



NCAC News December 2017

NGAANYATJARRA
COUNCIL (Aboriginal Corporation) ICN: 101



CHAIRPERSON'S MESSAGE: Dereck Jnr Harris

I have completed my first year of my two year term as the Chairman of Ngaanyatjarra Council and I would like to thank the members for their vote and support during this time. I have learned a lot about how Ngaanyatjarra Council and Ngaanyatjarra Health runs and I can see that it is not easy.

It has been a hard job but a good job – working for the Ngaanyatjarra people. Through the Ngaanyatjarra Council organisation I have been in contact with all kinds of people for example local, state and federal government people and have seen that we have many people doing something for us. I look forward to seeing more outcomes for us Ngaanyatjarra people in the coming year to do with employment, health and education. We need to keep taking matters that affect us to the top to achieve better outcomes.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the old people that started this organisation - they set something up that's not going to fail and built it so we can go on. At this time we should all look back and recognise the good work and feel happy that they would do that for us because they're not around. They had the idea – they had a good idea about how our people should go forward. While I'm here at Ngaanyatjarra Council, I am committed to doing something that is going to help the Ngaanyatjarra people with the Board of Directors and all of the Members.

I wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and safe New Year.

Thank you. Palya.



MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

Some major issues affecting Ngaanyatjarra such as CDP and Housing Maintenance have continued to dominate focus of the Ngaanyatjarra Council over the last twelve months and thanks to the tireless efforts of the Ngaanyatjarra Staff, Managers and Directors to improve these programs, we are hopeful that we will see positive outcomes in the New Year.

There were plenty of staff changes throughout the year, in part, due to the challenges imposed by CDP and our Management Team have been working very hard putting policies and procedures in place to best support staff through difficult circumstances.

There were fewer Council Members and Board Meetings which allowed time for other meetings and focus groups surrounding CDP and the composition of a new Ngaanyatjarra Lands Strategic Plan which we are continuing to work on to have finalised for the approval of the Board of Directors.

We saw the closure of Mt Ebenezer Roadhouse this year and withdrew our involvement in the Yuendumu Store. Meanwhile promotion of the three Alice Springs based Liberty Indervon service stations has been ramped up with new branding, sponsorships and a brand new website. A second Jill and Jack Café has been installed at the Gap Road site and Sadadeen site has had an overhaul.

The Perth staff settled into their new home at 'London House' in the City early this year and the team continues to grow. All senior management meetings are conducted by 'Zoom' video conference allowing the Perth and Alice Springs based staff to sit in the same virtual room which works really well and brings the two offices that little bit closer together.

From all of the Management and Staff of Ngaanyatjarra Council, we would like to wish everyone a very merry Christmas and a Safe and Happy New Year.

We look forward to seeing you all out on the Lands in February 2018.

Gerard Coffey
CEO



LAND AND CULTURE: Working with CDP

On several occasions during the last six months the Warakurna Ranger team and the Warakurna CDP workers have teamed up in order to achieve some work outcomes.

Firstly both teams started by trying to eliminate the weed trees around the

Warakurna oval. We did as much as we could at the time with poisoning and cutting small branches that were within reach. Patrick also used the community backhoe to push some trees down.

After this episode, the Warakurna Rangers needed some help to mix some con-

by François Mazieres

crete to establish a floor in our work yard: Less Jackson, Sweeney Jackson, Alex Nelson and Shane Bates helped us to finish the job in a single morning of hard work, whilst the sun was not too harsh on us.

During this year, the Warakurna Ranger

team have tried to develop more relationships with Maruku Arts, who collect the Punu -wood artefacts- for resale in their gallery. Therefore we also asked for the help and presence of the CDP workers in order to help the community ladies getting started quicker on their wood working business. As Maruku had commissioned a massive order, industrious Warakurna women appreciated the help from the Rangers and CDP workers to get on quicker with their job. This trip

had also been the occasion to have another good meal together in the bush where everyone could chat, exchange and keep helping each other.

A more important and opportunistic job was achieved by Sampson Jackson (CDP) when the Ranger team asked the CDP activity supervisor if they could help us find and paint a sign for Kurlkabara salty water bore. This bore had been tested several times by the Rangers to determine its saltness as well as changing the pump several

times over three years. Sampson Jackson decided to work on the sign straight away which helped the Rangers to go out with him quickly and sort the new dam at the end of the Gunbarrel Highway.

The combined action of Warakurna CDP services and Ranger team seemed to have had a good impact on the way people work and develop relationship or bridges between service providers in the community.



Pictured: Less Jackson, Sweeney Jackson, Alex Nelson, Shane Bates, Devon Yates Cedric Laidlaw, Shane Bates and Ruth Bates



LAND AND CULTURE: Bore Maintenance

by Alessandro Ramasco

Bore Maintenance is a great skill developed by the Ngaanyatjarra Ranger teams as part of the Working on Country Program. This work has been done by ranger teams since we first started training 10 years ago. Since then the skills have

been passed on by experienced Rangers to new Rangers with occasional refresher training. There are hundreds of bores on the Ngaanyatjarra Lands in an area of over 170,000 km². Working bores out bush

means that traditional owners can travel their country in safety knowing that there is good water for the families when they are out on country away from the community.



