

# GUMALA NEWS



MEMBERS EDITION, CHRISTMAS 2011



**GUMALA**  
Aboriginal  
Corporation  
ICN 2744

# Chairman's Comment

As the year winds to a close, I would like to take this opportunity to reflect on some of the important things that we, as Traditional Owners, should be reminded of during the festive season.

Firstly, that we should remember and acknowledge our Founding Members, including our Elders, many of whom are no longer with us, for their incredible efforts over many years in helping get us to where we are now.

Thanks to the Yandi Land Use Agreement, our strong relationship with Rio Tinto Iron Ore, and Gumala Aboriginal Corporation's ever-increasing spending on funding programs, the Members are benefiting greatly from this in so many ways.

We need to remind ourselves that in the very beginning, it was the Founding Members who came together.

Through their struggles and determination, we were able to negotiate and secure the land use agreement in the first place. This should never be forgotten.

This is also an opportune time to remind our Members and our children of the enormous respect we must continue to show for our Elders.

Their knowledge and wisdom is a constant source of learning for the rest of us, so we must continue to



Gumala Aboriginal Corporation's Chairman Keith Hall

listen to them, learn from them, and respect them.

At this time of year, Lore plays an important part in our culture, so we wish all involved in Lore Time this summer all the very best.

Gumala Aboriginal Corporation has matured enormously in 2011, and will continue to mature and grow in 2012.

It's incredible to think that we have become one of the leading Aboriginal organisations in Australia, despite our small beginnings 15 years ago.

We have grown and strengthened significantly over the past four years, and that is a great credit to all of us.

On behalf of Gumala Aboriginal Corporation, I would like to wish everyone at Gumala – fellow Members, Staff and Management – and their respective families, a happy and safe festive season.

Best wishes

Keith Hall



Front cover photo: Shakira Carey pictured at a Gumala event held earlier this year. Photo by Elly Lukale.

Gumala News is a Gumala Aboriginal Corporation publication.

Gumala News contact:

Peter Caruso - phone (08) 9423 4500

email peter.caruso@gumala.com.au

# What's happening in Member Services?

by Member Services Manager  
Tracey Blokland



This is the first edition of 'What's happening in Member Services'. I would like to provide our Members with regular updates, information, and anything else that may be relevant to Member Services.

This will include an overview of one program, some handy hints and useful information, statistical information, and a little information on one of the Member Services Unit (MSU) staff members (see page 8).

## Overview of the Utilities Program:

This program was introduced on 1st July 2011. It was introduced for many reasons including: the high cost of utilities within the Pilbara region, the limited amount of assistance available to our Members due to living in a remote area, the need for these essential services to be ongoing and the high number of disconnections due to lack of affordability for our Members.

It has been noted that some GAC Members are extremely fortunate and have their utility accounts paid for or heavily subsidised by mining companies. Because of this, some of our Members are not able to access this program.

In saying this, those Members' utility costs are being paid for or reduced greatly and would not then need to access this program. For those who are not as fortunate, this program offers assistance when needed most.

## Who can access this program?

All GAC Members receiving beneficiaries whose utility accounts are in their names and they reside

at that address (for further eligibility requirements, please refer to the Member Services Guidelines).

## How much is the program?

The program is up to \$1000. Members can apply for 75% of the utility account on each occasion of use. The balance of 25% can be paid for by the Member or applied for using the Health and Wellbeing program (if funds available).

## What utilities does the program cover?

Members can apply for this program for electricity, gas and water accounts only. Telephone and Shire rates are not able to be accessed through the Utilities Program.

For the full program guidelines please refer to the Member Services Guidelines manual. If you did not receive this, please let MSU know and one will be forwarded to you.

For further clarification, please contact MSU on 1800 486 252 or email [gac@gumala.com.au](mailto:gac@gumala.com.au) with your query.

MSU was extremely busy during the months of July and August. During July GAC received over 10,000 phone calls.

MSU received 2,170 applications between 4th July and 28th July. The number of applications received in August was 2,085; that is a combined total of 4,255 applications over this 2 month period.

That by any standards is a huge amount of applications; MSU Officers have performed extremely well and consistently strive to meet our Members' needs and process

applications in a timely manner where possible.

## Passwords for Members' files:

I strongly recommend that Members have a password and a secret question placed on their file. This will minimise the risk of other Members accessing your programs and ensure that the information MSU provides to its Members, is indeed to the correct Member.

