

KRED

Enterprises

newsletter



KRED drives Aboriginal Pastoral Co-op



John Watson recalls his mum starting work on Mt Anderson station at three in the morning. She would set the bread and put it away in the oven, was skilled at fixing fences and mustering sheep. The women mustered the sheep on foot, with dogs, as the station only had a couple of horses.

They worked if they were sick, worked if they were starving, worked without days off. From Bohemia Downs to Billiluna, Mt Anderson to Mt Pierre, Aboriginal people, our old people, were the backbone of the pastoral industry in the Kimberley.

Since John's mum was a young woman, a lot has changed, with many of the pastoral leases in the Kimberley now owned by Aboriginal people. However, in recent years, it's also become apparent that some stations are underperforming.

With the June 2015 deadline looming in relation to Aboriginal pastoral leases, KRED has been approached by a number of pastoral workers and stations concerned about their ability to reinvigorate their pastoral leases. In response, KRED has developed a vision to revive the pastoral industry in the North West.

KRED proposes a group of pastoral stations stand together as a pastoral consortium. By joining forces in a commercial consortium, by sticking together and looking out for each other like our old people did in the station days, we will provide genuine employment and training opportunities for local communities and Aboriginal people. We will develop a year-round supply chain and implement world class breeding, herd management and feed crop

technology.

We envisage a future where our people are the backbone of the Kimberley pastoral industry once again—where local communities and Aboriginal people can access employment and training opportunities ranging from stationhands and cooks, to subcontractors and managers. We envisage a future where our stations supply the highest quality beef to domestic and international markets and where we implement innovative and environmentally sustainable land management practices to maximise productivity and to protect the health of country.

Lobbying for global benchmarks at United Nations



KRED Enterprises CEO Wayne Bergmann and CEO of the Kimberley Land Council Nolan Hunter jet to New York to speak at the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues.

In a joint presentation, they lobbied for a set of global best practice principals and benchmarks for Indigenous economic development.

Mr Bergmann told ABC Kimberley (29/04/14) that companies can broker different – and potentially less beneficial – commercial deals and agreements with Indigenous people, depending on which country they're operating in.

"I'm hoping to reinforce an international alliance on benchmarking where we can really talk best practice ... In situations where we can't stop development, we need to make sure it's done on the best possible terms."

Through all commercial negotiations, KRED Enterprises references a triple bottom line of people and culture, country and the economy.

With this as a foundation, KRED's negotiated some of the strongest impact benefit agreements between mining companies and Indigenous people in Australia. Often these agreements go beyond the statutory agreements of governments and ensure any development is designed to meet the highest environmental and cultural standards.



Mr Bergmann says in Australia, Aboriginal people are regularly put in a difficult position.

"We have a resource rich country with an appalling history of mistreatment of Aboriginal people. This puts Aboriginal people in a difficult position. We have a responsibility to look after country, but it's also crucial we participate in the modern economy."

Mr Hunter elaborated, telling ABC Kimberley that engagement with companies often provides an uncomfortable tension for Indigenous people.

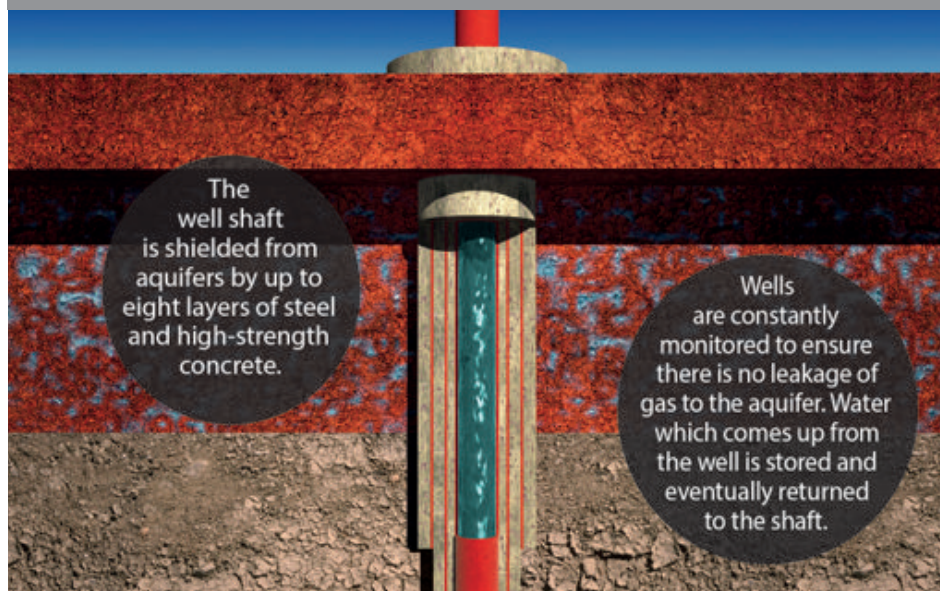
"The tension (is) between how you engage with economic development without compromising your cultural integrity."

