

Community Development

NEWS

**SPORTS WEEKEND
FUN AT ARLPARRA**

LAJAMANU'S FLASH NEW PLACE TO SPLASH

URREMERNE'S GOT THE POWER

TITJIKALA'S TRAVEL ADVENTURES

YAPA UNLOCK LITERACY

**COOL CHRISTMAS
AT RED SANDHILL**

BRIGHTER FUTURES FOR YAPA





Lajamanu's new community-funded water park is a big hit with kids and adults alike.

The covered water park in the middle of the community is a testament to the determination of the community's Granites Mine Affected Area (GMAAAC) committee to provide more engaging and fun activities for Lajamanu youth.

Last September the whole community gathered to celebrate the water park opening and everyone got a bit wet as they enjoyed the water features.

The water park has got the thumbs up from parents who are happy there is another place for the kids to cool down other than Hooker Creek.



"IT'S GOOD FOR COMMUNITY INSTEAD OF KIDS GOING SWIMMING IN DIRTY WATERS AT THE CREEK AND GETTING EAR INFECTIONS," KYLIE PATRICK SAID.

The GMAAAC committee member and water park employee believes that playing in clean water means fewer eye, ear and skin problems.

"I like going there to the water park. I don't like creek. It's safer for me there at the water park," seven-year-old Shikalah said.

Open five days a week, the water park has become a popular place for the community and had plenty of use over school holidays. There is also a separate covered playground area surrounded by artificial turf and toilets are nearby.

"I like the swings and go with friends. I feel happy," nine-year-old Cleveland Patterson said.

It's early days for the water park, but the community hopes that its 'No School – No Splash' policy will help lift school attendance.

The committee developed the policy with the school and the operating partners the Warlpiri Youth Development Aboriginal Corporation (WYDAC) who operate the park.

Children who go to school get a wristband which is their entry ticket to the water park. No school, no wristband, no water park.

The WYDAC runs the water park and has GMAAAC funding to employ up to eight Yapa supervisors – two per shift. The workers are also trained in pump room operations.

"THE WATER PARK IS REALLY GOOD, WE'RE ALL WORKING," JOE MARSHALL, GMAAAC COMMITTEE MEMBER AND WATER PARK WORKER, SAID.

"We'd like to say thank you to GMAAAC and land council, it's a really good thing," Mr Marshall said.

Tracie Patrick, another employee of the water park, likes going to work.

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 on this work please contact the CLC on 8951 6367 or visit www.clc.org.au

Cover image: Young people enjoying the Lajamanu Water Park on opening day in September 2022





Lajamanu youth listening to water park story and rules

“I LIKE IT BECAUSE IT'S GOOD TO SEE FAMILIES AND KIDS USE IT. PARENTS WITH KIDS. I ENJOY WORKING THERE.”

Lajamanu’s GMAAAC committee paid \$3.8 million to NT Playground and Surfacing to build the water park. Aboriginal-owned company Ekistica (part of the Centre for Appropriate Technology) managed the construction with guidance from a four-member GMAAAC

subcommittee and the CLC community development unit.

The subcommittee kept other residents informed about the project’s progress, were involved in important moments of the build and drove the community development process.



GMAAAC committee members Andrew Johnson, Jenny Johnson and Lamun Tasman. GMAAAC committee members Jasmin and Kylie Patrick with the CLC’s Julian Redmond

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, Nyirrpi, 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 \$81 million to almost 1,200 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 the CLC’s community development unit in the Tanami is supported by GMAAAC, WETT and Newmont Tanami Operations.



LAJAMANU SIGNS UP TO WANTA'S NEW YOUTH PROGRAM

Youth in Lajamanu will now have even more school and job-readiness activities to choose from, with the start of the Brighter Futures program.

Children aged 10 years and older still get to take part in sports training, interstate excursions and bush trips, but will now also learn how to become job-ready after high school.

4 The Lajamanu Granites Mine Affected Areas Corporation (GMAAAC) committee first funded the Wanta Aboriginal Corporation, which manages the program, to run a sports academy in the community in 2016.

The academy offered sport and interstate reward trips as a way to get kids to go to school.

