



Bundiyarra Gardantha

'a good place moving forward'

Congratulations to language graduates



Their beaming smiles say it all. All their hard work has paid off and the region gets three more qualified language teachers. Yay! Yurnanggu!!

Bundiyarra-Irra Wangga Language Centre Senior Language Worker Leeann Merritt, Language Worker Nadine Taylor and Tash Ryan from Beachlands Primary School, graduated as qualified language teachers this month.

Read their story on page 15.

Dream Trails consultation gets off to good start

More than 70 people took part in the first successful community consultation session on the Bundiyarra Muguri, or Dream Trails tourism opportunity.

Elders agree the trails at Bundiyarra are correct and the quest is on to find the song line; maybe you know it or someone who does?

Full story on pages 3 and 4.

INSIDE

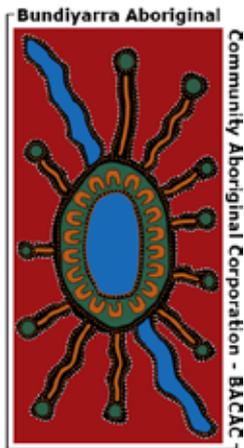
Colourful mural depicts strength and struggle

Going back to where it started in the 1950s; outside the Radio Theatre on Marine Terrace in Geraldton, a mural depicts the story of blatant racism that occurred in the theatre more than five decades ago. Created by local Aboriginal artists it preserves a powerful story. **PAGE 6**

Member for Geraldton speaks Wajarri in Parliament

Hon Ian Blayney MLA, Member for Geraldton, sought the help of the Bundiyarra-Irra Wangga Language Centre to help him write a short speech in Wajarri that he delivered – very well – in Parliament, in support of Kimberley MLA Josie Farrer's call to change the WA Constitution to recognise Aboriginal people. **PAGE 13**

"We respectfully acknowledge the Yamaji people on whose land we live and work and we pay our respects to their Ancestors and Yamaji Barna"



PO Box 4027
Corner Eastward & Blencowe Rds
GERALDTON WA 6530
P: (08) 9920 7900
F: (08) 9964 5283
E: marketing@bundiyarra.org.au
W: www.bundiyarra.com.au
ABN: 14 269 236 490

Bundiyarra Gardantha has been designed by the Marketing Coordinator and staff at Bundiyarra Aboriginal Community Aboriginal Corporation - BACAC

Printed by



1 Barker Street
Geraldton WA 6530
P: (08) 9921 3632
E: sales@guardianprint.com.au
W: www.guardianprint.com.au



Bundiyarra Gardantha is funded by the City of Greater Geraldton Re-Current Community Grants Program
www.cgg.wa.gov.au

A MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

Nhurra Barndi

Bundiyarra is renowned for being a strong Aboriginal Corporation with a successful history.

The Corporation does not currently receive any funding from any government agency to open its doors to operate on a daily basis.

Management and administration positions are funded through administration fees charged for existing programs and services however, the annual shortfall is quite great.

Over the past 17 years, Bundiyarra has saved every penny possible which has now allowed us to do some greatly needed improvements.

Acacia Ceilings were engaged for internal renovations which will lead to the completion of a retail space. The fit out has started with new shelving, (see story page 11).

This will go hand-in-hand with the Muguri (dreaming tracks) tour (which



New streetlights are installed for increased security at Bundiyarra.



you can read more about in this edition too) as people look for mementos to take away.

We have an extensive range of language resources for sale, and our arts and craft group has recently started up again at Yanaji Yanma Hall in Beachlands. These products will be available through the retail store also.

Wellington Electrical was engaged to install street lighting and security systems to ensure the grounds remain a safe place for everyone at all times.

Watsons Computers won the contract to do the desperately needed computer server upgrade. This new system will provide us with better backup systems and accounting opportunities needed for the future.

Still to be completed is the retail store and telephone system upgrade.

Bundiyarra Muguri (dreaming tracks) will provide the Mid West with an amazing tourism opportunity for wider community and visiting tourists. Funding applications are now being submitted to obtain the money required to have the Bundiyarra site plans and architectural plans updated. Partnership discussions with the City of Greater Geraldton and Durack Institute of Technology are under way.

In addition, we have had some great staff achievements in the past couple of weeks. Board Member Richard Nelly has graduated from Deakin University in Natural Cultural Resource Management. Leeann Merritt, Nadine Taylor and Tash Ryan have recently completed their studies to be Qualified Language Educators. Congratulations to you all.

If you are not on our distribution list and would like to receive either a printed copy or email copy of Bundiyarra Gardantha, just send an email request to marketing@bundiyarra.org.au or call (08) 9920 7900 and we'll add your name.

The quest for an Aboriginal tourism experience

Bundiyarra working hard against the odds, to develop Dream Trails



Captains of Industry: some of the participants at the Dream Trails consultation session; **(back)** Member for Geraldton, Ian Blayney MLA, the Nationals Paul Brown MLC, Simin Haig (WAITOC) City of Greater Geraldton Manager Arts and Culture, Chris Budhan; and Geraldton Visitor Centre Coordinator, Beck Tuesley. **(Front)** WA Museum – Geraldton Regional Manager, Catherine Belcher; Durack Institute of Technology Tourism Lecturer, Kevin McEwan; Robert Taylor and his daughter (on his right); and Labor's Darren West MLC.

Many travellers want an Aboriginal tourism experience; to learn, to understand and to celebrate the rich spiritual and cultural background of Australia's first peoples.

Bundiyarra has been working hard to realise this tourist yearning by developing 'Dream Trails' on its grounds.

A very well-attended community consultation was held on 15 July with Aboriginal Elders and stakeholders including politicians Member for Geraldton, Ian Blayney, and Labor's Darren West, WA Indigenous Tourism Operators Council (WAITOC), Mid West Development Commission, the City of Greater Geraldton, WA Museum – Geraldton, Northern Agricultural Catchments Council, Department of Aboriginal Affairs, Durack Institute of Technology, Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation and Sinosteel Midwest Corporation, to discuss development.

Feedback from attendees was extremely positive, and a lot

of sincere support was pledged from various quarters.

History of the Dream Trail

For the past three years, Bundiyarra Environmental Coordinator, Gordon Gray, has been working alongside scientist Dr Don Pridmore, divining for dreaming tracks or dream trails in the Mid West. One dreaming track has been identified at Bundiyarra, and when Bundiyarra Life and Honorary Members were shown the mapped trails, they agreed the trails are correct. This information has led to many stories being shared about events that have happened in the Bundiyarra area over hundreds of years.

Mr Gray said it would be fantastic if someone actually knows the song that would have been sung in relation to the trails.

"Aboriginal people used songs to travel from one place to another. The songs included what hills or rivers to cross and trees were used as markers and changing landscapes. There would be a song, and hopefully someone may have

knowledge of this and share with Bundiyarra," he said.

