Aboriginal people driving their own development in Central Australia

Community Development NEWS

COMMUNITIES INVEST IN CULTURE

COMMUNITIES GET SERIOUS ABOUT BILINGUAL EDUCATION

JOBS FOR THE LOCALS

NTARIA STUDENTS HIT THE BEACH

WETT ELECTIONS

GURINDJI BUSH TUCKER

Aboriginal people driving their own development in Central Australia
The Uluru Kata Tjuta National Park Rent Money Project (URM) was launched in 2005 to use a part of the rent Anangu traditional owners get for the national park for projects that benefit their communities.

Anangu invest this income in projects in the Northern Territory and South Australia.

They meet three times every year to discuss how the money will be spent and to review progress of earlier spending.

At their October 2016 meeting they discussed their priority areas for the future.

The first three were funeral support, culture (including teaching and sharing knowledge with young people) and education.

Traditional owners have spent $1.4 million over the three years from 2017 to 2020 on cultural projects for both men and women.

They funded six projects and five of them for more than one year.

One of these projects, the Aṉa Irititja initiative with the Pitjantjatjara Council received funding for three years.

It paid for a fast computer with a database of important stories and photos to help Anangu to keep their culture strong.

It also helped Anangu learn how to use the computer to store and use the photos and stories safely.

The project was rolled out in Kaltukatjara, Imanpa, Mutitjulu, Amata, Pukatja, Kenmore, Utju and some Watarrka homelands.

The URM project also funded Aṉa Irititja bilingual education resources in eight communities for three years.

The resources help Anangu maintain their language and culture and improve education outcomes.

The Community Development News informs Aboriginal people about the many the social, cultural and economic benefits they are achieving through the Central Land Council’s community development program.

It keeps CLC constituents up to date about the projects Aboriginal groups are planning and funding with their own money across Central Australia.

If you would like more information about this work please contact the CLC on 8951 6374 or visit www.clc.org.au

CLC ranger Helma Bernard helped make the Gurindji bush tucker poster (see story on page 5)
The funding helped create app-based education resources in Pitjantjatjara. It also enabled school country visits, including a first year trial in Kaltukatjara (Docker River).

There will be two seven day trips in the second and third years of the project, expanding to a couple of three to four-day trips for each community.

The trips are opportunities to record stories, document trips and test education apps.

There are also visits to each community to create resources and to help Anangu learn how to use them in order to keep their stories and photos safe for the future. All eight communities were involved in the project.

The URM project also supported the development of Utju bilingual resources.

It funded the Tangentyere Council to help Utju residents and the school plan the resources and deliver two overnight school country visits.

The aim of the project was to maintain language and culture and improve education outcomes.

The NPY Women’s Council received funding for three years for camps on country to teach traditional knowledge, practice language and tell stories.

The council helps women to develop their leadership skills as well as providing health and wellbeing education.

The URM project also funded the APY Council for two years to deliver four men’s bush trips to Amata and Pukatja to assist with language and culture teaching.

Another URM activity sees the Central Land Council and traditional owners hold six culture and language teaching camps over five days.

Watarrka outstations, Mutitjulu and Kaltukatjara will benefit from this project for at least two years.

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. They meet three times a year to discuss progress and make decisions. They have completed many local and regional projects, such as upgrading sports grounds, fixing up outstations, building and running the Mutitjulu pool, supporting renal dialysis, education in communities or boarding schools, funeral funds and cultural support.
Santa Teresa residents have used $151,500 of their lease money to improve facilities at a highly popular campground near the community.

The Phillipson’s Bore campground was the first project prioritised by the Santa Teresa community lease money working group.

Phillipson’s Bore outstation is just a few kilometres north of Santa Teresa and has long been a residence for traditional owners and used as a campground by several groups over the years.

The campground is about one kilometre to the west of the outstation’s main houses. It also has well-used cattle and horse yards.

The group allocated $120,000 to build new toilets, a bush kitchen and to connect the water supply, $3,000 was put towards building tables.

Another $28,500 was set aside for repairs and maintenance.

Tangentyere Constructions were a partner in the campground project while the Santa Teresa Rangers assisted in the construction of the seats and tables.

Four locals - David Marshall, Dean Oliver, Danny Ware and Michael Armstrong – were employed to work on the upgrade.

The improvements have been popular among locals, who are eager to make use of the changes.

“It’s nice and peaceful out there,” working group member Raymond Palmer said.

