

Community Development NEWS

**NEW HOME FOR
ENGAWALA ARTS**

10 YEARS OF MUTITJULU POOL

**TWO-WAY LEARNING
FOR WILLOWRA KIDS**

**NEW FUTURE FOR
LTYENTYE APURTE MISSION**

**ARELTHE KEEP
YEPERENYE ON TRACK**

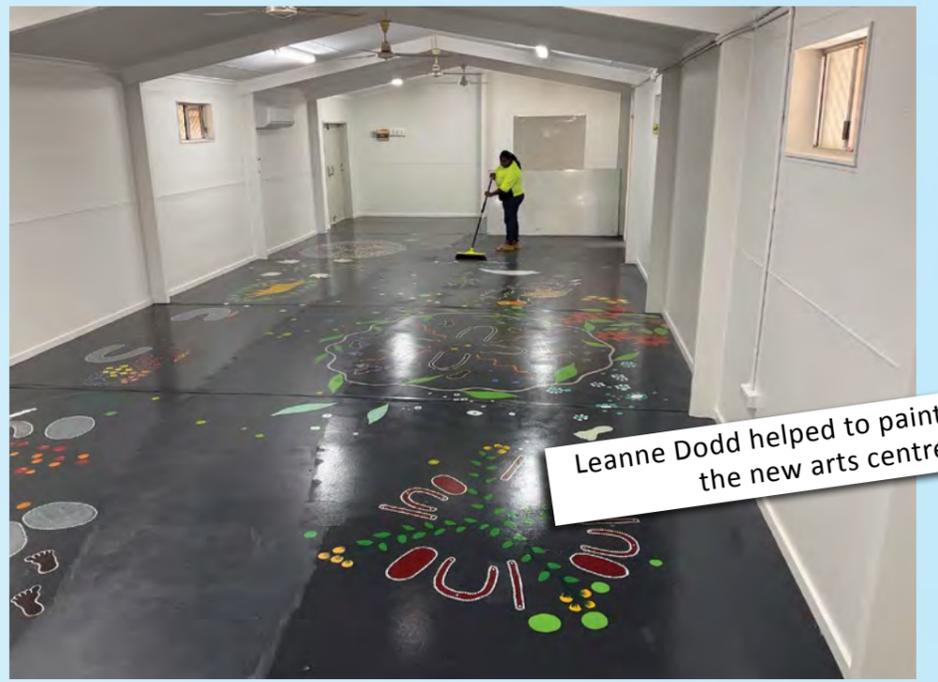
**GMAAAC GOES GLOBAL AT
WORLD CONFERENCE**

KALTUKATJARA LIGHTS UP





The old store before the renovations



Leanne Dodd helped to paint the new arts centre

2 OLD STORE BECOMES NEW HOME FOR ARTISTS

The old store in Engawala has been given a new lease of life, opening as an arts centre.

With few jobs in the community, Engawala's many talented artists now have a dedicated space to work and earn an income from arts and crafts sales.

Tourists often drop in on Engawala, 200 kilometres northeast of Alice Springs, because the community is next to the Alcoota fossil fields. Those visitors now have a proper place to view and buy the artists' work.

"The community are really supportive of the arts centre. Especially the board as well and Joy Turner, the elder for this community," arts centre manager and Engawala local Janine Tilmouth said.

"WE DID THIS PROJECT SO THAT THERE WAS A CHANCE FOR PEOPLE TO HAVE WORK AND ALSO TO HAVE THEIR OWN COMMUNITY-OWNED ARTS CENTRE, INSTEAD OF SOMEONE ELSE COMING IN AND RUNNING IT," SHE SAID.

They first talked about turning the old store into an arts centre four years ago.

The community allocated a total of \$145,000 to the renovation, which was made up of community lease money and matched funds. Four residents then met with the Central Land Council's community development team and Tangentyere Constructions to work out the details.

"The workers gave the old store a good clean-out and got electricity, benches and drawers," resident artist Sharon Tilmouth said.

They boarded up some doors and fixed broken windows to make the building safe.



Engawala community, gathered and proud to open their community-owned art centre

MATCHED FUNDS

The Community Development News gives Aboriginal people a chance to find out 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 about this work please contact the CLC on 8951 6367 or visit www.clc.org.au

Cover image: Arts centre manager Janine Tilmouth and elder Joy Turner celebrate the opening of the Engawala Arts Centre

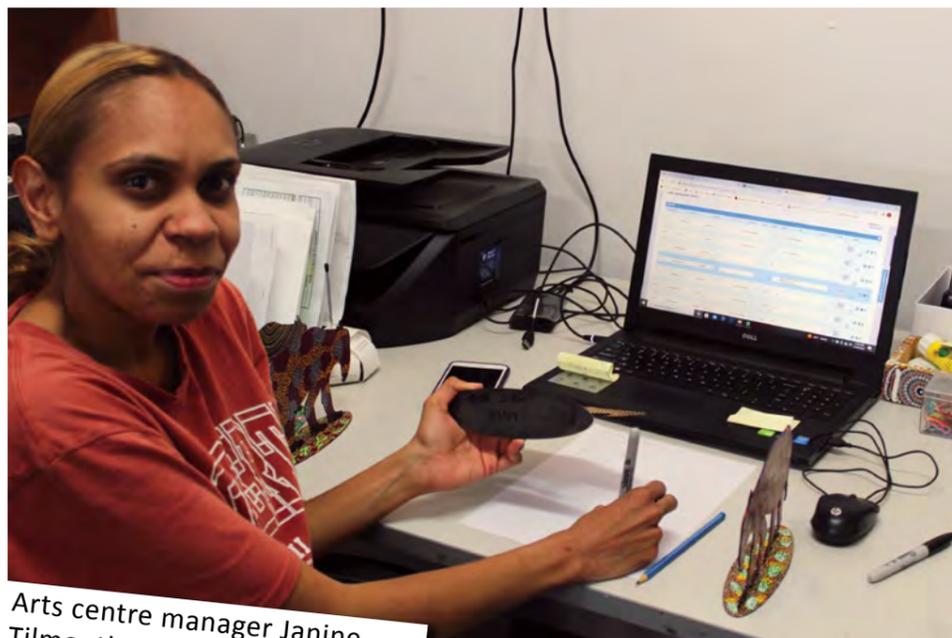


“We had to wait a while to get the work done, but Tangentyere Constructions did a good job,” Janine Tilmouth said.

