

Community Development

NEWS

MILPIRRI FESTIVAL

INVESTMENTS IN EDUCATION

BALGO COMMUNITY GARDEN

FINDING LOCAL SOLUTIONS TO LOCAL PROBLEMS

A FUTURE AT WILLIAMS WELL

SCHOOL KIDS GOING PLACES

ATITJERE CHURCH OPENING

**TRADITIONAL OWNERS
SUPPORTING LAND AND CULTURE**



CENTRAL LAND COUNCIL

Aboriginal people driving
their own development
in Central Australia

WINTER 2015

TRADITIONAL OWNERS INVEST IN EMPLOYMENT AND THEIR FUTURE AT WILLIAMS WELL

2



Aaron Burdett, Stephen Olgivie and Charles Burdett at work at Williams Well.

“It’s good to be working on country”, says Aaron Burdett, a traditional owner of the East MacDonnell Ranges National Park.

Aaron has been installing screens on the windows of one of three houses at Williams Well, 56kms east of Alice Springs.

He is one of the six traditional owners employed by the Centre for Appropriate Technology (CAT) to work on the \$170,000 infrastructure project at the outstation. The TOs decided to go with CAT because it agreed to employ local people for the job.

“THE TRADITIONAL OWNERS REALLY WANT TO GO BACK HOME,” SAID AARON.

The project includes building a new ablution block with toilet, shower and laundry, plus housing, plumbing and electrical upgrades.

The work is designed to make life at William’s Well outstation safer, more liveable and more sustainable.

The outstation was abandoned because of water supply problems, but the work will enable the traditional owners to fulfil their dream of returning there.

The project took careful planning, using the group’s rent money.

Traditional owners originally allocated some of their funding for CAT to fix the water supply and build a causeway to allow traditional owners better access to the outstation during rainy times.



CAT employees work at Williams Well.

Cover image: Dances at the Milpiri Festival. Photo courtesy of Tracks Dance, copyright Peter Eve



ALICE-DESIGNED APPROPRIATE TECHNOLOGY HELPS COMMUNITY AND TOURISTS

Traditional owners have used their Finke Gorge National Park rent money to put two mobile phone hotspots along the notorious Boggy Hole access track to the park.

After they told the CLC that they felt unprepared to rescue bogged visitors the CLC's community development unit helped them to plan for emergency phone access.

The Centre for Appropriate Technology's (CAT) hotspots capture and amplify signals from mobile phone towers, extending mobile coverage into areas where previously there was none.

"It helps tourists and other people phone for help when they get bogged," outstation resident Kunmanara Ungwanaka said.

"It's keeping them safe and giving us privacy and less worry. Not knocking on our door calling for help at night in languages we don't know."

"Of all the things the traditional owners could have spent their collective rent money on they decided to prioritise a project that helps the wider community. It's a win-win," CLC Director David Ross said.

Community development staff asked CAT to test its mobile hotspot technology along the Boggy Hole 4WD track.

After traditional owners helped CAT to choose suitable sites they decided to spend some of their rent money on the hotspots, a shade structure and signs about the hotspot locations.

"The hotspot is rugged, reliable and needs no power, no solar panels and no maintenance. Aboriginal people in the CAT Enterprise workshop fabricate and install it," CAT's new CEO Dr Steve Rogers said.

Ms Ungwanaka said while the hotspots are already being used by visitors they will also help to promote the Red Sand Hill Arts Centre, where one hotspot is located.

"We can call anywhere, Germany, anywhere with this one," she said. "We want tourists going to Boggy Hole to visit the Red Sand Hill Arts Centre that our community is starting up."

CLEAN CLOTHES WITHOUT LEAVING HOME

Burt Creek outstation residents no longer have to make the 120km round trip to Alice Springs every time they need to wash their clothes.

4 The traditional owners of the Native Gap Conservation Reserve have been working with the Central Land Council's Community Development Unit on a plan that will improve living conditions at their outstation for years to come.

As part of the plan, the group decided to spend \$50,000 from its NT Parks rent money to fix up an old building and turn it into a laundry.

When Ingkerreke Commercial and CLC visited Burt Creek as part of the planning process, TOs identified a suitable building – an old tin shed that has now been renovated and has an improved power and water supply.

A washing machine, a laundry tub, a solar hot water system and clothes lines have been installed, as well as a fence to protect the laundry block.

Burt Creek laundry block before (left) and after (right) works

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 2014 the groups planned and allocated funds to 33 projects totalling \$1.95 million.

