

Bundiyarra Gardantha

'a good place moving forward'

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We did it! Funding means full steam ahead



All the effort pays off: After a long funding road to realise community’s aspiration of offering a unique tourism experience and expansion of Bundiyarra’s facilities, Minister for Regional Development; Lands, Terry Redman, presented Bundiyarra Life Member, Wilungu Elder Clarrie Cameron, Board Chair Ross Oakley and CEO Marchelle Retallack, with a cheque for \$272,000 on August 11. Funding was made available from Royalties for Regions through the Mid West Development Commission. Member for the Agricultural Region, Paul Brown, right, a long time advocate of the project, was pleased to accompany Minister Redman at the presentation. Picture: Kathleen Nelly.

What a great day of celebration was had at Bundiyarra on 11 August, when Minister for Regional Development; Lands, Terry Redman handed over a cheque for \$272,000 through the Royalties for Regions Regional Grants Scheme.

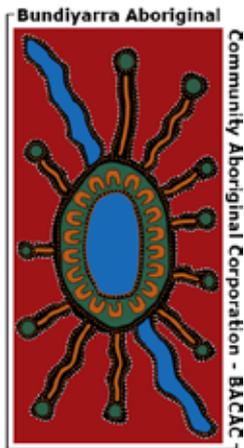
Bundiyarra CEO, Marchelle Retallack, said the Bundiyarra Board is thrilled with the funding as it allows the corporation to realise a long-held aspiration to expand, be more self-sufficient and become an Aboriginal Cultural Centre while offering a unique Aboriginal tourism experience.

and staff have worked hard alongside community to make this happen and now we will be able to progress our plans to develop the grounds and offer a unique cultural centre for greater community and a tourism experience around the dreaming tracks on the Reserve,” she said.

“For the past two years the Board

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“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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Australian Government
Indigenous Languages Support

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

Big celebration for Royalties funding

Continued from front cover

“This Royalties for Regions funding will allow us to really power ahead with our development and start to build some of the infrastructure that has been designed by community and local architects Eastman Poletti Sherwood. With this funding we have now raised \$620,000 for the top of the Bundiyarra block to be revitalised.”

Wilungu Elder, Clarrie Cameron, gave politicians, their representatives, City of Greater Geraldton Deputy Mayor, Neil McIlwaine and CEO Ken Diehm, invited guests and community an inspired Welcome to Country.

Morning of entertainment

This was followed by a morning of fabulous entertainment including the Bundiyarra-Irra Wangga Language Centre team singing the Welcome Song in Wajarri; Rangeway Primary School boys didgeridoo players, Indigenius; an Aboriginal dance led by Wajarri Elder, Ross Boddington, on his tapping sticks and performers Godfrey Simpson, Gerard Boddington and Ethyn and Christopher Clarke and a couple of songs from employment scheme participant Edan McLachlan.

Minister blown away

Minister Redman, accompanied by Member for the Agricultural Region, Paul Brown, were clearly blown away with their welcome and the hard work that had gone into the grounds.

“What a fantastic welcome and what a fantastic transformation we’re seeing here on your facility compared to when I was here just a month ago, when you shared with me some of your bush tucker and some kangaroo brawn,” said Mr Redman.

Mr Redman reflected on the Dirk Hartog 400 year celebrations that are taking place this year and said they pale into insignificance when compared to Aboriginal culture.

“Compared to the tens of thousands of years of rich culture and history

you bring to our nation and to Western Australia, nothing brings that into greater focus than listening to the didgeridoo being played, looking at the dancing – and it brings a picture – like that picture behind me to life,” he said, indicating the mural painted by staff on the seacontainer behind him.

Minister: Keep the culture strong

“I know that your elders will never ever underestimate the importance and value of ensuring that the greatest asset we have is our kids. Keep that culture, keep it strong and be proud and respectful of the richness that it brings to all of us, not just to Aboriginal people.

“What we are talking about today is an opportunity and investment that helps bring the richness of Aboriginal culture to all of us, not just in our state, but people from overseas,” said Mr Redman.

Tribute to Elders

“I pay tribute to the elders and what you have brought to the table here, with a vision to have a facility that means you can have your young people, supported and growing up understanding and transferring the Aboriginal culture and the values that that brings to us all.

“It is also an opportunity to have a facility to share with the rest of us to ensure that we get educated in the values that it brings to us.”

Mr Redman said cruise ships and people coming into WA from overseas want an authentic cultural experience.

“Having that here, supported by the City of Greater Geraldton, is a great asset to not only you and what you are passing on to your children, but what you are passing on to all Western Australians and also those from overseas. It gives me a great deal of pleasure to commit \$272,000 of Royalties for Regions funding to put your vision into practice.”

See pictures on page 11

Employment agency participants – a success story for Bundiyarra



The girls get it on: Participants all enjoyed the challenge of operating the mini excavator, including the girls; left, Kyra Gartlett is instructed by mentor, Matt Antonovich, and right Gary Whitby watches while Andrea Green-Ugle excavates some ground for the community garden.

Bundiyarra has embraced the Australian Government’s Work for the Dole scheme with great success, offering permanent employment to four participants, with the possibility of more placements.

About 20 Aboriginal workers have participated in the scheme through Skill Hire, Employment Plus and Bundiyarra as a not-for-profit host organisation.

Most of the participants have been hard at work developing the Bundiyarra community garden on site at Bundiyarra at Utakarra.

Mentor, Matt Antonovich, (who is funded by Employment Plus through the WA Department of Employment), said the program has been so successful that other Work for the Dole participants have come on board from Employment Plus and Skill Hire.

Bundiyarra CEO, Marchelle Retallack, said she is pleased with the way the program is working, Bundiyarra is benefitting greatly from the participants team, and the community and participants stand to benefit greatly themselves.

“After they’ve turned up for work

every day for a month, we give them the opportunity to train for an industry ticket such as forklift, backhoe, or digger,” she said.

“At the moment the team is picked up from their place of residence every morning and dropped off when their day is over. Bundiyarra is also providing lunch for them, cooked or prepared by the participants.

“The scheme also gives them assistance in obtaining their driver’s licence; when they get their ‘L’ plates they can use work time towards completing their log book.

“Hopefully these incentives will go some way to helping them to get back into the workforce, and more importantly employed in a position at Bundiyarra through tender and contract opportunities,” said Ms Retallack.

Four Work for the Dole participants have found permanent employment with Bundiyarra. Jessica Harris joined the Environmental Health Services Team, along with Kane Hart – who is now in the second phase of his driver’s licence completing 25 hours driving over six months.