A pro forma form has been mailed out to the Members. Please complete the form, ensure you sign your own form and the signature on the form must match the signature GAC has on file for you.

Once complete, Members can fax it back to GAC on 08 9188 1846, post it to PO Box 61, Tom Price 6751, email it to [gac@gumala.com.au](mailto:gac@gumala.com.au) or hand it in personally to the GAC office, either in Tom Price or Perth. This is not compulsory at this time but is strongly recommended.

Members' signatures will not be used for any other purpose except to verify your applications and correspondence. Your signature is only accessed when an application/letter/correspondence is received by GAC.

All files are stored in filing cabinets and are the responsibility of the MSU Team Leaders and MSU staff. Your privacy and confidentiality are >

> important to us so please ensure you sign your applications as they will not be processed if the signatures do not match.

#### Education assistance for 2012:

Please send though your requests for book packs, uniforms, stationary etc as soon as possible for 2012.

Last year MSU were receiving hundreds of 'urgent' requests daily from Members late in January and early February. As you can appreciate, all MSU officers process applications as fast as they are able to, and education requests are not the only applications MSU receive during this time.

#### Useless but interesting information to think about:

Strawberries are the only fruit whose seed grow on the outside!

A baby llama is called a *cria* (even school teachers don't get this right)

Mosquito season is upon us, for those of us that prefer not to use chemical based products here are some natural repellents may be effective. Mosquitoes cause many illnesses that are especially dangerous for our children.

*Handy Hint: Garlic camouflages your body's scent, so mosquitoes can't track you down. Simply add 2 crushed garlic cloves to a pint of water, let sit overnight, strain and spray around outdoor areas.*

Plants that repel mosquitoes:

Marigolds, plant some around your patio area in pots. Mosquitoes dislike their scent.

Rosemary, plant some in your garden, you can spray a mixture of rosemary

oil and water on your arms and legs. Test for allergies first. Mosquitoes dislike this scent.

Catnip is proven to be 10 times more effective than DEET.

Basil, onion, lemon grass, sagebrush, peppermint, horsemint and eucalyptus all repel mosquitoes.

Until next edition, have a safe and happy school holiday break, and if you are travelling, please drive safely.

**Tracey Blokland**

**Member Services Manager**

## Education reminders

Brief reminders from Gumala Aboriginal Corporation's (GAC's) Education Manager, Lynne Beckingham, regarding education matters:

#### BOOKLIST

A reminder to all parents to put their child's booklist in to the Member Services Unit (MSU) as soon as possible, BEFORE term one 2012 starts. This allows us time to have supplies organised and ready for the first day of school.

#### SCHOLARSHIPS

Scholarship students are reminded that they will need to provide current proof of enrolment at the commencement of EACH semester in order to continue receiving funds.

#### GUMALA 0-5 STUDIO

Gumala 0-5 Studio project at Wakuthuni. A couple of GAC staff have attended Abecedarian training. An agreement has been reached with a local school who will work in partnership with GAC to implement a modified Abecedarian approach. This will begin in February 2012 (or term 1 2012).

#### CONTACT US

We have many students utilising education programs. If you are thinking about studying and unsure



Gumala Aboriginal Corporation's Education Manager Lynne Beckingham

about what Education can cover for you or your children please feel free to give us a call.

## Member Services Tips

Please be patient when waiting for an application to be processed, as Gumala's Member Services Unit (MSU) receive an enormous amount of applications per week.

For your application to be processed quickly, please ensure you have all the documentation. If you don't provide the documentation your application can not be processed.

Please remember to put a current contact number on your applications.

If you need a birth certificate you can contact our Member Services Unit (MSU) who can assist you with obtaining one from the Births, Deaths & Marriages Registry.

The new Utilities program is only for power, water and gas. Gumala will pay 75% of each bill; however, you can also choose to pay the rest out of the Health & Well-being program.

When collecting food and fuel please check that the purchase order is at the shop BEFORE you start shopping. Please forward applications and documentation to the Gumala office as soon as possible. Sending applications on the day or hours before the payment is needed does not allow MSU Officers enough time to process the payments.

## Recent GAC Appointments

Permanent staff to recently join Gumala Aboriginal Corporation include:

Dharmesh Kewalram - Finance Manager

Simon Biss - Acting Projects Manager

Karine Ombrasine - Finance Officer

Aman Malhotra - Bookkeeper

Talal Usman - Bookkeeper

Steve Wong - Data Entry Officer

Michelle Gainey - Member Services Team Leader

Tina Olman - Member Services Officer

Diane Hawke - Member Services Officer

Erin Westhafer - Member Services Officer

Alison Cook - Member Services Officer

Guy Parker - Acting Liaison Officer

Jacqueline (Jackie) Phillips - Receptionist

## Gumala Traineeships

Are you a Gumala Member interested in doing a Gumala Traineeship?