NT PARKS

- This very big project involves all 16 traditional owner groups are 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.

MORE GROUPS SIGN UP FOR CD IN THE EAST

In the last few months three more traditional owner groups to the east of the Stuart Highway have decided to spend their money on lasting community benefits, with help from the Central Land Council.

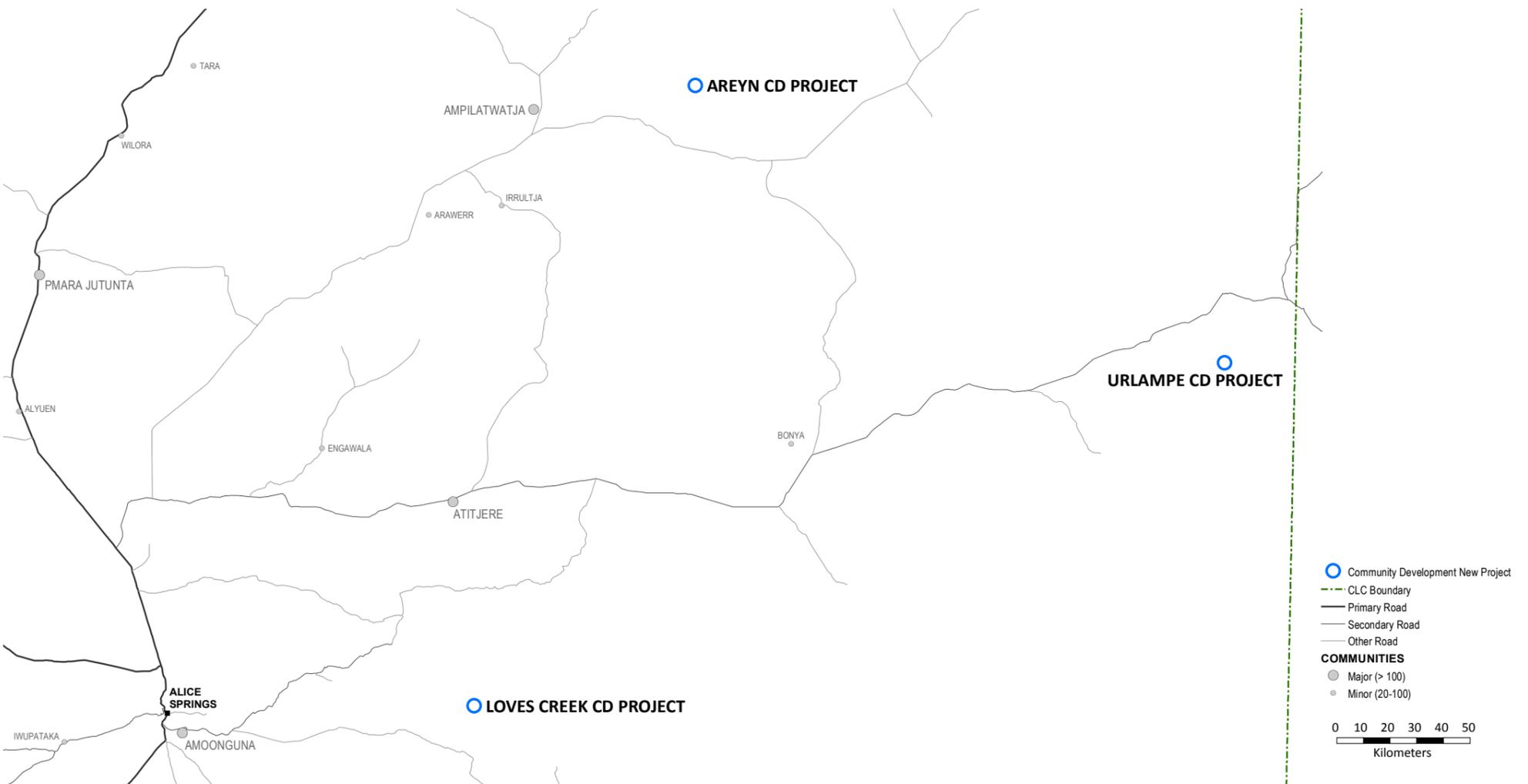
The Ilarte traditional group has allocated almost \$300,000 to community projects

from mining exploration compensation it has received from exploration company Texalta Petroleum Ltd.

Their first priority is improving Urlampe outstation, close to the NT-Queensland border, where many of the TOs live.

