Aboriginal people driving their own development in Central Australia

**Community Development NEWS**

**MOBILE PHONE HOTSPOT FOR WILLIAMS WELL**

**LAJAMANU TRADE SKILLS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE**

**GMAAAC ELECTIONS**

**PAPUNYA SPORTING BOOST**

**ANANGU FIND ANCIENT WATERHOLE**

**NTURIYA LOCALS BUILD NEW CHURCH**

**WARLPIRI EDUCATION IN GOOD HANDS**

**MOBILE PHONE HOTSPOT FOR WILLIAMS WELL**
The community has invested more than $46,000 of its community lease money to buy power tools and equipment to help to boost their skills, confidence and employment prospects.

The students have helped to set the workshop up and created an asset register to keep track of the new lathe, grinder, lifting equipment, cutting tools and personal projective equipment.

The 20 young men and women who will get a chance to use the new gear for wood and metal projects are the chosen ones.

Only to students with high attendance and great classroom behaviour will be allowed to use them.

It’s a strong incentive for others to lift their game as, by all accounts, the trade centre is the place to be.

“I like to use the drilling machine,” said Shemira Rose.

“I like to fix things around the school.”

“I have enjoyed making the name plate on the mill machine,” added Colleen Bamba.

Mona-Lisa Kelly’s favourite is the band saw, where students also practice measuring.

“IT’S A HELPFUL MACHINE TO CUT THINGS WITH. I LIKE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT HOW TO USE TOOLS. WE DID SOME GOOD WORK AND MAKE SURE THAT THINGS ARE SAFE” SAID MONA-LISA KELLY.

Those aged over 14 can do VET certificate courses, while younger students have the option of pre-vocational training.

Newmont has also contributed by funding some heavy equipment, such as a milling machine.
In their very first meeting back in 2015, the Nturiya lease money working group raised the idea of building a community church and after two years of meetings, planning and construction the dream has been realised.

A committee of eight families came together to plan and develop the common goal, meeting with a number of organisations before choosing Tangentyere Constructions to build the church.

Current CLC Executive member, Jasper Haines remembers, “We talked and talked and talked. The whole community helped plan for the church”.

The committee allocated approximately $72,000 for the building and associated works, and allocated $10,000 towards maintaining the church for the next two years.

It will be opened in collaboration with the Alice Springs Finke River Mission at a date yet to be set, but it’s designed to be used by all church denominations and community groups.

One of the local workers on the project, Scoby Presley, said the local community “likes having the new church, it makes them feel happy”.

Garry Woods, Aston Ross and Sebastian Walker were the other local residents who worked with Tangentyere Constructions to build the church.

Speaking about the younger people in the community, Scoby said it was good for them “to get more experience [in construction], and different types of experience. We’d like to get more things happening out here.”

The community is now planning their next projects.

“We want to purchase equipment for the church next and we are thinking of doing something for the kids too,” working group member Jacquie Woods said.

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: organisations now pay annual rent for the blocks they lease in communities.

31 communities across the CLC region are involved in the Project and most have set up working groups to plan community benefit projects. Over $13.5 million of community lease money has been allocated to over 240 community benefit projects.
In 2012, when the Federal Government paid compensation for the Alekarenge community lease it had demanded under the Intervention, traditional owners and residents quickly identified their number one priority for spending the money.

They wanted to provide activities for young people and the newly formed working group set about planning quality projects that would engage local youth in fun and productive pastimes.

The community stuck to their vision for young people and in the process created a lot of training and jobs for local people.

The community has now spent over $770,000 of its lease money on 16 different projects, with $61,205 going towards training and $166,612 on the employment of local people.

Community leader and working group member Graham Beasley said decisions have been driven by what would bring the most benefit to Alekarenge.

“Doing things for the future of the community and showing the way was a highlight,” Mr Beasley said.

Another community leader and working group member Sabrina Kelly said many projects would help divert youth away from trouble.

“WE MADE DECISIONS TO KEEP OUR YOUNG PEOPLE OCCUPIED SO THEY’VE GOT SOMETHING TO DO, TO STOP SNIFING, STEALING AND DRUGS,” SHE SAID.

