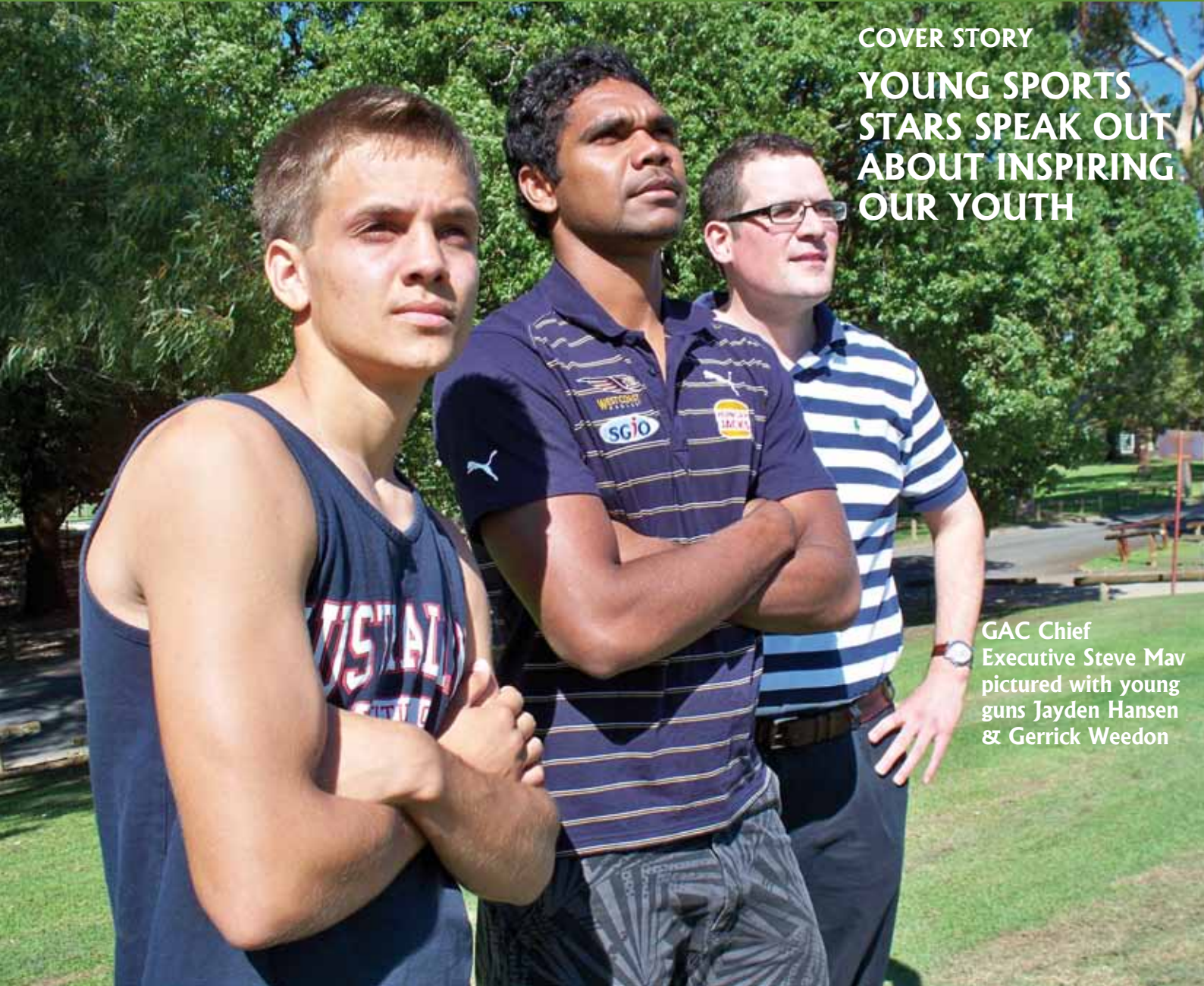




Autumn 2010

GUMALA NEWS



COVER STORY
**YOUNG SPORTS
STARS SPEAK OUT
ABOUT INSPIRING
OUR YOUTH**

GAC Chief
Executive Steve Mav
pictured with young
guns Jayden Hansen
& Gerrick Weedon

INSIDE THIS EDITION :



We talk to
Yandi mine
boss Mark
Rodgers



Up close
& personal
with
Ronwyn
James

plus

- Our Trainees
- GAC's Renal Health Program
- GAC funds award-winning film
- Computer Program success

...and much more...

Rising stars urge Gumala's young generation to 'go for it' and follow their dreams

Two young sportsmen, Gerrick Weedon and Jayden Hansen, are aiming high in life and are 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

West Coast Eagles later this season is highly anticipated.

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 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 >>

"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 Mav, Gumala Aboriginal Corporation's Chief Executive

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 all Gumala Aboriginal Corporation (GAC) members :

"If your kids have dreams and GAC can help them achieve them, go for it! Without the assistance I received from Gumala," Gerrick recently told Gumala News, "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. His expected debut for the



Gerrick Weedon

>> 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



Jayden Hansen

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.