David Dalgety has also joined the Environmental Health team and recently obtained his ‘L’ plates.

Ensell Dalgety was the latest recruit to join the Environmental Health team at the start of this financial year.

Skill Hire Work for the Dole Coordinator, Cheryl Cocking, said the Work for the Dole scheme places job seekers in activities where they can gain skills and experience that give back to the community and can help them find a job.

“Eligible job seekers registered with a Jobactive provider need to participate in the scheme or another approved activity for six months each year to keep receiving their income support if they have mutual obligation requirements,” she said.

Ms Cocking makes regular visits to Bundiyarra to assess the success of the program and is very pleased with the outcomes so far. She has also donated cuttings and seedlings for the community garden!

“The program gives organisations like Bundiyarra an extra set of hands to help with activities that would not normally be done.”

“We are extremely pleased with the success of this partnership,” Ms Retallack said.

Success brings success

Bundiyarra receives more support and funding

Thanks to Waste Authority WA – Too Good to Waste, Bundiyarra is the recipient of a funding contribution of \$19,590.

The funds will allow Bundiyarra to expand its Community Garden from the existing space to covering 4.98 hectares of natural reserve land.

Bundiyarra CEO, Marchelle Retallack, said being able to avoid creating waste by including natural recycling methods will make the community garden a stand out in Yamaji Country.

“If we didn’t have this opportunity we would be disposing of all our waste at the local landfill or tip,” she said.

Multi-stage project

“The Bush Tucker and Community Garden is a multi-stage project that will be continuously added to and developed for many years.”

Stage 1 is well under way with a revitalisation project taking place in the existing dedicated fruit and vegetable garden.

This area was developed through funds received from the City of Greater Geraldton through its former Go Gero project that kicked off the garden with fencing and plumbing.

The community garden is being developed and tended through a Jobactive program supported by Skill Hire and Employment Plus.

Up to 20 participants attend Bundiyarra daily and rotate between working in the garden, building shade structures, planting and then progressing to picking produce and learning cooking and cleaning skills.

Supervisor, Matt Antonovich, said the participants are learning essential skills

that will assist them with employment, that they are also taking home and using.

“Team members have started taking seedlings home to make their own fruit and vegetable gardens and are including their partners and children in the process which is great,” he said.

Marchelle said in late May, the team decided they wanted to make the garden area much bigger to allow for more produce to be grown.

Five times bigger

“Work has started to clear the area, which will result in it being five times the original space,” she said.

“Funds received from the Waste Authority will be used to purchase a mulching unit, a bee hive system, build large scale mulching and compost pits, build a chook pen, purchase a mobile cool room and host some workshops around home gardening.

“Once clearing of the area started, the team realised they would require a much larger mulching unit than originally identified.

“A Hansar C21 was purchased from Geraldton Mower and Repair Specialists who generously costed it within our available funding,” Marchelle said.

The commercial grade mulching unit will allow all mulch to be recycled at Bundiyarra for the garden beds and provided to team participants for their home gardens.

In the future, once the garden has been expanded and large amounts of organic produce is available, Bundiyarra will start attending local festivals and events and the weekend markets.

NACC invests in bush tucker garden

The Northern Agricultural Catchment Council (NACC) is committed to supporting sustainable agriculture in the Northern Agricultural Region.

NACC will establish a bush food/medicine plot at Bundiyarra as the Corporation participates in Natural Resource Management (NRM) through the establishment of a demonstration site and sharing of traditional knowledge with the broader Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal community.

A variety of native plants that have traditionally been used for food or medicine will be planted. They can then be used by Aboriginal people and viewed by non-Aboriginal people. The wider public can then determine if one or several of the species may be worth pursuing as a commercial venture in a broader NRM distribution or as an individual landholder.

A water meter will be added to the irrigated garden bed to record the amount of water used in the garden. Some of the same species used in the garden beds will be planted in other areas of the project site.

This would demonstrate how native plantings could function in different environmental conditions and how the knowledge from this project could be used to extend projects like this.

Seeds will be donated from several families connected with Bundiyarra’s Jobactive Participants from the Mid West, Murchison and Gascoyne regions. Plants will be identified, including the region they’ve come from, the family names associated with the land and the language groups.



Government of Western Australia
Department of Health



'We want it bigger,' say participants

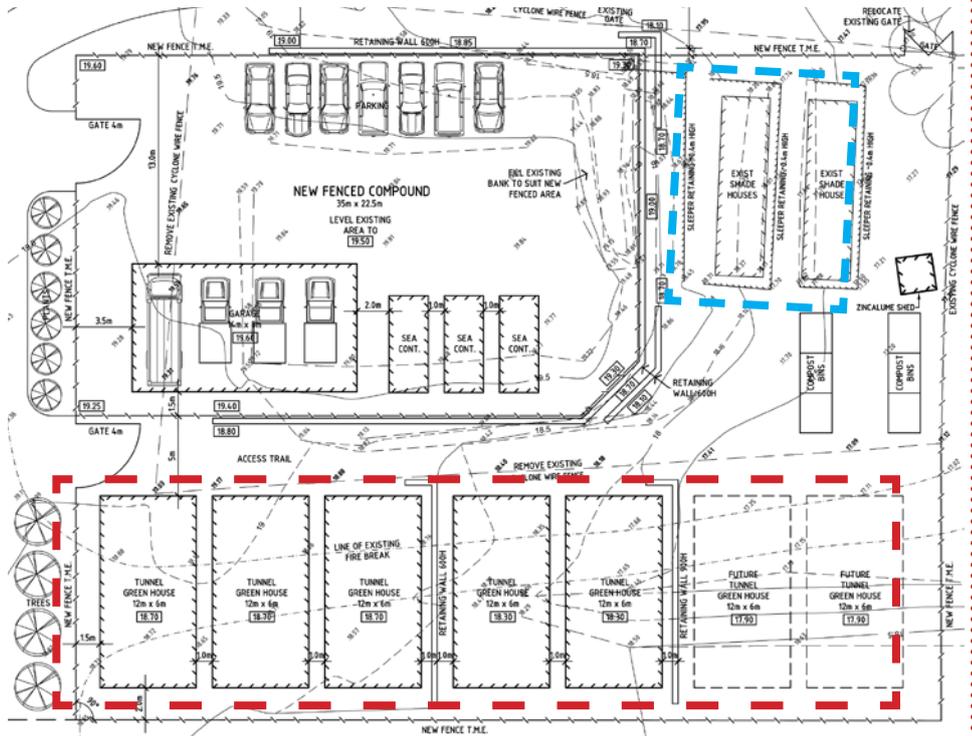
The Bundiyarra Community Garden has been a real success with the Work for the Dole participants.