Lajamanu resident Steve Morton is glad that kids get to travel to places such as Darwin and Katherine.

“WANTA IS PUSHING HARD TO GET KIDS TO GO TO SCHOOL. WANTA IS PUTTING GOOD ACTIVITIES FOR KIDS. PUTTING ON COMMUNITY BBQ COOK UPS.”

“Wanta is good for kids’ education, to get kids to school,” he said. Over the last two years Wanta also ran sports days where teams from neighbouring communities competed for the Wanta Cup.

The competition was a round-robin event of soccer, volleyball, football and Jenga. Last year Lajamanu’s team finished on top.

Cooking classes are other fun after-school activities for the children.

Between 2021 and 2022 the children in Lajamanu, 880 kilometers from Alice Springs, got to enjoy 250 sports events, 40 cooking sessions and 50 camp activities.

Last year the GMAAAC committee agreed to continue their partnership with Wanta and funded two years of the new Brighter Futures Program.

Merril Patrick, Tracie Rose, Mark Rose, Liam Patrick, Mazlan Patrick, Jaylene Jurrah with the Wanta Cup



While the program will still offer many of the great activities at the Wanta youth space at school, it will focus more on job-readiness.

The kids are learning about using the internet safely (cyber security), about alcohol and other drugs and can even learn to drive a car.

The Wanta program also employs three academy officers at the youth space to help young residents move from school to work.

Liam Patrick has worked with the program for more than six years and is very proud of supporting young people in his own community.

“I LOVE AND ENJOY WORKING WITH WANTA LAJAMANU, BUILDING A SOLID FUTURE FOR OUR NEXT GENERATION LEADERS. AS A LOCAL BOY, I ALWAYS WANTED TO STAY HOME IN LAJAMANU AND NEVER MOVE AWAY,” LIAM PATRICK SAID.

The Lajamanu GMAAAC committee allocated \$800,000 to the new program for the next two years. The program includes wages for Yapa staff.



Prestina Spencer and Janine Andrews on a five day canoe expedition on the Ord River

BIG PLAN FOR SAFE YUELAMU SPACES

Yuelamu residents have designs on making their community more liveable.

The \$72,000 community masterplan of Yuelamu's Granites Mine Affected Areas Aboriginal Corporation (GMAAAC) features more street lights, better traffic management and more public spaces.

The GMAAAC committee of the community, 300 kilometers northwest of Alice Springs; developed the plan to make Yuelamu (Mount Allen) safer and more enjoyable for all.

"IT'S REALLY IMPORTANT FOR THE MASTERPLAN TO IMPROVE SAFETY FOR KIDS AND TO MAKE A BETTER LIVING ENVIRONMENT FOR ALL PEOPLE OF YUELAMU," COMMITTEE MEMBER SHONELLE STAFFORD SAID.

David Stafford, David McCormack, Rosina Stafford, Melissa Morton and Doreen Tilmouth were elected at a community meeting to form a steering group that met with project partner Arid Edge Environmental Services throughout last year.

They singled out the busy areas near the community store and between the school, clinic, aged care and the Bush Bus stop for a makeover.

"It's a bit dangerous. When we go there, and for the kids when they walk, we don't know if cars are speeding there. Cars go everywhere," Rosina Stafford said.

"On the blind corner we need more lights and signs so cars slow down when people are walking," she said.

Under the plan, traffic lanes, speed bumps and parking bays are designed to help to slow down cars and provide parking.

Ms Stafford says the service hub needs better traffic management.

"We had to fix it. So if Bush Bus comes it can come around and park there. And so kids, when they go back from school, can go back home safely.

"We need speedbumps and a footpath through to the school and signs. And same with old people when they come to aged care and other people when they come to the clinic, that area needs to be safe."

The plan also includes creating more shady areas for families with kids and building public toilets.

The Arid Edge team has proposed different designs for dry toilets that get around the long-standing ban on new developments in the extremely water-stressed community.

The Yuelamu GMAAAC committee funded the masterplan in late 2021 and completed it late last year. Now the work to make the plan a reality will get underway.

