FIVE IN A ROW FOR THE COWBOYS

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GAME ON IN NTARIA

SUPPORT FOR HOMELANDS

Aboriginal people driving their own development in Central Australia
LOCAL GROUPS CELEBRATE THEIR GOOD GOVERNANCE

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 8951 6367 or visit www.clc.org.au

L-R Peter Corbett, Reconciliation Australia CEO Karen Mundine, Kirsty-Anne Martin, Fiona Gibson, Cynthia Wheeler and Derek Walker.
Photo by Reconciliation Australia-Jillian Mundy
“IT’S IMPORTANT THAT THIS STORY IS BEING SHARED NOW, NOT ONLY IN AUSTRALIA BUT WORLDWIDE. THE WETT COMMITTEE HAS ALWAYS BEEN A PLACE WHERE YAPA CAN SPEAK UP AND HAVE A VOICE.”

Warlpiri Education and Training Trust (WETT) advisory committee member Sharon Anderson commented after the trust won Reconciliation Australia’s Indigenous Governance Awards.

The WETT and the Alekarenge community development working group were both finalists out of almost 30 shortlisted applicants in the category for non-incorporated groups from around Australia.

“We are a strong committee that has always been working for education. We have always used the money the right way,” said the WETT advisory committee member Nancy Oldfield.

The award is the result of more than 13 years of great work by the the committee.

“It was really hard sometimes, but we kept working through,” said Fiona Gibson, a founding member of the WETT.

“We are feeling really proud to be recognised with this award after a long time” she said.

The trust has been recognised for its contribution to indigenous self-determination and is planning for the future by including younger members in the advisory committee and mentoring them in their new role.

New WETT chair Cynthia Wheeler is up for the challenge.

“I was proud to go to Melbourne to collect the award in my new role as WETT chairperson, I want to keep moving forward with my work for WETT and keep learning. I want to help teach younger people as they join the committee in the future” Cynthia said.

The Alekarenge working group have so far spent almost $800,000 of community lease income on community projects that provide opportunities for young people, support culture and offer training and jobs.

The group are finding solutions from within their community, drawing on the views and experience of its members and residents.

“We consult widely, we get a consensus and then we make decisions” working group member Derek Walker told the awards ceremony audience.

“We address problems and get on with finding holistic solutions for our community, because doing the right thing is never wrong,” he said.

The group recently allocated a further $265,000 from their community lease money to keep the community projects going into the future.

Since 2005, the WETT put more than $33 million towards projects that support training, education and lifelong learning for Warlpiri people in Yuendumu, Lajamanu, Nyirrpi and Willowra.
Northern Territorians have long been hearing of the Central Land Council's community development program and the achievements of the Warlpiri Education and Training Trust (WETT). Recently WETT Advisory Committee members Hamilton Morris and Sharon Anderson had an opportunity to take their message to a global audience.

Mr Morris and Ms Anderson travelled to Darwin with the CLC’s new Community Development Unit Manager, Ian Sweeney, to make a presentation to the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, or OECD, conference on mining and regions.

The conference, which had a focus on regional development, attracted an international audience, including mining representatives from Finland, Chile, and Canada.

Their presentation outlined the CLC community development program’s long history of support for Aboriginal communities to control decision making about how to maximise community benefits from mining. This included an overview of how the WETT have invested over $32 million in mining royalties from the Newmont Tanami gold mine in projects supporting education and lifelong learning in the Warlpiri communities of Willowra, Lajamanu, Yuendumu and Nyirrpi.

Mr Morris and Ms Anderson spoke powerfully about the WETT’s ambitions and achievements. The presentation was well received, and the CLC’s work stood out as an effective example of transformational development work.

“ONE OF THE BEST THINGS WAS MEETING OTHER INDIGENOUS PEOPLE FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD. HEARING WHAT OTHER INDIGENOUS PEOPLE ARE DOING WITH THEIR MINING MONIES WAS IMPORTANT,” MR MORRIS SAID.

