



Community Edition August 2010

GUMALA NEWS



GUMALA
Aboriginal Corporation
(ICN:2744)

Disclaimer: 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.



It's all about people

– by Gumala Aboriginal Corporation's Chief Executive, Steve Mav

“ Thanks to the income and in-kind support received directly or indirectly from Rio Tinto Iron Ore, Gumala assistance to the Traditional Owners places less pressure on government and non-government agencies alike in meeting the needs of the overall general community ”

Gumala Aboriginal Corporation continues to rapidly grow and provide more services to its members – the Traditional Owners from the Bunjima, Innawonga and Niarparli Language groups.

Given the doubling of the membership and significant changes to the operations of one of Australia's largest indigenous corporations, Gumala has been embarking on an extensive implementation plan since major restructuring began three years ago.

This has been driven by the Board of Directors whose vision for their people is to remain 'connected to the land' while addressing important socio-economic issues.

Management has been given the task of providing higher levels of operational service and service delivery to meet members' greater expectations.

In order to better service the members, Gumala has invested in building a strong team of professionals recruited locally, nationally and also from overseas. Our staff, together with forming strategic partnerships, have been

our success. An example of this is the close collaboration which exists between Gumala and Rio Tinto Iron Ore (RTIO) on a host of important issues including land and housing development, community capacity building, governance and risk management, heritage management, facilities management and traineeships, to name just a few!

It's a pleasure to regularly meet the people from RTIO to discuss ways in which the special relationship – borne from the historic Yandi Land Use Agreement – can be strengthened and enhanced.

It is also important that this collaboration is understood and supported by the general community. For example, due to increasing demand for essential services in Aboriginal communities

like at Bellary, Wakathuni and Youngaleena, Gumala, as a members' organisation, provides additional funding, infrastructure development and community services to ensure that people living in those communities can enjoy a decent standard of living.

Thanks to the income and in-kind support received directly or indirectly from RTIO, Gumala assistance to the Traditional Owners places less pressure on government and non-government agencies alike in meeting the needs of the overall general community.

Gumala will continue to rely on this strength of support to achieve good outcomes for the Traditional Owners.

\$1 million funding injection paves the way for new tourism infrastructure at Karijini

Gumala Aboriginal Corporation (GAC) has been awarded \$1 million from the WA State Government - through the Government's Royalties for Regions program – which will help fund a strategic \$1.6 million infrastructure project at the majestic Karijini National Park.

The project will consist of the construction of a state-of-the-art cultural amphitheatre and dorm-style accommodation units at Karijini Eco Retreat.

Gumala operates the tourist award-winning Karijini Eco Retreat in cooperation with the Department of Conservation and Land Management (CALM).

The announcement of the awarding of the State Government funding to GAC was made recently by Hon. Brendon Grylls, Minister for Regional Development, as part of the Pilbara Revitalisation Plan Phase Two.

In making the announcement, the Minister said that he was excited

by Gumala's vision to expand the experience for visitors to the Karijini National Park.

Minister Grylls added that he was pleased that the Liberal-National Government was able to assist the Traditional Owners achieve their long term goals for their organisation and people.

"I congratulate Gumala and the Traditional Owners for their



Brendon Grylls during a recent visit to the Pilbara

foresight and determination to further develop the Karijini Eco Retreat" the Minister said.

"This will not only enhance the experience for visitors to the National Park but will support employment and economic opportunities for local Indigenous people from the expected growth in tourism to one of the State's most majestic inland areas.

"The Royalties for Regions program has achieved a great deal since its inception and programs such as these are vital for the future growth of regional WA," Mr Grylls added.

Minister Grylls said the Karijini project and the 15 other projects funded by Royalties for Regions as part of the Pilbara Cities program would help to establish a more sustainable social and economic base for the Pilbara region.

"These projects address strategic priority areas, including land availability, affordable housing, health, education, community >>

"I congratulate Gumala and the Traditional Owners for their foresight and determination to further develop the Karijini Eco Retreat" – Brendon Grylls



Lightning show at Karijini. A state-of-the-art cultural amphitheatre and dorm-style accommodation units will be built at the multi-tourism-award-winning Karijini Eco Retreat, which is located in the heart of the world famous Karijini National Park

>> activation, transport and indigenous affairs,” Mr Grylls said.

The new strategic infrastructure projects are supported by the Pilbara Development Commission and endorsed by the Pilbara Revitalisation Plan Steering Committee.