More funding will come from the Central Desert Regional Council's local authority, GMAAAC and grants.

"I WANT TO SEE PROJECTS THAT STAND FOR GOOD FOR THE COMMUNITY AND THAT LAST TO THE FUTURE," SHONELLE STAFFORD SAID.



Alex Vaughan from the Arid Edge team consulting with Yuelamu residents about how to plan for changing climate conditions

RINGER SOAK RESIDENTS HAVE DESIGNS ON THE FUTURE

Local decision making is driving plans to fix up the Kundat Djaru Aboriginal Corporation office in Ringer Soak.



Ringer Soak GMAAAC committee members Dwayne Jack, Lillian Sampi and Kylie McDonald

The community's Granites Mine Affected Areas Aboriginal Corporation (GMAAAC) committee has long wanted to support the office refurbishment.

Last May the committee agreed to commit just over \$35,000 for a Perth-based architecture firm, The Fulcrum Agency, to come up with costed design ideas.

At first the GMAAAC committee used Zoom meetings to discuss and plan the project.

Last October Fulcrum staff visited Ringer Soak to inspect the office site and hold two design workshops.

Kylie McDonald, Lillian Sampi and Dwayne Jack from the GMAAAC committee and store corporation directors Caroline Rex and Samson Gibson took part.

They re-arranged cut-out plan pieces to pick an office layout from the agency's four design ideas.

A community meeting was held the next day to hear more views about that layout.

Ms McDonald was pleased that the first stage of the project was underway.

"RINGER SOAK GMAAAC COMMUNITY COMMITTEE ARE ON A JOURNEY TO REBUILDING OUR COMMUNITY OFFICE," KYLIE SAID.

"We have enjoyed working with Fulcrum architects Kieran and Tess to discuss the design and scoping of the office upgrade."

The committee will look at the design plans and decide on the next steps at its meeting in May.

It expects that the corporation will breathe new life into its governance and make the community proud.



FM'S NYIRRPI HISTORY BOOK LAUNCHED

Ngulajuku is a story of how the community of Nyirрпи started.



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Fiona Gibson reading her book to her grandchildren

The book is based on an interview one of the community's founders, the late Tiger Japaljarri Morris, gave his granddaughter Fiona Napaljarri Gibson in the early 1990s.

Mr Morris talked about life in the bush, the arrival of white people, mining and how community members built the road between Yuendumu and Nyirрпи.

Ms Gibson, also known as FM, wrote it all down and translated it from Warlpiri into English with the help of Angela Harrison, from the Batchelor Institute, to share the story more widely.

The resulting book, *Ngulajuku* (Warlpiri for 'that's all for now'), celebrates the resilience and ingenuity of the community's first families and their thirst for independence.

Ms Gibson, a teacher and 2019 NAIDOC Person of the Year, campaigned in the early 1980s to

start a school in Nyirрпи, five hours drive north-west of Alice Springs.

"WE WORKED REALLY HARD. KIDS CAN LEARN THE STORY ABOUT NYIRRPI FROM THIS BOOK. THIS IS REALLY GOOD BECAUSE THE KIDS ARE LEARNING MORE STORIES AND WANT TO KEEP LEARNING MORE,"

MS GIBSON SAID.

Last October Ms Gibson launched the book in her home community.

"I feel so proud to be launching this book here in Nyirрпи. It's good to have everyone and even all the kids here to look at what we made," she said.

Pintupi Anmatjere Warlpiri (PAW) Media broadcast the launch live to 14 communities.

Ngulajuku features historical and new photographs of Nyirрпи, as well as maps and drawings by local students.

Yapa teachers are already using the book to teach history, science and maths.

Thanks to the Batchelor Institute and Australian Teachers of Media, teachers can use a study guide to the book to prepare their lessons.

Scanning a QR code in the book takes readers to an audio track and film by PAW Media about the road the community built by hand.

The Warlpiri Education and Training Trust and Newmont Australia co-funded the book project.

BUSH TEACHERS SPEAK UP FOR LEARNING IN LOCAL LANGUAGES

Bilingual educators have used a planning workshop in Alice Springs to push for better bilingual teaching.

