

Community Development

NEWS

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ANOTHER AWARD**

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CULTURE CAMPS FOR UTJU MEN

UTJU ARTS CENTRE BACK



WARLPIRI EDUCATION AND TRAINING TRUST WINS NATIONAL HONOUR

Valerie Patterson, Barbara Martin, Fiona Gibson, Helen Morton, Maisie Kitson and Nancy Oldfield, some of the founding members of the Warlpiri Education and Training Trust



The Warlpiri Education and Training Trust has won the prestigious 2024 National NAIDOC Award in the education category. The award recognises the trust's significant impact on Yapa communities.

WETT advisory committee members Sharon Anderson and Maisie Kitson attended the ceremony in Adelaide.

"To go to the national award as a finalist was ngurrju (good), but to hear that WETT won ... I felt so overwhelmed, so proud," Ms Anderson said.

"I THOUGHT OF THE ELDERS, EDUCATORS AND FOUNDING MEMBERS WHO HAVE BEEN GUIDING US ALONG OUR JOURNEY, AND THE FOUR WARLPIRI COMMUNITIES."

For Ms Kitson, a founding member of the WETT, it was an emotional moment.

"WHEN WE HEARD 'WARLPIRI EDUCATION AND TRAINING TRUST,' THE THREE OF US WERE HUGGING. I WAS FEELING HAPPY AND PROUD, AND MY TEARS WERE COMING DOWN."

The Central Land Council set up the trust in 2005. For nearly two decades, the trust has invested more than \$57 million in education programs, including support for children and families, language and culture in schools, youth development, secondary school support and community learning centres

A 16-member advisory committee representing Yuendumu, Lajamanu, Nyirripi and Willowra advises the trust.

The Kurra Aboriginal Corporation, the WETT's trustee, works closely with the CLC to manage the trust funds.

"It's been a great achievement all these years, working with Kurra directors, community

members and partners," said Ms Anderson.

"Everyone is getting involved in children's education. It's for all Warlpiri."

This NAIDOC award honours the trust's commitment to future generations.

In their acceptance speech, the WETT representatives thanked NAIDOC, the Kurra directors and their elders and educators.

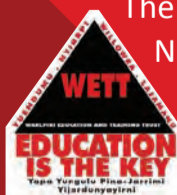
"WE KNOW WHAT IS BEST FOR OUR PEOPLE AND INVEST INCOME FROM OUR LANDS WISELY TO SUPPORT OUR FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES. WE HELP OUR PEOPLE TO HELP THEMSELVES," MS ANDERSON SAID.

The women shared the trust's vision with the audience: "Our language, culture, and decisions will be respected. Our voices will be heard. We will have the same opportunities as everyone else. Our people will be confident, knowledgeable, disciplined, healthy, and respected. They will have good roles and jobs, as will the generations to come."

Project facts: Warlpiri Education and Training Trust

The Warlpiri Education and Training Trust has supported education and training in Nyirripi, Lajamanu, Willowra and Yuendumu since 2005.

The trust receives more than \$3 million every year from Newmont's Granites gold mine for its children and families, language and culture in schools, youth development, learning community centres and secondary school support programs.



The Kurra Aboriginal Corporation meets twice a year to decide how to spend this income and its WETT advisory committee meets three times a year to plan and monitor the five major WETT programs. The trust delivers the programs in partnership with community schools, the Batchelor Institute for Indigenous Tertiary Education and World Vision Australia.

It has invested more than \$60 million so far.

The Community Development News gives Aboriginal people a chance to find out about the many outcomes they are achieving as part of the CLC's community development program.

This newsletter keeps CLC constituents up to date on some of the social, cultural and economic projects Aboriginal groups are planning and funding with

their own money across Central Australia. If you would like more information about this work please contact the CLC on 8951 6367 or visit www.clc.org.au

Maisie Kitson and Sharon Anderson with the 2024 National NAIDOC Education Award



YOUTH PROGRAMS GROW FROM COMMUNITY IDEAS

Elders in Nyirрпи, Willowra and Yuendumu are taking young people out bush for fun activities and cultural learning.

The Central Australian Youth Link-up Service hired a dozen Nyirрпи elders to take young people aged between five and 19 on bush trips between April and June 2024.

One trip brought 13 kids to Walyka, an emu dreaming site, where they listened to stories and played language games with Nyirрпи residents Hilda Rodger and Michaeline Gallagher.

“The day before the trip, the kids couldn’t wait,” Ms Gallagher said.

“IN THE COMMUNITY THEY JUST WALK AROUND AND GO TO THE OVAL AND DO THE SAME THINGS BUT OUT BUSH ITS BETTER. THEY CAN LEARN AND SEE THE BUSH PLANTS AND FOODS AND TRACKS. IT’S GOOD FOR THEM TO LEARN ABOUT OUR COUNTRY.”

Nyirрпи elder Fiona Gibson, a founding member of the Warlpiri Education and Training Trust which funded the program, believes it is important that young people connect with their elders.



