



KRED Enterprises newsletter

July, August, September 2015



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We have a right to economic development

Written by Wayne Bergmann for The Australian 29/09/15

In his victory speech, new Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull announced: “There has never been a more exciting time to be alive than today and there has never been a more exciting time to be an Australian. We will ensure that all Australians understand that their government recognises the opportunities of the future.”

If federal, state and territory governments are to ensure that Aboriginal Australians are included in these “opportunities of the future”, it is obvious their first priority should be to support the economic initiatives of Aboriginal people.

Remarkably, some governments do not understand this. Take the most recent Queensland state governments.

On Cape York Peninsula near Aurukan, there’s \$20 billion worth of bauxite waiting to be mined. The traditional owners of the area, the Wik and Wik Way people, eager to be part of the economic development of their region, formed a joint venture with an Australian mining company to create Aurukan Bauxite Developments and planned to mine the resource.

As part of the joint venture, ABD was to give a 15 per cent share of the project to traditional owners, two Aboriginal directors would be appointed to a board of seven, and there were unambiguous commitments to indigenous employment and training. ABD chairman Nicholas Stump has 40 years’ experience in the mining industry and was formerly chief executive of Comalco and MIM Holdings. According to Cape York indigenous leader Noel Pearson: “He is leading a serious team that has the money, the capability and the capacity to do this.”

Here was an opportunity for Aboriginal people to exercise their property rights under native title and control and benefit from development on their country, from operating mining equipment right up to a board level.



Here was an opportunity for Aboriginal people to make a significant step towards economic independence.

But ABD didn't win the tender. In a highly questionable process the former Liberal National Party government of Campbell Newman gave preferred proponent status to Swiss mining giant Glencore. In recent weeks, Annastacia Palaszczuk's Labor government has refused to overturn the Newman government's decision.

History has shown that a failure to support the economic initiatives of traditional owners burdens our welfare system and creates cycles of poverty and unemployment. It's only when traditional owners fully participate in development and make decisions about what happens on their native title areas that these cycles are broken. Excluding them means taxpayers will continue to foot the welfare bill.

Across Australia, we're seeing intense pressure on traditional owners from proponents and companies wishing to access, explore or develop on traditional country. I think there is a common misconception that Aboriginal people are a hindrance to development. This is not the case.

Traditional owners want jobs. Equally, we want to protect the things that are important to us, the environment and our cultural heritage. These are not mutually exclusive. Further, when development happens in partnership with traditional owners, when we have free, prior and informed consent over development on country, this allows us to promote our "triple bottom line" of people and culture, country and economy. It also makes for speedier, more streamlined and more cost-effective project approval process.

Most international investors recognise this reality and are prepared to back a project only if it has traditional owner consent.

In contrast, Australia's Native Title Act allows projects to go ahead without Aboriginal consent, which seriously undermines the negotiating position of traditional owners. Federal, state and territory governments need to support traditional owners so they can negotiate from a position of strength, and to ensure they participate in economic development on their native title lands. I applaud the traditional owners of Aurukan for standing up for their right to be involved in development on their own terms.

It is disappointing the state government chose to support a foreign company over a local joint venture with traditional owners. Governments have a responsibility to look after their citizens first and not back multinational companies, especially when those citizens are among Australia's most disadvantaged.



Expert panel on fracking presents to KRED's members

KRED recently arranged for an independent expert panel on fracking to talk to our members at two meetings, one in Derby and one in Yakanarra. The panel was assembled to cover all the potential environmental concerns that Traditional Owners have raised in relation to fracking and include world renowned experts in their respective fields. The scientists on the panel weren't arguing 'for' or 'against' fracking. Instead, they presented on the real, perceived and potential impacts of fracking in oil and gas exploration, to ensure that Traditional Owners have access to the best information possible and are in the strongest position to make decisions.