Traditional owners for Loves Creek Station have agreed to put aside at least \$77,500 each year from pastoral and mining income streams. They have formed a working group, which is planning projects on the Arletherre Land Trust.

The Areyn group set aside \$34,000 of mining exploration compensation income from Rum Jungle Resources to repair the road into Areyn outstation. Members are also hoping to repair the bore at the outstation, but know they will need to save more money to pay for it.



COMMUNITY PRIDE IN FIXING UP LARAMBA CHURCH

Laramba residents have decided they need a bigger church.

The church pastor, Ronnie McNamara, summed up the problem: 'Services and funerals are often held at the school because we can't all fit into the church!'

The community has been working with the CLC's Community Development unit planning a new church and other community projects with five-year leasing project funds since 2013.

In February 2014, Laramba residents approved \$112,000 for the church project and appointed Tangentyere Constructions to build it.

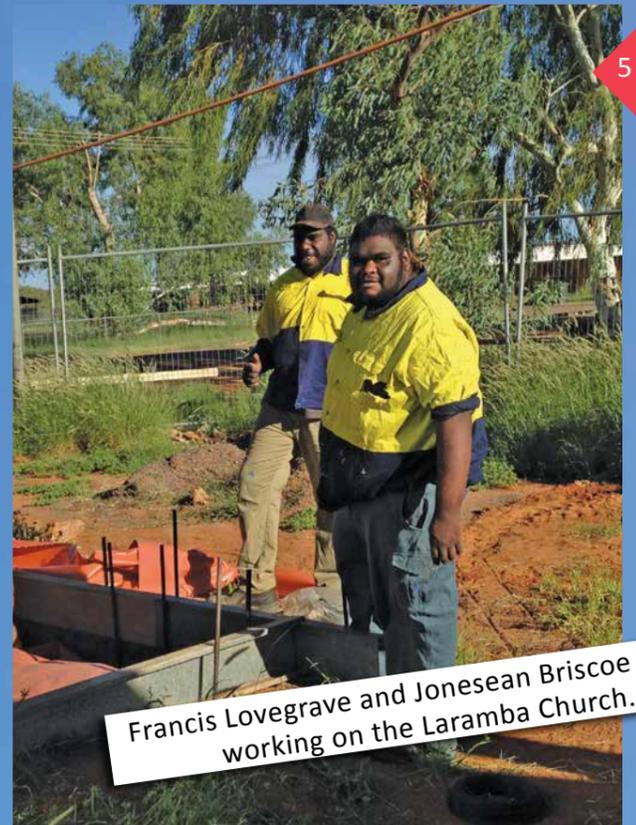
In July, Niels Pederson from Tangentyere Constructions met with the Laramba Community Working Group to get members' ideas for a design and discovered they were "very excited" about the project.

Work on the project started last November. Local workers Jonesean Briscoe and Francis Lovegrove were employed for the four-week job, which kicked off again in February after some unexpected delays.

When asked about what others in the community thought about him working on the project Jonesean Briscoe said:

"I RECKON THEY'RE A LITTLE BIT PROUD OF US!"

If all goes to plan, the community will have another reason to be proud when the project is complete and the church is re-opened soon.



Francis Lovegrove and Jonesean Briscoe working on the Laramba Church.



ATITJERE CHURCH BRINGS PEOPLE TOGETHER

Atitjere's spacious new church is open for worship by Catholics and Lutherans alike after being smoked and blessed at its official opening late last year.

"WE USED TO SIT OUTSIDE FOR CHURCH, SO WE DECIDED IT WAS IMPORTANT TO BUILD A NEW CHURCH FOR THE COMMUNITY WITH OUR LEASE MONEY," SAID ATITJERE ELDER LOUIS SCHABER.

6 "Catholics and Lutherans, we all use the one church, one mob," said local resident Sebastian Webb at the opening, attended by more than 80 people (and one pig).

The new church was blessed by Father Jan Szweda of Alice Springs, after being smoked by senior community members. A barbecue followed.

Atitjere people had put a lot of thought into what they wanted for the community before engaging Tangentyere Constructions to build a church using \$330,000 of their lease money.

Maria Schaber agreed. "We wanted a church for the kids and for funerals," she said. "We can fit everyone in this new one."

Five local men worked with Tangentyere building the church, including Peppi Drover and Anthony Petrick.