Having great pride in the success of Alekarenge’s youth projects has led to working group members Graham Beasley and Peter Corbett travelling to conferences and big CLC meetings to tell the story of what Alekarenge has been doing for their young people.

While Alekarenge’s 5 year lease money has all been spent now, the community is still looking at ways to make life better for young people, as Graham Beasley said “our plans are to keep working for the community and showing the way for a better future for our children.”
MT LIEBIG’S LIVELY SANCTUARY GETS SOME LOVE

The church in Mt Liebig, 330km west of Alice Springs, will continue to be a lively sanctuary for locals to worship and hold community meetings, concerts and sing-a-longs after a recent $50,000 refurbishment.

The Mt Liebig traditional owners and residents committed $51,102 of their community rent money to the project, and the Central Land Council community development unit worked with its working group on a brief for the renovation.

The Centre for Appropriate Technology (CAT) developed design options and costings before managing the project.

Two local laborers, Cedric Dixon and Yuella Miller, were employed during construction in partnership with Ngurratjuta Remote Jobs and Communities program. Both men said they were pleased to apply their skills on the job and are happy with the finished result.

A key component of the renovation work was to repair six large sliding doors within the building so the church is lockable and weatherproof, and to protect sound equipment and interior furniture.

Another task was to renew the existing concrete floor surface. Pastor Roderick Kantamarra said the colour blue was selected for the floor because it “reflects the heavens above”.

MT LIEBIG’S LIVELY SANCTUARY GETS SOME LOVE

Which is why traditional owners and residents have committed $148,268 of their community lease money to build shade shelters and seating at their football and softball fields.

A commentary box dedicated to community leader Sid Anderson has also been built at the football oval as part of the project.

The Central Land Council Community Development Unit helped the working group plan the project, which was a lifelong dream of Mr Anderson’s.

The upgrades are stage two of the project and compliment stage one, which included the improvement of the football oval playing surface in 2015 at a cost of $22,880.

Local workers Jarrod Anderson, Ricky Nelson, and Abraham Major worked on stage two with Tangentyere Constructions builder trainer Chris Malouf. Papunya hosts a number of regional sporting events, including the Puyu Wanti Football competition during summer.

Mr Anderson said the upgrades were a community goal.

“WE HAD A DREAM TO MAKE OUR SPORTING GROUND BETTER FOR PEOPLE TO PLAY ON, AND WE SPENT OUR OWN MONEY FROM SECTION 19 AND FIVE-YEAR LEASES ON THIS,” HE SAID.

KICKING GOALS OUT WEST

In the Western Desert sporting hub of Papunya, where the summer months are as hot as just about anywhere in Australia, athletes and fans alike are not deterred and continue with their football and softball competitions regardless.

Twelve new pews were fabricated in the CAT Enterprise workshop and assembled on site with the assistance of local workers.

After the first service in the upgraded church, Pastor Roderick said the newly refurbished church “makes people feel happy, everyone is happy”.

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“THIS IS A REALLY GOOD PROJECT FOR YUENDUMU. IT’S IMPORTANT TO SUPPORT THIS PROJECT TO KEEP THE CEMETERY GOOD FOR THE FUTURE”.

That’s former GMAAAC committee member Francis Kelly commenting on the project to restore the old Yuendumu cemetery.

The old cemetery had not been maintained for decades with the site completely overgrown and the surrounding picket fence in a collapsed state.

So in November 2015, the Yuendumu GMAAAC Community Committee allocated over $70,000 (including $16,000 for maintenance) to repair the old cemetery.

The Yapa-Kurlangu Ngurrara Aboriginal Corporation, or YKNAC, were selected to work with senior members of the community to clear the site, install a new fence and erect a memorial to those buried at the site.

The result is easy identification of graves for historical and personal reasons, a fence and access points that are in good condition and grounds that are tidy and free of rubbish, weeds and debris.

The first stages of the project have been completed by YKNAC with the help of eight Yapa, who have been employed to do the works.

YKNAC will continue to maintain the site over the next 12 months

Community use and pride in the cemetery have also been restored by the project.
A recent school holiday program in Willowra has the youth of the community saying no to violence and yes to a range of skills aimed at boosting artistic creativity.

