



Bundiyarra Gardantha

'a good place moving forward'



Appsolutely fabulous launch!

'Nganhu bujuba!' Wajarri for **'we did it'**. Happy Bundiyarra faces with the Wajarri Dictionary App on their smart devices after the launch of the app. James Bednall, former Linguist at Bundiyarra-Irra Wangga Language Centre; Dwayne Smith, Website and IT Manager; Jennifer Kniveton-Gregory, Language Centre Coordinator; and Linguist Rosie Sitorus. Front: Senior Language Worker Leeann Merritt and Language Worker, Godfrey Simpson. This picture has been digitally altered. Read the full story on page 13.

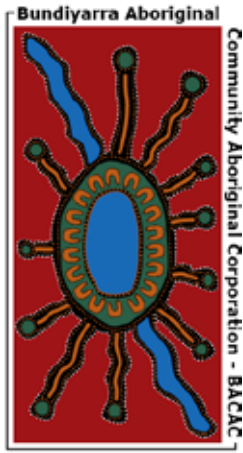


GRAHAM IS OUR NATIONAL HERO!

National NAIDOC Aboriginal Male Elder of the Year!

**STORY
PAGE 6**

"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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A MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

Nhurra Barndi



Things never slow down at the 'good place'.

The output from only 15 human resources across the Corporation is tremendous and often we are asked how we manage to achieve such big projects and outcomes on a consistent basis.

Each of our team members whether employed through the Bundiyarra-Irra Wangga Language Centre, Bundiyarra – Environmental Health Services or in our tiny Administration/Marketing team, are dedicated to the community and work well and beyond their everyday job descriptions.

The Board of Directors and myself can't thank each staff member enough for this dedication.

The launch of the Wajarri Dictionary App has been a huge achievement.

In the past three years the Bundiyarra-Irra Wangga Language Team have produced the print version of the Wajarri Dictionary and now completed the first version of the Wajarri Dictionary App.

This first print edition edition is now sold out and the second edition is on its way, but it will be in speaker version.

If you haven't seen this technology be sure to drop into the Language Centre and ask the team for a demo on the speaker pen – you will be impressed.

Recently we have welcomed several visiting dignitaries to Bundiyarra, including State Minister for Housing, Hon Colin Holt MLC, Hon Paul Brown

MLC and Hon Darren West MLC.

The Corporation strives to deliver information about greater community and discuss opportunities that will see positive outcomes for Aboriginal people through the Mid West, Gascoyne and Murchison regions.

What's next? Bundiyarra is currently developing a tourism opportunity – Bundiyarra Muguri (dreaming tracks, dreaming, dreaming trails).

A community consultation was hosted for this in mid-July.

We are thrilled with the potential partners that attended and will continue to be involved, along with the input of ideas from a broad range of community members.

Further planning meetings are scheduled for August.

If you would like to be involved with this development please email manager@bundiyarra.org.au

Thanks for reading *Bundiyarra Gardantha*. This newsletter is credited as being one of the best in Western Australia.

We print and distribute 1000 copies across WA and it is emailed to more than 300 recipients.

We are proud to produce this newsletter through our internal Marketing and IT business unit Bundiyarra Walgajunmanha.

You will hear more about this exciting development in our next edition.

Until then, happy reading.

Marchelle

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

Kathleen scores a hat trick

Bundiyarra's own Kathleen Nelly has scored a hat trick as the recipient of three scholarships!

Kathleen, 20, is the recipient of the 2015 Aboriginal Education and Employment and Training Committee (AEETC) Academic Careers Pathways scholarship, and the 2015 Rio Tinto Aboriginal Scholarship.

But it doesn't stop there. She has also earned the 2015 Mid West Development Commission Certificate IV in Digital Media Scholarship to continue her studies at Durack Institute of Technology.

This enterprising young girl has a reputation for applying herself, through school and later in employment.

Kathleen began her education at Rangeway Primary School before moving to Perth and then on to the Pilbara where she completed Year 12 at Tom Price Senior High School with a Certificate II in Resources and Infrastructure.

In 2013, she moved back to Geraldton and began a work placement at Bundiyarra as part of her Business Certificate II, leading to full-time employment as administration officer and receptionist with the Corporation, where she completed her business certificate.

"Working for a not-for-profit community organisation gave me a better understanding of the business area and how organisations work," said Kathleen, "like applying for funding for programs, agreements to administer that funding and day-to-day invoicing and purchasing."

Kathleen is always keen to help people and took part in the Polly Farmer Foundation – Follow the Dream program from 2010 to 2012, that aims to support Aboriginal students to achieve success at school from the beginning, through to Year 12 graduation.

"I helped students after school hours in all areas of education," she said.



Now Kathleen is back studying again herself, three days a week, following in the footsteps of Bundiyarra's Web and IT Development Manager, Dwayne Smith, who won a slew of awards from Durack Institute of Technology last year, including Vocational Student of the Year. Dwayne was also a recipient of the Mid West Development Commission scholarship.

Kathleen has always had an interest in photography that she can now take further by studying for a Certificate IV in Digital Media at Durack.

"I aim to complete my Certificate IV in Digital Media and Technology with the goal of continuing on to the Diploma of Digital Media, pursuing a career in graphic design or management," she said.

"My interest in management is more with the community care and community development sector."

Kathleen still keeps her finger on Bundiyarra's pulse, working two days a week at the Corporation. Well done Kathleen, all of us at Bundiyarra are very proud of you!

More sign up for Bundiyarra Gardantha, and more great testimonials...

"Great magazine and a great article on the Indi-Genius program."

– **Jacqui Quartermaine**

Principal, Rangeway Primary School

"Just wanted to say what a great read Bundiyarra Gandantha newsletter is. I really enjoyed it and thanks so much for all the acknowledgement of the collaboration with the City."

