# Community Development NDEWS

THE LATEST WINNING WETT PROJECTS ACTION IN MUTITJULU MORE SUPPORT FOR JARU PIRRJIRDI

### GMAAAC IN THE TANAMI

### DIALYSIS STORIES FROM LAJAMANU TO ULURU

FIRST NT PARKS PROJECTS TAKE OFF

The Central Land Council's Community Development Program in Central Australia

2012

### **Keeping Track to Keep on Track**

"We need to stand up for what we need in the community, support for what makes it strong, not what whitefellas think is community development"

Every day, Central Australian Aboriginal people are making choices about how to spend their income to improve life in their communities.

The Central Land Council (CLC) Community Development Unit (CDU) helps Aboriginal people work with the money that comes to them as mining royalties and compensation, as well as the income from national parks they have leased to the Territory and Federal governments.

With the CDU's help, they are co-managing programs designed not only to deliver jobs and business opportunities and improve education and health, but also to help them keep their culture strong.

These include dialysis support, interstate school excursions, school nutrition, a dance company, church restoration, backto-country excursions, tourism operations and building a swimming pool.

A report by international development and evaluation consultant Linda Kelly found a growing sense of ownership and control of these projects among Aboriginal people, especially those that had been operating longest. "Community monitoring of the project shows that people find working with CDU though a community development process better than with some other agencies and organisations," Dr Kelly reported

She found that by closely monitoring the projects communities choose to set up and seeking regular feedback, the CDU helps ensure money is being spent in the way people want.

And the unit is increasingly getting the message across that its model works better than "top-down" approaches by both government and non-government organisations.

A recent joint paper by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare and the Institute of Family Studies found the CLC's community development approach "highly effective" in strengthening Aboriginal organisations to run their own affairs. Such reports are encouraging other bodies to back community-funded projects, such as the Tanami Dialysis Project, which is now supported by the Aboriginals Benefit Account.

Dr Kelly found greater community involvement reflected in a big increase in project reports. These reports showed people were identifying many real benefits from their projects.

"It's really good for the community, getting young mothers with their babies," said a community member at Lajamanu who works with the WETT Early Childhood Care and Development Program.

#### "They learn a lot, like how to look after the kids and what kind of food to eat, even about play equipment"

Dr Kelly called on the CLC to further strengthen the evaluation process to find out the long-term benefits of such projects.

You can read Linda Kelly's report at www.clc/org.au/articles/info/community-development.



## "WITHOUT GMAAAC, WE'D BE NOBODY"

A once-controversial project is being embraced by Tanami communities because it gives them control and ownership they lack in many other parts of their lives

That's the feedback community members are giving the CLC and independent reviewers about the Granites Mine Affected Areas Aboriginal Corporation (GMAAAC) Community Development Project.

The CLC's Community Development Unit started working with GMAAAC in 2008, following a review of the corporation. GMAAAC's directors acknowledged that changes were needed to make their corporation serve their communities better.

Initially, many people were sceptical about the changes, but four years later they are seeing the broad community benefits the GMAAAC project is creating. "Without GMAAAC, we'd be nobody," Yuelamu community member Noel Heenan responded when asked how GMAAAC was going.

"With GMAAAC money before they never used to share, but they put a stop to it and now it benefits everyone in community and not individual families. I think the way it is going now is good," said another member

These views are backed by independent monitoring of the CLC's Community **Development Program.** International development expert Linda Kelly looked into the GMAAAC Community Development Project last year and found it ran well and provided benefits for Aboriginal people.

The new GMAAAC process makes sure locally elected committees have the support they need to make informed decisions about using their affected area monies for projects that benefit the whole community.



Last year, CLC workers facilitated 33 **GMAAAC** Community and Committee meetings across nine communities. They supported committee members to take control of their own development by planning, implementing and evaluating projects that meet community needs.

All the hard work is starting to pay off, with great projects in the pipeline and committee members increasingly voicing ownership of the projects they're funding.

As a Lajamanu GMAAAC committee member remarked: "GMAAAC has done a lot of great things in the past, and hopefully we can continue to build community up for people of Lajamanu and next generation. I have grandchildren that I worry about. I want to show them what I've done in my years, like helping my community and that I can be a role model to grandchildren and other children. Hopefully they will continue what I have done to make Lajamanu a better place for everyone to live."