If so, please send your current resume and a covering letter to:

email: jobs@gumala.com.au

post: PO Box 61, Tom Price, 6751

Traineeship enquiries should be directed to our Acting Human Resources Manager (currently Lisa Shields).

Please feel free to call our Tom Price office on 1800 486 252 or (08) 9188 4500 and ask to speak to Lisa if you have any queries.



Recently appointed Gumala staff member (in our Perth office) Jacqueline Phillips. Jackie is a Gumala Member and traditional Banyjima woman

# Gumala Projects update

Gumala Aboriginal Corporation is continuing to progress a range of projects across the Pilbara, including the multi-million dollar Housing Projects in Tom Price and South Hedland, as well as Community Services and Capital Works projects.

by A/Projects Manager  
Simon Biss



## TOM PRICE & SOUTH HEDLAND HOUSING PROJECTS

The procurement process for this project commenced in August this year with the release of an Expression of Interest (EOI).

Gumala received a good response from builders wanting to be involved in this significant project, that includes 10 houses in South Hedland and 7 in Tom Price.

The next stage will be the release of a Request for Tender (RFT) to a shortlist of the most suitable builders who applied during the first stage of the procurement.

With a contract award date anticipated in the early part of 2012, Gumala are on track to deliver the houses by the end of 2012.

Gumala is committed to a 5-year plan to construct approximately 150 homes for our Traditional Owners and their families by 2016.

This is in line with Gumala's Housing Strategy, which is designed to ensure that our Members have access to affordable rental accommodation.

## TOM PRICE ELDERLY COMPLEX

The first draft plans of the Tom Price Elderly Accommodation Complex planned to be constructed on vacant land on the corner of Mine Rd and Hospital Drive were presented to the Gumala Elders at the Lore >



Above & below: Artist's impression of the design of the Elderly Complex. Please note that design elements may change.



> and Culture Meeting held Early in November.

These designs are the first stage of the design process with further consideration and consultation required before Gumala hope to begin the procurement process to find a builder to construct the cottages in 2012.

At this stage it is hoped that the project will deliver 1 and 2 bedroom cottages for up to 14 Gumala Elders as well as a day centre and accommodation for a resident caretaker.

The objective of the project is to improve the accommodation and care needs of Gumala's older

Members through the delivery of accommodation that is designed, located and managed in a way that best meets the specific needs of elderly Gumala Members.

The complex will be built on freehold land gifted by Rio Tinto.

# Lore Camp upgrades update

Lore camp preparations are already underway and almost at completion as Lore Time approaches.

Gumala's projects team, made up of Simon Biss, Kerry Kessner and Bruce Mahy, have been working hard on upgrading the lore camps.

Three main lore camps, Youngaleena, Cane River and Bellary have undergone extensive work:

Youngaleena - work commenced in early November. Key upgrades completed include:

- An upgrade to the water system
- Fencing around bore and water tank
- Repairs to the existing ablution (toilet) block. A new ablution block is to be installed in 2012.

Cane River - upgrade work:

- A shed for a generator and Reverse Osmosis (RO) unit is on order.
- A new ablution block which contains toilets and showers has been installed on-site
- A general rubbish removal has been completed

Bellary - upgrades completed:

- An upgrade of water and reticulation has been done. A new ablution block will be installed in 2012.
- Repairs to the existing ablution block have been carried out.
- A new fence has been constructed around the water tank and bore

Although they have experienced some logistical issues, mainly due to remote locations and availability of suppliers, the projects team remain fully committed to the delivery of the lore camp upgrades.

# Georgina Keegan

## In Profile

by Elly Lukale

If you ring up Gumala's Member Services Unit (MSU) 1 (Innawonga, Nyiyaparli), you may be greeted by a Member Services Officer with a chirpy English accent, "Hello Georgina speaking, how can I help you?"

Georgina joined the Gumala Team early this year, in March. Leaving her home town of Milton Keynes in England, she arrived in Tom Price in 2010 to live with her family.

1. What is your favourite food?

Everything, I don't have a favourite. I like strawberries, they're nice and nutritious but I could live on Red Bull.

