

# GUMALA NEWSLETTER

June 2020



## HELPING OUR GUMALA MEMBERS DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

**Gumala is proud to have been able to support our Members during what has been a difficult few months due to the global Coronavirus (COVID-19) health pandemic.**

When the Western Australian Government declared both a state of emergency and a public health emergency in mid-March, both Boards of Gumala Aboriginal Corporation (GAC) and Gumala Investments Pty Ltd (GIPL) deemed the situation to be one in which a cash payment could possibly ease some of the stress that our Members and Beneficiaries were experiencing.

On 20 March, 24 April and 8 May, separate cash payments of \$500 were made to Members and Beneficiaries who were encouraged to make use of the funds to source supplies and prepare for self-isolation.

***Gumala Tom Price staff Brandon (above left) and Allan (above) working hard for our Members during the COVID-19 lockdown.***

Although for safety reasons it was necessary for the Perth office to close, staff were able to continue working from home to assist Members access their emergency cash payments and programs, as well as provide them with important information and updates.

Our Tom Price office set up new safety procedures for the benefit of staff and Members and was able to remain open for business. Our staff also worked tirelessly on the ground to ensure food security and the provision and distribution of essential supplies for Members in our smaller communities.

***Story continues page 4.***

**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.**



## EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORT



Thannarru,

**We are looking forward to a fresh start as we move into the 2020-21 financial year. The past few months have been challenging times for all of us; we hope that our Gumala Members are all safe and well.**

The outbreak of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) saw the Boards of Gumala Aboriginal Corporation (GAC) and Gumala Investments Pty Ltd (GIPL) take action to help our Members and Beneficiaries.

When the WA Government declared both a state of emergency and a public health emergency, Gumala deemed the situation to be one in which cash payments could help ease some of the stress that our Members were experiencing. These three payments were made in March and April and the feedback has been that they came as a welcome relief for many.

### A big thank you

During this time, Gumala staff joined with other organisations and community groups in the regions to assist our Members through the COVID-19 pandemic and directed lockdown. We are proud of the work that our staff was able to achieve and thankful to the organisations who joined with us to assist our membership.

I would especially like to acknowledge Johanna Ramsay and the team at Banjima Native Title Aboriginal Corporation; Grant Bussell and the team at Yinhawangka Aboriginal Corporation; Nick Preece and the team at Karlka Nyiyaparli Aboriginal Corporation; and Lorraine Injie and the team at IBN Corporation. Further details and acknowledgements can be found throughout this newsletter.

*Pictured right are members of the YBN alliance who met regularly over the past few months.*

### Funds roll over

Due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak and the fact that many Members have been unable to spend their program balances in this time, this year Gumala will allow unspent program money for the Flexible and Funeral Programs to roll over into the new financial year; meaning Members will not lose their funds and any unspent money will roll over and be accessible until 30 June 2021.

### New programs and balances

On page 7 of this newsletter there is a snapshot of the new programs and balances that are available to Members throughout 2020-21.

The Flexible Programs balance has increased from \$4,000 to \$6,000, and there has been a further increase to Fixed Programs such as Funerals and Education. This financial year will also see the introduction of a special program for Members aged 55 and above. Members will automatically receive an extra \$1,500 moving into the financial year and no applications are required.

### Congratulations Ronwyn

In other news, I would like to acknowledge long-serving staff and Gumala Member Ronwyn James who has recently celebrated 20 years with GAC. (Please see more on page 3).

I would also like to acknowledge some key dates for our membership, namely:

- Banjima determination on 12 March 2014. (6 years)
- Yinhawangka Determination 18 July 2017 (3 years)
- GAC Incorporated 22 July 1996 (24 years)

I look forward to working with the Gumala Directors and staff heading into the new financial year and to continue delivering for the Gumala people.

by Justin Dhu, Executive Officer



## RONWYN CELEBRATES 20 YEARS WITH GUMALA

**On behalf of the GAC Board, I would like to congratulate of our longest serving staff member.**

Ronwyn James has been with GAC for 20 years in various roles serving the membership. Over this time, she has seen the highs and lows that form part of Gumala's colourful history.

As a Member of Yinhawangka, she shares a long history with the people of the central Pilbara and their journey toward self-determination and advancement.

We are particularly proud to have Ronwyn employed as our Community Engagement and Heritage Officer working closely with Rio Tinto as the point of contact between GAC and Rio Tinto to build a mutually beneficial relationship and outcomes for the Gumala family.

Serving for 20 years in any business is an achievement that just can't go unrecognised. Thank you and congratulations to Ronwyn. - **Justin Dhu, Executive Officer**





# HELPING OUR GUMALA MEMBERS

*Story continued from front page.*

## Staff working hard for our Members

This support was necessary and in response to the WA government's guidelines – *Remote Aboriginal Communities Directions No. 2* – that restricted movement in and out of remote Aboriginal communities.

