



Bundiyarra Gardantha

'a good place moving forward'

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Bundiyarra Muguri (Dreaming Tracks) closer to reality thanks to City funding and letters of support **PAGE 4**

New partnerships offer food for thought with community garden

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Work for the Dole Scheme proves a success for Bundiyarra

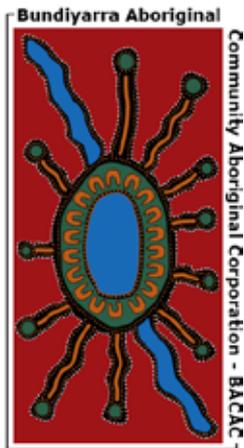
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Happy anniversary Irra Wangga Language Centre!

A very special occasion was celebrated at Bundiyarra-Irra Wangga Language Centre last year – the 10th anniversary of its language work. Celebrations included songs by one of the last song men of the region, well-known Elder Mr Ross Boddington, and local Aboriginal boys and men gave a rare performance of traditional dancing. Read the full story on pages 20 and 21.

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



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The Bundiyarra-Irra Wangga Language Resource Program is proudly funded by the Australian Government.

A MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

Nhurra Barndi



It is hard to think that March is already upon us.

It has been an extremely busy start to the year with some amazing partnership projects ready to commence. Project One, Waranygu Bayalgu (digging for food) Community Garden will see a complete revitalisation of the area. This project is a partnership between the City of Greater Geraldton who provided the initial funding for the garden, Skill Hire through their Work for the Dole Scheme, Northern Agricultural Catchment Council (NACC) and Bundiyarra as the supervisors and coordinators of the project. The garden will see the erection of much needed shade, a hot house, reticulation, sheds, a water tank and an array of fruit trees, herbs and bush tucker plants.

Project Two: Barlinmanha Barna (cover the ground) Paving Project will see the existing paving surrounding Bundiyarra lifted, some relaid, some areas replaced with concrete and the existing front lawn paved and covered with shade sails. In addition, new brick flower beds will be built. This is a partnership between Skill Hire Work for the Dole and Bundiyarra.

In addition, Bundiyarra is working alongside the City of Greater Geraldton and submitting tenders for contract work. The Work for the Dole projects will allow Bundiyarra to train and mentor our local Aboriginal people into paid work positions. The Bundiyarra Board of Directors would like to thank all partners for making these opportunities realistic training, education and employment pathways for our people. Since November, Bundiyarra has identified two very suitable Work for the Dole participants and they are now employed within Bundiyarra – Environmental Health Services. Support for Bundiyarra Muguri continues and we are excited to see

Stage 1 being Project ready. We are busy working on an application to the Mid West Regional Grants Scheme and Community Chest Fund (**see letters of support on pages 5 and 6**), closing mid-March, for the costs to build Stage 1 of the development. Thanks to the City of Greater Geraldton Community Grants scheme for providing us with the monies required to engage Bruce Sherwood from Eastman, Poletti and Sherwood Architects to undertake the necessary surveying and plans for Stage 1. We will keep you posted on the success of this application.

Donna Ronan, Bundiyarra's Tourism Coordinator has started her Cert III in Tourism after successfully completing her Cert II last year. Donna and I are off to Bunbury for the WAITOC Indigenous Tourism Conference in early March. This opportunity will allow them to learn about the latest tourism marketing strategies, visit some operating tourism sites and network with like-minded people in the world of the tourism market.

Finally, Bundiyarra is going to host its second Future Planning Forum in mid-March. Day 1 will see all our local agencies provided the opportunity to give an update on the services they are providing and their individual future plans. This will be used to identify more partnership opportunities for the coming years. Day 2 will see our Life, Honorary and Board members come together with the management team to work further on internal governance of the Corporation. Bundiyarra will continue to work towards the mission statement and list of objectives developed by the members in 1996. The Corporation is proud to have such a hands-on Board of Directors varying in ages and skills – we are all proud to ensure that Bundiyarra remains 'a good place to go'.

Busy year ended on a high note

Last year was a busy one for Bundiyarra, and it finished on a high note with City of Greater Geraldton CEO, Ken Diehm's announcement that the Corporation had been granted \$30,000!

Mr Diehm was a guest at Bundiyarra's Christmas party on 17 December and relayed the good news that a grant had been approved through Round 17 of the City's Community Grants Program. The program is designed to provide assistance to local community groups and organisations that make positive contributions to the quality of life in the Greater Geraldton region.

The funding will be used to further develop the Muguri or Dream Trails tourist experience at Bundiyarra, that's planned to attract tourism and boost the not-for-profit organisation's economic future.

Bundiyarra CEO, Marchelle Retallack, said she was thrilled that the Corporation received the funding injection that would allow the first stage of the multi-stage Bundiyarra Muguri project to kick off with new infrastructure.

"The new infrastructure, including public toilets; a camp-style kitchen with dishwashing and serving space; a bough shed for weather protection; a permanent projection screen with a stage; and a lawn area; will provide entertainment space for greater community," she said.

"This will allow more programs and activities to be offered both during and after hours, without having to use the existing, space-poor facilities. We will work with several partners to achieve these outcomes.

"We want people to come to these historic grounds more frequently to enjoy Aboriginal culture and heritage, and provide education, which is not



Bundiyarra Board Chairman, Ross Oakley, and City of Greater Geraldton Mayor, Shane Van Styn, with confirmation of the funding through the City's Community Grants Program.

being adequately provided in the Mid West, Murchison and Gascoyne regions," said Ms Retallack.

Completing this project would improve local community participation, cohesion and contribute to vibrant and viable communities, targeting heritage, multiculturalism, the arts and education.

It also ticks the boxes in terms of embracing a highly diversified economy as the multi-stage project will offer on-going training and employment opportunities for Aboriginal youth, leading to an array of economic possibilities.

"Bundiyarra has enrolled Aboriginal people in training courses in tourism and business at Durack Institute of Technology, and we are working in partnership with Skill Hire and NACC to establish ongoing training and offer employment where we are able to," Ms Retallack said.

"We're encouraging Aboriginal people to take the right steps to become leaders of Bundiyarra Muguri.

"Through consultation with community, this project will assist in the social development and general wellbeing of our youth and seniors,

and leverage more community focused events," said Ms Retallack.

"The Board of Directors and Life Members are determined to become less reliant on Government funding, and to develop and deliver realistic economic opportunities for Bundiyarra through the completion of the Bundiyarra Muguri.

"We are extremely grateful for the grant that will enable us to realise some of our aspirations for the future of Bundiyarra," Ms Retallack said.

Bundiyarra is waiting to hear if it has been successful with funding through the Federal Government's Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development.

The grant is designed to deliver infrastructure for not-for-profit organisations and councils in the Durack Electorate, and is contingent on the recipient being able to match the grant dollar-for-dollar.

"We are in the position to be able to match the funding now, so hopefully we will have an answer in the near future, as I know Federal Member for Durack, Melissa Price, is very supportive of Bundiyarra," Ms Retallack said.

Development stages of Bundiyarra Muguri (Dreaming Tracks)

Stage 1

Would allow Bundiyarra the opportunity to promote a cultural experience to tourists - including visiting cruise ships. A two-hour tourism package is being developed which includes visitors being able to experience a Tharndi or traditional Aboriginal hut being built; learn about the history of Bundiyarra and why the Corporation exists; listen to didgeridoo playing around the fire-pit and song in language; watch local artists making tapping sticks, boomerangs and dot painting; make damper - smell it cooking on the coals making mouths water; allow sand to fall delicately through fingers and help complete a sand art mural; see an emu and hear the Emu in the Sky story; taste kangaroo and watch a series of short films that have been produced over many years.

Stage 2

Bundiyarra's boundary would be fenced in a culturally artistic pattern, inclusive of the flora and fauna known to the grounds. New entry and exit driveways would be created and new sealed car parks.

Stage 3

Seven tin humpies built along the dreaming tracks, built as close as possible to the original buildings that were located in the Reserve on North West Coastal Highway. Two structures would be used as caretakers' residences; one used for tourist and visitor viewing and would include the history of the Reserve; and four would become available for tourist accommodation. Public toilets and showers, also designed to replicate the tin humpies would be built.

Pictured right: Cruise ship visitors enjoyed a tour of Bundiyarra last year, illustrating the appetite for an 'Aboriginal experience'.

Stage 4

Would see the construction of 13 Tharndis or Aboriginal shelters made from tree branches. One would be used for tourist and visitor viewing and the remaining 12 would become available for tourist accommodation.

Stage 5

The Muguri Trail would be compacted to allow wheelchair and disability access, and the installation of lighting and two drinking fountains.

Stage 6

Would include the installation of interpretive signage and loud speakers. Tourists and visitors would be able to activate the speakers and listen to many local recorded stories.



Stage 7

The completion of the existing gazebo built to represent the Stolen Generation which would include photographs and stories of local Aboriginal people who spent time at Mogumber Mission (Moore River Settlement). The last stage, yet to be finalised would include a large rock wall representing all Aboriginal families within Yamaji Country. Bundiyarra CEO, Marchelle Retallack, said there is no opportunity in Geraldton for locals or visitors to camp on traditional Aboriginal grounds, or even experience the stories and talents of the Yamaji people.