“ROBERT DE CASTELLA CAMPED OUT THERE WITH A GROUP OF MARATHON RUNNERS BEFORE THEY WENT TO NEW YORK. THE STAFF AT THE SCHOOL GO OUT THERE TOO SOMETIMES. IT’S FAR ENOUGH OUT, BUT NOT TOO FAR AND IT’S GETTING POPULAR!” NORA HAYES RECALLED.

Malcolm Hayes, another working group member, said the campground has also had some high profile visitors.

“Melbourne Demons came out here and camped after they played in Alice (Springs),” he said. “Bush Mob comes out too. We started that little camp [at Phillipson’s Bore] before it got fixed up.”

“We used the campground last night, we had some skateboarders come out, there were eight skaters, two international. They really enjoyed it, they were really blown away by the country,” added Nick Hayes, a working group member, youth development officer and skate instructor.
Community Lease Money Project Facts

The 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: governments, organisations and service providers 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 13.5 million dollars of their five year lease income in over 240 projects delivering social, cultural and economic outcomes.

Kalkaringi has used its lease money to produce a new bush tucker poster and school workshop project with the Murnkurumurnkurru Rangers.

Following on the success of the Gurindji bird, fish and bush medicine posters, the CLC’s Murnkurumurnkurru Rangers have followed up this year with a new poster in the series.

The latest work is titled Kajangarna Jaartkarrawaji (bush tucker).

An ongoing strength of this project has been the collaboration between the Daguragu-based rangers, the traditional owners, linguist Felicity Meakins, the local art centre manager Penny Smith and the Kalkaringi school.

The project records and identifies bush tucker from Gurindji country.

Early in the season, the CLC rangers helped to photograph and identify bush tucker plants in fruit or flower for the poster.

The rangers also developed resources such as school classroom flash cards and a powerpoint presentation.

The resources are available to traditional owners, rangers and teachers to share Gurindji knowledge of local bush foods within the community. The posters are also for sale to the wider public.

As each new poster was completed, traditional owners and rangers presented classes at the Kalkaringi school.

The communities of Kalkaringi and Daguragu are very proud of what the rangers have developed and have strongly supported the poster series.

Kajangarna Jaartkarrawaji
Bush Tucker

Gurindji bush tucker poster

Ngamanpurru
(Conkerberry) bush food

Gurindji bush tucker poster

Gurindji bush tucker poster

Gurindji bush tucker poster
Students from Ntaria (Hermannsburg) will get the chance to trade red dust and dry river beds for white sandy beaches, surf and celebrated cultural experiences, thanks to generous grants from Ntaria’s community lease money working group and others.

The working group is providing nearly $100,000 to fund school excursions to Sydney for the year seven students in 2018, 2019 and 2020.

The project includes an excursion to the Garma Festival for students who missed out on an excursion in 2017. 15 students and four teachers attended this year’s Garma Festival in the Top End.

The first Sydney excursion under the project is scheduled to take place in term four this year.

The Sydney excursions are a partnership between the Ntaria School and the National Aboriginal Sporting Chance Academy (NASCA), which is contributing more than $70,000 over three years for the project.

It’s the second time the working group has funded a school excursion project using community lease funds.

In 2014, the working group provided $43,000 for two school excursions to Sydney in 2015 and 2016.

“I liked meeting new friends and going to the beach,” year 10 student Carol said. “I learned about rocket science, dance and story.”

Another year 10 student, Larissa, said she appreciated the musical side of the festival.

“I liked the music and dance and going to the beach,” she explained.

Latrelle, also in year 10, said, “Garma is good because you get to learn from other cultures.”

Year 12 student Saleen said she learnt a lot from her excursion.

“I liked launching the water rockets and learning to make music with the ipads,” she said.

The excursions reward students who demonstrate leadership skills and have a school attendance record above 85 percent.
Jaimsie Rambler, Johnno Turner, Eddie Payne, Steven Ross, Gordon Purvis, Jonathon Club, Travis Loy, Ellary Morton and Desmond Morgan, worked on the Arlparra Baptist church project while also participating in training.

The Arlparra community funded the purchase of materials to build the new church by using $11,000 of their community lease money.

With partner Arid Edge Environmental Services managing the construction as a CDP project, the team was able to replace Arlparra’s existing Baptist church, a rickety bough shelter made of salvaged materials, with a new steel shelter.