Electronic gaming night in Willowra

(centre) Willowra kids decorated bags



“WE WANT PEOPLE WORKING TOGETHER AND MAKING SURE THE COMMUNITY KNOWS WHAT’S HAPPENING,” SHE SAID.

During the school holidays the kids also played electronic games and tried dance therapy.

“We want to see the kids running around, being happy,” Verona Jurrah, a WETT advisory committee member from Nyirрпи, said.

Eleven Willowra elders took family groups to Smokey Bore, the Wirliajarrayi (Lander) River and Eight Mile, where they looked for yarla (bush potatoes), bush tomatoes, yakuntjirri (bush sultanas) and native lemongrass.

In Yuendumu the CAYLUS hired assistant principal Nancy Yamurna Oldfield and Tess Ross to run bush trips.

Ms Oldfield, from the community’s WETT advisory committee, wants more bush trips, camps and creative programs for teens.

The service hired part-time youth workers Luke Cadden and Wendy Lever-Henderson

to organise sports, arts and crafts, cooking, movie nights, music and even hairdressing a few days each month.

“THE KIDS REALLY LIKE LUKE BECAUSE HE’S VERY FRIENDLY AND MAKES FUN GAMES FOR THEM. HE SITS DOWN WITH THEM AND TALKS TO THEM AND TELLS THEM STORIES,” MS GALLAGHER SAID.

The service brought young people from Nyirрпи and Willowra to the Yuendumu Sports Carnival in July and is working to set up a music and art space for young women in Yuendumu.

Feedback from locals has shaped this program of activities.

Yapa researchers asked young people in the three communities what they wanted. They also spoke with older residents.

The communities told them they wanted flexible work, new job skills and a bigger range of activities.



Slime making in Nyirрпи

The program kicked off in April 2024, adding funding from the WETT to the Central Desert Regional Council’s existing programs.

“I feel great when CAYLUS comes to Nyirрпи to run activities because it means the kids are having fun,” said Ms Gallagher.

“IT’S BEEN GREAT TO HAVE CAYLUS COME ALONG TO COUNTRY. IT’S BEEN ALL GOOD WITH CAYLUS SUPPORTING NYIRRPPI. WE WOULD LIKE TO SEE MORE ACTIVITIES HAPPENING.”



Michaeline Gallagher and Hilda Rodger joined young people from Nyirрпи on a bush trip to Walyka

IMANGARA CELEBRATES NEW CHURCH

Imangara residents have fulfilled their long-held dream of a new church.

With its large open area, stage, veranda and kitchen, the church has quickly become a gathering place and is bringing pride and joy to the whole community



Jacob Spratt, Azariah Spratt and Nathan Campbell helped build the church

“THE OLD PEOPLE AND GRANDMOTHERS ALWAYS WANTED THE CHURCH THEY WERE FIGHTING FOR, AND NOW IT’S HAPPENED FOR US,” JACINTHA MORRISON SAID.

“Our grandmothers, Linda and Lucy Dobbs always wanted this. It’s what me and my partner always wanted to push for.”



By the following year, they had invested \$165,000 in matched funds from the Aboriginals Benefit Account, and an additional almost \$402,000 in rent from other community income allowing the project to go ahead.

Alice Springs-based company Pedersens built the church, providing Aboriginal employment of over 100 hours, including local workers Jacob Spratt, Nathan Campbell and Azariah Spratt.



Imangara residents can now use the church to rehearse and perform

Since its completion in March 2024, it has hosted funerals, sing-alongs, Sunday school and band practices in the community, two hours south of Tennant Creek.

“We wanted to see things happen, not just the words and talk, while we’ve got the money to build this community, starting with the church,” Robin Morton said.

“For a long time this place never changed. We needed changes in this place,” he said. “We want to see things happen here.”

The church was very important to the community’s elders.

Sammy Ladd, a senior traditional owner who was deeply involved in the project, sadly did not live to see the new church open its doors.

His funeral was the first event held there.

“Mr Ladd looked forward to the opening and would have been happy with it,” said Ms Morrison.

The community began planning the project in September 2021 with the Central Land Council’s community development program.

“THE CHURCH IS REALLY GOOD. EVERYONE AGREED WITH IT. IT IS IMPORTANT FOR THE COMMUNITY,” SAID MS MORRISON.

The church opening is just the beginning for Imangara.

The community plans to add a bathroom, furniture, fencing and outdoor flooring.

“COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND MATCHED FUNDS HELPED US WITH WHAT OUR GRANDPARENTS WANTED, AND IT IS GOOD. WITHOUT THEM, NOTHING WOULD HAVE BEEN DONE, IT WOULD STILL BE THE SAME. WE’RE LOOKING FORWARD TO THE FUTURE NOW,” SAID MS MORRISON.



Some Imangara residents couldn’t wait to cut the cake

Project facts: Matched Funds

The Central Land Council and the National Indigenous Australians Agency started a trial in 2020 to fund groups that use new income from land use agreements for community driven projects by matching their investments dollar-for-dollar. All communities with new lease income and traditional owner groups with new income from land use agreements between \$50,000 and 150,000 are eligible. A significant amount of the matched funds has gone to groups whose incomes

from land use agreements would otherwise be too small for the projects they want. The trial was extended for another three years in 2023.

