COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT NEWS

WETT PUTS MILLIONS INTO YUENDUMU
COOKING WITH GAS IN NYIRRPI
JOBS BONANZA IN ALPURRRURULAM
RETURN TO COUNTRY AT ULUPERTE
JOBS FOR THE MOB AT AKANTA AND OLD STATION
LOOKING SHARP IN WILLOWRA
ROCK’N’ROLL AIN’T NOISE POLLUTION IN YUELMU
MANY THINGS TO MANY PEOPLE

A library, a classroom, an internet café and service hub, Pina Pina Jarrinjaku, or the Yuendumu Learning Centre, is so many things to so many people.

Pina Pina Jarrinjaku provides the Yuendumu community with Warlpiri language and culture activities, daily computer access, accredited and informal training and targeted workshops.

The Warlpiri Education and Training Trust, or WETT, has partnered with the Warlpiri Youth Development Aboriginal Corporation (WYDAC) since January 2017 to run the Yuendumu Learning Centre program, with WETT allocating $1.18 million over three years to support lifelong learning for the Yuendumu community.

In 2017 the centre started delivering Certificate 2 and 3 in Community Services for 10 local residents working in various organisations such as the school, safe house, WYDAC and Territory Families.

Pre-school teacher Doris Jurrah is one of the people to have participated in the training.

"WE WANT TO KEEP LEARNING, IT IS GOOD FOR OUR FUTURE TOO – GOOD FOR THE KIDS (AT THE SCHOOL)" DORIS SAID.

The centre has also linked up with the Academy of Sports Health and Education in Shepparton, Victoria.

Three 16-year-olds from Yuendumu-Tommy Hargreaves, Luciano Williams and Manalia Hargreaves—will attend the academy for nine months and another group of interested students will start later in the year.

The senior girls and boys class from Yuendumu school also attend the learning centre once a week to engage in their education and life goals.

The Community Development News gives Aboriginal people a chance to talk about the many outcomes they are achieving as part of the CLC’s Community Development Program.

This newsletter keeps CLC constituents up to date on some of the social, cultural and economic projects Aboriginal groups are planning and funding with their own money across Central Australia. If you would like more information on this work please contact the CLC on 0851 63667 or visit www.clc.org.au

Elisah Robertson, Elizabeth Dixon at the Yuendumu Learning Centre.
It is universally recognised that a healthy, nutritious diet provides the foundation for strong and healthy bodies and minds, something they’re working on in Nyirrpi, north-west of Alice Springs.

The Nyirrpi Learning Centre and the work for the dole scheme have launched weekly nutrition workshops established for interested community members.

Every Thursday, learning centre staff hold a cooking session where one healthy meal is cooked following a recipe.

Learning centre staff Antonia Wilson and Delena Turner have plans to use the learning centre computers to select healthy recipes online before running the workshops.

Women, including mothers with young children, who are interested in learning about preparing healthy meals at home, have been attending the sessions.

“People are learning about cooking at home,” Ms Wilson said. “It’s good for mothers with kids to learn about this.”

There are also plans to restore the greenhouse to grow food that can then be used for the cooking sessions.

“WE’RE GOING TO PLANT SOME VEGIES IN THE GREENHOUSE BEHIND THE LEARNING CENTRE AND WE CAN USE THEM FOR THE COOKING DAYS,” MS TURNER SAID.

Healthy meals prepared in the cooking sessions might also soon be sold through a new takeaway section at the Nyirrpi store.

The Nyirrpi Learning Centre is run by the Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education and funded through the Warlpiri Education and Training Trust (WETT). In 2017, WETT allocated almost $2.5 million to Batchelor to fund learning centres in Nyirrpi, Willowra and Lajamanu for two years.

Warlpiri Education and Training Trust Facts

The Warlpiri Education and Training Trust (WETT) was set up in 2005 and Kura 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 our 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 Kura WETT Directors approved a further $2.7 million for these programs.
In 2014 the community decided to use their compensation money for the five years of the intervention to replace their tiny, ramshackle church.

The CLC’s community development unit helped a committee of residents to plan the half a million dollar project.

The committee chose local builder Ben Olschewsky to oversee the build, in part because of his strong track record of working with the residents.

Four locals helped the German-born tradesman to complete the church in 2015.

The committee’s focus on local jobs paid off when T and J Contracting from Tennant Creek snapped up the workers to upgrade 45 houses in the community from 2016-2017.

“IT’S BETTER PAYING THE LOCALS TO DO THE WORK, THAN PAYING OUTSIDERS TO COME IN,” SAID MATTHEW LONG, LOCAL WORKER.