"Imagine camping out in a Tharndi or humpy, just like Aboriginal people did only 40 years ago, set amongst a natural bush setting filled with Geraldton Wax, wattles and hearing the sounds of the wildlife," she said.

"It is quiet, it smells clean and crisp, and you experience a sensation in your body that you may not be able to explain.

"That's the spirit of the Muguri or dreaming tracks, the feeling left behind from the people who walked and camped on Bundiyarra grounds over hundreds of years," Ms Retallack said.

"Walk with us on this journey and let your senses come alive!"

Stage 8

The last stage would culminate in a commercial kitchen and café, and a computer and library area along with an exhibition space.

Letters of Support



MELISSA PRICE MP
Federal Member for Durack

To Whom It May Concern

It is with pleasure that I write to you in support of Bundiyarra Aboriginal Community Aboriginal Corporation's application through the Mid West Development Commission's Royalties for Regions funding, for Stage 1 of Bundiyarra Muguri.

Bundiyarra Aboriginal Community Aboriginal Corporation is an organisation which offers programs designed to help improve social, cultural, economic and community engagement for Aboriginal people in the Midwest, Murchison and Gascoyne regions.

Stage 1 of Bundiyarra Muguri will enable Bundiyarra to offer more programs and activities not just during, but after office hours.

I believe Aboriginal cultural tourism will be a feature of Stage 1, providing tourists, including those from cruise ships, a taste of Aboriginal culture.

This first stage is intended to include a new kitchen and toilet facilities, including a camp style kitchen and an undercover cinema screen with a stage and lawn and garden areas, which will provide a cultural entertainment space for the community.

I fully support this funding application.

Yours sincerely

Melissa Price MP
1 February 2016



Ian Blayney MLA
Your State Member for Geraldton

Tuesday, 2 February 2016

Your State Member for Geraldton



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HON Murray Criddle
Chairman Mid-West Development Commission Board
Level 2, Foreshore Business Centre
209 Foreshore Drive
GERALDTON WA 6530

Dear Murray,

I am writing in support of Bundiyarra Aboriginal Community Aboriginal Corporation's application for funding through Royalties for Regions, to build Stage 1 of the Bundiyarra Muguri.

Bundiyarra Muguri (Dreaming Tracks) is an eight stage project. Extensive community consultation has been undertaken to determine support for Bundiyarra's position as a cultural centre and to explore future, potential employment and economic opportunities for the Corporation.

This process enabled Bundiyarra to determine the infrastructure required to leverage opportunities for programs and activities, and explore realistic economic opportunities for Bundiyarra's future to reduce its reliance on Government funding.

Bundiyarra Muguri will be working with several partners to achieve multiple outcomes - targeting heritage, multiculturalism, the arts, education and employment. It will also offer on-going training and employment opportunities for Aboriginal youth.

Bundiyarra has commenced enrolling Aboriginal people into training, through the Durack Institute of Technology. In Tourism and Business. As an organisation, it is encouraging Aboriginal people to move towards leadership of the Bundiyarra Muguri.

It anticipates that this project will assist in the development and general wellbeing of Aboriginal youth and seniors, with community focused events.

The dreaming tracks' development will lift training and employment opportunities for Bundiyarra's future to reduce its reliance on Government funding.

Hon Paul Brown MLC, Member for the Agricultural Region

February 1st, 2016

To whom it may concern:

Letter of Support – Bundiyarra Muguri – Stage One

I write in support of Bundiyarra Aboriginal Corporation's funding application in support of their Bundiyarra Muguri (Dreaming Tracks) project. Bundiyarra Muguri will see Bundiyarra become a Cultural Centre.

The proposal has been through wide community consultation with a number of parties formed, including the WA Aboriginal Tourism Council, in the pursuit of embracing a diversified economy through heritage, multiculturalism, arts, education and employment. A multi-staged project will offer on-going training and employment opportunities for Aboriginal youth.

Bundiyarra is well known for hosting a number of large events every year. Current infrastructure cannot cater for large amounts of people, with the toilets and kitchen facilities being non-compliant. Stage 1 will provide for a purpose built facility to cater for these events and be the catalyst of the Cultural Centre. Stage 1 infrastructure will include toilets; camp style kitchen, a bough shed for weather protection, a permanent undercover cinema screen with a stage, lawn and garden areas. This space will create a cultural entertainment space for the greater community.

Aboriginal heritage is under-developed in the Mid West as a cultural tourism opportunity. Bundiyarra Muguri project will go a long way to addressing this shortfall, as well as provide Bundiyarra Aboriginal Corporation with the economic opportunity to be less reliant on government funding. The opportunities provided to Aboriginal youth through education, training and employment throughout the staged project and beyond, is to be commended.

I fully support this funding application by Bundiyarra Aboriginal Corporation for their Bundiyarra Muguri project and I thank you for taking the time to consider this very important project.

Yours Sincerely

Paul Brown MP
Member for the Agricultural Region

All correspondence to: U3/5 Chapman Road GERALDTON WA 6530 Phone: 08 9921 4818
Email: Paul.Brown@mp.wa.gov.au

Darren West
Member for Agricultural Region

To Whom It May Concern

Letter of Support – Bundiyarra Muguri, Stage 1

I am writing to express my strong support for Bundiyarra Aboriginal Corporation's Royalties for Regions funding application for Bundiyarra Muguri (Dreaming Tracks) Project – Stage 1. Funding for Stage 1 is the important first step in Bundiyarra becoming a Cultural Centre.

The Bundiyarra Muguri (Dreaming Tracks) Project was born from the Bundiyarra Board of Directors desire to develop a strategic direction that would create realistic economic opportunities and less dependency on government funding. An extensive period of wide community consultation, in conjunction with the City of Greater Geraldton, enabled Bundiyarra to determine the infrastructure that is needed to leverage more opportunities for programs and activities.

Bundiyarra already host events that cater for large groups of people and funding for Stage 1 will enable the organisation to upgrade their onsite facilities so that more events and more visitors can be accommodated. The improved facilities will be cost effective, as Bundiyarra will no longer have to hire equipment and funds raised by events will provide a revenue stream that can be reinvested in the organisation.

The Bundiyarra Muguri (Dreaming Tracks) Project presents a unique opportunity to develop cultural tourism that will contribute financially to the Midwest economy and provide opportunities for ongoing training and employment for Aboriginal youth. It also provides a means by which Aboriginal culture can be recognised and respected and this is needed for the overall social and emotional wellbeing of our community. I experienced this first hand when I attended Bundiyarra's Inaugural Muguri (Dreaming Tracks) Tour in November 2015 along with over 100 cruise ship passengers.

I commend the Bundiyarra Board of Directors for the consultation and planning processes they have undertaken. This work has facilitated the formation of solid networks and partnerships with a range of agencies and organisations that will ensure the success of the project.

Prime Minister Turnbull in his 2016 Closing the Gap statement spoke of the need to work in partnership with Aboriginal people and the importance of providing an environment that enables Indigenous leaders to develop local solutions. The Bundiyarra Muguri (Dreaming Tracks) Project with its linkages to heritage, multiculturalism, arts, education and employment is a prime example of partnership leading to the development of a local solution.

The Bundiyarra Muguri (Dreaming Tracks) Project is a watershed moment for our community. I trust Bundiyarra's application will be received favourably.

Yours sincerely

Darren West MLC
MEMBER FOR AGRICULTURE REGION
11 February 2016

Darren West
Member for Agricultural Region

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Darren West MLC, WA Labor Member for the Ag Region



Letters of Support



Marchelle Retallack
Operations Manager
Bundiyarra Aboriginal Community Aboriginal Corporation
PO Box 4027
Cnr Eastward & Blemcove Roads
Geraldton WA 6530

Dear Marchelle,
RE: BUNDIYARRA MUGURI DREAMING, DREAMING STORY, DREAMING TRACKS

Western Australian Indigenous Tourism Operators Council (WAITOC) is very pleased to support the submission by Bundiyarra Aboriginal Community Aboriginal Corporation for the development of the Bundiyarra Muguri Dreaming Tracks.

WAITOC is the peak not for profit association representing Aboriginal tourism operators from all regions throughout Western Australia. Our association is autonomous and provides advice and information to all relevant State Government agencies as well as the tourism industry sector. The overriding purpose of WAITOC is to promote Aboriginal tourism by providing a supportive network for Aboriginal tourism operators within WA.

WAITOC had the pleasure of visiting Bundiyarra Muguri late last year along with Local, State and Federal Government, Lotterywest, Northern Agricultural Catchment Council, Western Australia Museum - Geraldton, Yamaji Malpa Aboriginal Corporation, Sinosteel, Department of Aboriginal Affairs and the Midwest Development Commission to offer support to this venture. WAITOC then Chair and CEO joined a guided tour of the trails on a consultation basis



in five visitors in Western Australia participated in an Aboriginal tourism activity while on holiday in 2014-15, many more (74%) indicated they would be interested if the activities were more readily accessible.