Funding opportunities available at Gumala Aboriginal Corporation include:

- Sport & Recreation - covering participation fees; transport and accommodation; and required equipment.
- Education Support & Gumala Scholarship Programs - financial assistance of up to \$10,000 per child per year is available from GAC to help fund the education of our Members and their children.
- Computer support - grants are available to assist in the purchase of computer equipment and for internet access. Applicants must be attending high school or accredited post compulsory vocational (e.g. TAFE) education or training courses.

For more information, visit www.gumala.com.au and click on 'Our Services' / 'Development Programs'. All application forms can be downloaded from our website. Or call GAC on 1800 486 252.



Yandicoogina mine boss Mark Rodgers (right), pictured here alongside Darren Injie during a recent mine visit by the GAC Board of Directors and selected management and staff. Image courtesy of GAC Director Stephen Peterson.

In Profile Mark Rodgers General Manager, Yandi Operations Rio Tinto

When it comes to impressive track records and dedication at Rio Tinto, they don't come any better than Mark Rodgers. The General Manager of the Yandicoogina (Yandi) mine - Australia's largest-producing iron ore mine - and with 600-plus workers under his wings, Mark has dedicated half of his 22 year mining career to Rio Tinto.

But, in a recent interview with Gumala News, the Scottish-born, energetic General Manager took time out to emphasize Rio Tinto's strong relationship with Gumala Aboriginal Corporation (GAC) and the mining giant's continued commitment to employ more GAC Members at Yandicoogina.

As all Members know, the historic Yandi Land Use Agreement secured by GAC in 1997 enabled the development of the Yandicoogina mine to proceed. That landmark agreement ensures that benefits are delivered to the Banyjima, Nyiyapali and Innawonga people for the life of the mine and beyond.

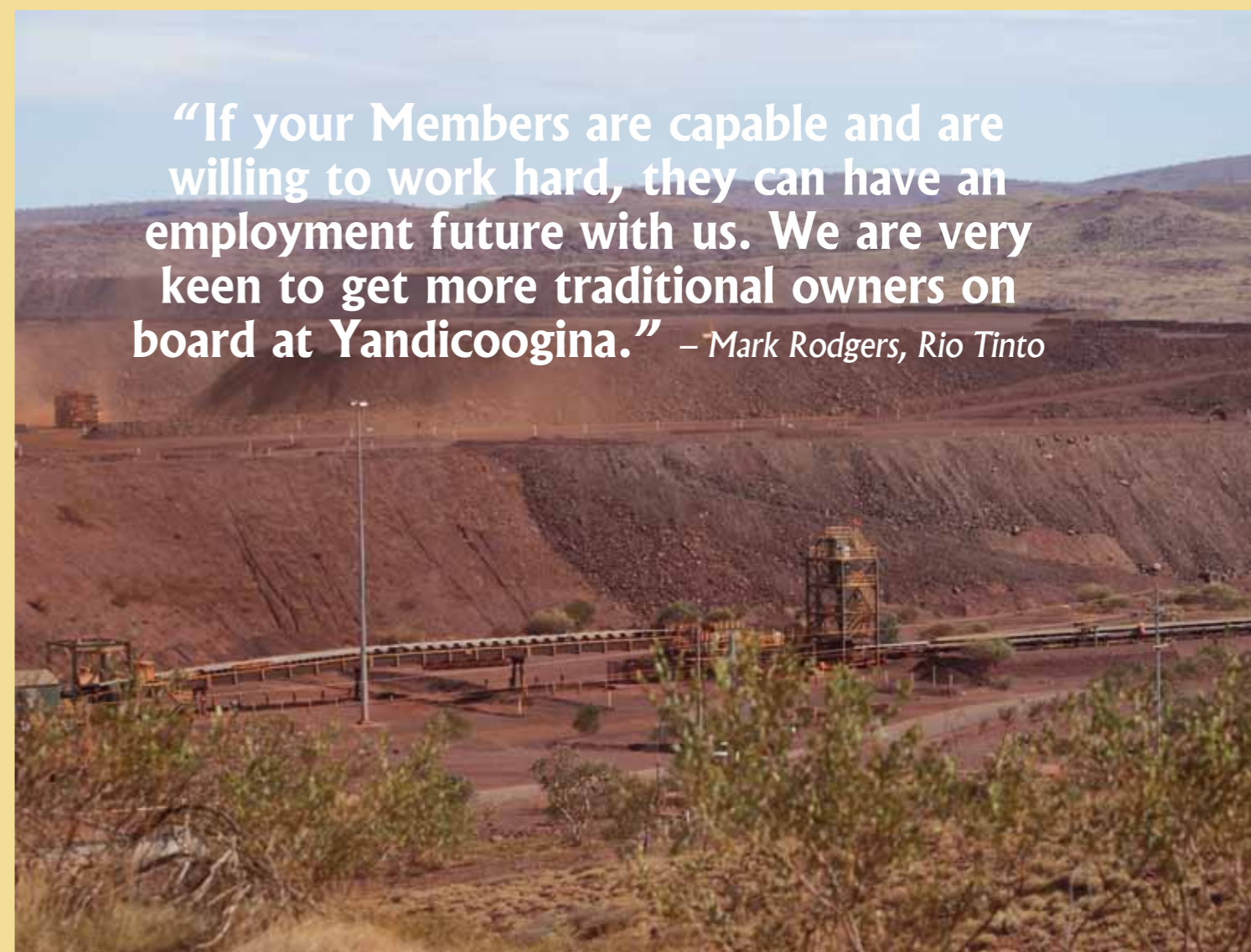
Mark Rodgers has been General Manager of the Yandicoogina mine operations for three years, having been initially involved in Yandi during the development of the mine's Junction South East expansion. He has previously managed the Marandoo and Brockman mines, and was the Study Manager at Brockman 4.

