KNOWLEDGE,” MS KITSON SAID.

“Really ngurrju [good],” was the verdict of Leah and Lucy Nampijinpa, two of the elders at the workshop.
Northern Territory Parks Rent Money Project Facts

- 16 national parks and reserves across the CLC region have been handed back to traditional owners by the NT government and are jointly managed.

- The CLC is working with each of the 16 groups to support planning and decision making about projects they prioritise.

- The groups use the rent they get for the parks for community benefit projects. Since 2010, they have planned and allocated $7.6 million to 185 projects.

Watarrka Families Invest In Their Homelands

Watarrka traditional owners have invested in the future of their outstations with recent upgrades to the Iltjiltjarri and Sandy Bore outstations.

The upgrades, funded through their NT parks income, mean more family can spend time out bush connecting with culture and country.

Watarrka traditional owners spent $40,000 to upgrade the solar power, install rainwater and septic tanks, irrigation, and shade for the vegetable gardens of Iltjiltjarri. The Liddle family designed and built the project with Ngurratjuta.

Ngurratjuta CEO Cameron Miller said partnering with them “has enabled the Liddles to take more control of the project on the ground and make the actual decisions around engagement in the delivery of the project, whilst maintaining direct input into the administrative requirements of the agreement”.

At Sandy Bore, traditional owners allocated more than $31,000 to upgrade the existing power supply and install more solar panels. Family members worked on the installation.

“WITH THIS INCREASED POWER WE HAVE A LOT MORE OPTIONS... LOTS MORE PEOPLE CAN COME AND STAY OR VISIT, AND IN THE FUTURE MAYBE WE COULD HAVE A TOURISM VENTURE OR OTHER BUSINESS. BEFORE, WE HAD THE HOUSES, BUT NOT ENOUGH POWER FOR ALL THE FAMILIES TO STAY,” TRADITIONAL OWNER AND WORKING GROUP MEMBER SYDNEY MALONEY SAID.
Yeperenye traditional owners are creating a walking and cycling trail between the Emily and Jessie Gaps in the East MacDonnell Ranges to attract more visitors to their country.

“The idea came from thinking about the trails in the west,” traditional owner Lynette Ellis said.

“[We were] thinking it would be good to bring tourists to the east.”

The project is an extension of the Anthwerrke Experience – a free mobile phone app that guides visitors through Emily Gap.

The traditional owners funded and developed the app using their rent income from the jointly managed park and launched it in 2017.

“TOURISTS SHOULD EXPERIENCE THE EAST MACDONNELL RANGES. THEY CAN HEAR OUR STORIES BY USING THE APP WE MADE, SEE BUSH TUCKER, MAYBE SEE ANIMALS THAT LIVE THERE. THE TRAIL WILL BE ENJOYED BY TRADITIONAL OWNERS AND FAMILIES TOO,” MS ELLIS, WHO IS PART OF THE GROUP THAT WORKED ON THE APP, SAID.

The group has chosen Alice Springs company Tricky Tracks to develop a costed project plan, which it wants to present to the Yeperenye/Emily and Jessie Gaps Nature Park’s joint management committee next year.

The Central Land Council hired Tricky Tracks in May and the company has since discussed the trails with the traditional owners.

They talked about what type of trail would be needed for both walkers and cyclists, how to give them access to bush tucker, how to manage erosion through trail design and opportunities for local employment.

Ms Ellis said local workers will be trained in erosion management techniques during the trail’s construction.

“The trail is being designed to go naturally with the hills,” she said.

“We’re working with Tricky Tracks to think about erosion and looking after country. This project will be good for job opportunities for young fellas and girls, it’s good for us to be working on country.”

The trail plan will cost the traditional owners $4,224 and is expected to be completed by December 2019.
A new outstation in the West MacDonnell Ranges is independent in the best sense of the word.

Mulbera outstation near Ntaria started a year ago with the construction of an ‘off-grid’ three bedroom house that can supply its own power and water.

Solar panels and a back-up generator supply the power and rainwater tanks with a 6,000 litre capacity are keeping the residents hydrated.

The Tjoritja West working group used $165,000 of its national park rent income to contract Tangentyere Constructions to build the house with local workers Tony Sena, Richard Braedon and Darren Swan.

Working group member Tony Sena helped complete the build in April.

“It was good to use the project funds on the outstation so that family can spend time out there,” Mr Sena said.

“I REALLY ENJOYED WORKING TO BUILD THE PLACE THAT WE ARE GOING TO LIVE IN. YOU KNOW YOU’RE BUILDING ON COUNTRY FOR YOUR FAMILY AND FOR YOUR KIDS,” MR BRAEDON AGREED.
If you want to know more about the CLC’s community development work please call 8951 6367

MEET THE 
DECISION 
MAKERS

All of the great community development projects across the CLC region are due to the hard work of traditional owners and community members who plan and develop projects that benefit their communities. These are just some of the groups that are making all the planning decisions, big and small.

**Southern Judbarra NT Park**
- Myatt working group: Judy Marchant, Lorraine Jones, Quinas Jones, Susan Jones and Debra Jones.

**Southern Judbarra NT Park**
- Traditional owners Lingarra group: Harry Young, Leroy Woodroffe, Darryl Daly, Wendy Slim, Nancy Toby, Riley Young, Cedric Daly, Louisa Bishop, Katrina Harrison and Patsy Dale.

**Finke Gorge NT Park**

**Finke Gorge NT Park**
- Inarlanga Latna working group: Elfrieda Ungwanaka, Marjorie Breadon, Arfa Ungwanaka and Kevin Ungwanaka.

**Southern Judbarra NT Park**
- Pigeon Hole working group: Mildred Hector, Sheila Hector, Eleanor Campbell, Elmore Anzac and Freddy Algy.

**East MacDonnell Ranges NT Park**
- Williams Family working group.

**Finke Gorge NT Park**
- Palm Paddock working group: Aleasa Malbunka, Conrad Ratara, Voight Ratara and Graham Ebatarinja.

**Iwupataka Water Aboriginal Corporation**
- Directors: Doreen Carroll, Dave Howard (CLC), Kirsty Peckham, Rhonda Shillingsworth and Tessa Campbell.

**Yeperenye NT Park**
- Working group.

**Central Land Council**

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