As revealed in past research surveys, international visitors are more likely to participate and show interest in Aboriginal cultural activities than their domestic counterparts. The trails address this growth of interest along with additional potential demand from the increase in the cruise market into Geraldton, showcasing Aboriginal storytelling and history to these visitors and delivering easy access to Aboriginal Tourism product which, as the tourism research shows, is one of our key barriers.

WAITOC has just committed to a new program Aboriginal Tourism Product Development (ATDP) for the next 4 years through regional development funding. This program focuses on business development and a State-wide marketing strategy. As these funds are limited WAITOC recognises significant value in this project in that it adds diversity and closes demand gaps in the sought after Aboriginal tourism portfolio of Western Australia.

Yours faithfully

Tania (Tahn) Donovan
Chair

9 January 2016



2 February 2016

Our Ref: D-16-05870
Your Ref: GS/1/0052
File Ref:
Enquiries: Polly Banks

Marchelle Retallack
PO Box 4027
GERALDTON WA 6531

Dear Ms Retallack

LETTER OF SUPPORT; BUNDIYARRA MUGURI GRANT APPLICATION

The City of Greater Geraldton endorses and supports Bundiyarra's application to the Mid West Development Commission to secure funding through Royalties for Regions to undertake Stage 1 of the Bundiyarra Muguri Project.

The City of Greater Geraldton has a positive and strong working relationship with Bundiyarra and is very supportive of the Bundiyarra Muguri Project. The City has a competitive community grant program through which Bundiyarra successfully received a grant to be administered in 2016 to commence the surveying work for the Bundiyarra Muguri Project. The awarding of this competitive grant to Bundiyarra is a reflection of the strong commitment that the City of Greater Geraldton has to this valuable project.

The Bundiyarra Muguri Cultural Centre, in working with several partners, will achieve multiple outcomes for the Mid West Region in the fields of heritage, multiculturalism, the arts, education and employment. It also ticks the boxes in terms of embracing a highly diversified economy as the multi-stage project will offer on-going training and employment opportunities for youth. Furthermore, Bundiyarra will utilise the Culture Centre to promote cultural tourism and will use this as a vehicle for creating employment opportunities for young people. Already, Bundiyarra has commenced enrolling Aboriginal people into training at Durack Institute of Technology in Tourism and Business, and are working in partnership to establish on-going training plans and offering employment where able. This reflects a commitment from Bundiyarra to encourage Aboriginal people to take the right steps to become the leaders of Bundiyarra Muguri.

The completion of stage 1 of Bundiyarra Muguri will create greater space opportunities for Bundiyarra to offer a greater range of activities; both within and outside of standard

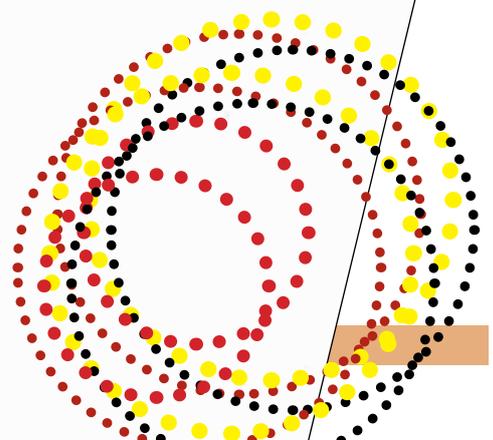
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generating hours including the opportunity to host a variety of community events. Currently calendar of events attracts more than 1000 people annually. The completion of stage 1 enable this number of event goers to increase substantially.

Bundiyarra Muguri Project has the full support of the City of Greater Geraldton and the other agencies and bodies to consider the valuable economic and social this project will have for the Mid West Region.

OFFICER



Merry Christmas at the Reef

Bundiyarra staff, Board members, Elders and Honorary and Life Members enjoyed a Christmas wind up with a fabulous meal at Geraldton's African Reef on 17 December.

Staff were joined by Federal Member for Durack, Melissa Price, WA Member for Geraldton, Hon Ian Blayney and City of Greater Geraldton CEO, Ken Diehm.

"It's fantastic to see the support we receive from people like our



politicians and local council, and I thank them enormously for their belief in, and the support they show for Bundiyarra," said Bundiyarra

CEO, Marchelle Retallack.

Pictured above are Ian Blayney, Elder and Life Member, Dora Dann, Ken Diehm and Melissa Price.

Kathleen earns herself a promotion

Our Miss Awesome, Kathleen Nelly, has received a very well deserved promotion.

Kathleen started as a volunteer with Bundiyarra in 2012 to help her complete her Certificate III in Business.

Since successfully completing her Cert III, Kathleen has been the face of the Bundiyarra reception area and never says "no" to learning new skills.

In 2015, Kathleen signed up with Durack Institute of Technology to complete her Certificate IV in Digital Media and Technology and was also rewarded with not one, not two, but three scholarships from various agencies. Congratulations Kathleen.

Bundiyarra CEO, Marchelle Retallack, said Kathleen's skills and passion for her job have never changed.

"The Corporation is growing at a rapid rate," she said.

"Following last year's extensive community consultations and the strategic development being written and endorsed by the Bundiyarra Board of Directors, there are never enough hours in the day."

Board Members met over January to look at the Corporation's day-to-day tasks and decided to offer Kathleen a promotion to become the Administration Coordinator.

Kathleen will manage the administration office in



Marchelle congratulates Kathleen on her promotion to Administration Coordinator at Bundiyarra.

terms of the day-to-day processes, staff and other duties.

Bundiyarra Board Chairperson, Ross Oakley, said Kathleen is showing many signs of taking on higher management duties as time progresses.

"Maybe in years to come she will be our next CEO," he said.

Kathleen will complete her Training and Assessment Certificate in early May this year.

The Bundiyarra year in review ...

With all the good things reported on in the early pages of this issue, Bundiyarra kicked some solid goals last year, with all the Corporation undertook and achieved. Here's a snippet of some of the great wins we had:

Throughout February and March last year, Bundiyarra, with support from the City of Greater Geraldton, held *Come yarn with us* community consultation sessions every Wednesday for community to tell us what they wanted from the plans and projects Bundiyarra aimed to achieve throughout 2015.

These sessions saw great attendance and enthusiasm, and the results from the consultations were consolidated into a strategic plan.

Some deadly achievements were celebrated last year. These included installation of the mural at the Radio Theatre on Marine Terrace, Geraldton, telling the story of Auntie Joan Gray's mother, Alice Nannup, giving the local kids a dressing down about racism in the 1950s. Thanks to the City of Greater Geraldton for funding this project.



Alice Nannup mural at Radio Theatre.

Camp Gallipoli was held at Bundiyarra in April, in conjunction with the City of Greater Geraldton; a special night of remembrance, entertainment and fun honouring the ANZAC landing at Gallipoli 100 years before and recognising the part Aboriginal servicemen played in the battle.



Camp Gallipoli was held at Bundiyarra.

Bundiyarra's IT guru, Dwayne Smith, was named 2014 Vocational Student of the Year across all four of Durack Institute of Technology's campuses.



Durack graduates, Dwayne Smith and Kathleen Nelly.

Kathleen Nelly was the proud recipient of three scholarships to study at Durack Institute of Technology. She completed a Certificate IV in digital media technologies last year.

Donna Ronan and Godfrey Simpson completed Certificate II in Tourism.



Durack stainless steel sculptures.

Bundiyarra was commissioned to create and produce some stainless steel sculptures for installation at

Durack's beautiful new Aboriginal Learning Centre at the Geraldton Campus.

Bundiyarra enjoyed representation at community events including Waitangi Day, Australia Day and the Astrofest as well as being part of the touring exhibition Indigenous Australians at war from the Boer War to the present with the WA Museum – Geraldton.

Representatives from all levels of Government were hosted throughout the year on the grounds.

Nanna Dora Dann's book – *Waranygu Bayalgu - Digging for Food* was reprinted by the Yamaji Language Centre.

Late in the year came the exciting news Bundiyarra had been granted \$30,000 through the City of Greater Geraldton's Community Grants Program to further the Muguri – Dream Trails tourism experience.

Language Centre

The Bundiyarra-Irra Wangga Language Centre enjoyed some deadly achievements too.



The launch of the Nhandu Alphabet poster at Kalbarri.

They launched the Nhandu Alphabet Poster at Kalbarri in April. The poster was created by the language centre as a resource to preserve the disappearing Nhandu language, with the invaluable help of Nhandu woman, Colleen Drage and her father, Clayton Drage.

Then came the launch of the highly regarded Wajarri Dictionary App, created and produced by Bundiyarra's



The wonderful Wajarri Dictionary App.

marketing arm and the Bundiyarra-Irra Wangga Language Centre.

The Language Centre hosted three university work experience students over the year, giving them a rare opportunity to experience work in such an environment.

Sinosteel Midwest Corporation agreed to sponsor printing the second edition of the Wajarri Dictionary - that was 25 years' in the creation.



Two Language Centre workers qualified as Language Teachers, supported here by colleagues.

