

# GUMALA NEWSLETTER

May, 2018



*Anthony Stream, Veronica Stream and Geraldine Stream*



*Jody Narrier, William and Jaxon*



*Ronald, Charmaine and Rubin*

## New Shirts to Celebrate 20 Years of Gumala

**As part of our 20th anniversary celebrations, a competition was held to design a commemorative shirt.**

The winning design was created by a young Banyjima beneficiary, Layne Dhu-Dickie, whose great grandfather worked out on the windmills at Mulga Downs Station.

The design represents station and family life in the years past, and honours elders who worked and lived out on country in extreme conditions.

The colours of the shirt represent the sun, the people, and the land, much like the Aboriginal flag.

For those interested in obtaining a shirt, an order form is included in this pack if you have not already requested one. Members can also find the form on our website, under the 'Programs & Services' section.

Please note: Due to a limited number of shirts, there is currently a limit of one shirt per member. If you would like to apply for additional shirts, please contact the office on 1800 486 252.

# Chrisco Hampers Prove a Hit

**At Christmas, Gumala Aboriginal Corporation was able to offer all of our members a Chrisco hamper. The hampers contained a variety of festive food products to assist families in alleviating some of the financial hardship associated with the festive season**

All members were able to apply for a hamper, which were then delivered to members or dropped off at a depot for collection ahead of the Christmas holidays.

The hampers proved very popular, with over two-thirds of the membership applying to receive a hamper. Here's some of the responses from members:



“Wow! What a wonderful gift. My wife and I would like to say thank you to all Gumala staff for getting the most perfect Christmas gift delivered to our pick point up in Darwin. The assortment of goods is mind boggling now to find it a home in the cupboards and refrigerator. Once again thank to all who made this possible.”

*Kenneth Goldie*

“Thank you so much we got our hamper Saturday it was like Christmas, OMG what we got was unreal. Thanks again, big help! Hope we get this again so worth it.”

*Rebecca Hicks*

“Thank you so very much to the Executive Committee for the Christmas Hampers our family received yesterday. A truly welcome and grateful family. Kind Regards to all.”

*William, Dallas, Phillip and Rona Bell*

“On behalf of myself and my family, we would like to say a big thank you for the Chrisco hamper. This is a big help and will relieve some stress of Christmas. Thank you for organising, this is very very much appreciated.”

*Brian Lockyer and children*

## Sundowner Concert at Wakathuni

**The Bradley Hall band, featured at the recent Karijini Experience, visited the Wakathuni community on Monday the 16th of April. The popular band was a huge hit with the community, with residents from Bellary Springs also gathering for the show.**

GAC hosted a sundowner BBQ with GAC staff, including GAC's Executive Officer, Jahna Cedar, attending the event.

Elders and youth alike enjoyed the bands contemporary style of country music, and some of the

old classics. Toes tapping and the dance floor on fire, it was a great evening for all involved!

A huge thanks to The Bradley Hall Band again for a truly enjoyable evening.

# Keys 4 Life Program

**Gumala and IBN staff recently participated in the Keys for Life 'Train the Trainer' course delivered by the School Drug Education and Road Safety (SDERA) at the Tom Price office.**

The Keys for Life program aims to make young people and adults better equipped and prepared to obtain their learner's permit. The course gives participants a greater understanding of safe driving practices and an increased awareness of the road rules.

The free course is delivered in 10 fun, interactive modules and concludes with a learner's permit test. Successful participants receive a certificate that they can take to the Department of Transport to obtain a WA learner's permit.

By taking the test through Keys for Life, participants also save \$19 by not having to sit the test at the Department of Transport.