– **Andrea Selvey**

Director of Creative Communities, City of Greater Geraldton

"I have to say that I enjoy every bit of your little newsletter. I look forward to it. You all do a great job and I read every page. It is so informative and very well put together. Congratulations to you all for the amazing effort."

– **Annie Pepper**

"... it is great to see our Nhanda history alive and I would love to be able to pass some history to my children."

– **Robert Taylor**

Director, Forte Hospitality

"Some really interesting stuff in here [the newsletter] for the local community."

– **Barry Powell**

Acting Principal, Pia Wadjari Remote Community School

"Very high quality and very relevant items – thanks. You and the mob at Bundiyarra should be very proud of the result."

– **Robert Mullane**

A/Manager WA Aboriginal Environmental Health Program
Department of Health (Perth)

The Geraldton Universities Centre is enjoying a record \$43,000 in scholarship funding this year, awarded by the Hollomby Foundation, and Bundiyarra Aboriginal Community Aboriginal Corporation (BACAC) has made a contribution to that.

Bundiyarra joins 14 other business and government contributors and provides a \$1000 scholarship for an Aboriginal student to undertake university studies.

“...I believe this is my time to complete my degree”

This year Christine Rhazi is the recipient of the Bundiyarra Scholarship through the Hollomby Foundation, and she plans to study a Bachelor of Nursing.

Christine has worked in the health sector as an Aboriginal Health Worker for more than 20 years in Perth, Bunbury, Carnarvon and Queensland.

Christine is a Widi woman from Queensland and recently returned to WA after spending several years there.

Her future aspirations include being a Nurse Educator as she has a passion for sharing information about health

Christine is Bundiyarra Scholarship recipient



Bundiyarra funding recipient, Christine Rhazi, is congratulated by Bundiyarra Board Member, Tiambra Calvin.

and hopes to contribute to the Mid West community.

Christine expressed her gratitude at receiving the 2015 Bundiyarra Scholarship.

“It is an honour and a huge help to me and my studies,” she said.

“I was asked to speak on behalf of all scholarship recipients at the recent Graduation ceremony at Geraldton Universities Centre. It was heart-warming and an honour to express my thanks on behalf of the recipients and to the Hollomby Foundation and contributors that make the scholarships possible.

“I have studied several times at university both on campus and

external, however never completed a degree. So now that I am back on country, and with the support of my family and ancestors I believe that this is my time to complete my degree,” said Christine.

The Hollomby Foundation is dedicated to the advancement of tertiary education in the Mid West and was set up in July 2010. It is named in honour of the late Joe Hollomby, who over nearly 20 years, raised more than \$1 million for charity by baking and distributing shortbread and apple pies.

Affectionately known as ‘the Shortbread Man’, Mr Hollomby sadly died in 2008 at the age of 94 in tragic circumstances in his Geraldton home.

Clontarf boys enjoy breakfast with football legend Kevin Sheedy

Some of the young lads from Clontarf Football Academy got a treat recently, when they attended a motivational speaker’s breakfast at POSH, hosted by NAG and presented by Essendon stalwart Kevin Sheedy.

Kevin was in Geraldton for a week as a guest of the Network Anonymous Group (NAG), a group of local business people who are keen to promote Geraldton to the wider world. Kevin said he was very impressed with what he saw and how friendly the people are.

He presented at a few functions around town and enjoyed a tour of our beautiful city.



Ethan Taylor, David Moore, Dion Dann and Ian Taylor, right, Director of Clontarf Football Academy with Essendon Football Club legend, Kevin Sheedy at the NAG breakfast.

Living in the Ice Age

Geraldton
Ice Summit

“We are clearly all working in silos; we need to work together...”

– Sandy Davies, GRAMS Chairman

Methamphetamine, or Ice, is a modern day societal evil destroying families all over the world, and Geraldton is not immune to it.

More than 150 people attended the Ice Summit in Geraldton, hosted by Melissa Price, Federal Member for Durack, as part of the National Ice Taskforce set up by Prime Minister Tony Abbott in May this year.

Ms Price hosted the summit to hear concerns of local stakeholders and the broader community on the impacts of the deadly drug in our backyard. There was no shortage of heart-wrenching stories of family ice abuse. Some stories so devastating about how it has ripped Mid West families apart that many attendees were reduced to tears.

Recurring theme

A recurring theme from these families was that there is nowhere to go for help. Treatment and rehabilitation services are out of reach, and more are needed.

An Aboriginal health services worker from Geraldton Regional Aboriginal Medical Service (GRAMS) that had a big presence at the summit, said children feel safer on the streets than in their homes. She said they wait until their ice-addicted family members have gone to sleep, and their extended family have left, and then go back home to sleep themselves.

But an interesting point that emerged was the number of service organisations in attendance, all appearing to work in isolation.

Sandy Davies, GRAMS Board Chairman, was quick to pick up on this and said he was blown away by the number of individual support agencies.

“I’ve been in the political and health



Federal Member for Durack Melissa Price, and Senator Fiona Nash, Assistant Minister for Health, listen to participants at the Geraldton Ice Summit in June. Pic contributed

sector for many years, and I’ve not heard of a lot of these agencies,” he said.

“We are clearly all working in silos; we need to work together in a coordinated and holistic way if we have any hope of dealing with this awful scourge.”

Mr Davies said the ice epidemic is not confined to Aboriginal people.

“Meth does not discriminate; it’s not a drug for one race and not the other, and we need to be working together to fight it,” he said.

Committed to working hard

Ms Price said she is committed to working hard to see the use of the drug decrease in Durack and Australia.

“This summit will play a vital role in shaping the report given to the Prime Minister for consideration at a Coalition of Australian Governments (COAG) meeting at the end of the year,” she said.

Emotional event

Ms Price said the summit was a very emotional event where people shared

their personal stories about the impact the drug had made on their lives and front line professionals discussed the drug’s impact on the Mid West.

“This is a drug which is tearing Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal families apart,” she said.