Two Language Centre workers graduated as qualified Language Teachers along with a colleague from Beachlands Primary School. And of course, there was the all-important 10-year anniversary celebration of the Language Centre; that continues to go from strength to strength in the face of funding cuts.



Language Centre 10-year anniversary celebrations.



Kane Cross-Heart has found permanent work with Bundiyarra's Environmental Health Team.

Kane proves he's worth keeping

Bundiyarra has supported the Work for the Dole program with two successful outcomes so far.

Kane Cross-Heart joined Bundiyarra in October last year through the Skill Hire Working for the Dole scheme and worked his hours with Bundiyarra's Environmental Health Services.

Environmental Health Coordinator, Gordon Gray, said Environmental health is an important and essential conduit for effective health promotion, risk and disease prevention and safe and hygienic housing.

"Kane has been a good fit for the Environmental Health Team and since starting has attended work every day; worked more than his required hours; and takes the time to get a better understanding of policies and procedures that need to be adhered to," he said.

"It was through Kane showing his commitment to being employed,

and to Bundiyarra, that has seen him rewarded with a paid position for 20 hours a week with Environmental Health Services."

And there is more good news for Kane and Bundiyarra; Skill Hire have funded part of Kane's wages through the Aboriginal Wage Subsidy giving him 25 paid hours a week.

Mr Gray said Kane has been able to complete his 25 hours required driving practice using the Corporation's vehicles and Skill Hire will pay for some driving lessons and for him to be able to sit his driving test.

"This is a great outcome as soon he will have his drivers' licence which is a real bonus," said Mr Gray.

Bundiyarra has always seen itself as acting as a role model in training and mentoring Aboriginal people into paid employment, and once employed, continues to offer mentoring help where possible to ensure the employment continues.

Funding announced to improve coordination of Indigenous suicide services in WA

Suicide critical response project: 'too little, too late'

– Gordon Gray, Chairperson,
Midwest Aboriginal Organisations Alliance

In January, Minister for Indigenous Affairs, Nigel Scullion, announced \$1 million in funding for a new Critical Response Project to improve coordination of Indigenous suicide services in WA.

Western Australia has been identified as having the greatest need for a coordinated service delivery for suicide affected or attempted suicide affected Aboriginal families.

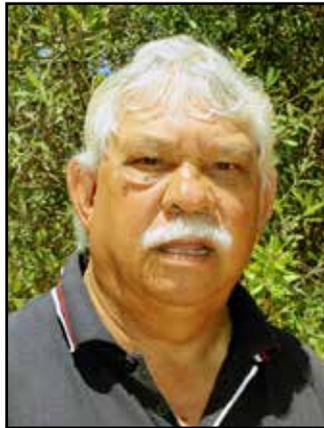
"One in three deaths across Australia among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 15 to 35 is a suicide and the rates of suicide for First Australians is twice that of other Australians. This is an ongoing tragedy."

Those statistics were quoted by Senator Scullion; and one in four indigenous suicides across Australia occurs in WA.

The project aims to ensure that services available for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families affected by suicides, or attempted suicides are better coordinated and delivered in culturally appropriate ways.

It would involve coordinators meeting with affected families to identify their needs and making sure appropriate services were delivered.

However, what about suicide prevention? What about doing something before a person gets that far down the track?



Gordon Gray

That's the feeling of many people, including Bundiyarra Environmental Health Coordinator, Gordon Gray, who sits on many Aboriginal committees and is a member of the WA Aboriginal Advisory Council. He thinks the money would be better put into prevention, or detection of people at risk.

Mr Gray said it's good the government recognises that people are feeling lost and desperate after a suicide or attempted suicide, but it's too little, too late.

"There should be greater emphasis on prevention and intervention; money would be better spent at the grass roots level with more focus on health determinants, increasing positive health and decreasing negative health aspects," he said.

"We needed help for suicide prevention 10 years ago. There should

be closer coordination of wrap-around services for people in need; everyone knows when someone is struggling in the Aboriginal community.

"The Federal Government should look at some of the policies they changed, or discarded over the past 10 years that has impacted people on the ground - that's whole families - not just individuals," said Mr Gray.

"The Federal Government should look at some of the policies they changed, or discarded over the past 10 years ..."

"Services for Aboriginal people are reliant on government funding through programs like CDEP, and when the government starts chopping and changing them, Aboriginal people don't know where they are."

The Critical Response Project will be coordinated by the University of Western Australia's School of Indigenous Studies and trialed until January 2017. The project evolved from work undertaken by the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Suicide Evaluation Prevention Project.

The Critical Response Project can be contacted by phoning 0455 252 678.

Arts Minister calls on artist teams for new museum public art project

Culture and the Arts Minister John Day has announced \$1.6 million for public art at WA's new museum in Perth and is calling on artist teams to register their interest to develop either a single work or multiple works.

He said the public art would reflect and interpret the stories of WA.

Local, national and international artist teams, including Aboriginal artists, are encouraged to register their interest. They will work closely with the

successful managing contractor and WA Museum content teams.

The new museum public artist team is expected to be appointed in mid-2016. For more information, visit <http://www.museum.wa.gov.au/publicart>



Donna Ronan with Nanna Dora's book, Waranygu Bayalgu: Digging for Food.

New partnerships offer plenty of food for thought

Things really are powering along at Bundiyarra; partnerships continue to be formed with fantastic outcomes to be realised.

Bundiyarra has partnered with the Northern Agricultural Catchment Council (NACC), Skill Hire and the City of Greater Geraldton to see the now languishing community garden space revitalised into an amazing Community Bush Tucker Garden dedicated to Nana Dora Dann.

Named after local Elder Dora Dann's book, work started on the Waranygu Bayalgu (digging for food) Community Bush Tucker Garden on 22 February.

Through NACC, there will be a range of seed collection and educational

camp to gather bush tucker seeds and help people connect with and learn about Country.

The garden space will be revitalised with the installation of shade houses and new sheds.

Bundiyarra CEO, Marchelle Retallack, said these are really exciting times.

"The next step will be cooking workshops," she said, "using all our bush tucker and teaching the wider community about the natural ingredients you can

find on the land and how to use them in cooking."

Bundiyarra's Donna Ronan will work closely with NACC's Bianca McNeair, (both of whom are Bundiyarra Board members) to keep the project ticking along.

A second partnership between Bundiyarra, NACC, and Skill Hire will see Bundiyarra's grounds revitalised under the steady supervision of Chris Ronan (Donna's brother), who will lead the project.

The front lawn will be removed and paved and covered with shade sails, existing paving will be re-levelled and in some places replaced with concrete and stone paving, and new brick flower beds will be constructed.

"All this helps with the overall Stage 8 Bundiyarra re-development and the Muguri Trails, that is due to start in July this year," said Ms Retallack.

"Our community has designed an amazing strategy for these grounds and support letters are flowing; thanks community for your contribution.

"Our long-term community consultation is coming to reality and this year is going to be a ripper!" she said.

Yamaji Elder, Dora Dann, is a highly-respected Elder who was born on Byro Station in the Gascoyne in 1923. She is mother to 13 children and countless grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Nanna Dora Dann is credited with naming Bundiyarra - which comes from 'Barndiyarra' meaning 'a good place to go' in Wajarri language.

Her book, *Waranygu bayalgu: Digging for Food*, was first published by the Yamaji Language Centre in 2003, and enjoyed a reprint in 2015.

The reprint was launched at the Geraldton Regional Library with Nana Dora and many of her huge family there to celebrate the occasion, some of them pictured below with her.



The Book is available for purchase from Bundiyarra's retail store or can be ordered from the Yamaji Language Centre by fax to (08) 9964 4690 or email: paul@yamaji.com.au. The cost of the book is \$35.



Strategic partnerships will see the community garden get a big make over.

WA Museum - Geraldton staff embrace some cultural training



WA Museum - Geraldton staff enjoyed some Cultural Training in the Bundiyarra Conference Room earlier this year. The training was delivered by Deanne Fitzgerald and the Museum hired the Bundiyarra Conference Room where they were treated to damper, myrtle tea and a relaxed atmosphere on the grounds of the 'good place' – Bundiyarra.

The Bundiyarra Conference Room is available for hire at very reasonable rates. Contact Kathleen Nelly on 9920 7900 for more information.

The Australian Hearing Bus is coming to town

FREE hearing checks will be available at the Queen Elizabeth II Seniors and Community Centre on Durlacher Street on 3 March when the Australian Hearing Bus visits Geraldton.

Hearing loss is more common than you think. It affects one in six Australians. A hearing check is a quick and easy way to find out more about your hearing and what can be done to help.

The FREE tests will be available from 8.30am until 1.30pm. No appointment is necessary, just turn up on the day.



Australian Hearing (08) 9204 9200
www.hearing.com.au

Four Aboriginal students enrol to study nursing

Geraldton Universities Centre (GUC) has admitted a record number of students for the Bachelor of Nursing program this year, including four Aboriginal applicants.

With these new students who have enrolled in the course GUC Director, Natalie Nelmes, said it was encouraging to see so many Aboriginal students interested in studying locally.