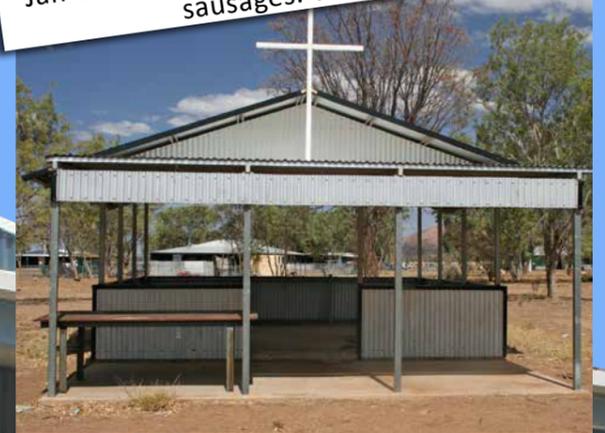


"It was fun to work on the church," said Peppi. "I like to work on things and we needed a new church".

Anthony is proud of the work he did. "I really enjoyed being a part of building something for the community," he said.



(L - R) Sebastian Webb and Pigley Blue. Father Jan blessing the church. Jamal Palmer cooking sausages. The Old Atitjere church.



Sebastian Webb, Herbie Bloomfield, Peppi Drover, Louis Schaber, Ronnie Webb in front of the new church.

COMMUNITY
LEASE
MONEY

SCHOOL KIDS IN NTARIA ARE REALLY GOING PLACES

Ntaria traditional owners and the Ntaria School have teamed up to get kids more engaged in school.

In November 2014, thirteen Ntaria school students flew to Sydney to learn about career pathways, kick the footy with the Sydney Swans and go surfing, among other activities.

The Ntaria Community Lease Money Working Group, made up of traditional owners and senior community members, supported the local school by providing \$43,000 to pay for the excursion.

But not everyone got to go. Students had to earn their place by working hard at school and showing strong leadership skills.

Deputy Principal Mark Goonan said the kids' response was a "total mind spin" with the "level of school work leading up to the excursion improving big time".

"THE STUDENTS NOT ONLY GOT TO SEE THE WORLD DIFFERENTLY BUT GOT TO BETTER UNDERSTAND THEMSELVES," MARK SAID.

Mark said the traditional owners had made an important decision for the community: "TOs are demonstrating to young people just how highly they value learning."

Traditional owner and senior community leader Conrad Ratara said the increase in school engagement before and after the excursion was a great outcome. In their last meeting in 2014 the Ntaria working group showed their strong commitment to young people's education and decided to fund the excursion for the next two years.

Ntaria school students learn to surf in Sydney.



KINTORE INVESTS IN EDUCATION

Kintore people are using school excursions as rewards to encourage school attendance.

Last year the Kintore community lease money working group put \$5,000 of its five-year lease money towards an interstate trip for Year 6 children.

Twelve students who had achieved at least 85 per cent attendance at school were chosen to travel to Sydney and Canberra. The group stayed near Central Station in

Sydney, where they visited Taronga Park Zoo, Sydney Tower, and the Art Gallery of New South Wales, where they saw Pintupi paintings. They also visited the Botanic Gardens and learnt about bush tucker for saltwater people.

After four days in Sydney the students flew to Canberra and had a guided tour of the National Museum from a former Kintore teacher, Peter Thorley.

The students also saw many national buildings, including the National Gallery of Australia, the Questacon Science and Technology Centre, the Institute of Sport, and

Parliament House, where they saw NT MP Warren Snowdon (and ate all his food).

Other highlights of the trip included staying on the 12th floor in Canberra, and catching the train from the airport in Sydney. The train went underground and the kids were amazed that they couldn't see any sky!

Long-time school teacher Mimila Wheeler said: "We had a great time. All the children were very happy seeing so many different places. No one got sick. They were really good kids. Palya lingku!"

Walungurru school principal Nick Richardson thanked the community for its help.

Lawrence Brown, Maureen Wheeler, Lydia Willy, Selma Sampson visiting the National Gallery in Canberra.

Shania Pollard, Daisy Abbott (kneeling), Francina Conway, Mavis Gallagher, Cindy Giles, Lawrence Brown, Ernest Maxwell and a curator at the National Gallery in Canberra.



COMMUNITY
LEASE
MONEY

"WE'VE BEEN SAVING FOR TWO YEARS," HE SAID. "THIS EXTRA MONEY ALLOWED US TO DO THINGS WE WOULDN'T OTHERWISE DO. IT WAS A GOOD WAY TO FINISH SCHOOL FOR THE KIDS LEAVING YEAR 6. THE SCHOOL WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE A WORKING GROUP FOR GIVING US THE MONEY."