Twenty-three traditional owner groups and 27 communities currently take part in the trial. The groups have planned and funded 186 projects with almost \$7 million dollars of their matched funds. Some larger projects have attracted co-funding from other sources with support from CLC’s community development team.

MATCHED FUNDS



Residents like the new toilets

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NEW-LOOK CHURCH IN MOUNT LIEBIG “NICE PLACE TO WORSHIP”

Mount Liebig’s church has become much more comfortable inside and out following some big renovations.

Insulation and air conditioning made the space feel light, cool and airy, while new toilets and concrete footpaths add to the church’s appeal on the outside.

“It was difficult for us before, not having toilets here. We’d have to wait until after the service and go back home. Now it’s easier for us,” Mount Liebig community development working group member Audrey Turner said.



Fans and air conditioners keep residents cool inside



Tristan Robertson, Roderick Kantamarra, Jeffrey Wheeler, Marcus Wheeler, Neil Peterson, Carol Peterson and Audrey Turner from the community development working group

Congregation member Rosalind Dixon agreed.

“HAVING THE RENOVATIONS WILL MAKE THE SUNDAY SERVICES BETTER BECAUSE PEOPLE HAVE BETTER FACILITIES. PEOPLE WHO ARE VISITING FOR SORRY BUSINESS CAN ALSO USE IT,” SHE SAID.

The working group also funded loudspeakers, new chairs and a bubbler. In July, the community launched the upgrades with a BBQ and balloons in St Kilda footy colours.

“The community has come out, families and kids, to enjoy the BBQ and celebrate the opening,” Geoffrey Wheeler, another working group member, said. “We’re happy for these renovations.”

“MY FAMILY COMES TO CHURCH EVERY SUNDAY AND EVERY NIGHT WE SING GOSPEL. WE WANTED THE CHURCH TO BE MORE COMFORTABLE. THIS CHANGE IS GOOD.”

The working group decided in March 2022 to put \$366,000 of the community’s matched funds and lease income towards the renovations.

Centre Build finished the work 15 months later, leaving working group members feeling proud of their achievement.

“Now, when people visit from other communities, they have a nice place to come and worship,” said Ms Turner.

MATCHED FUNDS

ALEKARENGE FESTIVAL KEEPS CULTURE ALIVE

The Artali Festival lights up Alekarenge each year, bringing locals and visitors together to celebrate the traditions of the Kaytetye, Alyawarr, Waramungu and Warlpiri language groups.

The small community, 400 kilometres north of Alice Springs, becomes a vibrant hub of culture through dance, music and storytelling.

“We want our kids to carry on our traditions. That’s why we teach them,” community development working group member Sabrina Kelly said.

At this year's event some children from Alekarenge and Ampilatwatja got painted up and performed for festival-goers.

Local bands Desert Eagles and AC Reggae added to the excitement, keeping the crowd on their feet.

“THE FESTIVAL LETS US SHARE OUR CULTURE WITH EVERYONE—WHITE PEOPLE AND OTHER INDIGENOUS PEOPLE. EVERYONE IS WELCOME,” MS KELLY SAID.

For the past eight years, the community’s working group has supported the Arlpwe Artists Aboriginal Corporation to plan the festival, using \$22,000 in matched funds to finance each of the last two festivals.

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“THE FESTIVAL IS VERY IMPORTANT, SO WE CARRY ON OUR TRADITIONS. WE TEACH KIDS, EVEN BABIES. YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN ARE INVOLVED, AND SO ARE GRANDPARENTS,” ELDER GRAHAM BEASLEY, A CENTRAL LAND COUNCIL DELEGATE, SAID.

“WITHOUT THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT MONEY, IT WOULD BE HARD FOR US. WE NEED IT TO ORGANISE THE FESTIVAL,” SAID MR BEASLEY.

Jimmy Friday (far right) leads a traditional dance at the 2023 festival



MATCHED FUNDS

LAJAMANU WOMEN GET THEIR OWN FOOTY TEAM

Lajamanu's growing youth football program features the community's first women's team.

Thanks to secure funding for the Australian Football League Northern Territory for the next three years the new women's team is already training for its first match in November in Katherine.

"It is good for young women to get involved," Tracie Patrick, a youth worker and Lajamanu Granites Mine Affected Area Aboriginal Corporation (GMAAAC) committee member, said.

"THIS IS GOOD FOR THEM TO LEARN NEW SKILLS, SOMETHING DIFFERENT, AND TO GET AN OUTSIDER VIEW WHEN THEY VISIT OTHER COMMUNITIES FOR COMPETITIONS."



The money comes from Lajamanu's GMAAAC committee, which has allocated more than \$762,000 to fund the program until 2028.

The goal is to get more young people fit and healthy through sport.

The AFL NT runs the program with the Lajamanu school and the Wanta Aboriginal Corporation's Brighter Futures Program. The GMAAAC committee have funded them to deliver Brighter Futures since 2016.