Bundiyarra CEO Marchelle Retallack said the Corporation realises these trails are an exciting tourism opportunity for the Mid West.

"Bundiyarra itself has an amazing story behind it; its development, why it is here, the families behind the scenes. These stories, combined with the dreaming trails, are something we want to show our people, community and visitors," she said.

Continued on page 4



Gordon Gray talks Dream Trails.



Consultation participants on a guided tour of the dream trails.

Discovering the Dream Trails

From page 3

Throughout the year, Bundiyarra has conducted several community consultations around its planned future developments.

“We have some big plans for the future. Everything fits and we will become a further stand out Aboriginal Corporation in Western Australia,” said Ms Retallack.

“While Bundiyarra Muguri (dreaming tracks) is being developed we will continue to progress with plans for a multi-purpose building to include a new language centre, recording room, multi-purpose arts space with storage facilities, café and retail store with commercial kitchen facilities.”

“People will be able to visit our grounds and spend longer engaging in local Aboriginal culture.



Excited about the future: Bundiyarra Life Member, Joan Gray; NAIDOC Male Elder of the Year, Graham Taylor; and Bundiyarra Board Member, Ron Cross.

Community consultation leads to exciting progress

Each of the plans mentioned have been individually consulted with community. A partnership with the City of Greater Geraldton was established to conduct a series of consultations to establish if our community considers Bundiyarra to be the Cultural Centre.

Over a two month period, more than 400 community members have been consulted including youth and seniors and there has been no opposition to Bundiyarra being the Cultural Centre.

Following the initial series of consultations, a core group of 15 community members have continued to meet at Bundiyarra every Friday to discuss how the dreaming trails should come together, the elements to be included, where they should be placed and the information they should display.

“We are excited about what is coming together,” said Ms Retallack.

“Mia Mia’s will be built at certain sites along the trail with tin shacks like those that were originally built in the reserve along North West Coastal Highway.

“Some of these will be used purely for education and viewing, while others will be built as tourist accommodation and caretaker’s residence,” she said.

Art projects, bough sheds a cinema screen and camp-style kitchens will be erected at both the north and south of Bundiyarra’s grounds to provide necessary services to tourists and people wanting to experience staying on Aboriginal land.

“Currently we are working with a number of partners to form written agreements for the production of architectural drawings of the facilities, and training and building teams to build the structures, and artists to finish designing specific elements,” Ms Retallack said.

Watch this space, we will keep you updated as planning continues.



Clontarf kicks goals for Bundiyyarra

Eighteen young lads from Yulebrook Clontarf Academy in Maddington were in Geraldton recently to take part in the Clontarf Mid West Cup, a footy carnival for students of Clontarf academies, where they took on colleges from Carnarvon and Karratha.

The Years 7, 8, and 9 boys visited Bundiyyarra on 25 August with Clontarf staff Simon Nimmo and Garth Taylor, for a tour and to gain some understanding of Bundiyyarra's role.

CEO Marchelle Retallack explained how the Environmental Health team works, took them through the language centre, and along the dream trails where they experienced connection to country some for the first time.

NAIDOC National Male Elder of the Year and Vietnam Veteran, Graham Taylor, met the boys, proudly showed them his NAIDOC award and told them a bit about his life before they enjoyed Bundiyyarra's hospitality with healthy hamburgers.



Students from Yulebrook Clontarf Academy in the Bundiyyarra-Irra Wangga Language Centre during their recent visit to Geraldton.

The group was so impressed with Bundiyyarra that they came back the next day and helped the Environmental Health team with a clean-up of Bundiyyarra's grounds to clear it of dried undergrowth before the hot summer.

To show Bundiyyarra's appreciation for their help, the boys were treated to a fabulous feed of kangaroo stew cooked by Environmental Health Coordinator, Gordon Gray.

Thanks boys!

■ *Since opening its first Academy for 25 boys in 2000, the Clontarf Foundation has grown to cater for about 3,700 boys in 70 schools across Western Australia, Northern Territory, Victoria, New South Wales and Queensland. The Foundation uses the existing passion that Aboriginal boys have for football to attract them into school and keep them there.*

We are lucky to have received more great testimonials for Bundiyyarra Gardantha... Thank you.

"Just wanted to say how much I enjoyed reading this latest newsletter. I was linguist with the former Yamaji Language Centre (now transformed into Bundiyyarra-Irra Wangga) through the 1990s and it was great to see so many faces I recognise in the newsletter. It's also wonderful to see how much positive news there is to tell, I just wish the mainstream press would follow your lead on this!"

– Dr Doug Marmion

Research Fellow, Linguistics
Adjunct Research Professor | Batchelor Institute
Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait
Islander Studies, Canberra

"Fabulous newsletter!"

– Sandra Thompson

Director, WA Centre for Rural Health



Congratulations to Rangeway Primary School and Music Teacher George Scicluna for scoring Indi-genius an audition to perform at this year's Telethon fund raiser.

George is extremely dedicated to this group of Aboriginal students and has provided them with amazing experiences playing the didgeridoo in front of a wide range of audiences on a regular basis.

This is the third group of students to have this opportunity at Telethon in 12 years. Well done George and the boys – we hope you are successful.

Colourful mural depicts strength and struggle



History repeating: Joan Gray, second from left, with part of the installation outside the Old Radio Theatre. With her are her sister, Gloria Nannup; City of Greater Geraldton CEO, Ken Diehm; Chris Budhan, CGG; Rhani Gray; Diane Gray holding Isabelle Gray; Bianca McNeair; Tammy Wykes; and Nykita McNeair.

“Just a minute, I’ve got something to say – and I want you all to listen.”

These words of late Aboriginal Elder, Alice Nannup, will be immortalised on the front of the Old Radio Theatre on Marine Terrace, Geraldton.

And “Just listen up I’ve got something to say,” were the opening words of a third generation descendant of Alice Nannup, granddaughter Diane Gray, as she officiated at the reveal of the mural at the Old Radio Theatre in early August.

In February of this year, Bundiyarra held a ‘come yarn with us’ community consultation about the City of Greater Geraldton’s City Vibrancy strategy.

The City funded the project for a mural to be painted on the front of the building and Bundiyarra Board Member Bianca McNeair gathered together a group of enthusiastic people and got to work and now it’s installed.

“This was such a great opportunity,” said Ms McNeair, “this project is about breaking down the walls and making Aboriginal people visible.

“And it’s also about preserving some of our stories.”

The story depicted in this mural is very relevant to this location as it tells of the time Elder Joan Gray’s mother, Alice Nannup, stood up in front of the audience at the Radio Theatre in the 1950s - when Joan was about 10 years old - and confronted them about racist taunts towards her children.

“It is a significant example of Aboriginal struggle and strength and is directly linked to the site of the mural,” said Ms McNeair.

In her opening address Ms Gray said the 1950s was a very different time from today.

“Racism was blatant and direct,” she said.

With permission from Joan Gray (daughter of Alice Nannup) an excerpt from the book *When the Pelican Laughed*, by Alice Nannup was presented as a reference to this event.