At Wakuthuni, to minimise the need for Members to leave the community, the Tom Price team set up a temporary office. GAC's Brandon Cook, who lives in the community, was able to assist Members lodge applications and update their details.

## Collaborating with other organisations

Through these tough times, our Gumala staff was also able to collaborate with other organisations and community groups.

GAC's EO Justin Dhu and Senior Governance Advisor Ashley Councillor were part of two emergency response groups. RECOV19ER (Regional Covid19 Emergency Response) is a group of Pilbara Aboriginal corporations and leaders, government agencies and service providers, established to meet regularly via teleconference to ensure that a coordinated approach was being undertaken in response to community needs.

Gumala also formed part of the alliance between all entities that provide services for Yinhawangka, Banjima and Nyiyaparli people.

The YBN alliance includes Banjima Native Title Aboriginal Corporation (BNTAC), IBN, Karlka Nyiyaparli Aboriginal Corporation (KNAC) and Yinhawangka Aboriginal Corporation (YAC), and its core purpose has been to provide emergency response to the COVID-19 pandemic which included liaising with all communities to create local pandemic plans, and organise food and fuel supplies for our communities.



The communities that received support to date were Bellary Springs, Bidiltha, Bindi Bindi, Karijini, Peedamulla, Wakuthuni and Youngaleena.

## Food delivery in the community

GAC would also like to acknowledge a number of other supporters during this time. Thanks goes to SecondBite for donating food, Ashburton Aboriginal Corporation for collecting and sorting and Coles Tom Price Manager Dennis Grimes who went above and beyond to make sure we had everything we needed, right down to doorstep delivery with his forklift. Thanks also to BNTAC, KNAC and Pilbara Foods for assisting with food supply and distribution.

Finally, a big shout-out to our staff Mariah, Lisa, Ronwyn, Allan, Brandon and Kim for all of their hard work for the Members at this time.



**Ronwyn, Mariah and Allan working hard on food orders and delivery for our Members.**



# DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC



**Brandon with his first food delivery of fresh supplies ready for the Wakuthuni residents.**



**Above: Kim and Allan loaded and ready to head off to Marble Bar with supplies.**

**Below: Mariah, Coles Tom Price Manager Dennis Grimes and Lisa coordinate food orders for our isolated Members.**



**Tom Price staff on the road to Youngaleena Community to deliver dry supplies.**







## GUMALA INVESTMENTS PTY LTD (GIPL)

### North West Aboriginal Housing Fund

The Gumala Trust is please to update Beneficiaries that it has proceeded to the next stage of the North West Aboriginal Housing Fund in conjunction with the Department of Communities, having signed off on the Initial Working Period Agreement in May.

The GIPL and GAC Boards are forming a joint Committee to guide this project, with consultation to be undertaken with the membership regarding their housing requirements, including locations, type and size, with a focus on solutions for transitional housing and age-appropriate housing.



### From the Social Impact Investment Manager's Desk



Some tips to saving for a home deposit?

### Home Loan Video Series

Greetings to all our Members. Over the past four weeks we have posted on our Facebook page a video series called *Make it Happen – Home Ownership* with Luke Bresland from BNK Bank (pictured top left).

Our aim is to equip Members with information on the home loan application process. Through this we have received feedback from a few Members about this home loan application process. We welcome any suggestions you may have on other topics you would like covered. This online workshop was replacing the face-to-face workshop that was scheduled for 26 March 2020.

### Gumala's History and Culture

165 Adelaide Terrace: ground floor space – We are looking to create a multicultural centre to showcase Gumala's history and culture and that of our Members.

We are planning to hold consultations in the coming months with Members to get their input into this new space and its design. Similar projects would be the Ganallil Centre in Roebourne. In the meantime, please let us know your thoughts on how this space should be utilised to showcase Gumala's history and culture.