The arts program was held over the winter school holidays and led by visiting artist Manuelo Strano, who arranged a number of activities, including lino printing, painting, jewellery design, beading and drawing.

More than 20 people worked together to paint a mural on the side of the new recreational hall reading “Willowra Blues say ‘NO to violence’” with a silhouette of a footballer kicking a ball.

The Warlpiri Youth Development Aboriginal Corporation (WYDAC) organised the arts program, which was funded by the Granites Mine Affected Areas Aboriginal Corporation (GMAAAC).

Support has also come from the youth themselves with Dayne Sampson saying, “I like the arts program. I want it to stay longer, for one month at least”.

WYDAC will continue to provide other school holiday programs during 2017, including hairdressing, cooking and nutrition.

GMAAAC funding is also to be used by WYDAC to employ an extra youth worker in Willowra over the summer holidays.

The CLC’s CD 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.
YAPA START TO PLAN FOR THIS YEAR’S MINING MONEY SPEND

Yapa are working hard to plan community benefit projects for the Tanami region as recent elections have appointed new GMAAAC committees to allocate Tanami mining compensation money.

The recent elections again saw women achieve equal representation on all but two of the nine GMAAAC committees.

The Granites Mine Affected Areas Aboriginal Corporation, or GMAAAC, plans and funds community benefit projects for the nine communities affected by the Granites gold mine in the Tanami.

Between February and June, elections were held in those communities - Yuendumu, Lajamanu, Yuelamu, Willowra, Nyirrpi, Tanami Downs, Balgo, Billiluna and Ringer Soak with 84 GMAAAC committee members elected and 18 GMAAAC directors nominated.

The committees plan and decide on community benefit projects to be funded with their community’s compensation money.

Nyirrpi GMAAAC director and long-standing committee member Lance Turner said his committee takes a long-term view when considering how to spend the money.

“GMAAAC AND CLC HAVE TAUGHT US HOW TO LOOK TO THE FUTURE AND MAKE OURSELVES STRONGER,” he said.

Valerie Martin is a committee member from Yuendumu and said she shares the same goal.

“I want to try and make things better for the future of our kids. Build a stronger community so it’s a better place for kids to live,” she said.

Support for young people, elders, culture, education and employment continue to be the main priorities for the GMAAAC committees.

The CLC’s Community Development Unit helps turn those project ideas into reality.

“The CLC’s Community Development Unit helps turn those project ideas into reality.”

Kumanji Padoon, Serina Samuel, Sandra Mandijarra, Justin Brockman, Angus Manson. Absent: Terric Chungala.

Dalveon Donnelly, Samantha Timms, Gloria Timms, Ross Rockman, Marcus Lawson, Robyn Lawson (seated).

Balgo


Newmont are one of the world’s largest gold producers. They have been operating the Tanami Granites Mine, the source of income for the WETT, GMAAAC and Tanami Dialysis projects, since 2002.

Newmont has been working closely with the CLC to further support the effectiveness of CLCs Community Development program. Part of this support has been a three-year financial contribution (2016-2018) to provide additional CLC staff resources to support Aboriginal led development initiatives in the Tanami. Representatives from the mine meet with CLC and the GMAAAC Directors on a regular basis.
In 1902, the explorer Richard Thilwell Maurice etched his initials in a tree by a waterhole in the sandhill country surrounding Lake Amadeus.

He’d been guided there by an Anangu man from Mt Currie and was crossing the continent from Yalata in South Australia to Wyndham in Western Australia’s north.

Maurice’s group included two Aboriginal men, one from Yalata and an Anangu man from around Ernabella, and they met two young Anangu men at the waterhole known as Ngatunitja.

Ngatunitja hadn’t been visited by Anangu since at least the 1930s and had never been driven to before.

It was rediscovered in 2012 during a helicopter search of the area by the senior men Malya Teamay and Wangin, who were surprised to find the tree marked with RTM still standing.

Mutitjulu senior community members and the Uluru Rent Money Community Development Working Group planned with the CLC’s Land Management section a three-day trip for 25 people to visit Ngatunitja.

