

Community Development NEWS

**HOMELAND HOUSING
UPGRADED**

**PAWS-ITIVE CHANGE FOR
MUTITJULU PETS**

LTYENTYE APURTE GOES PRO



**YAPA KEEPING
YUENDUMU SAFE**

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FOR PICNICS**

ARRERNTE SING ABOUT JARU COUNTRY



CENTRAL LAND COUNCIL

Driving our own development

WINTER 2024

LEADING THE PACK

Mutitjulu's cats and dogs are getting much-needed care through a four-year program to improve their health and reduce the number of unwanted litters.

Whether they are owned as pets or not, they are getting flea and tick sprays, contraceptives, vaccinations, de-sexing surgeries and treatments for mange and worms.

Sadly, some animals have to be put down. The traditional owners of the Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park are using their rent income from the park to fund a third of the service, with the Mutitjulu Community Aboriginal Corporation and Parks Australia sharing the balance.

The Aboriginal Community Veterinary Services are implementing the program, which started last year and continues until

2026. In its first year, the ACVS team treated around 85 per cent of Mutitjulu's dogs, and the animals remain in overall good health. The team is also educating the community on how to care for their pets.

Last year, it visited twice for four days. At the first visit in May, the team spayed and neutered 25 dogs and 35 cats, gave 80 animals tick and mange injections, sprayed 49 dogs with tick repellent, vaccinated seven dogs, provided contraceptives to six dogs, and humanely put down two dogs and one cat. During the second visit in November it treated 113 dogs and 15 cats with tick and mange injections, applied tick sprays to 124 dogs and provided contraceptives to 18 dogs and three cats. Thirty-three dogs received vaccinations.

The working group first discussed the need for a vet program during a community meeting in October 2022.



The vets worked with community members to vaccinate dogs and cats

"WE THOUGHT IT WAS IMPORTANT TO HAVE THE VET OUT BECAUSE WE HAD A LOT OF UN-DESEXED ANIMALS BREEDING, AND IT WAS STARTING TO BE OUT OF CONTROL IN WAYS WHERE NO ONE WAS LOOKING AFTER THEM AFTER A CERTAIN AGE," WORKING GROUP AND MCAC MEMBER DORETHEA RANDALL SAID.

For the next three years the team will continue to visit twice annually.



Shahana Turner and Violette Coe with Nala dog's healthy puppies

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 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, animal health management, an upgrade of the community's *inma* (ceremony) ground, and art and culture programs.

So far, the traditional owners have allocated almost \$22.3 million to 152 projects.

ULURU RENT MONEY

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: Violette Coe, Alyana Randall Wright, Shahana Turner, Leshaya McCormack, Alex Armstrong, Laykin Turner and Jarell Williams with healthy community dogs. Photo credit: Neil Hummerston



NEW PLACE FOR PICNICS IN PAPUNYA

Papunya residents are sharing meals outdoors thanks to the addition of a new picnic spot in the heart of the community.

Three shaded areas with tables, benches, BBQs and spaces for food preparation near the store are the first picnic area in the community, 250 kilometres west of Alice Springs.

The local community development working group prioritised and planned the project two years ago because they wanted a space where Anangu families could “sit and enjoy a barbecue when we wait for a sing-along or Christmas event,” as working group member Linda Anderson put it.

Visitors can also use the facilities during sports weekends and sorry business.

Working group member Punata Stockman helped to plan the \$120,000 project which was completed last August.

“I feel happy and proud that it’s happened,” Ms Stockman said.

“IT’S AN ANANGU IDEA, SO ALL ANANGU CAN BE HAPPY,” SAID MS STOCKMAN.

Anangu Luritjiku Rangers Tristan Lechleitner, Ryan Raggatt and Preston Kelly helped build the picnic area.

Craig Le Rossignol, Central Land Council Ranger Works supervisor, says the rangers were proud to be working for their community.

“THE COMMUNITY CAN SEE US. THEIR GRANDSONS AND NEPHEWS WORKING. WE’RE BUILDING PRIDE AND HELPING TO BUILD TRUST WITH THE PEOPLE THAT WE WORK FOR,” MR LE ROSSIGNOL SAID.

Mr Le Rossignol led the project with support from ranger worker Nigel Doolan. He would like their work to inspire younger people to get involved in the ranger program.



Ranger Works Craig Le Rossignol, Ryan Raggatt and Preston Kelly

“Little kids would come over and ask ‘Do you mob like your job?’

“Yeah because we’re working for you mob,” Mr Le Rossignol said.

The working group used the matched funds trial of the CLC and the National Indigenous Australians Agency to fund the picnic area.

Under the three year trial, the NIAA matches the investment in community development projects by communities with small incomes from land use agreements dollar-for-dollar.

Linda Anderson, a founding member of the group, would like to see more development in Papunya.

“Hopefully more things will happen like these, planting trees, planning to have a stage put here, somewhere closer so people can listen to music and cook same time,” she said.

Linda Allen and Punata Stockman with the new picnic facilities



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 has gone to groups whose incomes from land use agreements would otherwise be too small for the projects they

want. The trial ended in 2023 and it has now been extended for another three years.

21 traditional owner groups and 26 communities currently participate in the trial. All of the initial trial’s \$9 million has been fully allocated to participating groups and these groups have planned and funded 168 projects with \$5.9 million of their matched funds. Some larger projects have attracted co-funding from other sources with support from CLC’s Community Development team.

MATCHED FUNDS

LTYENTYE APURTE MAKES HISTORY WITH COMMUNITY-FUNDED SKATE PARK

Ltyentye Apurte (Santa Teresa) has become the first remote Aboriginal community in the Northern Territory to fund its very own outdoor concrete skate park.

Nicky Hayes, Eastern Arrernte man and Spinifex Skateboards founder, has been the driving force behind this project.

4 A keen skateboarder since the age of 11, he became one of the few Aboriginal skateboarders to compete professionally and the NT's first Aboriginal qualified skateboard instructor.