Ms Anderson agreed, saying the conference was an opportunity for them both to learn from others as well as to share their own experiences with the range of delegates.

“Seeing the presentations that are different and interesting was really good too,” she said. “We learn from each other.”

CLC AND WETT TAKE THEIR MESSAGE TO THE WORLD

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 Aboriginal Corporation meets twice a year to make all funding decisions and the WETT Advisory Committee meets three times a year to plan and monitor the 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 2017/18, Kurra’s WETT directors approved a further $8.4 million for these programs.
Last year's Warlpiri Triangle brought together 18 Warlpiri educators in Lajamanu for professional learning and sharing.

“WARLPIRI TRIANGLE IS WHERE WE ALL GET TOGETHER TO GET IDEAS FOR HOW WE CAN TEACH OUR KIDS. IT'S IMPORTANT FOR THEM TO LEARN IN WARLPIRI.” NANCY OLDFIELD, A TEACHER AT THE YUENDUMU SCHOOL, SAID.

For Sam Watson, who teaches in the preschool with Ms Oldfield, the workshop is also a good place for younger teachers to get involved and gain experience.

“We have the elder teachers here as good role models – that’s the reason I wanted to get involved. I want to study more and keep coming back to these workshops,” Ms Watson said.

The focus of the latest Warlpiri Triangle was teaching numeracy in first language and developing the Jaru/Rdaka-rdaka ‘communication’ theme of the Warlpiri Theme Cycle curriculum.

Workshop participants also hosted a family reading afternoon to read Warlpiri books with kids attending WYDAC’s (Warlpiri Youth Development Aboriginal Corporation) afternoon youth program.

“The ideas we get from here, from others, I take back and share at the school,” Cynthia Wheeler, middle years teacher at Yuendumu school, said. “It makes it really easy for me to go back and teach in Warlpiri.

“It’s really important for our kids to carry on learning with bilingual education”.

The Warlpiri Triangle is supported through the WETT. In 2018 the WETT allocated $10,000 per year for three years to run the workshops.

The WETT is also investing $100,000 in a project to further develop the Warlpiri Theme Cycle to help all Warlpiri schools teach a strong Yapa curriculum. The project also aims to strengthen support from the NT Department of Education for bilingual education.
The playgroup has been funded by the WETT since it opened in 2013. More recently, the WETT have allocated $723,600 to keep the centre open in 2018 and 2019, with a strong focus on employment and training for its Warlpiri staff members.

The Batchelor Institute runs the Willowra Playgroup, which helps young kids build their confidence as learners and transition successfully to school.

It employs six Yapa staff who are key to the success of the program. As part of their work, staff are encouraged to study in an area of interest to gain skills for their work and life.

In September 2018 three staff members, Janie Williams, Barbara Williams and Jasmine Spencer, graduated with a Certificate II in Family Wellbeing. All three women plan to study for a Certificate III in Children’s Services.


Janie Williams also works at the playgroup.

“I like to sit with the children and help them learn,” she said. “We count – both ways in Warlpiri and English. We use body and hand signs.

“Through the training we learnt about healthy food – we always have healthy food at playgroup and children learn what is healthy. We learnt about family fighting and how kids don’t feel safe. They need to be looked after – proper way by family,” Ms Williams said.


WILLOWRA PLAYGROUP – WHERE THE STUDENTS AREN’T ALWAYS THE CHILDREN

The primary aim of the Willowra Playgroup might be to help little kids prepare for learning, but it’s also having a big impact on the community's adults.
RELIEF FOLLOWS CONSTRUCTION OF ALYARPERE ABLUTIONS BLOCK

There’s some things that people don’t miss out bush, such as the hassles of the rat race, and then there’s some things that people do miss, such as a functioning ablutions block.

The people of Alyarpere Outstation won’t have to wait long for the latter when they’re escaping the former.

