



Yamatji Marlpa Business

Economic Development News from Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation

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Above: Minister Brendon Grylls, YMAC Chairperson Doris Eaton and Director General of the Department of Regional Development and Lands, Paul Rosair, meet in South Hedland to discuss the governments 'Royalties for Regions' program.

YMAC Meets with Minister Brendon Grylls

In November, YMAC representatives from the Pilbara met with Minister Brendon Grylls to discuss the governments 'Royalties for Regions' program.

The meeting, held on Thursday 5 November at the JD Hardie Centre in South Hedland, was to discuss the Royalties for Regions program and subsequent funding opportunities for local Aboriginal people.

The Pilbara meeting, co-hosted by YMAC, was very successful and was attended by representatives from native

title groups, local government, regional state departments and local community organisations. Topics discussed included housing, infrastructure, health, water allocation, Pilbara Cities and native title.

Royalties for Regions aims to return a percentage of the state's mining and petroleum royalties to regional areas through projects, infrastructure and community services. The program is being implemented by the Department of Regional Development and Lands.

Doris Eaton, YMAC Chairperson said of the meeting, "I'm happy to see the government actively engaging with Pilbara Aboriginal people and talking about the opportunities the Royalties for Regions program could bring to our community. I look forward to more meetings like this in 2010."

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Above: Wajarri Holdings Managing Director, Gavin Egan.

New Indigenous company in the Mid-West

The Mid-West has a new civil and mining company operating in the region - Wajarri Holdings.

Wajarri Holdings has been in operation since January 2009 and is currently contracted to Sinosteel for water cartage and dust suppression at Weld Range.

Managing Director Gavin Egan, who initially started his business by driving the trucks himself, has since recruited additional workers including advisors and office staff. Current demand has also seen the company going from leasing one truck and employing three drivers to leasing a second truck and recruiting three more drivers. Wajarri Holdings is now in the process of purchasing their own trucks.

Although the company is still new, they have been approached by other companies seeking to engage them in small contract work.

Gavin Egan, Wajarri Holdings Managing Director, is pleased with the progress his company is making in the region.

"Through working on small contracts we build our reputation as a trusted and reliable company and in the future we will be at the level to fulfil larger contracts with confidence."

"I would encourage people from all walks of life with the right qualifications to contact Wajarri Holdings for future employment. I would especially like to see local Aboriginal people joining my company and gaining some valuable qualifications," said Gavin.

For more information contact: Gavin Egan on 0427 933 061 or wajarriholdings@gmail.com



Above: Nyiyaparli Country.

Do you want to **Work on Country?**

‘Working on Country’ is about Aboriginal people getting jobs to do environmental work and care for country.

Aboriginal people have been using traditional knowledge to care for country over thousands of years. This includes caring for Australia’s plants and animals, land and sea and heritage.

The Working on Country program is part of the federal governments new Caring for our Country initiative. Caring for our Country brings together a number of previous government programs.

With up to \$90 million available over a five year period, the funding will assist environmental activities that both support the work Aboriginal people want to do and help the Australian government to protect and conserve the environment. This includes protecting land and inland waters, coasts, oceans and heritage.

Indigenous groups or organisations who want to help with this protection are encouraged to apply for funding.

You can apply for funding for a project if you are;

- A incorporated Indigenous organisation;
- Unincorporated Indigenous organisation;
- Non-Indigenous organisation;
- Regional natural resource management body; *or*
- A local government.

Groups or organisations that receive funding must employ Aboriginal people to carry out the project work. Only projects that meet the Working on Country objectives will be chosen for funding.

For more information on the ‘Working on Country’ program:

Murchison and Gascoyne Regions

Contact: Clayton Lewis

Tel: 9921 9519

Email: clayton.lewis@icc.gov.au

Pilbara and Western Desert Regions

Contact: Kevin Walley

Tel: 9140 2536

Email: Kevin.Walley@icc.gov.au



Above: Wajarri Yamatji community members and State Ministers at the ASKAP agreement signing at Parliament House.

ASKAP Agreement brings **Economic Opportunities**

Last month, the Wajarri People celebrated the conclusion of the Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA) for the construction of the Australian Square Kilometre Array Pathfinder Telescope (ASKAP).

The agreement was officially announced at Parliament House by the Wajarri People, the Hon Christian Porter MLA, the Hon Brendan Grylls MLA, the Hon Troy Buswell MLA, and Australia's Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO).

The Wajarri People have approximately 2000-3000 community members and one of the largest native title claims in Australia, including the area chosen for the Australian Square Kilometre Array Pathfinder (ASKAP) telescope. The agreement area covers approximately 130 square kilometres of land, located 175 kilometres west of Meekatharra.

The ILUA provides a number of education, employment, business and contracting opportunities for Wajarri People,

as well as creating cross-cultural training opportunities.

These benefits, in particular up to 70 cadetships with CSIRO over the next 30 years, will create an enduring partnership between the Wajarri People, CSIRO and government parties.

Anthony Dann, Wajarri Traditional Owner said, "This is a great achievement and I look forward to the prospects that education, employment and training can bring to our community. It's an exciting time for Wajarri People, the Mid-West and Australia that such a major development will be happening in our own country."

Wajarri People and YMAC are pleased the ASKAP ILUA has helped CSIRO and the government advance Australia's bid for the Square Kilometre Array (SKA) project.



Above L-R: Meredith Wills (Board Member MWDC), Barbara Merritt, Susan Merry, Tedo Ryan, Wendy Jackamarra, Olive Boddington, Debra Maher, Margaret Whitehurst, Charmaine Green (Yamaji Art Administrator) and Teresa Lawson.