His next goal was to bring the benefits of skate boarding to his community, 80 kilometres south east of Alice Springs.

Ltyentye Apurte started out with a single skate ramp in 2017 and upgraded to a wooden double storey skate course in the recreation hall.

It launched the outdoor skate park last September.

"This is my way of giving back to community," Mr Hayes said.

"Having an indoor park, and then from the indoor park to this outdoor park here right now."

"An outdoor skate park brings a bit more to the community, but also more to young people and families as well. "

For the past four years he has run weekly skateboarding workshops at the recreation hall and the basketball court with the Atyenhenge Atherre Aboriginal Corporation and the youth program of the MacDonnell Regional Council.

"I wanted the skate park to improve the wellbeing of the kids in Ltyentye Apurte," Mr Hayes said.

"To ensure they stay active and to have an outdoor skate park where families can hang out and accommodate young people's

needs of having fun within a safe space for skateboards, bikes and scooters."

The skate park near the store, footy oval and basketball court has become another place where residents socialise and enjoy sport.

Mr Hayes took his idea for the \$436,600 outdoor skate park to a community meeting two years ago.

A local working group that plans projects with the Central Land Council agreed to fund some of the project cost from Ltyentye Apurte's community lease income and income from a trial of the CLC and the National Indigenous Australians Agency, on the condition that grant funding make up the balance.

"The working group were happy to be part of something that is unique, to be the first community to have an outdoor skate park," Mr Hayes said.

The community's Atyenhenge Atherre Aboriginal Corporation and the CLC's community development team helped the working group to get the project done.

The CLC sourced the grant from the Aboriginals Benefit Account that made the park possible.

Construction started last August, with designers Eastbywest and builders Grind Projects working every day to complete the park in five weeks. Both businesses supported the project with in-kind contributions.

"PERSONALLY I FEEL VERY LUCKY TO HAVE BEEN INVOLVED ON THIS VERY ICONIC PROJECT. DEFINITELY A FAVOURITE FOR ITS COMMUNITY-SHAPED DESIGN, LOCATION, COLLABORATIVE TEAM AND OUTCOMES," WADE TREVEAN, EASTBYWEST DESIGNER SAID.



Spinifex Skateboards founder Nicky Hayes

The local kids made the park their own by painting parts of it with their designs. A painted Aboriginal flag also features prominently.

The community has plans to put in a shelter and landscaping to soften the area and add shade.

Some of the best skateboarders in the country came for the opening of the park to celebrate this Australian skateboarding history event.

Mr Hayes hopes they will keep coming back.

"Bringing competitions here might be a great thing as well, down the track," he said.

For now he is just happy that the local kids visit the park every day until dark, spending less time on their screens.

"It has been tremendous to see all the kids in the community having fun and enjoying themselves each day."

The skate park, image courtesy Spinifex Skateboards



COMMUNITY
LEASE
MONEY

RACETRACK GOES PRO

The Santa Teresa Races are a highlight on the social calendar of Ltyentye Apurte.

The event attracts visitors and racers from all over central Australia. The dusty track near the community now has a new professional-grade racing fence and two long-drop toilet blocks.

Local resident Raymond Palmer, a clerk of the course and a member of the Central Land Council, is passionate about horse racing.

"I LOVE HORSES. MY GRANDFATHER WAS A DROVER. MY FATHER WAS A STATION HAND, A STOCKMAN. IT RUNS IN MY BLOOD," MR PALMER SAID.

Mr Palmer is part of the working group responsible for making decisions about the community's leasing income. He was happy to see this project get on their list of community upgrades.

Traditional owner Mr Raymond Palmer with the new race track fence



"We work on projects towards the things we need. We started out with a football oval, skate park and basketball court. This is our latest project, the racetrack," he said.

"I WAS WANTING THE RACETRACK UPGRADED AND CAN'T BELIEVE IT. CAME OUT FOR A DRIVE YESTERDAY, CANNOT BELIEVE MY EYES. A PROFESSIONAL RACETRACK!" SAID MR PALMER.



2023 race before the fence was erected



Malcolm Hayes, Randy Wallace and Troy Odegaard building the new fence

The working group put the pit toilets and new racetrack fence first because it wanted to increase safety and hygiene at the track.

Alice Springs Aboriginal-owned business Hardy Fencing Australia put up the fence and built the long-drop toilet blocks. It employed locals Malcolm Hayes, Randy Wallace and Edward Ronson to work on the \$367,000 project.

Mr Palmer remembers the first race in a stockyard near the old dam in the 1970s.

"It was a straight-up race, not a round race when it first started. Now people drive around and they fill all the shadies, like a football oval."

Locals gather at the track on the last Friday of October, the day before the race, to fix up the bare wooden shelters dotted around the track with tree branches and leaves to create shade ahead of the weekend of racing.

"THE WHOLE COMMUNITY COMES OUT FOR THE RACE. VISITORS COME OUT WITH THEIR FAMILIES, LIKE THE HERMANNSBURG MOB, AND ALICE SPRINGS FAMILY AND FRIENDS COME OUT FOR A FUN WEEKEND. IT'S A BIG EVENT-HIGHLIGHT OF THE YEAR," SAID MR PALMER.

The race weekend starts with a welcome BBQ and live entertainment on Friday night to greet the visiting racers.

The winners of the heats on Saturday compete for the cup on Sunday.

A favourite tradition is the fancy dress, where people of all ages can showcase their best wild west outfits. Other activities include foot races, sack races, and swag-rolling competitions.

Project facts: Community Lease Money

Community Lease Money 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 "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 \$21 million into projects - almost \$14.3 million of the five year lease money and \$6.7 million of the other lease money.

Groups have been able to access co-funding from other sources for some projects with support from CLC's Community Development Team.

COMMUNITY LEASE MONEY

TRADITIONAL OWNERS FIX UP LILLA

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Lilla working group members Sadie Williams, Stephen Enalanga, Vera Williams, Magdalene Ungwanaka, Rena Pepperill, Arfa Ungwanaka and Regina Ebatarinja



One of the renovated buildings

Lilla traditional owners have made their homeland in the heart of the Watarrka (Kings Canyon) National Park more comfortable for themselves and more welcoming for visiting family members.