### **"IT'S GOOD FOR GMAAAC**

#### **COMMITTEE MEMBERS TO**

#### HAVE A LOGO FOR THE FUTURE"

Elizabeth Katakarinya, an artist from Yuendumu, won \$500 worth of art supplies in the GMAAAC

GMAAAC

The GMAAAC Directors chose Elizabeth's winning design at their annual meeting. It represents Yapa and Kardiya sitting together, talking and sharing ideas and information.



#### logo competition

The Granites Mine Affected Areas Aboriginal Corporation (GMAAAC) was set up to benefit nine Tanami communities affected by the Granites gold mine.

GMAAAC projects improve housing, health, education, employment and training, and essential services. They promote Aboriginal self-management. The CLC's Community Development Unit works with elected committees in Yuendumu, Lajamanu, Willowra,

Nvirrpi, Yuelamu, Tanami Downs, Balgo, Billiluna and Ringers Soak to plan these projects, and funds organisations to implement them. In 2011 GMAAAC Committees allocated;

\$194,767 to education initiatives \$444,740 to cultural initiatives \$424,157 to infrastructure initiatives \$535,151 to health initiatives ... across the Tanami. Well done!

"The GMAAAC Project is making a big difference to community and improving our livelihood. We put money aside to grass the oval to make a better life. We also put money aside for a swimming pool... Otherwise, if it weren't for GMAAAC funding projects and positions, who would we go to?" GMAAAC Committee member



## **GMAAAC FUNDS JOBS AND BUSINESS** DEVELOPMENT

Amelia Brown and granddaughter shopping in the Yuendumu Women's Centre Op-Shop

> **GMAAAC** is helping the Yuendumu Women's Centre to set up its popular op-shop and start a bush plant garden, creating local jobs in the process

GMAAAC funds approximately half of the wages of Yapa and Kardia op shop workers and pays for cheap clothes and blankets to supplement donations. It also pays for basic toiletries, linen, funeral flowers, kitchen wares and baby goods.

Women's Centre worker Georgina Wilson is working hard to track down the things people ask for.

A huge success with the women, the opshop has now begun to cater for the men. Men can use a side access to buy winter woollies, long shirts and jeans so they can keep warm in the cooler months and save money. As one customer said:



The GMAAAC-funded bush garden is making the Women's Centre an even nicer place to relax, share a laugh, a cup of tea and enjoy each other's company.

It is thriving with the bush tomatoes, bean trees, desert oaks and desert roses local women bought with the GMAAAC money. Lemongrass grows alongside winter vegies in raised garden beds.

Profits from the business will be put back into the Women's Centre.

"With winter upon us, the sales of last year's winter donations have been really high," said Women's Centre Manager Ann Putt.



Ann said the op-shop would branch out into second hand furniture next: "We are constantly asked for second hand beds and lounges, so we are very keen to bring in these goods from town."

Yuendumu women are looking forward to cooking hearty soups when the vegies mature.

Lajamanu is spending \$200,000 in compensation from the Granites Mine to improve emergency services and to better respond to accidents

Northern Territory Emergency Services (NTES) will receive \$100,000 to build a training and storage shed for its Lajamanu volunteers.

The new shed will help make search, rescue and recovery operations quicker and more effective.

## **GMAAAC MAKES THE TANAMI SAFER**

The same amount has gone to the Centre for Appropriate Technology (CAT) to install five reliable emergency hand pumps at outstation bores and roads in the Lajamanu region or to repair existing pumps.

The Lajamanu GMAAAC committee hopes both initiatives will add up to fewer deaths on Tanami roads.







(L-R) Roland Dann from CAT pumping water from the newly installed Piccaninny Bore hand pump, installing a hand pump at Piccaninny Bore, drilling at Hooker Creek Bore in preparation for installing a hand pump

## WETT AND GMAAAC HELP JARU PIRRJIRDI TO GET MORE GOVERNMENT SUPPORT

The Jaru Pirrjirdi (Strong Voices) Program has outgrown its need for GMAAAC funds, freeing up Yuendumu's affected area money to start other good initiatives



A youth development and leadership program of the Warlpiri Youth Development Aboriginal Corporation (WYDAC), Jaru Pirrjirdi started in 2003.