Born in Glasgow and moving to Western Australia with his parents in the 1980s, the former mineral processing engineer has worked for 22 years in the mining industry, including 11 years at Rio Tinto.

"Our relationship with Gumala, which has been developing over a number of years, is very important to us," Mark told Gumala News. "And we will continue to build on this relationship."

"As both organisations have matured, the relationship has matured. I would describe the relationship we have with Gumala as very professional."

Mark said there are currently 23 >>



"If your Members are capable and are willing to work hard, they can have an employment future with us. We are very keen to get more traditional owners on board at Yandicoogina." – Mark Rodgers, Rio Tinto

Gumala Aboriginal Corporation is a key stakeholder in the massive iron ore mining operation at Yandicoogina. Image courtesy of GAC Director Stephen Peterson.

>> full time indigenous employees at Yandicoogina, and Rio Tinto's aim is to increase the number of traditional owners working at the mine.

"If your Members have the relevant work experience, they should send in their resume to us. If they are capable and are willing to work hard, they can have an employment future with us."

Rio Tinto also has 10 indigenous trainees involved in a training program to get them work-ready, and is encouraging Gumala Members to follow a similar path.

"We are very keen to get more traditional owners on board at Yandicoogina," Mark said.

The Junction South East expansion in 2007 and 2008 has brought Yandicoogina's nameplate annual capacity up to 52 million tonnes. Three plants operate at Yandi, with 38 to 40 trains per week (each train carries 27,000 tonnes) transporting iron ore to Cape Lambert for export.

Last December Yandicoogina became the first mine in Australia to produce 50 million tonnes a year. This was a significant milestone, especially considering the global financial crisis, the slump in demand for iron ore in early 2009 and last year's severe flood-damage to rail operations. Rio Tinto plans to open up new areas at Yandi, starting with Junction South West.

Yandicoogina is situated in a rich channel iron deposit in the heart of the Pilbara. When the mine was commissioned in 1998, its capacity was 15 million tonnes per annum. Its first full year of operations produced 10.7 million tonnes.

Yandicoogina ore is marketed separately from Rio Tinto's Pilbara Blend and Robe River products.

The pisolite ore is highly sought after by steel mills for its ability to improve the smelting of other ores. It is successfully marketed in Rio Tinto's major Asian destinations, where its sinter-efficient properties enhance its value in use in smelting fines.

Gumala Trainees : the continuing success story

The Directors, Mangement and Staff at Gumala Aboriginal Corporation (GAC) welcome our new trainees on board at Gumala.

Our new Trainees are:

- Lexi Drage, Trainee, GAC, Day-care (Little Gecko Day-care);
- Kylie Bolger, Trainee, GEPL, Administration & Accounts;
- Leon Nokes, Mechanical Apprenticeship, GEPL and
- Pinè Byrne, Trainee, GAC, Members' Services Unit.

Pinè said that since she started working for Gumala she had felt an

even greater sense of pride for her people and her culture.

Working in the MSU has given her a sense of achievement and pride as



Pinè Byrne

she is doing what she loves to do - helping her people and all Gumala Members.

She added that she also has the utmost respect for Gumala staff's dedication.

Latonya Parker, who has been a Business & Administration Trainee for the past 18 months, has recently left GAC to move on to other adventures.

GAC would like to wish Latonya all the very best and would like to thank her for all her hard work and dedication while working at GAC and Ashburton Aboriginal Corporation.

GAC welcomes new members of staff

GAC wish to welcome the following new staff members:

- Sharon Morley (Secretarial Support Officer)
- Rebecca Harkin (Project Specialist, filling in for Wendy Walker who is on 6 months sabbatical)
- Debbie Eatwell (Casual MSU Officer)

Remembering the upcoming anniversary of Mabo and Native Title

On June 3, 1992 the High Court of Australia handed down an historic decision (Mabo v Queensland No 2), ruling that the doctrine of "terra nullius" (land belonging to no-one) should not have been applied to Australia and that the common law of Australia should recognise native title.

Eddie Mabo and the Meriam Peoples were, therefore, recognised in law

as the Traditional Owners of their homeland.

This in turn paved the way for native title claims throughout Australia and the passing of the Native Title Act (1993).

Many native title claims were successfully made - including the Innawonga-Banyjima-Nyiyapali native title claim.

This claim, as we know, was made by a 'culture block' of closely related groups (signified by the name chosen for their representative body, 'Gumala', meaning 'All Together').

June 3, 1992 marked the beginning of a new era for Indigenous Australians, and it will be a date that Indigenous Australians including all of Gumala's Members will long remember.