Five generations are represented on the mural and four generations worked on it. The design includes images of Alice Nannup and her family, including great granddaughter Rahni Gray and great-great granddaughter Isabelle. The mural will tie five generations of Alice Nannup’s family together to show the connection of strength this one event has brought through to the present day family and community.

Artists for the Mural include Joan Gray, Rahni Gray, Tammy Wykes, Diane Gray, Isabelle Gray and Nykita McNeair.

“The installation adds to the current vibrant murals along Marine Terrace, and we thank the City of Greater Geraldton for this wonderful opportunity,” Ms McNeair said.

City of Greater Geraldton CEO, Ken Diehm, was impressed with the installation.

“I’m taken by the poetry of it all,” he said, “this is the place where it all happened and it has endured, these people were ostracised, and while many others have moved on these people have also endured and it’s like they have come back to put their mark on it.”

Thanks go to the Lemongrass Restaurant next door, for allowing the use of their power to install the mural panels!



Members of the Mid West Aboriginal Organisations Alliance (MAOA), met with Ben Wyatt at Bundiyyarra.

MAOA meets with Shadow Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Ben Wyatt

Darren West, WA Labor Member for the Agricultural Region, invited members of the Mid West Aboriginal Organisations Alliance (MAOA), to meet with Ben Whyatt, Shadow Treasurer and Shadow Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, when he visited Geraldton in August.

About 20 representatives from MAOA joined the politicians at Bundiyyarra for an informal chat, to give an overview of MAOA and air some issues confronting the organisation. And enjoy a scrumptious, healthy lunch, of course!

Among MAOA members present were Executive Officer Lou Tatasciore, and Vice Chair Dr Juli Coffin, Associate Professor at WA Centre for Rural Health; Sandra Thompson, Director, WA Centre for Rural Health; Barry Anderson, Radio MAMA; Jim Sandy, MEEDAC; Sandy Davies and Deborah Woods, GRAMS; Ron and Mena Bradfield Yulella; and Bundiyyarra Board members Ross Oakley, Alan McDonald, Jenny Kniveton-Gregory and Ron Cross.

Mr Wyatt said he appreciated the representatives finding time to meet with him and was happy to speak with people at any time.

"I'm very interested in MAOA and what it sees as the challenges that feed into

the organisation and what things the government can help with," he said.

Jenny Kniveton-Gregory explained the background of MAOA's formation, how it started as an informal group but has now been going for about seven years and membership is made up of chairs of local Aboriginal organisations.

"It was set up with the intention of

"This need is understated and under-reported."

Darren West said there was a big need for crisis accommodation now that the Boomerang Hostel had closed.

"Unfortunately the hostel closed as suitable funding was not provided to employ trained staff and conduct regular maintenance as required," he said.



A small group of MAOA members met with the WA Partnership Forum in the afternoon.

stopping duplication of services and to strengthen Aboriginal governance as a collective group to address issues as a group, not as individuals," she said.

MAOA Executive Officer Mr Tatasciore touched on the issue of housing availability and said there is disconnect between need and availability.

"There is no real data on the need for Aboriginal short stay accommodation in Geraldton, not just crisis accommodation, but for families needing to visit Geraldton for personal business such as cultural, funerals or health visits," he said.

Ms Kniveton-Gregory brought up the subject of funding and said more funding should go to Aboriginal organisations so that they could provide programs for Aboriginal people, rather than non-Aboriginal organisations who may not be as culturally aware or as

experienced as Aboriginal people. "Aboriginal people are better placed and equipped to deliver programs for Aboriginal people," she said.

Ms Kniveton-Gregory commented that Bundiyyarra enjoys a good partnership with WACRH with research that focuses on Aboriginal Community priorities. Bundiyyarra and MAOA have a great working relationship with Darren West and have continued discussions since this meeting.

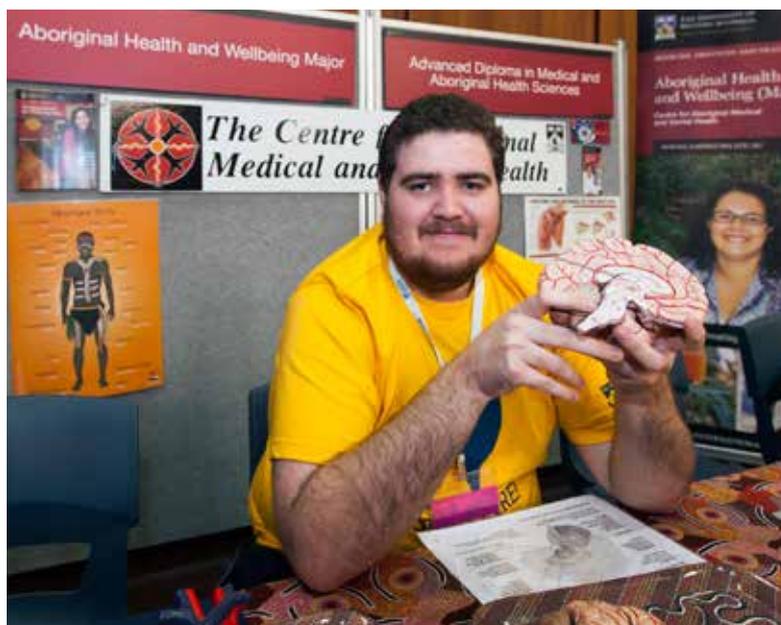
In the afternoon of the same day, a government group, the WA Partnership Forum visited Bundiyyarra for a brief meeting.

Rhys finds being a serial student is just the prescription

Twenty-two-year-old Yamaji university student, Rhys Radcliffe, is happy to be labelled a 'serial student' and is an excellent role model for Aboriginal youth.

Well into his first year of study for a postgraduate Doctor of Medicine at the University of Western Australia (UWA), in Perth, Rhys said he "sort of fell into studying medicine", he hadn't actually planned to do it but the opportunity came up, so he grasped it. After spending about six months at Geraldton TAFE, (now Durack Institute of Technology) Rhys decided the courses there weren't really for him and switched to a traineeship at Geraldton Regional Aboriginal Medical Services (GRAMS), where after 12 months he became a fully qualified Aboriginal Health worker. Rhys stayed on at GRAMS for a few

years until a friend discovered the Advanced Diploma of Aboriginal and Health Sciences. "I wasn't aware of this course, but this appealed to me, and it was a bridging course for Aboriginal Health Workers which offered an alternative pathway to study medicine," he said. So Rhys completed that and is now in the first year of his four-year post grad Doctor of Medicine at uni in the big smoke. "I've discovered I like studying," he said, "the drive to keep learning inspires me."



He's got the brains: Geraldton's Rhys Radcliffe is studying to become a doctor at UWA and would like to return to Geraldton to practice medicine.