Since this summit the Ice Taskforce has identified six key areas to guide work towards the development of the National Ice Action Strategy, they include:

- focusing on law enforcement actions;
- targetting primary prevention;
- improving access to early intervention, treatment and support services;
- supporting local communities to respond;
- improving tools for frontline workers; and
- improving and consolidating research and data.

There will be a final report tabled at the end of the year and the taskforce along with COAG will develop a National Ice Action strategy to address the problem.



NAIDOC National Australian Male Elder of the Year!

Merrilyn nominated winning role model for young people

Graham Taylor has been featuring in our newsletter a lot of late, and this story is a ripper! As everyone would know by now, Graham is the deserving winner of the NAIDOC National Australian Male Elder of the Year Award!

Nominated by Merrilyn Green, Operations Manager at Geraldton Aboriginal Streetwork Corporation (Streeties), where he is a board member who volunteers countless hours of his time, Graham is clearly proud of the achievement.

“We feel very honoured to have Graham as part of our organisation...”

– Merrilyn Green

Ms Green said Graham, a traditional Amangu Yamaji Elder is an inspirational leader and an outstanding role model for young people and she is thrilled he is National NAIDOC Australian Male Elder of the Year.

“Graham contributes to youth programs, speaks around the table and the fire, and is highly respected by our youth. He is acknowledged by our wider community as a distinguished and respectful person,” she said.



In 1987, Graham was invited to become a member of Streeties, and is now the longest continuing director, a former chairperson for six years and currently the Public Officer. Graham joined the Australian Army when he

Watch Graham’s acceptance speech by visiting: <http://www.sbs.com.au/nitv/article/2015/07/08/meet-graham-taylor-naidoc-male-elder-year>



Graham Taylor is proud to have been nominated by Streeties Operations Manager, Merrilyn Green, for NAIDOC Australian Male Elder of the Year, which he won!

was 19 and saw active service in Vietnam in 1971.

He has been a member of the local RSL since 1995 (at that time the number of Aboriginal members was extremely low), and has constantly worked for the recognition and inclusion of Aboriginal people (men and women) who have fought in the armed forces in all wars.

Graham makes himself available to visit schools in the region to talk about his time in the armed services and his strong love for his culture and the importance of family.

He was recognised and celebrated during NAIDOC Week 2014 by the City of Greater Geraldton with a personal display from his time in the services. In 2008, Graham was honoured as Geraldton NAIDOC Elder of the year. In 2012 Graham was given the even greater honour of being elected into the Mid West Region Hall of Fame.

Graham also played a major role in the development of Bundiwarra Aboriginal Corporation’s Camp Gallipoli and dugout display on Aboriginal land, celebrated the day before ANZAC Day this year.

This is just a small part of Graham’s contribution to the community.

“Graham does not look for praise, or even acknowledgement, and if you mention to him what he puts back into our people he gets embarrassed,” said Ms Green.

“We feel very honoured to have Graham as part of our organisation, and it was with pride, happiness and love that we submitted his application,” Ms Green said.

You can read more about Graham Taylor on page 8 at the Reconciliation Week Oral History morning – Share Your Story.

Edith has the right recipe for success

Edith Smyth wanted to be a chef since she was a young girl; and would like to open her own restaurant one day.

“So I can create food to inspire and make people smile,” she said.

The Durack Institute of Technology hospitality student is now well on her way to achieving her dream having won the Rio Tinto sponsored, 2014 Durack Aboriginal Student of the Year.

Edith said she was surprised to be Aboriginal Student of Year.

“I didn’t believe it. However, I’m proud to be able to represent Aboriginal students and be a role model to help them get over the perceived stigma of being Aboriginal,” she said.

Many dimensions

There are many dimensions to this energetic young girl who is not letting the grass grow under her feet.

Edith completed Certificate III in Hospitality (Commercial Cookery) at Durack, and then went on to complete Certificate IV in Hospitality in just six months.

She was also the recipient of a Rio Tinto 2014 Aboriginal Scholarship and a 2014 Aboriginal Education and Employment and Training Committee (AEETC) Academic scholarship.

Edith said while it hasn’t all been easy, it has been worth it.

“Completing the Cert IV in Hospitality in six months was difficult. I had to juggle TAFE, work and family commitments, but it taught me good time management, organisational and communication skills,” she said.



Durack Aboriginal Student of the Year, Edith Smyth in her healthy vegetable patch.

Studying and working towards the certificates allowed Edith to gain broad knowledge across the hospitality industry. This knowledge enables her to work in every area of the field. Edith currently works at the IBIS Styles Restaurant on Brand Highway in Geraldton.

Big Sky festival

Thanks to the City of Greater Geraldton Big Sky Readers and Writers Festival that each year featured a published chef, Edith had the opportunity to cook alongside some big names in the WA restaurant industry such as Emmanuel Mollois, Alain Fabregues, Theo Kalogeracos and Sophie Zalokar.

“I gained a lot of knowledge from these experienced people,” she said.

This enterprising professional chef-in-the-making has plans to learn culinary skills in other places around the world.

In 2013, as a student at Geraldton Senior College, Edith visited Cambodia with the school, where she met and

has stayed in touch with a Cambodian family that owns a local restaurant. She plans to return to live and work in their restaurant for a while and then travel to Italy to learn cooking the Italian way.

Active in the community

Edith is active in the community with her involvement with the Geraldton Hockey Association, where she helps educate the junior players about healthy eating and the benefits of regular exercise.

She also enjoys growing produce at the family home.

“It’s challenging at times as I don’t use pesticides,” said Edith, “but I take a lot of pride in it, and it brings the family together.”

Whatever Edith does, her family is very supportive and right behind her.

“We are extremely proud of her,” said mum, Nicole.

Edith is now a semi-finalist in the WA Training Awards and we wish her the best of luck.

RECONCILIATION WEEK 2015: Oral history at the library

Three local Aboriginal identities shared a bit about their interesting lives at the Geraldton Regional Library on 3 June.