“They listened to the community and suggested what would be good, with the sink and putting the drawers in.”

Tangentyere Constructions hired local residents Stewart Schaber and Leanne Dodd for some of the work and finished the job within six weeks.

“I HELPED PULL OUT THE FRIDGES AND I WAS PAINTING THE WALL AND GLAZING THE FLOOR. IT’S THE FIRST TIME I’VE DONE THIS KIND OF WORK,” MS DODD SAID.



Arts centre manager Janine Tilmouth catalogues artworks

“I liked getting to work on time and communicating with the other workers.”

She also helped Tangentyere’s Aboriginal tradies Corey Coull and Adrian Shaw to coat the floor and install the benches and trolleys.

Ms Dodds is a local artist and helped the other artists with the designs painted on the floor.

The locals took over the centre ahead of the official launch in August.

“THE ARTS CENTRE LOOKS GOOD INSIDE NOW. WE’VE ALREADY STARTED TO WORK IN THE ARTS CENTRE, DOING PAINTINGS. I’M WORKING AT THE SHOP NOW.”

Volunteers from Community First Development, a national organisation which connects skilled volunteers with Aboriginal communities, Taffy Denmark and Marella Pettinato were a big part of the project.



NT politicians Bill Yan and Chancey Paech with Janine Tilmouth and Joy Turner



Dianne Dixon sorted artworks for the Megafauna Central Museum in Alice Springs

They helped write a business plan and sourced a \$100,000 grant from the Aboriginals Benefit Account to paint the old store and build a shade structure. Now the artists can paint outside in good weather.

The money also paid for an eco-toilet, art equipment, insurances, governance training and project management.

During a year-long construction delay staff took part in intensive administration training.

“I got a lot of training from the volunteer Marella, for admin and bookkeeping and getting work-ready for the auditor. It’s a lot of work and I’ve learnt a lot,” said Janine Tilmouth.

Artists are also getting training from art professionals, and 12 community members have enrolled with the Batchelor College to complete visual arts certificates.



Stewart Schaber worked on the project

“The ladies have been screen printing,” Sharon Tilmouth said. “There was a workshop and one lady taught us. Lots of ladies have been using the arts centre and they’re happy with it.”

A \$400,000 grant from the Indigenous Visual Arts Industry Support program pays for a website, the wages of two local art workers for two years and covers the costs of attending interstate art fairs.

Janine Tilmouth said the centre will build on sales through the art fairs and allow them to explore other markets.

“MAYBE WE CAN TAKE OUR ARTWORKS TO THE CITIES, SPREAD THE WORD AND ADD MORE TO THE WEBSITE,” SHE SAID.

The Engawala art centre shows what can be achieved when Aboriginal people work with a lot of different people and organisations to drive their own development.

Project facts: Matched Funds

The Central Land Council and the National Indigenous Australians Agency started this three-year trial in 2020 to provide funds for groups that use new income from land use agreements for community-driven projects. Much of the matched funds went to groups whose incomes from land use agreements would otherwise be too small for the projects they want. All communities with new lease income and traditional owner groups with new income from land use agreements

between \$50,000 and 150,000 are eligible. A significant amount of the matched funds will go to groups whose incomes from land use agreements would otherwise be too small for the projects they want. Twenty-one traditional owner groups and 26 communities currently participate in the trial. All of the trial’s \$9 million has been fully allocated to participating groups and these groups have planned and funded just over 135 projects with \$4.4million of their matched funds.

MATCHED FUNDS

MEMORY MOUNTAIN FESTIVAL BRINGS JOY AND JOBS

This year's Memory Mountain Festival brought communities around Ikuntji (Haasts Bluff) together for a celebration of culture, faith, music, and sport over the Easter long weekend.

4

The community, 230kilometres west of Alice Springs, also launched the Forgiveness Cross, a 20-metre-tall, solar-lit cross on top of the mountain which they hope will attract visitors from around the world.

"I took the tourists up on the hill and helped out with the tourists," Renae Stevenson, a local festival worker, said.

"A different experience for me was watching the sunrise from on top of the hill."

Ikuntji's community development working group and 28 local workers organised the festival's sporting events, cultural tours and music performances, and cooked mouth-watering food.

From site preparation to building pit toilets, loading and unloading stage equipment, and handling sound and lighting arrangements, they played an important part in the festival's success.

"Everyone was involved in the festival and the launching of the cross," Douglas Multa, a director of community business Memory Mountain Ltd and a member of the working group, said.

He said the community set up the business to employ locals to run the festival and cultural tours.

"IT'S FOR OUR YOUNG PEOPLE TO GET PROPER WAGES AND PROPER JOB AND TRAINING, AND SO WE CAN DO THINGS OUR WAY. THAT WHY WE SET UP THE CORPORATION."

The community allocated more than \$111,000 of its matched funds income to the festival after project partner Memory Mountain Ltd presented a project plan and budget earlier this year.

The festival was held close to Ikuntji community



Renae Stevenson, Delena Butler, Hayley Dodd and Roslyn Pollard helped run the festival



Isiah Larry Jugadai led cultural tours for the festival



MATCHED FUNDS

LTYENTYE APURTE HAS DESIGNS ON LANGUAGE AND CULTURE CENTRE

An abandoned former mission dormitory will become Ltyentye Apurte's community-funded Arrernte language and culture centre.

Elder Veronica Dobson said the historical stone building near the Central Land Council's ranger office "will become a place for old and young people in the community to come and learn about their family, their community, their culture and their language".