Tom Falker, the AFL NT's remote development manager, organises in-school and after-school activities.

"I like when Tom comes to play footy with us at school," Peter Ross, a Lajamanu student, said.

In May, 34 young people from Lajamanu competed against Kalkaringi in the Michael Long Cup.

The Northern Warlpiri Swans men's team, aged 16 to 35, travelled to Katherine every weekend in June to play in the Big Rivers Football League. They finished fourth in the first round of the finals.

Two players also represented the team in Darwin in August.

At the end of August, seven senior primary school boys spent a week at the Michael Long Learning and Leadership Centre camp in Darwin.



The camp focuses on personal growth and aims to help students balance life in their community with experiences outside it.

It teaches leadership, wellbeing and community values through footy.

The students visited Haileybury, St John's College and other schools, attended numeracy, literacy and wellness lessons, and took part in scavenger hunts and footy skills training.

Student Randy Dixon liked swimming in the wave pool best, while Orsen Fernandez enjoyed meeting people at the camp.

"My favourite part was saying hello to everyone," he said.

Kenneth Walker said: "I liked training with Tom at the Michael Long Centre."

"It's good they're taking kids to Darwin and starting women's football at the oval," GMAAAC committee member Lamun Tasman said.

For younger primary school students, the AFL NT offers an Auskick program with the Central Desert Regional Council during and after school.

The GMAAAC-funded initiatives aim to create jobs and train locals in coaching and umpiring.

The Wanta Aboriginal Corporation, which employs three Yapa staff, will help the league hire and train more local workers.

The league plans to hire at least one male and one female resident for 10 hours a week, aiming to build a pool of casual employees.

The committee has funded the AFL NT to run footy programs in Lajamanu since 2016.



Project facts: Granites Mine Affected Area Aboriginal Corporation

The Granites Mine Affected Area Aboriginal Corporation benefits nine communities affected by Newmont's Granites gold mine in the Tanami Desert - Yuendumu, Lajamanu, Willowra, Nyirripi, Yuelamu, Tanami Downs, Balgo, Ringer Soak and Billiluna.

Every year, community committees plan, and allocate funds to, community benefit projects.

Communities elect committee members every three years and the committees choose the directors of the corporation.

The CLC's community development unit helps the community committees to plan the projects and select partner organisations to implement them.

Since 2008 GMAAAC has allocated more than \$100 million to 1,300 community benefit projects. The projects create jobs for Yapa, contracts for local businesses and support community priorities such as language, culture, education, training, essential services and infrastructure.

The GMAAAC, the Warlpiri Education and Training Trust, and the Newmont Tanami Operations support the CLC's community development work in the Tanami. Some projects in the region have also been supported with funds from the Tanami Mine Affected Area Aboriginal Corporation.



MURALS MAKE YUENDUMU PROUD

Yuendumu has brightened its streets with vibrant murals, using public spaces to promote pride and unity.

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Jason Woods painted the Pintupi Anmatyerr Warlpiri Media (PAW) building

Yapa and visiting artists created striking murals at the women's safe house, Pintupi Anmatyerr Warlpiri Media, the police station, the big shop and the pool.

"It represents Yuendumu, these paintings," Mahalia Hargraves, who painted the safe house mural, said.

"I'M HAPPY. IT HAS BRIGHTENED UP YUENDUMU AND BROUGHT A LOT OF PEOPLE TOGETHER."

The murals use community buildings to reflect Yapa identity and go beyond adding colour to walls.

Renowned Australian street artists mentored five Yapa artists who designed and painted the murals as part of the Ngurrju Mani-njaku Ngurra (making Yuendumu beautiful) project.

"I'm happy and proud that I did this. I was really interested in doing these paintings," said Robin Quinsten Brown, who worked on the 'community jam wall' of the big shop.

"This is good it's happening, so people can get back together as one."

Funded by Yuendumu's Granites Mine Affected Area Aboriginal Corporation (GMAAAC) committee, the 18-month project aimed to give young people something positive to do.

Right from the start, they contributed designs through school drawing exercises and workshops organised by the Wanta Aboriginal Corporation.

Many of their drawings of honey ants, Aboriginal flags and landscapes feature in the design of a 37-metre-long mural at the shop.

Groups of young people ranging from pre-school age to young adults painted this mural over the space of a week.

Visiting artist Kaff-eine helped young people to paint two more murals at the community pool entrance.

Seeing their own great work every day promotes their sense of ownership of the buildings and reduces the risk of vandalism.

"This project is about making young people proud of their community and inspiring them to feel strong," GMAAAC committee member Belinda Wayne said.

"WE WANT TO HELP OUR YOUNG PEOPLE TO GET INVOLVED SO THEY CAN LEARN STORIES, AND SHOW THEM THIS IS SOMETHING THEY CAN DO."

The project gained national attention and praise in June, when Ms Wayne, fellow committee member Jean Brown and Ms Hargraves shared the murals story at the summit of the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies in Melbourne.

Marlpa Jungu Jintangka, an early childhood reference group of the community's child and family centre, came up with the idea to create vibrant, happy spaces for their children.