They have shown so much enthusiasm and have told Bundiyarra the original garden will be too small!

Bundiyarra CEO Marchelle Retallack has responded to the enthusiasm and the garden will be extended from the original size – shown with a light blue boundary, right – to more than three times the original size – red boundary.

"With all the funding we have secured we can really make this garden work for the community," she said.

"Thanks to Bruce Sherwood for these updated drawings as part of our redevelopment program."



Singing in the garden with the nannas



Raymond Simpson shows Nanna Dora some of the bush tucker being planted in the community garden.



Life Members share a joke: Nanna Dora Dann, Nola Gregory and Maxine Gregory with Glenis Little, at back.

Bundiyarra hosted a morning tea and lunch catch up for all their mothers and nannas on May 6.

Enjoying another outing to the place she named 'the good place', (Bundiyarra), Nanna Dora Dann was treated to the Welcome Song sung in Wajarri by the Language Centre team. Nanna Dora's face really lit up and she started keeping time with her hands. There's a great little video of it on the Bundiyarra Facebook page.

A group of Bundiyarra Life Members, family, friends and Work for the Dole participants who have been working hard on the area, gathered in the Bundiyarra Community Garden, to show Nanna Dora how much had been achieved since her last visit.

Community Garden continues to sprout ...



Happy mulchers: Proud of their mulcher are from left, Jack Pavell, Kyra Johnson, Jason Scrivener, Anthony Comeagain, Edan McLachlan, Warren Nannup, Terrance Little and Tim Clarke.

Kathleen in contention as State finalist!

Kathleen is pictured here from the last Bundiyarra Gardantha, with certificates showing her wonderful achievements.



Our Kathleen Nelly has so many achievements under her belt it's hard to think there's room for more.

However, there's one more she is in contention for – Kathleen is a finalist in the WA Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Student of the Year 2016 sponsored by The Graham (Polly) Farmer Foundation.

This comes on the back of Kathleen being named Durack Institute of Technology's Aboriginal Student of the Year, in April this year.

Last year Kathleen was the recipient of three scholarships: the 2015 Aboriginal Education and Employment and Training Committee (AEETC) Academic Careers Pathways scholarship; the 2015 Rio Tinto Aboriginal Scholarship; and the 2015 Mid West Development Commission Certificate IV in Digital Media

Scholarship to continue her studies at the former Durack Institute of Technology, now Central Regional TAFE.

Kathleen, 21, is Bundiyarra's Administration Coordinator and is thrilled to be nominated for this State award.

The WA Training Awards are hosted by the State Training Board through the Department of Training and Workforce Development.

Kathleen will venture to Perth for the gala presentation night on Friday 23 September at the Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre.

Kathleen is joined with another Geraldton finalist, Kelsey Nicholas and two more State nominees.

"Go for gold, Kathleen, we're right behind you!" said Bundiyarra CEO, Marchelle Retallack.

Thanks to funding from Waste Authority WA – Too Good to Waste, and the generosity of Geraldton Mower and Repair Specialists who costed it within available funding, Bundiyarra was able to purchase a Hansar C21 mulcher to help clear more land for the Community Garden.

All the mulch from the clearing will be recycled for use in the garden.

Work for the Dole participants are pretty happy with the mulcher and are rapidly getting on with the job under the supervision of mentor, Matt Antonovich. Read more about this funding and what it enables on page 4.

WA Governor headed for Bundiyarra

Bundiyarra's successes have been noted at the highest level in WA with a visit by the Governor of WA planned for September.

Mrs Kerry Sanderson AO, is the first woman to hold the position of Governor of Western Australia. She is the Queen's representative for WA and performs important constitutional, ceremonial and community functions, so the Board, staff and community are excited to host such an eminent person at the Good Place.



Governor of WA, Kerry Sanderson AO, is to visit Bundiyarra next month.

Picture: UWA website

Department of Employment impressed with work program delivery

State Manager of the Department of Employment, Ian Richards, recently paid a visit to Bundiyarra to see first-hand the success of the government's Work for the Dole program.

Accompanied by Geraldton Team Leader, Merrill D'Vine, Geraldton Work for the Dole Coordinator, Cheryl Cocking and Manager Skill Hire Jobactive, Geraldton, Caroline Hannan, Mr Richards had asked to take a look at how the program was progressing, and he wasn't disappointed.

All the participants gathered in the conference room where Bundiyarra CEO, Marchelle Retallack, gave the visitors a presentation overview of Bundiyarra's achievements to date, including funding awards, developments and future plans and the wonderful success of the Work for the Dole scheme.

The participants contributed by standing up individually, telling of their enjoyment at being part of the scheme.

It was heart-warming to see and hear these previously lacking-in-confidence young people speak sincerely about how being part of the team has inspired and motivated them, how they look forward to coming to work,



Garden party: Cheryl Cocking Manager, Skill Hire Geraldton, with Caroline Hannan, Manager Skill Hire Jobactive; Bundiyarra CEO, Marchelle Retallack; State Manager, Department of Employment; Ian Richards; Bundiyarra Board Chair, Ross Oakley; and Skill Hire Team Leader, Merrill D'Vine take a look at the Bundiyarra Community Garden that has been developed by enthusiastic Work for the Dole team participants.

and how different – and better – the program at Bundiyarra is to elsewhere they have been.

Mr Richards was clearly impressed with both the presentation and the outcomes of the program.

"I'm really impressed with the enthusiasm of the organisation," he said, "there is so much invested in forward planning.

"I'm impressed with the way the Work for the Dole scheme is working here, and the enthusiasm of the participants.

"It is good to see the older ones looking after the younger ones and the older ones learning from the

younger ones who are more tech savvy," said Mr Richards.

"Bundiyarra certainly has something to share with other organisations in how to run programs like this."

Participant Anthony Comeagain has enjoyed his time so much he comes back as a volunteer.

"The activities at Bundiyarra are awesome. I have completed my hours but still attend as a volunteer. I look forward to doing my Horticulture Certificate and hope to become the first paid gardener in the Bundiyarra Community Garden," he said.

What a great outcome for the scheme and its participants.



Visitors and participants in the Bundiyarra Community Garden.



Matt Antonovich shows Merrill D'Vine some of the healthy produce in the garden.

Bianca wants to help fill the rural doctor shortage

With a dire shortage of rural, regional and remote community doctors, medical student Bianca Howard should be assured of a posting when she qualifies next year.