Rhys said he doesn't plan to specialise in any particular area of medicine but aspires to be a general practitioner in his hometown of Geraldton. "I'd like to practice at home, either at the local hospital or at GRAMS," said Rhys. One thing's for sure, he will never stop learning!

Free First Aid training for Aboriginal people

St John Ambulance WA is offering free First Aid training in the Mid West, for Aboriginal adults and school children.

This is a great way to support community and help spread the word about the training initiatives. Adults can learn First Aid so they can help if one of their mob's hurt or sick; and if they have a current TAE40110 Certificate IV in Training and Assessment they can become an accredited St John First Aid trainer. Under the First Aid Focus Program, developed from 'Save a Life Day' that has been running since 2008, children are taught basic first aid, with the program offered to children from Kindergarten to Year 12.

St John Ambulance also aims to increase Ambulance Subscriptions Aboriginal people, to assist with Ambulance care in the region and communities. St John Ambulance staff will attend events in regional WA to promote these initiatives and engage with community so if you know of any worthwhile events, please let St John's know. If you are interested in learning First Aid for free, text 0475 810 263 and someone will give you a free call back to find a time and place that will work for you. Or for more information email: aboriginalservices@stjohnambulance.com.au How solid would it be to be able to save a life?

Barndi Mara – emergency exercise puts animals in safe hands

One Saturday in June, three Bundiyyarra employees took part in a City of Greater Geraldton filmed emergency exercise to test the activation of Local Animal Emergency Welfare Guidelines, after it was reported a severe fire was raging through the district.

Called Barndi Mara, Wajarri for in good hands, or in safe hands, the purpose of the field exercise was to ensure all local emergency agencies are familiar with the geography of the local area; its surrounds, facilities and procedures during a real emergency response situation.

Bundiyyarra-Irra Wangga Language Centre Language Worker, Godfrey Simpson, contributed the introduction for the short video, where he explains that in the case of an emergency in Geraldton, you can take your animals somewhere to be cared for in safe hands.

Linguist, Rosie Sitorus, who fosters dogs through Geraldton Dog Rescue, took her foster dog of the moment, Spartan, along to the emergency shelter, however, poor Spartan (as an exercise of course!) had Canine



Durack Institute of Technology Animal Care Lecturer, Dr Suellen Kelly, and student assess Spartan, Rosie Sitorus's foster dog (with Rosie, right), who presented with Canine Parvovirus as part of the emergency exercise.

... and Bundiyyarra volunteers join in

Parvovirus and had to be treated in isolation by Durack Institute of Technology Vet Nursing students.

Media and Marketing Officer, Sue Chiera, caused a scene or two (acting of course) wanting her dogs back from their enclosure...

The exercise was filmed by local company Dragonfly Media and supported by the State Emergency Management Committee through the State Government AWARE fund. In addition to City of Greater Geraldton employees, it tested the mettle of local support agencies; Department for Child Protection and Family Support; Australian Red Cross; CWA; St John Ambulance; and animal welfare groups RSPCAWA; Geraldton Dog Rescue; Mid West Cat Shelter; and

Geraldton and Districts Kennel Club.

City Manager of Health and Ranger Services, Konrad Seidl, thanked all the volunteers who took part and said the exercise went extremely well, and the Geraldton community is fortunate that the City is leading the way in this field.

"A significant amount of planning went into the exercise, the new guidelines list equipment and logistical needs," he said.

"The community is now better prepared for an incident involving evacuations with people and animals. A very special thanks goes to Bundiyyarra for their support in this important community event."

The video will be presented at the WA Fire and Emergency Services Conference in September, in Perth and the Australian Institute of Animal Management Conference in October in Townsville.

Mr Seidl said he hoped Barndi Mara will encourage, inspire and educate other councils.



Sue Chiera's dogs, Buddy and Nari, far right, and their friends, get some reassurance from City of Greater Geraldton's Johannes Muller.

Bundiyarra staff get ready to guide the way

As Bundiyarra develops its tourism opportunities, staff are gearing up to be ready to guide the way, to give visitors a much sought after Aboriginal tourism experience.

Donna Ronan and Godfrey Simpson, with the support of Bundiyarra, are enrolled in the Certificate II in Tourism course at Durack Institute of Technology in Geraldton.

Donna and Godfrey have been connected with Bundiyarra for most of their lives. Donna's mother and father are both Life Members as is her nanna, Mrs Dora Dann.

Godfrey has worked with the Bundiyarra-Irra Wangga Language Centre for many years and is a huge contributor to both Wajarri and Badimaya Languages.

Both Godfrey and Donna were thrilled to find out more about the dreaming



Donna Ronan and Godfrey Simpson; getting on the tourism trail...



tracks at Bundiyarra and have been part of the ongoing consultation regarding the tourism opportunity that exists with the tracks.

Bundiyarra CEO, Marchelle Retallack, said if the organisation is going to offer a tourism experience it will be led and managed by Aboriginal people.

"Bundiyarra mentors Aboriginal people to improve and increase their skills in the workforce and we have supported Donna and Godfrey to obtain the Certificate II in Tourism," she said.

"We have a further six Aboriginal people that want to do the course

and Bundiyarra will support two each semester.

"Donna is already discussing continuing on to obtain her Certificate IV next year which is outstanding," said Ms Retallack.

"The tourism opportunity provides a range of employment opportunities including bookings, promotion, guiding, retail store management, book keeping, customer service and more, so we will train and mentor Aboriginal people now, which will mean that when the Muguri tours (dreaming tracks) are ready so will our people be."

Diane keeps her dream alive

"When I was young I loved the feel of books at school and I loved reading them," said Diane McDonald, sister of Bundiyarra Board Member, Alan McDonald, as she celebrated her 20th anniversary working at Geraldton Regional Library.

"I did dream about working in a Library one day. I thought if I worked in a Library I could read a lot of books when I wasn't working."

And her dream did come true.

"When the CDP program started up in Geraldton to help Aboriginal people get into the workforce and the Library was taking people on, I put my name down," Diane said.

That was 20 years ago on 19 July 1995 and to celebrate the occasion Diane and library staff enjoyed a delicious morning tea.

City of Greater Geraldton Director of Community Services, Andrea Selvey, said Diane's story would be one of the CDP scheme's greatest successes.

Diane McDonald with City of Greater Geraldton Manager Libraries and Heritage Services, Susan Smith at Diane's 20th anniversary morning tea.



"Over the past 20 years you have made a valuable contribution to our community via the service you provide at the Library," she said.

"You have been a wonderful role model for younger members of the Library team and a great colleague to us all. I hope you have many more years association with the City."



On the shelf: Chippie, Mason McAullay left, with happy Bundiyarra members holding some language centre resources available for purchase that can be found on the new retail shelves (behind the happy group); Life Member Joan Gray; Donna Ronan; Life Member, Pauline Gregory; Bundiyarra Board Member, Bianca McNeair; Bundiyarra Environmental Health Coordinator, Gordon Gray; Life Member and NAIDOC Male Elder of the Year, Graham Taylor; Board Member Richard Nelly; and Life Member, Robert Ronan. A big thumbs up for this small but vital step towards a retail outlet at Bundiyarra. Drop in and see the big range of books and resource material available.