Red Hot Arts Central Australia produced the murals with support from the Central Land Council's community development unit.

"Before, the community was let down. It wasn't glowing or colourful. But now the murals are painted on the walls, the community is bright and shining and happy," Ms Brown said.

"IT MAKES US PROUD WHEN WE DRIVE PAST AND YOU CAN SEE THESE MURALS. IT'S FROM OUR MIND AND FROM OUR HEART. YUENDUMU IS BEAUTIFUL NOW, WITH ALL THESE COLOURS."

The making Yuendumu beautiful project team at the launch of the murals





The group visited the Westside Community Garden in Alice Springs

YUELAMU RESIDENTS PLAN WATER-SAVING GARDENS

Six Yuelamu residents have shared plans for growing their own food in garden beds that use little water.

David Stafford, Shonelle Stafford, Lisa Cook, Glorine Singleton, Kathy Bagot and Juliet Morris took part in a four-day study tour to Alice Springs to find solutions for growing veggies in the water-stressed community.

In November 2023 they visited the Olive Pink Botanical Garden, Hidden Valley’s community centre and other community gardens.

The group discussed Yuelamu’s hard water, which damages plants. They looked at options such as sand filters in their wicking beds to remove the calcium from the water.

“I learned how to use less water and make it clean for the garden,” said Ms Stafford.

The group explored training in horticulture and land management at the Batchelor Institute.

They also designed a training program tailored for Yuelamu.

At the end of the week the group returned to Yuelamu to put its learning into practice at a workshop with Rattlepod Landscapes.

Together they finalised a home food garden unit design featuring a wicking bed, shade structure and animal-proof screens.

The workshop is part of Yuelamu’s food garden project supported by the community’s Granites Mine Affected Area Aboriginal Corporation (GMAAAC) committee.

The project began in 2021, when residents discussed a central garden to provide fresh fruit, vegetables and gardening skills. Due to water restrictions this was not possible.

“THE PROJECT IS IMPORTANT BECAUSE PEOPLE WANT TO KNOW HOW TO GROW THEIR OWN VEGIES. IT’S CHEAPER AND HEALTHIER THAN BUYING FROM THE SHOP,” SAID MS STAFFORD.

The next year the GMAAAC changed direction and decided to look at home food garden units instead. It contracted Rattlepod Landscapes to keep working with the group. In late 2024 they plan to build a trial home garden unit at the Yuelamu Activity Centre.

If the trial is successful and any design flaws are resolved, the project will roll out to 10 households in 2025.

Ms Stafford hopes to expand the gardens to homes, helping families to grow their own food and become more self-sufficient.

“IN THE FUTURE, I HOPE EVERYONE IN YUELAMU CAN MAKE VEGIE GARDENS AT THEIR OWN HOMES,” MS STAFFORD SAID.



Alice Springs Desert Park Nursery staff talked with the group

They learned about wicking beds - raised container beds in which plants draw up their water from a reservoir below their roots - and explored making raised garden beds from recycled materials such as tyres and drums.

They turned their hands to composting, worm farming and growing plants from cuttings.

“I enjoyed going to all the gardens and visiting the Steiner School,” Shonelle Stafford said.

“THEY ARE ALSO PLANTING BUSH MEDICINES, AND I LEARNED HOW IMPORTANT WORMS ARE FOR THE GARDEN, THE PLANTS AND THE SOIL.”



UTJU MEN RECONNECT WITH CULTURE ON COUNTRY

Utju elders led four cultural camps to teach younger men about tool-making, songlines, and hunting.

The camps took place at four different sites near Utju between March and August 2024.

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Many of the younger men had never visited these places before.

Leonard Kunari was one of the elders who led the camps.

“I TOLD THE STORIES TO THOSE YOUNG FELLAS. THE STORY ABOUT TRAVELLING, DREAMTIME STORIES, EVERYTHING. TJUTA INMAKU – THAT’S CULTURAL STORIES, ABORIGINAL STORIES. WE TOLD THEM STRONG STORIES,” MR KUNARI SAID.

The men cleaned a rock hole and visited two sacred sites.

The Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park traditional owners funded the program with their Uluru rent money, and hired Kings Narrative, an Aboriginal social enterprise, to run the camps.

The group wanted younger men to learn from their elders and feel proud of their culture, and also heal themselves by talking about ‘trouble stories’.

Kings Narrative, led by Arrernte man Tyson Carmody, worked with local men to choose the camp locations and activities.

More than 19 men joined the first of three planning meetings in February, and participation stayed strong throughout.

Kings Narrative employed Mr Kunari, Steven Abbott, Terrence Tucker and Phillip Driffen to help lead the camps.

The elders taught the younger men to make hunting spears - straightening the wood, sharpening the tips and using kangaroo sinew and spinifex resin glue to attach hooks to the tips.

They found a wanari (mulga) tree that gave them bush medicine, tools and food.



Leonard Kunari shared a story with Frank Dixon

In return for this cultural knowledge, the younger men cooked, cleaned and cared for the elders.