The group used the trip to look for water and the senior men used it as an opportunity to teach Tjukurpa, or the foundation of Anangu life, to the young men they took out. On country at Ngatunitja there were three generations of men, grandfathers with their sons and grandsons, teaching important lessons and skills, like burning country the old way.

Nine Anangu were employed in the project. Their job was to work out a possible route to Ngatunitja, clear it and drive the group in. Once they got to Ngatunitja their job was to coordinate and lead activities at the site, teaching young men important lessons along the way.

A senior leader, and key organiser, Malya Teamay, praised the young men in the group for digging out the waterhole.
“THE YOUNG FELLAS, THEY HAVE JUST DUG OUT AND OPENED UP THE WATERHOLE AND NOW THERE IS LOTS OF WATER- NOT SALTY AT ALL. THE YOUNG FELLAS ARE HAPPY AND SATISFIED. THEY DID THE WORK” HE SAID.

Another senior leader and key organiser, Johnny Tjingo, was excited when the group discovered a grinding stone.

“This stone is for grinding bushfoods to eat. It could be my elder sister’s or mother-in-law’s maybe.” HE SAID.

Senior man Hezekiel said the water quality at Ngatunitja was very good.

“AFTER THAT THEY GOT WATER AND WE TRIED IT. IT WAS LIKE RAIN. NOT SALTY AT ALL. THEY ALWAYS DRANK THE WATER HERE, LONG BEFORE OUR TIME.”
SAFETY BOOST
WITH OUTSTATION HOTSPOT

Frustrated by a lack of mobile phone coverage at their Williams Well outstation, the Oliver family has invested just under $20,000 of their NT Parks rent money in a “hotspot” to provide a link to the outside world.

Previously, the family could not be contacted or had to drive back towards Alice Springs from the outstation, located 50 kilometres east of the town, to gain phone coverage.

Now however, thanks to the mobile phone hotspot designed and installed by the Centre for Appropriate Technology (CAT), residents can use their mobile phones to contact each other or emergency services.

Resident Henry Oliver said the change “makes it easier and safer [to live at Williams Well] and is working clearly”.

Four traditional owners, of the jointly-managed East MacDonnell National Park, worked with CAT to install a larger dish than usual to ensure a strong enough mobile phone signal.

This was required because of the outstation’s distance from the nearest mobile coverage, which meant the signal was too marginal for reliable operation with a standard hotspot.

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 under Joint Management arrangements.
• Since 2010 the groups have planned and allocated funds to 142 projects totaling over $6.3 million.
• This very big project involves all 16 traditional owner groups using the park rent they get from the NT Government for community benefit projects.
• The CLC is working with each of the 16 groups to support planning and decision-making on projects that traditional owners prioritise for their group and region.
The Warlpiri Education and Training Trust (WETT) was set up in 2004 and Kurra Aboriginal Corporation, the trustee, puts over $1 million of mining royalties into it each year to support education and training for Warlpiri people.

WETT is supporting four major regional programs: Language and Culture Support in Schools, Youth Development, Learning Community Centres and Secondary School Support. WETT is also supporting cultural mapping and early childhood in Willowra. WETT and the CLC have built strong partnerships with Warlpiri community schools, the Warlpiri Youth Development Aboriginal Corporation and Batchelor Institute to deliver these programs. In 2016 the Kurra WETT Directors approved a further $2.7 million for these programs.

A great working relationship between several parties is helping to ensure school kids in Lajamanu maintain a connection with their country and culture.

The country visits are made possible by a number of organisations working together, including the Lajamanu School – in particular the 2-way coordinators, the Central Land Council, the Warlpiri Youth Development Aboriginal Corporation (WYDAC) and the elders and traditional owners of the country that is visited.

They’re also made possible by the Warlpiri Education and Training Trust (WETT), which in 2017 allocated $20,000 of mining royalties to the Lajamanu School for the country visits.

“IT A GOOD CAMP, WE SHOW THEM THE CULTURAL WAY LIKE STORIES, CEREMONY AND CORROBOREE.”

ELDER JERRY JANGALA PATRICK EXPLAINS.

