

# GUMALA NEWSLETTER

September, 2017



## Karijini Experience

Gumala were proud platinum sponsors of the 2017 Karijini Experience, hosted by Nintirri Centre held between 11 – 15 April 2017.

The Karijini Experience is about “experiencing” Karijini National Park and the Inland Pilbara in many different ways that promote connection, culture and country.

The event hosts many free, family friendly activities and workshops focused on art, culture and enrichment.

The Wirlarra Rising on April 11 (pink moon) is the official opening of the Karijini Experience with Banyjima Elders, Maitland Parker and Brian Tucker performing a Welcome to Country followed by traditional dancing.

Deadly artists including Archie Roach (right), The Pigram Brothers, Frank Yamma and others entertained the crowds over the 4-day event.

Gumala is committed to showcasing Banyjima Country and Karijini National Park by continuing as platinum sponsors for 2018.

Information can be found at [www.karijiniexperience.com](http://www.karijiniexperience.com)





## GAC Chairperson Report



Steven W. Dhu (Chairperson)

**Thannarru,**

Welcome to our second newsletter of the year.

It has been a busy period for the GAC Board and Management with some exciting times on the horizon in this period of change.

In April, we held an extraordinary general meeting to decide whether to elect a new trustee or retain GIPL for another five-year term. Several beneficiaries aired concerns about the GIPL Board, including the structure, poor investment decisions and costs incurred. Majority (54%) of the beneficiaries who attended the meeting voted to remove GIPL, but this failed to meet the 75% requirement under the General Gumala Foundation Trust Deed.

However, in recognition of the concerns made by beneficiaries, three GIPL independent directors - Colleen Hayward, Rachelle Towart and Chris Pye - were removed under Clause 28 (b) (iii), which allows for GAC to remove any independent director during the period of 90 days after the expiry of any minimum term of the Trustee.

I am pleased to announce that Irina Catallini, Ian McPherson, and Brendon Grylls as Chairperson have been appointed as independent directors on the GIPL Board. We look forward to a good working relationship in the interest of all traditional owners.

We are happy to report that member programs have been reinstated. While the GAC Board is dedicated to delivering programs and services to our members, it is important to recognise that there has been a significant decrease in land disturbances by Rio Tinto and our funding has dropped considerably compared to previous years. Therefore, funding the same number of programs is not possible. Land use income dropped from \$4.38 million in the first quarter of 2016/2017 to \$220,390 in the fourth quarter.

GAC staff are working hard to secure external funding to supplement programs and have successfully received

a \$55,000 grant for the Cane River Lore Ground. This is one such example of the way in which GAC is working to alleviate the impact on trust funds. More information about the member programs can be found online here: <http://gumala.com.au/wp-content/uploads/Gumala-Member-Program-Guidelines-WEBSITE.pdf>

To date, GAC has 1514 adult beneficiaries, in addition to the 1300 children we help through education support programs. The response from the recent survey allows us to commence budget and program preparations for the 2018-2019 financial year, that can offer relief to our families.

As some of you may have seen in the media, GAC announced in July that it had launched legal action against former Chief Executive Officer Steven Mavrigiannakis (Steve Mav) in relation to alleged breaches of his employment contract and the duties he owed by reason of his former position. GAC has instructed King & Wood Mallesons to represent the corporation in the proceedings against Mr Mavrigiannakis, who was employed as the GAC Chief Executive Officer from January 2008 to May 2015. GAC is seeking compensation orders as part of this action.

Regrettably, the Registrar of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Corporations previously declined to commence legal proceedings against Mr Mavrigiannakis, which meant that it has fallen to GAC to institute these proceedings. The GAC Board has decided to pursue this matter in an effort to recover the loss and damage the corporation has suffered. These proceedings are in the interests of good corporate governance and the interests of members of the corporation as a whole.

Moreover, the GAC Board thanks the Gumala family for your support and your understanding.