Mr Kunari said the camps were a success. “All the young people was pretty happy, talking around stories. The last camp we did a look around [to] tell those stories. Sacred stories.”

Kings Narrative would like to work with the elders again and Utju men are keen to build on the success of the first four camps.

“BE GOOD TO DO MORE CAMPS. I’M PROUD OF THE YOUNG FELLAS,” SAID MR KUNARI.



Camp participants and Kings Narrative staff with traditional tools

Project Facts: Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park Rent Money

Every year since 2005 the traditional owners of the national park have spent a big part of their share of the rent and gate money they get from the Commonwealth on projects in their communities in the Northern Territory and South Australia.

They meet three times a year to decide how to spend that income, and plan and monitor projects. Among the local and regional

projects are upgrades and repairs of sports grounds and outstations, and support for renal dialysis, local and boarding school education. They have set up funeral funds and strengthen local culture through inter-generational knowledge transfer activities. The Mutitjulu community receives its own share of income from the park. It has funded the construction and operation of its swimming pool and upgrades of its

recreation hall and other sporting facilities. The community has also funded men’s ceremonies and cultural trips, an upgrade of the community’s inma (ceremony) ground and a boarding school support program across the region.

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

ULURU RENT MONEY

MUTITJULU ELDERS TEACH INMA

Mutitjulu elders are keeping their culture strong by teaching inma (ceremony) to young women and girls.



Alvina Riley, Janeisha Minutjukur, Jennifer (Lulu) Cooley and Beryl DeRose practice Inma Mutitjulu

“We are concerned about the future of our children and the generations to come,” Rene Kulitja, a member of the Mutitjulu community development working group and a Central Land Council delegate, said.

“WE WANT TO TEACH INMA INTENSIVELY TO THE YOUNG NOW, SO THEY WILL HAVE THIS KNOWLEDGE FOR THE FUTURE.”

The working group planned the inma project in June 2022 and funded it with \$38,000 of its Uluru rent income in February 2023.

The project supported the community-owned-and-operated Maruku Arts, of which Ms Kulitja is a director. The art organisation is doing important work to protect inma.

It has helped young girls gain confidence and experience performing inma.

“The truth is that we learnt from the senior people. They taught us the inma,” singer Pixie Brown said.

“We need the young girls and boys to be learning in the same way. Right now.”

Rolley Mintuma feels the same sense of urgency.

“I’M OLD NOW AND WANT OTHERS TO TAKE MY PLACE IN THE DANCE. I WANT TO TEACH AND GIVE THEM THIS INMA, SO THEY’LL HAVE IT FOREVER,” HE SAID.

The practice sessions started in May 2023 and wrapped up the following October.

The elders planned them with Maruku Arts and held them outside the art organisation’s warehouse, at the Uluru Kata-Tjuta Cultural Centre and at the local school’s Father’s Day event.

The project employed 28 locals. Maruku staff said the community worked together, or “tjungu”, to make the project happen.

Younger women took on many responsibilities, getting back to a cultural way of organising, learning and teaching.

They supervised children, helped elders and prepared meals.

“THE INMA IS REALLY IMPORTANT NOT TO LOSE. IT MUST CONTINUE INTO THE FUTURE FOR THE YOUNG PEOPLE. THEY CAN HOLD IT FOR GENERATIONS TO COME,” SAID MS KULITJA.

Dancers and singers from Mutitjulu community have been invited to perform at the 2024 DanceRites competition in Sydney, Australia’s national First Nations dance competition.



Singers Beryl DeRose, Elaine Woods, Barbara DeRose, Rolley Mintuma, Pixie Brown and Tim DeRose rehearsed the Inma

NTARIA CELEBRATES SUCCESSFUL SPORTS WEEKEND



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AFL action at the sports weekend

Ntaria's basketball, softball and footy teams took on their rivals in a community-driven sports weekend.

No fewer than 12 bands, including Newboys, Markus McDonald and Harold Malbunka, performed during the May long weekend.

Among the Ntaria (Hermannsburg) locals who staged the event were Marianne Malbunka, Cliffy Raggett and Nicholas Williams.

Ms Malbunka organised the softball competition while Mr Raggett and Mr Williams managed the football matches. Taren Williams co-ordinated the whole event.

"Everyone enjoyed their weekend. It was a family event and everyone was happy. No fighting and no problems – that's the message we were sending. Everyone enjoyed the sports and music," Mr Williams said.

"This event showcases that we can run events on our own."

The Ntaria sports and football committee, supported by the local supermarket, pulled together round-robin competitions that attracted

teams from Papunya, Laramba, Utju (Areyonga), Mutitjulu, Yuelamu (Mount Allen) and Ikuntji (Haasts Bluff).

Ntaria's community development working group funded the event with \$16,500 of the community's lease income and money from the matched funds initiative.

The money paid for new sports gear, umpire and organiser wages, food for participants and fuel for team buses.

The locals enjoyed working together, earning some income and creating a positive, energetic atmosphere.

"IT DEFEATS ALL THE NEGATIVITY IN OUR COMMUNITIES. IT BROUGHT PEOPLE TOGETHER. FAMILIES GOT TO SPEND TIME TOGETHER, AND YOUNG ONES BONDED WITH OLDER COMMUNITY MEMBERS," SAID MR WILLIAMS.