2. What is your ideal holiday destination and why?

It would be the Caribbean, Jamaica because it just looks lush. Anywhere with sea and sand....Tahiti.

3. Name three people that you would like to be stranded on an island with?

Russell Brand because he's HILARIOUS!!! Gordon Ramsey, so he could cook me dinner and some sort of builder so I can live in luxury.

4. Who do you most admire and why?

My dad. He has travelled all over the world and he's really ambitious.

5. What do people like about you?

Georgina: "What do you like about me?"

Lisa: Your bubbly personality.



Georgina: And I'm hilarious, just hilarious.

6. What would you change about yourself, if you could?

I think everyone has things they would like to change about themselves, but I'd like to change my hair colour because that's one thing I can change...and my loud voice.

7. Why do you enjoy working in MSU?

I like interacting with people. I like to help Members as efficiently as I can. I also process applications and chase queries.

8. Any tips for Members?

We now require a tax invoice to make payments, so no more quotes please. Also if people send in the correct information (paperwork) required, it's easier for us to process and will get done a lot quicker.

# 'Community Clean-up' in Bellary Springs

by Elly Lukale

Looking after our land and environment is important for future generations.

On October 8, community members in Bellary Springs were encouraged to take part in a weekend busy bee organized by Gumala's Project Officer Kerry Kessner with Bruce Mahy.

The busy bee focused on clearing rubbish from communal areas and on the day filled two tipper trucks with rubbish.

The next busy bee weekend is already planned in the Wakuthuni

Community, with other communities to follow.

"I would like to encourage as many people as possible to come to the next one," Kerry said.

Safety sunglasses, gloves, a hat and steel cap boots will be provided for those who participate, followed by a free lunch.

Gumala has also arranged with Rio Tinto to collect old car bodies.

These cars will be painted with a big red cross so Rio Tinto will know which ones to take away.

With fire season approaching, GEPL has already put in fire breaks around three of the four communities, ensuring that they are cleared and free from dry shrubs and trees.

Anyone who would like to volunteer for the busy bee or would like red paint to get rid of their car, is welcome to call Kerry on (08) 9423 4500.

"It's a good way for the community to come together," Kerry said.

She would like to thank Ken Ingie Snr and Ken Ingie Jnr for assisting with the cleanup in their community.



Ken Ingie Snr and Bruce Mahy



Brothers Kelroy and Keernan Bandy



Kelroy Bandy and Byron Foley

# Gumala Camera Spotlight

GAC AGM-EGM 25 JUNE 2011



# Gumala Camera Spotlight

GAC AGM-EGM JUNE 2011



# Gumala Camera Spotlight

GIPL AGM & CONSULTATION MEETINGS 2-3 DEC 2011



# Gumala Camera Spotlight

GIPL AGM & CONSULTATION MEETINGS 2-3 DEC 2011



# Gumala Camera Spotlight

GIPL AGM & CONSULTATION MEETINGS 2-3 DEC 2011



# Gumala Camera Spotlight

GIPL AGM & CONSULTATION MEETINGS 2-3 DEC 2011



## The husband & wife team

# Bruce & Mena Mahy

## In Profile

by Elly Lukale

Sixty-five year old Bruce Mahy, a builder by trade, spends most of his days out of the office and in the communities as Gumala's Facilities & Maintenance coordinator.

According to Bruce a normal day on the job includes, "running around looking for the end of it," but he does enjoy being outdoors. In fact Bruce has spent 95% of his working life outside.

One of his responsibilities is the maintenance and upgrade of the Lore Camps in the area, and making sure they are ready for Lore.

Bruce has also had a hand in preparing the ground for the recent development of the Early Childhood Centre in Wakuthuni Community, which opened in June.

He also does maintenance at Karijini Eco Retreat and assists with any maintenance work around the Gumala office building.

Besides being in the building industry for over 40 years, Bruce has been a truck driver and a warehouse coordinator of all incoming stock at a warehouse in New Zealand.

He has also had a go at being a butcher, "[but] don't ask me to cut up beef for you now," he chuckles.

Before moving to Australia with his wife Mena, Bruce had his own business as a building contractor for almost 18 years. They moved to Australia because they wanted a lifestyle change, "before I get too old to make a move," he said.



As I am writing this story, Bruce is out of the office somewhere putting up signs and doing general maintenance, it's hard to catch him because he's always on the go.

"I enjoy being outside, out in the communities," he said.