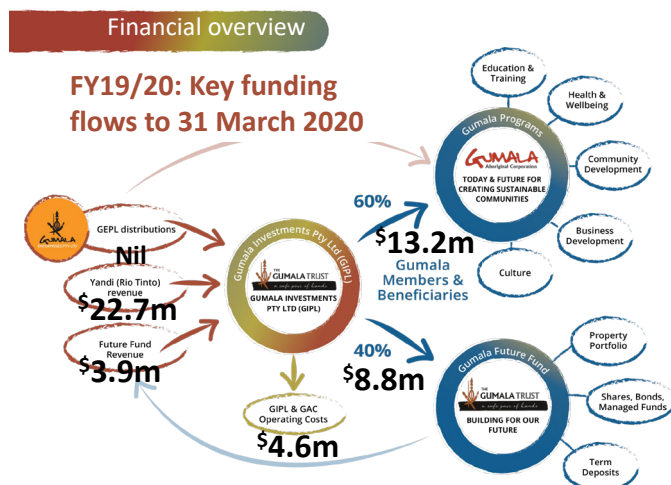
You can contact me by calling the GIPL office on 08 9287 3900 or email [Stephen.Magwenzi@gumalatrust.com](mailto:Stephen.Magwenzi@gumalatrust.com)

### GGF Financial Overview

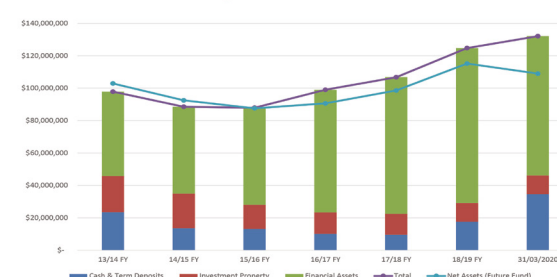
**The General Gumala Foundation wishes to advise Beneficiaries that, as at 31 March 2020, total assets under investment were valued at \$132.4M, with the Future Fund valued at \$109.0M.**

The investment portfolio has generated \$3.9M revenues in the nine months to date and includes the initial impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic with investment values and dividends being reduced as the issue progresses. The Trust maintains a diverse portfolio, including a strong component of investments in lower-risk areas such as bonds and fixed-interest investments in order to minimise the impacts of negative market events. These impacts continue to be closely monitored by the GIPL Board and the investment managers.

Total Revenue for the nine months to 31 March 2020 was \$26.6M, with \$22.1M being retained for the benefit of Members and Beneficiaries through available Member Program Funding (\$13.25M) and Investments into the Future Fund (\$8.85M). During this period a total of \$9.52M has been paid out under GAC programs and Emergency Cash Payments to Beneficiaries.



### GGF Investment portfolio



## MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

### 2020-21 Programs

Gumala's new Member Program Guidelines have been released for the 2020-2021 financial year. The new guidelines and application forms are available on our website under Programs and Services or by contacting our offices. They have also be posted to each Member.

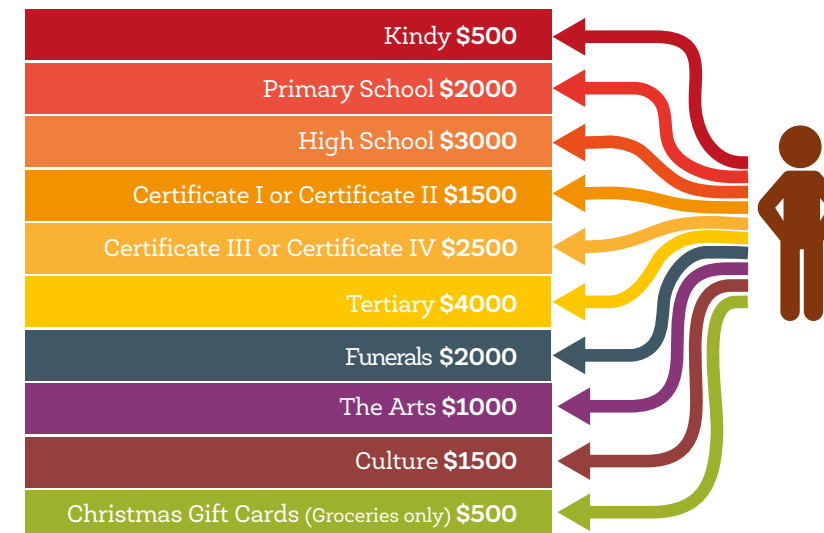
#### Funds roll over

Due to issues resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, both the Flexible and Funeral balances will roll over into the new financial year (full details over page).