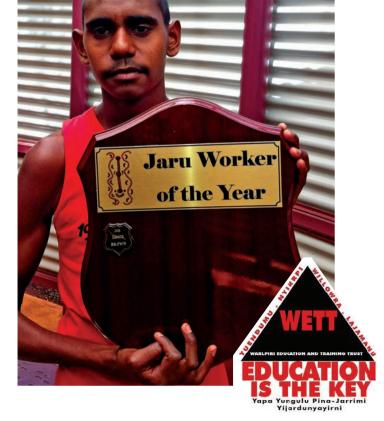
It uses small government grants to strengthen the skills and confidence of young people and to support them to become leaders in Yuendumu.

Program participants have found jobs, undergone training or taken up leadership positions at other community organisations. They can be found working with the Warlpiri Rangers, the Yuendumu Swimming Pool and the Yuendumu GMAAAC Committee. Since 2007 and 2010 respectively, the Warlpiri Education and Training Trust (WETT) and the Yuendumu GMAAAC Committee have contributed to the wages of young Jaru Pirrjirdi workers. *"The program could not have achieved its successes without the extra WETT and GMAAAC funding,"* 

said WYDAC's manager Susie Low

This year, the government has boosted its funding for Jaru Pirrjirdi because of WYDAC's good work.

The increased government funding, in addition to the ongoing WETT support for Jaru trainees, means the project no longer needs GMAAAC money. GMAAAC funds can now be put to another good community project. It's a great example of a community using its own money to set up a strong community development program.



## SITTING PRETTY AT TITJIKALA

#### Churchgoers have been much more comfortable since the arrival of eight new pews at the Titjikala Lutheran Church

The pews came from the NT Parks Rent Money Community Development Project.

Since the hand back of the Chambers Pillar Historical Reserve, the traditional owners of the park have received about \$18,000 in rent each year.

6

While it's not a lot, community members took the time to plan with the CLC Community Development Unit.

"The old people are sitting on the floor during church services," they said, before agreeing on other things they could do to make church much more comfortable.

They added a new altar rail, a P.A. system and six new ceiling fans to the church project plan.

#### **"THE TRADITIONAL OWNERS** MADE A GOOD DECISION **BECAUSE THE CHURCH IS SO** IMPORTANT,"

SAID CLC CHAIRMAN AND LUTHERAN PASTOR, PHILLIP WILYUKA

"We use it for church and funeral services, and families get together on singalong nights, praising our Father in Heaven who watches over us everywhere. The P.A. system in the church will help people sitting outside to hear the good news."

> (L-R) Emily Schilling, Jeanette Ungawanaka, Hazel Ungawanaka and Daisy Campbell try out the new pews.

### **IEETING SHELTERS A STEP TOWARDS** N COUNTR **BS**O

The traditional owners of four parks and reserves have decided to use their NT Parks rent money to build meeting shelters

In April, the lytwelepenty (Davenport Ranges) National Park owners chose a shelter near the park as their first project.

They also discussed projects to help outstations and promote language and culture with the CLC's Community **Development Unit.** 

lytwelepenty Davenport Range National Park - At Hatches Creek Outstation the site of the shelter

joint management meetings, it can become a base for cultural trips to pass on knowledge and to do ranger work on the park in the future.

There was even talk about using the shelter as a place to tell stories to tourists travelling along the nearby Binns Track and start a tourism business. It's all part of the community's vision of creating jobs on country to keep their culture alive.

The Joint Management Committee showed workers from the CLC and the Centre for Appropriate Technology (CAT) the place near Hatches Creek Outstation they had chosen for the shelter.

The traditional owners set aside \$130,000 for the shelter and asked CAT to design it. They insisted that training and employment for some of their young people be a part of the project.

CAT's shelter design will be presented to the Joint Management Committee for a final decision. The traditional owners and the CLC expect the shelter to be built before the end of the year.