Two buildings had a complete makeover.

The green shed, once a simple shelter open to the elements, is now a modern structure where the residents can gather and their visitors can stay overnight.

They also renovated one of the houses.

Gone is Sonya David's old tin shed with its mismatched sheets of corrugated iron, and a sleek, larger house now stands in its place.

The new house has two bedrooms, a large living area and tiled floors.

"At the old tin shed we used to make fires on the veranda, and now it has a kitchen and bedroom and new veranda. Sonya's very happy with her place," her sister Sadie Williams said.

"SONYA CAN'T WIPE THE SMILE OFF HER FACE SINCE THE UPGRADE," HER SISTER VERA WILLIAMS ADDED.

Aboriginal-owned business Dynamic Solutions made the buildings bigger, creating space for more visitors.

They concreted the dirt floor in the green shed and replaced the makeshift steel and chicken wire walls. The shed is now fully enclosed, with six sliding windows and a new coat of paint.

"IN SUMMER WE CAN NOW WAIT FOR CHURCH IN THE GREEN SHED AND FAMILY CAN COME AND STAY FOR FUNERALS," VERA WILLIAMS SAID.

The sisters are part of the working group that planned the project with the Central Land Council's community development team.

The group used \$163,000 of its NT Parks rent income to pay for the upgrades.



Denzel Anderson from Dynamic Solutions worked on the project

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

NT PARKS

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 \$17.1 million to 365 projects. Groups have been able to access co-funding from other sources for some projects with support from the CLC's Community Development Team.

CLEAN POWER FOR NGUYARRAMINI

Nguyarramini outstation residents now have power at their church and community ablution block for the first time, thanks to new solar panels.

The panels power new lights in the ablution block, making it easier and safer for residents to shower and go to toilet after dark.

Soon they will also power a community laundry at the block.

Jorna Murphy, a Nguyarramini traditional owner, was part of the working group that first discussed plans for a solar system five years ago.

“Power for the laundry means people can use the bathroom at night time, and we can get a washing machine,” Ms Murphy said.



Installed solar panels at Nguyarramini

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Nguyarramini Traditional Owners are shown how to use their new solar system



important times, and using fans and for playing music,” said Ms Murphy.

The community hopes to spend less on diesel for generators.

Nguyarramini outstation traditional owners worked with the CLC’s community development team to source the \$87,000 grant from the Aboriginals Benefit Account for the solar installation, which had the locals looking forward to a more cheerful and healthier festive season.

“Solar will make Nguyarramini better,” traditional owner and Nguyarramini working group member Greg Murphy said.

“IT WILL BE GOOD FOR CHRISTMAS TO HAVE MUSIC AND LIGHTS AT THE CHURCH AND A WASHING MACHINE FOR THE LAUNDRY.” SAID MR MURPHY.

The solar installation at Nguyarramini, 43 kilometres south-east of Tennant Creek, makes the homeland more comfortable and liveable.

They allow residents to spend more time on country and offer their visitors better amenities.

“When people come for funeral, they can come wash their things, ready for the funeral,” Ms Murphy said.

“It’s important when people are in a hurry to wash their clothes.”

Alice Springs-based company Photon Solar installed the solar panels last October.

The panels also power the church lights.

“It [has been] good to put lights and power into the church, so we can use the church for



Nguyarramini traditional owners, Mick Murphy, Geoffrey Murphy, Michael Jones and Greg Murphy with Mark Schild from Photon Solar

NT PARKS

GMAAAC DIRECTORS READY FOR A NEW TERM

GMAAAC directors elected in 2023 (inset) David McCormack and Belinda Wayne receive awards from CLC's Mischa Cartwright

Celebration was in the air when the Granites Mine Affected Area Aboriginal Corporation board gathered in Alice Springs to welcome the newly elected GMAAAC directors.

Nine new directors joined nine returning directors, giving the board an even split of existing knowledge and new experience. Eight former directors retired.

The old board handed over to the new board during a workshop last November.

The evening at the DoubleTree Hotel was topped off with a meal and awards ceremony to celebrate achievements such as developing GMAAAC's investment goals and the first GMAAAC strategic plan.

Mischa Cartwright, Central Land Council general manager, presented the directors with certificates in recognition of their work and gave David McCormack a long service award for his 13 years as a director.

"My community in Yuelamu chose me to be a director as I speak up very well for everyone and build the GMAAAC investments for all our futures," he said.

"I learned from the older men. When I grew up with them I learned two-way. Lucky I had a school teacher, the station manager. I never went to school but I had a teacher in the outback of Yuelamu. I learned my culture way and whitefella way."

Mr McCormack wants to share his experience with the younger generation and wants to show the new directors how to "stand up and speak up for the rights" of their communities.

Denzel Gordon, 22, is the corporation's youngest director ever. He was proud Willowra residents put him on the community's GMAAAC committee.

The committee members then chose him to be a director. "They are encouraging me and I'm learning from them during these workshops," he said.

Natalie Morton, another new director from Willowra, wants to learn more about the corporation.

"I want to encourage even more young people to get involved," she said.

Timothy Lightning from Billiluna, is another newcomer on the board. He would like to use his time as a director to help "fix things up" for his community.

"I'm getting there. I'm getting a lot of help from the old directors. When they talk, we listen carefully, so that we can get ideas and learn."

The new directors took part in a five day governance training and planning workshop.

GMAAAC director Grace Butcher, from Yuendumu, enjoyed learning from the previous directors.

Belinda Wayne first became a Yuendumu GMAAAC committee member 10 years ago and has been a director for the last three years.

"When I joined again in 2021 I found out about how GMAAAC worked from the training. That's definitely helped," she said.

"Another good thing they've brought out in GMAAAC is conferences and workshops. Lots of good things we do, working together, good to work in training.

"Also good doing it outside the community. It's good to get together and meet up with other communities when we come here. It's good to learn."