Bianca wants to be a rural doctor. She said she doesn't want to practice in a big hospital, she'd rather be in a regional area, and enjoyed a four-week practical placement as a General Practitioner, with Geraldton Regional Aboriginal Medical Service (GRAMS) earlier in the year.

Bianca is a Jaru/Kitja woman from Broome who always had an interest in health and how the human body works.

Now she's finding out first hand, in her sixth and final year of studying a Bachelor of Medicine and Surgery at the University of Western Australia (UWA).

"The real inspiration to study medicine came when I attended a Year 12 Leadership Camp in Perth, I met Aboriginal medical students who inspired me," Bianca said.

Her Nan influenced her too, talking about the lack of opportunities in her time.

"Today there are many opportunities available for Aboriginal students, not only in medicine but in law or teaching," she said.

Bianca did a bridging course at UWA to gain entry to the course and hasn't looked back.

"I find working in the health field rewarding and diverse," she said, "and I have enjoyed my time at GRAMS, where I've had lots of hands-on experience.

"I have accompanied Aboriginal health workers on home visits, I've done wound management, vaccinations and taken blood and done some patient consultations on my own.

"The feedback from the GRAMS patients is that they feel comfortable with me, they don't have shame!" said Bianca, pictured above right, dressed up with Bundiyarra Board Member and



GRAMS community health worker, Alan McDonald at a GRAMS family fun day.

She also spent time with GRAMS Chronic Disease nurse and educators.

"There is a lot of diabetes, however a lot of people are doing well with managing it," said Bianca.

Before Bianca can go out to find that coveted rural posting, she will have to spend a year as an intern in a tertiary hospital, which she hopes will be Sir Charles Gardiner, after which, if she chooses, she can do specialist medical training.

Allan proud of Dad's service

Bundiyarra Board Member, Allan Headland, was spotted at the April ANZAC Day Dawn Service this year, proudly holding a photo of his father who saw service in WWII.

Allan's father and two uncles enlisted and Uncle Stan Headland served alongside Alan's father Hubert Headland in Papua New Guinea, while Uncle Edward (Ted) was shipped off to the Middle East.

Private Hubert Charles Headland enlisted at Karrakatta on 6 July 1943 at the age of 16.

He was just 19-years-old when he

was discharged from the 55/53rd Australian Infantry Battalion.

"Unfortunately he died in 1986 from TB at the young age of 57," said Allan. He proudly wears his father's medals every ANZAC Day when he marches in the parade.

"I have been in Geraldton a long time so thought it would be fitting to have my dad's photo on the wall at Birdwood House, the Geraldton RSL, and they were happy for me to hang it there," Allan said.

Allan settled in Geraldton 45 years ago and is very active in the sports community; see more about this on page 13.



Donna guides the drive trail tour



Bundiyarra Tourism Officer, Donna Ronan, centre, with her Yamaji Drive Trail tour participants and local Aboriginal Elders who thoroughly enjoyed the day.

Congratulations must go to Bundiyarra Board Member and Tourism Officer, Donna Ronan for guiding the Yamaji Drive Trail Tour as part of Australian Heritage Week, in partnership with the Geraldton Regional Library in April.

The drive trail sits in tandem with the Mid West Heritage Series booklet: *The Aboriginal History of Geraldton (Jaminu) and Surrounding Areas*, written by local historian, Stan Gratte OAM, with research assistance from Dale Forsyth.

The book gives an overview of life for Yamaji people living in the Geraldton area before and after European settlement. A pamphlet was produced as an accompaniment to the book, allowing tourists to visit sites covered in the book on a drive trail.

This was the basis of the Heritage Week tour enjoyed by about 25 people, with personal commentary from Donna Ronan under the watchful eye of her father, Bundiyarra Life Member and Wilunyu Elder, Rob Ronan.

Bundiyarra CEO, Marchelle Retallack, said she is proud of Donna, and pleased to see her using her newly acquired tour leading skills. "Donna did a fantastic job and thanks to Rob, Elders Elvie Dann, and Joan Gray for being there as her mentor," she said.

The bus tour left Geraldton Regional Library with first stop at Bootenal Springs, visiting all sites of significance and finishing with a delicious lunch at Bundiyarra before returning to the library.

There were many comments and compliments with one couple saying:

"We really enjoyed the bus trip – yarning and food! This idea is a go-er."

City of Greater Geraldton Manager Libraries and Heritage, Susan Smith, said judging by the smiling faces that greeted her as the bus pulled up outside the Library, it was obvious that the day had been a great success.

"Everyone said how interesting and informative the tour had been, not to mention the delicious lunch! The didgeridoo performance was a perfect way to conclude the day," she said.

"Thanks to Donna and Bundiyarra for partnering with the City to organise this event. Let's hope we can do it again one day," said Ms Smith.

The Aboriginal History of Geraldton (Jaminu) and Surrounding Areas, by Stan Gratte OAM, is available from Geraldton Regional Library and Bundiyarra for \$9.95.

Testimonials for March-April Bundiyarra-Gardantha!

Excellent read. Really enjoyed the tribute to Gordon and to learn about the success of the work for the dole program.

Melissa Price MP
Federal Member for Durack

Man, you do a great job in bringing all of this together – so much content!

Arthur Muhl
Chief of Staff, ABC Radio, Geraldton

Thanks, a great read!

Nyssa Colquhoun
Anthropologist YMAC

Environmental Health Services Team champions

Bundiyarra has secured funding for the Aboriginal Environmental Health Services Program to continue for a further four years starting from 1 July, 2016 until 30 June, 2020, through the Government of Western Australia – Department of Health.

Bundiyarra CEO, Marchelle Retallack, said services offered through this program are vital to the greater community.

“This funding allows the corporation to undertake clean ups of communities and residents’ houses, along with educating tenants on how to maintain a clean, hygienic home,” she said.

“The Environmental Health Services team has now taken a more proactive approach to cater to the demands of the Geraldton community and remote communities.”

The City of Greater Geraldton took away vergeside collection in late 2015 resulting in a dramatic increase in the number of clients requiring the Environmental Health Team’s services.

“Up to 120 weekly calls were being received from clients needing assistance with rubbish removal and



Members of the Environmental Health Services Team during their clean up of Felicia Street in Rangeway.

combatting cockroach infestation as a result of having a build up of rubbish around their homes,” said Marchelle.