The other projects are: Bloodwood Tree Association - Training and Employment Centre; Education Department - Hedland Senior High School Upgrade; FORM - Roebourne Art Group Art Centre; Ngarluma/Yindjibarni Foundation - Woodbrook Law Grounds; Pilbara Development Commission (PDC) - Office Accommodation; Puntukurnu Aboriginal Medical Service - Jigalong New Clinic and Staff Accommodation; Shire of Roebourne - Karratha Education, Leisure and Training Project; Yaandina Family Centre - Roebourne Youth Centre; Kanyirninpa Jukurrarra - Martu Knowledge Program; Rio Tinto - Dampier Childcare Centre Upgrade; Rio Tinto - Paraburdoo Childcare Centre; Shire of Ashburton - Tom Price Sporting Precinct; Shire of East Pilbara - East Pilbara Communications Enhancement; Town of Port Hedland - Cemetery Beach/Koombana Community Parks; and Town of Port Hedland - General Practitioner (GP) Housing Project.

The Minister said the Pilbara Revitalisation Plan supported the

development of the Pilbara.

He added that the projects will help transform towns in the Pilbara and provide a better lifestyle for the community and visitors to the region.

GAC's Chief Executive, Steve Mav, said he was extremely appreciative of the support GAC had received from Hon. Brendon Grylls and the Liberal-National Government regarding



Brendon Grylls during a visit to Karijini, pictured with Steve Mav, Churchill Jones (far right), Ken Ingie (far left) and his grandson Josiah

GAC's Education and Cultural Amphitheatre Vision.

“Karijini Eco Retreat is the jewel in the crown in terms of eco-tourism is Australia,” Mr Mav said.

“This funding announcement represents a significant achievement for GAC and its associated enterprises.

“GAC has recently undertaken major reforms, and the fact that the Traditional Owners have made

a commitment to further invest in this iconic eco tourism business is testament to the success of those reforms.

“Gumala's tourism business was originally initiated as an additional strategy to improve the long-term benefits to the Traditional Owners, so this announcement significantly enhances that cause.

“I would like to take this opportunity to thank Minister Grylls for supporting investment in the Pilbara and surrounding communities, including the Traditional Owners. This is a wonderful thing to happen – and it is in line with GAC strategic growth plan as one of Australia's largest Indigenous corporations, with a membership base of over 1200 Traditional Owners.

“I am also delighted that the Traditional Owners have the opportunity to expand their iconic tourism business at Karijini.

“I am proud to have taken part in the hard work that was required to achieve this funding outcome, and I am elated that the success story at Karijini will continue,” he added.

Karijini National Park is located within the traditional heartland of Banyjima country.

Banyjima Elder and GAC Board Deputy Chairman, Archie Tucker, said the securing the Royalties for Regions funding for the cultural >>

>> amphitheatre and accommodation facility represents a landmark moment for the Banyjima people and for Karijini National Park.

“The announcement of the awarding of the funding has left me lost for words. It is a wonderful opportunity for the Traditional Owners, their children, and future generations that follow.”

GAC Director (Banyjima language group) Karen Tommy said: “The project will assist with passing on the knowledge of our culture to both Indigenous and non-Indigenous people in that the Elders will now have a facility where they can pass on their culture to their children, and with international tourists coming through the park we can educate the world about Aboriginal culture.

“An important associated spin-



Shooting star at Karijini

off will be the creation of job opportunities for the Traditional Owners in their traditional lands.”

THE EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AMPHITHEATRE VISION

The Education and Cultural Amphitheatre Vision has two aspects, both of which would effectively attract school groups to Karijini National Park to bask in its natural wonder and learn about Australian Aboriginal culture from relevant Indigenous leaders.

Steve Mav: “Once built, the new state-of-the-art 140-seat cultural amphitheatre at Karijini Eco Retreat will offer visitors the incentive to expand their stay beyond a short



Karijini Eco Retreat

over-night stay to an extended day immersive experience.

“The second aspect is to tap into the education/tourism niche by building six 8-bed dorm style accommodation units that can accommodate school groups wanting to learn and experience remote, regional Australia.

“During school holidays, this new accommodation option also offers us the exciting opportunity of catering to the exponentially expanding



Shooting star at Karijini

‘flashpacker’ market – that is, providing a more comfortable standard of accommodation to travellers looking for a higher quality experience than normal backpacking without sacrificing the authenticity of their experience.”

Another key stakeholder in Karijini Eco Retreat is Hospitality Group, through its subsidiary, the eco retreat management company Ecomodation. Hospitality Group's Chairman, Chris Pye, described the announcement as a great day for the eco tourism sector of the WA tourism industry and for Indigenous tourism in particular.