**STEVEN DHU, GUMALA ABORIGINAL CORPORATION CHAIRPERSON**



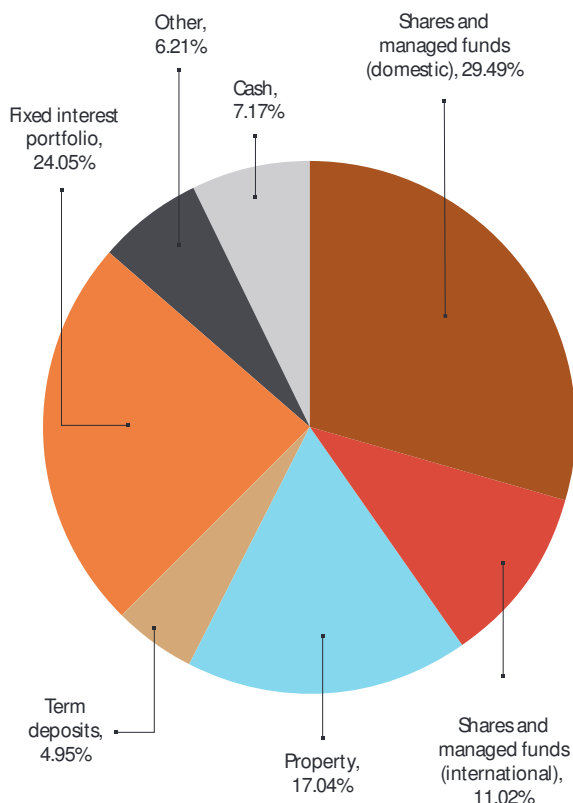
# Asset News

The General Gumala Foundation Trust is pleased to announce that as at 30 June 2017 it had total assets under investment of \$99.00M, up from \$87.9M at 30 June 2016. Included in this amount are cash investments of \$9.35M for funding of member programs for the forthcoming 2017/18 financial year and beyond.

With a focus on increasing returns on capital, the Trustee has directed more funds into investments in domestic and international shares over the past 12 months, whilst investments in property have decreased overall following further tightening of the property market requiring reductions in value for the Tom Price and South Hedland properties.

With Net Assets of \$90.6M in June 2017, the Future Fund has grown 3.4% from \$87.6M in June 2016. The Trustee is firmly focused on the continued growth of the future fund and the generation of investment income to supplement the reduced levels of land use income being received under the Yandi Land Use Agreement.

## Gumala Investments Pty Ltd ATF General Gumala Foundation Investments: Current Asset Allocation



*Pictured with Grandfathers: Gary Dickie (Left) Layne Dhu-Dickie (Centre) Phillip Dhu Snr (Right)*

## Gumala assists budding young artist

**Deadly young Banyjima comic artist, Layne Dhu-Dickie from Hedland received support from Gumala through the donation of art supplies to continue his dream of becoming a successful comic artist.**

Layne's mum Sharmaine wrote to Gumala seeking assistance to purchase specific art supplies for Layne's comic creations. At age 13, Layne has been sketching comics for nearly two years and recently was selected to exhibit his work at the Fremantle Revealed Art Exhibition.

His talent was first noticed by the Spinifex Art Studio in Port Hedland who commissioned work from him after an artwork he submitted was sold at the 2016 Hedland Art Awards. Spinifex Art Studio then commissioned a comic and Layne's skill and talent was recognised by a successful art collector who purchased the original comic panels of Captain Hedland. Copies of Captain Hedland comic are available for purchase through the Spinifex Art Studio in Port Hedland.

Layne drew artistic inspiration from reading Marvel and Wolverine comics as a young lad. He follows in the steps of his father and pop who are both talented artists and aims to be a successful comic artist in the future.

He is currently in the process of creating a new comic about villains after successfully showcasing his first comic piece titled Captain Hedland. The comic tells a story about fighting crime, drugs & alcohol within his hometown of Port Hedland.

Layne's family are very proud of his achievements and recognises the importance of fostering his talent and appreciates the support provided by Gumala.

He has agreed to create a comic specially designed for Gumala. Watch this space! **Well done Layne!**

# Survey Snapshot

## Man have we been busy!

We are glad to inform Members that the GAC Consultation Survey has been our most successful engagement with Members to date with a total of 938 participants, a whopping 64% of the Membership! We would like to thank all Members who participated in our survey and the other organisations that assisted our Members with getting their surveys back to GAC.

