



GUMALA NEWS



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Darren Injie (left) pictured with Chief Executive Steve Mav during recent discussions on Gumala Aboriginal Corporation's future plans

Working together – 2010 and beyond

*by Gumala Aboriginal Corporation's
newly appointed Chairman, Darren Injie*

This year marks the 14th anniversary of the incorporation of Gumala Aboriginal Corporation (GAC).

As a GAC Founding Member and the new Chairman, I am extremely proud of our progress and achievements over the years since our incorporation (1996) and since the landmark Yandi Land Use Agreement was signed (March 1997).

It is a great honour to be appointed as GAC's Chairman, and I would like to thank my fellow Directors for the trust they have bestowed upon me.

I would also like to express particular gratitude to our outgoing Chairman, Archie Tucker, and acknowledge his tireless work and various achievements during his time as Chairman.

As the new Chairman, I am firmly committed to continuing Archie's good work and serving the best interests of our growing Membership.

GAC and Gumala Investments Pty Ltd (GIPL) held their Annual General Meetings (AGMs) over the December 12-13 weekend in Port Hedland, with a strong Membership turnout.

Given that the weather was extremely hot that weekend, Members who travelled from all over the Pilbara and beyond to attend the AGMs should be applauded for their participation and for the good robust debate that endured.

With attendance figures of around 350 at any one time throughout the weekend, I would also like to thank the Staff and Management for their tireless work over the weekend.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge the representatives of the Office of the Registrar of Indigenous Corporations (ORIC) and Rio Tinto who were in attendance.

As we move into 2010, GAC will remain focused on its key objectives, including in-kind assistance for Members; training and employment initiatives; economic, community and social development; and the preservation and protection of our

heritage, culture and languages.

I look forward to working with the Board and Management of GAC in continuing to move the organization forward for the ultimate benefit of the Members, their children and the generations that follow.

Chairman

Members vote in GAC Board of Directors for 2010

During Gumala Aboriginal Corporation's (GAC) recent Annual General Meeting, held on December 13 2009, new Directors were appointed to the GAC Board.

The new Board consists of: Darren Injie (Innawonga), Chairman; Archie Tucker (Banyjima), Deputy Chair; Stephen Peterson (Niyaparli), Secretary; May Byrne (Banyjima), Director; Karen Tommy (Banyjima), Director; Churchill Jones (Innawonga), Director; Stuart Ingie Snr (Innawonga), Director; Natalie Parker (Niyaparli), Director; and Gordon Yuline (Niyaparli), Director.

DARREN INJIE (Chairman)



Appointed to the Board in November 2008. Appointed as Chairman in December 2009.

Darren is a founding member of Gumala and has been on the Board several times since 1997 (including twice serving as Chair).

Born in Fremantle and growing up in Onslow, Darren is self-employed as a Consultant and is also the proud father of three children. He is of the Innawonga language group and has ties with Bellary Springs Community.

ARCHIE TUCKER (Deputy Chair)



Appointed to the Board in 2008 and serving as Chair in 2009, Archie Tucker is currently Deputy Chair.

He was born at Giralia Station and grew up in Wittenoom with his brother and two sisters. He is a hands-on man in his community and refers to himself as a handyman. He enjoys travelling around the Pilbara and works tirelessly in the communities.

As a proud member of the Banyjima people he is an asset to have on our Board of Directors.

STEPHEN PETERSON (Secretary)



Stephen was appointed on the GAC Board in December 2009.

Born in Port Hedland and currently residing in Geraldton, Stephen is married with three children. He is also the current Director of Niyaparli Aboriginal Corporation and Niyaparli Working Group.

In his role on the GAC Board, Stephen aims to represent his people and provide them with positive outcomes that benefit their long term future.

KAREN TOMMY (Director)



Appointed to the board in November 2008, Karen was born in Marble Bar along with three brothers and two sisters. She is married to Roy Tommy, who is from the Innawonga language people and is also a Gumala Member. They have three children and are proud grandparents of six grandchildren. Karen resides in Tom Price with her family all close by, living in the Pilbara.

Karen has been a highly regarded Aboriginal and Islander Education Officer (AIEO) for many years. She dedicated herself to this career for three years in Marble Bar, then moved to Port Hedland and gave another 13 years to the job. Her passion and ability to relate to Aboriginal children continued when

she moved to Tom Price and gave herself to relief work at North Tom Price Primary School and Tom Price Senior High School as an AIEO.