As the client base is spread Geraldton wide, it was decided to concentrate on cleaning up and educating street by street, cutting down time wasted on travelling to and fro to each call out. Geraldton was divided into three zones; the zones focus on suburbs that

are highly populated by Aboriginal people. They include Rangeway, Utaarra, Karloo, Waggrakine, Spalding and Wonthella.

Next, the streets that were most in need of the service were determined with clients consisting mainly of seniors, pensioners, single mothers and people with a disability. Twelve key streets were identified and are being treated as individual communities with the Environmental Health Team focusing on one street each week.

The aim of the clean ups is to engage as many tenants and/or homeowners as possible to get involved with the Environmental Health Services team. The team provides all the equipment and completes any baiting, however tenants and/or homeowners are encouraged to take an active role in the process.

Led by Environmental Health Services Team Supervisor, Ron Cross, clients are provided with vinegar, bi-carb soda and cleaning cloths and shown how to use the two products to clean in the home. They are also provided with a large plastic tub and encouraged to store their dry goods in it to help



Environmental Health Services Team member, Jessica Harris with a very grateful Felicia Street resident, Stephanie, who joined others in a tasty barbecue cooked by Kane Cross and Ron Cross.

new approach

eliminate mice, rats and cockroaches in the homes.

Each community or street will be revisited a second and third time. It is anticipated that after three visits, tenants and/or homeowners will take more pride and maintain their homes themselves.

“In addition, we hope that any tenants and/or homeowners that didn’t participate on the first visit, will participate for the upcoming visits,” Ms Retallack said.

“In addition, we hope the number of infestations will dramatically decrease. We have already proven that when treating just one home in a street for cockroaches or other vermin, they simply move on to neighbouring houses.

“The process we are now undertaking is assisting with baiting as many homes as possible in the street and the issue should become eradicated in time,” said Ms Retallack.

The Department of Housing has been provided with the clean-up schedule and is looking to book in their inspections after the Environmental Health Services Team have completed the street.

Participants are rewarded with a free barbecue at the end of the week of the clean up.



Residents of Felicia Street in Rangeway enjoy a free barbecue compliments of the Bundiyarra Environmental Health Services Team.



Part of the action-packed celebrations on 11 August: Above: Elders, Wilungu Clarrie Cameron and Wajarri Ross Boddington. Above right: Dignitaries and Board Members. Right: Bundiyarra Chair, Ross Oakley and Minister Terry Redman lead the way on the start of the Muguri Dreaming track.



Something worth celebrating!

Truly entertaining: Right: Rangeway Primary School talented Indigenius didgeridoo players. Middle right: A number of Bundiyarra Board members with Member for the Agricultural Region, Paul Brown, left, Minister Terry Redman, fourth from left, and CEO, Marchelle Retallack, second from right,



with the funding cheque for \$272,000. Below right: A happy crowd celebrates the Royalties for Regions funding through the Mid West Development Commission. Below: Bundiyarra Life Members Bella Cooper and Maxine Gregory.



NAIDOC WEEK

Birndu Nyina Garden unveiled at GUC



Songlines:

The living narrative
of our nation

03-10 JULY 2016



Birndu Nyina Garden unveiling: GUC Student Support, Tiambra Calvin; Bundiyarra Board Chair, Ross Oakley; Nationals MP Paul Brown; GUC Board Chair, Steve Douglas; GUC Director, Natalie Nelmes; and Member for Geraldton, Ian Blayney.

Current students: Kyalie Moore (Bachelor of Psychological Science), Zoe Harrington (Bachelor of Nursing), Tiambra Calvin, GUC Student Support; Regina Richardson (Bachelor of Social Work, Honours) and Tiffany Calvin (STEPS Bridging Program). Pics: Kathleen Nelly

NAIDOC Week was celebrated in Geraldton with a variety of events; we capture a few of them on these pages...

As part of NAIDOC Week, the Birndu Nyina Garden was unveiled at Geraldton Universities Centre on 8 July with a morning tea catered by Bundiyarra Work for the Dole participants.

Birndu Nyina means to sit quietly in Wajarri. The garden features a central sitting place where a native tree will grow providing shade. Plaques bearing the names of graduates or former Aboriginal students, and those awarded scholarships through organisations supporting the Hollomby Foundation will also feature. Bundiyarra sponsored the event, with support from Bundiyarra-Irra Wangga Language Centre who named the garden.

"This garden will be a special place for students to come and relax and take in the beautiful surrounds, but also a place to recognise the

wonderful achievements of Aboriginal students who have graduated out of programs here," said GUC Chair Steve Douglas.

There have been 14 Aboriginal graduates in a range of programs. Over the last four years nine Aboriginal students have been awarded scholarships through the Hollomby Foundation, including recent recipient, Dainira Papertalk, who was awarded the inaugural Ku'arlu Nursing scholarship and industry placement at the St John of God Hospital Geraldton, as well as the Yanburi scholarship through Sinosteel Midwest Corporation.

Bundiyarra is a long-term donor through the Hollomby Foundation and has supported scholarships for Aboriginal students including 2016 recipient, Rianna Pension. Currently, 18 Aboriginal students are enrolled at GUC.

Streeties feed hungry tummies



More than 400 people enjoyed a hearty, hot breakfast on a brisk, cold morning on 5 July at the Geraldton Aboriginal Streetwork Corporation (Streeties) to celebrate NAIDOC Week.

"There was a queue about a mile long waiting for a feed from 7 o'clock," said Merrilyn Green, Streeties Operations Manager.

She said they had supplied 600 plates and they were nearly all used, however, there was plenty of food for the hungry crowd right up until the end at 10am.

Radio MAMA broadcast live with participants reading poems and other prose, and a group of young girls gave a wonderful dance performance.

This was Streeties 17th NAIDOC Week breakfast in a row and in the past has seen 14 Nannas and Elders attend.

Allan honoured for his footy commitment

On Sunday, 3 July, Bundiyarra Board Member, Allan Headland, was honoured in the Great Northern Football League 2016 Indigenous Round on behalf of GNFL and the local football community.

Allan was thanked for his support and involvement with Towns Football Club – or the Bulldogs – where he is a member and former player. Allan played with the club for five years.



At Geraldton's historic Rec Ground, Allan handed the footy to Bulldogs captain, Jordan Ugle, and tossed the coin for the start of the league game. Then he headed to the broadcast box to time keep for the game, which Towns won by 17 points.

Allan is also a member of Brigades Football Club, 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. He also played cricket for Chapman Valley Football Club until the age of 57. Not a bad innings.



Family fun day at Bundiyarra

Bundiyarra hosted a fun morning for the Work for the Dole participants and their families on 6 July.