Young GAC trainee shows the way for our new trainees

21-year-old GAC Member Teeharnee Robinson has been a model Gumala Trainee. She began working with GAC in late-2008 as a Trainee (Office Administration), and has combined full time employment at GAC's Perth office with part time studies at TAFE.

She recently completed that course, Certificate III in Business Administration, in under 12 months (trainees are given up to two years to complete the course).

The course covered a range of Business Administration skills including customer service skills, general administrative skills, occupational health and safety, a range of computing skills, MYOB training and time management training.

Teeharnee plans to further her studies and will begin the Certificate IV in Business Administration course

in July. She has also completed other courses along the way, including a senior first aid course and a digital video production workshop.

"At the moment I'm getting a tutor to help me with my professional writing skills," Teeharnee said, "which will be of great benefit to me when I do Certificate IV. I'm also planning to do a Photoshop course to learn graphic design skills."

Teeharnee has the following advice to pass on to our new trainees:

"Keep persevering. Once you start doing your studies as part of your traineeship, keep at it - and don't be afraid to ask questions. You'll learn a lot more by asking lots of questions than saying nothing, either in class or with your work colleagues at Gumala.

"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 is a Gumala Member (Banyjima) and spent some of her childhood growing up in the Wakuthuni and Youngaleena communities.

"I have fond memories of growing up in the Pilbara. I remember taking the bus in to Tom Price every morning to go to school, and life in the community when Wakuthuni was just getting established."

Teeharnee also attended "School of the Air" when she was living in Youngaleena.

Teeharnee's mum (Naydene Robinson) and all of Teeharnee's sisters are Gumala Members, and her father (Kevin Cameron) has worked at Karijini National Park for about 13 years.



GAC Trainee (Office Administration) Teeharnee Robinson



up close & personal with **Ronwyn James** Members' Services Officer

"I've seen the MSU implement a lot of positive changes since 2008. Membership numbers have grown from around 400 to over 1100 in the last two or three years, so, as you can imagine, the workload in the MSU has been incredible and the challenges great.

"But we've been able to meet those challenges head on and are really making a difference. The proof of the MSU's success is in the feedback we get from the Members.

"We are giving them the advice they need, processing their applications, and getting the Members' funds out to them, which is what matters.

"Since the funding rules were eased, allowing for greater flexibility on how Members can spend their funds, that has made a great positive impact.

"Members' health and well-being requirements are being met. Funding for funerals, which was introduced in March of 2009, has assisted many Members up and down the Pilbara.

"Applications for education funding have sky-rocketed this year, and if the application is for a Member's child (and it often is), the MSU has to set up a manual file.

"We've made up many of these new files this year.

Overall, the workload has been high but the results are very satisfying."

"The MSU staff have a big knowledge base, often advising

Members of their entitlements and best cause of action.

"And it is always great when our members thank us. It makes the job worthwhile knowing that we are appreciated for assisting our members any way we can."

HER BACKGROUND:

"My mum and dad are of the Innawonga and Banyjima language groups respectively. I spent my childhood growing up in Onslow, then spent six months during Year 10 in Adelaide, followed by Year 11 and 12 in Port Hedland.

"Prior to taking up employment with GAC, my other employment roles included a stint at the Department of Community Development and a two-year traineeship at Karijini Aboriginal Corporation."

HER VISION FOR GUMALA

"I think it would be great if slowly but surely GAC has more and more staff members who are also GAC Members.

I also think we should continue developing programs and setting up partnerships with other organisations - just like the Work Start Joint Venture we set up with Ashburton Aboriginal Corporation.

It's important that we give our Members and their kids the best opportunities in life, especially with education, training, and employment, so that they have a chance to shine."

Gumala Aboriginal Corporation (GAC) has experienced tremendous changes since it was first established in 1996. Within GAC, the Members' Services Unit (MSU) has also changed, evolved and grown since it was established in 2008.

Witnessing many of these changes over the years has been one of our most faithful and valued employees, Ronwyn James.

A traditional owner from the Innawonga group and GAC's longest serving employee, Ronwyn is an integral part of the MSU team and a proud GAC Member.

She started with GAC at a young age and remains as youthful as ever. She is well known by our Members as a dedicated Members' Services Officer, and she is a passionate supporter of the organisation's goals. But what makes her tick?

HER LIFE AT GUMALA:

"I became a Member and started working for Gumala in the same month - May 2000. I started out as a receptionist, then worked as an administrative/project officer, before moving up to the MSU.

Sustainable community at Mulga Downs moves a step closer

Greg Tucker's hopes of nurturing a sustainable homeland community in his forefathers' country at Mulga Downs is moving a step closer, with the delivery of the first two houses to Mulga Downs due to take place during the first week of May.

After the two transportable homes are delivered, they will be fitted out with insulation and should be ready to be lived in by mid-May. A new ablution facility is planned to be built at Mulga Downs later this year. Currently on site is the original ablution facility, as well as other facilities including a windmill and two bores. Plans are also afoot to have a shed erected on site later this year.

"Wirrilimarra (Bantikura) is our clan," Greg said. "This is our country, and it's where we grew up. I want it to stay small, and I want that people will have a place to come to - where there are no drugs or alcohol.