Retail area takes shape

As they say: from little things, big things grow.

Mason McAullay has done a superb job of designing and installing merchandise shelves at Bundiyarra that are waiting for locally produced Aboriginal artworks and produce to sell alongside the language centre's resources.

The Board of Directors is working on a contract agreement for people wishing to sell local produce.

It is anticipated body creams, oils, jams, tapping sticks and some jewellery items will be available soon.

Bundiyarra is also looking at merchandise lines using the Bundiyarra logo designed by Maxine Charli.

"We are looking at a range of ways the Bundiyarra logo can be used for jewellery including male and female bracelets, necklaces and brooches," said Bundiyarra CEO, Marchelle Retallack.

Help could be at hand for short stay accommodation

As reported in the last edition of Bundiyarra Gardantha, WA Minister for Housing, Hon Colin Holt MLC and Hon Paul Brown MLC, paid a visit to Bundiyarra on 1 July to get an understanding of the Mid West's short term and crisis accommodation needs.

The need was identified as a priority for Aboriginal people. On the back of this, on 27 August, Paul Brown, Nationals Member for the Agricultural Region, announced the formation of a working group to make recommendations to the Minister for Housing on the development of an Aboriginal Short Stay Accommodation facility in Geraldton.

As chair of the working group, Mr Brown said he expects to be able to

make suitable recommendations to the Minister in a timely fashion so such a facility is not postponed any longer.

"This working group has been convened to address the critical shortage of short term accommodation options for indigenous people in Geraldton," he said.

"The need for this type of accommodation has been highlighted for many years by Aboriginal community groups.

"Working collaboratively with the Department of Housing, the Mid West Aboriginal Organisations Alliance and Bundiyarra, I'm confident in achieving positive results for Aboriginal people that travel to Geraldton from the Mid West, Murchison and Gascoyne areas," said Mr Brown.

MAOA Chairman and Environmental Health Coordinator for Bundiyarra, Gordon Gray, welcomed the announcement.

"I am a proud supporter of this project and am encouraged by the prospects of providing suitable and much needed accommodation services for Aboriginal people visiting Geraldton," he said.

"We envisage a thorough, evidenced-based approach will be used to determine the scope of this project including wide consultation with key stakeholders throughout the Mid West."

The City of Greater Geraldton and the Mid West Development Commission have been invited to assist the working group as the project develops.

Aboriginal History of Geraldton book launched at City library

The 13th and last book (for now) in the Mid West Heritage Series of booklets, published through Geraldton Regional Library was launched in August.

The Aboriginal History of Geraldton (Jambinu) and Surrounding Areas, written by local historian, Stan Gratte OAM, with research assistance from Dale Forsyth, gives an overview of life for Yamaji people living in the Geraldton area before and after European settlement.

Launched by City of Greater Geraldton Mayor, Mr Ian Carpenter, it is a short, factual account of local Aboriginal history and was supported and guided with members of the Mid West Heritage Series Aboriginal Community Reference Group.

The reference group consisted of Robert Ronan, Elvie Dann, Myra Ronan, Nola Gregory, Susan Smith, Trudi Cornish, Suzanne Ward, Leigh O'Brien, Catherine Belcher, Sanna Nalder, Carrum Mourambine, Craig Allsop, Diane McDonald, Gloria Fogarty, Derek Councillor, Jennifer Green and Charmaine Green.



Part of the large audience at the book launch.

During reference group meetings it was identified there is so much local Aboriginal history that had to be left out that a more in-depth publication would be beneficial, so if there is someone out there who can stump up some funding it would be greatly appreciated!

City of Greater Geraldton Manager Libraries and Heritage Services, Susan



Left: Mayor Ian Carpenter launches the book with Stan Gratte OAM and Dale Forsyth.

Bottom: Leroy Shiosaki entertains the audience with his didgeridoo playing.

Right: Mayor Ian Carpenter with some members of the reference group: Diane McDonald, Trudi Cornish, Susan Smith, Suzanne Ward, Robert Ronan, Charmaine Green, Sanna Nalder, Nola Gregory, and front Elvie Dann and Myra Dann.



Smith said the publication of this title was a fitting end to the Mid West Heritage Series.

"Everyone is proud of the booklet and the collaborative approach taken by the Reference Group has resulted in a positive outcome for everyone involved," she said.

Bundiyarra Life Member, Mr Robert Ronan did the Welcome to Country and his grandson Leroy Shiosaki captivated the large audience with his didgeridoo playing.

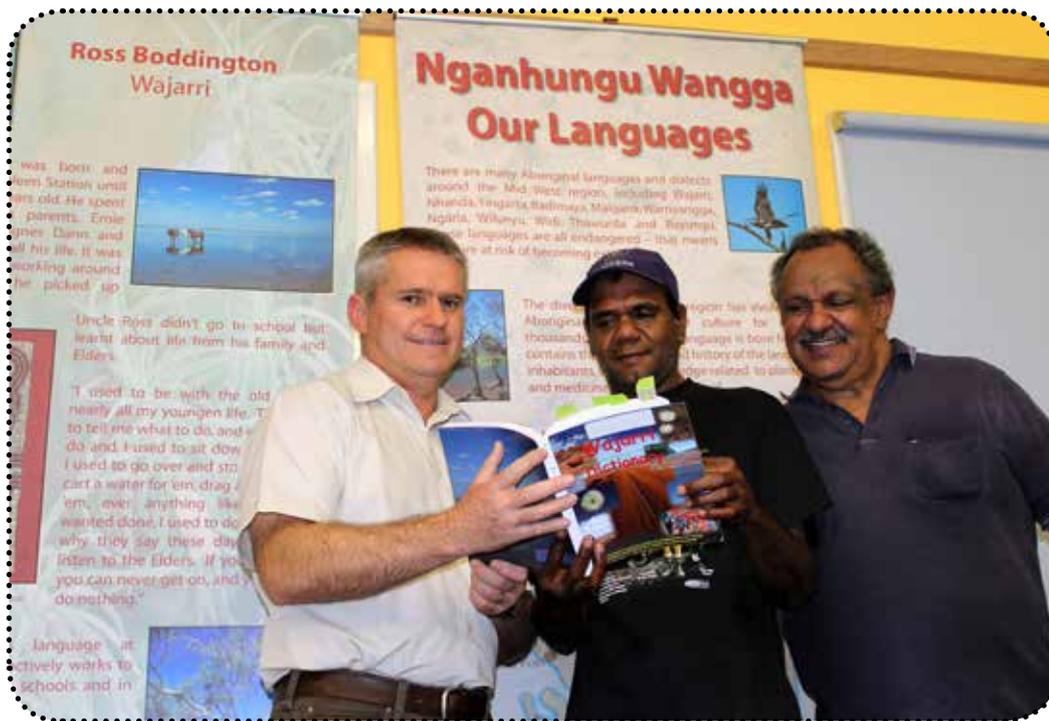
In conjunction with the booklet, the regional library has developed a free Yamaji Drive Trail brochure that covers many of the sites written about in *The Aboriginal History of Geraldton*, enabling tourists to visit them in a leisurely way.