“We are excited to see the Liberal/National Party Government's Royalties for Regions program

supporting the construction of much needed and significant tourism infrastructure in this beautiful but remote region by a leading Aboriginal corporation.

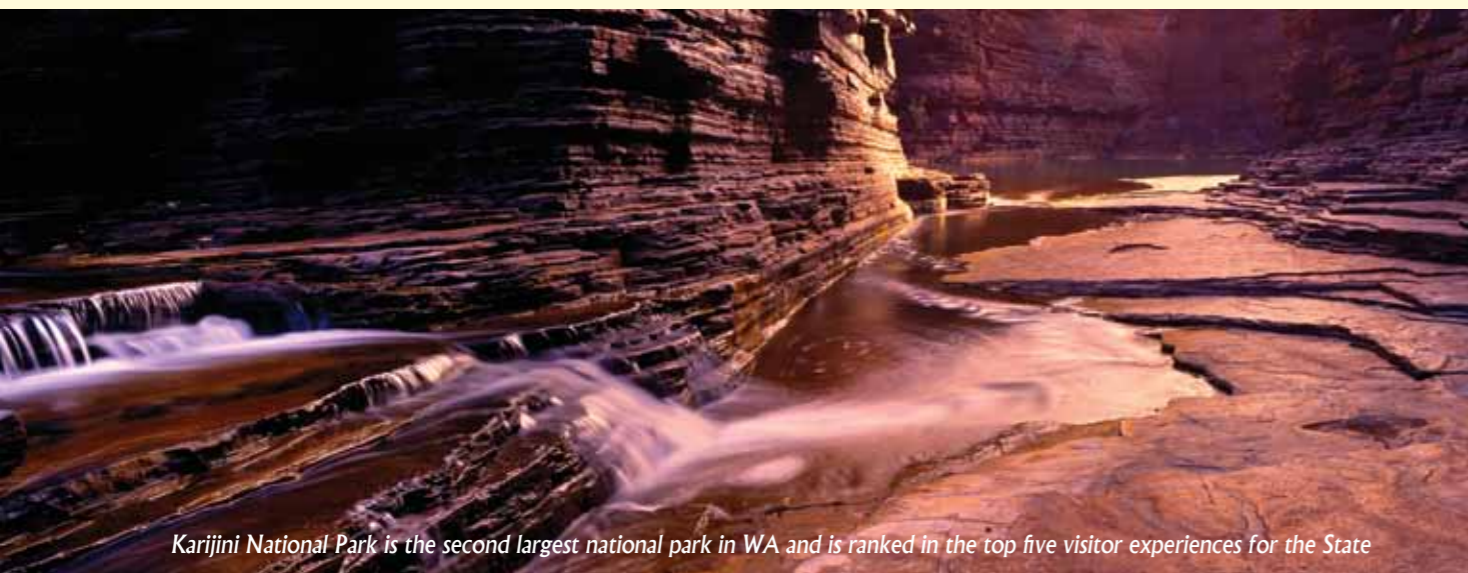
“This shows that the process advocated by Tourism WA which involves the tourism operators working with their local development commissions to access important infrastructure spending contributions from Government has the potential to be successful if the operators and the development commissions work together on landmark projects like the Karijini Eco Retreat.

“The facilities to be constructed at the Karijini Eco Retreat via this program will allow Hospitality Pty Ltd to offer new tourism and educational products to our local, domestic and international clients so that we might further develop the tourism industry in the Pilbara so that there might be a bright long term future for the local people which is not solely dependent on mining iron ore.

“We would like to acknowledge the support of the Department of the Environment and Conservation and the Pilbara Development Commission as well as the Royalties for Regions Program for this important initiative,” Mr Pye added.

Karijini National Park is the second largest national park in WA and is ranked in the top five visitor experiences for the State.

Since its grand opening in 2007, Karijini Eco Retreat has grown in sales and prominence to become one of the most outstanding tourism brands in WA.



Karijini National Park is the second largest national park in WA and is ranked in the top five visitor experiences for the State

Local communities embrace the spirit of NAIDOC

Gumala Aboriginal Corporation (GAC) has co-hosted NAIDOC Week in Tom Price, helping to successfully organising a range of events during the week (July 4-11) that celebrated Indigenous cultures and recognised the contributions of Indigenous Australians in various fields.

As NAIDOC co-host, alongside Rio Tinto and the Shire of Ashburton, Gumala was elated with the success of the week and the big turn-out and popularity of each of the events.



The flag raising ceremony

The week included:

- Rio Tinto's site ceremony for all of the company's Aboriginal and Islander employees.