MAY BYRNE (Director)



Appointed in November 2008.

May was re-appointed to the GAC Board in 2009 after being appointed in 2008.

May and her sister Beverly Hubert have been instrumental in starting the homeland movement on Milyuranpa Banyjima land since 2001.

NATALIE PARKER (Director)



Appointed in November 2008.

Natalie is the former Deputy Chair of the Board, and prior to that she served on GAC's Governing Committee. She is currently Deputy

Chair on Gumala Enterprises Pty Ltd's Board. Natalie lives at Youngaleena Community near Munjina.

GORDON YULINE (Director)



Appointed in November 2008.

Born in Marble Bar and currently living in Port Hedland, Gordon has been a Member of Gumala since 1996. Gordon is a respected Elder of the Niyaparli language group, and has been heavily involved with Gumala since it was founded.

CHURCHILL JONES (Director)



Appointed in November 2008.

Churchill Jones was born at Duck Creek near Mount Stuart. He is currently living at the Wakathuni Community out of Tom Price. He has nine children all living in the Pilbara.

Churchill was raised with traditional Innawonga values on Innawonga land.

STUART INGIE SNR (Director)



Appointed in December 2009.

Stuart is a former GAC Chairman, current GEPL Director, and is a Member of the Lore and Culture Committee.

Stuart is a well-respected Innawonga Elder. He was born at Mt Stuart Station near Onslow and currently lives in Bellary Springs Community. He is also employed as a Cultural Awareness Presenter at Rio Tinto.

Gumala sponsors worthy cause

Gumala Aboriginal Corporation recently sponsored the annual Roebourne March Against Domestic Violence.

The event, which targets all areas of violence committed against women and children, took place in November 2009.

It also had the full support of various government departments and agencies.

GAC and AAC sign MOU and commence Work Start program

Gumala Aboriginal Corporation (GAC) and Ashburton Aboriginal Corporation (AAC) have followed up the signing of the Work Start Joint Venture Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) by implementing Work Start programs for indigenous trainees.

The first group of trainees took part in the first training program, which kicked off last August in Tom Price, with the second program scheduled to commence during the first quarter of 2010.

The first training program, which covered health and safety, communications in the workplace and literacy-based learning, resulted in all participants securing work within three weeks.

AAC's Industry Training Co-ordinator, Michelle Laylan, said the second program would focus on construction and infrastructure.

"The program will run for a maximum of 12 weeks. The TAFE structured course will see students issued with a certificate upon completion.

"The benefit of doing this course is that, because it's focused on construction and infrastructure, it



The MOU signing ceremony. Left to right: AAC's CEO Janet Brown, AAC's Chairperson Doreen James, GAC's then Chairman Archie Tucker, and GAC's Chief Executive Steve Mav.

will teach life skills that people can take back to their own communities.

"It will also train people up to work in the mining and construction industries, and give them flexibility.

"Some people prefer to move around and work on short term contracts, while others want work as permanent long term employees."

Gumala's Members are able to access funding for this program through their Education program.

"Gumala has been very generous in providing funding assistance, especially for its members who are undergoing training," Michelle added.

Lore Time for many Members

This summer has seen many of GAC Members' sons go through Lore ceremonies in the Pilbara, with GAC involved in the provision of funding assistance.

During the summer of 2009-10, traditional Lore ceremonies which Gumala has been involved in have taken place at Wakathuni, Cane River, Woodbrook and Yandeyarra.

The ceremonies mean that GAC

Members' sons go in as Young Boys and come out as Young Men. Many of their families also attend the ceremonies.

GAC believes strongly in providing support to Members through the Lore and Culture Travel Assistance Program. By contributing to the financial costs associated with travel, Gumala ensures that the cultural significance of attendance at these Lore ceremonies is addressed.

Download GAC's Annual Report from revamped website

Gumala Aboriginal Corporation has revamped its website, which significantly boosts the organisation's online presence and image.

The state-of-the-art website, which went "live" in September 2009, has a comprehensive range of information on the services we provide and the projects we are implementing.

Various downloads, including the 2008-09 Annual Report and recent editions of Gumala News, are also available from the website.