Already we can see that performing one of our annual consultations with Members in this way enables the Corporation to engage more broadly with the Membership and gives the Members a forum where they can speak freely to us about the things they need or feel. We hope to continue to diversify our engagements with our Members so we can continue to capture more voices and ideas from our deadly mob, who know what they want for their families!

A findings report is being prepared for the GAC Board who will report back to the Members accordingly about any outcomes they would like to share. All findings and data from the survey will be de-identified, meaning no names or personal information will be disclosed in this report. Until then, here are some snapshots of the data found through the 938 participants of the survey:

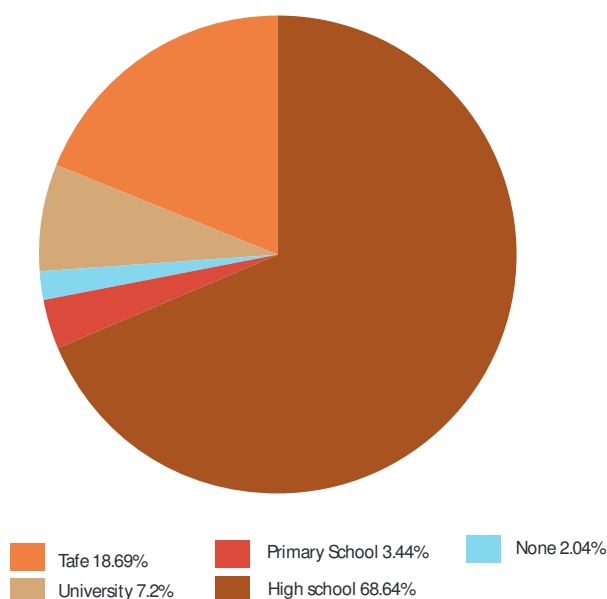
## Population

- 33.4% of Member's bank account details were out of date;
- 30% of Members needed to update their address and other contact information;
- The average number of people per household was roughly 3.7 persons. This is higher than the census data reported for WA in 2016, which shows an average of 3.3 persons per household for Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander people.
- Only 4.6% of participants noted household populations of 8 people and above.
- 68.8% of the Membership have children, the average number of children per Member being 2.8, again higher than the census data of 1.9 children per family.

## Education

For most Members, high school was the highest level of schooling completed, mostly up to year 10. Only roughly 2% of Members have no formal education. Roughly 26% of the Membership have gone on to pursue education at Tafe or University. We would hope to see this figure rise in future years with emerging generations.