This was marked with the unveiling of a beautiful piece of rock artwork (pictured above) created by

Innawonga Traditional Owner, Gumala Member and Rio Tinto Employee Karis Drummond.

- The Official opening of NAIDOC in Tom Price, including the flag-raising ceremony and the "Welcome to Country" by Gumala Elder Mrs Lola Young. >>



Scene from the opening day of NAIDOC Week 2010 in Tom Price.



Lola Young with Rio Tinto's General Manager (Marandoo and Tom Price Operations) Mark Eaglesham at the official opening ceremony

– Gumala proudly co-hosts the big week of events in Tom Price

>> The Inaugural NAIDOC Awards were then presented to these worthy winners:

NAIDOC Elder of the Year – Mrs Lola Young

NAIDOC Sportsman of the Year – Mr William "Willy" Nona

NAIDOC Youth of the Year – Mr Jaden Parker

NAIDOC Scholar of the Year – Ms Ronelle Hicks

NAIDOC Apprentice / Trainee of the Year – Mr Calvin Buckle

NAIDOC Artist of the Year – Mr Shaka Cook

Each of the category winners were presented with a trophy and book.

- A Mine Tour and lunch with Rio Tinto
- A promotional morning in



Lola Young with family (left); Lola being congratulated by Gumala's General Manager Francois Langlois (right)



central Tom Price involving a few organisations and agencies, as well as a live outdoor Gumala Radio broadcast (including a variety of on-air interviews), a sausage sizzle, etc.

- Other NAIDOC activities during the week included a basketball carnival, at which Gumala Radio did a live broadcast.

GUMALA ELDER HONOURED

Lola Young featured prominently during the NAIDOC celebrations. The Gumala Elder was crowned the 2010 NAIDOC Elder of the Year and Person of the Year.

Born in the 1940s and growing up in the Tom Price area, Lola was the oldest child and learnt about bush >>



>> medicine, bush tucker and lore through her grandparents. Lola has since been passing that knowledge on to others.

Lola has a published book – *Lola Young : medicine woman and teacher* – and is famous for advancing the “homeland movement” in the Pilbara region of Western Australia.

Through her perseverance, Lola has advanced the homeland movement over the years, and was a key figure in the setting up of the Wakathuni community.

In 1990, Lola decided it was time to go back to her homeland, in line with the aim of the homeland movement : to bring the old people back to their traditional land.

She finally obtained a piece of land for Wakathuni - and slowly a community began emerging. To this day Wakathuni is a thriving community that continues to develop.

Lola believes the homeland movement all over the Pilbara is important. For her, returning to country has enabled her to teach the younger generations about the importance of traditions, culture, language and spiritual beliefs.

ARTIST OF THE YEAR

Another Gumala Member, Shaka Cook, was also honoured during NAIDOC Week, winning the 2010 Artist of the Year.

The former WA Academy of Performing Arts (WAAPA) student (he studied Aboriginal Theatre there last year) was this year accepted into the prestigious National Institute of Dramatic Art (NIDA) to complete a three-year Bachelor of Dramatic Art (Acting) course.

Considered to be the top acting school in Australia, NIDA is legendary for producing famous stars. Former NIDA graduates include Mel Gibson, Cate Blanchett, Toni Collette, Sam Worthington, Hugo Weaving and Baz Luhrmann.



NAIDOC Artist of the Year Shaka Cook

Thousands apply to study at NIDA each year. The field is narrowed down to 1800 potential students, who take part in auditions, before the final 24 students are chosen for the course.

Although being one of the ‘chosen few’, Shaka remains very close to his Pilbara roots. Shaka told Gumala News that life wasn’t always easy growing up in the Pilbara.

“Coming from a small community, a lot of people challenge you, until you prove them wrong,” Shaka said.



Jaden Parker during an interview on Gumala Radio in the Tom Price town centre during the NAIDOC Week celebrations

“My family, especially my parents, have been very supportive. My dad (Gumala Member Brendon Cook) showed me by example how to be a stronger person and strong willed.

“It hasn’t always been easy for me when I was growing up. A challenge would be before me, and I would use that challenge to try and move forward and improve.”

Shaka’s message to our young generation: “It’s a big world full of many possibilities. Whatever you want to do in life, you can do it. Take every opportunity that comes your way. Never give up.”

Shaka receives education funding assistance from Gumala Aboriginal Corporation.

YOUTH OF THE YEAR

‘AFL Trainee’ Jaden Parker was crowned NAIDOC Youth of the Year winner.