The project included a chainmesh fence, hardwood benches and the planting of some fruit and shade trees with a watering system.

There were some leftover materials after the main project was complete so they also built and installed welded steel entrance gates and some tables with bench seats.

Manager of Arid Edge Alex McClean was pleased that the project brought the dual benefits of a new church and some fresh opportunities for employment.

“A LOT OF THE LOCAL WORKERS ON THE CHURCH PROJECT WERE ALSO DOING CONSTRUCTION TRAINING AT THE SAME TIME AS WORKING ON THIS PROJECT AND AFTERWARDS GOT WORK IN THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY BUILDING NEW HOUSES IN ARLPARRA,” HE SAID.
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 across the nine communities in 2017. 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.

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He thanked Yuendumu’s GMAAAC committee for providing more than $93,000 so far towards the project, as well as the federal government and the Charles Darwin University for helping to pay for set-up and operating costs.

The language and culture room gives more community members a chance to visit the Warlpiri media archives and is the culmination of many years’ work to improve access to Yuendumu’s historic cultural resources.

The archives were recently revitalised with support from an Aboriginals Benefit Account grant. In all, eight PAW Media personnel and five cultural advisers have been employed by the project.

More than 150 people from Yuendumu and surrounding communities have been able to see how audio-visual records of their cultural heritage and family histories are securely stored.

An interim report on the project found that Yuendumu residents unreservedly approve of the improvements to the language and culture room. GMAAAC funding has also made it possible for them to access heritage recordings about their families’ cultural histories.

NEW LIFE GIVEN TO AUDIO VISUAL ARCHIVE

More than a thousand hours of audio-visual cultural and community recordings made by PAW Media since 1984 are now available in the its refurbished language and culture room. The recordings have been recognised for their national significance.

PAW Media launched the room as the final event in Warlpiri Youth Development Aboriginal Corporation’s Year of Life Long Learning celebrations in May.

PAW Media’s senior Warlpiri cultural officer and archivist, Simon Japangardi Fisher, opened the room.

“This is an important day for us, now we can celebrate having a place to show our children their heritage,” Mr Fisher said.

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MAPPING A CULTURAL FUTURE

“We are worrying about younger generations learning about country,” said Teddy Jupurrurla Long.

Speaking at the Coniston massacre commemoration in August, he was expressing a concern so many Central Australian traditional owners share.

Mr Long is a senior law man, Central Land Council executive member and a member of Willowra’s Granites Mine Affected Area Aboriginal Corporation (GMAAAC) committee.

Mr Long and educator and former Warlpiri Education and Training Trust chair Maisie Napaljarri Kitson explained the Lander River mapping project to the crowd at Yurrkuru.

WETT contributed nearly $85,000 for the first three stages of the project in 2013, and this year GMAAAC allocated more than $120,000 to continue the project.

It aims to locate, identify and record sites and the stories connected with them in the Lander River region around Willowra.

Anthropologists Petronella Vaarzon-Morel and Luke Kelly visited significant cultural sites in the area with different family groups.

Once they found the sites, locations and information were recorded with a GPS, notes and videos.

Then the information was transferred on a large canvas map.

The project has helped young people to learn on country from elders, according to their cultural protocols.

“We’ve been working on this map with Napangardi (Petronella) and Jungarrayi (Luke) for a couple of years now,” Mr Long said.

“We’ve been going out with kirda and kurdungurlu and putting all the name of the waterholes, soakages and places. We put the proper story and Jukurrpa all along for the soakages and places.”

“This is important because a lot of young people and middle-aged people need to learn law the proper way. They’ve got to learn who they are and where their country is. It takes a lot of time to get things straight, jungarni,” he explained.

Ms Kitson said the trips are a family affair.

“We’ve been going out to these places with family groups, visiting places that belong to their country,” she said.

“Sometimes we go out for one day, sometimes we stay overnight or longer.” Willowra resident Selina Napanangka said the program is important.

“This map is really good,” she said.

“We put the names of a lot of places on the map and GPS. Some soakages, multju have been covered up.

“It’s important to visit them so that the old people can remember their names and stories and pass it on so the younger ones can learn.”
The Yuendumu Child and Family Centre playground has seen a major upgrade that will enhance the area as a fun and engaging outdoor space for children and families.

The upgrade was only possible because Yuendumu’s GMAAAC committee contributed more than $210,000.

The new playground promotes physical activity and learning, and boosts attendance at the centre.