"It is important that we have our own space to learn our language and culture in our way."

The roof-less structure, a Santa Teresa Mission boys' dormitory from the 1950s and 60s, is one of only two old stone buildings left in the community. It has sat empty for years.

Built by hand by local Aboriginal men, it is an important part of Ltyentye Apurte's heritage.

The community has long wanted to share its history, culture, language and the strength of its old people.

Last year, the Ltyentye Apurte community development working group allocated \$55,000 of their matched funds to kick off the first stage of the project.

Its chosen architect, Sue Dugdale and Associates, have begun to consult with the community to deliver a design report, a three-dimensional model of the renovations and estimated costs.

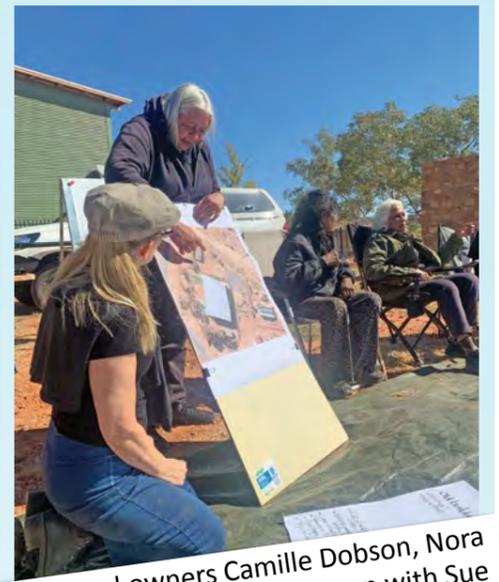
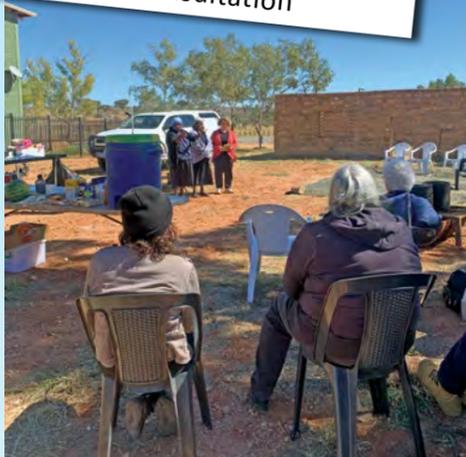
Two more community meetings are planned before the end of the year.

As the community celebrates its 70th anniversary in October, its history is on everyone's minds.

School employee Julia Cavanagh is excited about the project.

"IT'S GOOD THAT WE'RE TALKING ABOUT AN ARRERNTE LANGUAGE AND CULTURE CENTRE HERE AT LTYENTYE APURTE, FOR USE BY OUR YOUNGER GENERATION AND FOR THE WHOLE COMMUNITY TO LEARN AND LOOK AT OUR HISTORY," SHE SAID.

Carmel Ryan and Anna Cavanagh with Susan Poetsch at the community consultation



Traditional owners Camille Dobson, Nora Hayes and Veronica Dobson with Sue Dugdale at the community consultation



Old boy's dormitory

MATCHED FUNDS

IYTWELEPENTY TRADITIONAL OWNERS MAKE PLANNING FUN

6



Iytwelepenty (Davenport Range) National Park traditional owners, CLC and NT Parks staff at Whistleduck Creek

Traditional owners are using their income from the Iytwelepenty (Davenport Ranges) National Park to drive the development of their communities.

Eighteen traditional owners from five groups attended a joint management committee meeting at the Whistleduck Creek campground in the park.

Traditional owners talked about how to use rent money from the park for the next five years and decided to invest some of their income in a funeral fund to help families during tough times.

"It was a good meeting at Whistleduck, with all the TOs together, good to work out how to share the money turn and turn again," Mick Murphy, from the Nguyarramini group, said.

The traditional owners first discussed a decade ago how to use the park rent income wisely.

When they met again, in 2016, they talked about how to divide the income from 2016 to 2020 between projects for each of the five groups, so that everyone would benefit.

At their latest meeting, earlier this year, they spent two days preparing with Central Land Council for the decisions to be made.

Parks and Wildlife Service Northern Territory joined on the third day to discuss joint management issues, such as fencing, mustering cattle, and better signage for visitors.

They joined Charles Darwin University for a bilby survey and explored important sites in the park.

Nelnita Morrison, from the Kalinjarri group, was happy to visit a site she had not been to for a long time.

"For me it was really good to get back to Arrawajin after 37 years. It brought lots of memories back for me," she said.

"GOOD TO HAVE THE YOUNG ONES INVOLVED IN A MEETING LIKE THIS WITH LAND MANAGEMENT, BECAUSE WE DON'T GET TO GO OUT BUSH MUCH, WHERE WE GET ALL THE MEMORIES."

The CLC land management team organised the meeting with their colleagues from the Tennant Creek office, the community development, legal and anthropology teams and Parks and Wildlife Service staff.



CLC's Dianna Newham gives a project update

Project facts: Northern Territory Parks Rent Money

NT PARKS

In 2010 the traditional owners of 16 national parks and reserves across the CLC region leased their land to the NT government. They use all the rent they get for these jointly

managed parks for community benefit projects and the CLC is helping them to prioritise and plan community benefit projects, mostly on their outstations. The working groups they set up have so far allocated more than \$16 million to 354 projects.

TRAIL WORK TO KEEP TOURISTS AND LOCALS COMING

Traditional owners are keeping the Yeperenye walking trail in top condition for locals and visitors alike, two years after they gifted it to the public.

“Why we done the project is to bring more tourists out this way, to the East MacDonnells,” Roseanne Ellis, traditional owner and cultural mentor for the trail project, said.

“I GET A LOT OF COMMENTS FROM LOCALS AS WELL, AND THEY COME OUT HERE TO WALK ON THE WALKING TRAIL, AND THEY REALLY LIKE IT.”