Advisory committee members from the Warlpiri Education and Training Trust (WETT) and other Aboriginal educators met with First Languages Australia last November to tell the federal education department how to train and better support future generations of Warlpiri, Pitjantjatjara, Arrernte and Anmatyerr language teachers.

First Languages Australia and WETT co-hosted the workshop to give bilingual educators from remote communities a chance to have a say about a national Aboriginal language strategy.

Barbara Martin, one of the founding members of the WETT, explained why teaching in local languages and English matters.

"BILINGUAL EDUCATION IS RICH FOR US," SHE SAID.

"The kids are learning in their first languages. They need



Educators from Northern Territory and South Australian schools at the workshop

to learn English, but there is strength and power in using first language and culture to learn English and to build towards the Australian curriculum."

Workshop participants reviewed a draft 10-year action plan of the national Indigenous languages education workforce strategy.

They gave feedback about community collaboration, employment, leadership, training, national co-ordination and the support they need in each of these areas.

The plan is part of a four-year national project aimed at strengthening the teaching of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages in Australian classrooms.

First Languages Australia will work with the federal Department of Education to finalise the plan by the middle of the year.





Jennifer King, Taylor Martin, Effany Patterson and Quayisha Hudson at the Ngatijirri book launch in Lajamanu

YAPA AND WORLD VISION UNLOCK LITERACY

WETT advisory committee members Fiona Gibson, Alana Gibson and Agnes Brown teaching Nyirripi school kids on country

Bilingual education in Tanami schools is getting a boost through the Unlock Literacy Project.

World Vision Australia has partnered with the Warlpiri Education and Training Trust (WETT) to bring the project to three Yapa communities. Working with Warlpiri speakers and Yapa organisations in Willowra, Nyirripi and Lajamanu, the project provides bilingual resources in the communities' dialects.

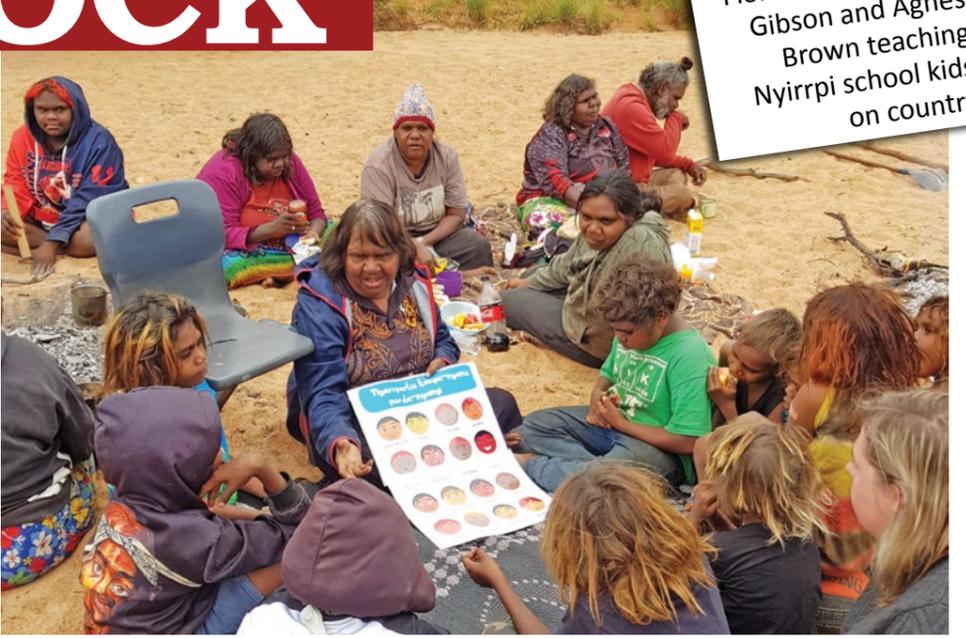
World Vision sourced existing bilingual books and produced new ones with Willowra's playgroup and the Warlpiri Youth Development Aboriginal Corporation.