If you are interested in obtaining your learner's permit, register your interest by contacting the Tom Price office on 08 9188 4500 or email [info@gumala.com.au](mailto:info@gumala.com.au)



## Member Code of Conduct

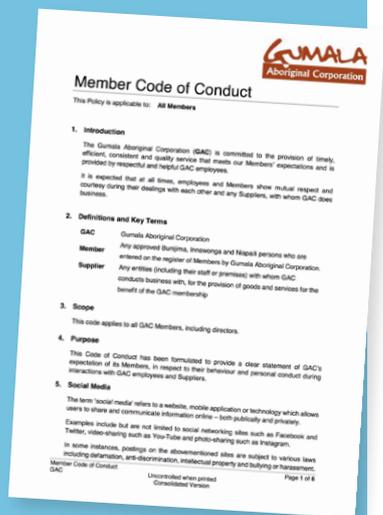
**Recently, a Member Code of Conduct was drafted and put forward to the Gumala Aboriginal Corporation Board. The Board have reviewed and subsequently endorsed this Code of Conduct, which can be found on the Gumala website.**

The Member Code of Conduct outlines GAC's expectations of members in respect of their behaviour and personal conduct during interactions with GAC employees and stakeholders.

Members are kindly reminded that their behaviour and interaction with suppliers impacts on the relationship GAC has with suppliers, and subsequently on member programs and services and, other members. Confrontational, aggressive, or abusive behaviour may result in benefits of an individual being suspended if such behaviour is reported and investigated as true by GAC.

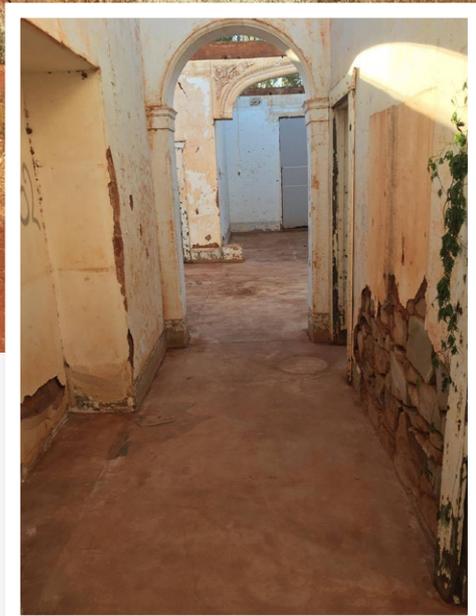
The full version the Member Code of Conduct document can be viewed on the GAC website under Membership: [www.gumala.com.au/membership/](http://www.gumala.com.au/membership/).

If you are unsure of the suppliers that Gumala can trade with, please contact the Member Services Team on 1800 486 252.



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT WORKS

## New Life for the Peedamulla Station Homestead



**The restoration of the Peedamulla Station homestead has been a priority of Gumala Aboriginal Corporation's Community Development Works projects for some time.**

A site of cultural and pastoral significance, Peedamulla Station was established in the 1880s and once carried more than 35,000 sheep. The Peedamulla homestead was built in 1915 as a house for pastoralists.

The homestead itself had fallen into disrepair in recent years, particularly due to damage to the building's roof.

"The homestead was considered to be unsafe, particularly during cyclone season," said Community Project Officer Tania Wiley. "The roof was falling down and the entire building was riddled with asbestos."

Using GAC funding, the debris and asbestos was removed for the safety of the community members, however there was still a need to perform restoration works to the roof.

Peedamulla was one of five projects across WA to receive a grant of \$100,000 from the State Government's 2017/18

Heritage Grants Program, with the funds to be used for conservation and maintenance.

With the funding from GAC and the State Government, GAC was able to arrange for the successful restoration of the building's roof, as well as the removal of any remaining asbestos from the site. Works are due to commence soon.

"Considering the historical value of the building, replacing the roof is essential to reduce any further deterioration and to protect future restoration works," said Ms Wiley.

"GAC is proud to support our members and work in partnership with the State Heritage Council to protect such a significant historical building at Peedamulla."

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT WORKS

# Cane River Project Completed

**The Cane River Lore Ground sees a significant number of Gumala members the area each year. Members identified that adequate facilities were needed to handle the sanitation requirements of so many people gathering at Cane River.**

It was identified that the restoration of the two ablution blocks was a priority for GAC members and people visiting the Cane River Lore campground. Ronwyn James, the Community Engagement and Heritage Liaison Officer, submitted an application for funding for the project to the Department of Aboriginal Affairs, which was approved. The Community Projects Officer Tania Wiley commenced the project in November 2017.

