

GUMALA NEWSLETTER

December, 2019



LOIS WINS STATE EDUCATION AWARD

Congratulations to Gumala Member and Banjima Traditional Owner Lois Little who won the WA Aboriginal and Islander Education Officer (AIEO) of the Year award at the WA Education Awards recently.

This award recognises the significant role of AIEOs in supporting school staff to develop culturally inclusive teaching and learning programs for Aboriginal students.

Lois is based at Newton Moore Senior High School in Bunbury where the leadership team speaks highly of how much Lois cares for her students and how she has changed their lives and made a lasting impact on their future endeavours.

Lois has also impacted the lives of community members by creating a link between the school and the community.

She developed the school's 'Family Linkage' project that maps all family and kinship relationships within the school to support teachers and other staff members in understanding family relations and gaining greater cultural knowledge and awareness.

Lois is pictured above with students from Newton Moore Senior High School. Image courtesy of Department of Education, WA.



Gumala would like to wish all of our Members and their families a very Merry Christmas and a wonderful new year. May 2020 be a happy and healthy year for you all.

When reading this publication and sharing it with family and friends, please be mindful that it may contain images and/or names of people who have since passed away.

EO REPORT / 2019 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



Thannarru,
On behalf of Gumala Aboriginal Corporation (GAC) Directors, I would like to thank all who were able to attend the Corporation’s Annual General Meeting (AGM) and Consultation Meeting on Saturday 26 October 2019.

These meetings were held in South Hedland, home of the Karriyarra people. We thank them for welcoming and hosting Gumala people on their country.

For a Corporation of Gumala’s size and diverse membership, successfully holding an AGM is no easy task. Directors and staff prepared and planned, for a number of months leading up to the event, to ensure that the day moved forward as smoothly as possible.

We recognise that there is always room for improvement and if you have any feedback or suggestions, please forward those by email to info@gumala.com.au

We also recognise that not all of our Members can attend AGMs for a number of reasons, particularly Members of the Gumala family who have experienced losses recently. The meeting observed a minute’s silence to pay respect to each of your families – our thoughts are with you all.

For those of you unable to be at the AGM and consultation, the meetings saw approximately 460 Members and Beneficiaries registering to attend, with the total number of attendees on the day exceeding 550. This was a wonderful turnout.

AGMs are an important opportunity for Members to come and hear from the Board and management on the operations, challenges and successes that face the organisation.

It is also an opportunity for Members to give feedback directly to the Board on the issues that are important to them. On this note, the comments and concerns raised on the day will be actioned accordingly by the GAC Board.

At the 2019 AGM, each of the language groups elected two two-year appointments as only half of the Boards terms expired this year.

As a result, Mary Mills, Augustine Allen, Charles Smith, Nola Naylor, Layneisha Sgro and Natalie Parker were appointed for two years as Directors of the Corporation. The current Board is listed on page 3.

Additionally, GAC would like to thank Mr Steven Dhu and Mr Andrew Dhu, whose terms expired at the AGM, for their time and dedication as Directors of the Corporation.

Mr Steven Dhu was appointed at the 2015 AGM, holding various office bearing positions throughout his time on the Board. Mr Andrew Dhu was also appointed at the 2015 AGM and successfully filled his terms. We wish each of them well in their future endeavours.

Following the AGM, the Board met to discuss the appointment of office bearers. The Board has reconfirmed the appointments of Ms Gloria Smith as Chairperson and Ms Natalie Parker as Vice Chairperson, and has appointed Ms Pamela Condon as Secretary.

It is important to thank Members who assisted staff in counting the votes. Active participation of our Members in the governance aspects of the Corporation can only strengthen Gumala as we move into the future. I am thankful that all of our scrutineers were both thorough and professional on the counting station. Thank you.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge the hard work of staff who worked long hours over the weekend in order to make it a success. Their teamwork and dedication to assist the membership is recognised and welcomed. Thank you.