Michaeline Gallagher was Nyirripi's youngest GMAAAC committee member when she was first elected three years ago, when she was 27.

"It's a good thing to support my community and my people. For me it's a really good opportunity to make something happen in my community to help out people," she said.

"When I got elected at first I was a bit nervous and shy. I kept on attending the meetings. It made me more confident and I learnt more."

For Ms Gallagher being a GMAAAC director is a way to make good things happen in her community.

"I want to see more youth training programs to encourage and guide our young people.

"Maybe the younger ones might want to become like me and make a difference for the community," she said.

Every three years nine communities across the Tamami elect GMAAAC committee members to decide on projects funded with their compensation income from the Granites goldmine.

At the most recent elections in November residents chose 84 returning and new committee members with 18 members being selected to become directors.



CHRISTMAS CAME EARLY FOR YUENDUMU

Five days before the Christmas holidays, many children and adults waited eagerly in the scorching heat at the gates of the Yuendumu pool.

After a delayed opening due to minor repairs and maintenance, the doors to the Yuendumu pool re-opened for the summer.

When pool assistant Jordan Granites opened up, the children rushed past him to enjoy the crystal clear water.

The Eastern Arrernte Band's music played from a Sony boom box while young kids splashed in the toddler pool, and older ones took turns jumping into the big pool.

Between swims, kids played footy on the lawn while the adults yarned.

Mr Granites is a member of the Yuendumu committee of the Granites Mine Affected Area Aboriginal Corporation, which has solely funded the pool since 2017.

Now it once again offers much-needed relief from the intense heat of Central Australian summers.

"IT'S VERY IMPORTANT TO HAVE THE POOL OPEN AGAIN. WAITING FOR RAIN TO COME TO GO DOWN TO THE CREEK TAKES TOO LONG. THERE'S A SWIMMING POOL MAYBE 280 KILOMETRES AWAY IN ALICE SPRINGS. THAT'S TOO FAR TO TRAVEL," MR GRANITES SAID.



Pool assistants Jordan Granites and Selina Hunter

Last August, the Yuendumu GMAAAC committee resolved to fund more than \$1.5 million for the YMCA of the Northern Territory Youth and Community Services to take on the project for three years.

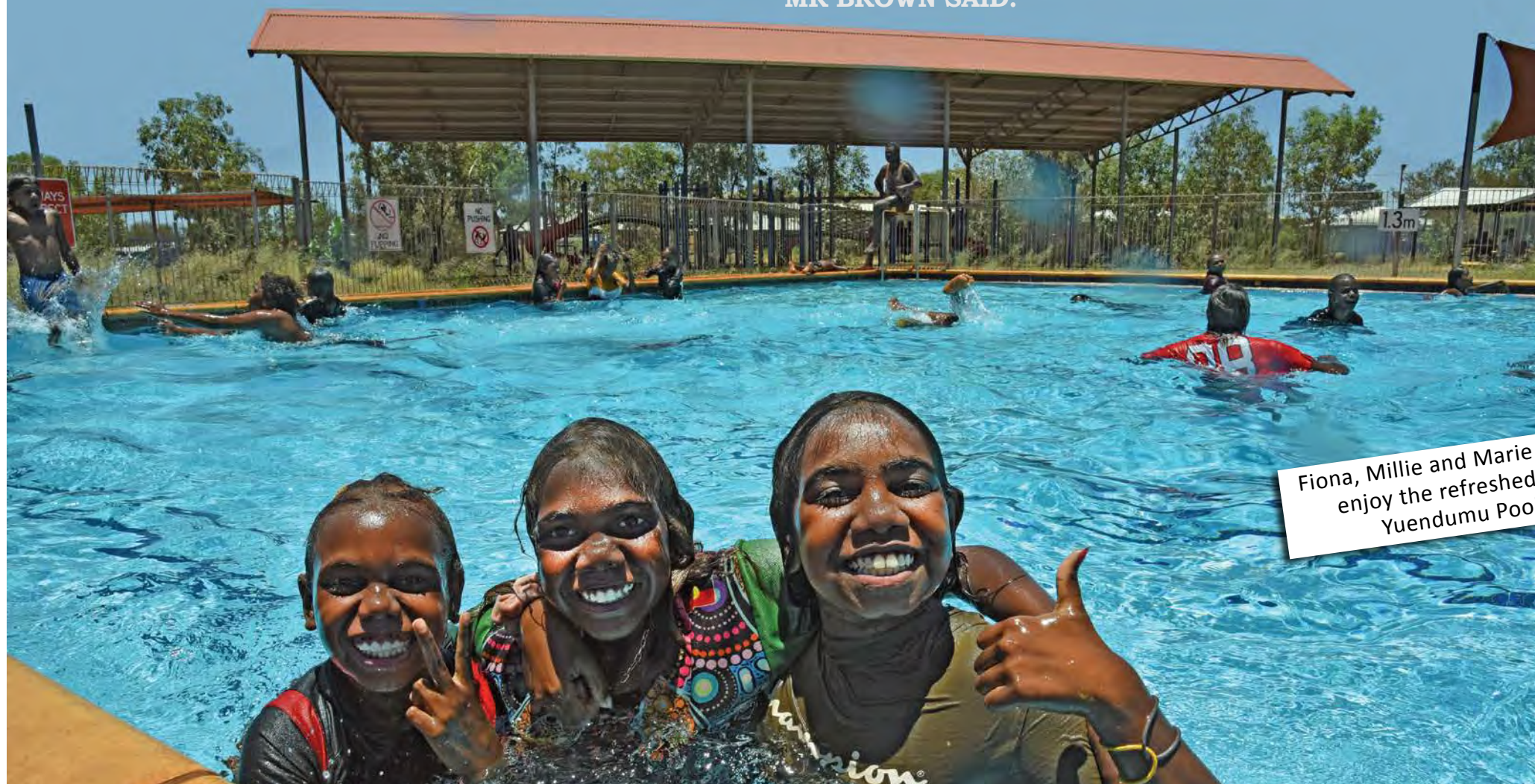
Since December, the YMCA has employed four Yapa casuals to offer swimming programs for children and young people.