In the picture above, from left to right, we have: Manny Haghighi, a professor of well-engineering with specialist knowledge about well-integrity and design; Paul Howe, an expert in hydrogeological modelling, meaning he can read models to understand and predict potential environmental impacts of fracking; (Ceri Morgan, not one of our panelists, but an environmental consultant); Daniel Tormey, a renowned hydrogeologist in the USA with expertise in geochemistry and fracking; and Jenny Stauber, an expert in ecotoxicology and contaminants regarding fracking for oil and gas. The purpose of the meetings was to provide as much information as possible to our members about the use of fracking and its impacts on our lands, environments and ecosystems so our members can make a fully prior and informed decision about fracking on country. There was an informative discussion about the issue at each of the meetings and traditional owners left the meeting with a better understanding of a complicated and sometimes contentious issue.

Presently, there are no plans to fracc on any of our members' country but some of our members have entered into agreements with oil and gas companies who are currently exploring over our country. These agreements provide rules where all exploration activities must first be cleared by our members before they can proceed. We call this our 'no means no' rule. This ensures our country is cared for. The agreements negotiated by KRED Legal are among the strongest in Australia and our lawyers are continuing to raise the bar when it comes to agreement making. If you are a member of the Ambooriny Burru Foundation and you missed the meetings, but would like to find out what the experts said, please give the office a call to arrange a time to chat with one of our lawyers on 91 92 8782.



*The Ambooriny Burru Charitable Foundation and Walalakoo
Aboriginal Corporation sponsor Rodeo Express*

Rodeo Express was an all-Indigenous run rodeo and KRED Enterprises and Walalakoo Aboriginal Corporation were proud to sponsor it. Over the night, spectators were treated with all the favourites: the station buckjump, potty ride, junior and open barrel races and bareback. There was also, of course, some rank bulls for the open and novice bull rides. Our very own EHSIS survey team leader Ronald Wade was instrumental in pulling the Broome-based event together and he reckons the best part of the night was seeing the rodeo run smoothly. "This year was really a test run and next year we hope the rodeo will run over two days. Even so, we had a great crowd, an estimated 3000 people turned up, and it was great to watch some real bulls come out."



Update on KAPCO - the Kimberley Agriculture and Pastoral Company

Aboriginal-owned pastoral stations across the Kimberley are well positioned to take advantage of Asia's booming hunger for beef. Australia is the world's second largest beef exporter and our beef industry is worth 8 billion dollars a year. We have the properties. We have the stock. What we've been lacking is a management structure that will allow us to maximise the potential of underperforming Aboriginal-owned pastoral leases. Until now. The Kimberley Agriculture and Pastoral Company (KAPCO), a project initially spearheaded by KRED Enterprises, is a company made up of three Aboriginal-owned pastoral stations. Bohemia Downs, Frazier Downs and Mt Anderson are working together under KAPCO to create a high-return, large-scale cattle production business. Together, the stations can develop the scale and efficiencies to be commercially competitive.