Jaden’s AFL traineeship sees him work two days a week at Swans Districts Football Club (he also plays footy for Swans), two days at the West Coast Eagles Football Club and one day at La Salle College.

Gumala has supported Jaden financially with his schooling as part of the Australian Reliance V Swans Future Leaders Program, which is >>

>> an initiative to provide support for our young people as they progress into career development and further education. Jaden told Gumala News it has been a tough transition moving from Tom Price to Perth, being so far away from family and home, but he has managed to settle into life in Perth.

While playing footy for an AFL club is Jaden’s dream, he also has plans to be a teacher and mentor for our youth who had similar experiences to him as he was growing up. Jaden counts his family (especially his mum

and dad) as a big influence and support.

“It’s been quite hard for mum and dad,” Jaden said. “It’s a lot for them to go through, with me moving to Perth and so far away from them. It has been hard being away from home, not just for my parents but for me as well. But I get a lot of support from my people.”

Jaden’s sister, Johnell Parker, said she is really proud of what her brother has achieved and the family is thankful that Gumala Aboriginal

Corporation has been providing education funding for him.

General Manager of V Swans, Nicole Graves, said Swans is proud to be associated with Gumala and supports the opportunities Gumala gives to young people.

“As you can see we are very proud to have him (Jaden) in our staff,” Nicole said. “Thanks again for your ongoing support and we hope to have many more young Aboriginal people like Jaden come through our programs in the future.”

The history of NAIDOC Week

NAIDOC stands for the National Aboriginal and Islander Day Observance Committee. Its origins date back the emergence of Aboriginal groups in the 1920s, who wanted to increase the awareness in the wider community of the status and treatment of Indigenous Australians.

Nowadays, NAIDOC is a celebration of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and an opportunity to recognise the contributions of Indigenous Australians in various fields.

NAIDOC Week celebrations are held across Australia each July to celebrate the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. NAIDOC is celebrated not only in Indigenous communities, but by Australians from all walks of life.

Visionary investment opportunities in our local communities

– Greg Musgrave, Shire President, Shire of Ashburton

I recently met with Gumala Chief Executive Steve Mav to outline the visionary investment opportunities in Tom Price and other communities.

This included outlining the town centre revitalisation project and highlighting possible investment opportunities in building a combined retail and accommodation complex within the town centre area.

There is a desperate need for accommodation and retail floor space and by having the two in the building provides great incentive for any future investor.

Tenders will be called shortly to construct a new mall and a new facade to the existing shops. Included in the scope is a new boarding bus facility and toilet block.

This vision is long overdue as for years passengers have boarded the airport bus at the end of the shops near the drive-in.



Greg Musgrave

Another great investment opportunity is the possible construction of a combined visitor centre and an Aboriginal culture centre and museum near the town centre.

While the chat was informal it showed me Gumala was an Aboriginal business on the move with great plans which fitted perfectly with the Shire’s strategic vision.

We acknowledged that both the Shire and Gumala needed to strengthen partnerships and I indicated to Steve that it would be a privilege to present the Shires vision to the board with a commitment to meet on a more formal and regular basis.



In Profile

Janina Gawler

General Manager –
Communities
Rio Tinto Iron Ore

Janina Gawler is considered an invaluable part of the Gumala family.

For many years she has been the glue that has held Rio Tinto, Gumala, Government and other stakeholders together in liaison, discussion and negotiation.

She has worked with past and present Gumala Aboriginal Corporation (GAC) directors and management.

She describes the relationship between the GAC and Rio Tinto “healthy” and the partnership one of “critical importance” to both parties.

Janina first became involved with Gumala in the early days of the

Yandi Land Use Agreement, during finalisation of complex negotiations and signing of the final Agreement in 1997.

Her work led to the establishment of the business arm, Gumala Enterprises Pty Ltd (GEPL).

Janina played a role in setting up the ESS Gumala Joint Venture, which continues to provide employment and training opportunities for our Members.

Other important partnerships which have her mark on them include the Graham (Polly) Farmer foundation, the Tom Price Enrichment Centre and Murdoch University’s Mobile

Health Clinic project.

“It is vital that we embrace important opportunities to put into practice the intentions of the Yandi agreement. That is, to achieve the goals set out in the Yandi agreement that lead to the improvement in the lives of the Traditional Owners.”

“Every five years we do a review of the Yandi agreement, which is essentially a review of the workings of the agreement.

“Fred Chaney and Paul Lennon helped with the most recent review. Each review aims to ensure that we are sticking to the fundamentals and improvements are being made. >>

>> “What came to light in the last review is that we need to be more explicit with the Yandi agreement and we need to do more joint planning to achieve the goals set out in the agreement.