Terry Redman, Minister for Regional Development, popped along with Paul Brown, Nationals WA MP to get an idea of Bundiyarra's successes to date and hear plans for future development.

"Paul has brought me here to hear first-hand the views and thoughts of the community," Mr Redman said.

He enjoyed some traditional damper and billy tea prepared by the participants and added his palm print and name to a canvas of palm prints created by participants' kids, pictured right with Paul Brown.



Happy faces at the Bundiyarra participants' family fun day.



Family fun: Jessica Dodd and Kane Hart with their children Malakii and Kane Hart Jnr.



Talara Walley, Shikia Quartermaine and Lavinia Quartermaine enjoy cooking some damper sticks!

Funding helps save a disappearing language



Former Bundiyarra-Irra Wangga Language Centre Linguist, James Bednall, with Language Centre Linguist, Rosie Sitorus at Mt Magnet with Uncle Ollie George in June last year.

Mount Magnet Elder, Uncle Ollie George, is the last living fluent speaker of the Badimaya language.

Bundiyarra-Irra Wangga Language Centre has been working hard with Ollie for many years to help preserve the language, and has now received funding from Country Arts WA to help capture his extensive cultural knowledge, including traditional stories and oral histories of Badimaya people from the mid-1930s to today. The grant of more than \$38,000 will fund a collaborative project encompassing visual arts and literature and production of a book, *Nganang Badimaya Wangga: Stories by Uncle Ollie George*.

Partnering with Yamaji Art, Wirnda Barna artists at Mount Magnet and ABC Open Mid West, the Bundiyarra-Irra Wangga Language Centre will oversee the publication of a book and short films and documentary culminating in an art exhibition.

Language Centre Coordinator, Jenni Gregory-Kniveton, said the Language Centre has worked closely with Uncle Ollie as the main language and cultural consultant on this project for many years.

"It's through Uncle Ollie's tireless

efforts that since 2012, the Language Centre has been able to so far produce nine publications, one short film, a photographic exhibition and numerous short, online videos and audio segments for radio," she said.

"As the last speaker of the Badimaya language, and at 82-years-old, it is vitally important that Uncle Ollie's stories continue to be recorded and produced for the revitalisation of the Badimaya language for the Badimaya people.

"We are very grateful to Country Arts for recognising the importance of this project and awarding the funding to allow us to progress this project to save a disappearing language," Jenni said.

Former Language Centre Linguist, James Bednall and Linguist Rosie Sitorus, photographic coordinator, Brendan Penzer and film maker ABC Open Mid West's Chris Lewis, will work with Uncle Ollie George to record 14 of his cultural and historical stories spoken in Badimaya on country at locations integral to the stories themselves. The linguists will then translate the stories.

The funding of \$38,750 is provided by Country Arts WA Scheme Four program, made possible by the State Government's Royalties for Regions \$24 million investment in culture and the arts.

Wajarri Dictionary Reprint now available

People have been waiting patiently for their copy of the Wajarri Dictionary, well the wait is over – 125 shiny new reprint copies are available for purchase at Bundiyarra!

This has been made possible with Sinosteel Midwest Corporation's generous funding last year.

Twenty-five years in the making, this is a great resource and only costs \$60.

Visit the Bundiyarra online store at www.bundiyarra.org.au or drop into the organisation on Eastward Road, Utakarra, and check out all the other great book titles and resources.





Brainstorming at management level: Karen Hayward from Tennant Creek, and Jenni Gregory-Kniveton from Bundiyarra-Irra Wangga Language Centre at the WANALA forum.



Cindy Jinmarabynana from Maningrida, with Margaret Carew from Batchelor Institute and Rosie Sitorus from Bundiyarra, at the WANALA forum in Alice Springs.

WANALA looks to a national coalition

With funding cuts all over the place, language advocacy and representation is feeling the brunt too.

At a Western and Northern Aboriginal Languages Alliance (WANALA) forum in Alice Springs last month, 40 people came together from about 30 organisations representing around 100 Indigenous languages to explore the possibility of forming a national coalition.

Bundiyarra-Irra Wangga Language Centre Coordinator, Jenni Gregory-Kniveton and Linguist Rosie Sitorus attended the forum along with Marketing Officer, Sue Chiera.



Facilitator, Professor Jakelin Troy from the University of Sydney.

The forum was facilitated by Professor Jakelin Troy, a Ngarigu (NSW) Aboriginal woman and Linguist at

the University of Sydney, and was held in the beautiful grounds of the *Desert Peoples Centre in the heart of Australia – Alice Springs.

The primary objective of the forum was to discuss the idea of a First Nations Languages Coalition; how language centres and services can come together to have a single, louder voice than individual organisations.

The forum aimed to share individual language centres' knowledge and experiences and work towards forming a national coalition that would be representative of all of Australia's language regions. A national body would have more clout to inform funding bodies and secure better funding outcomes.

The roles and functions of a proposed National Languages Coalition were discussed and explored by forum attendees, taking note of all roles performed by language centres in the support and preservation of language.

Julie Walker, WANALA Chair and manager of Wangka Maya Pilbara

Aboriginal Language Centre in South Hedland, said funding and basic industry needs have not been adequately addressed.

"I feel we need a proactive national body. If you don't address the legacies of the past you can't get in front," she said.

"The commitment is there in terms of preservation; but commitment alone is not enough, we need to be well-resourced, we need development, we need to engage the younger generation. Sometimes this is not understood."

**The Desert Peoples Centre is a joint venture between Batchelor Institute for Indigenous Tertiary Education and Centre for Appropriate Technology (CAT). The Centre for Appropriate Technology is Australia's national Indigenous science and technology organisation operating since 1980. Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education is Australia's largest Indigenous tertiary institution providing training and education to Indigenous people for over 30 years. Both of these organisations are Registered Training Organisations and have focused their activities particularly on remote and disadvantaged indigenous communities.*



Julie Walker, WANALA Chair.

Granites project gets underway



Family gathering at the Granites: Back: Ashley Walsh, Laurence West, Will Egan, Gordon Flanigan, Janaya Walsh, Warren Walsh, Frank Walsh Jr. Middle: Alan Walsh, Virginia Walsh, Hazel George, Cheryl George, Clara Walsh, Ashleigh Walsh. Front: Ollie George, Kathy Walsh and Frank Walsh Snr.

Cradled in beautiful scenery at Mount Magnet are the Granites, a significant Aboriginal rock art site rich in Badimaya history; and some of that history is now about to be preserved.