Filomena (Mena) Mahy is the friendly driver of the Gumala bus; transporting members from the communities around Tom Price and Paraburdoo. She officially joined the team at Gumala in early June, 2011 and is enjoying her new role.

Driving the bus everyday gives Mena an opportunity to interact with Members. "It's not just driving the bus, it's quite an active job. I help them with shopping, with their children and I have a conversation with them," she said.

Mena has mostly worked in the service industry and previously had her own business for 8 years in Horticulture where she trained and provided workers to farmers with growing and harvesting produce in New Zealand. This experience came from her family's own exporting business in Samoa, exporting taro and bananas.

A qualified social worker Mena was employed in the hospitals in New Zealand, mainly focusing on women's health. She has also worked alongside her husband Bruce in the building industry and has worked as a commercial cleaner too.

In mid 2010, Mena and Bruce left New Zealand and moved to Australia to be closer to their youngest daughter and their grandchildren.

Mena's day begins at 8am and finishes at 4pm, driving out to the communities (mainly Wakuthuni, Bellary Springs and West Side Block) to take Members to town and also assists when there is a funeral or sporting event.

She said she is getting to know most of the people who regularly use the service. Members who also use the bus come from as far as Perth, Port Hedland and Onslow.

The bus is a free service for Members and Mena has noticed that the number of people using it has increased since she started her first bus run and is happy that they feel comfortable with her behind the wheel.



## Colours of Country on Showcase

The sixth annual Colours of Country art exhibition in September saw four Gumala Members displaying their art work in Perth.

Congratulations to Gumala Members:

Gail Cox- Emu Dreaming

Roberta Hicks- BINGI Dreaming

Mandy Parker- Country Waterholes

Nina Smith- who had six paintings, Bush Potato Gulya, Mulla Mulla and Minja (Busy Ants).

More than 200 pieces of art on display by Pilbara artists showcased their work and their ancestral lands and stories.



Mandy Parker –  
Country Waterholes  
(acrylic on canvas)

## Website reminder

Gumala Members are reminded that application forms for Member Services programs can be downloaded from our website. Go to [www.gumala.com.au](http://www.gumala.com.au), click on 'Documents', and download the relevant form(s). There is also an abundance of information on our website, which is frequently updated, so check regularly to keep yourself informed.

## Jumpin' Beana

NAME: Beana Bung

AGE: 8 years old

Beana goes to Paraburdoo Primary School and enjoys playing sport.



## Interested in working for Gumala?

Any Gumala Members who are interested in working at Gumala Aboriginal Corporation on a full time, part time or casual basis, should email their resumes and a covering letter to: [jobs@gumala.com.au](mailto:jobs@gumala.com.au). Our HR department maintains an up-to-date database of candidates. Specific Gumala job vacancies are advertised on our website from time to time: [www.gumala.com.au/careers](http://www.gumala.com.au/careers).

## Gumala Members in the news

Gumala would like to recognize and congratulate Gumala (Banyjima) Member, Sharmaine Dhu for her recent achievement, which appeared in the *Pilbara News* earlier this year.

Sharmaine completed three TAFE courses: Diploma of Business Management, Diploma of Human Resources and Certificate IV in Occupational Health and Safety, with education funding from Gumala.

The Gumala Scholarship program is also assisting Ms Dhu with further study in Bachelor of Arts, (majoring in Anthropology) at Deakin University.

She hopes to graduate next year and find employment in the mines, specifically in the area of heritage work.

"Through doing studies, it creates pathways for your future," Sharmaine said.

Congratulations also to Leonie Hicks and Shane Hubert (both Banyjima Members) who also recently appeared in the *Pilbara News*.

Both graduated from the Rio Tinto Aboriginal Work Ready Employment Program.

The Aboriginal Work Ready Employment Program teaches different hands-on-skills such as first aid, occupational health and safety and even how to drive a forklift. These skills will prepare them for employment in the mining and resources industry.

Members are encouraged to seek Education or Scholarship funding to pursue any courses or study opportunities.

Please contact Gumala about applying for financial assistance.

Application forms are found online on our website: [www.gumala.com.au](http://www.gumala.com.au)

## From the Pilbara to Perth to Uluru and back



*Who's in the picture?* Kale Robinson, far right, photographed at his recent leadership seminar at Uluru.

*What has he accomplished?* Kale has just graduated from Year 12 at Wesley College, Perth.