One ablution block had the plumbing updated while the other was restored inside and out. An Aboriginal contracting team were employed to do the majority of the work. The contracting team also volunteered many man and machinery hours to doing other works at the campground.

“It’s really important to GAC that we support Aboriginal enterprises and especially members of GAC to grow as a business. The cultural importance of the campgrounds is respected and having local people doing the work ensures that cultural significance of the area is preserved,” said Ms Wiley.



## “THE RESPONSE FROM THE MEMBERS ON THE WORK DONE HAS BEEN POSITIVE”.

“One of GAC strategic plan objective is to ensure we create opportunities where we can build and maintain our law, culture and language capital. We are pleased that through this project we have been able to support our Elders in their active roles to maintain culture”.

The work was completed in December 2017 in time for the start of Lore.





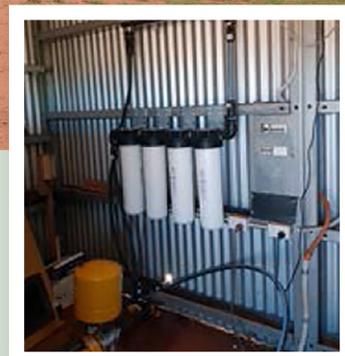
## Working in Partnership with the Shire of Ashburton to Improve Water Quality

**The Shire of Ashburton identified a health issue with the bacteria in the water tank at the Cane River Lore Ground site in early November 2017.**

The bacteria present had made the water unsuitable for consumption, and so outside water had to be brought in by those visiting the site.

Once it became obvious that the tank was the source of the problem, the Shire of Ashburton contacted Gumala Aboriginal Corporation to alert us of the issue. The Shire advised that when children were playing in the water to cool down, they would sometimes drink the water and as a result would get stomach aches.

GAC and the Shire of Ashburton collaborated to find a solution that would kill the bacteria using a filtering system. GAC was able to provide funding to the Shire for a water treatment system and the Shire then organised and installed the system on-site on 17 November.



“We were really pleased that we were able to partner with the Shire of Ashburton and provide a rapid response to this problem,” said Community Project Officer Tania Wiley.

“Collaboration is key to deliver a permanent and effective solution ensure a healthy, reliable water supply on the Cane River Lore Campgrounds.”

“Since the system has been installed, we have not heard of any further outbreaks of kids having sore tummies caused by the bacteria in the water.”

## Projects Group Initiative Delivering Results

**A key initiative that the Community Development Works team has recently undertaken has been the development of a Projects Group.**

Currently the group features six different Aboriginal corporations, as well as representatives from Rio Tinto, resulting in a broad overlap of members represented.

By holding regular meetings, the group aims to break down communication barriers and information silos between organisations and stakeholder groups, in order to identify opportunities for collaboration and strategic support with each other.

“The group has just started but it’s been a great way to open up those channels of communication,” said Community Project Officer Tania Wiley.

“These sessions also enable us to work alongside each other in a coordinated fashion to prevent overlapping of each other’s efforts. Another major benefit of this approach is that the community knows what to expect from each of us and the services each Aboriginal corporation provides.”

Through this process, better community outcomes can be achieved through communication, cooperation, including financial savings and sharing of resources.

“While the group is still in its early stages, I can already see the difference over the first few meetings we’ve held. It is hoped that the group will continue to develop itself into the future,” said Ms Wiley.



*Dennis Jevdenijevic with his grandmother Evelyn Kroczeck*

## Niyaparli Member Graduates from Police Academy

**Recently, 21-year-old Niyaparli member Dennis Jevdenijevic completed his Aboriginal Community police officer training in the Northern Territory.**

As part of his process to become a police officer, Dennis spent 22 weeks undergoing intensive training at the NT Police Academy in Darwin.

Upon completing his training, Dennis has now been posted to Nhulunbuy (North-East Arnhem Land) for two years.

Dennis says he wants to encourage other younger people to look at different career opportunities and pathways. He wants to not only be a good role model for his siblings,

but also create pride in the positive achievements of Aboriginal people, particularly in the NT and WA.