The traditional owners of Watarrka National Park, Karlu Karlu (Devils Marbles) **Conservation Reserve and Dulcie Ranges** National Park also want to build on country meeting shelters and campgrounds as their first rent money projects.

At their June meeting Watarrka Traditional Owners set aside \$200,000 to set up a meeting place. They want to hire it to tour groups between their meetings. They hope this will bring employment and extra income for their families.

The shelter project came first because it can be used in different ways. As well as a place where traditional owners can gather for park

They want it to have a rainwater tank and toilets for men and women.

They also decided to use their rent money to support three schools in and near the park.

Sixteen National Parks and Reserves across the CLC region have been or soon will be handed back to traditional owners.

They have agreed to lease the parks back to the government so they can be jointly managed by traditional owners and the NT Parks and

Wildlife Service and continue to stay open for tourists. As part of the hand back deal, the NT government has paid traditional owners just over \$1.1 million in rent and other income last financial year.

The CLC Council decided that all of this money would be used for community development.

Lajamanu Regional Dialysis is ready to follow in the footsteps of other very successful dialysis programs

## LAJAMANU REGIONAL DIALYSIS SET TO START

Western Desert Nganampa Walytja Palyantjaku Tjutaku (WDNWPT) started with dialysis units in Alice Springs and Kintore and then helped Hermannsburg and Yuendumu start their own services.

The Yuendumu service was largely funded through a \$1.5 million grant from Kurra Aboriginal Corporation. Lajamanu will be next.

Planning for the service started two years ago, when Kurra decided to put even more royalty money into community projects. Since 2009, GMAAAC has followed Kurra's lead and put \$78,000 towards the service. The Aboriginal Benefit Account approved \$2.36 million for the Lajamanu Dialysis Project.

Planning the construction of the Dialysis Unit in Lajamanu has taken a long time because there were more than a few "bumps in the road".

A recent donation of \$250,000 from the Lajamanu Progress Association gave the project a welcome boost.

New government funding for bores and rising mains in Lajamanu will ensure there



is enough water for dialysis. Thanks to the wonderful support from the Lajamanu Kidney Committee, it's now all systems go for Lajamanu Dialysis Project. The dialysis patients in Darwin and Katherine can't wait to come home soon!

## SPREADING THE BENEFITS: ULURU RENT MONEY FOR THE REGION

### Rent money is helping to keep dialysis patients connected, kids safe and culture strong

Three regional projects are making sure Anangu tjuta benefit from Uluru rent money;

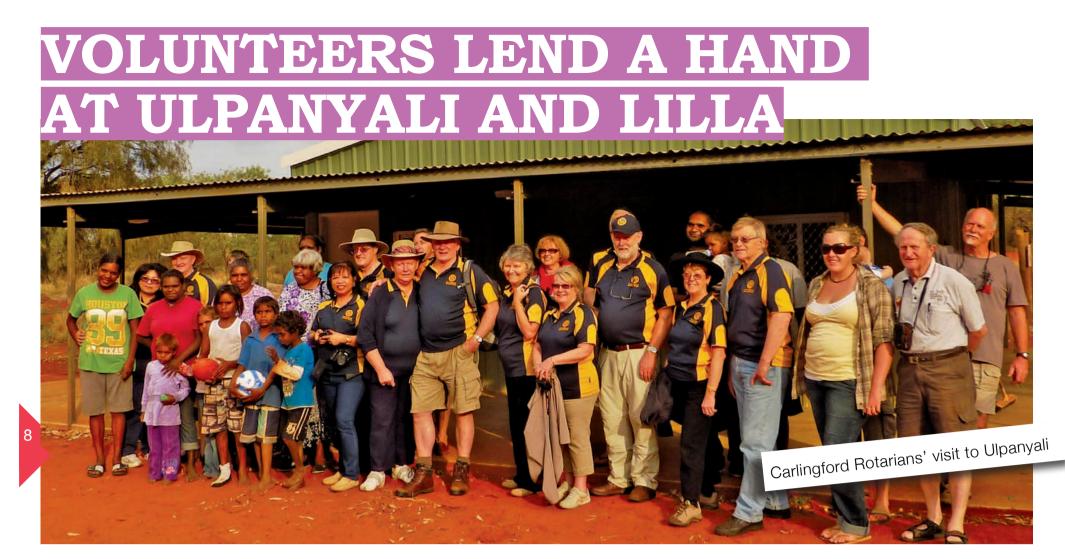
- MindMatters, a school-based social and emotional wellbeing project, is helping to keep kids safe.
- The Anangu social history database Ara Irititja helps communities to record and pass on Tjukurpa while building multi-media computer skills.
- The dialysis support project pays for the WDNWPT purple dialysis treatment bus to visit communities, so dialysis patients stuck in Alice Springs can go home and visit with their families for a week at a time. In March, the purple bus brought patients to Mutitjulu for the week of the Uluru Rent Money meeting.