Mr Bergmann says the solution lies in creating economic opportunities that affirm Aboriginal cultural and social values.

"We want the choice to be able to practice the culture and values of our ancestors and to walk on Wall Street, as part of the mainstream economy," Mr Bergmann says.

Buru Energy update: the importance of well integrity

This information and diagram was supplied by Buru Energy



Maintaining well integrity is of paramount importance for Buru Energy's operations. A well is constructed with multiple layers of protective steel casing (up to three sets) which are cemented together. This creates a series of barriers between the well bore and the rock formation to isolate the inside of the well from the outside environment, including groundwater.

Before any activities are undertaken, the Department of Mines and Petroleum (DMP) requires operators to undertake tests to ensure the cement is sealed and bonded correctly, creating an effective seal and barrier. The well must be pressure tested to make sure the cementing and casing can take the pressures involved in future activities such as hydraulic fracturing or production. Operators are also required to send a probe down the well to see through the sides of the well, similar to an x-ray, checking that the cement has properly bonded to the

rock and steel casing. This process is called cement bond logging.

Buru Energy's wells will be constantly and very carefully monitored during operations (including drilling or pumping for a fracking activity) and the results reported to the DMP daily. DMP engineers will review these reports and conduct site audits and inspections to ensure the operations are undertaken safely.

For more information on Buru Energy's proposed 2014 tight gas stimulation program (TGS14), visit www.buruenergy.com

Expert panel appointed to assess Buru Energy's activities

We're still waiting on final confirmation before we can release the names of the expert panel we're appointing to assess Buru Energy's activities. KRED is concerned about the potential impacts of fracking, or hydraulic fracturing, on our members' country. To ensure our members have the best possible information about the practice, we're assembling a team of experts across a range of disciplines (including engineering, hydrogeology & modelling) to investigate Buru Energy's proposed fracking projects and report back to KRED Enterprises. It's crucial our members have expert information so they can understand the science behind fracking and make informed judgements about what they do and don't allow on their country.

Can oil and gas wells leak?

In '*Oil and gas wells and their integrity: Implications for shale and unconventional resource exploitation*', a report released in March, 2014, the independent academic group Researching Fracking in Europe (ReFINE) found that:

- Oil and gas well barrier elements can fail
- In Pennsylvania, America, more than 6% of wells in a major shale exploration region have reported some kind of leak
- In a separate study of 3533 wells in Pennsylvania, monitored between 2008 and 2011, there were 85 examples of cement or casing failures, 4 blowouts and 2 examples of gas venting.

At the time of writing, an oil well operated by Emerald Oil in North Dakota, America, was continuing to leak oil, gas and fracking fluid days after authorities were notified of the leak. The problem occurred due to a failure of the site's wellhead during hydraulic fracturing.

ICRG delivering real employment outcomes for our mob

KRED Enterprises is proud of its joint venture with the Indigenous Construction Resource Group (ICRG). ICRG have delivered 100% Aboriginal employment on construction at Valhalla and an average of 75% Aboriginal employment on all other contracting jobs with Buru Energy. Employees, many from Noonkanbah and Derby, have been involved as civil works operators, in site preparation and have worked on bunding around dams. ICRG have been a fantastic mob to work with and we look forward to an ongoing positive relationship in the future.

We're delivering world class cultural awareness packages



Gordon Marshall, a Karajarri man, remembers giving himself homemade tattoos as a twelve or thirteen-year-old. He shaved his arm and then used the burning sap-slimed seeds of the Willing tree to dissolve designs into his skin. It was a kind of toughness test, so despite the searing pain, there was no way he flinched.