The book and drive trail brochure,



designed and printed by Scoop Design, Geraldton, is available for \$9.95 at Geraldton Regional Library, 37 Marine Terrace, the Geraldton Visitor Centre, 246 Marine Terrace, and WA Museum – Geraldton, 1 Museum Place.

The trail brochure can also be downloaded for free from the heritage pages of the Library website (<http://library.cgg.wa.gov.au>).



Wajarri wangga: Member for Geraldton, Ian Blayney MLA, brushes up on his Wajarri with Bundiyarra-Irra Wangga Language Centre Language Worker, Godfrey Simpson, helped by Bundiyarra Board Chairman, Ross Oakley.

Wajarri spoken in Parliament in support of constitutional change

Member for Geraldton, Ian Blayney, MLA, could be the first politician to have spoken Wajarri in Parliament.

Mr Blayney sought the help of Bundiyarra-Irra Wangga Language Centre workers, Godfrey Simpson and Edie Maher, to write a short speech in response to Member for Kimberley, Josie Farrer, MLA, who addressed the Constitution Amendment (Recognition of Aboriginal People) Bill 2015.

In Parliament on 19 August, Mr Blayney thanked Ms Farrer in Wajarri for her work on the bill. His speech to the Legislative Assembly said:

"Nhurra barndi.

Ngathalu wilhbala wanggamanha nurra banhagula nyinaji, barna gujurda.

Ngatha waayi ngurliyimanha wanggagu Yamaji banha thanu Nhanhagardi biirna, Amanggu thaagi.

Ngatha wangganha, barndiman nurra Josie Farrer gi, Kimberley thanu. Josielu yalyba walgaman bibarlu nhinhanggu.

Urda nganhu jina yana nyinanyugundi"

Translated, what Mr Blayney said in Wajarri was:

"Hello, I am speaking as a person from Geraldton, who

represents, among others, the Amangu and Wajarri people here. I would like to say thank you to Josie Farrer from the Kimberley for her work on this bill.

"We will all continue to walk this journey."

Mr Blayney told Parliament about the Wajarri Dictionary App produced by Bundiyarra. He also informed Parliament about the Mid West Aboriginal Organisations Alliance (MAOA), and read out a letter written to Ms Farrer from MAOA in support of her determination to amend the Bill.

Mr Blayney said he was proud of what the Aboriginal people of the Mid West have achieved.

"I acknowledge that a lot of work is still to be done; it is a journey that we all have to take," he said.

"Finally, I thank Josie. Every Aboriginal person I spoke to about her bill in my electorate knew about it and knew that she brought it here."

Ms Farrer's Private Member's Bill for constitutional recognition of Aboriginal people was introduced last year and referred to a Parliamentary Committee.

Legislation recognising Aboriginal people as WA's first peoples of the State and custodians of the land passed through the Legislative Council and State Parliament on 10 September.

Bundiyarra research features in museum exhibition

Touring exhibition *Indigenous Australians at war from the Boer War to the present* opened at the WA Museum – Geraldton last week, and Bundiyarra made a great contribution with its comprehensive material from the 2014 NAIDOC Serving Country: Centenary and Beyond Exhibition held at Bundiyarra.

That exhibition drew praise from the WA Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Peter Collier, who said it was the best local exhibition he had seen Australia-wide.

The Indigenous Australians at war touring exhibition is from the Shrine of Remembrance in Melbourne and presents Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders' stories from all over Australia, including the Mid West.

NAIDOC Male Elder of the Year 2015, Amangu Elder Graham Taylor, himself a Vietnam War Veteran, opened the exhibition, and Bundiyarra Life Member and Elder, Robert Ronan did the Welcome to Country with his daughter Donna Ronan.

They both spoke about Mr Ronan's grandfather who served in the war, with Mr Ronan saying he was Geraldton's last true lawman. Ms Ronan's son, Leroy Shiosaki, played the didgeridoo for the appreciative audience.

WA Museum – Geraldton Regional Manager, Catherine Belcher, said it is important to acknowledge the Aboriginal men and women who



Exhibition opening: a proud day for Bundiyarra, with some of their hard work included in the touring Indigenous Australian's at war exhibition. WA Museum – Geraldton Regional Manager, Catherine Belcher; Geraldton RSL President, Ian Hebbley; Robert Ronan; Bundiyarra CEO, Marchelle Retallack; Bundiyarra Board Chairman, Ross Oakley; WA Museum Senior Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Advisor, Deanne Fitzgerald; and Amangu Elder and NAIDOC Male Elder of the Year Graham Taylor, who opened the exhibition.

served their country during wars.

"We are honoured to display the stories about these Australians at the museum," she said.

"The local stories contributed by Bundiyarra have significant meaning to our community."

An honour board listing the 136 Yamaji men and women, identified through extensive research by Bundiyarra and local families, who served Australia in past wars is also on display.

Ms Belcher said there is a touchscreen with more than 100 local stories that people can access.

Oral histories tell of no racism on the

front line, however when Aboriginal soldiers returned to Australia, some were still discriminated against, in spite of having fought for their country.

Indigenous Australians at war from the Boer War to the present covers indigenous peoples' wartime contributions in the Boer War (1899-1902), First World War (1914-18), Second World War (1939-45), Korean War (1950-53), Vietnam War (1963-75), and in subsequent conflicts and peacekeeping.

The exhibition runs until 29 November before going on display at the WA Museum's Perth, Albany and Kalgoorlie-Boulder sites.

Robert and Donna Ronan.

Leroy Shiosaki.

Exhibition opening.

Bundiyarra Board Chairman Ross Oakley.





Bundiyarra-Irra Wangga Language Centre workers, Edie Maher and Godfrey Simpson (left) and Rosie Sitorus (right), were on hand to congratulate the newest graduate teachers, Nadine Taylor and Leeann Merritt from Bundiyarra, and Natasha Ryan from Beachlands Primary School. **Below:** Their achievement called for a celebration with a yummy cake back at Bundiyarra!

Hard work pays off for language ladies

Three local Aboriginal ladies have plenty to celebrate after graduating as qualified language teachers this month.

They were presented with their Aboriginal Languages Teacher Training qualifications at a graduation ceremony in Perth and the language centre team went along to support them and share their joy.

The three ladies started their language training in 2014 with block releases in Perth and Broome twice a year.

The trainees had to be associated with a school, with

Natasha already at Beachlands Primary School, and the language centre was able to negotiate positions for Nadine and Leeann at Waggrakine Primary School and Beachlands/Meekaway respectively.