### Highest level of schooling completed

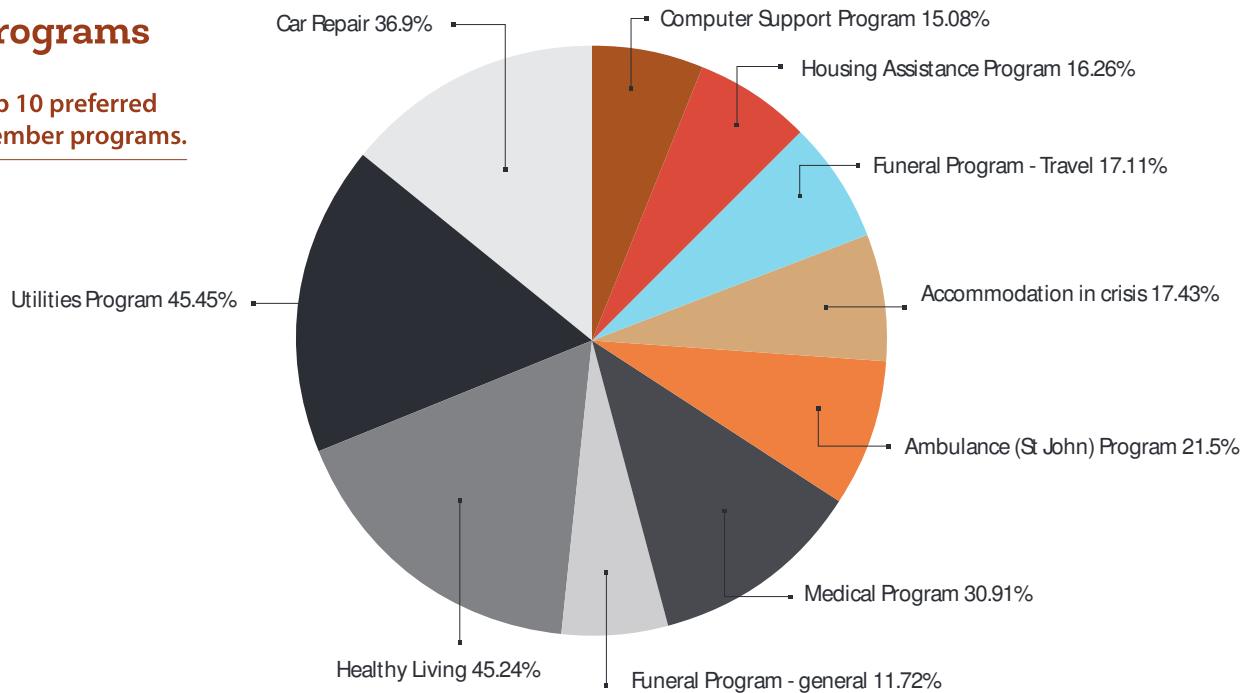


Phil Carey with grandkids Kalisa and Kyrle



## Programs

### Top 10 preferred Member programs.



## Health & Advocacy

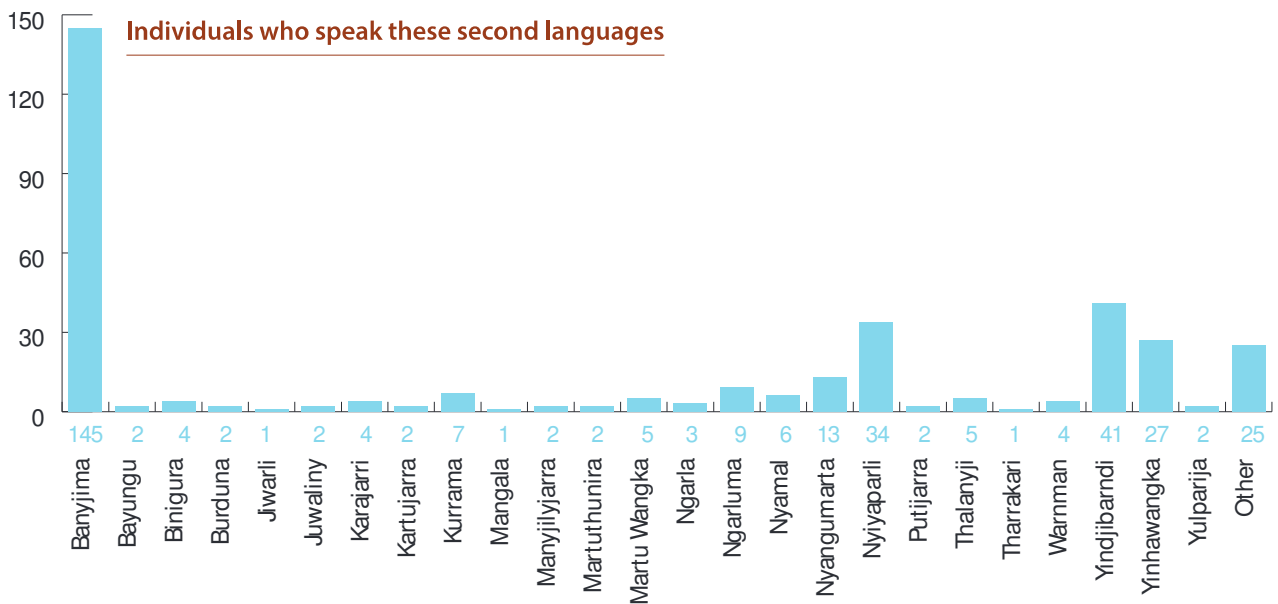
- 33% of the Membership are suffering from illnesses, disabilities, mental health issues or chronic diseases;
- The most commonly reported issues were diabetes, asthma, depression and other mental health issues, heart disease and high blood pressure.
- 86% of participants reported drug and alcohol abuse as an issue in their community.