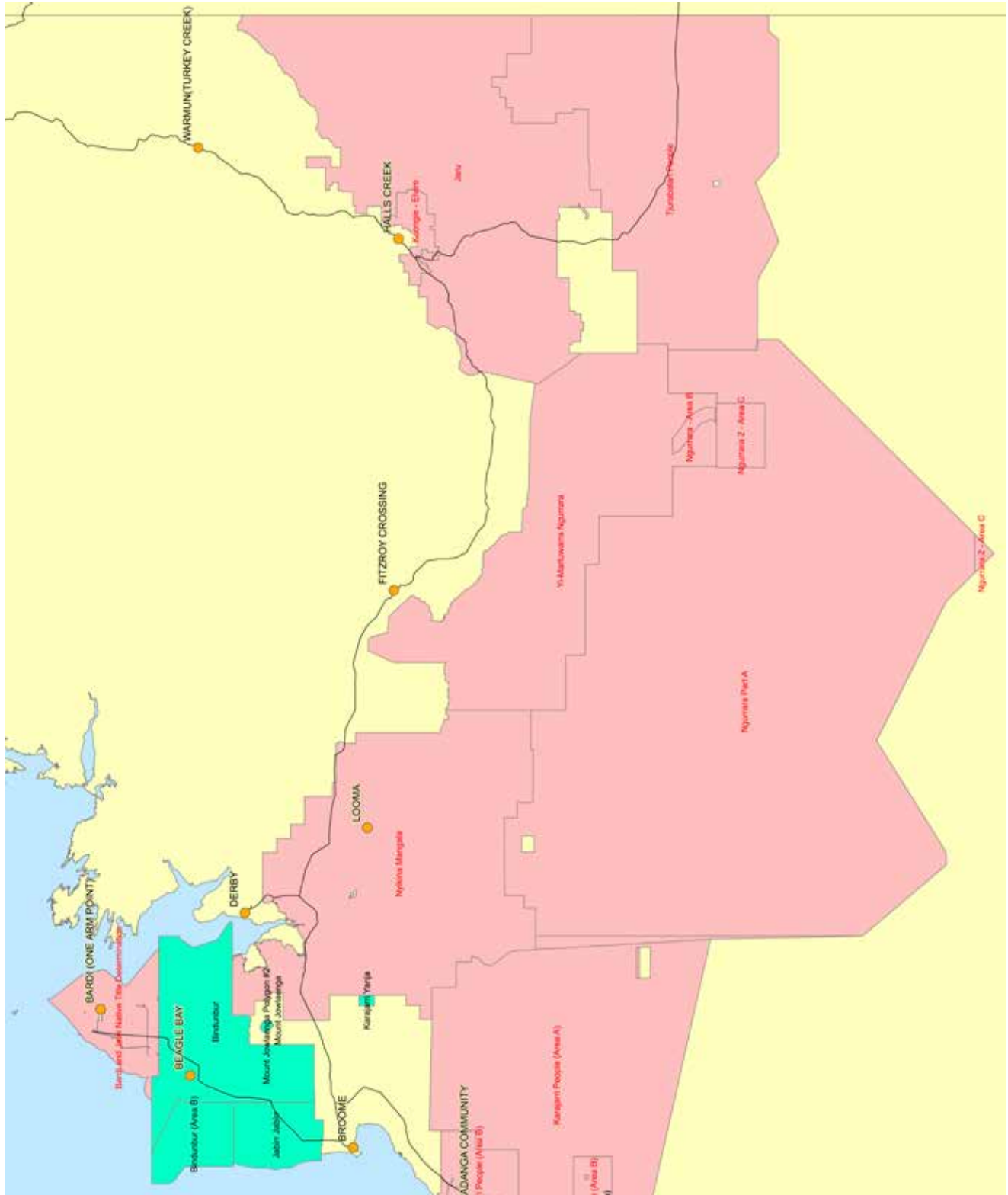
KAPCO has appointed a General Manager, Peter McEntee, and has secured investment from two Kimberley Aboriginal organisations. With this initial investment, we've upgraded infrastructure so that each station can best realise its potential within the company. Mt Anderson and Bohemia Downs are currently breeding properties, and Frazier Downs is growing weaners out for the live export trade. There's still some work to do ahead of our first live export. Over the next twelve months, we plan to introduce efficient bangtail mustering, remove sales cattle and ferals, brand, dehorn and vaccinate stock for botulism, distribute stock in securely fenced, well-watered paddocks, and wean calves in a timely manner to ensure breeders maximise body condition. Current breeder numbers on KAPCO properties will be retained and the number grown as rapidly as possible. KAPCO's business plan has been shaped by extensive consultations and modeling by Indigenous Business Australia and the Northern Development Company.

The development of KAPCO will have widespread social benefits. In the short term, we anticipate the creation of around fifteen new jobs across the stations. The redevelopment of infrastructure will provide further employment for contractors able to undertake fencing, yard building and mustering. We also plan to work closely with the Kimberley Land Council in all aspects of land management.

The Kimberley Land Council has a team of over 100 rangers who will provide a range of commercial services to the pastoral stations, including land care, land regeneration, fire management, weed control, agriculture assessments, community consultation, culture and heritage preservation and security services. Through KAPCO, we are providing a stimulus for the regional economy and creating opportunities for people to live and work on country.