Dennis' grandmother, Niyaparli woman Evelyn Kroczeck, is extremely proud of the person that Dennis has become and his passion to making a positive difference for Aboriginal people, whilst also being a carer for his mother.

Dennis is proud of his heritage and is excited to work with people of different cultural backgrounds. Congratulations to Dennis and the 11 other Aboriginal graduates.

# Pilbara Consultations

**During February, Gumala staff travelled throughout the homelands to visit a number of communities and towns, in order to collect feedback and consult with GAC members one-to-one about community-based projects and member service programs.**

The group of staff included Tania Wiley (Community Project Officer), Ronwyn James (Community Engagement & Heritage Liason Officer), and Leah Kenna (Corporate Services Manager). The team spent several days travelling through the Pilbara, a process which was interrupted by cyclone activity.

“Travelling to consult with members in person across the communities was a valuable and insightful opportunity for the team,” said Community Project Officer Tania Wiley.

“It’s vital for our success as an organisation that we consult closely with members to gain their insights and feedback, in order to deliver sustainable solutions and address member needs.”

“The consultations allowed for a wider range of members to offer their perspectives, as well as ask questions to GAC staff,” said Corporate Services Manager Leah Kenna.

“Many of these conversations yielded valuable feedback and ideas for the future, including ideas from members who previously felt they didn’t have an opportunity to discuss their thoughts and ideas with GAC at meetings

held throughout the year. In particular, the chance to talk to staff on a one-to-one level provided an opportunity for members to have their say, compared to more conventional group forum sessions.”

It was also noted that members greatly appreciated the efforts made by the team to come to their communities.

“It’s difficult to overstate the importance of face-to-face conversations with members in these communities. By actively involving members in discussions about our future, we can make sure communities are able to participate every step of the way in the decision-making process,” said Ms Wiley

“That leads to empowered communities taking ownership of these programs and better outcomes for all members and residents.”

Information gained from these visits will assist with the future planning of processes and projects for the 2018/19 financial year. A collection of project opportunities identified will be presented to the GAC Board before the end of this financial year.



# Member Programs & Services Update

## 2018 has been a busy year so far for the GAC Member Services Team.

Members should be aware that current programs will be coming to a close in June 2018, at the end of the financial year.

All applications requiring processing before the end of financial year should be submitted to applications@gumala.com.au no later than 5pm Wednesday 27 June 2018. This will guarantee processing before the end of financial year deadline.

Please note program balances do not roll over into the new financial year.

The GAC Board is currently considering the new program model for 2018-19. Information about these programs will be sent out to all members in June 2018.



## Some general reminders for members in relation to Member Services

- GAC will make every effort to ensure applications are processed in an efficient and in a timely manner. In order to assist in ensuring your applications are processed in this way, please ensure:
- At least 5 business days' notice to GAC to receive, queue and process your application.
- Where circumstances are considered to be urgent, you send your application with at least 3 business days to attend to urgent requests for assistance, particularly around travel and accommodation.
- You provide all the information required for your application to be processed, including quotes and tax invoices where possible.
- If requesting fuel, please note on your application form where you would require the fuel (towns).
- For accommodation bookings, please endeavor to check availability at the hotel and reserve a room before sending your application into GAC, and include these details on your form.

## Fax update

A note for members that GAT no longer uses fax number 08 9219 4555. Please send all faxes to 08 9188 1846. Please note that faxing documents can sometimes be a very unreliable method as it relies on a clear line to receive the fax. For this reason we recommend that members email their documents through to GAC. Alternatively, please call to ensure your fax has been received.



## Notice to Members

Both the Tom Price and Perth offices of GAC will be closed on the 21st and 22nd June for staff training and development.

Members should ensure they submit all applications for assistance to GAC at least a week in advance to ensure they are actionable before the office closure.

# Employment Assistance Initiative Helps Members Find New Opportunities

**During last year's member consultation survey, a recurring theme emerged from the feedback provided by members. We saw strong interest in assistance from Gumala Aboriginal Corporation to support members to find employment.**

Soon afterward, Steph Williams joined GAC as a Project Officer to assist members who are looking for work.