That’s important because regular participation in early childhood programs leads to better pre-school and school attendance.

Yamurna Oldfield from the local early childhood reference group said, "IT’S REALLY GOOD FOR KIDS, A NATURAL BUSH ENVIRONMENT. IT IS REALLY GOOD EXERCISE FOR THEM. THERE IS ONE REALLY BIG GOANNA OUT THE FRONT. THE KIDS LOVE IT AND THEY CLimb AND SIT ON IT."

"WE SAT DOWN AND PLANNED WITH THESE FELLAS. THE PLAYGROUND IS REALLY SAFE. THE WOOD IS SOFT AND THERE IS SOFT FALL ON THE GROUND. THEY HAVE TAKEN ALL THE STEEL AWAY," SAID THE GROUP’S BARBARA MARTIN.

The new playground was installed in the Yuendumu Child and Family Centre for the Central Desert Regional Council’s childcare centre and Families as First Teachers program.

West Australian company ‘Nature Based Play’ designed and installed the playground after discussing the playground layout and equipment with the Yuendumu Early childhood reference group.
**BILLILUNA UPGRADE THEIR ART CENTRE**

Billiluna’s GMAAAC committee has allocated more than $40,000 to upgrade the community’s art centre.

East Kimberley Job Pathways worked with the centre to paint and tile the interior and install a new kitchen.

Billiluna is at the start of the Canning Stock Route, a popular 4WD tourist track for adventurous types from across Australia and overseas.

The upgraded art centre will give tourists travelling the stock route and the Tanami Highway a chance to meet Billiluna’s artists and to learn about their culture in comfort.

A crew of six local women and one man are working on the renovation, gaining new skills in carpentry, painting and tiling.

CDP supervisor Katie Darkie said the work opportunities will continue beyond the renovation.

“They are painting the art centre, then we are going to do tiling too. This will be the first time for us. I will be getting people to work here in the art centre when it is finished,” she said.

Locals working on the refurbishment include Rita Brown, Sylvia Sambo, Ricki-Ann Hunter, Vanessa Surprise, Serina Samuel, Corina Darkie and Rhys Carlton.

**BILLILUNA UPGRADE THEIR ART CENTRE**

Having 20 people employed on a project in a remote region must be a huge boost to a community. That’s what happened thanks to the Yapa-Kurlangu Ngurrara Aboriginal Corporation (YKNAC) business operational support project.

It’s a big name and a big project, which took 20 people working a total of 593 hours to complete.

YKNAC’s main business is to improve infrastructure and roads for outstations and the project involved a relocation and upgrade of the corporation’s office.

Yuendumu’s GMAAAC committee gave YKNAC more than $258,000 to for the project. The office and relocation upgrade counted for more than $77,000 of this sum.

The rest of the money paid for insurance, power and water and a business plan. It also funded a vehicle recovery truck that will support Yapa who become stranded on the long and dangerous roads.

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Northern Territory parks rent money project facts

- Sixteen 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 $6.3 million to 152 projects.
- The CLC is working with the 16 groups to support planning and decision-making about projects they prioritise.

GRAVEYARD PROJECT RESCUES LOST GRAVES

A graveyard marking and mapping project at the Yarralin cemetery has rediscovered 15 previously lost graves.

The project used thermal imaging to find people’s remains and identified 15 new graves, in addition to the 19 marked graves.

The decision to digitally scan the graveyard was made at a meeting of traditional owners, the Central Land Council and CDP organisations in 2017.

Local workers marked the locations of the new graves and cleared the site.

They cleaned or repaired the steel or concrete coverings of the graves to protect the sites.

The graveyard is secured by a new fence and CDP participants will continue to maintain it.

The project was a collaboration between traditional owners, job seekers and partner organisations IS Australia Job Central, Victoria Daly Regional Council and the CLC.

Between eight and ten CDP job-seekers worked on the project for 10 weeks. They received training in fencing, machinery operations, concreting, welding and communications.

Two local mentors were also employed on the project.

The restoration project cost more than $31,000 and was funded by traditional owners using their rent money from the Southern Judbarra National Park.
Two local labourers are employed on a project that will also see a house built at the Kwale outstation, near Ntaria.

The upgrade is worth almost $159,000 and is being funded by the Tjoritja central working group using their rent money from Tjoritja (West MacDonnell) National Park.

The partnership with the Tjuwanpa Outstation Resource Centre will see a three-bedroom house built at the outstation to alleviate overcrowding.