"It will be a place where anyone can come to get away from their problems - especially our youth. As I said, the rule is that it stays completely free of drugs and alcohol."

Although only Greg and his family, as well as Greg's brother Archie, are currently the only regular residents (on weekends), up to 300 people



GAC Member & Employee (Liaison Officer) Greg Tucker

have stayed at Mulga Downs during GAC lore and culture ceremonies over recent years. The 20 hectares was famously owned by George Hancock (Lang Hancock's father), who ran it as a pastoral station. Greg Tucker grew up on Mulga Downs alongside the Hancocks, and several years ago he was given formal permission by Gina Rinehart (Lang's daughter) to live on the

land at Mulga Downs. Greg has long desired to re-establish a homeland community for the Wirrilimarra people at Mulga Downs.

He has a passion for the land and in keeping the culture active. He has been actively involved in setting up Wirrilimarra Bantikura Banyjima Aboriginal Corporation, which was established to provide and support the homeland community for the Wirrilimarra in the traditional country of the Banyjima language group.

Greg is of course well known to GAC, originally joining us as Chairman of the Governing Committee during the organisation's early days. He was then employed as GAC's Lore and Culture Officer, and currently holds the position of Liaison Officer. He also has 10 years of experience as an indigenous education officer, and has conducted training courses in drug and alcohol awareness within our communities.

Images of Mulga Downs taken in November 2008



Gumala Aboriginal Corporation ... photo gallery

Images of GAC's Staff Christmas function, which took place in Tom Price in March. It was celebrated at Tom Price Bowling Club. Many thanks go to Carol Nicholson for all of her hard work in organising the event, as well as her amazing decorative skills! The GAC management and staff (as well as some partners and children) had a thoroughly enjoyable evening.



Two key GAC staff members based in our Head Office's reception area, Carol Nicholson and Janice Garbutt.



GAC's Pedina Walley (currently on maternity leave) with her beautiful new born baby girl Tarnia.



Technician Mike Ryan and Gumala Radio's Tadam (John) Lockyer in Wakathuni to resolve some radio and telecommunication issues.

In March, GAC's Board of Directors and selected management and staff were invited by Rio Tinto to the Yandicoogina (Yandi) mine for the quarterly Monitoring and Liaison meeting, as well as the annual guided tour of the mine. The visit gave GAC the opportunity to have a first hand look at the mine's current iron ore operations as well as expansion plans. The Yandi Land Use Agreement ensures that significant benefits will be delivered via GAC to the Banyjima, Niyapali and Innawonga people for the life of the mine. Images courtesy of GAC Director Stephen Peterson.



University intern progresses GAC's plans to help reduce rates of Chronic Kidney Disease

United States university student Gina Newell has successfully progressed Gumala's Renal (Dialysis) Health Program during her three-month internship based out of our Tom Price office.

Gina said compared to other indigenous communities she had worked with in other countries, Gumala members in our local communities have a more proactive attitude about wanting local renal health services. Gina carried out significant research into Indigenous Australians before arriving in the Pilbara, and found herself fascinated by their history, culture and traditions.

"During my time in Tom Price, as well as on visits to Bellary and Roebourne, everyone has been very welcoming to me," Gina told Gumala News. "I received a lot of support from the Elders, GAC members and our Directors.

"May Byrne and Archie Tucker have given me great support and encouragement. Greg Tucker has also been very supportive and has

provided me with a lot of guidance.

"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 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. There are number of community groups active in the West Pilbara region that are looking to create a lobby group to call on the government and a number of donor bodies to provide financial support to employ a full time person that would be responsible for travelling to the satellite clinics to supervise treatments.

The preferred option would be to station the person in the town where the satellite clinic is so that transportation blockages caused by 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.

"The Federal Government announced in June 2009 that construction will begin by the end of the year on a Renal Dialysis Hostel for South Hedland. This facility will include twin share accommodation for up to 20 beds with the potential to extend to 40 resident beds in the future as well as dining, kitchen facilities and some staff accommodation.

"This facility will provide a place for Indigenous persons to rest after treatment and ensure that those who primarily reside in Perth are able to return to country periodically for cultural events," Gina added.

GAC and IBN have given in-principle agreement for funding support, while the WA Country Health Service (WACHS) has indicated it is willing to provide a possible site, as well as training support.

Gina, who has submitted a detailed report to GAC on the Renal (Dialysis) Health Program, said she wishes the program every success.



Gina Newell during a visit to Rio Tinto's Yandi mine.

Fact File : Chronic Kidney Disease

- by Gina Newell

Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) is a significant and growing public health problem responsible for substantial burden of illness and premature mortality in Australian Indigenous people. Some pertinent facts about CKD:

- CKD is the seventh most common cause of death, exceeding diabetes and respiratory disease and suicide.
- Early manifestation of CKD is both silent and nearly 90% of early CKD is unrecognised and untreated.
- Nearly half of the people with diabetes have CKD, which increases the risk of cardiovascular by up to 20 times.
- Direct costs of CKD estimated at \$650 million in 2006 and increasing.
- The cost per person on hospital haemodialysis (\$82,764), satellite dialysis (\$48,631), home dialysis (\$44,739) and peritoneal dialysis (\$56,828).
- Approximately 2,000 patients are entering End Stage Kidney Disease (ESKD) dialysis programs per year with the mean duration of antecedent CKD being approximately 10 years.
- 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.
- The Pilbara region of WA had the second highest incidence of Renal Disease in the state with approximately 81 persons per 100,000 suffering from ESKD.