The website also contains information about Gumala's history, its people and land, as well as Gumala's associated enterprises and workforce.

Visit www.gumala.com.au.

Gumala's business arm secures new contracts and DLIQ Certification

The business arm of Gumala Aboriginal Corporation, Gumala Enterprises Pty Ltd (GEPL), has celebrated major achievements in recent months.

Gumala Contracting, which is a division of GEPL, has been awarded a contract for Pilbara Iron's Security Upgrade Project (Marandoo AN Compliance Works).

Gumala Contracting was recently awarded a contract by KBR for the Millstream road resurfacing works. By mid-January this contract, which involves road and carpark works, was underway and near completion.

In May 2009 Gumala Contracting secured the Hope Downs contract, and became a "preferred contractor" of Rio Tinto's Iron Ore group.

CERTIFICATE OF CONFORMITY

Another significant achievement for GEPL took place in mid-October 2009 when the company was advised that it had passed a major safety audit, and had therefore obtained the Certificate of Conformity.

GEPL Safety Co-ordinator, Sharon Jack, explained what the Certificate of Conformity represents:

"Certificate of Conformity certifies that Gumala Contracting's Occupational Health and Safety Management System complies with the requirements of Australian Standard AS/NZS 4801:2001 – Occupational health and safety

management systems – Specification with guidance for use.

"Certification advertises that Gumala has an established occupational health and safety framework that conforms to a recognised Occupational health and safety standard."

The Certification Auditor visited Gumala Contracting in September 2009, with Gumala subsequently passing the audit.

The DLIQ Certification was formally issued on 15 October 2009, with on-going Surveillance Audits to be carried out at nine monthly intervals for the next three years.

At the end of the three years, Re-assessment occurs.



On top of gaining DLIQ Certification in late 2009, Gumala Contracting has recently secured two new contracts: the Security Upgrade Project (Marandoo AN Compliance Works) and the Millstream road resurfacing works.

Remote communities to benefit from recycling initiative

Gumala Aboriginal Corporation is in the process of implementing a recycling program in four of its communities as part of the organisation's aim to provide more waste disposal facilities in remote communities.

The four trailers will be delivered to Wakathuni, Bellary Springs, Youngaleena and Wirrilmarra communities after community recycling awareness workshops are held.

The trailers will be far more useful than fixed recycling bins, as there is no recyclable waste collection service to any of the four communities.

A volunteer recycling warden from each of the communities will be responsible for ensuring that collected materials are driven to Tom Price and deposited at the Shire of Ashburton's recyclable waste collection facility on a fortnightly basis.

The trailers will then be returned to the communities to continue the recycling process.

Each trailer will be divided into sections for different materials, and each section will be clearly marked in a way that will make it easy for community members (including those who only speak their

traditional languages) to recognise which waste goes into each section.

The provision of the recycling trailers will allow the communities to take control of ownership over waste management, as it will give them the means to do this.

Community members will be directly involved in and will be responsible for recycling and minimising waste in their communities.

About 220 people in total, who live across the four communities, will be involved in, and directly benefit from, this project. The project is supported by the Western Australian Landfill Levy fund.



Image of the Wirrilmarra community, which will soon be one of four communities to receive the much needed recycling trailers.

Housing strategy remains on-track

Gumala is continuing to progress its housing strategy, with a Members Housing Survey completed and a subsequent report being produced.

The report will outline Gumala Members' current housing situation and, more importantly, their housing needs.

Gumala plans to purchase land, construct homes, and then make them available for rent for Gumala Members.

Gumala is first targeting South Hedland, with other areas in the Pilbara to follow. Gumala will also be approaching the government

to provide funding assistance for building costs.

Gumala's housing strategy aims to ensure our Members have access to affordable rental accommodation.

Plans are also proceeding for the construction of an Elderly Residence in Tom Price.

Quality education within reach thanks to Gumala's education funding program

The inspiration of a Gumala Member's persistence to get her son a quality education has gone hand in hand with Gumala Aboriginal Corporation's highly successful Education Assistance Program.

Gumala provides financial assistance of up to \$10,000 per child per year under the Education Assistance Program, which gives Members' children the opportunity to access a high quality education.

Angus McHenry is a prime example of the success of Gumala's education assistance initiatives.