This is one of the stories told as part of a joint Nyikina Mangala and Karajarri cultural awareness package and over the last two months, KRED Enterprises has delivered a number of the packages.

Robert Watson, who's also delivering the training, says the key aim is to foster appreciation by giving people a fair and accurate picture of Indigenous culture and history.

"I have attended many of these kind of sessions ... with other companies in other countries, and this was the most informative and enjoyable."

- Participant in KRED's cultural awareness training

"We've had Prime Ministers pay homage time and again to Aboriginal people, we've even had a Prime Minister say sorry, but for many people, these are bare political statements. Our cultural awareness packages are about giving meaning to these statements. They're about peeling back the dry layers of history to reveal a very real, a very human face."

The joint package spans 50,000 years of Indigenous history, moving from the complexities of Karajarri kinship ties to the devastating legacy of the Stolen Generations; from basic bush medicine to *The Dog Act of 1883*.

Robert Watson says we can't challenge the status quo, or even understand why the status quo exists today, unless we understand this history.

"Until we understand history, we are unable to put the journey of Aboriginal people into context; we are unable to appreciate the annihilation, dispossession, insecurity and marginalisation from policies and decision-making processes."

Gordon Marshall says it's important people working on Karajarri Country undergo the training.

"When people come out onto Country, they need to know about Country. They need to know about the places they can and can't go. If they're told not to go there, then no means no. This cultural awareness package gives them a better understanding of why this is important."

The packages are a part of the work KRED does with companies to ensure any development on our members' Country is designed and operated to meet the highest environmental and cultural standards. They are run through KRED's wholly owned subsidiary company EHSIS and are part of KRED's mission to create positive legacies for our members in the Kimberley.

Recent participants have praised the training in their written feedback. One participant wrote, 'I have attended many of these kind of sessions ... with other companies in other countries, and this was the most informative and enjoyable so far. The gentlemen conducting the session were very supportive of open discussion and shared many interesting historical stories ...' Another wrote, 'I learned alot today and would highly recommend to other newcomers.'

While participants aren't required to stick their arms out for a bush-tattoo, we are confident that the material in our packages will leave a positive mental tattoo: one that reminds us of the need for mutual respect and mutual understanding in all our personal and commercial relationships.



Culture is the life-giving medicine

Promoting community led solutions to Indigenous youth suicide

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The Elders Report

One of the initial actions of the Culture is Life campaign was the development of the Elders Report on Preventing Indigenous Self Harm and Youth Suicide.

Culture is Life representatives traveled across the country, gathering vital messages from senior Elders about the solutions needed to solve the youth suicide crisis. These voices form the heart of the campaign, which acts to press community concerns upon Government and service providers on the best ways forward for their communities.

The Elders Report has now been published, and is available for download and sharing.

It is foreworded by Social Justice Commissioner Mick Gooda and leading Indigenous psychologist Prof Pat Dudgeon.

The Elders' Report
into
Preventing Indigenous Self-harm
& Youth Suicide



In State Parliament in February, Josie Farrer spoke of suicide creating a 'wave of grief' throughout her electorate. It is, in fact, a wave that rolls across electorates: across the Kimberley, across the Tiwi Islands, across the communities of Cape York, and back again.

A new report, 'The Elders Report into Preventing Indigenous Self-harm and Suicide', profiles the perspectives of Elders and community leaders from northern Australia and aims to answer the questions: why is self-harm and suicide still happening? And, what is the solution?

KRED Enterprises CEO Wayne Bergmann, says one of the reasons government strategies haven't solved the problem is because they're based on quick-fix models implemented by outsiders and are subject to the ebbs and flows of funding.

"Aboriginal people need to be involved in solving our own problems. Bringing outsiders into the Kimberley will not create succession, the legacies of change that we need. . . There are a lot of people running around trying to do good, but it doesn't create intergenerational change. We want to up-skill our own people."

It's a sentiment shared by other leaders in the Kimberley, including Fitzroy Crossing's Dean Gooda.

Mr Gooda says, "We have always heard of policy development from the ground up, but in my 25 years working in this area with government and community, I have never seen this happen. I have never seen them take and implement what the community is asking for if it doesn't fit into the funding guidelines . . . It is frustrating, because we can see a light at the end of the tunnel."