“GUC plans to achieve parity with the number of Aboriginal students studying here to reflect the percentage of Aboriginal people in our Mid West population,” she said

In partnership with the University of Southern Queensland, GUC supports nursing students with tutorials, intensive blocks of tuition and coordination of local clinical placements.

For Aboriginal students, additional support is provided through Student Support Officer, Tiambra Calvin, who

is also Deputy Chair of Bundiyarra’s Board of Directors.

“We look at ways to provide additional support to Aboriginal nursing students which may include additional academic support which students will be eligible for” she said.

“We have a pool of tutors ready to work one-on-one with students if need be and on top of this, I also work individually with each student to ensure all administrative parts of being a student are properly attended to and if they need assistance in other areas, refer them to the appropriate service that can help,” said Ms Calvin.

“With the outreach activities and support that Tiambra provides, along with the rest of our administrative and academic team, we have seen numbers of Aboriginal students steadily increase over the past three years, so we are confident of reaching this goal in the near future,” Ms Nelmes said.

Read how the Disability Services Commission has helped to turn around the life of a young Carnarvon boy. If you think the Commission can help you, give them a call, details are below.

Family and LAC collaborate to support a better life for Reggie

Strong family support and assistance from the Disability Services Commission are the reasons eight-year-old Reggie Nannup is now living a more fulfilling life with his dad Merv.

Just a few years ago, in 2013, Reggie's life was vastly different – he was not talking and had not achieved some important developmental goals, like toilet training.

Both Reggie and Merv were also living with Reggie's Nanna Shirley at her Carnarvon house because Merv didn't have his own house and Shirley was providing much of the care for Reggie.

Then Reggie was diagnosed with autism and Merv sought the support of the Commission's Carnarvon Local Area Coordinator (LAC), Marie Ross.

Marie was able to work with Merv to find ways to give Reggie opportunities for a better life.

Marie assisted Merv to get referrals to locally-provided speech and occupational therapy services and ensured he had plenty of support at school meetings to address Reggie's educational needs.

Marie also helped to link Merv with the Autism Association of WA, which registered Reggie for the 'Helping Children with Autism funding' package. This funding is available for children aged from birth to seven years who meet the required criteria. It provides access to private therapy and equipment that can assist with a child's development.

Today, Reggie is an energetic child who enjoys going to the park, swimming at the beach, fishing and learning to play the drums. As well, Reggie and his



Carnarvon LAC Marie Ross with Merv and Reggie Nannup. Reggie is now living a more fulfilling life with his Dad Merv, thanks to help from Marie and the Disability Services Commission.

father now live in their own house.

Reggie's day-to-day activities and longer term aspirations are outlined in an individual plan, developed by Merv and Marie. The plan highlights goals for the next 12 months and is reviewed every 12 months or as needed.

"Marie has been a positive influence in our lives. She has helped ensure Reggie's needs are addressed. I also know I can contact her any time if I need some advice or support," Merv said.

"Marie's earned a good reputation with local Aboriginal families and formed many relationships here – she's known in the Aboriginal community as 'that Disability Woman'."

Marie said Merv is an inspiration

to other single parents who have children with disability.

"Reggie has made significant progress in all areas of his development. He can better communicate his needs to others and is progressing well at school," Marie said.

"A large part of this improvement and progress in Reggie's life has been due to Merv's support and his determination to ensure a better life for his son."

For more information about Local Area Coordination services and supports available from the Disability Services Commission visit www.disability.wa.gov.au > Individuals > Local Area Coordination, phone 9426 9352 or freecall (country) 1800 998 214 or email dsc@dsc.wa.gov.au.

Marathon Man runs from the



Charlie Maher with wife Talitha, son Boston, 2, and daughter Frankie, 4 in Geraldton in January.

Marathon Man, Charlie Maher, has swapped an unhealthy addiction for a much healthier one, and was in Geraldton recently to spread the word.

Running from the grog to running in marathons has been a life-changing experience for the 32-year-old former Alice Springs family man.

It all started when World Champion Marathon Runner, Australia's own Robert de Castella (Deek), arrived in Alice Springs with his Indigenous Marathon Foundation (IMF) in 2010, seeking Aboriginal recruits to run in the New York Marathon.

The foundation uncovers long distance running talent, and the New York Marathon is used as a tool to change lives, giving young Aboriginal people the opportunity to discover their sense of self-worth, and the then 27-year-old Charlie Maher took up the challenge.

Now running is part of his every day routine and he is a graduate of the IMF after completing a Certificate in Sport and Training. Charlie is an ambassador for the IMF in a voluntary capacity; "IMF is my passion," he says. Charlie grew up in Alice Springs,

and spent a lot of time at the Hermannsburg Community (about 120km from Alice Springs) with his grandparents where the culture was mired in drinking - and Charlie wasn't immune to the problem.

Charlie said when he realised people looked up to him as a role model, he realised he needed to stop drinking.

"I had to make a choice and I chose the better option," he said.

"It was hard in the beginning, as I had no role model to follow and people were saying 'you're only being set up to fail', and I sort of used criticism as a motivation.

"Fortunately I had the support of a very strong mother, who

Family man Charlie Maher shares his story of how running the New York Marathon changed his life, and allows him to inspire other Aboriginal youth to have a crack at doing the same thing.

didn't drink or smoke and was very anti both habits," he said.

"My inspiration is running around here," said Charlie, indicating his two children, four-year-old daughter Frankie and two-year-old son, Boston, happily playing nearby with his wife Talitha.

He moved his young family away from Alice Springs and is now employed full time as a Director with the Clontarf Foundation in Dubbo, NSW.

"I wanted a better life for my family, better than I had, so I moved from my home town to Dubbo for a better future."

IMF graduates must spread the word of IMF and healthy, active lifestyle choices, and are also required to create run clubs and set up Deadly Fun Runs when returning to community.



The Maher family with Charlie's niece, Kathleen Nelly, at Bundiyarra.

grog

Charlie was visiting family in Geraldton in January – including his niece, Bundiyarra’s Kathleen Nelly - and decided to spread the IMF word setting up a 3km run/walk on the foreshore on Wednesday January 6 at 5.30pm. With the word spread mainly on Facebook, it attracted about 60 Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal participants.

“I was proud to see indigenous and non-indigenous people all come together, that’s what it’s all about, I am proud to have become a positive influence to all,” he said.

Charlie was 27 when he ran the 2010 New York Marathon over a distance of 42.195km, becoming the first Indigenous Australian runner ever to finish the New York Marathon - in a time of three hours 32 minutes.

“I was proud to see indigenous and non-indigenous people all come together ...”

Since then he has run the Boston Marathon 2011; Gold Coast 2013; Tokyo 2015; and is now training for the 21km half marathon in Canberra in April.

He has been recognised as such a positive influence for the IMF that his face was used on the medal given to all participants of the inaugural IMF Fathers’ Day Warrior Run last year, in Centennial Park, Sydney.

Interested people can apply to the IMF for selection. Applicants need to display a strong sense of purpose, females have to run 3km and males 5km and then go through the interview process. For more information contact the Indigenous Marathon Foundation at marathon@imf.org.au or call (02) 6162 4750. Visit their website at www.imf.org.au



Jessica Harris came through the Work for the Dole scheme and has earned her stripes gaining full time employment with Bundiyarra’s Environmental Health team.

Work for the Dole scheme proves healthy for Jessica

In the last edition of Bundiyarra Gardantha, we profiled Jessica Harris, who is working at Bundiyarra as a receptionist as part of the Government’s Work for the Dole scheme.

Jessica wanted to improve her job prospects, and it’s paid off for the bubbly 25-year-old, with a full time position coordinating the Environmental Health Team at Bundiyarra, after long-time Coordinator, Gordon Gray, retires in April.

Jessica came to Bundiyarra from Employment Plus and the agency will fund Jessica under

the Aboriginal Wage Subsidy for eight weeks paid pre-training and mentoring under the steady hand and eye of Gordon.

Bundiyarra CEO, Marchelle Retallack, said this is an excellent outcome from the Work for the Dole scheme.

“Bundiyarra is a big supporter of the scheme; we have had three Work for the Dole people come through the program at Bundiyarra, and it’s awesome to be able to keep Jessica employed,” she said.

Jessica worked at Bundiyarra in 2008 and is excited to be back at the Good Place. Congratulations Jessica.

Testimonial for the last edition

What a fantastic and uplifting read!

Congratulations all at Bundiyarra. I loved reading the stories and successes, particularly the cruise ship visitor program, brilliant!

Steve Cooper,

Director, Organisational Services, Durack Institute of Technology.

Thank you Steve!

MAOA seeks feedback on Cashless Debit Card

The Midwest Aboriginal Organisations Alliance (MAOA) is seeking feedback on the Australian Government's proposed Cashless Debit Card.

The Government is considering introducing a new welfare payment system to all people who receive Commonwealth benefits from the Department of Social Services (DSS). If introduced the Card will be compulsory.

This system will limit and direct how your money can be spent. Your benefit will be paid into two bank accounts – 20 per cent into a regular bank account and 80 per cent into the Cashless Debit Card account.