The Badimia Lands Aboriginal Corporation (BLAC) received funding last year through the Federal Government's Indigenous Language and Arts Project, run by the Ministry of Arts, to conduct a series of workshops at Mount Magnet to capture information about the Granites.

Bundiyarra-Irra Wangga Language Centre was contracted to conduct the language workshops and on a beautiful rainy day last month, Elders and a big crowd of Badimaya people came together to do some work on the project.

Former Language Centre Linguist, James Bednall and Language Centre Linguist, Rosie Sitorus, have recorded some of the history in language and will also translate it into English for interpretive signage at the Granites.

Language teacher, Nadine Taylor, who helped facilitate the workshop, said Elders and the whole Walsh family gathered for a big day of Badimaya work.

"The Granites is a place of strong cultural significance to the Badimaya people," she said, "and it was wonderful to see the family come together.

"It was a big crowd and there was plenty of activity with painting, storytelling, and cooking – kangaroo stew, damper, and bush turkey cooked in the ground," she said.

"We went on a bush tour to look for bimba with Uncle Ollie George and Virginia Walsh, it was a fabulous day."

The project was conceptualised by Mt Magnet artist, Frank Walsh Junior, and other Badimaya community members and is coordinated by Terra Rosa Consulting.

It will culminate in a community-wide art exhibition at Mt Magnet's Wirnda Barna Art Centre and the development of a children's book.



What a quack up!

As part of Reconciliation Week, Glenis Little and Catherine Piota organised a First Nation's Festival in the grounds of the Queen Elizabeth II Seniors and Community Centre in Geraldton.

The Bundiyarra-Irra Wangga Language Centre mob go together to entertain the audience with a rendition of *Heads Shoulders Knees and Toes*.

Here they are playing cat and duck as opposed to cat and mouse, delighting the gathered, bemused crowd...

It was the purrfect quack up for a Saturday afternoon. Well done Jenni and Rosie!



At the WANALA Language Conference in Alice Springs, Merinda Hansen, left, from Langford Aboriginal Association in Perth, and Rosie Sitorus, right, both purchased a book written by April Pengart Campbell and Clarrie Kemarr Long from Ti Tree Community School.

The ladies wrote the book – Mer Angenty-warn alhem (Travelling to Angenty Country) in their language, Anmatyerr.

"This is just one of the benefits of getting together with other Aboriginal centres and organisations; being able to share the diversity of Aboriginal languages," said Rosie.

Jenni represents WA on national Indigenous language body

Bundiyarra-Irra Wangga Language Centre Coordinator, Jennifer Gregory-Kniveton, has been appointed as a Director on the Management Committee of First Languages Australia (FLA).

First Languages Australia is an advocacy body engaged in national and international support of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander language programs throughout Australia.

It works to ensure the voices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community members are represented in key decision making processes, and facilitates discussions between communities and the government that could impact on the management of languages.

FLA also aids communication through the language centre network to help organisations share their experiences, resources and expertise.

Jenni said she saw an email come through for expressions of interest for a WA representative and just: "threw her hat in the ring".

"I am so excited to be able to represent WA on this important National Body and look forward to contributing to their policy and programs from a WA perspective," she said.

"Once I attend the first meeting I will know a bit more about what's required of me as a WA representative and to get an idea of how the organisation operates."



Wajarri language practice pays off at Gunadoo Festival



Self-penned: Nadine Taylor with Flexible Learning Centre students, Logan, Michael, Cheryl, Delahnee, Phoebe, and the Centre's Bernadette Jones and Colin Jones, far right.

The Flexible Learning Centre kids are really embracing learning Wajarri and have had a couple of opportunities to practice and

show their skill of late.

The Gunadoo Festival, a showcase day for all schools and dance groups was held in June at Streeties Gunadoo

Farm, and some of the students made an Acknowledgment of Country they had written themselves.

Bundiyarra-Irra Wangga Language Centre Language Teacher, Nadine Taylor, said the kids put a lot of hard work into finding the right Wajarri words to write the acknowledgement.

"They worked hard to find the right words and it paid off," she said.

"They spoke clearly and fluently. Their hard work and practice paid off with their commitment to learning Wajarri. It shows in their pronunciation."

The Language Centre teaches Wajarri to students of Geraldton's Flexible Learning Centre each week through the Mayu Wanggajimanha program that has been running for three years.

Once a Linguist, always a Linguist...

Bundiyarra-Irra Wangga Language Centre is fertile ground for language students seeking work experience and they all leave wishing to return!

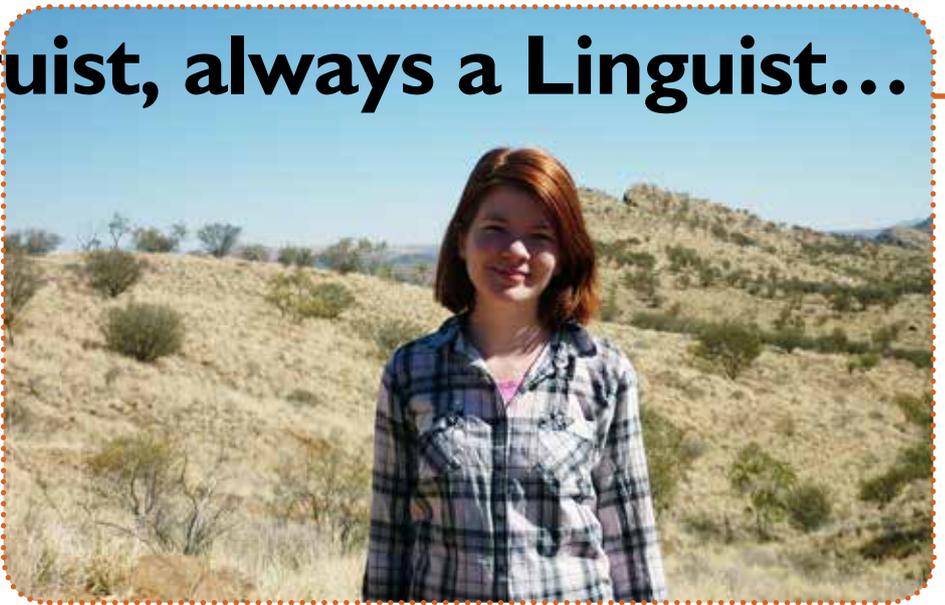
Amy Budrikis was the latest such student to spend time with the language team in mid-April this year.

She is a dedicated linguist who started studying Linguistics at UWA more than ten years ago and loved it so much she even did Honours in Linguistics.

After that she went on to do Speech Pathology, and worked in community organisations for about four years.