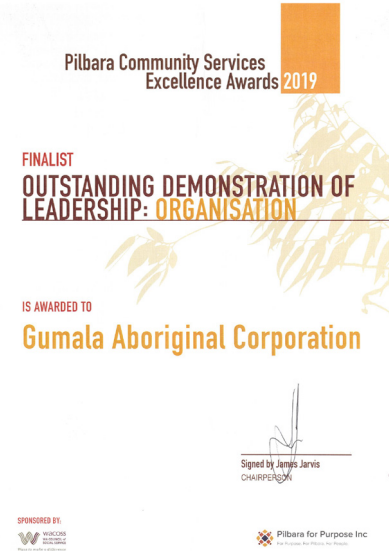
As stated at the AGM, it has been an honor and a privilege to serve Gumala as the Executive Officer and I look forward to this new season of leadership.

**- by Justin Dhu
Executive Officer**

DIRECTORS’ TERMS FOLLOWING AGM

Yinhawangka		Banjima		Niyiyaparli	
Gloria Smith	Term Expiring AGM 2020	May Byrne	Term Expiring AGM 2020	Lisa Derschaw	Term Expiring AGM 2020
Pamela Condon	Term Expiring AGM 2020	Karen Tommy	Term Expiring AGM 2020	Christina Stone	Term Expiring AGM 2020
Mary Mills	Term Expiring AGM 2021	Charles Smith	Term Expiring AGM 2021	Layneisha Sgro	Term Expiring AGM 2021
Augustine Allen	Term Expiring AGM 2021	Nola Naylor	Term Expiring AGM 2021	Natalie Parker	Term Expiring AGM 2021

More AGM photos are featured over the page and on the back cover.



GUMALA RECOGNISED IN PILBARA LEADERSHIP AWARDS

GAC was recently announced as a Finalist for “Outstanding Demonstration of Leadership: Organisation” in the Pilbara Community Services Excellence Awards 2019.

The awards were created to recognise the outstanding contributions made by Pilbara organisations and individuals through hard work, determination and passion.

Congratulations to all of the winners of the awards who were recognised at the gala dinner which was held in South Hedland at the beginning of November.

2019 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

PHOTOS BY SHIRLENE GOTZ



2019 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



GUMALA MEMBERS IN THE SPOTLIGHT

It is wonderful to hear about the successes of our Gumala family. If you have a story that you would like to share, please feel free to contact us at communications@gumala.com.au

KENNY PLAYS FOR AUSTRALIAN INDIGENOUS TEAM



Kenny Kennedy (left) is pictured with Alana and Kevin Todd - all members of the Indigenous All Stars team.



In October Gumala was a proud sponsor of Nyiyaparli Traditional Owner Kenneth (Kenny) Kennedy who competed in the national Indigenous team at this year's Darts Player Australia (DPA) tournament in Sydney. Kenny was joined in the team by Kevin and Alana Todd.

They had some great results, with the men's team coming sixth and the ladies coming fourth. Kenny also made it to top 32 nationally.

"None of this would be possible without the support of Gumala, and from team manager Heath Daley and myself, we are forever grateful because without the sponsorship we would not have had some of the players afford to attend," said Kenny.

When he is not playing for Australia, Kenny plays A grade darts in Port Hedland. His goal is to travel to England and play against the best in the world.

Kenny is also working hard to change the stigma that darts is just about going to have a drink at the pub.

"Most of us don't drink when we are playing darts, particularly on the pro tour," he said.



ISAIAH PLAYS FOR WA

Gumala would like to congratulate 13-year-old Yinhawangka boy Isaiah Stevens who has been selected to represent WA in basketball.

Isaiah has been chosen in the 2020 Western Australian U15 Country Men's Basketball Team and will travel to Victoria in January to compete in the BWA Basketball Southern Cross Challenge.

The Southern Cross Challenge Tournament is run by Basketball Victoria and gives players the opportunity to compete at a high level against development squads from other states in Australia.