The Debit Card will look like, and operate as any normal bank debit card and can be used online. It can be used for to day-to-day expenses such as buying groceries and clothes; paying bills and for travel.

The card will have an exclusion and will not work to pay for grog; gambling or cash withdrawal.

Anyone who receives a payment from Centrelink like Newstart (eg unemployment benefit); Youth Allowance, a Disability Support Pension; Parenting Payment or Carers Payment will be affected. The card will not apply to people who are on the aged pension or Veteran's payments, but can participate if they wish.

The Debit Card is currently on trial in two locations – Ceduna and the Kimberley.

There is a proposal to introduce this as a trial into the Geraldton area and the DSS is seeking comments and feedback on whether this community is willing to participate in the trial.

If you would like to know more about the Cashless Debit Card, or would like to provide some feedback to DSS through MAOA please call Gordon Gray or Lou Tatasciore at Midwest Aboriginal Organisations Alliance (MAOA) on 9920 7900. All feedback must be received by 31 March 2016.

More Aboriginal voices needed in Parliament

Do you want to represent your mob in Government?

For a long time the Aboriginal community has desired to have its voice heard in Parliament so that when laws are made, the interests of Aboriginal people will be included. While there are already some good Aboriginal people in Parliament, they are too few – and there is now a solid push to get more Aboriginal representation across all levels.

There are many issues that continue to affect the day to day lives of Aboriginal people – such as health, housing, community safety, education, justice and cultural security. The Aboriginal community is looking for Aboriginal people to be their voice in Parliament and to bring urgent attention to their needs so changes can be made for a better future.

The Midwest Aboriginal Organisation Alliance (MAOA) has received many enquiries and requests to support the election of more Aboriginal people into government – Local, State and Federal (Australian) Government. MAOA is prepared to assist in making this happen.

Two elections are coming up: Federal and State (WA). The Federal election is likely to be held sometime this year, and the WA election sometime next year.

The chance to do something that will provide you with the opportunity to represent your people in government – to be their voice; to be involved in making a difference in the present and for the future of Aboriginal people is now.

If you are interested – or just curious – please contact MAOA on 9920 7900 and ask for Gordon Gray or Lou Tatasciore.

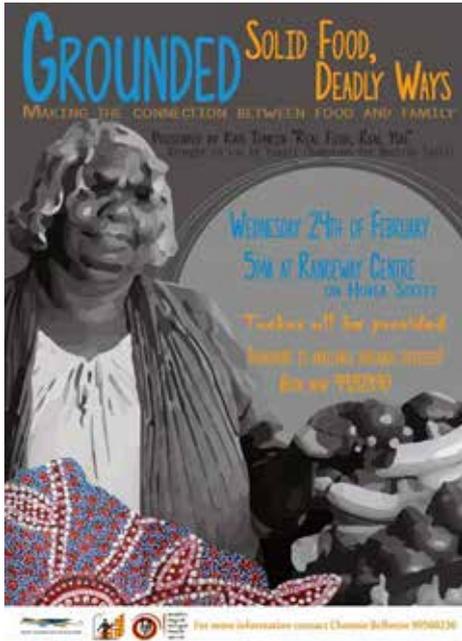


Online shop streamlined

Bundiyarra's online shop and retail store has been improved by Bundiyarra IT Manager, Dwayne (Woody) Smith, increasing its functionality.

The Point of Sale (POS) system has been streamlined allowing the expansion of the sale of cultural products as well as Bundiyarra's library of resource and educational materials.

Why not take a look at the online shop and discover the hidden gems that could make that perfect gift or educational resource? Visit: www.bundiyarra.org.au or contact Kathleen Nelly, pictured left, with Dwayne, on 9920 7900.



Be a part of Grounded: learn about good food and a healthy lifestyle

Fortnightly Yamatji Champion sessions kicked off on 24 February.

An initiative of WACRH, in conjunction with Streeties and GRAMS, sessions are designed to educate and motivate a healthy lifestyle by making the connection between food and family.

Presented by Kate Tonkin, sessions planned over the next three months include:

- Grounded – Solid Food, Deadly Ways – making the connection between food and family
- Wicked Tucker for a Solid life – Healthy Eating
- Muni for good food – Budgeting for health
- Yarn Up , Cook Up – Cooking a feed
- Moving it Wicked ways – Movement and exercise

It's a very exciting time for change: and the Yamatji Champions would love you to join them and bring some family or friends.

Contact Chontarle Bellottie on 9595 0236 for more information.

Sinosteel fund gets off to a good start

Sinosteel Midwest Corporation (SMC) has had a successful inaugural year implementing the Wajarri Yamatji Employment Education and Training Fund to benefit education, employment and health programs in the region.

The fund comes from the SMC Weld Range Wajarri Yamatji Sustainable Benefits Agreement that was struck in November last year, after five years of negotiations between the Wajarri Yamatji community and SMC to develop the SMC Weld Range Native Title and Heritage Sustainable Benefits Agreement for the Weld Range project.

In 2015, SMC and the stakeholders of the agreement delivered:

- The Wajarri Drive Program; resulting in 10 drivers' licences and five heavy ridged licences being obtained through Midwest Drive School, Gascoyne Drive School and Keen Brothers.
- Seven Higher Education Yanburi Scholarships awarded for Wajarri Yamatji studying at higher education levels at Geraldton Universities Centre and other universities state-wide.
- Two Durack Institute of Technology Scholarships.
- Major sponsors of the Rangeway Primary School Indi-Genius Didgeridoo Group.
- Reprint of the Wajarri Dictionary and first print run of the short story Two Brothers through Bundiyarra Aboriginal Community Aboriginal Corporation.

- Donations to Pia Wajarri Remote Community School and Pia Wajarri Aboriginal Community for the development of a community fruit and vegetable garden, healthy breakfast, recess program and excursions.

- Eight Yanburi Scholarships awarded to Wajarri Yamatji students studying at Nagle Catholic College.

Wajarri Drive participant Rebekah Simpson thanked SMC for their support in passing her practical driving assessment.

"Thank you for all the support you've given me. I cannot state how important this program was in enabling me to pass my practical driving assessment," she said.

"My licence will definitely help me with education and employment opportunities in the future. I hope SMC continue to assist Wajarri Yamatji Youth."

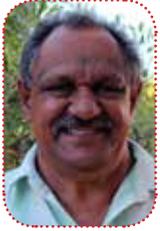
Maxine Ryder, an inaugural 2015 Yanburi Scholarship recipient, used the financial component of her scholarship to assist with transport which enabled her to attend university after hours and during her lunch break.

SMC would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the organisations involved with implementing successful programs and projects from the 2015 Wajarri Education Employment and Training Fund.

Enquires about the SMC Wajarri Education Employment and Training Fund can be made by calling (08) 9429 4888.

Bundiyarra Board members for 2016

A new year ushers in a new board for Bundiyarra Aboriginal Community Aboriginal Corporation (BACAC). They are however, mostly familiar faces from last year with the exception of Alan Headland who joins for his first term on the Board. The Board farewells – and thanks former Board Director, Richard Nelly, for his valuable input and work over the past year.



Chairperson Ross Oakley

Geraldton born and bred

Ross Oakley was chair of Bundiyarra for five consecutive years, and returns as Chairperson for this term. Ross has a wealth of experience in Aboriginal issues. His family moved to Perth when Ross was young and he has been in the workforce since he left school at 13. Moving to Kalgoorlie in 1990, Ross became involved in the Aboriginal community and was Chairperson for the CDEP Program. Returning to Geraldton in 2001 he put himself through university acquiring a degree in Indigenous Sector Management. He then worked for eight years as a Child Protection Worker at the [then] Department of Child Protection. For some years now, due to his daughter's ill health, Ross has been the full time carer for her and her three children. Ross is a tireless worker for the Aboriginal community. He relishes exploring new opportunities to create business for the corporation and the community.



Deputy Chair Tiambra Calvin

Tiambra Calvin was born

in Geraldton and spent some years living in Kalgoorlie. She returned to live in Geraldton 11 years ago. Tiambra is the Aboriginal Student Support Officer at the Geraldton Universities Centre. Before taking up this position she was employed as a customer service officer with Centrelink – both in Kalgoorlie and Geraldton – for more than 14 years. Tiambra also worked in the Indigenous Call Centre in Kalgoorlie and holds a Certificate IV in Telecommunications. Tiambra sits on the board of Beachlands Primary School and is on the Geraldton Follow the Dream Steering Committee, a program based at Geraldton Senior College and John Willcock College which builds the aspirations of Aboriginal students wanting to further

their education. This support includes mentoring and tutoring within the school they are based. She participates with the Consumer Advisor Group at St John of God Hospital Geraldton, and has recently become a member of the Midwest Aboriginal Organisations Alliance (MAOA) Education Sub Committee. Tiambra and her partner have two children, aged 21 and 19 and she brings enthusiasm and a deep interest in education and training to the Board of BACAC.



Treasurer Jennifer Kniveton-Gregory

Geraldton born and bred, Jennifer Kniveton-Gregory is a passionate Bundiyarra supporter.

