My name is Nelly Roberts and I am a Director of Ngaanyatjarra Council Aboriginal Corporation. I have been a Director since I was elected as a female representative in 2015. As a Female Representative I represent the interests of women on the Ngaanyatjarra Lands.

I've lived in Irrunytju since I was a young girl. I was a school teacher here when Irrunytju was very small and Mr Wells was the school teacher for all the schools. Later on I worked for Health. I spoke at meetings as we tried to build the health organisation that would become Ngaanyatjarra Health. I talked strong at these meetings because it was so important.

I helped run the office here for 35 years. It was me and Mrs Raintree. She was the wife of the Advisor Mr Sheldon. Then I worked for ATSIC on the Regional Council. I worked with people like Bernard Newberry and Preston Thomas and as the only lady on the council I talked for Irrunytju and the Ngaanyatjarra Lands.

I have also been a Director of Women’s Council. In my life I have always worked for my community and for the Ngaanyatjarra Lands. It is always important to be involved, and you can be involved at any age, at any time in your life. I have been involved since I was a young girl and I’m still involved now.

DIRECTOR’S MESSAGE: Nelly Roberts
Polling booths will be open in ALL communities on the following dates and hours:

**Dates:** 27, 28 and 29 September 2016
**Times:** 1pm until 4pm

Postal and absentee votes will be available at all community voting places from 20th September 2016.

*Please note: There will be no travelling mobile ballot box. Each community will have its own ballot box for the duration of the election.*
NEW STAFF ON THE LANDS

Sian Neary has taken over as CDP Coordinator for the Ngaanyatjarra Lands. Sian grew up in Newcastle and Sydney and has been working in the employment industry since 2006. Sian's work has taken her to many remote areas including the Gulf of Carpentaria, the Cloncurry Region, West Isa and Alpurrurulam, Maningrida and now the Ngaanyatjarra Lands.

Michael Bennier-Jackson has a background in construction, demolition, earth moving and mechanical engineering. Michael comes from the Adelaide Hills and is already settling in nicely as the MSO of Blackstone Community.

Ben McVeigh is the new Activity Supervisor at Blackstone community. Ben spent about ten years working in Mental Health and Disability before switching to employment services and working for CDP. Ben comes from Melbourne and is a mad Tigers fan.

Rob Warner built many of the houses on the Ngaanyatjarra Lands before heading off to work on the mines. Rob comes from Alice Springs and is the new MSO at Warakurna Community.

Sharon Willis has taken on the role of CDP Case Manager at Warakurna and Tjukurla. Sharon has worked in Employment Services since 2008 with variety of roles, trainer, case manager, manager and has previously worked with CDP in Maningrida.

Dennis Chapman is the new MSO at Wanarn community. Dennis has years of experience working with communities.

Dennis Warner has worked in Papunya and the Tanami, he’s been a truck driver and done plenty of construction work. Dennis is now the MSO at Jameson Community. Dennis and Rob Warner are brothers as well.
My name is Natasha Perkins. I am employed as the Executive Assistant of Mr Coffey at Ngaanyatjarra Council based in the Alice Springs office.

I was born and raised on the Gold Coast of Queensland with a few years of my early childhood spent on North Stradbroke Island where my father worked for a sand mining company. In this part of the world, my surname (and complexion) does tend to pique a natural curiosity about my heritage - my mother is from Papua New Guinea and my father is from Barking, England.

In 1992, after year twelve and fresh out of schoolies week, I was employed as a receptionist at a Real Estate Agency and remained in the industry for the next 22 years as a personal assistant and bookkeeper. With the unnerving prospect of turning 40 without ever having a big adventure, I decided it was time for a drastic life change and joined some of my Gold Coast friends in Alice Springs. My plan was to stay for six months with a view to saving money and moving to the UK. I finished my real estate job on a Friday, I rented my home fully furnished, put my car on a truck and arrived with one suitcase to start work in RJCP at Ngaanyatjarra Council on the Monday. It is by far one of the best decisions I have ever made for myself and two and a half years later I consider Alice Springs home for the foreseeable future.