ALEKARENGE LOOKS

AFTER ITS YOUTH

The dream of making and recording their own music is coming true for young people at Alekareng.

The Alekareng community launched the results of its multi-media project in style by screening locally made music clips at a barbecue in their park recently.

Residents and visitors from Tennant Creek, Alice Springs and Melbourne enjoyed the videos, produced after Alekareng started a multi-media program with nearly \$45,000 of its five-year lease money.

“We wanted to do something for the benefit of the young people,” community leader Graham Beasley said. “They didn’t have much to do, but now they want to use that equipment all the time.”

With support from Barkly Regional Council’s sport and rec program, the community bought band equipment and sound and video recording gear. It hired a music producer and filmmaker to work with local youth to produce songs and film clips.

LOCAL PARTICIPANT LEON THOMPSON SAID
“MAKING THOSE VIDEOS AND MUSIC MADE US FEEL GOOD ABOUT OURSELVES. WE’RE STILL RECORDING MUSIC AFTER THE PROGRAM ENDED, MAKING MUSIC FOR FUN.”

When looking at the best way to spend their lease money, people in Alekareng decided creating meaningful activities for young people was their main priority.

The community is also setting up a Wi-Fi hotspot at the community rec hall and supplying two years maintenance funding for a waterpark Barkly Regional Council is planning to build.

The community is proud to see the successful results of their project.



Graham Beasley being interviewed by Emma Sleath from ABC news.

“No one used to talk to us Yapa about what’s good for the community, but it’s Yapa that have the ideas,” said Alekareng resident Zeza Egan.

As part of the CLC’s Community Lease Money Project, Alekareng has spent a further \$80,000 to employ two locals to work in the multi-media room and teach other people in the community how to use the equipment.



Leon Thompson and Graham Beasley at the launch.

Community Lease Money Project Facts

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

- Five year lease money: the one off compensation payment the CLC negotiated with the Commonwealth for the compulsory leases it took out over communities during the five years of the Intervention.
- Other lease money: Government organisations and service providers now pay annual rent for the blocks they lease in communities.
- 31 communities across the CLC region are involved in the Project and most have set up working groups to plan community benefit projects.
- Over \$6.5 million of the five year lease has been approved for a wide range of social, cultural and economic projects.

ULURU KATA-TJUTA TRADITIONAL OWNERS SUPPORT LAND AND CULTURE

10 *Traditional owners of Uluru Kata-Tjuta National Park are focussing on country and culture through the Uluru Rent Money (URM) community development project.*

The CLC's community development unit held large meetings where traditional owners made plans and allocated money to community benefit projects.

They decided to spend \$209,416 on three outstation upgrades.

Repairs at Young's Well have made it easier for all the family to enjoy trips to country.

Residents Nicholas Ajax and Kevin Cooley worked with Tangentyere Constructions to extend the cemetery fence and restore the house.

They said the variety of jobs – installing a new toilet, painting, electrical and plumbing repairs - made the work interesting and improved their building skills.

Solar power at Cave Hole is replacing an expensive 17 year old diesel generator, bringing affordable and reliable electricity.

“EVERYONE LIKES IT, THE SOLAR POWER. IT’S THE BEST THING THAT HAS HAPPENED HERE FOR A LONG TIME,” SAID LOCAL RESIDENT PHILLIP COOMBES

Trainer Elli Santiago, Kenn Looley and Nicholas Ajax drilling the ablution block at Youngs well.





Anangu are spending more time at Tjuninanta, an outstation near Kaltukatjara, since Tangentyere Constructions and local man Norman Kulitja fixed it up.

They installed cladding at the ablution block, repaired electrical and plumbing fixtures and laid concrete around the house to stop animals digging under it.

Tangentyere will do follow-up maintenance with money set aside by the traditional owners to ensure project benefits last longer.

Like every year, the URM project also funded a regional initiative. The Pitjantjatjara Council received money to improve its Ara Irititja digital social history data base.

Field officer Shannyn Palmer has been working with Anangu to record history and teach people to find photos, films and stories on community computers.

The traditional owners have funded Ara Irititja since 2008, supporting it in Aputula, Titjikala, Kaltukatjara, Imanpa, Mutitjulu, Utju, Lilla and Alice Springs.

(Top) Cave Hole outstation returns to solar 17 years after the storm. (L-R) Tadisha Edimintja and friends using Ara Irititja at Docker River. Kevin Cooley painting skirting boards to install at Youngs well. Donald Roesc at Youngs Well.