GUMALA BUS TIMETABLE



SCHEDULED SERVICES FOR MEMBERS

MONDAY, WEDNESDAY AND FRIDAYS :

Leave Bellary	9am
Arrive Paraburdoo	9:30am
Leave Paraburdoo	10:45am
Arrive Bellary	11:15am
Leave Bellary	11:30am
Arrive Wakathuni	11:45am
Leave Wakathuni	12 noon
Arrive Tom Price	12:30pm
Leave Tom Price	14:00pm

Final stop Bellary - arrives at 15.00pm

FORTNIGHTLY TRIP: YOUNGAELENA :

Every first Monday, and third Monday of the month

ONCE A MONTH: PORT HEDLAND :

Every last Thursday of the month

Note: Bus runs are subject change if they clash with other bookings. To confirm your booking, call Warren Ingie on 0428 963 724 or Carol Nicholson on 1800486252.

Airlines proof of identity policies

Members who are travelling by plane should note that airlines have strict proof of identity policies for domestic flights. Airlines can request ID for all passengers, including children. Your medicare card should have all of your children listed on it and this can be used as proof of identity for your children for domestic air travel.

Gumala gives funding assistance to 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.

The film will soon be available for viewing on Gumala's website. iiNet is providing the film to their members on the Freezone network until late May.



Best Documentary award-winner Denise Groves at the 23rd WA Screen Awards. Photographer: Marie Nirme



GAC Elder Amy Dhu during the filming of 'My Nan & the Yandi'

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

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."

Amy was born in Redmont, grew up in the region and became an inaugural Member of GAC when it was first established. She now lives in Port Hedland.

Denise moved to Perth when she was 15 and is the current Program Chair of Australian Indigenous Studies at Murdoch University.

"I'm very proud of my granddaughter," Amy told Gumala News. "I spent many years looking after her during her childhood.

"I used to take her bush all the time. Of course there was a lot more bush tucker back then, and there was a lot more rain... not like now."

This is Denise's second short film working with Jennifer Gherardi of Jag Films. In 2003 Denise directed 'Amy goes to Wadjemup', a short drama about a young indigenous girl who visits Rottneest Island and learns about its history, and encounters some magic along the way.

About 'My Nan and the Yandi'

'My Nan and the Yandi' tells the story of a granddaughter's love for her grandmother and the important role a humble piece of tin played in her family's story.

In the film, Nan explains how the Yandi (a tin dish based on the design of a coolamon) was used to separate minerals from sand - using no water. While she grew up with the Yandi, Nan explains the importance of it during the Pilbara strike, which was the first aboriginal strike in Australia and which lasted for ten years.

Her resilient character shines through as she speaks with pride and joy about how many aboriginal people made the most of such limited resources.

What the Director says:

"I wanted to make My Nan and the Yandi to show the love and admiration that I have for my Grandmother. At 84 she is a well-respected Nyiyapali Elder who is loved by many. Having lived around Nyamal Country (Marble Bar) for over 60 years, Nan has many stories to tell. These stories are told with a wicked sense of humour, and include her early years of living in the bush, raising children, being a skilled hunter and being able to 'yandi'. It is her skill of 'yanding' that is central to the telling of her story.

"The yandi featured prominently in my childhood. Whenever my Nan took my cousins and I out bush, the yandi was neatly packed in the back of her 4 wheel drive, along with her 22 rifle, fishing lines, and tucker box. As children we had become so accustomed to the yandi that we never really questioned it.

"It was only when I became older that I realised the ingeniousness of the yandi and it's cultural and political significance in my family's story. A yandi is made from a piece of tin that has two curved sides. Its design was adapted from



Writer-Director (and Gumala Member) Denise Groves on the film set

a traditional women's utensil called a coolamon. The simplicity of the yandi has always fascinated me, and I wanted to show how this humble piece of tin played an important role for Indigenous families in the Pilbara during the 1940s and 50s. In 1946 hundreds of Indigenous peoples walked off the cattle stations striking for wages as opposed to being paid rations. I wanted to pay tribute to the role of Indigenous women during this period and in particular, to the yandi.

"It was during this time the yandi came to the fore, and enabled hundreds of Indigenous families to survive. Given the strike occurred after the second world war and

during the depression, I wanted to show how even though times were hard Aboriginal women liked my Nan were resourceful. Some of this resourcefulness is revealed in the film. I wanted the feel of the film to be a love story. It was to show the love between a Grandmother and a Granddaughter."

"Filming was to be intimate, a small crew, and close ups. I've changed from the film because I have recorded my Nan's story, for her and for my family. Her story is now our story. Furthermore, I have also ensured that the 'yandi' can now be recorded as playing an important role in not only Indigenous but Australian history - and this, I am proud of."