She has spent the past 13 years dedicated to the Corporation. Her passion for Bundiyarra comes from continuing her mother Kathleen Gregory's dream as an original member of the Board for many years, for the betterment of Aboriginal people. Jennifer is an experienced presenter, particularly with cultural awareness training, delivering Connecting Cultures, a package she wrote for the benefit of Bundiyarra and community. She holds a Bachelor of Social Science specialising in Aboriginal Community Development and Community Management, and has a Certificate IV in Train the Trainer. Jennifer has been the Coordinator of the Bundiyarra-Irra Wangga Language Centre for the past five years. The language centre is committed to restoring, preserving and educating language and Aboriginal culture.



Public Officer Bianca McNear

Although she was born and grew up in Geraldton, Bianca McNear has a strong sense of connection to Malgana country at Shark Bay where her

family is from. Bianca is a well-known artist and has studied for a Bachelor

of Visual Art at Edith Cowan University through Durack Institute of Technology and the Geraldton Universities Centre. In the past she has curated exhibitions with a curating mentorship, and has been involved in many community art projects notably facilitating Dolls and Yarning, a collaborative, community arts project creating Aboriginal dolls, by Aboriginal people, to inspire Aboriginal children. Bianca has worked as an Aboriginal Education Officer in schools where she brought art and culture together to teach children about their own identity. She has worked with ABC Open telling why Malgana country is so important to her. Bianca has a long association with Bundiyarra through her late mother Helen McNear who was BACAC Coordinator for many years and was made an Honorary Life Member. This is Bianca's second term on the Bundiyarra Board. She works as the Aboriginal Liaison Officer at NACC.



Director Joan Gray

This is Joan Gray's seventh

year on the Board. She is a Yamaji Elder born and bred in Geraldton, her parents were part of the stolen generation. Joan spent 20 years as a public servant while raising her four children. She was one of the first people to help administer the WA ABstudy program, that helps with costs for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians who are studying or undertaking an Australian Apprenticeship. Joan is a founding member of the St John of God Hospital (Geraldton) Advisory Board. Joan has had an interest in community issues all her life, and brings her considerable local knowledge and passion to the Board.



Director Alan J McDonald

Alan J McDonald was born in Geraldton, was schooled in Northampton until the age of six and finished his school years in

Bundiyarra Board members for 2016

Geraldton in 1967. Alan enjoyed a career as a Jockey until 1986, riding throughout WA. After living in Darwin for six years he returned to Geraldton and took up a position with Geraldton Regional Aboriginal Medical Service (GRAMS). He holds a Bachelor of Applied Science Indigenous Community Health, through Curtin University of Technology and has a Certificate IV in Health through the Marr Mooditj Foundation. Alan is an Aboriginal Health Worker with the Prison Health Re-entry Program. He sits on the board of Geraldton Aboriginal Men's Association and is a Community Member of the Barndimalgu Court of Domestic Violence. Alan is an Accredited Aboriginal Mental Health First Aid Instructor. This is Alan's second term on the Board.



Director Ronald Cross

A WAFL East Fremantle football player during the late 1970s and early 80s, Ronald Cross is a Geraldton born and bred father, grandfather and great-grandfather.

In his youth he played both junior and league football for Geraldton team, Towns Football Club. Ron spent three years in the Australian Army from 1972-75. He is a qualified motor mechanic and is studying towards a Bachelor of Aboriginal Community Development and Management through Curtin University of Technology. Ron has been involved with Bundiyarra over the years and works as part of the Corporation's Environmental Health Team. Ron returns for a third term on the Board.

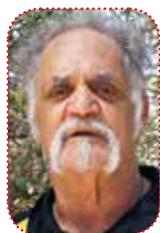


Director Daniel Crowe

Serving his second term on the BACAC Board, Daniel Crowe is Geraldton born and bred. He started his working life with an electrical apprenticeship

and moved on to truck driver and furniture removalist for the next 17 years. Over his 29 years of employment, Daniel has honed many skills within the building industry, including bricklaying, plastering, carpentry, concreting and machine operations. Swapping the

steering wheel for a mouse and keyboard he worked as a case manager and mentor at Wila Gutharra Community Aboriginal Corporation in Geraldton. Daniel completed a year as Manager of Employment Services at Bundiyarra and is now employed at the Aboriginal Workforce Development Centre in Geraldton, starting as a Senior Project Officer and working his way up to the position he now holds as Regional Network Coordinator. Daniel is a board member of Joblink Mid West and also sits on the Aboriginal Education, Employment and Training Committee at Durack Institute of Technology.



Director Allan Headland

Newly-elected for this term, Allan Headland has lived most of his life in Geraldton after being born in Subiaco and moving to Moora as

a baby, then living in Mukinbudin and Merredin before settling in Geraldton 45 years ago. Allan worked for Beaufort for seven years and Geraldton Meat Exports for three years before retiring in 2008 from the City of Greater Geraldton where he was employed for 28 years. Allan is very active in the community and is a member of many sports clubs and organisations including Geraldton 8-Ball Association for the past six years, Geraldton Bowling Club, Geraldton Italian Club for the past seven years, the Mercantile Club, Geraldton RSL, and is a life member of Geraldton Mens Darts Association and the City of Greater Geraldton Outside Social Club. Allan is a member and former player for Towns Football Club and is a member of Brigades Football Club. He played cricket for Chapman Valley Football Club until the age of 57. Allan is pleased to be on the Board and is willing to help out in any capacity he can.



Director Donna Ronan

Donna Ronan is a Geraldton-born and bred Amangu-Wajarri woman who has had a long involvement with, and membership of

Bundiyarra. She was a big part of the past Yanay Yanma Women's and Elders' Group that operated in Geraldton for more than 20 years. Donna worked at the former Aboriginal Boomerang Hostel in Geraldton for 22 years and is now employed at Bundiyarra. This is Donna's second term on the Bundiyarra Board. Donna has recently completed her Certificate II in Tourism at Durack Institute of Technology and this year started the Certificate III in Tourism. Donna is also on the board of the *Mulga Mail*, Western Australia's longest running (and only) Indigenous newspaper – that has existed without government funding since 2004.



Ex-Officio Maxine Gregory-Veitch

Maxine Gregory-Veitch is a Geraldton-born, award-winning artist of some 36 years standing, whose work hangs in collections around the world. The

multimedia artist's work carries the name 'Wadidjil' meaning 'barramundi swimming' and she has ties to the Kija people of Turkey Creek in the Kimberley. Maxine is well known for her sand mural work and has produced a substantial body of artwork through mentoring students, both in the community and in schools. Maxine has spent her life dedicated to the Geraldton community through education and mentoring, she has a Certificate in Basic Childcare and has worked as a child care teacher at Rangeway Kindergarten and the Meekaway Kindergarten in Beachlands, Geraldton. She has worked at the Netball Academy and has been part of the Bundiyarra Aboriginal Healing Program and is a member of the Geraldton Streetwork Aboriginal Corporation (Streeties) Women's Group. Maxine is a Life Member of both Bundiyarra and the Geraldton Sporting Aboriginal Corporation. She is highly involved in NAIDOC and reconciliation. She aspires to be a role model for the community's young future leaders.

In mid-March the Board will join Bundiyarra Life and Honorary members, and the management team to continue working towards their mission statement and list of objectives.

10-year celebration of language



A group of local young Aboriginal men dance a traditional 'knee shaking' dance, Bagithubarnmalanga – which means to 'go along in a line', accompanied by Wajarri Elder and song man, Ross Boddington, singing a traditional song.

Balloons, music, singers, dancers, food, and a beautiful Geraldton day set the stage for the Bundiyarra-Irra Wangga Language Centre's 10 Year Anniversary celebrations on 16 December last year.

The celebration was well attended with about 200 people coming together to celebrate the Language Centre's achievements, be entertained and fed, and catch up with friends and relatives.

Distinguished visitors included Member for Geraldton, Hon Ian Blayney MLA; Hon Brian Ellis MLC,

Member for the Agricultural Region; Natasha Colliver representing Hon Paul Brown MLC, Nationals Member for the Agricultural Region; former City of Greater Geraldton Mayor, Ian Carpenter; and one of the region's last song men and Wajarri language speaker, Mr Ross Boddington.

Mr Blayney gave a short address and congratulated the Language Centre staff on their hard work.

"Preserving language is very important, I really admire you all for it, and I'm proud I was the first person to speak Wajarri in Parliament,"

he said, referring to the help he was given from Language Workers, Godfrey Simpson and Edie Maher to compose a speech in Wajarri that he delivered in Parliament in support of Constitutional change for Aboriginal people.

"I encourage your children to learn and speak language."

Language Centre Coordinator, Jennifer Kniveton-Gregory and Bundiyarra Board Deputy Chair, Tiambra Calvin, shared with guests some of the Language Centre's accomplishments from the past 10

Happy gathering at the celebrations.

Red Ochre provided great entertainment.

Beachlands Primary School students.





Leeann Merritt talks about how becoming a language worker has changed her life.

years and stressed the importance of keeping language alive.