“Each of the co-principals came away from that review with a statement that said GAC and Rio Tinto are working very well together.

“But more work is needed to be done in planning areas - such as an aged care facility, which is a GAC project that Rio Tinto has supported through the provision of land.”

“We have come a long way since the 1997 agreement, since the first earthworks contract was awarded to Gumala Enterprises at Yandi.

“But we must strive to do better and to create more partnerships which



Janina Gawler (second from right) formed part of a special delegation of VIP visitors to Karijini National Park. Also pictured are (left to right) His Excellency Dr Ken Michael AC, Governor of Western Australia; Gumala Elder Alec Tucker; Banyjima representative Juliette Pearce Tucker; Gumala Chief Executive Steve Mav; Mrs Julie Michael; and current Gumala Deputy Chairman Archie Tucker

“Rio Tinto is very proud of the achievements of Gumala Aboriginal Corporation and its Members” – Janina Gawler

have a flow on effect of employment for Gumala traditional owners.”

Janina has been employed by Rio Tinto for eight years. She started working in its Melbourne office, moved into consulting before being lured back to Rio Tinto in 2008.

“Working for Rio Tinto and being involved in indigenous participation in our workforce is very important to me.

“The landscape of Aboriginal

participation in the workforce at Rio Tinto has changed over the years,” she said.

“If you go back to the late 1990s, there were less than 100 Aboriginal employees at Rio. That number has climbed to about 750 in 2010.”

“Rio Tinto has set a commitment of 20 per cent Aboriginal participation.”

Janina added that GAC’s Members, as well as GAC itself, have an

enormous amount to be proud of since GAC was created in 1996 to negotiate the Yandi Land Use Agreement.

“Rio Tinto is very proud of the achievements of GAC and its Members. Both GAC and Rio Tinto have many common interests – to improve the health, well being and prosperity of the Traditional Owners. It’s about continual positive change.”

In 1996, the Nyiyapali, Banyjima and Innawonga peoples negotiated and signed a historical Yandi Land Use Agreement with Hamersley Iron Pty Ltd (a wholly-owned subsidiary of Rio Tinto). Gumala Aboriginal Corporation (GAC) was created to represent the collective interests of the Traditional Owners in the negotiations with Hamersley Iron and to develop and sign the agreement.

The Agreement was the first major land use agreement to be signed in Australia. It enabled Hamersley Iron to proceed with developing the Yandicoogina mine, located on the Hamersley Ranges of the Pilbara region (Banyjima, Innawonga and Nyiyapali traditional lands). GAC’s head office in Tom Price is located approximately 120 km west of the Yandicoogina mine.

The agreement ensures that the social and economic benefits are delivered to the Banyjima, Nyiyapali and Innawonga peoples for the life of the mine and beyond, including : education programs; training and employment opportunities and initiatives; health and well-being programs; community development; and heritage protection work.

The sky is the limit for Gumala's young generation

Whether they be young Gumala Trainees or young up-and-coming sportspeople, Gumala's youth are discovering that the sky is the limit.

Sports stars Gerrick Weedon and Jayden Hansen are prime examples, aiming high in life and fast becoming role models for our indigenous youth... and they are encouraging children of Gumala Members to go for it and aim high in life too.

Both teenagers, who are sons of Gumala members, have received funding assistance from Gumala Aboriginal Corporation (GAC) to help them excel in their chosen sports, and both young men are urging others do the same, to find out if they are eligible for Gumala funding assistance to help them pursue their dreams.

West Coast Eagles teenage recruit Gerrick Weedon, who received funding from Gumala as a Claremont Colts player and Clontarf student, wants to spread the word to Gumala's communities.

"If your kids have dreams and GAC can help them achieve them, go for it," Gerrick recently told Gumala News.

"Without the assistance I received from Gumala, I may not have achieved my dream of being drafted by an AFL football club. I would encourage all members to contact Gumala to find out if they are eligible for support too."

Gerrick was draft pick number 22 in the most recent National AFL Draft.

Meanwhile, promising boxing star Jayden Hansen has a similar message to Gerrick's that he wants to pass on to GAC Members and their children.

"I love boxing and have a passion for it," Jayden told Gumala News. "Gumala has given me important



Jayden Hansen (left) and Gerrick Weedon

financial help to support me.

"Other Members' kids can also get help from Gumala to help them succeed in the sport they have a passion for."