The traditional owners are fixing the trail up and funding the repairs themselves.

They have repaired several washouts caused by heavy rainfall, working with local company Tricky Tracks, their partner in the original trail construction.

The workers added water bars, diagonal channels across paths to drain water away safely, and added stone paving to strengthen the path and limit future damage.

Tricky Tracks installed new signs with artwork designed by the traditional owners and paid for by the Parks and Wildlife Service Northern Territory.

Keeping the trail in top condition was important to the traditional owners from the very beginning.



Traditional owners who worked on the maintenance project

The work allows them to teach visitors about country.

Local worker Travis Alice said he likes “working out bush and giving knowledge to tourists”.

“I mentored three young ladies on the trail, my daughter and my two nieces, while they worked with Tricky Tracks,” said Ms Ellis.

The eight kilometre trail connects Anthwerke (Emily Gap) and Atherrke (Jessie Gap) in the East MacDonnell ranges near Alice Springs.

More than 30 traditional owners built it by hand in 2021.

Financed entirely by the traditional owners, the trail is the largest-ever investment in public infrastructure by a Central Australian Aboriginal group.

The group spent more than \$13,000 of its rent income from the Yeperenye/Emily and Jessie Gaps Nature Park on repairs and maintenance this year.

Brandon Hayes and Ricky Lechleitner re-routed the track

SUMMIT SEASON FOR EDUCATORS, RESEARCHERS AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CHAMPIONS

The members of the Warlpiri Education and Training Trust (WETT) advisory committee have been spreading the word about their important work across Australia.



Fiona Gibson and Nickita Kelly presented about Yapa education at the Wiyi Yani U Thangani summit, a meeting of more than 800 Aboriginal women and girls in Canberra in May.

The Wiyi Yani U Thangani means women's voices in the Bunuba language of the Kimberley.

The summit was the first gathering of its kind, a forum to share knowledge, celebrate, be heard and plan for a better future.

"THERE WERE LOTS OF WOMEN FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD. NANGALA [NICKITA] WAS STRONG AND DID A GOOD PRESENTATION,"
FIONA GIBSON, SAID.

"We did a big presentation about how we use our own Warlpiri money. They were really interested. There were so many questions. It's good we have to talk up strong and answer questions. [There were] so many Yapa women and they were interested in WETT's story."

The advisory committee members also shared stories about their education and training projects at the summit of the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies in Perth in June.

Verona Jurrah, Annette Patrick and Kirsten Egan presented on the theme *Our voices are stronger together: Warlpiri patu kurlangu jaru pirrjirdi jintangka-juku, tarngga-juku.*

"It was good to listen to lots of different Yapa from across Australia. I learned about different funding organisations. It was so interesting," Kirsten Egan said.

"FOR ME AS A YOUNG WETT MEMBER, IT'S IMPORTANT TO GO ON TRIPS LIKE THIS. IT BUILT MY CONFIDENCE."



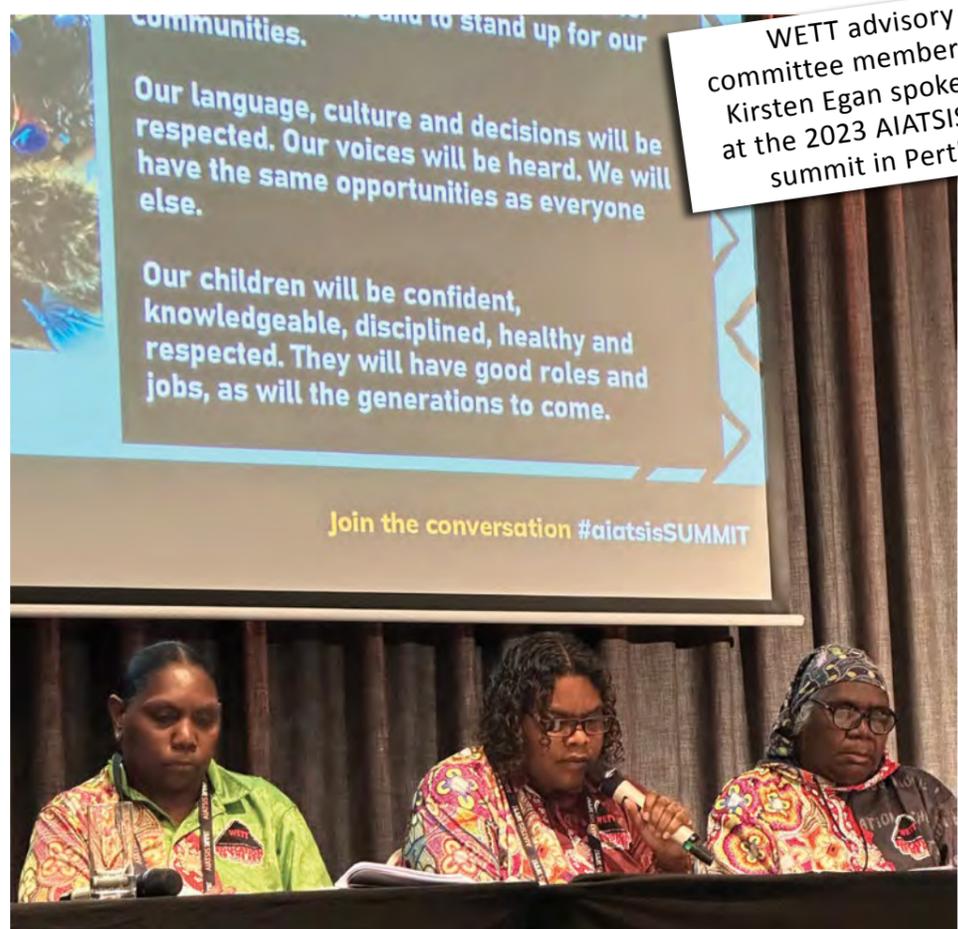
Kylie McDonald and Lilian Sampi from the Ringer Soak Granites Mine Affected Area Aboriginal Corporation (GMAAAC) committee also presented at the summit.