As part of National Reconciliation Week, **Charmaine Green**, **Graham Taylor**, and **Joan Gray**, took part in an Oral History Morning – Share Your Story – broadcast live by Radio MAMA throughout the Mid West.

It was “an opportunity to share, learn and reflect on our amazing past,” said Library Heritage Services Officer, Trudi Cornish, who spoke with Charmaine Green via mobile phone from Frankston, Melbourne where she was visiting her son on family business.

Charmaine Green

Charmaine told how she grew up in Mullewa and Eradu in the 1960s, and then in the 70s made her own way in the world. However, she said all her memories of Mullewa were pretty special.

“Mum used to take us to dig yams on the Pindar Road,” she said, “my parents taught us how to track emus and their eggs, the kind of cultural information that’s not being passed down to some today.”

Charmaine started writing journals at age 13, leading her to a later career in writing. When she was 17, her school vocational officer found her a traineeship in Canberra and she was off and running.

She then worked with linguists at the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders, also in Canberra, before taking up a position in 1980, at the Australian National University.

Always maintaining contact with Mullewa and Geraldton, Charmaine decided she wanted to return to regional WA and took up a position with the Commonwealth Employment Service in Port Hedland.

Charmaine is a published poet with



Trudi Cornish, Graham Taylor, Joan Gray and Nola Gregory at the Oral History Morning.

her first published work included in a 1984 anthology. She writes poetry under the name Charmaine Papertalk Green – Papertalk is her mother’s surname.

After the death of her father in 1992, Charmaine leaned more to the visual arts as a way to help her heal. In 1997 she was instrumental in getting Yamaji Art up and running, and it is still going strong today with a gallery on Marine Terrace in Geraldton.

Charmaine is now a researcher at the WA Centre for Rural Health in Geraldton.

Graham Taylor

Vietnam War Veteran and National NAIDOC Aboriginal Elder of the Year, Graham told how he was born in Three Springs and grew up in Coorow and enjoyed life cooking yams in the fire and shooting the odd rabbit and kangaroo.

He went to school at the Pallotine Mission School at Tardun of which he said “was a good year of my life.”

“I played footy for Mullewa but St Pat’s boys always won,” he said: “They were built like brick toilets!”

Charmaine Green



Graham said after school the only trades available were shearing and farming, so he decided to join the army and Pallotine staff helped him with his application. He joined up for three years at the age of 17.

“Mum was not happy, but Dad was supportive,” he said, “and I liked it.”

He went to the Army Recruit Training Centre at Kapooka near Wagga Wagga in New South Wales, and then to the 4th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment at Townsville.

“We were the next battalion to go to Vietnam,” said Graham. “I suddenly realised, ‘gee, I’m going to war now’.”

On 13 May, 1970, as a 19-year-old, he boarded HMAS *Sydney III* to set off for Vietnam.

Graham said the Redgum song: *I Was Only Nineteen* really resonates with him. Royalties from the song go to the Vietnam Veterans Association.

“The song *I Was Only Nineteen* always gets to me, as I was only 19 when I boarded the ship,” he said.

"I did seven months in Vietnam, and when the troops were pulled out, I still had five months to go.

"There was no welcome when we returned home; our soldiers weren't really treated like they should have been," Graham said.

He marches every year in the ANZAC Day Parade and this year was guest of honour on the VIP stage with the City's Mayor.

Graham has been involved in local organisations including Geraldton Aboriginal Streetwork Corporation, or Streeties, where he was Chairman of the Board for two or three years, and is on the Bundiyarra Honour Roll.

He was involved in getting the plaque organised on the front of Geraldton RSL's Birdwood House, recognising the Aboriginal contribution to the war, where his name is proudly listed.

"It is the first plaque in WA recognising the Aboriginal war commitment," he said.

In 2008 Graham was named Elder of the Year and in 2013 was added to Bundiyarra's Hall of Fame.

This year Graham was named 2015 National NAIDOC Male Elder of the Year, an honour he wears with great dignity.

"I bypassed WA," said Graham full of pride for his award.

"I went straight to the big top!"

Joan Gray

Elder, Joan Gray, was the first child born on the Geraldton Reserve in 1940.

At 12 years of age, Joan's mother was taken from Roebourne to the Moore River Mission Settlement where she met Joan's father who had been relocated there from a boys' home at Guildford.

This was in the days when the Protector of Aborigines had the power to decide pretty much everything about Aboriginal people's lives, including who they married. Joan's parents married at the mission and were then sent to the reserve in Geraldton.

Her mother, Alice Nannup, worked in service in houses around the district, while her father worked in tomato gardens.

Joan, the middle child of 12, said several of her siblings passed away as youngsters and at some point the family moved to live in Quarry Street. However, the Office of the Protector of Aborigines sent the family back to the reserve.

"But looking at the tin shed Mum said 'there's not enough room to swing a cat' so we moved back to Quarry Street," said Joan.

Joan said she was educated at Geraldton Primary School and spent two years at Geraldton High School before, at age 14, her father told her she had to leave school to go to work to help with the family's finances.

"I was very sad, I cried for a week, I tore up all my books," recalled Joan.

"I went to work in the tomato gardens and then at St Pat's College looking after the boys there."

However, Joan went back to her beloved education in the 1970s, studying office procedures at TAFE. From there she worked in the original Australian office for ABSTUDY, an organisation that helps with costs for study for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students.

Joan said she moved across to

the Isolated Children's Parents' Association that was dedicated to ensuring rural and remote students have access to appropriate education.

She told the story of her mother "giving the people a dressing down" at the old Radio Theatre, when Joan was about 10 years old – as featured in Alice Nannup's 1992 book, *When the Pelican Laughed*.

"She was sick of us Aboriginal kids being taunted and called names," said Joan. "She sent a kid to get a saucer and a razorblade so she could cut herself so they could see we bled red blood just like everyone else.

"I didn't realise it at the time, but she was paving the way for us and community to realise we don't have to put up with that."