#### **Uluru Rent Money Project Quick Facts**

The URM Project started in 2005 when the gate fee to enter the Park went up.

Now a good part of the rent paid to Traditional Owners goes to regional, community and outstation projects in both the Northern Territory and South Australia. Uluru traditional owner, Julie Clyne, said that working with the CLC Community Development Unit to put rent money to community projects is: "A lifetime opportunity, you know? Because it's going to benefit not only us old people but generations to come. It's going to help them along the way. It's a good opportunity I reckon."



Ulpanyali and Lilla residents have welcomed 22 very helpful Rotary Club members to their communities The club, from Carlingford in NSW, had raised thousands of dollars to help the communities buy much-needed equipment for their rent money projects.

Ulpanyali had used Uluru rent money to turn old sheds into a car workshop and an art studio, while Lilla decided to build an ablution block for visitors near the newly-re-opened Watarrka school. What they lacked was money for tools, art equipment, school books and stationery, and that's where the Rotary Club came to the rescue.

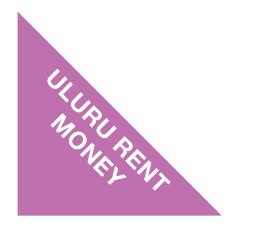
The volunteers, among them the parents of former CLC anthropologist Rebecca Morgan, brought the tools and equipment with them. First they helped to install the new gear at Ulpanyali. Then they visited Lilla to deliver books and stationery to the school, which had opened its door again following more than 15 years of community lobbying.

## MUTITJULU SWIMMING POOL: GET READY TO SPLASH

Six years in the planning,



and about to be built – yes, we're talking about Mutitjulu's very own, longawaited swimming pool



CAT Projects has guided the design development of this multi-million dollar project, working closely with the Mutitjulu Working Group and the CLC's Community Development Unit. The contract to build the pool will be awarded by the end of July.

While traditional owners got the ball rolling with their own rent money, an Aboriginals

Benefit Account grant got it over the line. Many legal agreements later, the Director of National Parks gave the final okay early this year.

Mutitjulu expects to keep cool during the hot summer months.

### MAKING PIYULTJARA FIT FOR FAMILY

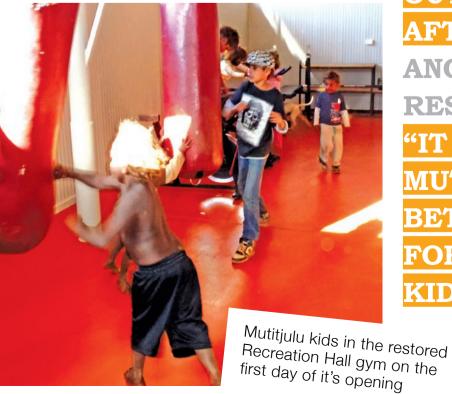
Jim Nyukuti and Yvonne Yiparti are really pleased with the great job the CLC Kaltukatjara Rangers and CAT have done at their outstation, Piyultjara. The family now has a high water tank, solar power, and an ablution block. The rangers and CAT also renovated their house. Thanks to the Uluru rent money, Piyultjara is now a comfortable place for the whole extended family to visit and stay with Jim and Yvonne on weekends. The couple enjoy teaching their children and grandchildren on country, and Yvonne likes to spend her spare time between visitors painting in a quiet spot.