The 13-year-old was recently accepted into Guildford Grammar School in Perth, and in February he kicked off his high school education there as a Year 8 student.

Angus' mother, Gumala Member Franzis Robinson, was successful in her application to receive GAC's education funding assistance for her

son. This is a tremendous outcome for someone who was determined to stop at nothing to find funding for a quality high school education for her son.

Franzis is to be congratulated wholeheartedly for her dedicated efforts, and Gumala wishes Angus all the best with his studies.

Gumala Education Assistance is designed to complement the assistance available to Indigenous students through Abstudy.

The levels of education assistance will vary depending upon the fees charged by each institution and the assistance available from Abstudy.

Gumala Members could be eligible to receive \$10,000 per annum from Gumala to fund their children's educations.

The overall aim of Gumala's Education Assistance Program is to increase the number and level of

qualifications achieved by Gumala's Members.

Funding includes covering the cost of school uniforms, school fees, school books, stationery, swimming lessons and other associated school costs.

The following financial assistance is also available to Gumala's Members for their children: tuition and boarding fees; travel costs; funding for an interstate education; other relevant assistance, which will be considered upon application.

It is intended that Gumala Education Assistance combines with: Local initiatives to improve education outcomes for indigenous students; City High School based initiatives to improve education outcomes for indigenous students; and City post-secondary institution based initiatives to improve education outcomes for Indigenous tertiary students and trainees.

By late-2009, Gumala Aboriginal Corporation had assisted well over 200 students at schools in the Pilbara and Perth through the Gumala Education Program.

Students recently holding Gumala Scholarships have been studying at educational institutions that include: Perth College; Wesley College and Carmel College in Perth; Nagle Catholic College in Geraldton; Melbourne Girls College; Claremont Football Academy; Deakin University; University of WA; Curtin University and the West Australian Academy of Performing Arts.



Gumala Member Franzis Robinson and her 13-year-old son Angus McHenry.

Art and poetry book gifted by GAC

In December 2009 Gumala Aboriginal Corporation (GAC) had the pleasure of presenting Tom Price Primary School with copies of an Artwork and Poetry Competition book, which contains all of the children's entries in their school's Artwork and Poetry Competition 2009.

The presentation ceremony, which took place during the school's final assembly for the year, represents GAC's appreciation of the school's support for NAIDOC Week.

The entire school participated in the competition earlier in the year, which coincided with NAIDOC Week and was coordinated by GAC, Ashburton Aboriginal Corporation (AAC) and Tom Price Primary School.

The competition theme paralleled the NAIDOC theme for 2009: "Honouring our Elders, Nurturing our Youth". The quality of the artwork and poetry was incredibly high, with the judges amazed by the



Left to right: Linda McCarthy, Kathleen Pomery, Michelle Laylan and Lisa Ledger

array of talented drawings, paintings and words of poetry.

GAC provided several prizes,

consisting of children's books. All of the students at Tom Price Primary School and their teachers are to be congratulated whole-heartedly.

Film-making Initiative

Gumala Aboriginal Corporation is funding a film-making workshop in Tom Price, which will take place during April. 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.

Gumala Member receives traineeship to teach Banyjima

Gumala Member Ronnelle Hicks has been awarded a traineeship as a Banyjima language teacher at Tom Price Primary School.

During her two-year traineeship, Ronnelle will spend at least one hour a week teaching a language class. She will also complete four weeks of theoretical training in resource development, planning, teaching and assessment.

In October 2009 the WA State Government announced that it had awarded the traineeships to nine language teacher graduates, including Ronnelle. According to the State Government, 97 teacher trainees have completed the Aboriginal Languages Teacher Training course since its inception. This has resulted in the teaching of 25 indigenous

languages in 79 schools across the State.

The State Minister for Education, Liz Constable, said the teaching of indigenous languages to school children represented an important



Ronnelle Hicks

step in reviving and maintaining the traditional languages.

"To preserve the languages for the future we need as many young people as possible to learn them from qualified Aboriginal teachers," Minister Constable said.

"The languages are being taught in remote, rural and metropolitan areas to both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal students."

Department of Education and Training Aboriginal languages curriculum officer, Lola Jones, said the training course helps the trainees learn language teaching skills.

"When they graduate they can teach their Aboriginal language at schools in their community," Mrs Jones said.