We wish Isaiah all the best for the tournament and his basketball future ahead!

Photo of Isaiah by Sports Imagery.

GUMALA MEMBERS IN THE SPOTLIGHT

CONGRATULATIONS, AMBER

Gumala would like to congratulate staff member and Banjima Traditional Owner Amber Phillips who was a recent finalist in the Apprentice Employment Network WA's (AENWA) 2019 Awards of Excellence. These awards recognise the achievements of apprentices and trainees in WA.

Amber began her traineeship at GAC in 2017 with the support of Group Training Organisation MEGT to obtain a nationally recognised Certificate 111 in Business Administration. On completion, Amber has stayed on at GAC as an Administrative Assistant and is an integral part of the Gumala family.

AENWA Chairman Stuart Diepeveen said, "The quality of the nominations this year, demonstrates not only the commitment of the young adults to their training but the support and pastoral care they receive from both their Group Training and Host Employers that enables them to succeed in their careers."

Amber is pictured below (centre) with GAC's Corporate Services Manager Leah Kenna and MEGT Business Development Manager Michael Timpson.



Image courtesy of L.E's Photography.

GUMALA AWARDS OUTSTANDING STUDENT IN TOM PRICE

This year Gumala was once again proud to sponsor awards at Tom Price Senior High School (TPSHS) to recognise exceptional students.

At the recent graduation ceremony, the Year 12 Outstanding Indigenous Award went to Jacqueline Graham who was chosen after successfully addressing a number of criteria, being: a student who attends school regularly; is articulate, confident and communicates effectively; is able to develop positive relationships with Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal members of the school and broader community; has a strong desire to learn; and is respectful and considerate of others.

Jacqueline has continued from her success last year when she

was awarded Gumala's Emerging Indigenous Leader (Year 8-11). Congratulations to Jacqueline on her wonderful achievement.

Brandon also graduates! 

Our Gumala staff member and ex-student of TPHS, Brandon Cook, made the presentation to Jacqueline on the night (pictured above).

Brandon, who is a Yinhawangka Traditional Owner and graduated from TPHS in 2013, recently submitted his final assignment to obtain a nationally recognised Certificate 4 in Business.

This was completed in under 12 months! We are all very proud of you Brandon!

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT UPDATE



PEEDAMULLA STATION - HERITAGE HOMESTEAD @ JUNDARU

The homestead is located about 58 km south-east of Onslow and has the Cane River running through the property, the reason it has been given the Indigenous name Peedamulla, meaning plenty of water.

Many Gumala Members have worked on the station over the years in various roles like jackeroos, cooks, house staff and general hands.

One of the significant assets on the station, the homestead, is now a State Register Heritage site. It has

been identified as a major refurbishment project by both the State Government Heritage Council and Gumala.

The initial project was the total refurbishment of one of the outer buildings which is now the reception office for the visitors to the camp ground.

Two stages have now been completed which have involved the removal of the hazardous materials on site, and the replacement of the roof trusses ready for sheeting. The trusses have been engineered to withstand the cyclones that impact on the region.



LORE @ WIRRILIMARRA



The past few months have seen a hive of activity taking place in Wirrilimarra, including the ongoing maintenance of the community's assets and preparation for the conduct of Lore for up to 10 eligible young men.

The preparations have also included the refurbishment of the water supply to the Lore Community Camp Grounds for the several hundred families and community members expected to attend the opening.

The bough sheds were repaired and readied for occupation, as was some of the overflow accommodation in the community.

This will be the first Lore ceremony to be conducted for this period, November through March, of what possibly will be one of the busiest in years for the Yinhawangka, Nyayparli and Banjima families.

Other ceremonies are expected for Cane River and Wakuthuni, however these are yet to be confirmed.



MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Christmas Closure

Both the Tom Price and Perth offices will be closed from Friday 20 December to Friday 3 January 2020 (reopening Monday 6 January 2020.)

Any applications requiring processing before the Christmas closure period will need to be submitted no later than Monday 9 December. The last day for processing will be 19 December.