Ntaria football lights lit up night games

Project facts: Community Lease Money

The project started in 2012, after two new income streams started to flow.

The first was the Commonwealth's one-off compensation payment for the compulsory leases it took out over 31 communities during the five years of the NT Emergency Response "Intervention".

This money is now spent in most communities. The second is lease money governments and other organisations and service providers pay annually for the blocks they lease in communities.

All communities have working groups to plan and monitor projects - a total of 400 so far.

Since 2012, communities have invested \$21 million into projects - almost \$14.3 million of the five year lease money and \$6.7 million of the other lease money.

Groups have been able to access co-funding from other sources for some projects with support from CLC's community development team.

COMMUNITY LEASE MONEY

NEW SHELTER BRINGS COMFORT TO ARMSTRONG BLOCK

The Elitjja outstation, also known as Armstrong Block, has doubled its accommodation with a new shelter.

The shelter's two bedrooms and outdoor living area are a welcoming space for Wayne Armstrong and his family.

The rooms have split systems for heating and cooling, the outdoor living area is enclosed with mesh and features a kitchen with plumbing.

Ceiling fans and security lights add extra comfort and safety.

"IT'S BEEN GOOD HAVING FAMILY STAY OUT THERE. I TAKE MY MUM OUT SOMETIMES, AND MY AUNTY AND NEPHEWS ALSO HAVE A PLACE TO STAY. SOMETIMES WE GO THERE FOR A WEEKEND." MR ARMSTRONG SAID.

The Tjoritja Central community development working group prioritised the project in 2022, allocating \$182,000 from its rent income from the Tjoritja/West Macdonnell National Park.

Aboriginal-owned business Dynamic Solutions completed it in April 2024.

Mr Armstrong hopes to make the shelter, 30 kilometres south-west from Alice Springs, even better.

"The project has created more space, and now I hope the second part of the project can build a toilet block and a shower," he said.

Mostyn Kentaltja, Wayne Armstrong Senior, Noel Raggatt, Stewart Pareroutja, Andrew Ebaterinja and Fabian Raggett from the Tjoritja Central community development working group



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The shelter's outdoor living area has lights for night-time activities and security

Project facts: Northern Territory Parks Rent Money

In 2010 the traditional owners of 16 national parks and reserves across the CLC region leased their land to the NT government. They use all the rent they get for these jointly managed parks for community benefit projects and the CLC is helping them to prioritise

and plan community benefit projects, mostly on their outstations. The working groups they set up have so far allocated more than \$17.1 million to 365 projects. Groups have been able to access co-funding from other sources for some projects with support from CLC's community development team.

NT PARKS

RESTORED HISTORIC BUILDING NEW HOME FOR ART CENTRE

Utju (Areyonga) has turned one of its oldest buildings into an art centre.

The historic ration store is now a place for people of all ages to come together and make art.

Young artist Stephanie Donald is excited about the new space.

"Me and my mum normally paint at home. Now that the art centre is finished we can come here and paint. Sell the paintings to visitors," she said.

Before the renovation, the community used different places to make art.

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"The first art centre was near the clinic where they used to do batiks. The second one was where the aged care is now. They used to make silk paintings and batiks there," recalled Joy Kunia, who oversaw the renovation of the heritage building.

Residents originally constructed the building from local rock more than 80 years ago.

"THE BUILDING USED TO BE A RATION STORE. BEFORE ME, IN THE EARLY DAYS OF THE 1940S, THEY USED TO GET FLOUR, SUGAR, AND TEA WITH A TICKET," MS KUNIA SAID.

"It's been here since my dad was young," added Lorraine Donald, who has lived in Utju all her life.

The building, with the white-washed walls, later served as a community store before standing empty for many years and falling into disrepair.

The community wanted to upgrade and repair the historic building.

The local community development working group spent \$180,000 from the Aboriginals Benefit Account on the nine-month renovation, which finished last December.

The renovation process faced challenges.

Utju, 220 kilometres west of Alice Springs, lies in a narrow valley, and the building backs onto a steep hill.

Heavy rains and floods have damaged it over the years.

Trident Plumbing and Projects reinforced it with gutters and built a protective dirt wall.

Inside, workers repaired cracked, uneven concrete floors and covered them with soft vinyl tiles.

The leaky toilet is now a thing of the past, replaced with a new toilet, sink, mirror, and handrails for the elderly.

The kitchen now boasts shiny stainless steel benches and hot water taps for the first time in its history.

One of the sinks is mainly for paint clean-up, trapping paint in a box underneath to keep it out of the sewage treatment plant.

Utju's artists had asked for new sturdy table tops with rounded corners and got their wish.



Community development working group member Joy Kunia (far right) with Utju residents at the arts centre

They celebrated the opening of the art centre in February 2024 with a community BBQ.

"We feel happy to have this new art centre. Ladies can come and do painting," Ms Kunia said.

"This is good and different. It looks nice with the new floors and bathroom."