Joan said family is the most important thing in her life: "I've got four kids and I'm proud of my family," she said.

These days Joan is active in the community and you will find her many Sunday mornings planting and tending to Bundiyarra's grounds and gardens.

Audio copies of this Oral History Morning are available from the Geraldton Regional Library at 37 Marine Terrace for \$7.50.

Below: Nola Gregory interviews Elder Joan Gray at the Reconciliation Week Oral History Morning – Share Your Story



RECONCILIATION WEEK 2015

Mid West Ports Authority RAP

The Mid West Ports Authority (MWPA) launched its Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) as part of National Reconciliation Week last month.

It is only the second port authority in Australia to initiate a RAP.

The Reflect RAP was launched at a function at the Port Authority office on Friday, 29 June, with the Welcome to Country conducted by Donna Ronan.

Mid West Ports Authority CEO, Peter Klein, said the RAP is something the port will commit to for the long term. "The MWPA intends to do what it can to address local issues of Aboriginal disadvantage in a collaborative manner," he said.

"The plan is focused on education, employment, health, life expectancy and providing equitable opportunities for Aboriginal people."

The RAP was developed in 2014 in collaboration with external consultants and an internal MWPA working group with input from the City of Greater Geraldton (CGG).

It was facilitated by the longest serving Aboriginal academic in Western Australia, Mr Simon Forrest, Elder in Residence at Curtin University.

Mr Klein said the relationship between the MWPA and the local Aboriginal community will initially be developed through participation in the City of Greater Geraldton's Reconciliation Committee.

"We will invite local Aboriginal organisations formally involved in the CGG Reconciliation Committee, to participate in the MWPA RAP working group," he said.



At the launch of Mid West Ports Authority RAP: CEO Peter Klein, far left and members of Ken Maher's family in the foreground. Pic courtesy Mid West Ports Authority.

In memory of Ken Maher



The family of the late, former port employee, Ken Maher, pictured, also attended the launch to remember and celebrate Mr Maher's life and his time at the port. Mr Maher worked at the port for 26 years and sadly passed away last year, aged 64. Pic courtesy Mid West Ports Authority.

Nola sings it loud for Reconciliation

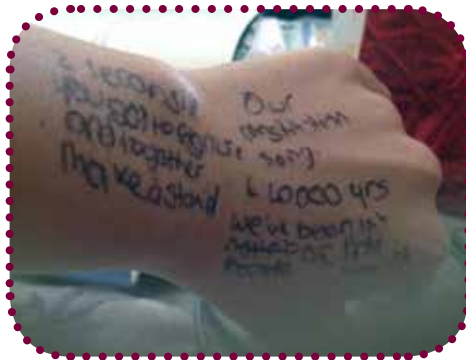
Inspiration for a reconciliation song hit on the way home in the car.

And when you don't have any paper it's hard to write the words down, especially if you're driving at the time too.

So local poet, Nola Gregory, told her daughter who was passenger, to grab a pen and said "quick write these words down, they're all in my head." Daughter, Rashaan, used the nearest thing to hand – her arm – to write the lyrics on.

"When I get the words to a poem I have to write them down there and then before I lose them," Nola said.

Then she discovered there was a song-writing competition as part of Reconciliation Week and was put in



Lyric sheet: Rashaan's hand and arm with the words to Nola's Reconciliation song.

touch with Geraldton's Songwriting Syndicate, a group of Mid West musicians who write and play original music.

"They helped with a melody for the song, which I thought was perfect," said Nola.

"We'd been practising the song, called *Sing Loud*, and decided to enter it into the Reconciliation Week Song-writing competition."

Nola said the song is about Aboriginal recognition: "Aboriginal leaders say we must be recognised in the Constitution before there can be reconciliation.

"This is my way of getting the message out that we need to be recognised as the first people here," she said.

Nola sang the song, accompanied by Songwriting Syndicate members, at the Geraldton Reconciliation Concert at Queens Park Theatre on 29 May to resounding applause.

Unfortunately Nola didn't win the competition but we congratulate her anyway on such a solid song.

Damper, drawing and dance at the Museum

WA Day in Geraldton was greeted with brilliant Mid West winter weather to draw about 1200 people to the Western Australian Museum - Geraldton.



Damper making ladies: Sandra Ronan, Mavis Dann and Donna Ronan.

In addition to the Celebrate WA activities combined with the Reconciliation Week cultural program, the day included circus workshops, WA flora and fauna displays, damper tasting, (thanks to the wonderful Mavis Dann) live music and guided tours of the Shipwrecks Gallery.

Hundreds of people contributed to the three metre long Community Canvas, and dozens more danced "gangnam" style with the infamously funny and deadly event MC Sean Choolburra.

The day attracted both regular visitors and newcomers to the Museum with some really great comments about the lively marina, the



Sean Choolburra contributes to the Community Canvas.

museum's beautiful grounds, and the range of family friendly activities available on the day.



Barbara Merritt with the Community Canvas. All photos copyright © WA Museum - Geraldton.

Successful education program delivered to remote schools

The WA Department of Education advised there was a requirement for Aboriginal and Islander Education Officers (AIEOs) and Education Assistants (EAs), to have a Certificate III in Education Support. So two determined Geraldton women hit the road.

It was no mean feat for two of Durack Institute of Technology's Education Support Team, headed by Coordinator Jan Bowen with Barb Glenister, a lecturer with over 40 years' teaching experience. They set about visiting all the schools and communities in the Mid West and Murchison, covering more than 30,000 km in their travels to deliver a successful training program with solid results.

"We had conversations with principals, registrars and staff, about how the program would work best for them," Jan said. "We had the vision to bring quality training and delivery to all the workers in the schools.

"Most of the AIEOs and the EAs already knew Barb from the years she had spent mentoring staff in the Murchison so that important relationship was already established. This relationship was one of the key reasons why the program was such a success," said Jan.