Among the new books is *Ngurra nyampuju Nyirripi: This is Nyirripi*, about a school bush camp, the *Wirliyajarrrayi Bush Foods Book* and *Ngatijirri Jukurpa*, inspired by a budgerigar story and children's photos of the birds taken during a bush trip near Lajamanu.

The project helps primary-school-aged children to become strong readers by teaching them the relationship between letters and sounds.

Learning activities combine Yapa culture with mainstream content so that children can grow strong both ways.

One of the WETT's founding members, Fiona Gibson Napaljarri, from Nyirripi, is a Cultural Advisor on the project.



"I talk to the people what it's going to do and teach about it," she said. "First, when it was brought out here into the community, to Nyirripi, we liked it."

Cultural advisors and community reference groups are adapting the design and implementation of the project to the needs of their communities to make learning more meaningful and fun.

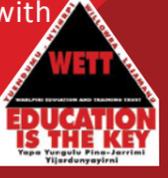
In Nyirripi, that means after-school reading, writing and language activities such as with the youth program and story time.

"THAT'S GOOD, HELPING THE KIDS. WARLPIRI AND ENGLISH IN THE SCHOOL AND COMING AFTER DOING MORE ACTIVITIES," MS GIBSON SAID.

The WETT funding has contributed to the project's wages and vehicle costs since October 2022.

Project facts: Warlpiri Education and Training Trust
 The Warlpiri Education and Training Trust has supported education and training in Nyirripi, Lajamanu, Willowra and Yuendumu since 2005. The trust receives more than \$3 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, Batchelor Institute for Indigenous Tertiary Education and World Vision Australia. It has invested over \$60 million so far.



FOOTY FUN IN THE WINTER SUN

The Arlparra sports and music carnival got the mix just right, with a winning combination of competition, community and fun.

For Papunya Eagles player Susalina Nelson the women's footy was the highlight.

“THE LADIES WERE PLAYING TOO, LADIES FOOTBALL. THEY WENT WELL,” MS NELSON SAID.

Her team won the AFL Women's Division 2 – no mean feat given that 14 teams and a record number of around 350 women players competed at Arlparra late last year.

According to the umpires from the Central Australian Football League (CAFL), it was the biggest number of female players at a remote community sports carnival.

The local store put on healthy lunches, fruit platters and water for the players.

The weekend at Arlparra, 270 kilometers northeast of Alice Springs, also featured softball games and the Mulga Bore Hard Rock Band.

“The band came from a real long way,” Ms Nelson said. “Everything was really good.”

She is a member of the working group that funded and helped to plan the event to bring families and neighbours in the Sandover region together.

The group allocated \$12,000 of its matched funds income to pay for music equipment hire, umpiring and food.

“WE’RE USING IT THE RIGHT WAY. IT’S NOT FOR MYSELF, IT’S FOR THE COMMUNITY,” CENTRAL LAND COUNCIL DELEGATE ESAU NELSON, ANOTHER MEMBER OF THE WORKING GROUP, SAID.

A trial by the CLC and the National Indigenous Australians Agency allowed Arlparra to double its community lease income.



Roscoe Loy and Antonio Long from Arlparra were employed as official CAFL umpires for the weekend

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 by matching their investments dollar-for-dollar. 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. 20 traditional owner groups and 27 communities have so far agreed to participate in the trial. Almost all of the trial's \$9 million has been fully allocated to participating groups and these groups have planned and funded just over 100 projects with \$3.5 million of their matched funds.

MATCHED FUNDS

MORE POWER TO THE PEOPLE

The lights can now be on at Urremerne well into the night, thanks to a new solar power project.

Every house on the homeland south of Alice Springs has electricity day and night for the first time. Residents used to turn off their diesel generators at night to save money, but now the fridges run all the time and there is air conditioning whenever needed, making life more comfortable for the families.

The Urremerne community development working group prioritised the project in early 2021, and contracted Photon Solar later that year. The group planned the solar installation with the company to make sure that the design met the needs of the community and worked with the geography of their homeland.

They settled on three large solar panel arrays with fifty solar panels on the ground, batteries to store the power for use at night and back-up diesel generators for those rare cloudy days. The project was completed in 2022 and made an immediate difference.