It has two more positions available for casual lifeguards and a maintenance officer.

Local pool workers took part in accredited lifesaving training in January.

Lifeguard Robin Brown found the training beneficial.

"IT WAS GOOD TO LEARN SOMETHING DIFFERENT THAT I DON'T REALLY KNOW. IT IS REALLY GOOD TO BE A LIFEGUARD. NEVER LEARNT THIS BEFORE, SO NOW I KNOW HOW TO HELP SOMEONE STRUGGLING," MR BROWN SAID.



Fiona, Millie and Marie enjoy the refreshed Yuendumu Pool

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, Nyirrpri, 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 just over \$100 million to 1,289 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.

Some projects in the region have also been supported with funds from the Tanami Mine Affected Area Aboriginal Corporation (TMAAAC).



STANDING ON JARU COUNTRY: RINGER SOAK GETS ITS OWN ANTHEM

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The community dancing to Eastern Arrernte Band at their NAIDOC celebrations in 2022

Not many places are lucky enough to have a song named after them, but Ringer Soak in the East Kimberley is now one of the few with an anthem of its own.

In October 2022, the Kundat Djaru community opened its new GMAAAC-funded basketball court during its first NAIDOC week celebration.

Two killers from the nearby Flora Valley cattle station and roo tails were the highlights of a community feast, and the Eastern Arrernte Band travelled more than 1000 kilometres from Ltyentye Apurte to perform live.

The band's desert reggae was so popular with the locals that the band released a new single seven months later, called Ringer Soak to pay tribute to their time spent there.

The song has been shared across Tanami communities and has more than 230,000 views on YouTube.

The success of the 2022 NAIDOC week funded by Ringer Soak's Granites Mine Affected Area Aboriginal Corporation committee prompted the members to stage the celebration for a second time last November.

The committee allocated \$70,000 to the 2022 and 2023 events.

The latest celebrations were once again a hit, with painting, skin name activities, dancing and elders sharing dreaming stories with the children.

The Eastern Arrernte Band returned to the basketball stage for two nights, playing Ringer Soak on repeat all weekend to the community's delight.

Kylie McDonald, a GMAAAC committee member, said celebrating NAIDOC in the community meant a lot to local families.

"IT BRINGS OUR ELDERS, LEADERS, YOUTH, AND CHILDREN

TOGETHER TO PARTICIPATE IN CULTURAL AND

LANGUAGE ACTIVITIES, ALSO KEEPING JARU

STRONG FOR OUR FUTURE," SHE SAID.

The committee partnered with the Birlirr Ngawiyiwu Catholic School to organise the celebrations.

Once I was travelling, travelling so far away
To the place I've never been before
And passing through Gurindji country to Jaru country
To the little place called Ringer Soak
And that's where I was heading to
To see their countryside
First time in my life
And then I was standing on Jaru country
Apmere
Ringer Soak-nge
Ayenge atnerle aneke anyente arenye
Lyete-ante anthurre
Ayenge alheke nhake
Ware apmere arerle alpetyeke
Apmere
Ringer Soak-nge
Ayenge atnerle aneke anyente arenye
Lyete-ante anthurre
Ayenge alheke nhake
Ware apmere arerle alpetyeke
Ringer Soak-nge

MORE YAPA ON PATROL TO KEEP YUENDUMU SAFE

Yuendumu has doubled the number of community patrol officers to keep residents safe day and night, with more Yapa covering more shifts.

Before the change, many break-ins happened during work hours or in the early morning, outside of the community safety patrol's standard evening shift.

Thanks to funding allocated by the Yuendumu community committee for the Granites Mine Affected Area Aboriginal Corporation two additional teams of local workers have been covering afternoon and early morning shifts since February.

Jordan Granites is one of 22 new recruits of the Southern Tanami Kurdiji Indigenous Corporation's (STKIC) patrol team.

"It is really good to have the extra patrols. We share the work and it lets people work when they can. There is a good variety of available work for everyone, not just from 6pm to 12am like before," he said.

Now nearly 40 local officers are working in shifts.



Louanna Williams on day shift with Madeleine Dixon



STKIC Patrol staff Melissa, Donisha, Louanna, Claire, Pristina and Leah ready for shift changeover



Wilson Walker is proud to be working with Southern Tanami Kurdiji Indigenous Corporation

They are making the community, three hours drive northwest of Alice Springs, "a safer place to be", according to Mr Granites.

"If there are problems, we are able to help sort them out when they are occurring, and the police don't have to get called out as much." Community safety patrollers are now the first responders to most incidents, with police only involved if people are injured or weapons are used.

Patrol officer information shows that the number of break-ins and home invasions went down from 18 to 4 between August and October in 2023, compared to the same time last year.

The patrol officers also gather data about fighting and dangerous driving.

Yuendumu's GMAAAC committee agreed to support Kurdiji's patrol project after residents complained about break-ins that happened while patrol officers were off duty.

Kurdiji further reduce the need for police intervention through family mediation and referring residents to other services.

Grace Butcher, a GMAAAC director who also works for the patrol, is happy with the results of the trial.

"GMAAAC does good things to support our community, it needs to happen more," she said.

CLC deputy chair Warren Williams agreed.

"WE NEED MORE PROGRAMS LIKE THIS IN REMOTE COMMUNITIES. THEY MAKE SUCH A VALUABLE CONTRIBUTION TO OUR COMMUNITIES AND SHOULD BE FUNDED IN ALL SURROUNDING AREAS," MR WILLIAMS SAID.

"For communities that do not have GMAAAC to support them, they should look towards the federal government to provide additional funding for these services and give their communities a huge boost to move forward.

"THESE GMAAAC-FUNDED SERVICES HAVE BOOSTED OUR COMMUNITY BY PROVIDING INCREASED EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES, AND ASSISTS IN REDUCING CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES, AS WELL AS LET OUR LOCAL POLICE HAVE SOME REST WHILST THE ADDITIONAL COMMUNITY SAFETY PATROLS ARE WORKING," SAID MR WILLIAMS.