- The most commonly drugs were reported as marijuana, methamphetamines and ice.
- The most common types of alcohol reported were beers and spirits.

## Culture

22% of people can speak another language at home. The graph below represents the number of individuals who can speak the languages shown.

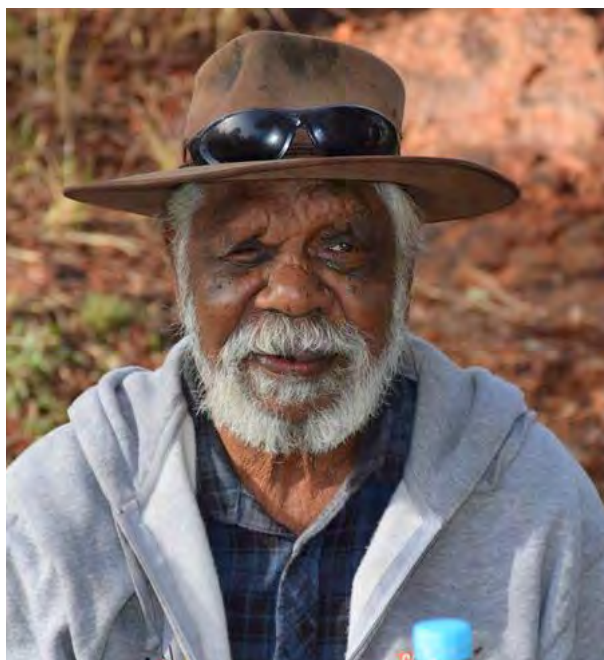
### Individuals who speak these second languages



# Tom Price NAIDOC Celebration 2017

This year's celebrations were held at the Cultural Centre on the 24th June. Gumala had the privilege of hosting the event along with the Shire of Ashburton and various other Community stakeholders.

The event included a Flag Raising Ceremony and Welcome to Country performed by Wayne Stevens, who is a local Eastern Guruma Traditional Owner. Other guests and entertainers included Phil Walleystack and Innawonga's, Marlon Cooke and Dancers. We also had adult and children's art activities, storytelling sessions, a free sausage sizzle and giveaways. The Torres Strait Islander kids performed a song in their language and also displayed traditional artefacts. Everyone enjoyed the traditional food showcase of kangaroo tail stew and damper.





# BELLARY SPRINGS BUS SERVICE

In March and April this year Gumala liaised with School Bus Services and Paraburdoo Primary School to offer support in transporting children from Bellary Springs Community to Paraburdoo.

A total of seven primary-school aged children were enrolled at Paraburdoo Primary School. With no bus available, parents were responsible for making the 60km round trip twice each day to get their kids to school.

School Bus Services agreed to implement a 6-month trial of a service to and from Bellary Springs, which commenced on 12th June. The provision of public bus services for the children at Bellary takes considerable strain off families, and means that children have the same opportunity as other students to learn, develop and grow in an education system irrespective of their location.

Gumala is committed to meeting the educational needs of our families and their children. Our education manager is responsible for the facilitation of educational programs and initiatives, working closely with families and their school aged children in an effort to identify and implement strategies to increase their attendance and engagement at school.

If you would like support interacting with schools, please call and ask to speak with the Education Manager.



## GAC Resource Centres

As a GAC member, you can attend our resource centres to:

- Use a computer
- Surf the web
- Print documents
- Submit job applications
- Develop a resume
- Catch up with friends
- Read a book
- Complete homework/study
- Boardroom hire (Tom Price)

**OUR CENTRES ARE FREE TO MEMBERS AND OPEN MONDAY TO FRIDAY FROM 830AM – 500PM**

### LOCATIONS:

**TOM PRICE – GUMALA OFFICE,  
1 STADIUM ROAD, TOM PRICE**

**PERTH – LEVEL 2/165 ADELAIDE TERRACE, PERTH**

**PHONE: 08 9188 4500**



# Understanding your finances

First Nations Foundation is a national Indigenous charity passionate about economic freedom for First Australians.