Members' Map September 2015

KRED represents: Bardi Jawi, Ngurrara, Yi-martuwarra Ngurrara, Tjurabalan, Jaru, Nyikina Mangala, Koongie Elvire and Karajarri.



Nipper Tabagee Scholarship Recipient Creates Hope and Harmony through Art

Written by Ann-Janette Phillips



Ngadarb Francine Riches (nee Davey) is a Bardi Jawi and Karajarri woman and has been an artist for over thirty years. She is currently living in Melbourne and undertaking a Doctor of Philosophy at the Victorian College of the Arts—a long way from her home at One Arm Point on the Dampier Peninsula.

Ngadarb's PhD thesis is about healing through the arts and also explores Bardi Jawi oral history. Growing up with strong faith and belief, as well as traditional and cultural knowledge of Aboriginal lore, motivated her to return to study. Through her study, she is exploring the way art can be used to relieve suffering.

As part of her thesis, she developed visual arts and painting programs to help people cope with their daily lives, particularly people who have suffered traumatic experiences, such as the stolen generations, or time in prison. When people paint their lives, it gives them a sense of harmony and peace.

Underpinning all her work is a deep sense of respect for the old people.

"I have a hunger to help our people and I am amazed by our old people, for what they have done for us and left us with. If it wasn't for them, we wouldn't be here today," Ngadarb says.

With suicide rates increasing over the years in the Kimberley, Ngadarb has observed some senior people and elders losing hope for the next generation. She is trying to create hope, by teaching our generation from the modern world about the old days and about ways of growing up on country with our ancestors.

In addition to her thesis, another way she is doing this is by writing a book called 'My Story'. 'My Story' talks about indigenous trades, languages, culture, traditions, knowledge and values—all of which are about respecting our people and ourselves, the proper way, the cultural way.

In the future, she'd like to see the stories gathered in 'Healing through the Arts' digitalised and displayed at mental health businesses, organisations and institutions nationwide. She would also like to develop computer games to improve the mental, emotional, spiritual and physical capacity of younger children living in Indigenous community across Australia.

Ngadarb is grateful to KRED Enterprises and the Ambooriny Burru Foundation for the Nipper Tabagee Scholarship. She is determined to finish her studies so she can continue educating our kids to walk in two worlds.



Projects on Bardi Jawi country

KRED Enterprises Pty Limited has been working with the Bardi Jawi PBC advising them on a number of proposed projects on Bardi Jawi country. The Bardi Jawi PBC is looking for economic opportunities on country relating to tourism, aquaculture and servicing the offshore oil and gas industry.

KRED is also working with the Bardi Jawi PBC to have land that is held by the Aboriginal Lands Trust divested to traditional owners and will be looking to continue to progress this for the remainder of 2015 and into 2016.

KRED has attended a number of PBC meetings and is committed to continuing to support the Bardi Jawi PBC to ensure there are economic opportunities for Bardi Jawi traditional owners that are consistent with the culture and environmental values of Bardi Jawi country.

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Yanunijarra AGM 2015

Written by Ann-Janette Phillips

The Yanunijarra AGM meeting was held on the 18th-20th August 2015 at Yakanarra Community, 120km south of Fitzroy Crossing. There were about 60 attendees at the meeting, who came to help shape the future for Ngurrara country, communities and people.

During the meeting, 4 new directors and a new chairman were elected. The new directors are Beryl Dickens, Irene Jimbidie, Jennifer Thomas and George Jubadah, and the new chairman is Terrance Jack. May we thank and farewell the former chairman, Ronnie Jimbidie, and the outgoing directors, for all their hard work, effort and contributions.

Chief Operations Officer, Peter Murray, says that Yanunijarra is committed to good governance, and to following both cultural and mainstream protocols.

"Everyone was comfortable that we followed the correct process and were happy with the decision about the new directors. On the board, I think we have a good balance of directors with a range of skills and expertise," Mr Murray says.