Using almost $38,000 of funding from their East MacDonnell Ranges National Park rent money, the Ryder family group, in partnership with Tangentyere Constructions, have completed the vital structure at their outstation.

The work included the installation of a new Colorbond-cladded shower block with a septic tank, flushing toilet, necessary drains and 5,400 litre water tank. Traditional owner Chris Ryder was employed to work on the project.

“I WORKED ON IT AND LEARNT AS WELL AS WE WERE GOING ALONG, SO I CAN DO IT MYSELF” HE SAID.

Mr Ryder said the development, which started in November last year and was completed in January, will enable people to stay at the outstation for longer.

“We’ll be spending most of our time out there now,” he said. “It’s going to be there for good.”

He said the way it was paid for also gives the group extra pride with its completion.

“The project was done through our parks rent money. It was our project,” he said.

A CASTLE RISES OUT OF THE EWANINGA ROCK CARVINGS RESERVE

They say a man’s home is his castle and for Mark Alice, his is now 40 kilometres south of Alice Springs at Urremerne outstation.

“It’s what I wanted, a new house, so I can move back to Urremerne, away from the noise and stop here out bush,” Mr Alice said.

“IT’S REALLY GOOD. I FEEL REALLY PROUD OF MY NEW HOME,” HE ADDED.

Construction of the new $77,000 shelter at Urremerne Outstation included the employment of two local workers.

They installed an internally and externally clad insulated structure with vinyl floors, and steel security doors and windows.

Electrical works included external plug-ins for generator connections, solar lights and air-conditioners.

The project was funded by Ewaninga Rock Carvings Conservation Reserve rent money and income from a mineral exploration licence.

Tangentyere Constructions was the partner on the project, which was started in March last year and completed in August.

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 groups use the rent they get for the parks for community benefit projects. Since 2010, they have planned and allocated more than $6.9 million to 158 projects.
- The CLC is working with each of the 16 groups to support planning and decision making about projects they prioritise.
GAME ON FOR NTARIA SCHOOL SPORTS ACADEMY

The importance of organised sports as a part of school life is well accepted, but in remote regions it can become quite challenging to provide the relevant equipment and facilities.

Children’s love of sports can also be used to encourage them to strive for better school results and to reward them for good attendance and performance.

That’s why the Ntaria community lease money working group committed $12,000 to the Ntaria school sports academy, managed by Wanta Aboriginal Corporation.

The funding will provide additional opportunities for reward trips and to purchase additional sports equipment for the school sports academy program.

In 2018, the academy worked directly with the entire school population, from transition through to Year 12 – about 180 students in total. It mainly concentrated on the 60 Year 5-10 students.

The funding provided by the community lease money enabled the academy to purchase extra boxing gear, footballs, basketballs, soccer balls and nets.

Ntaria community lease money working group member Mark Inkamala is proud of their contribution, saying “we support the school kids because I think it’s good to learn about different sports. They might be future sports people for the AFL or another sport”.

“IT’S GREAT TO GIVE THEM OPPORTUNITIES FOR EDUCATION”.

NTARIA STEPS IN WITH COOL EVENTS OVER HOT SUMMER

Ntaria (Hermannsburg) responded to concerns there aren’t enough youth activities over the summer holidays by creating its own school holiday program.

Partnering with the MacDonnell Regional Council, the Ntaria community lease money working group committed $30,000 to the program.

During the school holidays there are up to 300 young people under the age of 25, including school aged children who live in Ntaria and the surrounding outstations.

MacDonnell Council’s MacYouth program, along with Western Arrente families, all believed the existing youth programs in the community were not enough during the school holiday period.

The new program included structured, supervised and engaging activities for 12 to 25 year olds.

Activities included separate events for young women and men such as sporting and recreation activities to promote healthy lifestyles, trips outside of the community and country trips supported by elders aimed at strengthening the cultural identity of young people.