"I guess I enjoy anything to do with language and communication! But once a linguist, always a linguist," said Amy.

"This year I've come back to uni to start a postgraduate (PhD) degree in Linguistics – basically that means I get to focus in on a project for three to four years, which I'm very excited about.



"For my project I'm really interested in how adults learn language, and particularly how parents (and aunts and uncles and grandparents!) who didn't have the opportunity as a child to learn language all the way through, can still pass on language to their own children," Amy said.

"Getting to spend a week doing work experience at the Bundiyarra-Irra Wangga Language Centre has been an awesome opportunity to learn from a very talented bunch of linguists and language workers about how

they support communities in the Mid West to keep their languages strong."

Amy said it's obvious how much language is a part of country, culture, and community, and how it can keep people connected.

"I'm really thankful to have been able to volunteer here; but a week is such a short time, I hope I can come back some day!"

See, there's another one who wants to return... we'd love to have them all!

Flexi kids not afraid to talk Wajarri wangga!



Wajarri wangga: Danah, Edwina and Hank contributed to making the book a success and are thrilled with the result.

Geraldton's Flexible Learning Centre kids have something they are really excited about and want to share...

They have completed a book in Wajarri, compiled from scratch by their own fair hands and minds.

Nganhu waayi ngurliyimanha wanggagu Wajarri Irra – 'We are not afraid to talk Wajarri language', is a compilation of photos taken by the Flexi mob as they visited significant sites around Geraldton, to learn more about Amangu and Nhaaguja Country. Flexi Learning Centre's Bernadette Jones consulted with Nhaaguja Elder Yvonne Radcliffe for permission to go on country.

The young people wrote a caption about each photo in English and then translated it to Wajarri.

Guided by Bundiyarra-Irra Wangga Language Centre Teachers, Leeann Merritt, Godfrey Simpson and Nadine Taylor, they are very proud to have been able to put it into language.

Elders, Uncle Ivan Merry, Colin Hamlett and Ross Boddington checked the language and gave the book the tick of approval. It was printed and bound at Bundiyarra.

As part of Reconciliation Week, Bundiyarra-Irra Wangga Language Centre's Senior Language Teacher, Leeann Merritt, was joined by Danika O'Donnell from the Flexi Learning Centre, and well-known Elder, Clarrie Cameron, at Strathalbyn Christian College's Reconciliation Assembly.

Clarrie did the Welcome to Country and gave a short talk on the Chapman River, and the great storyteller that he is, told a story of his experiences of gathering bush tucker that grew along the river when he was younger. Clarrie was then given the honour of presenting students with merit certificates.

Danika and Leeann got on stage to sing *Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes*, in Wajarri and Leeann talked about the song and asked the students to repeat Wajarri body parts while the words were shown on a screen.

Then everyone got in on the act and sang the song a couple of times which stayed in the students' heads, according to Anna

Reconciliation at Strathalbyn



Packed house: Danika O'Donnell and Leeann Merritt sing in Wajarri, above, and Clarrie Cameron, the storyteller, right.

Hollander, Strathalbyn's Marketing and Communications Officer, who said they could be heard singing the song in Wajarri around the place after the assembly.

"It was awesome, the kids loved the stories and songs," she said "it's amazing how they remembered the words."



Shark Bay visit: treat with a boat ride



Networking on the water: Kathy Oakley, Ada Fossa, Asha McNeair, Jenni Gregory-Kniveton and Bianca McNeair enjoy a short boat ride at Shark Bay.

The Language Centre has been out and about again, heading north to Carnarvon and Shark Bay.

Part of the Language Centre's mandate is to make contact with communities and form relationships

to help preserve language.

Linguist Rosie Sitorus said on the recent trip to Shark Bay with Language Centre Coordinator, Jenni Gregory-Kniveton and Malgana woman and Bundiyarra Board member, Bianca McNeair, was to meet community and

show them some of the Bundiyarra-Irra Wangga Language Centre resources.

"We met with a mixture of people, young and old," she said, "we haven't made a resource in Malgana for 13 years as there are no speakers. "We showed them the Alphabet poster project, which is a great way to connect with communities and ensure every community has access to resources in their language," said Rosie.

The team had a meeting at the Yadgalah Aboriginal Corporation in Denham (Shark Bay), and have established contact to return to do some more fieldwork.

Visiting Carnarvon they did some Yingkarta and Warriyangga work.

"We will also be visiting other communities in the region and Pilbara," Rosie said.

How to make a chatterbox

1. What is the Wajarri word for eye? (MARA)

2. What is the Wajarri word for hand? (MARA)

3. What is the Wajarri word for nose? (MULA)

4. What is the Wajarri word for feet? (JINA)

5. What is the Wajarri word for hair? (MANGALYA)

6. What is the Wajarri word for ears? (GURLGA)

7. What is the Wajarri word for head? (MAGA)

8. What is the Wajarri word for mouth? (IRRA)

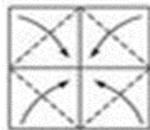
Actions (Red text):

- 1. Rub your tummy & pat your head at the same time
- 2. Hop like a marlu in a circle
- 3. Hop like a marlu
- 4. Run on the spot
- 5. Do a hand stand
- 6. Do a cartwheel
- 7. Act like a yalibirri and run fast.
- 8. Do a happy dance

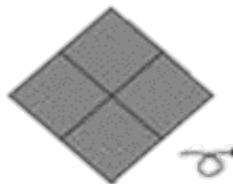
Folding instructions



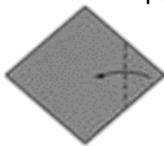
1. Cut out the square on this page. Fold in half then fold in half again.



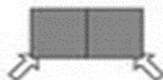
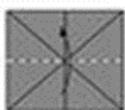
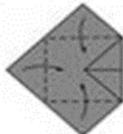
2. Unfold all and open the square up. Take each corner and fold to centre of the 4 squares.



3. Turn the paper over.



4. Fold the corners to the centre again.



5. Fold in half and push your fingers under the colour flaps and push it until it folds out into the chatterbox.

In the blue triangles are the questions for Wajarri body parts, if the person gets the answer wrong then they have to do the actions that are written in red.

Match the pictures to the words



Irra



gurlga



guru



mara



mulya



maga

Write in the Wajarri words for the crossword.

DOWN

1. What is the Wajarri word for mouth?
2. What is the Wajarri word for nose?
3. What is the Wajarri word for eye?

ACROSS

2. What is the Wajarri word for hand?
4. What is the Wajarri word for ears?
5. What is the Wajarri word for head?