Residents were able to stop using their noisy and expensive diesel generators so much and now spend the fuel savings on food and other essentials.

“SOLAR IS GOOD, A BIG IMPROVEMENT, BECAUSE I USED TO HAVE TO USE MY PENSION, ANY MONEY I GOT, ON DIESEL. I HAD TO SAVE UP FOR DIESEL. IT COSTS \$30 TO \$40 DOLLARS FOR A JERRY CAN OF DIESEL,” WORKING GROUP MEMBER MARINA ALICE SAID.

“It was wasting my food. You’d switch the generator off at night and the meat would go bad, milk went rotten, and bread would go mouldy. Now I’m saving money on food and it’s better for health. The generator was really noisy too. It’s quiet and peaceful now that there is solar.”

This year, the new solar arrays will be safely fenced off.

The \$450,000 cost is the biggest investment in solar power the Urremerne community has made to their homeland. The matched funds trial of the Central Land Council and the National Indigenous Australians Agency meant that the working group was able to add almost \$145,000 from the Aboriginals Benefit Account to the project.

“Matched funds are a really good thing,” Theo Alice, another working group member, said.

“They should keep on doing that. If that didn’t happen we wouldn’t have all that things, like the solar system and even the split system air conditioner. People are really happy with the split system. Matched funds will help us get more things for the outstation.”



Urremerne residents and family at the solar handover last December

MATCHED FUNDS

ALL ABOUT IN ADELAIDE

Going to school can take you to fun places, as students from Titjikala discovered. Fourteen teenagers were chosen to be part of an eight-day excursion to Adelaide that included visits to the zoo, an ice skating rink and a footy game.

Lynsha Mulda, Kayla Pepperill and Sharona Summerfield enjoyed all the sports and beach-related activities. One of their favourites was the trampoline park.

“We went to Bounce. It was fun and the first time. We learned a new game called Torchball. We also went to AFL Max. We rode on the tram when we were going to the oval for the footy.”



“We went to the beach and saw starfish and a seal!”

The trip was the idea of Titjikala’s social club, whose members wanted to reward their young people and expose them to new experiences outside the community, two hours south of Alice Springs.

One of the social club members had been on a trip to the Gold Coast when they were younger and wanted the students to learn about a different city and build their self-confidence.

The club and the MacDonnell Regional Council chose students aged between 10 and 16 years of age who attended school regularly and behaved well both in the classroom and at the council’s youth program.

The trip was cancelled and delayed for more than two years due to COVID restrictions, but the students’ patience paid off in June 2022. They found Adelaide had a lot more to offer – trampolines, obstacle courses, a visit to the Wiltja boarding house for students from remote communities, and a trip to the safari park.



“It was the first time some kids had been on a plane, had been to the city,” said Titjikala community development working group member Lisa Sharman.

“THE TRIP SHOWED THE KIDS THE CITY, HOW THINGS ARE IN A DIFFERENT PLACE, NOT JUST THE DESERT. THE OLDER KIDS HELPED EXPLAIN TO THE YOUNGER KIDS ABOUT SAFE AND GOOD BEHAVIOUR.”

Youth services officers Jillianne Renner and Geraldine Moneymoon joined volunteers from the social club on the trip. Lisa Sharman and Lionel Davis took time off from their day jobs to help them mentor the young people.

“It’s good to send our kids every few years, when the money has built up,” said working group member Andrew Wilyuka.



“SEND THE KIDS FOR ENJOYMENT AND THEY CAN THINK ABOUT THESE THINGS WHEN THEY GROW UP. THEY’LL BE SENDING THEIR KIDS AFTERWARDS.”

The working group invested more than \$87,000 of Titjikala’s community lease money on the trip.

The regional council organised the trip and used the funds to pay for all the travel expenses, staff wages, warm clothes and entry fees. It also made sure all its youth programs continued to run in Titjikala while some of its staff were away on the excursion.

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 is now 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

SHADY AREA KEEPS FAMILY COOL AT CHRISTMAS

A new communal space at the Red Sandhill outstation is making it easier for families to gather and celebrate in comfort.