Big rise in demand for MSU's services and advice

GAC's Member Services Unit (MSU) is continuing to go from strength to strength, with the MSU team coping remarkably well throughout an extremely busy summer period.

The unit experienced a particularly hectic period in January and early February 2010, with significant volumes of education funding applications being processed in conjunction with the start of the school year, as well as a big demand on Health & Well Being. During this time MSU were also processing Lore & Culture applications.

GAC's highly efficient and professional MSU team has also been very busy giving general advice to Members about their applications and process. The unit processes Members' applications, provides advice and information about the programs and the criteria for the various funding opportunities.

The MSU also provides advice on how to best avoid delays in the processing of applications, and ensuring that applications are made within the guidelines.

Once the MSU has completed these tasks, it passes on the applications



Two key members of the MSU team, Ronwyn James and Pedina Walley

to the appropriate GAC channel for approval.

GAC's Chief Executive Steve Mav said the MSU has been a major success story since its establishment in 2008.

"The MSU has developed into a highly specialised unit," Steve said. "Its ultimate objective is to help maximise the efficiency and effectiveness of GAC's services and service delivery to the membership.

"This is critical, particularly given the big rise in Member numbers over the last 18 months or so. As of early February, GAC's membership numbers had reached approximately 1100.

"Members are also becoming increasingly aware of the education funding opportunities that Gumala has on offer. This is placing increased workloads on our MSU staff, who in turn are coping remarkably well," Steve added.

Govt funding helps pave way for computer course

Gumala Aboriginal Corporation and Ashburton Aboriginal Corporation are about to commence a computer training course, open to all Gumala Members, that is specifically aimed at beginners with little or no computer skills.

Published research studies - which indicate that Indigenous people in the Pilbara are the least represented among computer users in WA - represent further evidence that there is a strong need for this kind of training. The course is a "First Click/Second Click" initiative, funded by the WA Department of Education & Training.

Renal Health Care Project underway

Gumala Aboriginal Corporation has commenced a Renal (Kidney) Health Care Project.

In conjunction with the start of the project, Gina Newell has arrived in Tom Price from the United States (she is doing her three-month internship with us) and is assisting our management team with the implementation of the project.

Gumala sponsorships help our youth realise their sporting dreams

Gumala Aboriginal Corporation (GAC) wishes to congratulate Gerrick Weedon on being recruited by the West Coast Eagles during the AFL National Draft.

Gerrick's mother, Louanne Salmon, is a Gumala Member, which paved the way for Gerrick to receive funding from Gumala when he first moved to Perth as a Clontarf student. The funding helped pay for his accommodation expenses in Perth and travel expenses.

The 18-year-old former Claremont Colts player and AFL Under 18 representative for WA was the number 22 pick in the National Draft.

The staff and management at Gumala wish Gerrick all the best for his AFL career.

Meanwhile, GAC is playing a small part in the dreams of two young boxers who hope to one day represent Australia at the Olympic Games.

Jayden Hansen (16) and his brother Julian Jeakings (11) are champions in their respective weight divisions, with Jayden recently taking out the national 54 kg 17-19 years division at the National Golden Gloves 2009 in Queensland.

That feat came despite the fact that he weighs 51 kg and was competing against 80 boxers from Australia and New Zealand.

His younger brother Julian currently holds the number one ranking in WA in the 30 kg weight division.



Star Eagles' recruit Gerrick Weedon (Image courtesy of the West Coast Eagles)

Both Jayden and Julian will be travelling to England for two weeks in 2010 to compete in an international competition, with the 16 and 11 year-olds holding strong ambitions to box for Australia at the 2012 and 2016 Olympics respectively.



Julian (left) and Jayden (right)

Gumala has had a small part to play in assisting in the boys aspirations - the funding they received from Gumala have helped them to purchase equipment and pay for training in Perth.

Proud mum and Gumala member Paula White said she always encouraged Jayden and Julian in all sports they choose to play.

Referring to Jayden's recent success at the National Golden Gloves, Paula said he had great mental strength and a lot of self-discipline, with his hard work beginning to pay dividends.

Jayden currently holds an Australian Institute of Sport scholarship, and previously held a cricket scholarship with John Forrest Senior high School in Perth. He won two international bouts in NZ in 2009 and has won several bouts in WA.

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