If you want to navigate your finances by increasing your understanding of budgeting, setting financial goals, making wiser consumer choices and setting up financial plans, let us know.

Topics:

- Our history, our money
- Setting the foundations
- Overcoming barriers
- Making money stretch past payday
- Make the bank work for me
- Credit can be a wealth hazard
- Looking after my future
- Self-reflection



Delivered by Indigenous trainers, the program is built around conversation. People tell their own stories in a setting that respects Indigenous values around family, relationships and resource sharing.

The program encourages people to share their experiences by discussing how money can be managed to meet your financial, family and cultural needs.

If you are interested in learning more, please contact the office and ask to speak with the Education Manager.



Check out our new website and Facebook page. Facebook handle is @gumalaaboriginalcorporation and website is <http://www.gumala.com.au>

## School Attendance Incentive Program

The iPad attendance incentive is now over. Congratulations to our winners!

### TERM ONE WINNERS:

Ashton Hayter  
Shakira Carter  
Abigail Mario  
Charlize Lockyer  
Roharni Simpson  
Layne Dhu-Dickie  
Harrison White  
Jayden Lewis  
Nicholas Vince  
Justin Whitby

### TERM TWO WINNERS:

Lou-Anne Steer  
Henry Lockyer  
Melina McKenzie  
Tremaine Roberts  
Jaxson Ryan  
Donita Drage  
Cyprus Coffin  
Mathew Johnson  
Calib Hammer  
Jacob Armstrong



Henry Lockyer, Term Two Winner

*"I just wanted to express our gratitude and thanks to GAC for running this Program. Henry is extremely proud of his achievement and his wonderful prize."*





## BMX Day

On 3rd June Gumala partnered with the Shire of Ashburton and Tom Price BMX club to take part in BMX training and mentoring sessions.

Jade McPherson a famous BMX rider came to Tom Price to do workshops with kids of all ages.

A bus went out to Bellary Springs and Wakuthuni communities and brought eight kids across for the day. Board Member Darren Injie also came along.

BMX bikes and safety gear were provided by the BMX club volunteers cooked up a BBQ storm for everyone and Jade donated his time and a huge amount of energy working with everyone.

Everyone went home with BMX shirts, water bottles and big smiles.







## Homeland tour provides chance for dialogue between members and Gumala

Senior Gumala staff, including Gumala Chairperson Steven Dhu and Executive Officer Jahna Cedar, took part in a three-day homeland tour in early September in an attempt to create an open and honest dialogue with members.

The contingent of Gumala staff visited Wakuthuni, Bellary Springs, Bidiltha, Youngaleena and Wirrilimarra, with invitation extended to Mingullatharndo and Bardulnah.

The tour gave members the chance to speak directly with Gumala about the activities of the General Gumala Foundation (GGF) and have candid discussions about community concerns.

During the trip they were able to gain community specific direction on matters of cultural significance and long term sustainability, as well as complete an audit of unfinished projects from the last five years, allowing them to prioritise future actions based on current community needs.

"It was amazing to be welcomed by so many community members, get in touch with their real needs and address some of the legacy issues. It was a fantastic opportunity to re-establish working relationships," said Chairperson Steven Dhu.

There was surprise from some homeland representatives at the trip, as this was the first time an EO and Chair had toured these communities. Many welcomed the opportunity to engage on their homelands and have conversations with Gumala.







"There needs to be regular contact in community by GAC staff. We need to develop a community engagement strategy and community development action plan. Gumala was created from grassroots and it is essential we remember the origin vision of the corporation," said Executive Officer Jahna Cedar.

The tour also included a visit to Bellary Springs to see rock art and the opportunity to enjoy a feast of fresh kangaroo and damper with Banyjima and Nyiyaparli Elder Timothy Parker from Youngaleena.