Matthew and Trevor Age then fenced the church block with Ben - another community lease money project.

Matthew had just moved back to Alpurruralum from Canteen Creek where he had repaired fences, but this was the first time he built one from scratch.

“It’s good to work outside,” Matt said. “I’m looking forward to doing more of this work.”

Trevor, who has done fencing work at nearby Lake Nash Station agreed: “It’s better to do something for the community, and for the church. We can do building like this.”

Ben then hired the men for a construction project at the school and a few other small jobs.

The jobs kept coming.

Between August and December last year AUSBUILD from Alice Springs employed a group of local workers to construct seven new three-bedroom houses and two new Darwin’s T&S Constructions are looking to employ up to four locals to build a storage space for the clinic.

Meanwhile the community kept investing lease money it receives annually in its number one asset.

It installed split system air conditioners and fire extinguishers and, to make sure the church lasts the distance, they set up a repair and maintenance project.

It even paid for two years of water bills in advance to accommodate church visitors from other communities who sometimes camp in the yard.

Alpurruralum residents’ investment in a new church for their remote community on the NT/Queensland border has fuelled a minor jobs boom.

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 $11 million of the five year lease money has been approved for a wide range of social, cultural and economic projects.
The whole community uses the church regularly for services, singalongs, funerals and other events, late last year getting ready to host a CLC council meeting (before the rain intervened).

It has earmarked its next instalment of lease money to insure the church building, construct a stage and add pews and outdoor seating.

In keeping with the community’s employment priorities, this project, to be delivered by CDP provider Rainbow Gateway, will keep local workers busy until the next contractor comes along.

The last word goes to Ben Olschewsksy,

“THERE IS NOW A LOT EASIER FOR CONTRACTORS TO WORK IN ALPURRURULAM TO EMPLOY Locals. I LOVE BEING ASKED ‘ARE THE Locals ANY GOOD?’ AND BEING ABLE TO POINT TO THE CHURCH AND SAY ‘WELL MATE, THEY HELPED BUILD ALL OF THAT’.”
REMEMBERING THE PAST WITH AN EYE ON THE FUTURE

“WE LIKE TO REMEMBER OUR ANCESTORS AND HISTORY THROUGH THIS PROJECT. IT’S A GREAT COMMUNITY PROJECT.”

That’s Mark Inkamala, supervisor of the Ntaria cemeteries upgrade project, explaining its importance to traditional owners.

The Ntaria Community Lease Money Working Group has put just over $220,000 towards stage one of the project, which benefits five cemeteries in the Ntaria area.

They include three cemeteries in Ntaria (historical old and new), as well as the Ipolera and Korphoriya cemeteries.

The work being undertaken includes clearing weeds, planting trees, fencing, constructing shade shelters, seating, water tanks, constructing new walls at the historic cemetery, and installing a sandstone plaque to remember all those who are buried there.

The project is managed by Tjuwanpa Outstations Resource Centre Aboriginal Corporation, and employs local people from Ntaria.

It has helped families remember their ancestors, lifted community pride in a shared history, and prompted learning about that history.

The project has also provided training for locals and given them meaningful employment.

The Ntaria Community Lease Money Working Group has recently decided to fund a second stage of the project.

That stage will employ local workers from Ntaria for two years to install sandstone headstones and 1000 polished plaques in the five cemeteries. It will also continue the maintenance work of the cemeteries as was funded in stage one.

That’s something Mr Inkamala welcomes.

“IT’S GIVING REAL WORK TO THE PEOPLE OF NTARIA – ESPECIALLY THE YOUNG FELLAS,” MARK SAID.
A RETURN TO COUNTRY

It might be a big investment, but the Williams family is hopeful it’ll pay big dividends.

The family has been investing their Northern Territory park rent money from the East MacDonnell Ranges into their outstation at Uluperto, 200 kilometres east of Alice Springs, for five years now.

In 2013, the family installed solar power to their outstation, but the latest project, completed in March 2018, included new decks for the houses as well as plumbing repairs.

The family spent $130,000 working with the Centre for Appropriate Technology (CAT) to carry out the work.

Local employment was also very important, with traditional owners Jeremy Williams and Anthony McMillan employed by CAT to do the work. CAT employee Aaron Burdett was another traditional owner to work on the job.

“JEREMY WENT OUT FOR A WEEK AND THE OTHER WEEK ANTHONY DID THE JOB,” SENIOR TRADITIONAL OWNER PAUL WILLIAMS SAID. “YOU KNOW, THEY GET EXPERIENCE WORKING, AND GET TO SPEND MORE TIME OUT ON THEIR COUNTRY.”