Language Centre Coordinator, Jenny Kniveton-Gregory, said the graduates will complete a year on probation, after which they have the position of 'Limited Authority to Teach'.

"This means they can't yet have a classroom to themselves, but they can work within the school as an employee," she said.

"It's a great achievement for them all having graduated, as they all have busy lives and lots of other commitments, but they've stuck it out, and now we're lucky in this region as we get three more qualified language teachers!

"Most if not all language teachers in the region started out in this program.

"It was a happy graduation if a bit emotional, as everyone was so overwhelmed by all their achievements and so proud of how far they've come," said Jenny.

Bundiyarra CEO, Marchelle Retallack, congratulated the ladies.

"Three years ago Leeann sat behind a hidden desk and said she was only a transcriber. It just shows that self-determination, good mentoring, and real opportunity does make a difference to people's lives," she said.

"Bundiyarra and the board is proud of them all."





Bundiyarra-Irra Wangga Language Centre staff, Jenny Kniveton-Gregory, Edie Maher, Rosie Sitorus and Godfrey Simpson thank Adrian Huber, (left) from Wrays, an intellectual property law firm that has kindly done some pro bono work for the language centre.

Language centre Coordinator, Jenny Kniveton-Gregory said Wrays has helped the centre get all its agreements and contracts up to scratch for copyright.

“They are helping us make sure all our practices protect the IP of Bundiyarra and the individuals and communities we work with,” she said.

Bundiyarra welcomes surprise visitors

Two groups of ladies made welcome surprise visits to Bundiyarra recently. A group of ladies from Derbarl Yerrigan Elders Program in Perth dropped in, including Cathy Sumner, (rear left) who was involved in the original planning and development of Bundiyarra. She was very excited to visit as she had never seen the building completed.



Well-known local Reggie Richardson brought Fay Stewart-Muir from the Victorian Language Centre Corporation (VACC) and local researcher Jennifer Field.

They wanted to meet some local Aboriginal Elders and were just in time to enjoy a delicious morning tea!



Digitise your past for the future

Preserving your culture and heritage is vital and having it documented and available for your children and the wider community is priceless.

Do you have any old cassette tapes with recordings of your family members and elders and do they have language on them?

Bundiyarra-Irra Wangga Language Centre can help you digitise and preserve this important history with its cassette-USB digitiser that is available for use by community.

All you need to do is bring your recorded cassette tape and a USB stick to copy it on, into the language centre. Once you have recorded it on the USB stick, you are able to make as many copies as you need. The language centre can help you make a CD copy too, please bring your own re-writable CD.

The only thing the language centre team asks is that the language centre is able to keep a copy so they can help archive the history of the region.

“Some of these old tapes have bits of language that are very important to the language centre, so we can make sure language resources and documentation of our languages are as accurate and complete as possible,” said language centre Linguist, Rosie Sitorus.

Phone Bundiyarra on 9920 7900 to find out more, or to book a time to come in and digitise your old cassettes.

Favourite book celebrates second print run

How the Yamaji Got Fire has been a favourite book published through the Bundiyarra-Irra Wangga Language Centre, and it now celebrates a second print run – with a bit of added magic.

First published in 2010, the story is one of many shared and told to Wajarri children by the late George Boddington and illustrated by Leonie Boddington, former Bundiyarra-Irra Wangga Language Centre language worker, a descendant of 'Ganni George' as he was affectionately and widely known. Now Godfrey Simpson tells the story with the aid of a magic talking pen!

The language reader pen is a clever little device that reads the text of the book aloud when pressed to the page. The voice on the reader is that of language worker, Godfrey Simpson, who is also the voice of the Wajarri Dictionary App.

The pen can also be used with the Wajarri, Badimaya and recently-produced Nhandu alphabet posters.

Apart from being useful in supporting Wajarri people in their culture, *How the Yamaji Got Fire* is a great educational resource and a tool for anyone who wants to learn more about the Wajarri language and how it is spoken.



Rosie Sitorus looks on as Leeann Merritt uses the talking pen to read *How the Yamaji Got Fire*.

If you would like to order a copy of the book, one of the alphabet posters, or the pen – or all three! – contact reception at Bundiyarra on (08) 9920 7900 or go to the Bundiyarra online store on the website www.bundiyarra.org

While you're there check out all the other great publications available to purchase.

Push for language in the classroom in remote schools

Bundiyarra-Irra Wangga Language Centre Coordinator, Jenny Kniveton-Gregory, Linguist Rosie Sitorus, and Language Worker, Godfrey Simpson headed out to the Murchison recently to talk to local principals about getting language taught in the region's schools.

They met with principals of Mt Magnet District High School, Cue Primary School and Pia Wajarri Remote Community School to discuss how to get language into their classrooms.

Jenny said the emphasis was on having a language presence in the schools and building that up into classes.

"Schools need to engage local communities to bring language into the classroom," she said.

"Schools need to engage local communities to bring language into the classroom."

"That often means engaging local elders, as they are the ones who are knowledgeable about language and culture, and the reality is if you don't engage them it won't work."

Jenny and Rosie gave the schools some Bundiyarra-Irra Wangga resources and look forward to working with them again in the future.

They also met with Badimaya Elder Ollie George again, to do some follow up work on the Badimaya language that was done in June with Rosie and former Bundiyarra-Irra

Wangga Linguist, James Bednall – who will be back in December to continue the development of Badimaya resources for community.

We look forward to seeing him.



Intensive learning: Leeann Merritt and Edie Maher from the Bundiyarra-Irra Wangga Language Centre, with Bundiyarra Board Member Bianca McNear, Ebony Joachim from Victoria, Godfrey Simpson and Nadine Taylor from the language centre and Emma Murphy from Darwin, at the RNLD Workshop - with plenty of biscuits for sustenance.

Intensive learning workshop helps language fluency

The Bundiyarra-Irra Wangga Language Centre team completed a three-day intensive learning workshop with the Resource Network for Linguistic Diversity (RNLD) in August.

The team learnt how to teach language in general, including the positioning of the tongue in the mouth to create certain sounds.

“It was a very full-on three days,” said Language Worker, Godfrey Simpson, “we also covered language morphology which is the study of the internal structure of words, all very necessary to know to be able to teach language. It was fun.”

Two trainers from RNLD joined the local team, Ebony Joachim from Shepperton in Victoria, who is a Yorta-Yorta woman and Emma Murphy from Darwin.

Sinosteel Midwest sponsors dictionary reprint

Sinosteel Mid West Corporation has kindly sponsored the Bundiyarra-Irra Wangga Language Centre to do a reprint of the Wajarri Dictionary and a new Wajarri story book *The Two Brothers*.

The Two Brothers was developed by former language centre worker Leonie Boddington with the support of her family.

The Two Brothers Story has been printed in ‘sound file’ which allows the reader to hear the language and assists in learning by ‘hearing’ the

correct pronunciation of the story words.