They talked about their cemetery project and how they researched who was buried in previously unmarked graves in cemeteries in Ringer Soak and Halls Creek.

Elders and young people worked with anthropologist Sally Hodson to identify the graves.

The women also presented to the Newmont leadership team at the goldmining company's Perth headquarters and showed them a film the GMAAAC had made about its work.

A group of WETT members, Lajamanu community researchers and directors of the GMAAAC and Kurra Aboriginal corporations attended the World Community Development Conference in Darwin in June.



Project facts: Granites Mine Affected Area Aboriginal Corporation

The Granites Mine Affected Area Aboriginal Corporation benefits nine communities affected by Newmont's Granites gold mine in the Tanami Desert - Yuendumu, Lajamanu, Willowra, Nyirripi, Yuelamu, Tanami Downs, Balgo, Ringer Soak and Billiluna.

Every year, community committees plan and allocate GMAAAC funds to community benefit projects.

Communities elect committee members every three years and the committees choose the directors of the corporation.

The CLC's community development unit helps the community committees to plan the projects and select partner organisations to implement them.

Since 2008 GMAAAC has allocated almost \$88M to 1,223 community benefit projects. The projects create jobs for Yapa, contracts for local businesses and support community priorities such as language, culture, education, training, essential services and infrastructure.

The work of CLC's community development unit in the Tanami is supported by GMAAAC, WETT and Newmont Tanami Operations.





GMAAAC directors, past and present committee members, CLC staff at the 2023 World Community Development conference in Darwin

GMAAAC directors Cyril Tasman, Derek Williams, David McCormack and Robyn Lawson all presented at the conference and showed the GMAAAC film.

“I presented about GMAAAC project planning for the Yuendumu football oval and Yuendumu softball oval, and about working alongside project partners,” Mr Williams said.

“It was good presenting to wider audiences, and I did get feedback from lots of people from all over Australia and international.

“It’s important to share our knowledge and culture to the world about what we’re achieving as a Warlpiri nation working together with CLC.”

The group also presented about designing landscaping for the Tamani Downs outstation and about sports, recreation and church facility upgrade projects in Lajamanu.

The GMAAAC directors along with Kurra directors, Peggy Granites and Valerie Martin, spoke about the Good Governance Program of the two corporations.

It was exciting and we are learning more, feeling confident. [It was] interesting to find out the different ways, how people communicate, how they do things in their community, some things that we don’t know, and they heard new things from us,” Ms Granites said.

“[They said] ‘We are going to do that with our people. This is new to us. It’s not happening in our communities’”

WETT advisory committee members Sharon Anderson and Verona Jurrah spoke about the trust’s governance and programs.

“The best part for me was showing the world what we are doing in our communities,” Ms Anderson said.

“THE WETT STORY IS VERY POWERFUL. WE PROVIDE A LOT OF THINGS THAT SUPPORT STUDENTS AND YOUNG PEOPLE. WETT HAS BEEN GOING FOR A VERY LONG TIME NOW AND HAS DONE SO MANY THINGS.”

“WE’RE ALSO STRENGTHENING OUR YOUNG MEMBERS TO BE MORE CONFIDENT. THEY BUILD THEIR CONFIDENCE WHEN THEY ARE PRESENTING.”

Researchers Glenda Wayne, Natalie Morton and Belinda Wayne, from the WETT’s Yitakimaninjaku, warrirninjaku, payirninjaku manu pina-jarrinjaku tracking and learning program talked about how Yapa monitor and evaluate the trust’s community development initiatives in Nyirrpi, Lajamanu, Willowra and Yuendumu.

La Trobe University researcher Marlkindi Rose, who helped to develop the monitoring and evaluation program, supported the trio.



WETT advisory committee members Fiona Gibson and Nickita Kelly at the Wiyi Yani U Thangani National Summit



Project facts: Warlpiri Education and Training Trust
 The Warlpiri Education and Training Trust has supported education and training in Nyirrpi, Lajamanu, Willowra and Yuendumu since 2005. The trust receives more than \$5 million every year from Newmont’s Granites gold mine for its children and families, language and culture in schools, youth development, learning community centres and secondary school support programs.

The Kurra Aboriginal Corporation meets twice a year to decide how to spend this income and its WETT advisory committee meets three times a year to plan and monitor the five major WETT programs. The trust delivers the programs in partnership with community schools, the Batchelor Institute for Indigenous Tertiary Education and World Vision Australia. It has invested more than \$54 million so far.



TWO-WAY EARLY LEARNING WORKS FOR WILLOWRA KIDS

Willowra youngsters are learning and thriving in both worlds, thanks to the community's playgroup.

"We also went on a nice bush trip where we took the children and showed them how to find bush food."

The playgroup uses the Yapa way of teaching alongside the Abecedarian Approach Australia 3a program. The approach encourages carers and children to read together and take part in learning games.

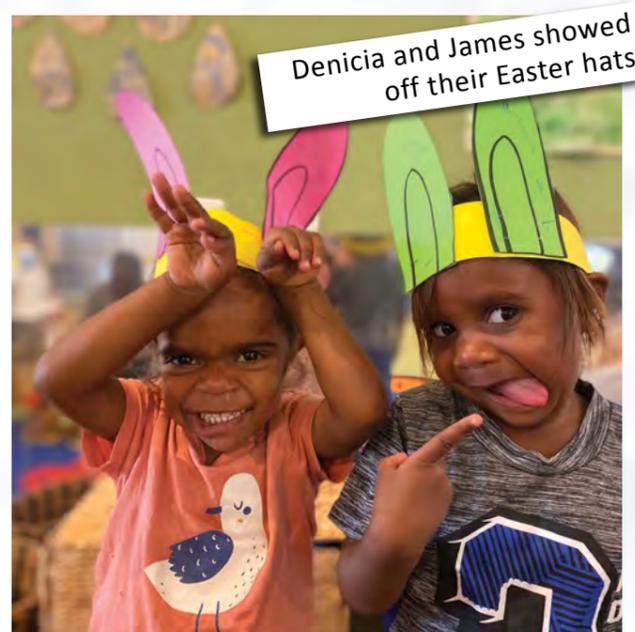
The mothers said the two-way approach encourages the sharing of ideas and is making their kids feel safe and supported.