Two additional local Indigenous youth services officers were employed to support the delivery of the activities, and four existing local Indigenous youth services officers had their hours increased to support the events.

Participants welcomed the range of events, with each finding something to enjoy.

“I like going on bush trips. Like to the Gorge. I was jumping from the rock - the really big one! Yeah, I like that one,” ten year old Faye said.

Fourteen year old Errol took part in both indoors and outdoors activities.

“I like playing games on the PlayStation and going on bush trips,” he suggested.

Fourteen year old Sherneal enjoyed the excursions into Alice Springs.

“I REALLY LIKE THE TOWN TRIPS, THE ONES WHERE WE CAMP OVERNIGHT, BECAUSE WE CAN GO TO THE POOL AND THE CINEMA AND EAT FOOD AND SLEEPOVER WITH OUR FRIENDS,” she 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.

Thirty one communities take part in the project and most have set up working groups to plan community benefit projects. They have invested more than 14.8 million dollars of their five year lease income on 267 projects delivering social, cultural and economic outcomes.

Over $14.85 million of the five year lease has been allocated to over 267 community benefit projects.
Any premiership win is impressive, two in a row is outstanding, but five in a row is world class.

By winning the Central Australia Football League’s (CAFL) 2018 Community Cup competition, that is just what the Laramba Cowboys have done.

“Feels good, winning the grand final five years in a row,” club supporter Adrian Dixon said.

“When you win two years in a row you get used to playing finals. We didn’t know if they would make the finals this year, they were fourth on the ladder and if you lose you are out.”

Their winning ways go back to 2014 when the Cowboys won the CAFL’s Division One grand final, then in 2015 they took out the Country Division Two title, in 2016 they scored the Division Two premiership again and in 2017 it was the Community Cup.

The Cowboys have been assisted on their historic ride of five premiership wins in a row by the Laramba community lease money working group and Laramba Community Incorporated, who allocate community project funds each year to the Laramba football team.

The team’s participation in the CAFL helps keep the young men fit while giving them a purpose, and the community as a whole has a collective goal to rally around.

Laramba’s lease income supports the team by paying for their uniforms, equipment, fuel to travel the 450 kilometre, five-hour round trip to games in Alice Springs.

The lease income support also pays for the CAFL licence and fees.

Without that backing it would have been incredibly difficult for the Laramba Cowboys to reach their potential and take home the premiership cup in 2018, a big win for players and supporters alike.

“It’s really good to be on the winning end. It’s always a good feeling to win the grand final. It was a really close game, Nyirripi kept going and going, but the fellas kept their nerve and steadied. It was a really close grand final.” Mr Dixon said.

Laramba supporters celebrate the win.
SHAQUILLE IS OUTSTANDING AS YUENDUMU POOL LIFEGUARD

Everyone loves to jump in the Yuendumu pool, especially when the heat rises. And lifeguards are essential to keeping people safe.

Shaquille Presley began to help at the pool in October 2018 and has been loving the opportunity.

“I like it here, helping run the pool. The kids like swimming. I look after the kids when they come, and stop them from bullying” Mr Presley said.

Shaquille completed his first aid training in November, lifeguard training in December, and has been working as a lifeguard since then.

“I’m proud that I get to work here, I’ve learned about the pool tests, putting chlorine in, putting the dolphin [cleaner] in and also keeping the kids safe,” he said.

In 2018 the Yuendumu pool also celebrated 10 years of operation, having been built in 2008 with a $400,000 contribution from the Yuendumu GMAAAC Committee. Shaquille grew up with the pool and that’s also why he enjoys working there;

“I LIKE WORKING HERE BECAUSE THERE ARE OLD MEMORIES HERE OF WHEN I USED TO SWIM HERE WITH MY FRIENDS, NOW IT’S GOOD TO SEE THE OTHER KIDS PLAYING.” HE SAID.