Another elder, Angela Nangala Kelly, says the visits are about sharing knowledge.

“We teach them how to look for bush foods and how to dig for it too,” she says. “They learn about country, like at Kamira, how to dig for the water and look after ngapa places.”

The week-long camp was held at Jiwaranpa (Talbot Well) on Warlpiri country from the 29 May to the 2 June 2017.

“THE CAMP IS IMPORTANT BECAUSE WE LEARN ABOUT OUR CULTURE AND DREAMING.”

After a big wet season, the group loved seeing ngapa (water) places. This is the salt lake at Kamira.

Student Felishia Naparrula Simon said she enjoyed the camp.

“We made a necklace, we went to Kamira and we ate bush onions,” she explained. “I liked picking up bush bead for a necklace and eating kangaroo tail.”

The women Elders taught the girls to look for bush foods, like bush tomato, bush onion and bush potato. Then they taught them how to collect it the proper way.
The Walpiri Education and Training Trust (WETT), commissioned the review on its 10th birthday to find out what works well and what can be done to strengthen the program.

The review team, Dr Samantha Disbray and Dr John Guenther, from Ninti One, and two community researchers, interviewed 130 residents from Nyirrpi, Willowra, Lajamanu and Yuendumu.

They found that more than 40 Yapa jobs have been created, education and training programs delivered and a group of highly committed Warlpiri speakers are in control of well run planning and decision making processes.

The review also found that WETT’s programs align well with Yapa priorities for learning, such as maintaining culture and learning on country, Yapa jobs, strong families, youth leadership and development and creating opportunities for older and younger people to work together.

In early July, the team presented 32 recommendations to the WETT Advisory Committee and Kurra’s WETT directors at their annual planning meeting in Alice Springs.

The committees have started planning around each recommendation and have also created the following vision statement to explain why they invest their royalties in education and training:

"WE ARE WARLPIRI EDUCATORS AND TRADITIONAL OWNERS AND TOGETHER WE CONTROL THE WARLPIRI EDUCATION AND TRAINING TRUST (WETT). WE KNOW WHAT IS BEST FOR OUR PEOPLE AND INVEST INCOME FROM OUR LANDS WISELY TO SUPPORT OUR FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES. WE HELP OUR PEOPLE TO HELP THEMSELVES."

"WETT SUPPORTS PARTNERSHIPS FOR TRAINING AND EDUCATION SO ALL WARLPIRI PEOPLE WILL HAVE BETTER KNOWLEDGE THROUGH WARLPIRI CULTURE AND TWO-WAY LEARNING."

"OUR LANGUAGE, CULTURE AND DECISIONS WILL BE RESPECTED. OUR VOICES WILL BE HEARD. WE WILL HAVE THE SAME OPPORTUNITIES AS EVERYONE ELSE."

"OUR VISION IS FOR OUR CHILDREN’S CHILDREN TO BE STRONG IN THEIR KNOWLEDGE OF CULTURE, COUNTRY AND LANGUAGE, TO BE STRONG ROLE MODELS FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS AND TO STAND UP FOR OUR COMMUNITIES."

"OUR CHILDREN WILL BE CONFIDENT, KNOWLEDGEABLE, DISCIPLINED, HEALTHY AND RESPECTED. THEY WILL HAVE GOOD ROLES AND JOBS, AS WILL THE GENERATIONS TO COME."

(The WETT review can be found on the Central Land Council website.)
Hamilton Morris drafts the WETT Vision

Helen Morton translates the WETT Vision

WETT Advisory Committee and Kurra WETT Directors Meeting
MEET THE DECISION MAKERS

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

NT Parks traditional owner group for East MacDonnell Ranges
Ryder Family

NT Parks traditional owner group for Watarrka National Park

NT Parks traditional owner group for East MacDonnell Ranges
Williams Family

Nturiya Community Lease Money working group

Pmara Jutuntha Community Lease Money community meeting

NT Parks traditional owner group working group for Kuyumba
Conservation Reserve

NT Parks traditional owner group for Judburra National Park

If you want to know more about the CLC's community development work please call 8951 6367