A number of leaders view this light as a reconnection to culture. Fitzroy Crossing elder Joe Brown says, "If they [young people] lose language and connection to culture they become a nobody inside and that's enough to put anyone over the edge . . . We're trying to bring them back, make them really strong."

Many of the leaders agree that an effective way to do this is to take young people at risk back to country. The Yiriman Project, which kicked off in 2000, offers an on-country cultural program designed to heal through intergenerational knowledge sharing. Yiriman founder, John Watson, says young people often react strongly to the experience.

“Some come out clean, some of them understand what we’re talking about, some of them cry—it gets into them very deep.”

KRED’s Chairperson Anthony Watson is also a founder and Chairperson of the Yiriman Project. He acknowledges securing funding for the program is an ongoing challenge but says, “I’m dedicated toward the social and cultural programs in the community and helping youth bridge the gap.”

“That’s where the real answers lie, in empowering Aboriginal people to address community issues.”

- KRED’s CEO Wayne Bergmann.

Professor Pat Dudgeon also acknowledges that culture is crucial for healing. She says, “Culture has become a life-giving medicine for our people, closing the wounds of the past and standing us strong to face the future.”

One of the biggest challenges for Indigenous young people is in learning to walk in two worlds, in finding a balance between earning a wage and maintaining traditional knowledge, values and cultural practices. The overwhelming consensus among leaders in this report suggests challenges such as this are best met not by fly-in-fly-out bureaucrats, or policy makers in Canberra, but by community leaders and Elders.

Mr Bergmann says, “That’s where the real answers lie, in empowering Aboriginal people to address community issues.”

Company watch

Oil and gas company Linc Energy are facing criminal charges over alleged environmental harm. They’ve been operating an experimental underground coal gasification plant in QLD. One of the charges is over the fracturing of the ground above the coal seam. Land holders are concerned their water bores and the aquifer will become contaminated but have been told not to worry about it - that there’s no immediate threat to their groundwater. We look forward to hearing the outcomes of the case.

KRED has also noted with interest that Darkinjung Land Council in NSW has challenged a mining company (a company 82% owned by the Korean government) over the validity of its plans for the Wallarah Two underground mine near Wyong and it wants the development application withdrawn.

KRED donates to keep children's bellies full



Cooking for 3 kids is generally okay—you might even have a bit left over for lunch the next day. Cooking for 13 kids is starting to get tricky—will you have enough for everyone? Now imagine what it must be like cooking for 300 kids ...

Broome-based organisation Feed the Little Children are doing just this. In the space of only two years they've gone from preparing 15-20 meals a week, to preparing 300 meals twice a week for children and young people who'd otherwise be going hungry.

The motivation behind Feed the Little Children's work is that if children have a full belly, they're less likely to commit crime. Feed the Little Children's CEO Clint Durham says there's evidence to suggest many young delinquents commit their first crime because they're hungry.

"If you don't have food or glucose then you don't think properly. You get cranky and you do silly things. Although the program hasn't been running for long—and although I might be a bit biased—I've definitely seen a change in a number of families I've been to. The kids look healthier, mum's not as stressed out and the increased levels of nutrition will help the kids fight things like ear, nose and throat infections," Mr Durham says.

KRED Enterprises understands that our young people can't reach their full potential on an empty belly. Our young people have no chance of going on to further study at university, or of becoming active and engaged participants in our communities and economy, if they're too hungry to pay attention at primary and high school.

We also understand that breaking cycles of poverty and neglect is a community effort—not just one that should be left to the police, or to the schools. It's about standing together and working together, because collectively we're more powerful, collectively we have the ability to create real and positive change.

This morning, KRED Enterprises handed over a cheque for \$1,580, making good on our promise to match dollar for dollar donations received by Anthony Watson for the OzHarvest/Qantas CEO Cookoff back in March.