*Further achievements?* He's also just taken off first prize in the Wesley College Art Exhibition 2011. Kale is the first Indigenous student from Wesley to ever win the award, which is judged by a panel of Perth artists.

*What's his Gumala connection?* Kale is the son of Gumala Member Rick Robinson and Karen Taylor. Kale is from Halls Creek and visited his family there regularly during school holidays.

*What does his Dad think?* Rick: "We are very proud of Kale and what he has achieved. We would like to thank Gumala for their funding support. Kale also received incredible support from Wesley's Indigenous Support Teacher Lynn Webber."

*Who else supported Kale?* His Aunty, Gumala Member Naydene Mynnette Robinson. Naydene said she would like to sincerely thank Gumala for assisting with Kale's lodging and education costs.

*What are Kale's future plans?* He has applied to study at University of Western Australia (UWA).

## Are you interested in working to support fellow Indigenous students in their education?

Tom Price Senior High is looking for Aboriginal & Islander Education Officers to start in Term 1, 2012.

You would be providing support and assistance to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students, their parents/guardians, teachers, the school and the community through your knowledge, understanding and sharing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander history, language and culture.

As an AIEO, you would be assisting teachers in delivering planned education programs and encouraging a supportive and inclusive learning environment. The Aboriginal and Islander Education Officer acts as a liaison between the community and the school in order to develop an education program that is relevant to both educational and cultural needs.

Aboriginal and Islander Education Officers assist and support

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students, particularly those at risk, to ensure their participation and achievement in the school environment.

If you are interested, please contact the school for further information.

Please note that Aboriginality is considered essential for this position under section 50(d) of the Western Australian Equal Opportunity Act.

# Gumala Member Helps to Empower Next Generation

by Elly Lukale

Banyjima Member, Donna Curley is making a positive impact in the lives of our young people.

"My motto is: life is all about choices," Donna said, "don't be afraid to try something new and different."

Donna works as a Student Mentor and Region Coordinator for the David Wirrpanda Foundation, Deadly Sista Girlz Program for Indigenous girls, at Roebourne Primary School and Peggs Creek Primary School in Karratha.

About 26 girls are registered as attendees but on any given day the numbers vary between 12 and 15, from grades five to seven. It is a requirement that the girls go to school on the day, as the after school program is seen as a reward for attendance.

Deadly Sista Girlz (a nationwide initiative) empowers girls by

providing a comfortable and safe environment where they can discuss issues they are facing, with the support of an Indigenous female role model, like Donna.

Donna believes her role as an Indigenous female role model is important and says, "It shows the girls leadership, how to be independent and to show the girls we can do anything."

"I think the program is really necessary because some girls miss out," she said. The activities and one on one support they receive is important and provides our girls with confidence and a safe place to hang out with their friends.

Donna helps the girls through team building activities, which help to develop self-esteem and personal development. They learn about skin care, health care and also social skills like how to handle bullying.

Activities like fishing, swimming and group outings are used as a way to develop and teach the girls skills, while having fun at the same time.

"We try to keep it real with our girls," Donna said, "We teach them that education is important and the basic skills they'll need in everyday life."

Donna also works as an Aboriginal Islander Education Officer (AIEO) at Karratha Senior High School. This role allows her to engage with the students, who don't fit into the mainstream education system, by supporting them to develop the necessary educational and life skills they need to gain employment and be successful young adults.

Donna admits that she gets great support from people she works with. She would like to acknowledge Julie Gordon (a teacher in the Engagement Program) for the wonderful work she does, supporting and teaching the students basic classes. Her assistant Kasey Cheedy, in the Deadly Sista Girlz program is another Indigenous female role model. "She does a wonderful job because she can relate with the girls and their experiences," Donna said.

Donna has witnessed positive changes in the girls and believes the Deadly Sista Girlz will "endorse strong, independent Aboriginal Women to become educated and bring something positive back to their communities."

It was also a great honour for Donna to attend the David Wirrpanda Foundation 5th Annual Fundraising Dinner in Perth with Western Australian Governor General, His Excellency Mr Malcolm McCusker, AO CVO QC also attending the dinner.



Donna Curley (second from right) beside David Wirrpanda at the David Wirrpanda Foundation's fifth Annual Fundraising Dinner in November at the new State Reception Centre in Kings Park, Perth. Special guests included His Excellency the Governor Mr Malcolm McCusker.

# Gumala Radio Update

by Elly Lukale

Gumala radio has the potential for more community involvement with some new programs and upgrades in the near future.