Free film-making course in Tom Price this June

Gumala is encouraging Members (or their children) aged between 13 and 25 to enrol in a free film-making workshop, which will be held in Tom Price from June 11 - 14.

The four-day workshop will teach participants a range of basic film-making skills, including the use of digital video cameras. The workshop will include the making

of a film, which will centre on the theme of drug and alcohol abuse.

Anyone interested in booking a place in the workshop should contact GAC's Acting Project Specialist Rebecca Harkin : Phone 1800 486 252 or email rebecca.harkin@gumala.com.au. For more information, visit: www.changemedia.net.au/home/profile/manifesto/

Gumala helps Tom Price Get Clicking

by Kira Meadus

Elders and other members of the local community living around Tom Price were recently given the chance to acquire basic computer literacy skills thanks to the Western Australian Government's First Click computer courses and Gumala Aboriginal Corporation.

GAC staff member Wendy Walker facilitated a First Click training program where she showed interested elders and other members of the Tom Price community how to use a computer, send emails and access information on the internet.

By the end of the six week course, 10 people participated and gained useful computer skills.

The participants were a diverse mob; however all were appreciative of the opportunity to play on a computer in a safe learning environment.



GAC member Marian Tucker sharing a lighter moment with GAC's Wendy Walker.

It certainly helped that the course was taught by someone they already knew and the free baked goodies

that were served at the end of every class!

GAC is looking to run future basic computer literacy training programs for our members and fellow community members, however, we need your help.

If you know a mob of people that want to learn some basic computer skills, give Rebecca Harkin, GAC Project Specialist a call on 1800 486 252 and tell her in which town or community you think the program should happen next.

We would also like to know who you think would appreciate attending future basic computer workshops.

GAC promises to continue to do our best to continue to meet the educational needs of all of our Members, no matter what their age.



Students in action during GAC's highly successful 'First Click' computer program, held at Ashburton Aboriginal Corporation in Tom Price. Also pictured are GAC's Wendy Walker and Emma Ashburton.

Members' Services Unit reminders

GAC's Members' Services Unit advises GAC members of the following:

- New program funds – MSU does not have the program information on funding for the next financial year. When this information does become available all members will be informed in writing. MSU does get extremely busy in the months of July and August so we do ask that Members remain patient during this time.

- Filling in forms correctly:

- Members must complete their applications with the correct information, and are advised to revise their forms before submitting them. Incorrect information can cause delays in processing applications.

- When forwarding an invoice to GAC from a supplier, please ensure that the invoice has the Members name on it. Please note that the MSU is unable to process an application form if it is not signed by the applicant (this is an audit requirement).

- Members must make sure their address and phone number details are correct. GAC is no longer

able to change these details over the phone. Members needing to change these details must fill in the appropriate form (available from our website (<http://www.gumala.com.au/gumala/Downloads.htm>) or call GAC, who will send you a form. Remember, please sign this form (this is an audit requirement) before sending it to GAC.

- Pensioner HWB Members must ensure that the MSU has a current

copy of their Pension Cards.

- Members can download all GAC application forms from our website: www.gumala.com.au

- Members must show their ID when collecting items from suppliers.

- We kindly remind Members that when calling us please tell the Receptionist what your enquiry is regarding so they may forward the call to the right staff member.



A recent photo of GAC's always busy Members' Services Unit (MSU)

Gumala to visit Onslow

Gumala Aboriginal Corporation's Rebecca Harkin will be visiting Onslow on May 24 & 25. Members can drop in on those days (Rebecca will be at the DCP office from 10.30am onwards on both these days). If you plan to meet with Rebecca in Onslow and wish to speak to her beforehand, you can call her on 1800 486 252.

GAC Members will be able to get a range of information and advice from Rebecca about matters relating to your memberships. Her main aim is to answer queries Members have on GAC's programs, including: health and well being, ancillary health (dental, glasses, etc), critically ill patient support, education support and scholarships, computer support, sport and recreation and funeral support.

Rebecca plans to regularly visit Onslow at the end of each month, as well as Roebourne and Karratha at the beginning of each month and Port Hedland in the middle of each month. A schedule of dates and venues will be posted on our website (www.gumala.com.au) on a regular basis.

Deepest Sympathies

The management and staff of GAC would like to express our heartfelt condolences to our Director Churchill Jones and his family on the two recent losses the family have suffered.

We would also like to pass on our condolences to staff member Wendy Walker and family on the recent sad loss of John Cunningham, who was Wendy's partner. John was also a much loved staff member at GAC.

Remembering Aboriginals who fought for Australia

With the recent ANZAC Day celebrations taking place right around Australia, Gumala Aboriginal Corporation (GAC) wishes to acknowledge anyone from the GAC membership and their relatives who have served under Australia's armed forces.

GAC's Acting Project Specialist, Rebecca Harkin, previously wrote an ANZAC Day special article for the country newspaper Tower Street Times titled "Indigenous Soldiers - throughout the Wars." That article is reproduced here courtesy of Tower Street Times and Rebecca.

Indigenous Soldiers - throughout the Wars



Probably lesser known, due to the Government policies at the time, but as noted by the Department of Defence there were approximately 400+ Indigenous persons enlisting in the armed forces in the First World War from all states of Australia, with many enlisting under another race.