CLC's Kaltukatjara Rangers and the CAT team finish the Piyultjarja Outstation upgrade



Mutitjulu children and their





#### families are giving the upgrade of their recreation hall and basketball court the thumbs up

The hall now has a gym room and plenty of space for indoor games. The new basketball court cover will keep players cool for many hot seasons to come.

"It's giving kids interesting things to do so they don't get bored," observed a community member. "They show films at night and they have disco."

Families are glad to know their kids are safe at the hall.

### AFTER SCHOOL," ANOTHER RESIDENT SAID "IT MAKES MUTITJULU A BETTER PLACE FOR THE KIDS."

### LEARNING COMMUNITY CENTRES ARE TAKING OFF ACROSS THE TANAMI

The WETT Learning Community Centres in Lajamanu and Willowra are sharing almost \$1.2 million in FaHCSIA funding, thanks to strong lobbying from the CLC and partner Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education (BIITE)

"I'm so pleased that the government has recognised the great contribution Yapa have made to this program by giving them additional funding." said CLC Chairman, Mr Wilyuka

In addition to this FaHCSIA money, Yapa are spending \$567,525 of WETT funds to set up and run these two centres for 2 years and \$379,500 on the Nyirrpi learning centre.

"Government can go dollar-for-dollar for community development programs rather than communities spending all their royalties," said CLC chairman Phillip Wilyuka. "More can be done when the government comes in hand in hand with communities to spend dollars together."

The government funding follows a positive independent evaluation that showed how much people in Nyirrpi valued their Learning Community Centre.

WETT has been partnering with Batchelor since 2010 to run the Learning Community Centre Program across the Warlpiri region. All four Warlpiri communities identified the program as a priority in 2006. They all wanted a place where young and old could go for learning and training, to celebrate and store Warlpiri language and culture, to use computers, the internet and a library, and get help to study. The CLC Community Development Unit, the WETT Advisory Committee, the Kurra Aboriginal Corporation, BIITE and the four Warlpiri communities have worked together to make it happen.

#### Nyirrpi

The WETT Learning Community Centre opened in late 2010. Since then, it has delivered training in construction, literacy and numeracy, language and art and craft. People also go to the centre to use computers and the internet. The centre co-ordinator and three Yapa workers have formed a local reference group to make all important decisions about the program in Nyirrpi.

#### Lajamanu

WETT kicked off the Learning Community Centre in 2007 by providing \$100,000 towards the construction of the building and is now adding \$40,000 to do much needed renovations. FaHCSIA, BIITE and the Centre for Appropriate Technology (CAT) are contributing to local training as part of the renovation project.

A co-ordinator has recently been hired to run the program, and Yapa will be employed to work alongside him. As in Willowra and Nyirrpi, a local reference group will plan and decide how to run the centre.

#### Willowra

CLC chairman Phillip Wilyuka has turned the first sod to launch the construction of Willowra's new Early Childhood and Learning Community Centre.

A \$2.6 million Aboriginals Benefit Account grant and \$625,000 from WETT pushed the project over the line. A huge amount of work went into removing many barriers that have blocked this project for years. No wonder Willowra held a community BBQ to celebrate the beginning of construction. Three local Yapa workers are now working four days per weekfor Tangentyere.

*"For the future we want Yapa youth workers and Yapa media workers – local, from Willowra, not Yuendumu," one resident said* 

"We want to give our kids and grandkids more opportunities and support; we want more work opportunities as well as training. We still want support for culture and language. We want to do it both ways"



CLC Chairman Phillip Wilyuka and Tangentyere Construction Neils Pederson turning the first sod

> Maisie Kitson, WETT Advisory Committee member, and Emily Wellard, CLC CD



Yapa Yungulu Pina-Jarri Yijardunyayirni

#### Young people across the Tanami are the winners from a big government funding boost for the WETT Youth and Media Program

Previously only available to the Lajamanu youth program, the \$733,500 grant from the Department of Family, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA) allows the Warlpiri Youth Development Corporation (WYDAC) to also hire youth workers in Nyirrpi and Willowra.

The grant recognises ongoing community support through the Warlpiri Education and Training Trust (WETT), as well as the program's solid achievements over the past 3 years.