Tjuki Pumpjack recording information with Ara Irititja field officer Shannyn Palmer.

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

WETT INFORMATION NIGHT GETS PEOPLE TALKING IN LAJAMANU

12



Members of the WETT Advisory Committee present to the Lajamanu community.

Warlpiri women used their painting to tell 200 community members about the Warlpiri Education and Training Trust (WETT) at an information and feedback night.

The function was held at the basketball courts in Lajamanu last October. The WETT Advisory Committee and the CLC wanted to let people know about the work WETT and the Kurra Aboriginal Corporation have been doing to support education and training for young and old in the Warlpiri communities.

They also asked for feedback on how people in Lajamanu think WETT is going, and answered questions.

While young people prepared the barbecue as part of WYDAC's youth program and community bands set up on stage, some of the main Committee Members talked about WETT.

Using their painting, Warlpiri women from Lajamanu, Yuendumu, Willowra and Nyirripi talked about WETT's journey and achievements since it started in 2005.

Fiona Gibson, one of the hard-working members of the WETT Advisory Committee, said she felt terrific about the evening.

"When we had that barbeque, sharing the story of the WETT painting, it was really good," she said. "We told people we're spending money the right way."

Lajamanu community members Doris Lewis and Betsy Herbert told the crowd they felt proud of what Warlpiri have achieved through WETT.

DORIS SAID "EVERYTHING YOU WETT MOB ARE DOING IS REALLY GOOD. OTHER PEOPLE DON'T COME BACK AND TELL US WHAT THEY'VE DONE, BUT IT'S GOOD THAT WETT MOB HAVE."

The feedback after the night was that people were excited about WETT and thinking about holding more community events and maybe even setting up a WETT office in the old clinic building in Lajamanu.

WETT plans to hold a similar community event in Yuendumu in the first half of 2015, and in Nyirripi and Willowra later in the year.



Lajamanu residents enjoying the presentation.

WILLOWRA WOMEN FINDING LOCAL SOLUTIONS TO LOCAL PROBLEMS

Local Willowra women have taken quick action to solve a local problem and keep their WETT-funded early childhood centre clean and safe.

When Willowra primary school kids threw rocks and rubbish into the centre playground, playgroup reference group member Julie Kitson and Coordinator Connie Borg went straight to the school to have a hard talk to the kids about respecting the little kids' space.

Julie knew it was important for the primary school kids to come and clean up the mess.

"After school that day some of the kids came down to the playgroup to help senior women and staff to clean up," she said.

"They weren't all the ones who made the mess but they got the message and came anyway."

Local playgroup worker Adriane Haines said, "We got sick of coming to work and seeing that mess. I asked those kids how they would feel if the little kids went to the school and threw rocks and rubbish in their playground?"

The local reference group members met to talk about what other action they could take. They decided they needed to fix the rocks and rubbish problem but also the long-term issue of boredom of older kids.

"We talked about getting a new fence that the kids can't climb," Adrian said.

"We told the builder how the new fence should look. The WETT mob understood the problem and agreed to fund the fence."

With \$38,995 in WETT funding approved by the Kurra Aboriginal Corporation for a new fence, the women then put their minds to the boredom issue.

Julie Kitson, who is also involved in the WETT-funded Youth Development Program, called a meeting with the WYDAC youth team to talk about keeping the older kids busy and happy so they stay away from the early childhood centre playground, especially during the school holidays.

ADRIANE SAID "WE KNOW IT'S ALSO ABOUT EDUCATION. WE'VE GOTTA TEACH THOSE KIDS TO RESPECT THE PLAYGROUND FOR THE LITTLE KIDS AND USE THEIR OWN PLAY EQUIPMENT. THEY'RE GOOD KIDS, BUT SOMETIMES THEY JUST GET BORED."



Warlpiri Education and Training Trust Facts

- 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 and the CLC have built strong partnerships with Warlpiri community schools, the Warlpiri Youth Development Aboriginal Corporation and Batchelor Institute to deliver these programs.
- 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 early childhood in Willowra.

- In 2014 the Kurra WETT Directors approved a further \$2.5 million for these programs.



MILPIRRI FESTIVAL 2014

Lajamanu's sixth Milpirri festival focussed on the Warlpiri Jarda-warnpa (reconciliation) ceremony.

More than 250 people performed traditional and contemporary dances for an audience of nearly 500 people at the festival, held in November last year.