The 17-year-old travelled to Baku in Azerbaijan this April to compete in the World Youth Boxing Championships. Coordinated by GAC's Members' Services Unit (MSU), GAC has assisted Jayden with the cost of flights, accommodation and entry visas to Azerbaijan.

Gumala also funded flights for Jayden to attend training and briefing at the Australian Institute of Sport (AIS) prior to departure for Azerbaijan.

GAC has supported Jayden for about two years, during which time

he has become a national champion for his age and weight division (54 kg weight division, 17 - 19 years).

He recently won the Australian Golden Gloves Championship and the WA State Belt. He was runner up in the National Titles Championship, and aspires to one day represent Australia at the Commonwealth Games.

Jayden's dad Ben said he and his wife Paula were not only very thankful for the support they had received from Gumala, but also the friendly and genuinely helpful attitude from the people they had dealt with at Gumala.

"It would have been much more difficult for Jayden to get where he has without this support from Gumala," Ben added. >>

>> "The financial burden is great due to the fact that a lot of travel is involved in getting Jayden to boxing tournaments."

Jayden said he is up to the challenge of the physical demands and mental discipline involved in boxing and is confident he can get to the very top of the sport he loves.

GAC's Chief Executive Steve Mav, who recently met with Jaden and Gerrick, said the two teenagers are an inspiration to our younger generation.

"Our youth might dream of being professional sportspeople ... or artists ... or academics ... or tradespeople..."

"Whatever our youth's aspirations are, it's important to remind them that the sky is the limit," Steve said.

TRAINEE SUCCESS STORIES

Meanwhile, the success stories of the young Trainees employed by Gumala Aboriginal Corporation continue to justify the organisation's policy of supporting our youth through meaningful employment and training opportunities.

21-year-old GAC Member Teeharnee Robinson is a prime example of this success. Teeharnee has been a model Gumala Trainee, combining full time employment at GAC's Perth office with part time studies.

The Business & Communicatins



GAC's Chief Executive, Steve Mav, pictured with Trainee Teeharnee Robinson (with her Certificate III award in hand).

Trainee has completed Certificate III in Business Administration at TAFE, and is currently studying Certificate IV.

"Doing a course like Certificate III in Business Admin is a great learning experience. It has helped me improve my skills and knowledge, and has given me a broad understanding of a wide variety of office duties," Teeharnee said.

On top of this, she was recently honoured during NAIDOC Week, receiving a Certificate of Nomination in the category of Apprentice/ Trainee of the Year.

Trainees/Apprentices that Gumala Aboriginal Corporation has recently welcomed to the Gumala family include:

- Lexi Drage – Trainee, Gumala Aboriginal Corporation, Day Care: Little Gecko Day Care, Tom Price

- Pinè Byrne – Trainee, Gumala Aboriginal Corporation: Members' Services Unit (MSU)

- Leon Nokes – Apprentice, Gumala Enterprises Pty Ltd (GAC's business arm): Mechanical Apprenticeship



Gumala Trainees Lexi Drage (above) and Pinè Byrne (below)



Funding opportunities that Gumala Aboriginal Corporation provides for its Members and their children include:

- Education Support & Gumala Scholarship Programs
- Computer support - grants are available to assist in the purchase of computer equipment and for internet access
- Sport & Recreation - participation/registration fees; transport and accommodation to sporting events; and required equipment

Housing Strategy success – Gumala purchases land in South Hedland

Gumala Aboriginal Corporation (GAC) has negotiated the purchase of land in South Hedland, paving the way for the construction of homes in order to provide affordable housing for our Members.

The contract was signed by Gumala Investments Pty Ltd (the Trustee of the General Gumala Foundation) and the WA Department of Housing for the purchase of 10 residential lots of land in the Demarchi subdivision.

The next step is to finalise

negotiations with the Department of Housing, relating to the securing of funding (for construction costs etc) and conditions attached to that funding. Following the finalisation of that step, the construction process will commence.

GAC is about to contract the services to consultants to prepare the necessary compliance work and reports.

GAC is expected to finalise a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Foundation Housing

in the second half of the 2010 calendar year.

The objective of GAC's housing strategy is to provide our Members with access to affordable rental accommodation.

It comes on the back of the housing survey and subsequent report, which highlighted housing needs of our Members.

GAC has first targeted South Hedland, with other towns in the Pilbara set to follow.

Gumala members crowned in glory in award-winning film

Film writer-director Denise Groves is in awe of her amazing and loving grandmother, founding GAC Member Amy Dhu.

So much so that Denise, who is also a GAC Member, decided to make a film about the 84-year-old Nyiyapali Elder. That film, *'My Nan & The Yandi'*, has gone on to be crowned "Best Documentary" at the WA Screen Awards.