During the AGM, there were talks and discussions about business, employment, development, ranger establishment and ways to look after country. There was also a presentation, organised by KRED Enterprises, from an independent expert panel on fracking. The panel of scientists gave Traditional Owners information about the



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potential impacts of fracking in the Canning Superbasin. Mr Murray said overall, the meeting was informative and engaging with a good mixture of presentations from all parts of the Ngurrara community.

“The main highlight was getting everything done in regards to reports from rangers and community members. We have many strong programs happening on Ngurrara country and the PBC wants to be a part of supporting those programs that are creating positive social and economic change. I think everyone was happy with the presentation of the AGM and satisfied with the results,” Mr Murray says.

The Ngurrara rangers were a great help, collecting firewood, setting up the camping area, and helping to serve food. Traditional dancing was held on the last night, which brought our community together, and had many participants.

Our AGM has been at Yakanarra for the last two years and we’d like to thank the community for hosting us. Next year, we might try a different venue, maybe closer to town so that we’re between the river and desert. By doing this, hopefully all of our PBC members will participate, get more involved and learn about what projects are happening on country with Ngurrara people. We believe it’s important that young people and old people are all part of the process of working toward our vision for Ngurrara. By building ourselves up and standing together we are strong.





A message from Yanunijarra's Chairman

Written by Ann-Janette Phillips

Terrence Jack is a proud Ngurrara man from the Great Sandy Desert and he's been elected as the new Chairman for Yanunijarra Aboriginal Corporation.



"I walk in two worlds. I'm from the younger generation so I bring a unique perspective to this role. My vision is to protect country and our traditional values, while also creating a bright future for our children.

I think we need to look at how Ngurrara people can best live in both worlds. I've been inspired by my elders, family and other indigenous leaders. Without them, I wouldn't be in the position to help shape the future for Ngurrara country and people. In five years time, I would like to see more opportunities for young people and to see young people involved in employment, development and supporting one another to create a better future. I feel very happy and proud to be working for my people, elders, Traditional Owners and especially our children."

Yanunijarra's new directors!





Ngurrara Rangers give their wrap on the last year . . .

Written by Ann-Janette Phillips

Ranger Update

Being a ranger comes with the big responsibility of looking after country. Over the last year, our ranger team has grown to twelve people, with eight rangers funded by the Kimberley Land Council, and four new positions funded through the Green Army.

We have ranger coordinators for both men and women's groups, Frankie McCarthy and Chantelle Murray, and also a Healthy Country Coordinator, Brendan Fox. This year, we've been undertaking a range of conservation and land management activities.

Head Women's Ranger Coordinator, Chantelle Murray, says she's proud to be leading a strong team that's committed to caring for country. "Over the last year, our capacity has really grown. We have a dedicated team of men and women that are making sure Ngurrara country is looked after and protected in accordance with our cultural protocols. In addition to our day-to-day land management activities—like fire and feral weed management—we're also exploring ways for the rangers to set up local enterprises."

Some of the enterprise projects under consideration include selling camel humps for biodiesel, establishing a nursery and selling seedlings and producing incense from the wood of the konkerberry tree.

The rangers are involved in a number of other big activities. Plans are still progressing to set up a Canning Stock Route base camp. The idea is to transport a donga onto the Stock Route and to have a rotating roster of rangers at the base.





Rangers will also take part in construction work to develop the area, with support from the Kimberley Training Institute (KTI). This is important so we can enforce the permit system already in place, control access, increase visitor engagement and to educate visitors on country.

Two Way Learning Project

Another major project for us has been the Shell Two Way Learning Project involving rangers, Traditional Owners and school students. As part of this project, we're looking after and monitoring ground water in the Canning Basin, in a way that combines western science and traditional knowledge. Participants match stories and knowledge of jilas (waterholes) with scientific data collected by using water monitoring and sampling techniques.

So far, Wili, Pirrini, Purluwala, Lumpu Lumpu, Crossland 3 and Kurnajarti were all tested for salt and fresh water, and we found out that they are all safe to drink from.

At Wili, Pirrini, Purluwala and Lumpu Lumpu, we recorded information with data loggers to determine water flow and direction beneath the surface. At Wili, Lumpu Lumpu and Pirrini we've set up weather stations and we are also looking at installing another weather station on Well 49 at the base camp towards the end of 2015. Currently, the rangers are responsible for monitoring bores and barometer pressure, water monitoring evaluation and installing weather stations.