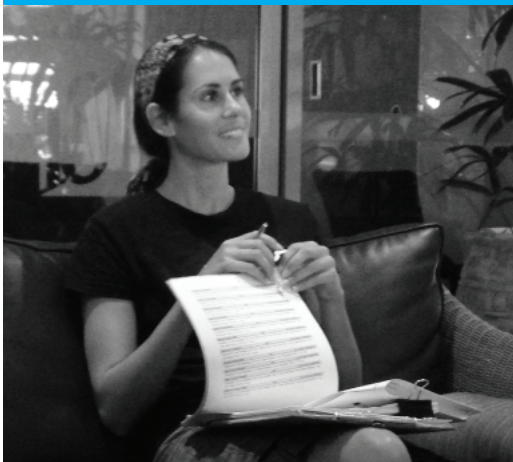
Anthony Watson, as Chairperson of KRED and Chairperson and founder of the Yirriman

Project, is adamant that community organisations like Feed the Little Children receive continued community, government and corporate support to ensure their longevity.

“We see programs come and then disappear when the funding is cut. We would like to see more community-run organisations, tailored particularly to our community needs, receive the support they need to keep helping our young people.”

If you would like to find out more information, either about KRED’s support for Feed the Little Children through the OzHarvest/Qantas CEO Cookoff, or would like to speak with Anthony about the Yiriman Project, please call KRED Enterprises on 91928782.

Not your average textbook lawyer



If you’d just finished six years at university tackling a combined Commerce (Accounting) and Law degree, it would be fair to assume you might have your eyes pinned on a prized graduate position—perhaps at a big law or accounting firm in one of the nation’s capitals.

But Megan Highfold, a Kokatha woman from South Australia, wasn’t your average graduate. Upon finishing her degree she packed the car and headed to Alice Springs, where she took up a position with the Central Land Council working with their legal team for the Tennant Creek mob.

After several years in the desert, she was ready for a sea change, so when she saw an opportunity to join KRED Enterprises she jumped at it. In her role as In-house Counsel she’s now responsible for representing Traditional Owners and KRED’s members in commercial negotiations with proponents—which includes discussing the initial terms of heritage protection agreements.

“I really connect with KRED’s cultural values about looking after all its members and I especially like the negotiations around agreements. It’s exciting to be able to make strong terms that protect Country and also provide a future for Aboriginal people in communities,” Megan says.

She’s adamant that there’s nothing more crucial than protecting Country. “Country is everything to us. Control over our Country, our land, is so important to our health and our spiritual well-being. Country is what keeps us going. And it’s been great to be working in the Kimberley and to be welcomed onto other people’s Country.”

At this stage, she doesn’t see herself lured away by the ritz, dazzle and fat paychecks of city law firms.

“I’m really proud of working for KRED, an Aboriginal charitable foundation that’s owned by its members. We’ve got a power block of mobs from across the Kimberley and we’re

generating money to help other Aboriginal people in the region. I'm getting the chance to manage so many different things and it's challenging, because there's not always a textbook answer to problems!"

KRED employs young Indigenous trainee



Kianee (Kiki) D'Anna developed a taste for the wheeling and dealing of the KRED offices while she was still a student in year 12.

Although she attended school in Wyndham, she spent her school holidays in Broome, working casually at KRED as an Administration Officer. KRED was so impressed with her skills she was offered a traineeship with the organisation and given the impressive job title: Junior Personal Assistant to the General Counsel of the Ambooriny Burru Group of Companies (KRED).

"It's been a good opportunity, more than what most year 12 students would probably get," Kianee says.

Since she started full-time she's been busy filing, penning the minutes of meetings and learning about time billing. As if this weren't enough, she's on a mission to learn even more.

"My computer skills are good—but not as good as I'd like them to be. That's what I'm hoping to work on in the coming months."

Kianee is also building her skills at the Kimberley Training Institute one day a week, where she is studying Business Administration.

Merrilee Powers, KRED's Operations and Logistics Manager, has been appointed as Kianee's in-office mentor. She recognises the importance of creating economic opportunities for local Indigenous young people.

"Kianee is a young Indigenous woman of the Kimberley. We understand it's important to invest in both the personal and professional growth of our mob," Merrilee says.

While Kianee sometimes misses Wyndham she's also positive about her experience in Broome with KRED.

"This is my first 'real' job and it's been a really good opportunity—especially in helping me become organised and learn new skills," she says.

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*Ambooriny Burru Director Cyril Archer + Joe Edgar Chair of KTLA + Anthony Watson with his pet snake
Dancers at Karajarri IPA declaration + Mandy Shovelor and Cecilia Bennett + Afternoon tea at KRED*