When war broke out in 1914, many Aborigines who tried to enlist were rejected on the grounds of race; others slipped through the net. By October 1917, when recruits were harder to find and one conscription referendum had already been lost, restrictions were cautiously eased. A new Military Order stated: "Half-castes may be enlisted in the Australian Imperial Force provided that the examining Medical Officers are satisfied that one of the parents is of European origin."

This was as far as Australia - officially - would go.



Whilst historians are still researching this period of time, there has been much advancement in the research and stories from later wars. The Department of Defence outlines the numbers of Indigenous persons enlisting in the armed forces through their publications. There are many stories, one in particular, is about Leonard Waters who is the only known Aboriginal fighter pilot to have served in WWII. He was an 18 year old shearer from Nindigully, Queensland when he joined the RAAF in August 1942 as a mechanic. He applied and was accepted for pilot training. He went to pilot 95 ground attack and fighter sweeps over Japanese held positions and islands in New Guinea and the Dutch East Indies (Indonesia) during late 1944 and 1945.

Closer to home, as in the *Mt Margaret Notes (Mt Margaret: A Drop in the Bucket)*, in May 1943 special mention was made to Mr Jim Brennan in North Africa and then Germany, Mr Ted McGrath in New Britain, and Mr Stan Hedland in the Solomons. When Mr Brennan returned from the war he came home wearing stripes for five years frontline service-and the Africa Star. He was one of the notable "Rats of Tobruk" to come out alive; mentioned in despatches for carrying out the wounded under fire; and twice faced Fascist firing squads with only minutes before being saved. He had been right round the world, leaving Australia in the *Queen Mary* via the Suez Canal and returning by way of the Panama Canal.



(Africa Star)

Congratulations to our graduation students

Gumala Aboriginal Corporation (GAC) would like to congratulate all Gumala Members and/or their children who have recently celebrated their graduation ceremonies from schools, colleges and universities across the Pilbara, Western Australia and Australia.

GAC would like to regularly feature graduation photos in Gumala News. In this edition, we feature photos sent in by Felicity Robinson and Rachel Robinson.



Felicity Robinson, Year 11 Carmel Adventist College, pictured here with her mother Naydene Robinson. After finishing Year 11 this year, Felicity plans to go on and complete Year 12 at Carmel Adventist College in 2011.

Send your graduation photos to Gumala News

If GAC Members or Members' children have recently celebrated a graduation ceremony from high school, TAFE or university, and have a photo you can send us, we are very keen to share your proud achievement with the rest of the the Gumala membership by featuring it in Gumala News.

So if you would like your / your child's graduation photo to be featured in Gumala News, phone Teeharnee at GAC's Perth office on (08) 9361 0522.

Contact Gumala News

Got a story to tell Gumala News? Call GAC's Communications Officer Peter Caruso on (08) 9361 0522.



Rachel Robinson, Year 12, John Curtin College of Arts, pictured with her mother Carmen Murdock. Rachel will complete Year 12 this year and plans to continue studying next year.

GAC Perth office reminder

Gumala Aboriginal Corporation has many Members who live in Perth. Members are reminded that they can visit our Perth office (5/439 Albany Hwy, Victoria Park) any time during office hours 8.30 to 5pm Monday to Friday. Members can fill in and submit all GAC application forms from our Perth office, use our phone/fax facilities and receive other advice and assistance.

Tadam's Gumala Radio Update

Thunurrdu. Hello listeners, just an update on the radio and what's happening. You may have noticed a change to the sound in the way of programming with broadcasters from Ngarda Radio getting on board (which is good to see), and also the running of our automation system.

Hopefully we'll be going out to Wakathuni to do a broadcast there in the very near future.

Mike Ryan and myself have been across to Roebourne to sort some of their issues they've had with their phone. We should also be doing the rounds and checking communities to see how things are going (probably in the coming weeks). If your

community is having trouble with anything, please let us know and we may be able to plan for and fix them. Hopefully this will be towards the end of May or early June.

I am also expecting Margaret and Mahina to come over to Tom Price to gain a bit of experience, before they have film and TV workshops in Perth.

If you have any ideas for the radio, let us know (we welcome any feedback) about programming and anything else. Bye for now.

BE SAFE, TAKE CARE.

Regards Tadam.

Gumala thanks CBF for support

Gumala Radio is produced with the assistance of the Department of Broadcast, Communications and the Digital Economy via the Community Broadcasting Foundation.

Gumala Aboriginal Corporation would like to acknowledge the continued support and encouragement of Community Broadcasting Foundation.

The CBF has generously supported GAC's efforts to upgrade its existing radio set-up over the last few years. Their support has enabled Gumala Radio to make a number of significant improvements that have directly translated into improved broadcast quality and an improved audio experience for all Gumala Radio listeners.

Via support from CBF, GAC has upgraded all the studio computers, purchased equipment to allow us now to record and broadcast from outside events and secure new Australian Indigenous music.



The voice of Gumala Radio, Tadam Lockyer (left), alongside Radio Technician Mike Ryan.

GUMALA Aboriginal Corporation

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