My role at council is to provide clerical assistance and administration support to the CEO and executive staff. Aside from being able to apply my skill set to a different cause, my favourite part of my job is being able travel and see parts of this country that very few get see on a regular basis. I enjoy visiting communities and meeting and working alongside the Directors and Members. My hobbies include taking photographs and painting and the lands certainly provide an abundance of inspiration.

Working for Ngaanyatjarra Council and the Alice Springs lifestyle has definitely opened up a new world and opportunities that I was not afforded in my previous Gold Coast life, including the time to embark upon tertiary studies. I am currently working towards a Bachelor’s degree in Indigenous Studies with Southern Cross University.

I am extremely grateful for the chance to work for Ngaanyatjarra Council and for the unique experience of working with a team of people with diverse backgrounds, skills and stories.
Michelle Holthouse has now joined the Financial Wellbeing and Financial Capability team at the beginning of August this year. This means the Financial Wellbeing team has now doubled its size, with Suzanne Waldron as the team leader and now Michelle as the Financial Capability Officer, both are based in Wanarn.

The two money ladies, Sue and Michelle will now be able to cover more areas and to see more people in their communities. Currently the money ladies are delivering Tax Help to communities, however they also offer Financial Counselling for families affected by problem gambling as well as general financial education and assistance. The team are looking forward to rolling out training to the Financial Capability workers in the communities, in the near future.

The first successful meeting of the Tjukayirla Roadhouse Committee was held in Blackstone on Tuesday the 9th of August. Nick Comerford, Ngaanyatjarra Council CFO travelled to Blackstone to meet with the committee members and give information explaining the financial situation of the Roadhouse.

The committee was very happy to receive the information they had asked for and have decided to meet again in six months time.
From the 15/08/2016 to 22/08/2016, the Warakurna, Jameson and Blackstone rangers have been joining an expedition to re-trace the footsteps of the journey accomplished by H.H. Finlayson and his camels around the Rawlinson Ranges towards the NT border, south-east of Tjukurla.

Nowadays, the leader of the expedition, Ken Johnson, was entrusted to keep all this old man’s photography from 1935-1936 as well as all his old notebooks. Old pictures have been provided to Ngaanyatjarra Council for the *Tjumalampatju (our stories)* archive and the rangers have been commissioned to help support this trip across the Ngaanyatjarra lands.

The purpose of the expedition was to follow the remaining section of Finlayson’s route through the Ngaanyatjarra Lands, to revisit the locations where he did record, photograph or simply had camped.

A botanist was also part of the party and was impressed by the diversity of the prolific and still natural landscape available through the Lands. Despite the arrival of the Buffel grass, many flowers and animals are still roaming the lands and too much Kaling-Kaling honey (*Grevillea Eriostachya*) was available to us during this trip.

Rangers have been burning spinifex patches along the newly opened track, recording more rockholes, soaks from several gorges of the Rawlinson Ranges as well as the Nyingana Ranges.

Ken Johnson is also a mammal specialist in Australia and helped us to set up a new camera for rock wallaby and to generally look for those Warrus. Ken did see one at Wintjarra, near Warakurna on his arrival.

*All photos courtesy of the Land and Culture Unit, Warakurna*
Lalal Gorge near Punklebidi

Yirlpikarri Claypan near the bore on the way to Tjukurla

A final meeting before heading off back to Tjukurla
The Warburton CDP program is moving along well. We are seeing a solid base of participants attending activities daily. In the Art Centre, our ladies have been making some incredible paintings. Recently there was a massive team effort for the Warburton Fashion Show, organised by Wilurarra Creative, where we painted two massive backdrops depicting a flourish of stories, flowers and bush tucker.

The fellas working in Community Maintenance have been working hard on all sorts of projects including, cleaning the football oval after games, maintaining the softball pitch, creating traffic calming measures, removing buffel grass, washing cars with our new pressure washer, collecting firewood and cleaning backyards.