Gumala's broadcaster, John 'Tadam' Lockyer says future plans include a new studio in one of the surrounding communities. This will give members and their families' easy access to a studio and the opportunity to broadcast on Gumala Radio.

There are also plans for new transmitters and receivers to be installed at both ends of Karijini National Park. This will give better coverage to people visiting the park or while staying at the Karijini Eco Retreat.

Tadam says this coverage will enable Gumala Radio to broadcast cultural information about Karijini for tourists to learn about. The local SES will also be able to provide vital advice for visitors so they are aware of the risks and dangers in the park.

Another future upgrade is a new telephone system for the Gumala studio. This will allow Tadam to conduct interviews over the phone and engage in talkback radio with our listeners.

Gumala Radio also taps into other supporting radio stations including 6DBY Derby, Roebourne and Goolarri Radio, providing audiences with mixed content.

Tadam and Radio Technician, Mike Ryan, recently visited communities to assess any maintenance issues.

# Interested in a Gumala Radio career?

Gumala Radio is currently looking for a trainee who is interested in media and is willing to learn and take on a course, which may lead to employment in the communication/media industry.

If you want some general information about what would be involved in working for Gumala Radio, ring Tadam in the Tom Price office (08) 9188 1845 or 1800 486 252 or send your resume and covering letter to jobs@gumala.com.au.

"It would be good to see more Members become involved in the radio programs... that's what Gumala Radio is all about", Tadam says.

# GUMALA RADIO

Bellary 101.7 FM

Roebourne 102.9 FM

Onslow 102.7 FM

Wakuthuni 104.9 FM

Youngaleena 102.1 FM

Tom Price 106.5 FM

Paraburdoo 102.9 FM

Your community radio station. Tune in now!



Guy Parker pictured beside his wife Deloris

## Guy Parker – appointed to the position of Acting Liaison Officer at Gumala Aboriginal Corporation (GAC) in November 2011

Guy was born in Roebourne and is a Traditional Elder of the Fortescue Banyjima peoples. He is married to Deloris, and all of his family lives in the Pilbara region.

Guy's father was a strong leader from the Fortescue Banyjima group, whose traditional homeland is Fortescue country.

Guy's mother was a Traditional Elder from the Ngulama peoples of Roebourne.

He has three brothers and one sister, who all live in Onslow or Tom Price (his other sister has passed away).

"I spent my early childhood growing up on Nanutarra Station, which is about 120 km from Onslow. I went to primary school in Onslow and then high school in Karratha and Perth.

"Then in 1979 I moved back to Onslow and started working for the WA Department of Community

Services (Pilbara region).

Then I got the job as manager of Mawarnkarra Medical Services, before becoming the Indigenous Coordinator of Education Services at TAFE in Karratha."

In the early 1990s Guy was elected as the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission (ATSIC) Commissioner for a term of three years.

Then between 1997 and 2000 he was appointed as Gumala's Community Development Officer.

"My previous employment at Gumala was at a time when basic infrastructure was being organised for the communities of Wakuthuni, Bellary Springs and Youngaleena."

In recent years Guy has been an active Member of GAC's Lore & Culture Committee.

As for his aspirations for the future of GAC, Guy is confident the

# Guy Parker In Profile

organisation can and will fulfill its long term goals of delivering an array of benefits (social, economic, health, educational and cultural) to the Traditional Owner Membership.

"GAC has the best, truly unique corporate structure and has come a long way over the years.

"I fully support the future operations of GAC in the many years ahead, and firmly believe that our total Membership must think positively and be a unified strength of self-determination."

Guy believes strongly in the self-determination of Aboriginal people, of working together to achieve the shared goals of Gumala's three language groups.

"And wherever possible, I will do my best to help us reach those goals."

# Boxing champ gets specialist training in Cuba

by Elly Lukale

Imagine learning to speak Spanish, living in a different country, with strangers and away from your family to pursue your dream? That's what 19 year old Jayden Hansen is doing in Cuba, following his dream to become a professional boxer and to represent Australia in the 2012 Olympic Games.

"They call him *Australia* over there," his dad Ben Jeakings chuckles.

Since the age of 15, Jayden's rise in the sport has been very rapid, particularly after being selected for the National Indigenous Talent Development Program (NITD), which helps to propel the talent of elite individuals into Olympic or World Championship contenders.