Warburton Mens Rangers: Ronald Hunt, Clive Frazer, Warwick Simms and Nathan Smith.



SPORT: Mantamaru Gym

by Phil Farmer

The Ngaanyatjarra Sports Mantamaru Gym is ready for use and open to all Ngaanyatjarra Sports Members.

Since the completion of the Sports Season 2017 contract with Ngaanyatjarra Council, Ngaanyatjarra Sports Coordinator Phil Farmer has been able devote his time to continuing the Mantamaru Gym project initiated by Shire Youth Worker, Marshall Smith. Mr Smith, who has been based in Mantamaru Community for the past two years, intended to extend the Community Drop-In Centre to include a boxing gym and had made significant headway by upgrading the adjoining disused workshop and installing a punching bag, speed ball and a few weights before the demands of the Community Drop-In Centre dominated his time.

Whilst Mr Farmer waited for his wife

Hayde to wrap up her work with the Ngaanyatjarra Lands School, he got to work with the Mantamaru CDP Workers with the vision to open a fitness centre that would become part of the Ngaanyatjarra Sports to be used by all sports people throughout the lands.

Work carried out with the help of Magpies Captain, Nicky Yates and Greg Fureaux of Jameson School included cleaning, roof repairs, welding and painting in an array of bright uplifting colours. The innovative fitness centre was constructed from recycled materials from the local rubbish tip and Jameson School, all for a cost of less than \$300 proving that a little imagination, hard work and a great team goes a long way. Magpies players Darcy Woods, Wilton Jackson and Matthew Foley contributed

additional barbells, dumbbells, weights and an exercise bench to make up a full weights circuit. Additional restored gym equipment, skipping ropes, rubber flooring and fans combined with custom designed circuit cards for weights and cardio workouts and a display of Aboriginal Legends in Sport make up a fitness facility that Mantamaru can be extremely proud of.

Mr Farmer hopes that the fitness centre will help to further improve the Season 2018 sports program and become part of the Jameson School Secondary Health and Physical Education curriculum next year.

For access to the Gym see Darcy Woods or Matthew Foley.



CDP: Warakurna

After several weeks of hard work and dedication the Warakurna church band has a new stage to play music from every evening and weekend. The men participating in community maintenance activity did a great job measuring the steel

and had the opportunity to practice their welding skills and learn from more experienced participants. As the project came to life it also evolved to accommodate everyone's needs, so we ended up building a taller 3x3m stage for the

musicians, and a shorter 3x1.5m stage for the female singers at the front. CDP participants had a BBQ on Friday after work to celebrate the success and the wider community responded very well to the new piece of public furniture.



Warakurna CDP has built a waiting lounge out of an old disused bus. The bus has been taken to the Warakurna Airfield where it can be used by passen-

gers waiting to fly out. A shade has been erected for protection from the sun, and an outdoor seat made from recycled materials.

Participants celebrated with a BBQ and the waiting room is already being used.



CDP: Warburton

The college in Warburton is a fantastic space that just needs a bit of attention. Since February CDP has called the college home and in the last nine months there has been major transformations take place. The men and women of CDP have worked tirelessly to make the college a real stand out area in the commu-

nity. The grounds were once a jungle of grass and weeds, now they are trimmed monthly, the inside and outside has been given a fresh coat of paint, the front has been completely landscaped with new seats and beautiful fruit trees planted as well. Inside, the arts centre has been transformed into a thriving hub where

the ladies of the community can paint, weave, sew, or even do their hair. Congratulations to everyone that has made the college a welcoming place for anyone in the community.

Pictured: Sam Frazer, Leece Giles, Les Ward, Willy James, Jossiah Porter, Shane Bradley Newland, Toby Moonlight, Andrew Harris, Rhys West, Doreen Mitchell, Nathan Smith, Delwyn Long, Tom Burgess and Dan Clyde-Smith.



Although footy season is over, the new Warburton scoreboard definitely deserves a shout out!

Whilst the scoreboard may not have been enough to help the Warburton Tigers claim the title this year it certainly looks the part and will hopefully

be there for following seasons when Warburton are back contesting the Grand Final.

Constructed from the tray of an old Truck, and an old roller door from the tip, the CDP boys turned trash into treasure. Painted in the traditional

Tigers colours of black and gold the scoreboard is a real presence on the oval and can be seen from all parts of the ground. It was great to see the enthusiasm around this project and seeing the hard work pay off on game day.



Pictured. Nathan Smith, Leece Giles, Oliver Grant, Devon Westlake, Driscoll Bates

MEETING CALENDAR 2018

FEBRUARY

21st Council Members

22nd Council Directors

MARCH

21st Council Members

22nd Council Directors

APRIL

MAY

16th Council Members

17th Council Directors

JUNE

JULY

AUGUST

15th Council Members

16th Council Directors

SEPTEMBER

OCTOBER

24th Council AGM

25th Council Directors

NOVEMBER

21st Council Members

22nd Council Directors