We were also involved in the Health Expo organised by the Public Health Team. This was a very well run event and allowed us to gain valuable insights from the Community, asking about what people want to see. We had tons of suggestions, everything from pizza and winning lotto to more jobs for young people, a community garden, a fence around the oval and a truck and loader.
What is CDP?
It stands for Community Development Programme. CDP are Ngaanyatjarra Council staff here to help the people of the Ngaanyatjarra lands to meet their requirements for Centrelink in order to keep getting payments. At the same time, we develop programmes that help the whole community.

But what is that, what does CDP do?
We provide support for anyone registered with us, which can include gaining employment skills, assistance getting paid work and staying in paid work, or help work things out when circumstances change.

We also set up and run activities to help people complete their requirement that Centrelink has given them. Activities can include helping in the men’s shed, community clean up, painting and cooking; it depends on what each community has and wants.

CDP also support employers and their employees registered with CDP. This is called post placement support and includes helping the employee to keep up the good work in their new job. If you need help to keep going to work, come and talk to us as soon as possible.

Why is CDP here?
Ngaanyatjarra Council are running a Government program, funded by Prime Minister & Cabinet, within our communities for communities, within government guidelines and the law.

CDP History
Ngaanyatjarra Council were awarded the Community Development Programme (CDP) in July 2015 as a continuation from the Remote Jobs and Communities Programme (RJCP). CDP is a combination of Work for the Dole (WfD) and Employment Services (Case Management) and is governed by Prime Minister and Cabinet.

Our main aim is to build strong communities by developing interesting programmes and activities that will benefit individuals and the whole community. Here’s a run-down on what it is all about….
At this point in time, organised sport in the Ngaanyatjarra Lands has successfully played 96 games of AFL and Softball and there are still 12 games to go before the Grand Finals are held in Warburton on Saturday 17 September.

Grand Final Day should be exciting to see our sports persons in action to decide the Premiers for 2016 and hopefully everyone can celebrate after the game with a barbecue and band. But that is not the end of the season because there will be a Medal Presentation held at Irrunytju Community on the following Saturday, 24 September, starting at 2:00 pm cst.

Two weeks after the Medal Presentations, on Saturday 08 October, APY Thunder, the elite APY Lands softball team, will play our Desert Storm in a SOFTBALL DESERT CHALLENGE at Blackstone at 10:00 am. Following the softball game, the AFL DESERT CHALLENGE will be played between APY Thunder and our Desert Eagles at 1:00 pm at Blackstone Oval. Presentations and entertainment are planned to follow the games. These fixtures will close the winter season of sport. Never-the-less, there is Junior Sport and Sporting Development for Seniors planned up to Christmas.
Communication will be on-going on the Ngaanyatjarra Lands Sports Association Facebook pages for AFL and softball. It is exciting to see in the last six days or AFL Facebook has reached 5,100 people, with 13,200 views, and our softball Facebook page has attracted 4,000 people, with 9,700 views. Since Julian Green launched these Facebook pages on 27 June 2016, there have been more than 118,000 views!

A review of the introduction of sporting fixtures to The Lands will be presented to the Ngaanyatjarra Council at their November meeting. Comments for that report will be sought from all participating communities, as discussions need to take place for ongoing sport in 2017.
MEETING CALENDAR 2016

FEBRUARY
25th Council Directors

MARCH
16th Council Members
17th Council Directors

APRIL
20th Council Members
21st Council / NHS

MAY
18th Council Members
19th Council Directors

JUNE
15th Council Members
16th Council / NHS

JULY
20th Council Members
21st Council Directors

AUGUST
17th Council Members
18th Council / NHS

SEPTEMBER
21st Council Members
22nd Council Directors

OCTOBER
26th***Council AGM***
27th Council / NHS

NOVEMBER
16th Council Members
17th Council Directors