He added that it is hoped the experience will lead to more employment opportunities in the future.

Beyond possible employment opportunities and functional housing, though, the group’s financial investment in Uluperto will pay off and see great dividend, a return home.

“We want to get everything done there, so we can move back and live on country,” Mr Williams said.

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.
- In 2016 the groups planned and allocated funds to 29 projects totalling over $900,000.
- This 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.
It has taken about six years, but Greenwood outstation south of Tennant Creek is back in action.

Through traditional owners committing $222,558 of their own money and returning to their country, the outstation is thriving once again.

In the time it was uninhabited, Greenwood had fallen into a state of disrepair, but its traditional owners really wanted to move back to look after their country.

With that in mind, they saved up their Karlu Karlu rent money and also used some railway compensation funds to restore the solar power supply and battery storage. They also carried out extensive repairs to two of the three houses in Greenwood.

Tangentyere Constructions completed the project with help from local workers Frank Curtis, Luke Curtis, Myers Sandy and Michael Armstrong.

“It was a good experience helping out the Tangentyere mob,” Luke Curtis said. “They showed us what to do. First time I’ve done it. It gives us experience. If something breaks we know what do to.”

“I GO OUT TO GREENWOOD AND STAY BECAUSE THAT’S OUR COUNTRY THERE. ONCE WE GOT IT RENOVATED WE CAN LIVE OUT THERE AGAIN. IT’S IMPORTANT TO GET BACK THERE TO BE ON THE LAND - THAT’S THE MOST IMPORTANT THING,” LUKE SAID.

People are now living back there and looking after Greenwood. In the future, they aim to fix up the third house so more people can move back home.”
RUNNING REPAIRS AND JOBS FOR THE MOB

With each community development project traditional owners and the Central Land Council’s community development section take on they have some clear goals in mind and near the top of those is usually employment for locals. The Old Station garage and Akanta garage projects were no exception.

Using funding from their Finke Gorge National Park rent money, the working group, in partnership with the Tjukurpa Outstation Resource Centre, dedicated $47,400 to Akanta and $280,000 to the Old Station garages.

The financial commitment helped five local people find employment for about 16 weeks while working on the projects.

Isaac Malbunka, Kevin David, Rupert Emitja, Clint Wheeler and Raymond Simounds worked on the two garages.

For the Akanta garage, the existing shed on the site was improved, including by supplying and installing new security screens and a new door with keys to make it secure.

The funding also helped to supply and install tools and equipment for the garage.

The Old Station garage has seen a shed constructed and a 10kva generator connected.

A perimeter fence was constructed around the garage with the fence line cleared and graded.

A level foundation was dug out and entry and exit roads installed.

Tools and equipment were also supplied for the garage.
Traditional owners of Uluru Kata Tjuta National Park have taken an important step towards ensuring items and practises of their culture are secured and available to the right people.

Their $140,000 contribution from Uluru Rent Money (URM) towards the Ara Iritija program means a three-year cultural maintenance project in the APY and South West NT region. It is one year underway and involves installing high speed computers with the Ara Iritija database on them in seven communities.

The communities involved are Mutitjulu, Pukatja, Amata, Kaltukarjara, Imanpa, Utju and Watarrka.

Ara Iritija means stories of long ago in the language of Anangu spoken by the Nyangatjatjara, Pitjantjatjara and Yankunytjatjara people of Central Australia.

It aims to secure photos, videos and writings of events, songs and stories of cultural and historical significance into a database.

Under the URM project an Ara Iritija field worker installed or updated the Ara Iritija program in the chosen communities and supported Anangu to learn how to effectively use and maintain the program.

The working group, which planned the project with Ara Iritija, is very happy with how the project is going. Ara Iritija has been installed in art centres, schools and community offices.

There are some challenges due to slow internet for example but the fieldworker goes out bush to resolve any problems and keep it going strong.

That’s helping Anangu to access and store important cultural photos and stories that will be available for future generations.

Uluru Kata Tjuta National Park Rent Money (URM) Project Facts

The URM 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.

Traditional owners meet twice a year to discuss progress and make decisions.

Many local and regional projects have been done like fixing up outstations, building and running the Mutitjulu Pool, renovating the Imanpa Store and supporting renal dialysis.
WHEN CHILD’S PLAY MAKES HAPPY ADULTS

It’s a playground that’s giving kids in Lajamanu a solid foundation on which to build healthy lives upon.