Pool attendance exceeded 14,000 in 2018 most if them students of the Yuendumu School. The students attended a swimming lesson each week and swam in the pool each afternoon after school (in Terms 1 & 4) as part of the pool’s ‘Yes School, Yes Pool’ policy.

Students from Mt Allan School swam often and community members from Willowra and Nyirripi made the trip to Yuendumu pool on the weekends.

The Yuendumu GMAAAC Committee has committed nearly $1.3 million from 2017 to 2021 for the project, providing training and employment for a pool manager, two Warlpiri lifeguards, a Warlpiri cultural supervisor and up to 15 Warlpiri youth trainees through the Warlpiri Youth Development Aboriginal Corporation (WYDAC) Jaru Project.

In 2015 the Yuendumu community lease money committee also allocated $430,000 over two years for the project.

WYDAC said thanks to GMAAAC’s funding commitment it can now keep the pool open seven days a week and train extra staff as lifeguards.

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WYDAC said thanks to GMAAAC’s funding commitment it can now keep the pool open seven days a week and train extra staff as lifeguards.
Back in 2016 the Lajamanu GMAAAC committee made a two year funding commitment to support local football in the community.

The committee decided to employ a regional development manager and to support AFL Northern Territory (AFLNT) to run a number of programs in Lajamanu.

GMAAAC contributed $250,000 towards the program, and it’s having a positive impact in Lajamanu and the region.

As part of this program, AFLNT reintroduced women’s football in Lajamanu, and in January this year women’s football was scheduled for the first time in a long time.

“We weren’t sure how it was going to go or how many girls and women would attend, but the response was overwhelming and at one stage there were 45 women participating with ages ranging from 12-55. The amount of fun the women were having, and some of the skills on display, was seriously great to watch.” AFLNT Regional Coordinator Clint Firth said.

Due to such a positive response, AFLNT has decided to continue women’s football in Lajamanu on a weekly basis. One night a week has been set aside solely for the women and Auskick at the oval.

Dalveon Donnelly, one of the local female players, said the games were helping to unite women of different ages.

“Having women’s footy up and running in Lajamanu is great for both the younger girls and older women as it brings them together whilst having fun and building confidence in the younger girls at the same time” she said.
As the desert heats up, so does the footy in the annual Tanami Summer Football League.

This summer six teams competed: North Roos and South Bombers from Yuendumu, Willowra Cats, Nyirripi Demons, Mt Allan Eagles and Laramba Giants.

The league kicked off with the Yuendumu Purlja Lightning Carnival, a three-day carnival in the format of an AFL final series.

With 250 games across 44 rounds and a final series there were footy games almost every day across Yuendumu, Willowra, Nyirripi, Yuelamu, Laramba and Papunya.

The league is owned and managed by Yapa and was run by Derek Williams, Louis Watson, Cedric Egan and Steven Marshall, with a committee of 20 men developing the rules and making all the decisions.

All the game officials, umpires and coaches are also Warlpiri.

Three young men - Ryan Woods, Travis Collin, and Robin Brown – have been elected as junior convenors by the TFL committee after demonstrating leadership and helping run the competition. All are in their twenties and previous graduates of WYDAC’s Jaru program.

Robin Brown says the league has been well supported by people in the region and helps young people to remain active and healthy.

“IT’S IMPORTANT TO KEEP THE YOUNG FELLAS AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS INVOLVED. LOTS OF SUPPORTERS COME AND WATCH THE GAMES, THEY KNOW IT’S HAPPENING EVERYDAY. THE FOOTBALL COMPETITION BRINGS PEOPLE TOGETHER,” MR BROWN SAID.

WYDAC staff help the league organise committee meetings, develop and distribute fixtures, collate game sheets and process vouchers for the officials.

Yuendumu’s GMAAAC committee has provided $80,000 this summer, in addition to the $50,000 last year for the league. More than half goes to wages for Yapa workers and Warlpiri official’s fees.
Warlpiri communities know that when it comes to education, it’s better to have it both ways, and they’re putting in their own money to prove it.