All information recorded must be reported to the Traditional Owners and people of Ngurrara country. This is an important project for Yanunijarra to oversee, because it allows us to monitor climate change impacts and we can use it as a management tool to inform future conservation activities.

There have been a number of positive outcomes from the Shell Two Way Learning Project. It's providing opportunities in both employment and education. So far, all 12 rangers have gained skills and experiences in completing Certificate II and III in Conservation and Land Management—and part of this involves undertaking water sampling and testing.

We're also hoping to increase school attendance by involving young people with the project. We're teaching about water monitoring in schools and providing school scholarships and awards for students for good attendance.

Cissy Gore Birch has recently come onboard as the Two Way Learning Cultural Education Officer and she's excited about the project's potential. "This is a project that can go a long way. We're working on a new and innovative way of doing things and we've already been in schools and worked with around 120 kids at Fitzroy Crossing District High School and Bayulu Community School. We want this to be a project that works for us, and we want it to be sustainable."

Yanunijarra aims to be involved at all levels when it comes to decision making on country. We will uphold the values of our old people and the Traditional Owners, and balance the needs of current and future generations to look after country in a sustainable way.



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This is our Ngurrara nursery out at Kurlku . . .



. . . & Frankie McCarthy, the male Ngurrara Coordinator, showing the women rangers some plumbing



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Ngurrara casual ranger Tiandra Nuggett has got some desert here to make jewellery, and Ngurrara Green Army ranger Marika Rogers is tacking bolts for the nursery out at Kurliku.

For more Yanunijarra News

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CHUCK WYNN (JARRANG) KULU BARRACKS



Ngurrara is currently working with Shell Learning project to measure water quality in the Canning River. The project aims to gain knowledge about water through training, painting and gathering stories from Ngurrara's scientific knowledge.

It's a project that both Ngurrara Rangers Traditional Owners are undertaking and benefiting from. It is a learning project that aims to gain knowledge about water through training, painting and gathering stories from Ngurrara's scientific knowledge.

Through the project, Rangers and Traditional Owners have also been presenting to and engaging with the community. Ngurrara Rangers Community School and Pitsoy Valley District High School. Students are learning traditional knowledge and they're exposed to employment and training opportunities post year 12.

Ngurrara Aboriginal Corporation are excited about this project and the potential for further safety, for their people.



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Walalakoo welcomes onboard new CEO

Written by Ann-Janette Phillips

Introducing Damien Parriman, our new CEO for Walalakoo Aboriginal Corporation (WAC). Damien is a Yawuru and Jabirr Jabirr man who has lived in Broome for most of his life. He has also spent some time in Perth on a scholarship to complete a Bachelor of Laws at the University of Western Australia.

Employed by the Kimberley Land Council (KLC) in 2003, Damien was the Senior Business Manager of the Land and Sea Management Unit before becoming the CEO of WAC. He has years of experience in the native title field and understand processes such as litigation, negotiating consent determinations, negotiation of land use agreements, cultural heritage and environmental surveys, co-ordinating large scale events, stakeholder engagement, developing PBC governance structures and providing a range of support services to PBCs.

Damien says he's excited about the challenge ahead.

"It is a step up for me but the issues and challenges facing WAC are not dissimilar to what I have been dealing with on a larger scale with the KLC in a pre-PBC context. Almost my entire working career I have been with the KLC. During that time I worked with many inspirational elders from across the Kimberley whose vision and aspirations have shaped the way I view the world. I believe it is important to listen to what the people want and deliver outcomes that best encompass the visions and aspirations of the people."

He says he has found a common theme across the Kimberley when it comes to key issues of importance.

"The common theme is strong culture, healthy country, control of country and determining our own future. PBCs have an important role to play in achieving all of these aspirations. I believe in building a strong, sustainable and independent PBC with a strong economic foundation to achieve these aspirations for Nyikina Mangala people."

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