#### **"IT MEANS MORE YOUTH**

**DIVERSIONARY ACTIVITIES, BUILT** 

**ON A CLEAR DIRECTION FROM** 

**COMMUNITY MEMBERS, AROUND** 

CULTURAL STRENGTHENING,

SPORTING AND ARTISTIC

**ACTIVITIES,"** 

SAID WYDAC CEO SUSIE LOW

**"IT ALSO ALLOWS US TO CONTINUE THE FOCUS ON FORMAL AND INFORMAL TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT FOR OUR YOUNG PEOPLE. THIS IS A PRIORITY OF MEMBERS IN ALL COMMUNITIES."** 

WETT planted the seed for the partnership between WYDAC and the CLC. This seed has grown into a strong tree that's now bearing fruit for young Yapa.

"WYDAC can be proud of the work we're doing in Lajamanu, Nyirrpi and Willowra. And now the government are recognising it," said WYDAC chairperson Eddie Robertson. "It all started with that WETT mob trusting us to do a good job, and we keep talking to them [WETT] to make sure we're doing things proper way."

For more great examples of governments and others chucking in when communities spend their own money on their own good projects see also pages 5, 8 and 10.

## WETT SEED FUNDING BEARS FRUIT

Top photo; In Nyirrpi, searching for Nindi beads is a favourite activity Niddle photo; Dancing in Lajamanu Bottom L-R; WYDAC activities in Willowra include video making taining and country visits



#### WETT quick facts

The Warlpiri Education and Training Trust (WETT) was set up in 2004. Kurra Aboriginal Corporation, the Trustee, puts over \$1 million of mining royalties into WETT each year for education and training in four Warlpiri communities in the Tanami.

WETT is supporting four major regional programs: Early Childhood,

School Support, Youth and Media, and Learning Community Centres.

WETT and the CLC Community Development Unit have developed strong partnerships with the four community schools, World Vision Australia, the Warlpiri Youth Development Aboriginal Corporation and Batchelor Institute to deliver these programs.



### How does the CLC support community development?

The CLC's CD Program works like this:

- Local community members themselves decide what needs to be done.
- They sit down with the CLC to decide how to spend their money to get the most benefit.
- The CLC looks for other organisations willing to work with it and the communities to get the best results.
- CLC Community Development Officers keep in touch with community members to make sure the projects are working properly.

Community development projects succeed because they are owned by the communities. Communities are involved in them right from the start, helping themselves, making sure their money is not wasted.

Government departments and nongovernment organisations are now seeing the value of the community development approach, and are chucking in money to boost the funds communities are investing in projects. The CLC's Community Development projects are different from many others because communities use their own money to pay for them. But that's not the only difference

#### Where does the money come from?

Money for community development projects comes from:

- mining royalties;
- "affected area" payments to compensate for mining;
- rent for Aboriginal owned national parks.

Aboriginal landowners want to spend some of this income on projects that will have lasting benefits for their communities. To make this happen, they give up part of the money they could receive as individual payments for community development projects.

In 2011, Aboriginal people approved over \$7.1 million to be spent on 105 community development projects.

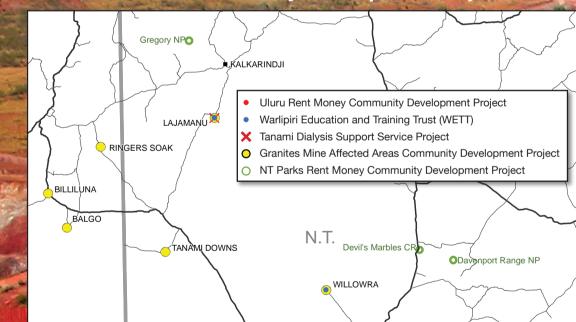
#### What is the money used for?

It's up to Aboriginal people themselves to decide how they spend the money they set aside for community development.

Sometimes they choose projects that would not normally attract government funding, or areas where they see a community need is not being met.

Community development projects aim to achieve many objectives:

- Health for example, community-based dialysis services;
- Education such as early childhood programs and interstate school excursions;
- Maintaining language, culture and connection to country;
- Enterprise development creating jobs and income for communities.



#### Location of CLC Community Development Projects 2011