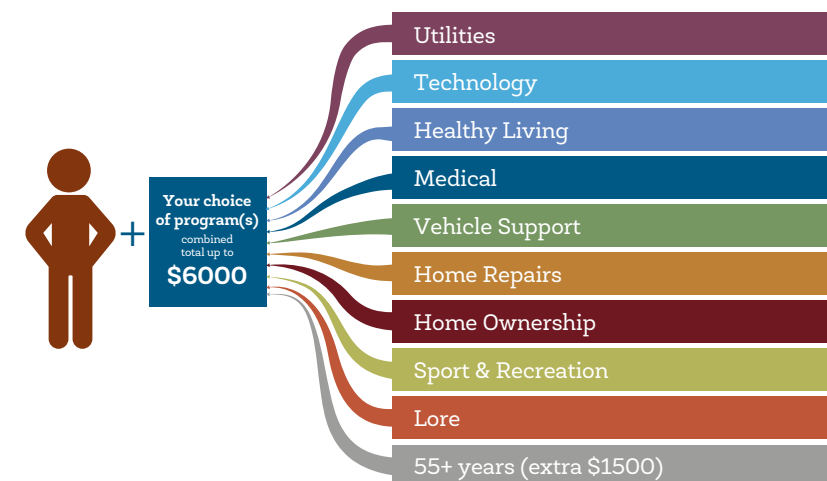
#### Balance increases

There has been a balance increase for Education and Funeral programs under the Fixed Programs umbrella. The Flexible Programs balance has increased from \$4,000 to **\$6,000**.

### Fixed Programs



### Flexible Programs



This financial year will also see the introduction of a special program for Members aged 55 and above. Members will automatically receive an extra **\$1,500** at the start of the financial year and no applications are required for this.

#### New programs

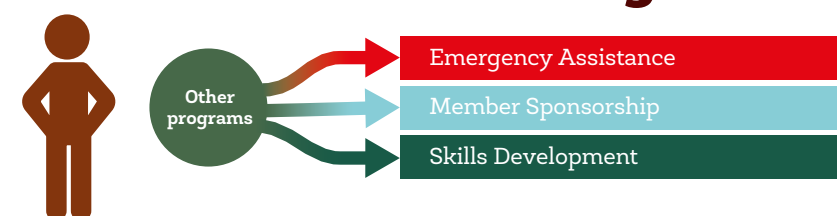
There will be two new Fixed programs launched; one for The Arts and one specifically for Culture (separate to Lore). Full details about these programs are available in the Guidelines booklet.

#### Other programs

Under Other Programs, GAC will continue to offer Emergency Assistance, and sponsorship for Members looking to engage in once-in-a-lifetime opportunities.

A Skills Development Program to support Members who are looking for employment and are wanting to upskill themselves will also be offered under Other Programs.

### Other Programs



# FLEXIBLE & FUNERAL FUNDS ROLL OVER

## Why is there a roll over?

Due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak and the fact that many Members have been unable to spend their program balances in this time, Gumala will allow unspent program money for the Flexible and Funeral Programs to roll over into the new financial year.

## What does this mean for Members?

This means that Members will not lose their funds and do not need to spend current balances by the end of this financial year (30 June 2020).

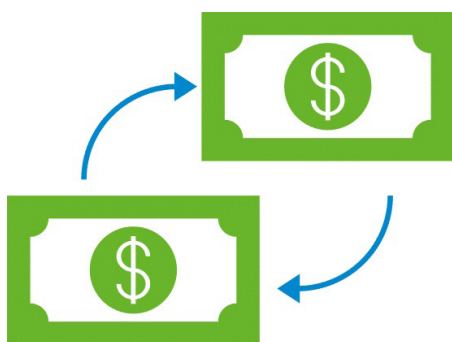
Any unspent money will roll over and be accessible until **30 June 2021**.

## When will my new funds be available?

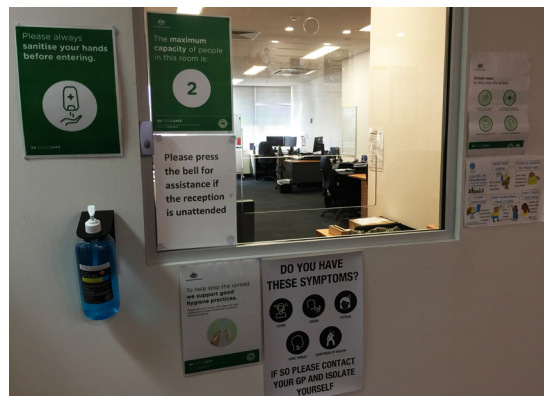
From 1 July 2020 Members will receive more information about the 2020-2021 programs and the funding attached to each of these. New program balances will also be available from this day.

## Will there be regular roll overs?

No, the roll over is due to circumstances around the COVID-19 pandemic and funds are only valid until 30 June 2021.



# GAC OFFICES OPEN



**Whilst our Tom Price office has remained open throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, our East Perth office had to close in late March. Due to the easing of government restrictions, GAC's Perth office on Adelaide Terrace has now reopened.**

To assist with keeping staff and Members safe, we ask that any visitors to our offices follow the guidelines set out by the government and health authorities, namely practising social distancing and good hygiene.

Please do not visit our offices if you are unwell or have any symptoms like a cough, sore throat, fever etc and remember that our staff can always assist you over the phone.



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