The permanent shade structure in the middle of the homeland near Ntaria (Hermannsburg) has seating, tap water and solar lights.

“WE WERE USING IT TO SIT IN THE SHADE WITH THE LITTLE KIDS SO THEY CAN PLAY AROUND HERE. WE COOK KANGAROO TAILS HERE, WE SIT AROUND AND LISTEN TO MUSIC. THEY LOVE IT,” RESIDENT MAGDALENE UNGWANAKA SAID.

Ms Ungwanaka is a member of the working group that planned the project with the help of the Central Land Council’s community development team.

The traditional owners of the Watarrka National Park invested \$77,000 of their park rent income in the shelter last May.

Aboriginal-owned-and-operated business Hardy Fencing completed it in record time.

“AT CHRISTMAS WE WERE HAVING A PARTY, COOKING KANGAROO TAIL AND HAVING DINNER HERE. WE HAD A LITTLE BIT OF RAIN AND IT WAS REALLY GOOD,” MS UNGWANAKA SAID.

She and her sister Arfa Ungwanaka had made sure the shade area was just like their families imagined it.



Magdalene Ungwanaka at the communal area

Project facts: Northern Territory Parks Rent Money

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 \$15 million to 337 projects.



Ada Lechleitner showing her artworks

TJORITJA WOMEN STAND UP FOR THEMSELVES

Kwarritnama means 'women standing' in Western Aranda and is the inspiration behind the Kwarritnama Women's Circle and its successful first exhibition.



The women's circle is a wellbeing and culture program designed to foster belonging, self-expression and empowerment.

The Tjoritja West community development working group funded the project and developed it for and with women from the Inkamala family who are connected to the group.

Many are elderly, so documenting and gathering their stories for the next generation is vital.

NT PARKS

The women wanted to be creative and connect emotionally and spiritually with each other.

They decided to use painting to build the confidence they need to be leaders and mentors within the circle and in their community.

They showcased their paintings in the Kwarritnama art exhibition in Alice Springs.

"BEING IN THE WOMEN'S CIRCLE HAS HELPED ME FIND MY PAINTING STYLE. EVERYTHING RELATES TO ME AS A WOMAN, TO MY COUNTRY," RHONDA INKAMALA, ONE OF THE PROJECT PARTICIPANTS WHO IS ALSO A WORKING GROUP MEMBER, SAID.



The program was run by Tjinatjarra, a local Alice Springs business owned and operated by Aranda women Sharon and Natasha Watkins.

The sisters have more than two decades of experience working in the support service sector.

"WE'RE DETERMINED TO MAKE A POWERFUL DIFFERENCE IN ASSISTING OUR PEOPLE THROUGH A CULTURALLY SAFE, HOLISTIC AND PERSON-CENTRED APPROACH," MS WATKINS SAID.

The traditional owners of the Tjoritja (West MacDonnell) National Park contributed \$20,000 of their rent income from the park to fund the Kwarritnama Women's Circle.

Since the successful project concluded last November, the Tjoritja West working group funded Tjinatjarra to deliver two more cultural programs this year, one for women and one for men.



Vanessa Inkamala showing her artwork, Kwarritnama Woman's Circle participant Hilda Inkamala, Kwarritnama Women's Circle participants with facilitators Natasha and Sharon Watkins

NGUYARRAMINI CATTLE YARD CREATES JOBS

A new holding yard and fencing at Nguyarramini have put cattle management into the hands of the outstation's traditional owners.

The residents of the homeland, 500 kilometres northeast of Alice Springs, want to better look after their growing herd and sell cattle for a profit.

Creating jobs and training opportunities for younger family members and encouraging them to spend more time at Nguyarramini is also part of the plan.

The outstation's working group designed and assembled new holding yards with neighbour Ken Ford, of the Tennant Creek Station.

Working group members Michael Murphy, Geoffrey Murphy, Alfred Corbett and Nicholas Thompson completed the fencing, yard construction and painting within a week last December.

“WE WORKED WITH KEN FORD. IT WAS GOOD TO TAKE THEM YOUNG FELLAS TO WORK – FIXING THE FENCE AND YARD,”
GEOFFREY MURPHY SAID.