The project created more than 10,000 hours of local employment between January and October last year.

It has also supported patrol officers to gain their certificate III in community safety services.

New patrol officer Madeline Dixon enjoys the weekly training sessions.

"I AM REALLY LOOKING FORWARD TO THE EXTRA TRAINING, AS WELL AS MEDIATION TRAINING. REALLY GOOD THINGS ARE HAPPENING IN OUR COMMUNITY," MS DIXON SAID.

New patrol officer Melissa Williams likes that the shifts are flexible.

"I have a little boy and I am able to work when he is at school, at the pool or at home with other family members. I know that he is in a safe place when I am working," she said.

The extra shifts have made it easier for mothers like Louanna Williams to get paid employment.

"I am able to work whilst my kids are at school, getting an education," she said.

"I [can] plan my week and organise after school care for my children as well as earn good money whilst helping to keep my community safe."

"I am really proud of the great work that we do," she said.

"I LOVE WORKING WITH THE COMMUNITY SAFETY PATROL IN YUENDUMU. I ALWAYS WEAR MY UNIFORM SO THAT PEOPLE KNOW WHO I AM IF THEY NEED ANY HELP." SAID MS DIXON.

GMAAAC will fund the additional patrols until the end of June. Kurdiji would like the federal government to fund the additional patrols from July.



YAPA YOUTH STORIES GUIDE WETT PLANNING

YWPP Researchers Natalie Morton, Belinda Wayne and Glenda Wayne at a feedback BBQ in Willowra

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Young Yapa want flexible work, new job skills and more organised sports and fun, according to the first community-driven research involving young people across the Tanami.

[inset] WETTs Community Research Team (YWPP) undertaking training with La Trobe Uni and CLC WETT staff in Alice Springs

Nineteen yapa researchers from Yuendumu, Willowra and Nyirripi interviewed 43 residents, including young people, about what makes a good life.

They present these stories to the advisory committee of the Warlpiri Education and Training Trust (WETT) to help the committee plan new youth projects.

The work is part of WETT's Yitakimaninjaku, warrirninjaku, payirninjaku manu pina-jarrinjaku (tracking and learning) project, which aims to give young residents a say in decisions about them.

The findings have deepened the trust's understanding of youth perspectives.

Researchers Glenda Wayne, Natalie Morton and Belinda Wayne also presented their findings at national and international conferences.

Last June, all three researchers spoke about the project at the World Community Development Conference in Darwin.

Two months later, Natalie Morton and Belinda Wayne joined a panel discussion on the project at the Australian Evaluation Society Conference in Brisbane.

This project paves the way for inclusive, community-driven youth development and seeks to empower the next generation of Yapa leaders.

"WE ARE THE FUTURE NOW, AND WE ARE TEACHING THE YOUNG GENERATIONS NOW," MS WAYNE SAID.

The Warlpiri Education and Training Trust funds Yapa researchers to lead the project, with support from the Central Land Council and La Trobe University in Melbourne.

Fiona Gibson, also known as FM, a senior committee member from Nyirripi, supported the young researchers when they visited her community.



"They were doing a lot of interviewing. They were going around Nyirripi asking a lot of questions. They said it was hard to get them [young people] out and talk to them, but they finally did it," she said.

"THEY WENT EVERYWHERE, THOSE YOUNGER ONES. THEY INTERVIEWED EVEN THE SCHOOL - THE PRINCIPAL, EVERYBODY IN THE SCHOOL - AND THEY DID REALLY WELL. THESE MOB ARE DOING A REALLY GREAT JOB. WHEN THEY COME OUT TO OUR COMMUNITY, WE CAN WORK TOGETHER." MS GIBSON SAID.

Ms Morton's confidence has grown since she joined the project.

"Those senior WETT members are still going strong. They are supporting and encouraging us, and it's like they are going back to the past and teaching us more to be strong," she said.

"TO STAND STRONG AND HAVE THAT CONFIDENCE WITHIN YOU TO SPEAK OUT AND START DOING WHAT WE ARE GOING TO DO. IT'S REALLY NGURRU NYAYIRNI (REALLY GOOD)." MS MORTON SAID.

La Trobe, the Kurra Aboriginal Corporation directors, and the WETT advisory committee developed the research framework three years ago to give the committee the information it needs to make wise decisions.

The researchers help older advisory committee members to put themselves in the shoes of young people.

"I THINK THAT'S REALLY HELPFUL WHEN THEY COME AND REPORT BACK TO THE WORKSHOP. IT REALLY HELPS US UNDERSTAND WHAT THE KIDS ARE GOING THROUGH," MS GIBSON SAID.

"The way they were talking, they are still learning too from the younger ones, what they are telling them. They put down what needs to be done."

The committee will use the stories young people share through YWPP to plan youth development initiatives and support students at boarding schools.

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 \$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, Batchelor Institute for Indigenous Tertiary Education and World Vision Australia.

It has invested over \$60 million so far.



School students from Nyirrpi, Willowra, and Lajamanu are broadening their horizons through educational excursions across Australia.

Nyirrpi students were invited by the Melbourne Football Club onto the ground at the MCG

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Their schools are part of a Warlpiri Education and Training Trust program which rewards upper primary and high school students for good attendance and attitude with a chance to explore life in different cities in Australia.

Lajamanu students went on an excursion to the Gold Coast, while Nyirrpi students visited Melbourne, and senior boys and girls from Willowra spent six nights in Cairns.

Teacher Simon Jampijinpa Brown accompanied the Nyirrpi students.

"THE TRIP WAS AMAZING! IT'S GREAT TO SEE OUR KIDS LEARNING AND MAKING NYIRRPI PROUD IN THE BIG CITY," MR BROWN SAID.

Nyirrpi student Janisha Michaels was a "little nervous" about travelling on a plane for the first time, but she soon found her feet in Melbourne.