## **GAC reaches semi-finals of 2017 Western Australian Regional Achievement and Community Awards**

Gumala Aboriginal Corporation has reached the semi-finals for the Community TAB Community Service Award in this year's Western Australian Regional Achievement and Community Awards.

The Awards aim to encourage, acknowledge and reward the valuable contributions that individuals, groups and businesses are making throughout rural and regional Western Australia. Gumala has been recognized for the work it does for members in the Pilbara, in particular the impact of our 3a program.

A full list of semifinalists was announced in the last week of August for the annual set of awards, and there is a strong field of semi-finalists from across the state. A panel of judges will determine the finalists in September before the winners for this year's awards are announced at a gala dinner in Perth on October 20.

The dinner, which will be hosted by Noel Brunning of GWN7, will feature a special on stage ceremony highlighting this year's semi-finalists and reading a list of each organisation's achievements. Regardless of the outcome, it's an honour to be recognised in such stellar company.



## 3a Early Childhood Education activities



### Wakuthuni

This term the children and families at Wakuthuni attended the Teddy Bears Picnic. This was made possible thanks to the Gumala bus driving children and their parents into Tom Price to attend this community event.



### Warralong

The 3a Playgroup at Warralong has been making the most of the cooler weather and taking playgroup 'out bush' a couple of times per week. Both parents and the children have enjoyed the change of environment which has also encouraged other members of the community to come and join the group and share their language and culture.



*Walking through Catrall Park to celebrate Heart Week*

### Karratha

The 3a playgroup participated in the Heart Week activities organised by the Heart Foundation, Karratha. Making healthy fruits cups with the children as well as walking through Catrall park focused family's awareness on the benefits of healthy eating and exercise.



*Making Healthy Fruit Cups*



### 3a Professional Development – Port Hedland

At the beginning of school term 3 all 3a staff attended a day of professional development held in Port Hedland. It was a great opportunity for everyone to meet each other and talk about their centres and share ideas. Everyone enjoyed the hands-on practical workshops designed to build on participant's skills and knowledge of the different learning strategies used in the 3a program.





Above: Learning Games – 3a Centre Karratha

## 3a Early Childhood Education Program

**To all Parents, Caregivers and Guardians:  
Please join us for this free, exciting program with your children**

3A EARLY LEARNING CENTRES	ADDRESS	OPERATING TIMES
South Hedland	Child and Parent Centre	Monday- Friday 8.30am – 11.30am
Wakuthuni	Wakuthuni Community	Monday- Friday 9.00am – 12.00pm
Warralong	Warralong Community	Monday- Friday 8.30am – 11.30pm
Karratha	10 Hedland Place	Monday- Friday 9.00am – 12.00pm
Pebourne	Child and Parent Centre	Tuesday-Thursday 9.00am – 11.30am
Marble Bar	Recreation Shed	Monday-Friday 8.30am – 11.30am



The 3a program provides a high level of early childhood education and support for parents and their children aged 0-4 years through educational games, conversational reading and enriched care giving.

This program recognises the importance of parents as the child's first teacher and empowers them to support their children's learning by carrying out the activities at home that have been taught at the centre.

Any queries please contact: Julie Christine - Gumala Aboriginal Corporation 0448 821 101

Right: Blowing bubbles - 3a Centre at Wakuthuni





# Cane River Lore Camp Upgrades

GAC recently secured \$55,000 from the Department of Aboriginal Affairs under the "Preserving Our Aboriginal Sites Grants Program" to assist with the upgrades of the amenities and any general maintenance work that is required at Cane River.

The Lore ground is considered to be one of the best places in the Pilbara to practice Lore, though many of the stories, songs and traditions are from Banyjima country. Annual ceremonies are held at Cane River and many other different tribes participate in the ceremonies not, just the Banyjima people. Cane River Lore ground is currently the most frequently used Lore ground in the Pilbara region, and as a result Gumala has put significant effort into developing it into a safe and usable place for the future.