“Language is a thread that holds community together,” said Ms Kniveton-Gregory, “and we have had some good outcomes.”

There was plenty of entertainment with the dulcet tones of Geraldton’s home-grown, long time favourites, country music band, Red Ochre,



Language Centre Coordinator, Jennifer Kniveton-Gregory.

who performed at the Boyup Brook Country Music Festival this February. Irra Wangga staff sang in Wajarri and Leroy Shiosaki played his didgeridoo to much appreciative applause.

Wajarri Elder and song man, Ross Boddington, sang two traditional songs while a group of local young Aboriginal men danced a traditional ‘knee shaking’ dance ,



Bundiyarra Board Deputy Chair, Tiambra Calvin talks about some achievements.

Bagithubarnmalanga – which means to ‘go along in a line’, and a Nyambi, or corroboree dance. This was a special treat for all in attendance as Mr Boddington is one of the region’s last real song men, and such a performance had not been hosted at Bundiyarra in the 18 years it has been on these grounds

Senior Language Worker and recently-qualified Language Teacher, Leeann Merritt, gave an interesting talk about how becoming a language worker has changed her life. She began work as a transcriber and despite a lot of encouragement from her co-workers, it took a long time before she made the transition to language work.

“I used to sit behind my computer and say I’m just a transcriber, but I’m so glad I took the plunge and broadened my skills,” she said.

Guests were well fed with chicken stew, plenty of damper, healthy salads and fruit and lots of marlu (kangaroo) sausages.

A great way to celebrate a successful 10 years and look to the future for another couple of decades of language preservation.

Clarrie Cameron, Jennifer Kniveton-Gregory and Leonie Boddington.



Member for Geraldton, Ian Blayney presented Bundiyarra Board Chairperson, Ross Oakley, with a publication – We Will Remember Them – from the Honouring Indigenous War Graves Organisation, established to acknowledge the services of Indigenous Veterans throughout Australia, who were not appropriately recognised on their return from conflict, or for services provided for Australia and the peoples of Australia, at the Language Centre’s 10-year Anniversary Celebrations.

Preparing sticks for the traditional dancing.

Volunteers cook the marlu sausages.





Busy year ahead for Language Centre

Senior Language Worker, Godfrey Simpson gives an overview of some of the centre's upcoming projects.

The Language Centre is going to be full of new and exciting projects this year.

They will be producing, in abundance, new alphabet posters and language books for the community and wider audience to enjoy.

The Language team has already been out to Mt Magnet this year, to visit Elder, Mr Ollie George, and the team stopped in Yalgoo to see the local artists there.

This year the language team wants to catch up with some more language speakers from all over the Murchison and Gascoyne regions.

They hope to include speakers of Yinggarda, Badimaya, Wajarri, Nhanda, Ngarla, Malgana Amangu/Wilunyu, and Warriyangga.

Throughout 2015 the Bundiyarra-Irra Wangga Language Centre team worked with the kids from Geraldton's Flexible Learning Centre on a program called 'Mayu Wanggajimanha' (Kids Talking Together) teaching them Wajarri and will continue this important work this year.

The Flexible Learning Centre provides an educational framework where teachers and youth workers support the kids' social and wellbeing needs along with their academic requirements.

In 2016, the Language Centre would like to work more closely with Wajarri speakers to record Wajarri conversations (which can be hard to get with only one speaker at a time!) and have spoken to speakers Netta Ryan, Trevor Ryan, and Joanne Simpson.

If you are a Wajarri speaker please feel free to contact Rosie or Godfrey at Irra Wangga on (08) 9920 7900.

Staying abreast of language research

The life of a linguist is not all about yarning and recording endangered languages in isolation, it also encompasses keeping up with trends and what's happening around the nation.

To keep abreast of things, Bundiyarra-Irra Wangga Language Centre Linguist, Rosie Sitorus, spent time at the Australian Linguistics Society (ALS) Conference at Western Sydney University late last year.

She said it was an opportunity to learn about linguistic research happening around the country.

"It was mostly an academic conference, but it also featured some community aspects; like what I do as a field linguist," she said.

Rosie also attended a pre-ALS workshop 'From Home to School – Language Practices of Indigenous Children'.

"This workshop was designed to give better insight into how kids use language, and how we can tailor programs to suit them; for example teaching their families' languages," she said. "All very useful information for a linguist."

Language Alliance meets in Perth



The Language Centre is a busy place, but staff make sure they find time to keep up their professional development.

Last year Rosie Sitorus, Leeann Merritt, Jenni Kniveton-Gregory and Nadine Taylor, attended the Western and Northern Aboriginal Language Alliance and Australian Linguistics Society (WANALA) Conference in Perth.

The conference was held at the Langford Aboriginal Association and was a combination of a meeting and a professional development session.

At the meeting, discussions centred round the issues affecting language centres, particularly funding changes.

"It's very difficult to secure funding these days; and it is a problem being faced by many language centres," said Jenni.

As part of professional development, the ladies learnt how to properly archive information collected and how to create a simple digital language resource.

The next WANALA meeting is in June in Alice Springs.

Test your skill with Leann’s Wajarri puzzles. Leann is a Senior Language Worker and a qualified Language Teacher.

This edition we’re talking about Colours and Numbers.

Answer these questions using the Wajarri words.

How many marlu are there?.....
 How many yalibirri are there?.....
 How many yalibirri warla are there?.....

After colouring the pictures below fill in these answers.

What colour are the marlu?.....
 What colour are the yalibirri?.....
 What colour are the yalibirri warla?.....

Match the Wajarri words to the answers

Gudiya	green
Bilyini	3
Yalyba	black
Birlung	1
Man. Gurr	red
Barala	4 or more
Gutharra	white
Widi	2

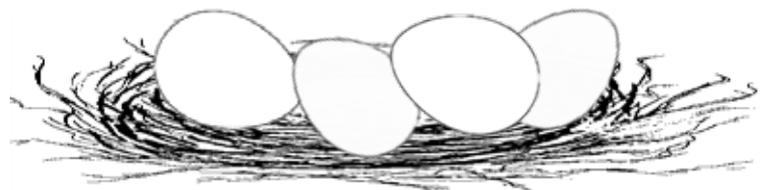
WAJARRI COLOURS



Colour the marlu bilyini.



Colour the yalibirri widi.



Colour the yalibirri warla barala.

WAJARRI NUMBERS

- 1 - gudiya 
- 2 – gutharra 
- 3 - marn.gurr 
- 4 or more - yalyba 

Elder wears the young 'uns out...

It was straight back into it when Bundiyarra-Irra Wangga Linguist, Rosie Sitorus, returned from the Christmas/New Year break, (that is but a distant memory for most now) in mid-January.

She grabbed former Language Centre Linguist, James Bednall, and they headed out to hot and dusty Mt Magnet to work with Badimaya speaker and Elder, Ollie George, for four days.

Rosie said Ollie had so much energy he basically wore them out.

“We did about 10 hours of solid language recording – which is a huge amount of work because recording language is very taxing and Ollie is in his 80s!” she said.

“We did lots of work collecting his great stories in a mixture of Badimaya and English and we hope to secure funding to make it into a book of his yarns.

“It would be awesome to have this resource available as an educational tool, and also as a good read in itself.

“Ollie has had an incredible life and his yarns tell both his history and the history of Badimaya barna (country),” Rosie said.

Rosie and James also did some work collecting phrases that could go into a Badimaya app.

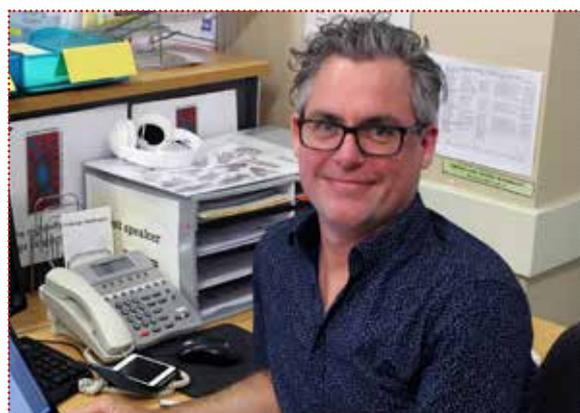


Elder, Ollie George, wears out Linguist James Bednall, doing Badimaya language work at Mt Magnet earlier this year.



There was no stopping Ollie George during the Language Centre's visit as they accompanied him showing one of his granddaughters around Austin Downs Station, where he used to work.

Brendan submits his help



A new face in the Bundiyarra Irra-Wangga Language Centre will help the gender balance for a while.

Senior Language Worker, Godfrey Simpson, has enjoyed the ladies all to himself, but now he has to share them for a while with Brendan Penzer, who is helping the Language Centre with grant funding submissions. Brendan brings a wealth of experience and a broad understanding of the arts and culture.

He is a former manager of the Wirnda Barna Art Centre at Mt Magnet and previously owned and ran his own gallery in Sydney – At the Vanishing Point – Contemporary Art.

Brendan is also the newly-elected Chairperson at the Art and Cultural Development Council of Geraldton (ACDC), and works part time at the Geraldton Universities Centre.