Ben and Jayden, travelled to Cuba in early September, to the Instituto Nacional de Deportes Educacion Fisica y Recreacio (equivalent to the Australian Institute of Sport) to begin his 10 weeks of intensive training. This training is a critical stepping stone for Jayden to put him on the shortlist for the Olympics next July.

His time in Cuba is helping him gain a variety of valuable skills and techniques from some of the best coaches, in preparation for the State and National Titles upon his return to Australia. Ben says the Cuban coaches are very impressed with Jayden's abilities and say he has potential to become a great boxer.

Despite poor training facilities and living conditions, Cuban boxers are known as the best amateur boxers in the sport, and very successful at World Championships and Olympic Games. Ben says his son's style, as an Indigenous boxer, suits that of Cuban Boxing, being light and agile. "Jayden's style is free flowing," he said, "he is benefiting a lot there because they are the best in the world."



Jayden Hansen (left) during an intensive training session in Cuba

Jayden's intense training regime begins at 6am every morning and is broken into three, two hour sessions. He works with the Cuban Junior Youth Team in the morning and the Panama Boxing Team in the afternoon, learning sparring, partner work, technique and foot work.

Training in another country is not easy. During training sessions they are not allowed to drink any water. Meals everyday consists mainly of chicken, pork and rice and his day revolves around training and resting briefly between sessions.

Ben, who is now back in Australia says Jayden, is a credit to himself. "Jayden has mental toughness. Being in Cuba is making him stronger, both physically and mentally," he said.

Even though the goal is to make the 2012 Olympics, the 2016 Games are also in his sights. Ben says Jayden is still developing and maturing as a boxer, with his physic and abilities and will be better prepared for 2016. His mum, Gumala Member and Employee Paula White, says trying out for the Olympics is a once in a life-time opportunity for Jayden and is very proud of his

determination to pursue this.

"At Jayden's tender age, he is learning about the world, it's many different cultures and gaining life skills that will keep him grounded for his future in boxing and life after boxing," Paula said.

Both parents appreciate the on-going support from Gumala.

"Gumala has given Jayden this great opportunity in his life and he is forging ahead to make most of this life changing experience..."

Jayden is on the path to becoming a professional boxer and is going from strength to strength but Paula and Ben are proud of all their children no matter what sport they choose to pursue. "When Jayden comes back, he will be more mature, as a person and as a boxer."



# Gifted & Talented Gumala Student Successful at State Finals

Fourteen year old Katherine Cowan was part of her school's successful Gifted & Talent (GATE) team recently competing in the WA state finals for the Science and Engineering Challenge and also at the National finals in Victoria during October.

The GATE program encourages gifted students to focus and excel in academic subjects they are interested in, providing specialized and interactive activities.

Katherine has been part of GATE since year 8 after taking a test in Year 7 to get into the program. She is involved in the Maths, Science, S.O.S.E and English activities.

Her team's success at the state finals gave them the opportunity to travel to Victoria to compete against other state finalists for the title of National Champions in the Science and Engineering Challenge.

"The program has kept her interested in school, motivated her and really extended her learning capacity," her mum, Banyjima Member Jan Cowan said.

Gumala assisted Katherine with her trip to the National Titles under the scholarship program.

"She enjoys reading and performing at that level. It makes school interesting for her and it's a challenge she enjoys," Jan said.



Katherine Cowan

## Scholarship Opportunities

To find out about Scholarship Opportunities at Gumala, visit [www.gumala.com.au](http://www.gumala.com.au), click on Member Services, Development Programs, and click through to Education Support and Gumala Scholarship Programs.

An excellent resource for Indigenous scholarship opportunities for undergraduate study at Australian universities is [www.indigenousscholarships.com.au](http://www.indigenousscholarships.com.au).



## Merry Christmas to all Gumala Members!

The Management and Staff of Gumala Aboriginal Corporation would like to wish our Members and their families a happy and healthy festive season. If you are travelling, please take care on the roads. See you in 2012!

### Head Office:

1 Stadium Road, Tom Price  
Western Australia  
Postal Address: PO Box 61  
Tom Price, Western Australia 6751  
Phone: 1800 486252  
(1800 GUMALA)  
Fax: (08) 9188 1846

### Perth Office:

Suite 5, 439 Albany Hwy  
Victoria Park 6100  
PO Box 528, Victoria Park 6100  
Phone: (08) 9423 450  
Fax: (08) 9361 1622

Email: [gac@gumala.com.au](mailto:gac@gumala.com.au)

Web: [www.gumala.com.au](http://www.gumala.com.au)