The Families as First Teachers Area at Lajamanu School has been upgraded with more than $75,000 of Granites Mine Affected Area Aboriginal Corporation (GMAAAC) money and the benefits are not just child’s play.

With the program’s goals of improving developmental outcomes for children by working with their families in mind the GMAAAC funding has allowed the Lajamanu play area to be connected to plumbing, a wash trough to be installed, artificial turf to be laid and rubber mats for play installed.

The result has provided an area that parents and guardians of young children in Lajamanu have found more welcoming.

“Playgroup is more comfortable for the kids,” Robyn Lawson said. “The kids can play in a clean environment.”

Jillian Dixon had similar thoughts.

“The kids really like to come to school now,” she said. “It helps them learn to go to preschool.”

Roseanne Dixon said the new access to clean water is bringing health benefits for the families.

“The sink encourages the kids to drink water and wash their hands everyday, the little kids follow the older kids and learn to wash their hands.” Roseanne said.

Sylvanina Spencer said the area now provides a variety of long-lasting benefits to the community’s children and their families.

“My son can now do lots of things at playgroup, like learn to walk, jump and wash his hands,” she said.

GMAAAC Project Facts
The Granites Mine Affected Area Aboriginal Corporation (GMAAAC) was set up to benefit mine Tanami communities affected by the Granites gold mine.
GMAAAC projects improve housing, health education, employment and training, and essential services. They also promote Aboriginal self-management.
Community committees are elected every three years to plan and allocate GMAAAC funds to projects annually.
GMAAAC Directors are also chosen every three years from the committees and they meet regularly in Alice Springs to oversee GMAAAC.
The CLC’s CD Unit works with the community committees in Yuendum, Lajamanu, Willowra, Nyirripi, Yuendumu, Tanami Downs, Balgo, Bawnggur and Billiluna to plan projects and oversee partner organisations to implement them.
LAJAMANU SPORTS ACADEMY

Sport has long been a language well understood by kids in Aboriginal communities and so it’s become an important conduit for helping to build brighter futures for them.

In partnership with the WANTA Aboriginal Corporation, Lajamanu’s Granites Mine Affected Area Aboriginal Corporation (GMAAAC) committee has backed this approach by granting $92,950 to the Lajamanu Sports Academy.

The Lajamanu Sports Academy director opens an academy room each morning before school, during recess and lunchtime, as well as after school. The room offers a wide range of activities such as table tennis, pool, artwork and the use of computers.

“I like to play pool in the academy room and do footy training after school every week,” Mervyn Rose, a student at Lajamanu school, said.

Students are rewarded for increased school attendance and good behaviour with trips to other communities, regional centres and towns while each week the academy provides a minimum of 15 sport and recreational programs for the students.

They include opening up links to elite sporting pathways such as cooperating with the Michael Long Learning Centre in Darwin.

Liam Patrick is one of the Sports Academy officers and says the program is not just about sport.

“The Academy is good for helping kids come to school,” he said. “They really like the morning sport and the skills sessions.”

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY
BUY YOUR OWN AMBULANCE

Most communities around Australia would take for granted having immediate access to an ambulance or medical equipment like an ultrasound, and they’d expect the government to provide them.

Some communities, however, can’t necessarily count on such things.

Lajamanu, 560 kilometres south-west of Katherine, has taken it upon itself to provide these important elements of a primary health care service.

The community’s Granites Mine Affected Area Aboriginal Corporation, or GMAAAC, has provided $113,891 to buy an ambulance for the community and $56,628 to supply an ultrasound machine to the health clinic.

Lajamanu Health Clinic Coordinator Annalise Thomson said GMAAAC funding has had a major impact on health provision in the community over many years.

“The Lajamanu Health Clinic has a long and beneficial association with GMAAAC,” Ms Thomson said.

“The new ambulance that has been purchased and fitted out by St Johns replaces the previous Ambulance that was funded by GMAAAC in 2008.”

Aboriginal health practitioner and administration officer with the Katherine West Health Board Teresa Matthews said the ambulance is of great comfort to the residents of Lajamanu.

“THE AMBULANCE IS REALLY IMPORTANT FOR OUR PEOPLE OUT HERE, WE ARE A LONG WAY FROM HOSPITALS SO WE NEED TO BE ABLE TO LOOK AFTER OUR PEOPLE.” TERESA SAID.

“Our community is proud of our clinic and our ambulance.”

The purchase of the ultrasound machine means members of the community, particularly expectant mothers and people with sports injuries, no longer have to travel more than 500 kilometres to Katherine to receive such services.
An after school program in Yuelamu, north-west of Alice Springs, is helping to introduce students to music while also fostering leadership attributes amongst youth in the community.