"My background is in employment services which assisted me greatly with this work. Once we talked to members and identified what they wanted to do, we were able to provide assistance with creating cover letters and resumes and other support as needed," said Ms Williams.

While the initiative has only been running for a short time, Ms Williams says the impact has been immediate.

"Working with members to help them get started has made a big difference. They gained the confidence to put themselves forward and apply for these positions."

Importantly, while the mining sector still provides a majority of the employment opportunities in the Pilbara region, Steph has also worked to build relationships and find opportunities in a diverse range of industries, including government, education, and hospitality.

"I have also been able to develop a database of members interested in finding work, so that when an opportunity comes through, we can suggest someone who may be suitable for a position right away."

"Or we can send out an alert to interested members. We recently put out an alert about a position and within 10 minutes we already had a phone call from a member who wanted to apply."

The initiative has also made members currently living interstate express an interest in returning to WA if an opportunity to work arises.

So far, we've had the following success:

- 10 fulltime FIFO placements
- 14 plus possible placements pending

If you are a member who would like to get in touch about receiving employment support from GAC, please email [jobs@gumala.com.au](mailto:jobs@gumala.com.au)



## Members Awarded with Rio Tinto Scholarships

**The 2018 Rio Tinto Indigenous Scholarship programme has seen five Gumala members awarded scholarships in the following areas:**

- 2 x Juris Dr
- 1 x Psychology
- 1 x Bachelor of Technology (Engineering) plus Honours
- 1 x Bachelor of Law & Bachelor of Commerce

The programme is aimed at supporting Indigenous people who are studying at a tertiary (bachelor degree or higher) level.

GAC continues to work closely with Rio Tinto to ensure training, educational and employment outcomes for its members.

## Zaidan's Story



**When Banyjima man Zaidin Bin Issa participated in the Gumala consultation survey in July last year, he had no idea how his life would change.**

At the time, Zaidin was working as a cleaner in Geraldton. With few hours available, he was looking for something more – an opportunity for better hours and with career prospects.

In his survey response, Zaidin had indicated he was interested in finding work as a labourer. Within weeks of the survey closing, Zaidin was contacted by GAC and invited to send in his resume.

This was forwarded to Rio Tinto's Aboriginal Employment team, which was looking to fill entry level roles at Yandi. These included Drill and Blast, and Fixed Plant Operator positions, as a FIFO role from Perth.

Zaidin's resume was put forward for a Fixed Plant Operator role at West Angeles. He's now begun a 12-month traineeship. His work day means getting up early, around 4 a.m., and involves maintaining the plant by doing daily checks. At the end of the day, there's time to relax in the gym or pool, or sit around having a yarn.

Zaidin says he's adapting to the FIFO lifestyle. He enjoys the work he's doing and the people he's working with. He's hoping that at the end of his traineeship he will be offered a position at West Angeles and eventually he hopes to take on a Supervisor role.

A word of encouragement from Zaidin to other members: "Be optimistic! Just keep trying and keep hopeful".

## Share Your Story



**If you have a story you would like to see in future newsletters, please share it with us at [gac@gumala.com.au](mailto:gac@gumala.com.au)**

# Meet the New Board

## BANYJIMA



May Byrne  
(Secretary)



Andrew Dhu



Steven Dhu



Karen Tommy

## INNAWONGA



Gloria Smith  
(Chairperson)



Mary Mills



Stuart Ingie Jnr



Tyson Weedon

## NYIYAPARLI



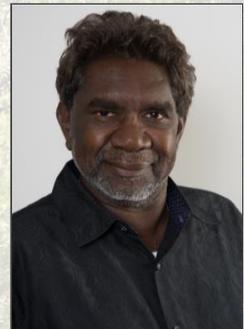
Natalie Parker  
(Deputy Chairperson)



Lisa Coffin



Christina Stone



Brian Tucker

### CONTACT US

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[www.gumala.com.au](http://www.gumala.com.au)