"KIDS ARE LEARNING FROM PLAYGROUP AND GETTING READY FOR SCHOOL AGE,"
JASMINE SPENCER SAID.

"In the playgroup mothers are getting ideas from other mothers. We are sharing and learning," Kathleianne Mamarika said.

Ms Spencer and Ms Mamarika are two of seven casual Yapa employees of World Vision Australia, which has delivered the playgroup program for the past three years.

Playgroup planning happens at regular early childhood reference group meetings in the community, three hours northwest of Alice Springs.



Denicia and James showed off their Easter hats

Staff and reference group members also take part in training in areas such as child protection, brain development and trauma awareness, and three employees are undertaking a certificate III in early childhood services.

In May staff attended a Jinta Jarrimi (becoming one) workshop for Yapa educators at the local school, and Doreen Dickson, Barbara Williams and Selina Williams got the chance to travel to the World Indigenous Peoples Conference on Education in Adelaide in September 2022.

Healthy meals have long been on the playgroup's menu, with a nutritionist providing new meal ideas. Kangaroo and vegetable stew and pumpkin soup with damper are some of the favourites. Families can also bathe their children at the playgroup.

The WETT has funded the program since 2013.

Willowra elder Julie Kitson, a proxy member of the trust's advisory committee, believes the money is a good investment.

"PLAYGROUP PROVIDES CONSISTENCY FOR THE KIDS AND LEARNING TOGETHER,"
SHE SAID.

10



Parents and carers play learning games with the children

Carers combine a Yapa and a mainstream curriculum to teach their children through fun activities in the community and on country.

Elders from the aged care centre sometimes join them on bush trips.

Yapa educators, elders and residents, including member of the Warlpiri Education and Training Trust, developed the Yapa curriculum, the Warlpiri Theme Cycle.

It consists of 12 language, law, land and culture themes.

"My favourite Warlpiri theme cycle has been miyi manu pama (bush food and delicacies) because it's a new theme cycle for me and I got to create bush food colouring in pages for the kids," playgroup facilitator Tachiana Williams said.



James and Denicia played on country

Jazarliyah joined the Aquathon

MUTITJULU CELEBRATES 10 YEARS OF FUN

Mutitjulu's swimming pool has been the place to hang out for a decade.

The pool is a safe spot to cool off and the opening of its gates marks the start of summer.

"When the summer start, maybe when it's really hot, then the swimming pool is open."

"Them kids they know the summer is coming when the pool is open," Nathalie Ray, from the Mutitjulu Urungka Tjurpipai Aboriginal Corporation, said.

The community founded the corporation in 2019 to make decisions about how to run the pool.

Earlier this year the pool hosted the local school athletics carnival where the kids took part in run-swim-run races.

They also ran around a big loop while families splashed them with water and coloured dye.

Police officers, Tjakura and Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park rangers cheered them on, and everyone joined forces to make the event a success.

The pool operators, Adelaide-based company Casa Leisure, planned it with the local school and Athletics Northern Territory.

Local pool attendants Siobhan Turner-Buckley and Craig Forrester are employed by Casa Leisure to keep everything swimming along.

They've done first aid training and will undertake lifeguard training next.

Ms Turner-Buckley has been employed at the pool since November 2022.

"I like working with kids from the community," she said.

She said the event was a good way for parents and teachers to get to know each other.

"TEACHERS COME ALONG, TALK TO PARENTS. IT'S ANOTHER GOOD WAY OF GETTING THE PARENTS INVOLVED."

The Uluru rent money funds the operation and governance of the pool with support from the Central Land Council's community development team.



Junior liked the colour run

The team facilitates a couple of meetings a year, including the corporation's annual general meeting.

Last year, the community decided to keep working with Casa Leisure for three more years, under a contract worth almost \$1,370,000.

Project Facts: Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park Rent Money

Every year since 2005 the traditional owners of the national park have spent a big part of their share of the rent and gate money they get from the Commonwealth on projects in their communities in the Northern Territory and South Australia.

They meet three times a year to decide how to spend that income, and plan and monitor projects. Among the local and regional projects are upgrades and repairs of sports grounds and outstations, and support for cultural camps, local and boarding school education.

They have set up funeral funds and strengthen local culture through sharing knowledge between generations.

The Mutitjulu community receives its own share of income from the park. It has funded the construction and operation of its swimming pool and upgrades of its recreation hall and other sporting facilities. The community has also funded men's ceremonies and cultural trips, an upgrade of the community's inma (ceremony) ground and bilingual resource projects across the region.

So far, the traditional owners have allocated almost \$21 million to 148 projects.



Dulcie Nanala shop at Piriwa

WIRRIMANU'S NEW OP-SHOP CONNECTS WITH COUNTRY AND CULTURE

The Piriwa op-shop in Wirrimanu (Balgo) is no ordinary op shop.

Made out of two renovated shipping containers decorated with murals, it sells donated clothes, but also has a special mission.

The op-shop employs local women and offers training that keeps them connected with culture and country.

Weekend trips to collect bush plants with female elders and share cultural stories with young women is part of this mission.

Artist Monica Njamme is part of the Piriwa project.

"IT'S GOOD WE GET TO TAKE YOUNG GIRLS OUT FROM BALGO TO COLLECT BUSH TUCKER, AND LEARN FROM THE ELDERS AND OLD PEOPLE."

"I like to take young girls out bush and show the girls bush plants for medicine and bush soaps for when you are cold sick. Then we collect [the plants] and can make them at Piriwa," she said.