The program is held at the Mount Allan School every afternoon and can be accessed by both school kids and youth in Yuelamu.

It has been helped along by an $8,000 boost from the Yuelamu Granites Mine Affected Area Aboriginal Corporation (GMAAAC) Committee. The money has funded the purchase of new equipment, including a drum kit and guitar.

The response from budding rock and country stars has been a positive one with some saying, “It is really good for us to come and play music” and one saying, “We like the new drum kit”.

Apart from the prospect of helping to develop new musical artists, another great positive to emerge from the after school program has been the interaction between older youths and younger students.

It’s become an unofficial mentoring program with the older ones passing on tips on how to play songs and the program helping to keep everyone occupied when it’s hot outside.
PLAYING HARD AND LOOKING SHARP

The Willowra women’s softball and basketball teams are aiming to be the best going around, but they’re already one of the best dressed.

That’s thanks to new uniforms designed by team member Cecilia Martin and funding support from the Granites Mine Affected Area Aboriginal Corporation (GMAAAC).

The uniforms feature the Aboriginal flag and the GMAAAC logo in the design. The stripes in the shirt represents Wirlinyjarayi.

Ms Martin said the uniforms help the Willowra women to feel proud of their teams.

“We respect the double blues colour because it was chosen by my Grandfather, Ray Japaljarri Ross (deceased),” she says. “That’s why the football team and the softball and basketball teams still compete with the same colours.

“I'M A PROUD YOUNG WARLPIRI ABORIGINAL WOMAN WHO LIVES IN CENTRAL AUSTRALIA, AND I JUST WANT TO PASS ON MY MESSAGE TO MY PEOPLE TO BE PROUD OF AND STRONG IN OUR CULTURE.”

The Willowra GMAAAC committee allocated more than $20,000 to support women playing sport in Willowra in 2017.
The Yuendumu GMAAAC Committee have approved three years of funding to the Yuendumu pool, providing long term operational security to this popular community place.

Since 2015, the Yuendumu community has self-funded the operation of the Yuendumu pool through various income sources, including the Granites Mine Affected Area Aboriginal Corporation (GMAAAC) and community lease money.

It was only enough to fund the pool on an annual basis.

However, in October 2017, the Yuendumu GMAAAC committee took a resolution to allocate almost a million dollars worth of funding to the operation of the pool over a period of three years.

It is the first multi-year contract for the operation of the pool.

This means the pool has secure funding until the end of 2021, giving certainty to the community and the Warlipiri Youth Development Aboriginal Corporation (WYDAC) which operates the pool.

Chair of WYDAC, Eddie Robertson, said the funding announcement is a positive development for Yuendumu.

“IT’S VERY GOOD TO HAVE FUNDING FOR THREE YEARS, WE’VE NEVER HAD THAT BEFORE. I’M VERY HAPPY FOR THE COMMUNITY.”

EDDIE SAID.
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.

Uluru Rent Money project - traditional owner group

WETT's Hamilton Morris, Sharon Anderson, Barbara Martin, Helen Morton, Loretta Johnson, Serena Shannon, Fiona Gibson, Carol Kitson, Maisie Kitson, Yamurna Didfled and Valerie Patterson

Lajamanu Kurdiji Sub Committee - (Community Lease Money working group) L-R Alistair Jigili, Sheryl Dixon, Judy Martin, Nita Patrick, Josias Dixon, Jerry Jangala Patrick, Norbert Patrick, Tracey Patrick

Alieene and Christine Daly - L-R garr, Judbarra National Park planning meeting

Ntaria Community Lease Money working group - Meet the decision makers L-R Mildred Mabunika, Braydon Williams, Fabian Raggatt, Edward Rontji, Conrad råtara, Aleasa Mabunika (visitor)

Lajamanu GMAAAC Committee

Warlu Ngarlu working group - L-R Chris Mandigalji, Justin Darkie, Joan Darkie, Megan Darkie, Cheryl Mandigal l, Scott Darkie, Trina Darkie, Jason Darkie

Kalijarri working group

Amplatwjtja working group L-R Simon Morton, Peter Morton, Laurie Morton, Murphy Tjeece, Michael Price, Colleen Morton, Ada Beasley, Theresa Morton, Jayrene Holmes, Lulu Tjeece


Cedrick Daley, Philip Snowy & Harry Young - Lingarra, Judbarra National Park planning meeting

Karlu Karlu working group - L-R Frank Curtis, Stuart Foster, Maureen O'Keefe, Valerie Curtis

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