Milpirri Creative Director Steve Jampijinpa Patrick wanted Milpirri to explore people's connections to country and to each other.

"Milpirri is about people getting to know each other Yapa way, which means polite way, softly – rather than the rough way that sometimes happens between groups," said Steve.

Begun in 2005, the festival is a team effort involving the Lajamanu community, Darwin's Tracks Dance Company and Lajamanu School.

Tracks artistic directors work closely with Steve Jampijinpa Patrick and other senior members of the community to develop themes and design and produce the final performance.

School attendance increased during the six weeks of workshops, which were culturally relevant and fun. After 87 hours of dance workshops students were fitter, and challenged themselves with harder dance routines.

More than 90 Warlpiri were also employed during the festival.

Senior community member Peter Jigili says Milpirri supports community relationships.

"It's about bringing people together; about learning about Kardiya and Yapa... so we are not separate from each other," Peter said.

"We don't walk on a separate road. We would rather walk on the same road together."

Community Development staff from the Central Land Council have held regular meetings and worked with the Lajamanu GMAAAC Community Committee to plan, prioritise and fund community benefit projects such as Milpirri.

The Lajamanu GMAAAC Community Committee has been supporting the festival since 2008, and in 2014 gave \$50,000 in GMAAAC funds.

Former GMAAAC committee member Andrew Japanangka Johnson looks forward to seeing Milpirri continue to grow.

"We are going to see how strong our culture is, how strong we can be," said Andrew.

Milpirri happens every two years. But for 11 year old Milpirri dancer Leland Jangala it just isn't enough. "Can we have Milpirri every night?" she asks.

Milpirri 2014. Photo courtesy of Tracks Dance, copyright Peter Eve



Jangala-Jampijinpa group Milpirri 2014. Photo courtesy of Tracks Dance, copyright Peter Eve.

BALGO WORKS TOGETHER TO BUILD A GARDEN AND THE SKILLS TO RUN IT

It's been a busy ten months in Balgo, with different groups and organisations working together to create its new GMAAAC-funded community garden.

Senior students from the Luurnpa Catholic School got the Mickey Newjen Tjapangarti Community Memorial Garden under way.

They had support from the GMAAAC Balgo Community Committee, Boys Town, Luurnpa Catholic School, Wirrimanu Aboriginal Corporation and the Kutjunga Trade and Training Centre (KTTC).

The students built new garden beds, an irrigation system, a shade house and compost bins. The garden includes a barbecue area, with a wood-fired oven, food preparation table and seating.

Now other community members are getting involved with the students in growing plants and using and maintaining the compost system.

Senior women have collected samples of bush food to grow, and RJCP participants who have completed their Certificate II in Horticulture are working with the secondary students to care for the garden.

The garden has already created a lot of learning and training opportunities and it is now starting to produce fresh food for the community. Some of the produce is being used for cooking by school students studying hospitality.

Community members want the garden to be a place where all generations can share knowledge and enjoy the place together. Naming the garden after Mr Newjen Tjapangarti, who was known for always caring for plants in Balgo, demonstrates how important the garden is to people.

Community members are sure they can keep the garden going and maybe even extend it.

The KTTC trainer reported: "I am confident with supervision that the students will be able to continue the composting system and maintain the fruit and vegetables currently planted in the community garden."



WILLOWRA WORKING TOGETHER

People from Willowra have shown they can overcome local divisions to make their community a better place by coming together to elect a new GMAAAC committee.

GMAAAC community committees are elected every three years in the nine communities in the Northern Territory (NT) and Western Australia affected by the Granites goldmine.

These committees are responsible for planning projects, deciding on GMAAAC funding and checking that projects were done to their plan. Since 2008 the CD unit has been supporting this GMAAAC process.

Community committee elections were held in the six NT communities in 2014, and elections will be held in Balgo, Bililuna and Ringer Soak this year.

In Willowra the community, by working together and listening to each other, was able to elect a team of enthusiastic people who will come together to plan and develop projects that benefit everyone.

In a show of unity, more than 50 people attended the Willowra Learning Centre to elect Cecilia Martin, Anne Grace, Nancy Long, Christine Long, Jeremiah Long, Meldon Morris, Dwayne Ross and Junior Presley as Willowra's GMAAAC committee.



It was clear that people had thought a lot about who should be on the committee. A number of the committee members are young and are new to the GMAAAC process.

Walter Lechleitner, Robert Robertson, Georgina Wilson and Maisie Wayne from the Yuendumu Mediation Group, even came across to help Willowra have a trouble-free meeting. This showed the strength of the Yuendumu group, which is now starting to help other communities.