No services will be provided over the Christmas period.



Free Ambulance Service

It has come to our attention that some of our Members may not be aware they are entitled to FREE or discounted ambulance services. The following information is from the WA Department of Health website:

- Western Australians over 65, and in receipt of an Australian Government pension, are entitled to FREE ambulance services.
- Western Australians over 65, who do not receive an Australian Government pension, are entitled to a 50% discount off the cost of ambulance services.

For more information, contact St John Ambulance WA on (08) 9334 1222 or email info@stjohnambulance.com.au or visit the government website: https://healthywa.wa.gov.au/Articles/A_E/Ambulance-fees-for-seniors



Image source: St John WA

ARE YOU A MEMBER LOOKING FOR WORK?

Are you looking for work or training opportunities? Need help with your resume or some tips on your interview skills?

GAC has a new Employment and Skills Development Officer to help with job searching and training support.

Gumala Traditional Owners needing assistance can email jobs@gumala.com.au or call our office – Tuesday to Thursday – to speak with Hayley.



For more job information you can also follow our Facebook jobs page at: <https://www.facebook.com/GumalaAboriginalCorporationJobsLink/>





Supply Nation: Indigenous Trade Fair 2019



Aboriginal Engagement Coordinator Peter Taylor and Corporate Services Coordinator Jenny Weigend recently represented Gumala Enterprises at the 2019 Supply Nation Indigenous Trade Fair at the Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre. The event gave Aboriginal Businesses the chance to showcase their services and products and the opportunity to network with like-minded businesses.

Community Site Visit

Peter Taylor, along with Shane Seers, Community Project Coordinator at GAC, and GEPL Human Resources Manager Sarah Brine (pictured right) visited Bindu Bindu in Onslow, Cane River, Peedamulla, Mingullatharndo, Wirrilimarra, Youngaleena and Bidiltha in September. The purpose of the visits was to engage and improve relationships with community members and to review works in progress as well as look for opportunities.



2019 National RAP Conference 2019

Peter Taylor attended this three-day conference to learn about Reconciliation Australia's action and advise on closing the gap between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and mainstream Australia. There were guest speakers from various academic institutions as well as some mainstream businesses. GEPL has submitted its Elevate RAP for review and approval of this process is near completion and will be available to Members early in the new year.



Peter (left) is pictured with Ursula Swann and Kevin May.

Employment

GEPL welcomed the following new employees: Clive Souey (Njama) at WADCD, Joseph Collard (Ballardong Noongar) at Tom Price Civils Crew, Durran Moody, Trainee at WADCD and Nigel Baker, Apprentice HV fitter at the Tom Price workshop. We also welcome back Kevin Barron (Yamatji) and Rodney Aylett (Tas.) to the GNH Project.

To date, GEPL has 20 Aboriginal employees (inclusive of three Directors) all from various language groups across WA and Australia. With the likelihood of the Great Northern Highway project commencing soon, GEPL is aiming to have over 30% Aboriginal employment by 30 November.

Work with us!

GEPL is always keen to hear from GAC Members with construction plant experience or Members who are willing to take up training or apprenticeship opportunities. If you are interested, please send your resume to recruitment@gepl.com.au or call us on (08) 6243 2600.

Current / Completed Projects

RTIO – West Angeles Deposit C & D Enabling Works

GEPL continued at WADCD Enabling works over the period and additional works have also been awarded to GEPL over period from the original contract scope. The project is due for completion in March 2020.

Main Roads Western Australia – Acciona Clough JV (ACJV) – Great Northern Highway (GNH) – Koodaideri Rail Bridge

In October GEPL was awarded the Koodaideri Rail Bridge subcontract for earthworks by ACJV. The works consist of clearing, topsoil strip, borrow pit establishment and material management, bulk & detailed earthworks.