Yamatji Night Sky visits Canberra

The 'Ilgarijiri - things belonging in the sky', exhibition has brought works by Yamaji artists on the night sky to Canberra for the first time.

The launch of the exhibition, on the 27th of November, was held as part of a one day conference at the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS) on Indigenous Astronomy.

The exhibition is part of a larger project between astronomers of the International Centre for Radio Astronomy Research (ICRAR) and Yamaji Art in Geraldton, which explores Aboriginal art and astronomy as part of the 2009 International Year of Astronomy.

The project brings together Indigenous artists and scientists to exchange and celebrate different perspectives about the night sky.

As part of International Year of Astronomy festivities, Ilgarijiri showcases and celebrates the unique culture of Aboriginal artists of the Mid-West. Artists from the Wajarri Yamatji community, who are the Traditional Owners of the land on which Australian scientists hope the next generation radio

telescope - the Square Kilometre Array - will be built, are also part of the exhibition.

The project has been nominated for a Western Australian Science Award – Science Outreach Program of the Year, and was recently featured on ABC's Message Stick.

To view the artwork from the Ilgarijiri project, visit:

www.yamajiart.com



Above: YMAC Chairperson Doris Eaton, YMAC Director Natalie Parker, Nyaparur Rose, YMAC Chairperson Roy Bellotti and YMAC CEO Simon Hawkins congratulate Nyaparur Rose at the Nyangumarta native title determination in June this year.

Training Opportunities for **Aboriginal Corporations**

Aboriginal corporations in Western Australia can now access training opportunities to improve their organisations operations.

The training programs, developed by the Office of the Registrar of Indigenous Corporations (ORIC), are designed for staff and board members of Aboriginal corporations. Training covers:

- What becoming a corporation actually means;
- The costs, benefits and legal responsibilities involved;
- The key features of registration under the Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act; *and*
- How to develop a good corporation rule book.

The variety of courses available are designed to improve the management of corporations and provide accessible training through mainstream and Indigenous-specific providers.

Nyaparur Rose, a Nyangumarta Traditional Owner, recently graduated with a Certificate IV in Business (Governance). The course, run by ORIC and Karratha TAFE, provided

training in business development, finance and governance matters.

Nyaparur Rose will now use the skills she has gained from the course to help run the Nyangumarta People's prescribed body corporate, 'Niyamarri Pukurl Aboriginal Corporation.'

"After graduating from the course I feel very confident about the future of the Niyamarri Pukurl Aboriginal Corporation. By gaining extra training and knowledge I can pass it onto my people and we can all benefit from a successful and well run organisation," said Nyaparur.

For more information on ORIC's training courses, contact:

Tel: 1800 622 431

Email: info@oric.gov.au

Visit: www.oric.gov.au



Above: Visitors admire local Aboriginal artwork at the Gascoyne Aboriginal Heritage and Cultural Centre - Gwoonwardu Mia.

Gascoyne Artists Shine in **Exhibition**

Carnarvon's culture and heritage centre, Gwoonwardu Mia, recently opened its first Aboriginal art exhibition.

The opening, on 23 October, was a tremendous success and was attended by over 130 people, including artists and community members. Celebrations began with an official welcome and speeches and continued with entertainment by Raymond Edney and the Sundown Band and bush tucker served from the Yallabirri Café.

The exhibition showcases and promotes high quality traditional and contemporary artworks created by talented Aboriginal artists of the Gascoyne region. The 21 featured artists are from across the region, including; Shark Bay, Denham, Carnarvon, Gascoyne Junction, Burringurrah and Exmouth.

Art on display includes a range of works including painting, drawing, printmaking, sculpture, woven fibre-work, textiles and wood carvings. Many of the artworks are available for sale.

The Gascoyne Aboriginal Heritage and Cultural Centre hopes the exhibition raises the profile of the regions Indigenous

artists and helps create new opportunities. Exhibiting artists have expressed an interest in the potential for future business opportunities, and plan to explore the idea of networking forums to talk about their aspirations for developing their arts practice.

For further information about the Aboriginal Art Exhibition, please phone the Gascoyne Aboriginal Heritage and Cultural Centre on 9941 1989, or come in to the Cultural Centre. The Gascoyne Aboriginal Heritage and Cultural Centre is open Monday – Friday 10.30am – 3.30pm.

Seasons Greetings from YMAC



Above: Budina country.

Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation's (YMAC's) offices in Perth, Geraldton, Karratha, South Hedland and Tom Price will be closed for the festive season from Wednesday 23 December 2009, opening on Monday 4 January 2010.

YMAC's regional committees, Board of Directors and staff would like to wish all community members a happy and safe festive season.

YMAC looks forward to working with Yamatji and Marlpa Aboriginal people in 2010 to pursue:

- Recognition and acceptance of Yamatji and Marlpa culture in Country; *and*
- A strong future for Yamatji and Marlpa people and Country.

ABOUT US

Yamatji Marlpa Business is produced by the Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation (YMAC).

We are the native title representative body for native title claims in the Murchison, Gascoyne, Mid-West and Pilbara regions of Western Australia.

We work with Yamatji and Marlpa (Pilbara) Aboriginal people to pursue:

- Recognition and acceptance of Yamatji and Marlpa culture in country
- A strong future for Yamatji and Marlpa people and country

MEMBERSHIP

YMAC membership is open to all adult Yamatji and Pilbara people. Our membership also includes people who live in other areas but who have a traditional connection to Yamatji or Marlpa (Pilbara) country.

SERVICES

Our work includes:

- Providing legal representation and research to assist with native title claims

- Negotiating land use agreements
- Heritage protection services
- Community, economic and environmental projects

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