After the election, the new committee members got down to work planning projects.

"It was a good meeting," said senior community member Teddy Long.

GMAAAC Project Facts

- The Granites Mine Affected Areas Aboriginal Corporation (GMAAAC) was set up to benefit nine Tanami communities affected by the Granites gold mine.
- Community committees are elected every three years to plan and allocate GMAAAC funds to projects annually.

- GMAAAC projects improve housing, health, education, employment and training, and essential services. They also promote Aboriginal self-management.
- GMAAAC Directors are also chosen every three years from the committees and they meet annually in Alice Springs to oversee GMAAAC.

- The CLC's CD Unit works with the community committees in Yuendumu, Lajamanu, Willowra, Nyirripi, Yuelumu, Tanami Downs, Balgo, Ringers Soak and Billiluna to plan projects and oversee partner organisations to implement them.

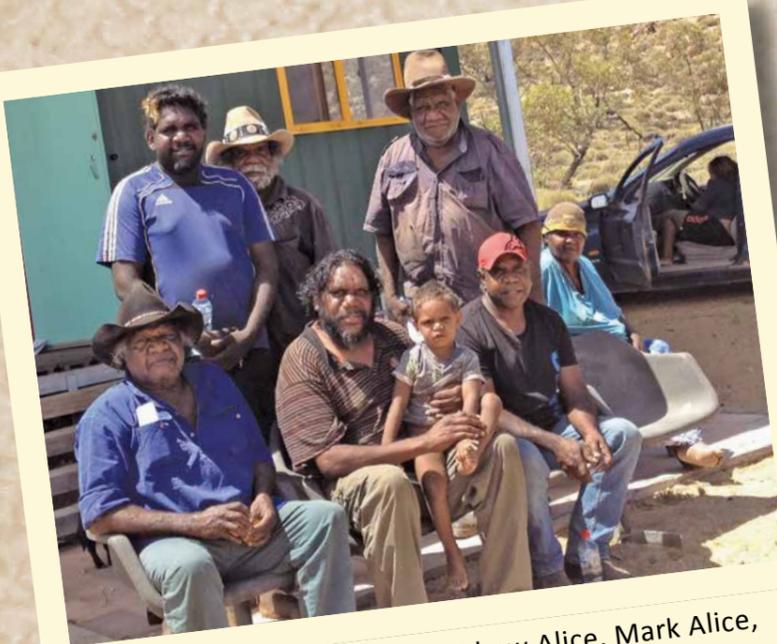


MEET THE DECISION MAKERS

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.



Kintore working group members and visitors (left to right) Irene Nangala, Monica Robinson, Selma Brown, Joe Young, Richard Minor, Tommy Conway and Lindsay Corby.



On the bench (left to right) Matthew Alice, Mark Alice, Terry Alice, Cathy Alice. Standing (left to right) Andrew Alice, Joe Alice, Theo Alice.



Mutitjulu working group members and community leaders. Sammy Wilson, Gloria Moneymoon, Craig Woods, Johnny Tjinggo, Barbara Nipper, Dorothea Randall.



GMAAAC DIRECTORS STEP UP FOR THEIR NEW JOBS

One of the first jobs of a newly elected GMAAAC committee is to choose directors to represent the community on issues that affect all the GMAAAC communities.

The directors attend the GMAAAC Annual General Meeting, which is run by the CLC's Aboriginal Associations Management Centre (AAMC) and the Community Development Unit.

Last October, 14 of the 18 GMAAAC directors, most in the job for the first time, travelled from each of the communities for the GMAAAC AGM at the CLC office in Alice Springs.

New director Jo Japangardi Marshall from Lajamanu was appointed chair of the meeting and said he felt very good about the experience.

"I enjoyed the meeting, listening how every person talked about GMAAAC," Mr Marshall said.

"WE TALKED ABOUT HOW MONEY CAN BE SPENT WISELY AND PUTTING IT IN THE BANK SO WHEN A NEED COMES UP YOU CAN COVER IT OFF."

"With GMAAAC it's important to spend that money on a good purpose."

Jo Marshall is looking forward to the next director's meeting in 2015.

"It's good to sit with Land Council mob and meet and listen to GMAAAC directors from other communities," he said.



Urlampe CD Project Working Group: Shirley Dempsey, Alan Rankine, Sebastian Rankine and Josh Rankine.



CENTRAL LAND COUNCIL

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