Started in July 2018 and close to completion, the house has an insulated roof, new septic tank, split system air conditioners, stove and oven, stainless steel or laminated wood bench tops and cupboards, toilet, hand basin, laundry sink, towel rails and exhaust fan.

Tjuwanpa provided nearly $75,000 worth of additional in-kind support.

The resource centre threw in mains power and water connections, a satellite dish and television, fridge/freezer, washing machine, garden shed and a gated fence. It also contributed to construction materials and labour.

Isaac Malbunka and Clint Wheeler worked for 28 hours a week for six weeks on the project.

Mr Malbunka said it was a good job, and fun to work on.
Warlpiri Education and Training Trust facts

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.

The WETT uses mining royalties to fund educational initiatives for Yapa from four Warlpiri communities. Extra positions were created on the committee this year to nominate one young person from each community.

Fiona Gibson, a founding member of the WETT, helped to run the election in her home community of Nyirrpi. “It’s good that we are getting new members. It’s time for the young people to take on this role,” Ms Gibson said. “People like me have been on this committee for a long time now.”

“THESE ELECTIONS ARE REALLY GOOD FOR YOUNG PEOPLE – THEY REALLY WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT ALL THE PROGRAMS.”

Newcomer Kirsty-Anne Brown works with Warlpiri Youth Development Aboriginal Corporation’s Jaru Pirrjirdi program and won ‘Jaru of the Year’ for Nyirrpi in 2016.

Kirsty-Anne nominated to become a WETT advisory committee member because she “wants to learn more” and because the WETT “helps communities and helps young people too”.

Willowra WETT committee newcomer Bradley Forrest also works with Warlpiri Youth Development Aboriginal Corporation’s Jaru Pirrjirdi program and hopes he can “help the community”.

Teacher assistant Cynthia Wheeler was elected in Yuendumu, along with Kirsten Egan.

Cynthia hopes joining the WETT advisory committee will make her “a strong role model for my community and my people”.

Kirsten signed up to “support our young people in all four Warlpiri communities to get more education because education is the key”.

New Lajamanu member Margaret Johnson works at the community’s learning centre, and is doing business studies. “I wanted to join up to help our people and build a strong future for the young ones,” Ms Johnson said.

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The WETT supports four programs: language and culture in schools, youth development, learning communities centres and secondary school support. It also supports cultural mapping and early childhood projects in Willowra.

The WETT and the CLC have built strong partnerships with community schools, the Warlpiri Youth Development Aboriginal Corporation and the Batchelor Institute to deliver these programs. In 2017/18, Kurra’s WETT directors approved a further $8.4 million for these programs.
The Warlpiri Education and Training Trust (WETT) is investing royalty income in an attempt to convince the Northern Territory government to get serious about bilingual and bicultural education.

The WETT’s education champions are talking with Yapa school staff and elders in four Tanami communities about a project matching the Warlpiri theme cycle to the NT school curriculum.

“WE HAVE BEEN DOING THE WARLPIRI THEME CYCLE FOR A LONG TIME NOW, IT’S IMPORTANT TO US AND WE HAVE ALWAYS BEEN USING IT TO TEACH OUR KIDS,” TEACHER BARBARA NAPANANGKA MARTIN SAID.

Yapa educators began by mapping the warlajla ‘family and kinship’ theme, the first of 12, at Yuendumu’s Bilingual Resource Centre.

“We have made a first draft of the learning pathway from baby to adult,” Ms Martin said.

“It looks at the different levels at the different ages and what they should know at that age.

“It’s showing us how we can do it for the next theme, which is kuyu [animal and meat],” she said.

Among the Lajamanu residents Ms Martin and Annette Patrick have consulted are Robyn Napurrurla and Malkirdi Rose.

“Everyone was really supportive,” Ms Martin said. “One old man said it brought back happy memories of how education was before for kids.”

“NOW THEY ALL HAVE MOBILES AND NEW TECHNOLOGY, BUT THEY STILL NEED TO BE GOING OUT WITH THE OLD PEOPLE AND LEARNING ABOUT PLACES AND NAMES, CEREMONY AND MAKING ARTEFACTS. THEY CAN LEARN EVERYTHING THAT WAY.”

The $102,000 project aims to foster stronger links between the school curriculum and a WETT program that funds country visits for students and elders. It will also produce a curriculum handbook and a web page.
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.

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