Language Centre Coordinator, Jennifer Kniveton-Gregory said it is so important for the Language Centre to have sponsorship support for publishing important community language stories for distribution to the language community, individuals and the wider community.

“Culturally appropriate local language resources are a great tool to assist in engaging Aboriginal people in learning their languages, and is a great resource for schools

in the region teaching Aboriginal languages as part of their curriculum,” she said

“Thank you to Sinosteel for their continuing contribution to language revitalisation in this region.”

Ms Kniveton-Gregory said the reprinting of the Wajarri Dictionary is testament to its importance and popularity.

“This is a very special resource that was 25 years in the compilation and to now see it go into its second print run is very rewarding. We could not have done it without Sinosteel’s generous sponsorship,” she said.

Wajarri Language Corner – with Leann Merritt

Test your skill with Leann’s Wajarri puzzles.

Leann is one of the recent language teacher graduates and she received a high competency for her development of education resources.

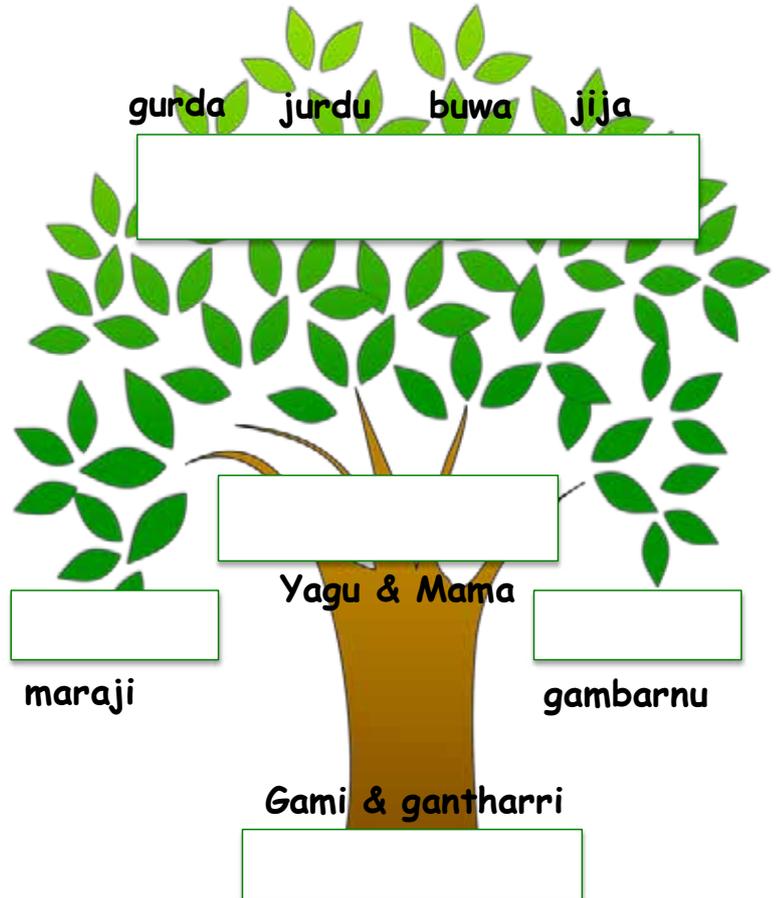
Not surprising really, as Leann is an accomplished artist, evident with her poster art among other things, with a CERT III in Visual Arts and Technology from Durack Institute of Technology.

Leann uses her illustrations in her language teaching.

Yungatha

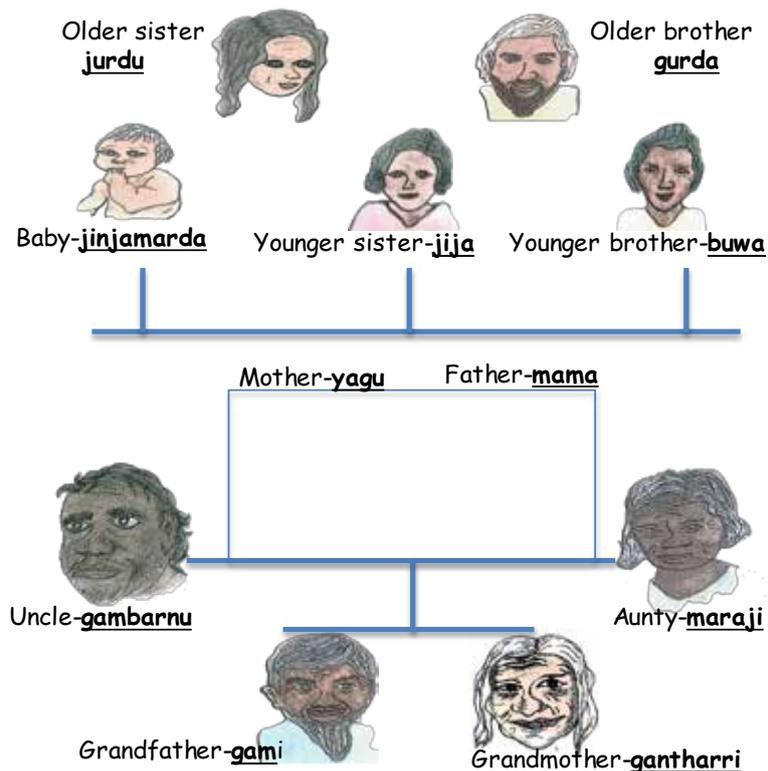
(family)

Fill in your family tree with your family's names



Join the Wajarri word to the meanings

Jija	father
Buwa	older brother
Jurdu	grandmother
Gurda	uncle
Yagu	younger sister
Mama	aunty
Maraji	younger brother
Gambarnu	older sister
Gami	mother
Gantharri	grandfather



Looking for a conference venue with a difference?

Bundiyarra has just the place for you.



Since the early 1900s, Bundiyarra has been a 'meeting place'.

Set amongst a natural bush setting, Bundiyarra exudes culture from the minute you arrive.

The Bundiyarra Conference Room offers a flexible set up in relaxing bush surrounds.

Choose from four room set-up options or design your own.

Traditional bush tucker is included in the hiring price: Traditional Lemon Myrtle Bush Tea served hot on arrival, damper with butter and Golden Syrup, drinks include coffee, hot chocolate, Bushells tea and green tea.

Materials and equipment include: whiteboard, television and DVD player, data projector and screen, lecturn and podium and reception room.

All for as little as \$320 for a full day; and \$175 for a half day.

Plenty of **FREE** parking



To make a booking, inspect our Conference Room facilities or make an enquiry please phone **Kathleen Nelly on 9920 7900** or email your enquiry to **reception@bundiyarra.org.au**

The people at Bundiyarra are amazing, experts in their field and love to enjoy a good yarn with anyone that wants to share culture. By hiring our conference facility, you will be helping us to build many more significant facilities for our future.

Please respect Bundiyarra does not permit the consumption of drugs or alcohol on the grounds or inside the buildings.