RTIO – Tom Price Mine Site – NEBC Waste Dump Rehabilitation - Gumala / Downer JV

GEPL has entered into a 50/50 joint venture with Downer Mining and has been successful in the award of the NEBC waste dump rehabilitation project at Tom Price.

The North End Box Cut Waste Dump (NEBC) is a historic black shale waste dump approximately 80ha in area. NEBC requires the entire dump to be reshaped and encapsulated with inert material and the then a capping layer of competent waste applied to the batters.

RTIO – Paraburdoo – Rock Breaking Services

Work has continued at Paraburdoo consisting of rock breaking of oversize material at various locations within Paraburdoo mine site. The resized material will then be fed into the production circuit. The project is scheduled for completion in December 2019.

GUMALA INVESTMENTS PTY LTD (GIPL)

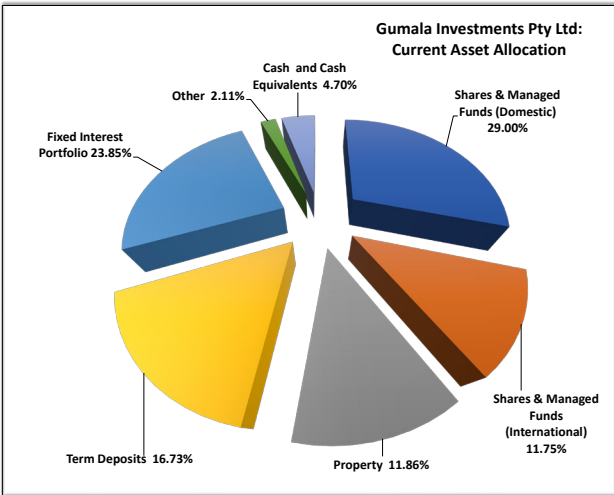


GIPL AGM well attended

Thank you to all of the Gumala Members and Beneficiaries who attended this year's GIPL AGM which was held in Kelmscott, Perth on Sunday 29 September.

Approximately 392 people registered for the event on the day, with the number of attendees well over 500.

The meeting was an opportunity for Chairman Brendon Grylls to thank outgoing Nyiyaparli Director Brad Hall for his valuable contribution to the GIPL Board. The recruitment process for the new Director is currently underway.



GIPL AGM Fast Facts

500

People attended the GIPL AGM held on 29 September in Perth.

ATTENDEES



MEMBERS



392

Members registered for the meeting.

2000

Pieces of food were provided for morning/afternoon tea.

SNACKS



DRINKS



1100

Drinks were consumed.

600

600 bread rolls, along with 150kg of meat (beef, pork and chicken) and 100kg salad, was provided for lunch..

LUNCH



GGF Investments Update

The General Gumala Foundation wishes to advise Beneficiaries that as at 30 September June 2019 it had total assets under investment of \$140.5M, with the Future Fund valued at \$116.9M.

The investment portfolio has remained steady over the September quarter despite the impact of falling interest rates on various investments.

Going forward the Trust will be looking to shift more funds from cash investments into market investments and also look to leverage the investments to generate positive social impacts for Beneficiaries.

A Social Impact Investments Manager is expected to commence within the Trust in December to drive this agenda.

Total Revenue for the quarter to 30 September 2019 was \$5.5M with \$4.1M being retained for the benefit of Members and Beneficiaries through available Member Program Funding and Investments into the Future Fund.

The Trustee is pleased to see Gumala Members and Beneficiaries making use of the increased available programs provided by GAC, with funding for Member Programs of \$3.0M for the quarter based on applications processed and acquitted by GAC, compared to a total of \$6.3M for the entire prior financial year.

MEET THE NEW BOARD

BANJIMA



May Byrne



Charles Smith



Nola Naylor



Karen Tommy

YINHAWANGKA



Gloria Smith
(Chairperson)



Mary Mills



Augustine Allen



Pamela Condon
(Secretary)

NIYAPARLI



Natalie Parker
(Deputy Chairperson)



Layneisha Sgro



Christina Stone



Lisa Derschaw

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