"WE WENT TO SEE WHERE LULU MOB LIVE AT THAT BOARDING SCHOOL. I LIKE THAT PLACE," SAID STUDENT NIGEL MARSHALL.

"They were so excited when they came back and had lots of stories to tell their families," said MK Gibson, teaching assistant Nyirrpi School.

"They were really proud. They learn from travelling and they can pass that on when they tell their stories."

The WETT provides \$264,000 per year until 2025 to four Tanami schools, and each school is responsible for organising and running its excursions. They used the funds to pay for tickets, activities, accommodations, meals and other necessities for the excursions and can use any leftover funds for future excursions.

Willowra school staff discussed suitable locations and activities with the students.



Janine Penn from Lajamanu on the Tree Top Challenge near Cairns



[centre] Lajamanu students exploring the Tamborine National Park [right] Willowra students visit Kuranda Historic Railway.

"I was so excited to go to Melbourne. My favourite part is to go to Chinatown and eat the dumplings. I learned lots about Melbourne on that excursion. Maybe one day I will go back," Ms Michaels said.

During their eight-day stay in Melbourne, the students packed in tours of the Werribee Zoo, the Melbourne Aquarium, the Melbourne Museum and the Planetarium.

Leilani Gallagher enjoyed seeing the different types of animals at these places.

"Going to the museum was really good to learn because we bin learn about the old days and we watched that show about dinosaurs. There was a little dinosaur which I thought was real and it scared Robbie! So funny," she said.

Geoffrey Spencer picked the Melbourne Cricket Ground and a visit to the Carlton Football Club's homerooms at Princes Park as his favourite activities.

"It was really good at Carlton when we was kicking the footy with the players," he said.

The MCG was the highlight for most of the group. The students formed a guard of honour for the Melbourne Demons Football Club and watched Carlton beat Melbourne.

The students visited their former school mates at the Worawa Aboriginal College and put themselves in their shoes.

Cairns came out on top, in part because the students wanted to catch up with other young people from Willowra who board at nearby Djarragan College.

The 12 Willowra students learned how to get around Cairns over their six night stay and became more confident in unfamiliar settings.

Students visited a waterpark and did a glass-bottomed boat tour at Green Island before going to Djarragan College the next day to see the facilities there.

Literacy worker Carole Kitson and Bradley Forrest, the senior fella assistant teacher, accompanied the students.

A visit to the Earth Sanctuary in Alice Springs completed Willowra's excursions for the year and allowed the students to learn more about the solar system.

Fifteen primary and senior students joined teachers Janelle Kitson and Rosiah Long.

Students had a go at watching planets, stars and the moon through telescopes. They ended the day with campfire stories and slept under the stars in swags.

In their excursion to the Gold Coast, 12 Lajamanu students accompanied by school staff Viktoria Nangala and Mervyn Rose took part in kayaking, a tree top climbing challenge and visited the Gold Coast Suns football team's home ground.

CROSSING BORDERS TO STUDY THE CAMPGROUND BUSINESS

Remote community residents from the Central Land Council region have been on a fact-finding tour of Aboriginal-owned-and-operated campgrounds in Western Australia.

The study tour visited three camping businesses in the Kimberley to learn what it takes to build and run a campground.

Aboriginal communities operate these campgrounds on their land, creating jobs on country and earning additional income through cultural tourism experiences and art sales.

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Eight residents of Kintore, Yuendumu and the Alkngarrintja outstation near Gilbert Springs went on the road trip last August.

They were either already running or in the early stages of developing their own campgrounds.

The seven-day trip took them to the Violet Valley and Wuggubun campgrounds in the Kimberley, with a few added stops along the way.

Milipingi, a proposed campground near Yuendumu, was the first stop.

One of the site's traditional owners, Lawrence Watson, showed the group the plans for the site.

He joined the tour because he was "trying to get some idea on what they do in WA".

Fred Williams, who would like to set up a campground at Thompsons Rockhole, also near Yuendumu, was looking for "some good ideas on some of these other camping grounds, especially in tourism. Hopefully, we'll go from there".

On day three, the group arrived at Violet Valley, 43 kilometres from Warmun (Turkey Creek) in the Kimberley.

Gija elder Shirley Purdie welcomed them to her country.

Campground manager and traditional owner for Violet Valley, Bruce Thomas, showed the visitors the site's hot showers, flushing toilets, BBQs and multi-purpose kitchen before introducing them to Kangaroo Rock and local rock art.

In the evening, local men and women performed a song in Gija and a dance depicting a dreaming from one of the elders.

The next stop was the Doon Doon campground and roadhouse, 110 kilometres south of Kununurra.

Traditional owner Johnny Cooper explained how he helped upgrade it in 2019 to include a covered camp kitchen with picnic tables.

The campground has toilets and showers for people with disabilities, as well as a laundry.

At the Wuggubun campground, three hours from Timber Creek, the last stop on the tour, Barry Trust told the group how he set up the business with his family and the challenges they faced along the way.

The place inspired Mr Williams.

"I really liked Wuggubun, with that big shed and shade structure; it was really great," he said.

"They had a kitchen, toilets, showers, everything."

Northern Land Council constituents and community development staff from Katherine joined the group for part of the day.

Yarns around the campsite fires were great ways for Aboriginal people from the Northern, Central and Kimberley land council regions to share stories and build relationships.



Giselle Barku being welcomed by local Elder

"FROM THIS TRIP, WHAT I WANT TO GET OUT OF IT IS HOW THEY RUN THEIR CAMPGROUNDS. GET SOME IDEAS ON WHAT'S RIGHT AND HOW WE CAN MAKE IT BETTER," GISELLE BARKU SAID.

Ms Barku would like to start a campground business near her home community of Kintore.

"The main thing we need to have is water. That's what I got out of it."

Mildred Malbunka, a traditional owner of Alkngarrintja and Central Land Council delegate, loved the insights she gained from the Western Australian campground owners.

"THE THINGS THAT I HEARD WERE JUST BRILLIANT. WHAT I HAVE SEEN HERE, THEY GIVE ME IDEA.