The holding yard includes a fenced-off area, a cattle crush, race and ramp that make it safer to work with big animals.

Mr Ford ordered all materials from national and international suppliers and they were freighted from Alice Springs.

The investment was made possible with \$70,000 of Davenport Ranges National Park rent money.

Alfred Corbett, Geoffrey Murphy and Mick Murphy worked on the project



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Project partner Ken Ford and the team worked on the cattle yard

The group at the Clontarf Aboriginal College

STUDENTS BROADEN THEIR HORIZONS

Teenagers from Amata and Kaltukatjara (Docker River) have visited boarding schools in Perth to see if studying away from home is right for them.

The visit paid off for all five students from the cross-border region of the Northern Territory and South Australia, with four now studying at the Clontarf Aboriginal College in Perth.

Fifteen-year-old Tresiah Isling-Blumberg, from Amata, has started at the Wiltja Aboriginal College in Adelaide.

“I really want to go to boarding school to learn and get a good education,” he said.

The students travelled to Perth with their parents and staff of the boarding school program of the Ngaanyatjarra Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Women’s Council (NPYWC).

The program links high-school-aged students from across the tri-state region to open their eyes to education opportunities and lessen their fear of living and learning far from home.

The students toured the Clontarf Aboriginal College, the La Salle College and the Aranmore Catholic College.

Joylene Miama Butler, a 16-year-old from Kaltukatjara, chose Clontarf because of the school’s art program.

“Art is my favourite hobby, and when I saw a rose made out of metal I wanted to come to this school to learn how to make that rose and I want to make my family proud.”

NPYWC workers Tameka McMasters, Cecily Luckey and Abi Crane accompanied the students and are staying in touch with them.

“IT’S GOOD TO HAVE SUPPORTING MENTORS GUIDING THESE YOUNG PEOPLE TO HELP THEM BETTER UNDERSTAND THEIR IDENTITY, WHERE THEY COME FROM, AND WHAT THEY CAN ACHIEVE,”

MS MCMASTERS SAID.

She sees her role as “encouraging them to keep going, supporting them, showing the young people there are ways to get out of the habits and how education is key.”

The students also visited Deadly Sista Girlz, a healthy lifestyle program run by the Waalitj Foundation, a non-profit that delivers employment and education programs designed

and developed by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

They also went to the School of Indigenous Studies at the University of Western Australia. They spent some of their free time at the aquarium and a games arcade, and went go-karting.

Back home, their stories inspired a friend who missed out on the trip to also enroll at Clontarf.

Sharelitha Young, 14, from Amata, already knows what she wants to get out of boarding school.

“I WANT TO BECOME A BUSINESS WOMAN AND HELP HOMELESS PEOPLE GET HOUSING AND GO TO UNIVERSITY,” SHARELITHA SAID.

The traditional owners of the Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park paid for the trip from their park rent income.

They have funded the NPYWC’s boarding school project since 2018 and allocated almost \$400,000 to run it between January 2022 and June 2023.

The Catholic Education Western Australian Transition Team, Abstudy, Centrelink, Money Mob, Indigenous Education and Boarding Australia and the Smith Family also contributed to the success of the trip.

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 renal dialysis, local and boarding school education. They have set up

funeral funds and strengthen local culture through inter-generational knowledge transfer activities.

The Muṯitjulu 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 \$19.2 million to 141 projects.

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.



Tjoritja West NT parks rent money community development working group



Palm Paddock NT parks rent money community development working group



Imangara community development meeting



Kuyunba Conservation Reserve community development working group



Inarlanga Latna NT parks rent money community development working group



Lajamanu GMAAAC committee



Alekarenge community development working group



Arlparra community development working group



CENTRAL LAND COUNCIL

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

YES



**OPEN YOUR HEART
TO OUR VOICE**

USE YOUR POWER

Later this year, Australians will vote in a referendum about changing the constitution, the nation's rule book.

The change would recognise Aboriginal people by giving them a say about laws and policies that affect them. All voters will be asked to vote 'yes' or 'no' to the referendum question. To have your say you need to be enrolled to vote.

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