Enterprise Partnerships Western Australia (EPWA) trained two local women as enterprise facilitators supporting new Wirrimanu businesses.

The company also runs workshops at Piriwa. Thirty women recently took part in enterprise and leadership workshops and in the creation of the art mural for Piriwa.

The op-shop had been in a local school building since 2021.

When the op shop needed a new home last year, the EPWA and Wirrimanu's Granites Mine Affected Area Aboriginal Corporation committee planned the shipping container project and the Tanami Mine Affected Area Aboriginal Corporation contributed \$44,000.

Artists from Piriwa and the Warlayirti Art Centre helped to turn the shipping containers into colourful pieces of art that brighten up the community.

The flooding of the Fitzroy River and Kimberley region early this year delayed the project until June, but the wait was worth it.

The new op-shop building is now a place where creativity, learning and sharing come together, making Wirrimanu stronger than ever.

BAPTIST CHURCH RENOVATION INSPIRES IDEAS

The Willowra Baptist Church is open again after years of damage and disrepair. In the past the church played an important role in the spiritual and cultural life of Willowra – especially at Easter time.

Before these renovations the church was a tin shed with open sides. It was hot in summer and freezing in winter when the cold winds were blowing.

"THE SIDES OF THE CHURCH WERE LIKE A TENT WITH CANVAS SIDES AND A LITTLE FENCE," RESIDENT RAYLENE PRESLEY REMEMBERED.

Still, the ramshackle structure attracted big crowds from across the Tanami for Easter celebrations.

"We need to go to church, for funerals and celebrations, and Easter," said Ms Presley, a new member of Willowra's committee of the Granites Mine Affected Areas Corporation.

Five years ago, the committee decided to fix the church up.

Following community consultations in 2019 the committee decided to ask Alice Springs architect Sue Dugdale to develop and cost designs for a more comfortable and secure building.

Upgrades included replacing open shed walls with solid doors and glass louvres and adding insulation, ceiling lining and fans.

Three years later, the committee approved architectural plans and chose a builder.

MPH Projects completed the upgrade in May, and the inviting new meeting space has inspired ideas ever since.

"We'll have open days at the church and feed the little ones," resident Gloria Presley said.

"It's really good now," Raylene Presley said.



Gloria Presley, Rayleen Presley and Sharon Martin in front of the replaced cross



YUELAMU DOUBLES THE FUN WITH TWIN PARKS

Yuelamu children have safer places to play following recent upgrades to the community's two parks.

New swings, rockers and playground sets have replaced the dangerous playground equipment, and new fences are stopping the kids from running into the road.

Yuelamu Granites Mine Affected Area Aboriginal Corporation director Cliffy Tommy said the old playgrounds, known as North Park and South Park, were putting kids at risk.

"OLD PARKS WERE NOT SAFE. WIRES WERE STICKING OUT, AND EVERYTHING WAS BROKEN. WE NEEDED A PARK ON THE SOUTH SIDE TOO. KIDS ON BOTH SIDES OF THE HILL ARE HAPPY NOW. IT'S NICE TO HAVE TWO PARKS. THEY'RE PLAYING ON THE SOUTH SIDE NOW," HE SAID.

The community has also added paths and shaded picnic benches.

Mr Tommy hopes for further improvements of North Park.

"There's still some empty space. That might be our next project, to put in some more little parks here."

GMAAAC committee member Melissa Morton lives on the south side of the hill, in the centre of the community.

"We wanted a park on this side. It's great for our kids; they don't need to go far. It's nice to see our kids closer," she said.

She likes the new half basketball court in South Park.

"I'm happy about the basketball court and the table and chairs there are really nice, and the fence – it's more safe there too. I take the kids



The new play equipment at North Park



New basketball court at South Park

over for a walk and sit down there and let them play," said Ms Morton.

The upgrades, carried out in partnership with the Central Desert Regional Council and BC Constructions, started early this year and were completed in July.

Yuelamu's GMAAAC committee allocated almost \$730,000 to the project. An additional \$40,000 covers five years of annual inspections, repairs and maintenance.



Kids visiting Yuelamu Elvina, Tianna and baby Jacob enjoy the new equipment at North Park

KALTUKATJARA LIGHTS

UP FOR SOFTBALL

Softball players in Kaltukatjara are practising their ball skills in the evenings, thanks to the community's new solar lights.

Softball holds a special place in the hearts of Aboriginal women in remote Central Australian communities because it promotes wellbeing and good community spirit.

Daytime games, however, are out of the question when summer temperatures soar.

14 That's why Kaltukatjara, 670 kilometres south west of Alice Springs, has long wanted to light up its softball field at night.

Four years ago, the local community development working group decided to fund 18 solar lights at the field.

The Central Land Council helped the group to source a grant of almost \$273,000 from the Aboriginals Benefit Account.

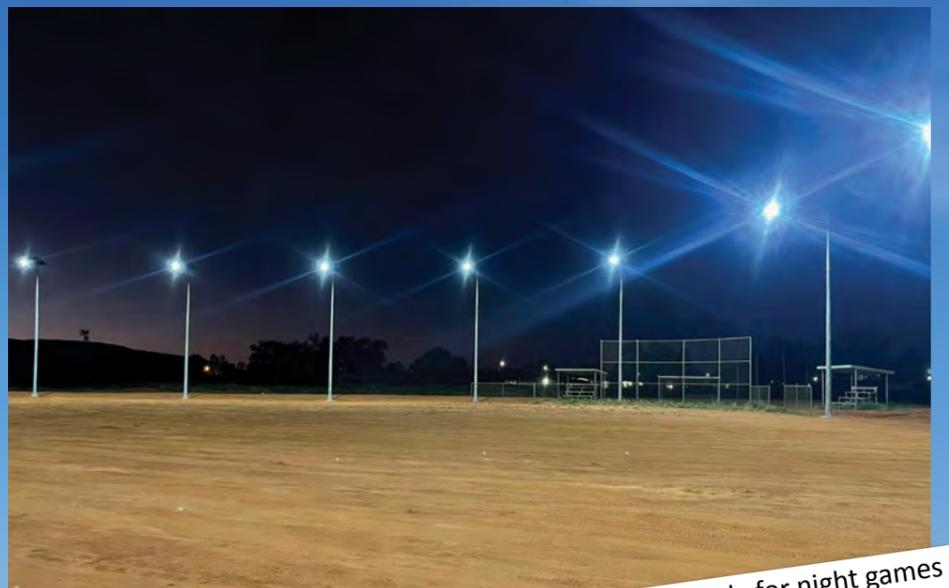
Following the injection of another \$44,000 from the community's lease money, the lights finally came on in May with the help of project partner MG Electrical.