The program was no ordinary 'teacher assistant' training course. Student needs were identified, and resources were specially designed and adapted to suit the different requirements



Top: Graduating students celebrate with lecturer Barb Glenister. **Above:** Jan Bowen and Barb Glenister. **Above right:** Yulga Jinna Remote Community School students. **Right:** Katie Diggelman holds her Graduating Student Award.

of the students and their school environment.

"We are in the business of 'changing lives'," Jan said. "Our EAs work with children who have literacy and numeracy issues, physical and intellectual challenges, and additional and special needs.

"We work in remote communities and isolated schools. We often work with children who have been 'damaged by life', abused or neglected.

"Barb would often work before, during and after school hours as well as evenings and weekends," said Jan.

It all paid off, and the program was hailed a success with 25 Murchison AIEOs and EAs graduating completing their Certificate III in Education Support last year.

"The staff at each school were very generous in supporting their AIEOs and EAs. We thank them for their valued input and support. We are very proud of the students' achievements

but without the help of principals, registrars, and classroom teachers, the program could not have been so successful," said Jan.

It proved to be well worth it, with the Education Support team's dedication earning them a High Performing Team Award from Durack.

"It was wonderful to be recognised in this way, and I thank everyone who supported us and congratulate the students who successfully achieved their qualification," Jan said.

And another great outcome is that Jan recently took *Bundiyarra Gardantha* newsletters to some of the remote schools where it was warmly received, and more people signed up to receive the email version of the newsletter. Thanks, Jan!



Three generations with the Wajarri Dictionary app. Front: Wajarri Elders, Ross Boddington and Dora Dann. Dora is pleased with her gift of a gargula – or bush pear, while at rear Godfrey Simpson, the voice of the app; Coralie Dann, Dora Dann's daughter; and Antoinette Clinch, Dora Dann's great-granddaughter show off the app.

Wajarri Dictionary App launched

A big turnout at Bundiyarra celebrated the launch of the app, with many attendees commenting what a good feeling Bundiyarra has! But we already knew that...

It's official! After final reviews and testing by Apple and Google, the Wajarri Dictionary App is now available on AppStore, PlayStore and through the Bundiyarra website.

It's proving very popular and its popularity is reflected in the amount of downloads to date, with more than 350 downloads recorded from around the world.

More than 250 people gathered at Bundiyarra Aboriginal Community Aboriginal Corporation in Geraldton last month, to celebrate the launch of the Wajarri Dictionary App in an incredibly upbeat atmosphere.

It was standing room only and although rain tried to stop play, people outside crowded around the open doors to be part of the action.

Wajarri words hung from trees in the grounds with their English translation, giving the place a festive feel and appearance.

The event drew people from right across the community, from elders and educators to school children and health specialists. Schools and government organisations from across the region were well represented, as were local politicians, including Member for Geraldton, Ian Blayney MLA and Darren West MLC, Member for the Agricultural Region.

Wajarri Elders including Dora Dann, Elvie Dann, Ross Boddington, Iris Mallard, and Myra Ronan ventured along, joined by members of the Bundiyarra Board and staff and community.

Based on the printed Wajarri Dictionary — launched in 2012 after

25 years of compilation — the app was developed by the Bundiyarra-Irra Wangga Language Centre using digitisation funding received in mid-2014 from the Federal Government through the Department of the Arts. The app is designed for both smart devices and desktop computers and will help keep Wajarri, one of the world's oldest languages, alive.

Wajarri is the traditional language of the Murchison region of WA, today spoken fluently throughout the wider Mid West region by fewer than 50 people.

Developed jointly by the Bundiyarra-Irra Wangga Language Centre and the Bundiyarra Information Technology and Marketing Departments, the app boasts a database of almost 2000 words, making it an excellent reference tool and teaching aid.

A new generation access the Wajarri language!



Santana shows her mother Donna Ronan, standing, and Dora and Elvie Dann the Wajarri Dictionary App.

One of only a small number in WA, the app provides access to the Wajarri language that is more universal than ever. It ensures that knowledge passed on from elders is readily available for the new generation of speakers. With English translations and audio of each word that assists users with their correct pronunciation, the app is a comprehensive collection of Wajarri language that fits in the palm of your hand.

Language centre Linguist, Rosie Sitorus, stressed the importance of including the spoken word on the app.

“Without hearing the words spoken every day it’s difficult to know how to say them correctly,” she said.

“The recordings ensure the preservation of Wajarri as an oral language. Having it as an app engages the younger generation; this is the Elders’ knowledge they can engage with on a daily basis.”

The voice you hear on the app is that of Language Worker, Godfrey Simpson. At 37 years of age, Godfrey is one of the few younger Aboriginal people who have a solid grasp of the language.

“Sadly, many Aboriginal languages have been silenced throughout the years and the First Nations people throughout Australia have spent countless hours with linguists trying to revive their own languages,” said Godfrey.

Bundiyarra-Irra Wangga Language Centre Coordinator, Jennifer Kniveton-Gregory, acknowledged the original speakers involved in language recordings.

“We wish to sincerely acknowledge the original speakers



Above: A packed house – standing room only at the launch.

Below: Indi-genius, Rangeway Primary School boys play the didgeridoo.

who were involved in the recording of the Wajarri language many years ago which resulted in the publication of the Wajarri Dictionary,” she said.



“This app is taken directly from the Wajarri Dictionary and without the speakers’ tireless work undertaken many years ago, this app would not have been possible. They have contributed to something that is being used to educate young people and our community today.”

To date, the app has had over 1000 views on Bundiyarra’s website, more than 230 downloads from Google’s PlayStore and more than 140 downloads from the AppStore.

A delightful short video produced by language centre Linguist, Rosie Sitorus, showing Elders Ross Boddington and Dora Dann listening to the app for the first time, has been uploaded to ABC Open’s Mother Tongue project <https://open.abc.net.au/explore/97410> and is worth a look.