Gumala flew the Perth-based film

maker up to Port Hedland for the launch of the short "doco" film, and funded the cost of making 50 DVD copies to distribute throughout the community including Pilbara schools, Pilbara libraries, and to some of the Elders.

Denise's reputation as an emerging film-maker has not gone unnoticed. SBS shot a special profile piece on Denise and her film that appeared on the SBS TV program *Living Black* some time in May.

The film is available for viewing on Gumala's recently revamped website.

Denise told Gumala News that the producer of *'My Nan & the Yandi'*, Jag Films, had sufficient funding to produce a short film, but she also made sure extra footage was taken so that a longer film may appear at a later date.

"My Nan and her sister Doris are currently the two oldest Nyiyapali people. I am very proud of my Nan and I wanted to tell her story," Denise said. "I'd like to encourage more Indigenous Australians from the Pilbara to tell their stories through the medium of film."

"When I was growing up in Marble Bar, all the parents worked and my Nan looked after all the grandchildren. She taught me how to read and write, and she told me many stories. I particularly want people to know of and be proud of the Pilbara strike that the film talks of, which was the first Aboriginal strike ever."



The film *'My Nan and the Yandi'* is available for viewing on Gumala's newly revamped website (www.gumala.com.au)

Gumala progresses new health initiative – renal health clinic planned for the Pilbara

Gumala Aboriginal Corporation is successfully progressing a new and important health project, the Renal (Dialysis) Health Project.

The overall goal of the project is to create a comprehensive renal mobile/satellite health clinic that serves the Gumala Aboriginal Corporation (GAC) membership living in the Pilbara region by the end of 2011.

The specific objectives of the program are to:

- Establish satellite clinics to increase patient access to reliable treatment, decrease patient time spent in transport and promote a better quality of life;
- Develop a mobile service that will regularly travel from the regional hub to the patient's homes and/or to satellite clinics. The preferred

option would be to station a suitably qualified person in the town where the satellite clinic is so that transportation blockages caused by the cyclone season do not adversely affect the treatment plans of the patients.

- Enhance/increase residential facilities around existing treatment sites to enable more patients to move residence to promote ease of use.

United States university student Gina Newell, who worked exclusively on the project during her three-month internship based out of Gumala's Tom Price office, said she had been given great support and guidance by GAC, including the management, directors and Elders.

"Gumala's traditional owners see a huge need for renal health services

here in the Pilbara because the main problem at the moment is they have to move from their home and land to get treatment. This can be very distressing for them because their families are here and they are very connected to their land and culture," Gina said.

The Pilbara region of Western Australia had the second highest incidence of Renal Disease in the State, with approximately 81 persons per 100,000 suffering from End Stage Kidney Disease (ESKD).

The most common causes of ESKD are glomerulonephritis, diabetic nephropathy and hypertension, accounting for 80% of the cases.

The incidence of new ESKD patients, adjusted for age and gender among Indigenous Australians is eight times the rate observed for non-Indigenous Australians.

Art exhibition draws high praise

When Sharon Jack arrives home after a hard days work at Gumala Enterprises Pty Ltd (GEPL), her attention turns to one of her great passions in life – contemporary art.

In the course of her work at GEPL (the business arm of Gumala Aboriginal Corporation), she has taken hundreds of photos in and around mining sites, with those images and visual experiences having acted as an inspiration for her art exhibition now showing in Port Hedland.

This is her first solo exhibition of pastel on canvas, with the paintings currently on display at

the Port Hedland Courthouse Gallery. Sharon: "The Pilbara and the Kimberley regions of Western



Willy Willies dancing (pastel on canvas) – by Sharon Jack

Australia have inspired me the most.

"My favourite colours have always been reds, oranges, yellows and purples.

Living in the Pilbara has enabled me to utilise these colours whilst exploring this magnificent area, and its people, on canvas."

Sharon has been supported by FORM, an organisation that assists up-and-coming artists.

"Sharon Jack: the way it is" - Port Hedland Courthouse Gallery, until August 29. The gallery is open Mon - Fri: 9am to 4.30pm, Sat: 9am to 2pm, Sun: 9am to 2pm.

GUMALA RADIO

Gumala’s fast-growing FM radio station serving local communities in the Pilbara



Tom Price 106.5 FM
Paraburdoo 102.9 FM
Roebourne 102.9 FM
Onslow 101.7 FM
Wakathuni 104.9 FM
Bellary 101.7 FM
Youngaleena 102.1 FM



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