They have been switching them on ever since, even during the cold months.

"EVERY NIGHT THEY'RE GOING AND PRACTICING WITH YOUNG GIRLS, AND A LOT OF KUNGKA (GIRLS) ARE GOING THERE AND PLAYING," WORKING GROUP MEMBER SELINA KULITJA SAID.

"It is good big light and nice one. Everyone was really happy."

CLC staff member Lauren Michener at a community meeting in 2020



The lights are used frequently for night games (below) The softball field lights run on solar power



Project facts: Community Lease Money

The project started in 2012, after two new income streams started to flow.

The first was the Commonwealth's one-off compensation payment for the compulsory leases it took out over 31 communities during the five years of the NT Emergency

Response, also known as the Intervention. This money has now been spent in most communities. The second is lease money governments and other organisations and service providers pay annually for the blocks they lease in communities – Section 19 or other lease money.

All communities have working groups to plan and monitor projects - a total of 390 so far. Since 2012, communities have invested almost \$20 million into projects - almost \$14 million of the five year lease money and more than \$5.8 million of the other lease money.

COMMUNITY LEASE MONEY



Central Land Council Community Development (CD) Program report 2021/22

Key Messages

555

Community Engagements Supporting Local Decision Making

\$21.6 million

Approved for Projects

217

New Community Benefit Projects Funded

78

Projects Successfully Completed

100

Governance Groups

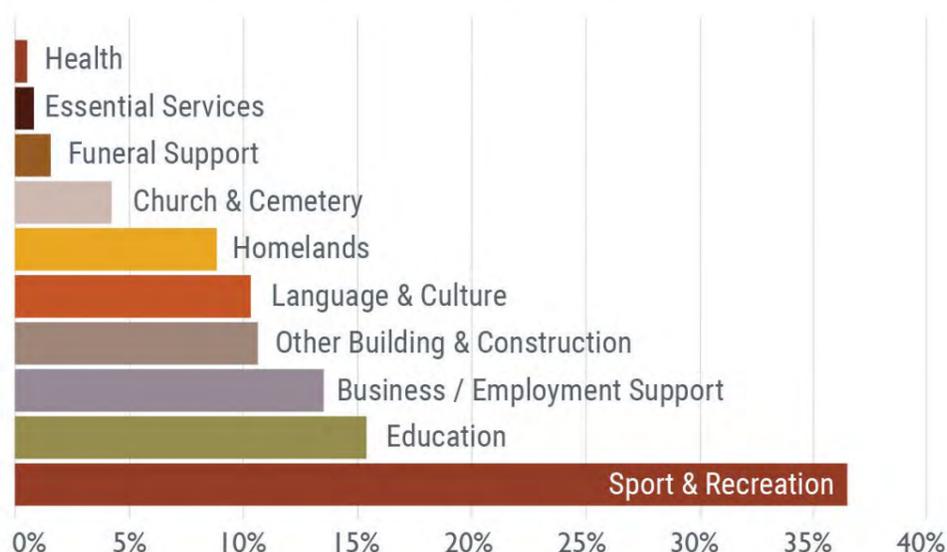
Everyone comes up with ideas. Some community members come along to listen. Everyone gets together, they work well together, listening and sharing ideas. It's a real good one— self-determination—we are making decisions for our own community. We go through Land Council, and they help us with it.

(Aboriginal participant, Titjikala)

Social and Economic results

- **499** Aboriginal people were employed during the reporting period
- **5,006** hours of non-accredited training for **117 participants** (up from 2,658 hours in the previous year).
- **3,712** hours of accredited training for **317 participants** an increase on 1,827 hours from the year before.
- **208** meetings and consultations were undertaken with communities on the Matched Funds initiative (MFI) during this period.
- **45** governance groups in the MFI allocated \$1.84M to **58 community benefit projects**

Funding allocation \$ by project type



I know about matched funds; it's a really good idea. If we didn't have that money we couldn't get solar project and other things done. Good to have funds to match ours to help make this happen. There is still a lot of things coming up—what we got to talk about. I want to say to government, "keep putting money in to keep on helping us, match the money we put so we can have better lives".

(Aboriginal participant, Urremerne)

If we work together towards one idea we can make it happen. Everyone works on the Working Group together well. We think together. Sometimes things take a long time. Working group makes rules—it's a really hard thing for us explaining the rules. Some people listen and understand, some people don't listen. We had a bus before but young people wanted to go to town all the time.

(Aboriginal participant, Titjikala)



MEET THE DECISION MAKERS

All of the great community development projects that happen across the Central Land Council 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.



The Yeperenye (Emily and Jessie Gap Nature Park) community development working group



The new Willowra Granites Mine Affected Area Aboriginal Corporation committee elected in July 2023



Tjoritja (East MacDonnell Ranges) Oliver Family NT parks rent money community development meeting



Mt Peake Amakweng traditional owner community development meeting



Ltyentye Apurte community development working group



WETT advisory committee members and YWPP community researchers



Tara community development meeting



Tjoritja (East MacDonnell Ranges) Ryder Family NT parks rent money community development meeting



Watarrka education working group meeting



Nolan's Bore Atyelp traditional owner community development meeting



CENTRAL LAND COUNCIL

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