You can view the Wajarri Dictionary App from your PC at <http://www.bundiyarra.com.au/wajarriApp/> or download from Apple’s AppStore and Google’s PlayStore.



Pollywaffle: Politicians Ian Blayney and Darren West enjoy a chat.

Rosie Sitorus and Godfrey Simpson at the launch.

Elder Dora Dann with daughter Elvie Dann who was instrumental in kicking off the recording of the Wajarri language.

Netta Sharpe reminisces with Elder Ross Boddington about her family’s time on Wooleen Station.

Meet the new language ladies

Bundiyarra-Irra Wangga Language Centre welcomes to the fold two new language ladies: Edie Maher and Nadine Taylor.

These experienced ladies work at the centre on Wednesdays and Fridays, creating Wajarri language educational material, and will begin visiting schools very soon.

Edie is a Wajarri language specialist at Geraldton Senior College and has been a language teacher for 15 years. She helped design the curriculum for Wajarri at the West Australian Certificate of Education (WACE) year 11/12 university stream level. Wajarri was one of only three Aboriginal languages available at that level (Nyoongar and Nyangumarta are the other two).



New language ladies: Edie Maher and Nadine Taylor with Coleen Sherratt.

Nadine is an Aboriginal Languages Teacher-Trainee with the Department of Education. She began the course

in 2014 and is currently teaching at Waggrakine Primary School in Geraldton.

Language: knowing what to listen for

Linguist Rosie Sitorus shares some insights into local language features with university students on regional placement.

There are many facets to a language, and speech pathology students visiting the WA Centre for Rural Health (WACRH) from metropolitan universities were given some regional insights into local language features recently.

Bundiyarra-Irra Wangga Language Centre Linguist, Rosie Sitorus, provided the students, who were in Geraldton for their regional placement, a presentation on Mid West languages and their features from a linguistic perspective. They were also given a broad overview of the characteristics of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages to prepare them for their placement.

“Some of the students were going to Carnarvon and Mt Magnet to work with local communities, and many of them work with Aboriginal children in those places,” said Rosie.

“I was invited to talk to the students about some of

the features of the languages that these children would be hearing and speaking at home.

“We covered the basics of Aboriginal English, which is a separate dialect to Standard Australian English (SAE), and what kind of language children in this region might be producing,” Rosie said.

She said it is important that these students learn about the linguistic contexts and identities of the children they are working with in those communities.

“The language of these children is often very different from that of kids they’d work with in bigger regional or metropolitan centres.

“What might be regarded as an error of Standard Australian English is actually just a feature of Aboriginal English or one of the local languages that the prac students aren’t aware of,” Rosie said.

“Basically, you can’t diagnose an abnormality if you don’t know what is normal!”

The tables were turned a bit for Bundiyarra-Irra Wangga Language Centre Linguist, Rosie Sitorus, when she visited Mt Magnet recently.

A Language Awareness Workshop at the Wirnda Barna Art Centre became more of an awareness-raiser for her and former Linguist, James Bednall.

“The Wirnda Barna workshop became more of a language lesson for us because the ladies were all having a laugh at our poor Wajarri and helping us correct it!” she said.



Linguists get tongue-tied in Mt Magnet

Rosie was visiting Mt Magnet with language worker, Godfrey Simpson, and former Bundiyarra-Irra Wangga Language Centre Linguist – and now consultant linguist for the Badimaya language – James Bednall.

The trio visited the area from 15 to 19 June to build on Badimaya language work previously done with Badimaya Elder, Ollie George, before the release of the Badimaya resources in 2014.

“We are continuing to develop language resources for Badimaya in consultation with Ollie and the community, including schools,” Rosie said.

“We are hoping to expand the presence of the language in the community as Ollie really wants his language to be shared with everyone.

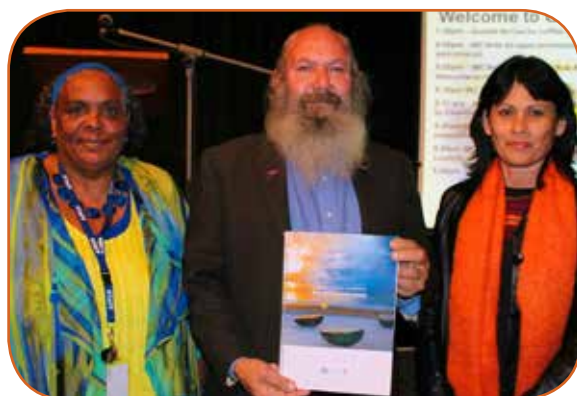
“We also ran a number of language awareness workshops at the Geraldton Regional Aboriginal Medical Service (GRAMS) annexe and Wirnda Barna Art Centre – where I got my language lesson!” Rosie said with a good natured laugh.



Top: Badimaya language consultant James Bednall, with language centre’s Rosie Sitorus and Badimaya Elder Ollie George, at Mt Magnet recently, building on Badimaya language work previously done.

Above: The language workshop at the Wirnda Barna Art Centre, from rear left Anne Walsh, Phyllis Simpson, Margaret Simpson, Karen Gilbert, Carol Minney and Gloria Fogarty, with Godfrey Simpson and James Bednall, right.

City officially launches Welcome to Country Guide



City Indigenous Cultural Development Officer, Nola Gregory, with Amangu Elder and Bundiyarra life member, Rob Ronan, and City Director of Community Services, Andrea Selvey, launch the Welcome to Country Guide.

The City of Greater Geraldton officially launched its Welcome to Country Guide at Queens Park Theatre on 10 July, as part of NAIDOC Week.

The guide includes up-to-date information for anyone, on the protocols and processes when presenting a Welcome to Country or Acknowledgment of Country.

City of Greater Geraldton Mayor, Ian Carpenter, said the guide is something everyone should be proud of.

“Not only is it one of a kind in our state, but it also demonstrates that the City values and respects Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples,” he said.