"SO WHEN WE GET OUR BUSINESS UP AND RUNNING, WE'LL DO THE SAME THINGS THAT THEY WERE SAYING."

Her daughter, Hilda Malbunka, wants to invest in the next generation.

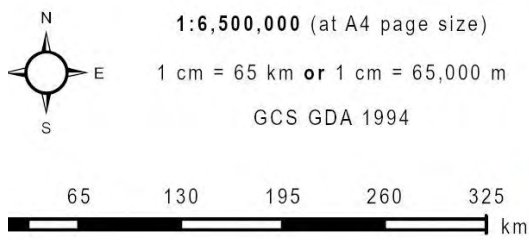
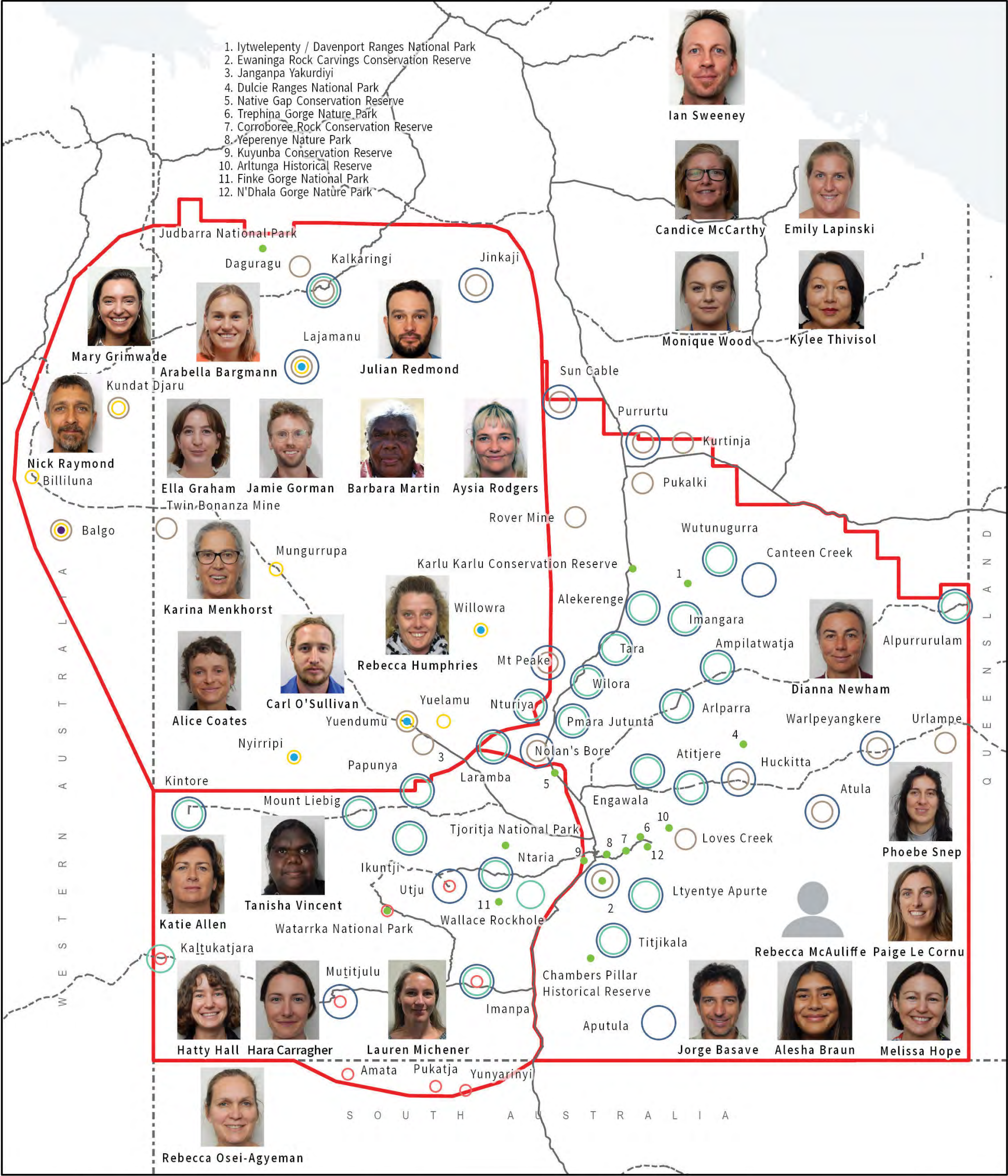
"The important thing is to save up funding money and start a business, get the community kids involved. Talk about the business. Talk about old stories. Thank you for the trip."

She said visiting other campgrounds had allowed her to "go home and teach my younger ones and get them engaged".



The group at the WA border on the Tanami Highway

THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TEAM



DUCED BY: Geospatial Services at 2/04/2024
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CLC Corporate Data

- Major Road
- Major Road (Unsealed)
- State Border
- Community Development Regions

Project Data

- NT Parks Rent Money
- Warlpiri Education and Training Trust (WETT)
- Tanami Dialysis Support Service Project
- Uluru Rent Money
- Granites Mine Affected Area Aboriginal Corporation
- Other Community Development Funding
- Community Lease Money
- Matched Funds

MEET THE DECISION MAKERS

All of the great community development projects that happen across the CLC region are due to the hard work of traditional owners and community members who plan and develop projects that benefit their communities. These are just some of the groups that are making all planning decisions, big and small.



Yuendumu GMAAAC 2023–26 committee



Yuelamu GMAAAC 2023–26 committee



Nyirripi GMAAAC committee 2023–26



Laramba Community Lease Money Working Group



Amoonguna Community Lease Money Meeting



Kalkarindji Community Lease Money Working Group and CLC staff



Ringer Soak GMAAAC committee 2023–26 and CLC staff



Billiluna GMAAAC committee 2023–26 and CLC staff



Balgo GMAAAC committee 2023–26



CENTRAL LAND COUNCIL

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