The maintenance of old and inclusion of new infrastructure is essential, as the health and wellbeing of the people who utilise the facilities is very important. They are the knowledge holders of our cultural Lore practices and they need to be physically and mentally strong. This ensures that they are in a fit state to teach the younger generation our cultural Lore practices, so that it's never

lost or forgotten about. Many Aboriginal people in the Pilbara region consider Cane River as their home, a safe place where they can practice their traditions without scrutiny from the wider community. It's their connection to the old people that have passed and the legacy they left for them to carry on.



## Community Projects

### WIRRILIMARRA —

GAC continue to meet the needs of Wirrilimarra by successfully completing a partially built shed and laying a concrete verandah around the single accommodation house. GAC are now in the process of exploring energy options through the use of solar power at the community.

### LORE CAMP MAINTENANCE

GAC has committed another \$50,000 for the 2017/18 financial year to support Lore & Culture by providing up to

\$10,000 in financial assistance to ceremonies for Gumala members.

Funding can be used for:

- Servicing of generators used at Lore
- Servicing of tractors/machinery used for Lore
- Water systems tested & treated
- Clearing of waste on camp ground

To apply, contact our Community Project Officer on 08 9144 8500







# HEDLAND REDS LITTLE LEAGUE BASEBALL STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS 2017

On behalf of the LLBB Hedland Reds State Championship teams we would like to thank GUMALA Aboriginal Corporation for their financial contribution enabling the Machine Pitch and Development Shield teams to compete in the State Championships in Perth. The LLBB Committee's aim is to continue growing our club and providing our players with the opportunity to compete in the future.

## DEVELOPMENT SHIELD

This year's Hedland Reds DS team consisted of Hedland Players and two girls from outside our Charter - one from Geraldton and the other from Paraburdoo. The kids played excellent over the long weekend. Friday's game they won, Saturday we saw them head into a double header playing on the main diamond these games were commented. To our little Pilbara kids they felt like they had made it to the big leagues. With a loss in the first game and a 20 minute break before playing their second game of the night. The kids dug deep with a nail bitter of game to take out another win this game had the Hedland supporters on their feet cheering, the atmosphere felt like the grand finals. Sunday Hedland Reds were down 5-0 with the kids finding their rhythm the kids came back 5-5 with Hedland batting in the last dig bringing a runner home to win the game 6-5. Monday we saw exhausted kids give it their all but lose this game. Overall Hedland Reds DS placed 3rd on the ladder not bad for little country kids who only play 10 weeks out of the year and playing the same kids every week.



Warrick Lee (Ass. Coach), Dean Marlow (Coach), Zoe Purcell, Jahmela Jones, Wyatt Wilson, Chris Wilson (Ass. Coach), Shelley Glasson (Team Manager), Tyler Armstrong, Kayden Dann, William Glasson, Xavier Lee, Jacob Armstrong, Ethan Keating, Cooper Marlow, Hayden Keating

## MACHINE PITCH

Hedland Reds MP team which included two boys from Perth was full of excited and nervous players with the majority playing for the first time in the State Championships held in Perth. We were the only team outside of Perth competing in the State Championships. Day 1 and Day 2 started off with a round robin 4 game series - we finished the round robin with 1 win and 3 losses. Day 3 saw the first of the final series played out with an 8 to 3 win - the entire team played brilliantly - their fielding, catching and batting was amazing with Tyler Dann hitting a home run, above all their sportsmanship towards each other and the competing team was highly commendable. Day 4 was the final game of the State Championships and unfortunately the Hedland Reds were unable to finish a memorable weekend with a win.

A fantastic weekend of baseball by all players, the sportsmanship and team spirit which shown over the weekend was amazing to watch and a credit to all players.



Teneal Russell (Pitcher), Zack Mokta (Ass. Coach), Riley Marlow, Bailey McKie-Farber, Riley McGrath, Ian Beale (Coach), Kylee Armstrong (Team Manager) Oliver McDonald, Mezzger Treloar, Dylan Noble, Jesse Tavo, Tyler Dann, Riley Russell, Hakim Mokta





ICN 2744

**Celebrating 20 Years**

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