For more information on the Welcome to Country, or to view the guide, visit the City website on www.cgg.wa.gov and search “Welcome to Country”.

Local boy stars in ABC mini series

Bundiyarra-Irra Wangga Language Centre Language Worker, Godfrey Simpson, is a very proud uncle.

His nephew, Brian O'Dene of Kalbarri, appeared in the two part, critically acclaimed ABC mini series, *The Secret River*, that screened on ABC TV on 14 and 21 June.

Friend and fellow Kalbarri resident Ningali Lawford (of *Rabbit Proof Fence* and *Bran Nue Day* fame) sent a short video of Brian to the show's producers and they liked what they saw.

Brian's mum, Amanda Simpson, said it all happened really fast.

"When we were told he had the part it all happened really fast and we were off, which was good but daunting," she said.

Set in the early 19th century, Brian plays the part of an Aboriginal boy, Bunda, who befriends the young children of a white settler.

"Brian talks in two scenes but he appears in many others," Amanda said.

The series was filmed near Melbourne and at Lakes Entrance in Victoria.

"We got to meet a lot of traditional custodians of that area, which was really good," said Amanda.

All of the family's Kalbarri friends were eager to see the mini-series, however Amanda said she thought it might be a bit confronting for kids. "But in saying that it might be good for kids to see to learn more about history," she said.



Secret River young stars at the premiere: Brian O'Dene, centre, with Finn Scicluna-Oprey, who played the role of Dickie Thornhill, and Rory Potter who played Willy Thornhill.

After it aired, the series resonated widely with viewers and there have since been calls for consideration for the series to be included in the high school curriculum.

Brian, Amanda and Uncle Godfrey attended the Melbourne premiere screening on 1 June, thanks to the generosity of the Kalbarri community.

The show's producers couldn't afford to fly all the cast and crew to Melbourne for the premiere special screening, so Kalbarri people rallied, prizes were donated, and raffles were organised that sold out almost instantly, raising enough money to send Brian and Amanda to Melbourne to attend the premiere.

"This was fantastic support from the community, and all Brian's family and extended family are extremely proud of him and his

achievements," Amanda said.

The Secret River is based on Kate Grenville's 2005 multi-award winning book of the same name. It's an historical novel about an early 19th century Englishman transported to Australia for theft and his clash with the Darug Aboriginal people.

The Secret River won a swathe of awards, and was shortlisted for both the Miles Franklin Award and the Man Booker Prize.

The author has dedicated the novel to the Aboriginal people of Australia.

Congratulations to prize-winning Rangeway Primary Indi-genius boys!



Congratulations to Rangeway Primary School's Indi-genius didgeridoo group that won \$10,000 for being the top primary school in the Education Department's Our School's a Star competition.

The prize money will go towards expanding the program.

The judges said the "deceptively simple but powerful program was an exceptional example of an innovative way to tailor teaching to local needs".

Well done boys – and teachers!

Michael enjoys some language work

“Through linguistics I discovered a love of the science behind language...” – Michael O’Belhans

Michael O’Belhans joined the Bundiyarra-Irra Wangga Language Centre for two weeks’ work experience recently.

Michael is a fourth year student at the University of WA majoring in Linguistics and Italian as well as studying some Classics and Ancient History.

He said he’s always been interested in language.

“I started studying Italian in high school, and continued studying it at university. I also picked up linguistics to learn more about the phenomenon of language generally,” he said.

“Through linguistics I discovered a love of the science behind language, as well as a fascination with language’s roles in our lives, and in society, culture, and history.

“I’ve developed an understanding of language’s central place in culture, and a deep respect for its role in



Michael O’Belhans enjoyed two weeks’ work experience at the Bundiyarra-Irra Wangga Language Centre recently.

helping to transmit the rich cultural knowledge, traditions and wisdom of its speakers from one generation to the next,” said Michael.

Michael’s linguistics studies have given him the opportunity to do some work experience at the Bundiyarra-Irra Wangga language centre.

“I’m excited by this chance to get an

inside look at the work to preserve and revitalise the beautiful languages of the Gascoyne and Murchison regions,” he said.

“My hope is that my experience here will help me find equally interesting and important work where I can make a positive contribution to the community!”

State Housing Minister visits Bundiyarra



Bundiyarra staff and board members with WA Minister for Housing Hon Colin Holt, fourth from left, and Hon Paul Brown, MLC, fifth from left, at the Bundiyarra meeting on 1 July.

On 1 July, Bundiyarra Board Members and staff welcomed WA Minister for Housing, Racing and Gaming, Hon Colin Holt, and the Hon Paul Brown to Bundiyarra.

The Minister was keen to gain a further understanding of short term and crisis accommodation needs within

the Mid West, and the history surrounding the closure of the Boomerang Hostel.

In addition, Bundiyarra took the opportunity to discuss its opposition to the application for a proposed liquor outlet at Utakarra. Bundiyarra will continue to oppose this development at every opportunity.

Yungatha (family)....Find the Wajarri words in the grid

G	A	M	I	L	Q	S	W	V	N
M	G	A	N	T	H	A	R	R	I
J	E	H	I	J	K	P	X	T	O
U	Y	U	N	G	A	T	H	A	Y
R	D	F	C	K	B	M	A	Z	X
D	M	O	Q	D	R	A	S	T	W
U	Y	A	G	U	H	M	I	L	J
J	I	N	J	A	M	A	R	D	A
D	F	V	J	O	I	P	Y	Z	G
V	B	C	E	U	M	B	U	W	A



Jinjamarda
(baby/little)



Mama
(father)



Buwa
(little brother)



Gantharri
(grandmother)



Jurdu
(older sister)



Gami
(grandfather)



Yagu
(mother)



Other words to practice

Nyinda – you

Ngatha – I

Nhurra – all/everyone

Balu – he/she

Ngali – me & you

Nhubali – you two

Bula – those two

Thana - they

Ngaliju – me & another

Nganhu – we (including me)

Nganju – us (but not you)

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