"We will ask the young girls to come and paint. Some of them already know how to do painting. They do painting at home."

A life-size wire donkey sculpture outside the heritage building makes it easily recognisable as an art centre.

Trident Plumbing's Nathan McAuliffe found it dusty and forgotten in the building's back shed during renovations.

"WE BROUGHT THE DONKEY OUT AND ASKED THE COMMUNITY IF THEY WOULD LIKE TO HAVE HIM OUT IN THE OPEN PERMANENTLY INSTEAD OF TUCKED AWAY IN THE BACK. THEY AGREED AND CHOSE A SPOT TO PUT HIM ON DISPLAY," HE SAID.



Utju art centre with donkey sculpture

Project facts: ABA Economic Stimulus Funding

The Australian government gave the Central Land Council \$36.7 million from the Aboriginals Benefit Account in 2021 to boost Aboriginal jobs and businesses after

the COVID pandemic. The CLC is using the money for infrastructure projects across its region that employ Aboriginal people. It helped Aboriginal groups to apply for some of this money.

SOLAR COOL ROOM KEEPS FOOD FRESH FOR LONGER

The Urlampe outstation has invested in a solar-powered cool room to keep their food fresh.

The cool room allows the family to store fresh food for longer, especially when rains cuts it off from Alice Springs, six hours north-west of the outstation.

"This cool room makes everything better for the community," Josh Rankine, a CLC delegate and son of Urlampe traditional owners Shirley and Allan Rankine, said.

"WE CAN STORE THINGS BETTER NOW, AND IT LASTS LONGER. IT'S BRILLIANT. I'M EVEN THINKING OF MOVING MY SWAG IN THERE!"

High grocery costs and difficult road conditions, two of the biggest challenges of remote living, made food storage a priority for the family.

The room brings the family closer to its goal of living on their homeland year-round.

In 2022, Urlampe traditional owners allocated \$122,000 of their income to buy and install the cool room.

They also sourced a \$136,000 grant from the Aboriginals Benefit Account's economic stimulus funding to connect the cool room to solar power. The Australian government gave the CLC these funds in 2021 to boost Aboriginal jobs and businesses after the COVID pandemic.

Despite delays due to bad weather and road conditions, Photon Solar completed the power connection to the cool room in August 2024.



Allan and Shirley Rankine are proud of the cool room



Solar panels power the cool room

ABA

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Central Land Council Community Development (CD) Program report 2022/23 Key Messages

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Community Engagements
Supporting Local Decision
Making

\$33.8 million

Approved for
Projects

240

New Community Benefit
Projects Funded

180

Projects Successfully Completed

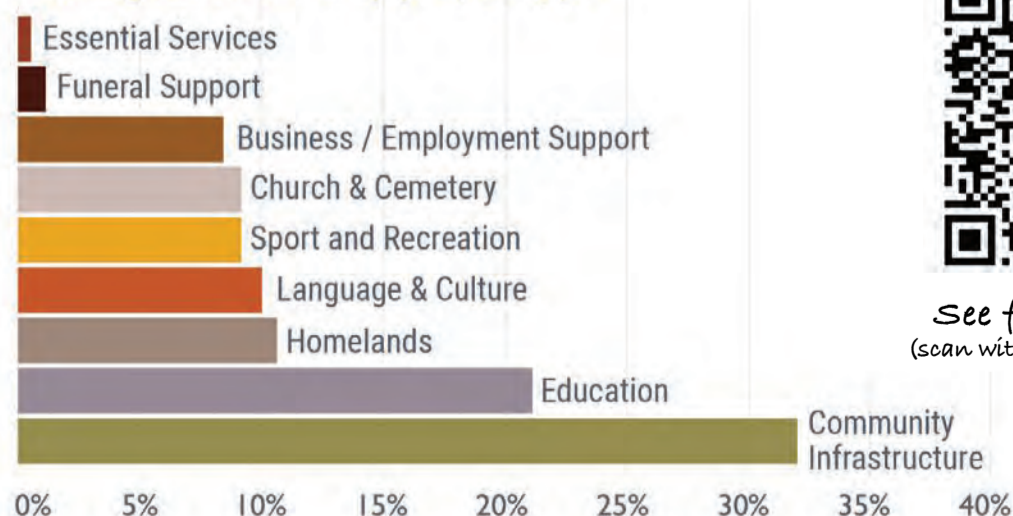
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Governance Groups

By working together on projects... it helps to reach the goal. Especially for the community. Only by working together and supporting each other on the projects can we reach our goals."

(Aboriginal participant, Yuendumu)

Funding allocation \$ by project type



See full report here
(scan with your phone's camera)

MEET THE DECISION MAKERS

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



Purrurtu traditional owners at Manga Manda



Lajamanu GMAAC committee and CLC staff



Chambers Pillar traditional owners



Tjoritja West traditional owner meeting with CLC staff



Mt Peake Akalperre community development working group meeting



WETT advisory committee members and CLC senior community researcher Glenda Wayne



Walpeyangkere community development working group



CENTRAL LAND COUNCIL

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