In 2018 and 2019 Yuendumu’s GMAAAC committee have been funding the Yuendumu school linguist.

The committee allocated more than $260,000 so the position can work with the Yuendumu, Lajamanu, Nyirripi and Willowra schools.

Literacy worker Ormay Gallagher, who works at the Bilingual Resource Development Unit (BRDU) in Yuendumu, says that school linguist Gretel Macdonald makes a valuable contribution to their team.

“WARPLIRI PEOPLE TEACH HER TO BE AWARE OF CULTURAL THINGS, SHE IS WORKING STRONGLY IN WARLPIRI WAYS AND KARDIYA WAYS,” MS GALLAGHER SAID.

Part of Gretel’s role is to work with Warlpiri educators on projects funded by the WETT.

This includes the innovative Warlpiri Theme Cycle mapping project, which last year funded the WETT to the tune of almost $100,000.

Gretel also works with literacy workers, elders and residents to create new Warlpiri books and resources for kids.

“In 2018, the BRDU produced and distributed 15 new books to the schools and other community organisations.

The WETT contributes $12,000 per year to make sure that Warlpiri kids have access to fun, engaging books in their first language.

These resources enrich lessons for around 300 students across the four schools.

Yuendumu School Council Chairperson Jimmy Langdon shares the vision for a strong bilingual and bicultural education for Yapa students;

“We need Warlpiri reading, we need Warlpiri teachers. We can have it both ways, not just one way” MR LANGDON SAID.
It's a big, daunting decision for a young person and their family to leave their home and go away to boarding school – especially for people from remote communities.

But it’s a decision families are making in increasing numbers and for the past year, the Central Land Council and Ngaanyatjarra, Pitjantjatjara and Yankunytjatjara (NPY) Women’s Council have been trialling a boarding school program that aims to make the transition as smooth as possible for all involved.

The program has been rolled out in three communities so far - Pukatja, Amata and Kaltukatjara.

The initiative is being driven by the traditional owners of the region, who have made education for their young people a priority.

The NPY Women’s Council receives nearly $300,000 of Uluru Kata Tjuta National Park rent money to support up to 15 young people at one time through the youth service.

In January, the youth service across the tristate region of the Northern Territory, South Australia and Western Australia helped 21 young people get to boarding schools across the country.

That included five students from Apatula (Finke), six from Pukatja, three from Kaltukatjara, two from Amata, and five from Kiwirrkurra.

Both the CLC and NPY Women’s Council congratulated the traditional owners, students and their families for making education an important goal for young people.

UTJU PULLS TOGETHER TO PRODUCE BILINGUAL RESOURCES

Utju’s bilingual resources project is boosting two way learning in the community also known as Areyonga.

Elders, teachers and students of the community’s school and Tangentyere’s land and learning program have produced two books in Pitjantjatjara and English that are sure to be used for many years to come.

Another great benefit of the $16,200 project, which was funded by rent money from the Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park, has been the way the community pulled together young and old people for learning on country. Students learned how to make resin from spinifex and punu (tools) during two bush trips.

The books Tjanpinguru Kiti Palyantja: Making Resin From Spinifex’, and ‘Tjilira Talyantja: Making Tools’ will remind students of the cultural skills and learning to be had around them.

“That (project) was good for our kids to learn. Good they can learn both language and culture,” said Elder Daphne Puntjina.

Senior assistant teacher Tarna Andrews wrote the Pitjantjatjara text and linguist Ken Hansen translated it into English.

Tangentyere’s Fiona Webb provided the photos and produced the books.

The project included six community Elders, three Anangu school staff and four Piranpa school staff, as well as a dozen elders and younger residents.
If you want to know more about the CLC’s community development work please call 8951 6367

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.

MEET THE DECISION MAKERS


Central Land Council