CHAIRPERSON’S MESSAGE: Derek Junior Harris

My name is Derek Harris. I’m the new Chairperson of Ngaanyatjarra Council. First off I would like to thank the Lord Jesus for all his help and I would like to thank the members of Ngaanyatjarra Council, the Ngaanyatjarra people for voting for me as Chairperson.

I would also like to pay tribute and give respect to the past directors of Ngaanyatjarra Council. The people who started this whole organisation and showed us how to work together and cooperate.

I would also like to thank AJ (Andrew Jones) for his hard work over the last two years. I have worked with him in the past and we worked well together as a team.

Thank you as well to all the staff of Ngaanyatjarra Council, Ngaanyatjarra Health Service and other associated entities. To all the staff in Perth and Alice Springs and everyone who works on the Lands, from the CEO down, thank you for your hard work. I look forward to working with you.

I’m here to help the people and to do the best I can. I would like to see better communication between communities and the people who work for us - between the people, stores and CSM’s. There should be no separation, we need to know what’s going on. We need people to come here to work with us, to work for the people, not just for themselves.

In the words of Bob Dylan “the times they are a changin”. So we need to work to keep making things better, starting with the CDP and employment programmes. We need to make these programs work better for the people. It would be great to see some training happening out here.

I would like to wish all the Ngaanyatjarra people and all the staff a very merry Christmas and a safe and happy new year. If you are travelling, travel safe and look after your families.
My name is Jeff Perz. I recently celebrated my 10 year anniversary of working for Ngaanyatjarra Council. I work for Land & Culture as the Finance, Administration and Logistics Officer. I often talk with Yarangu – either face to face in my office or by telephone – about their mining money or their pay for Working on Country. In part, my role is to serve as liaison between staff on the Lands (Traditional Owners and anthropologists) and the bookkeepers and accountants in Alice Springs.

I am Canadian and I moved to Australia (straight to Alice Springs) in 2004. Prior to that, I was teaching English as a foreign language in South Korea. Before that, I was in Canada completing my Master’s degree in philosophy. I have two children whom I love and care for in Alice Springs.

When I first started with Council, my role was to do basic administrative duties and to manage the old Native Title Unit’s vehicle fleet. That was ironic, because at the time, I did not know how to drive a manual vehicle! Let’s just say I had to be a very quick learner.

Over the years, my role has become less about vehicles and more about assisting with Land & Culture’s various projects and finance. I love my job because it is so varied. Sometimes I assist with grants and improving legal or policy documents, and on occasion I still do a bit of hands-on work, such as taking a vehicle to the mechanic or helping a Traditional Owner around town. I also love my job because everyone I work with is wonderful.

Most people who know me at work know that I am vegan. That means I don’t eat any animal products such as eggs, honey, meat and dairy, I don’t wear wool, leather or silk and I don’t use animals in any other way. When people ask me why, I tell them that vegan food can be very healthy and delicious. More importantly, I ask a question. Do you love your pet dog? The answer is always yes. The animals who we eat and use are very similar (in every way that matters) to dogs. They all can feel pain, joy and fear, and they all have consciousness. Why do we see some animals as loved members of our family but we stick forks into other animals? It makes no sense. Being vegan is a great way to live consistently with the values that we already have, and it is very easy.
**JAMESON**

Ngaanyatjarra Construction And Management Services have just finished up a nice project in Jameson Community. This rope pyramid and playground equipment was purchased by Jameson Community and installed by NCAMS. All equipment meets WA Kidsafe standards. NCAMS is the construction and maintenance arm of Ngaanyatjarra Services and has built the majority of housing and commercial buildings that exist across the region since the mid 1980's.

NCAMS are happy to quote for supply and installation of any type of playground equipment. NCAMS is proudly 100% Aboriginal owned and is the regions largest employer of local residents in the construction industry.

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**WINGELLINA**

Wingellina has a new road sign. The original sign that was faded and fallen down was rejuvenated as a Wingellina School secondary students project, was directed by teacher Chris Hamer and completed in one week using recycled materials from the Irrunytju rubbish tip.

The sign has been erected at the turn off coming from Blackstone.

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**CDP Warburton**

More great news from the Warburton CDP. Two of our Warburton CDP participants have recently transitioned to paid employment. Joy West and Tracy Wongawol used to participate in CDP activities at the Warburton HACC (home and community care) and the CDP Art Studio.

Now, after successfully completing training in Blackstone, they have both become paid employees of the HACC Program. Along with Carey Sims, a CDP participant who also participates in activities at HACC, Joy and Tracy are busy every day producing meals and washing blankets and clothes for the HACC recipients of Warburton.

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**CDP Jameson**

Steven Tiger is another person who's successfully made the leap from CDP to employment. As of December, Steven has been employed at the Jameson Store for 11 months where his duties include pouring fuel, customer service, re-stocking and unpacking as well as the Jameson courtesy home delivery service!
Properties were monitored over a two day period and when necessary were offered gentle encouragement and extra garbage bags as required. The tenants seemed to respond well to this individual attention.

During this time each property was visited by a Housing Officer to discuss the rent system, rent arrears and how to avoid being cut off their payments, so they don’t get into debt.

The tenants participated enthusiastically in the Clean Up. Most of the tenants started straight away with cleaning their properties. They were encouraged by TS staff to dispose of their own rubbish from home environment by putting it into the bins outside the fence. The Shire of Ngaanyatjarraku assisted us with a waste management crew. They did a great job of collecting all the rubbish outside the fences.

The Tenancy Support Officers held discussions on the benefits of rubbish removal including the prevention of diseases. Tenants were advised that future Community blitzes would be less labour intensive if all residents played their part in keeping the environment clean.

The Clean Up was very successful. There are more and more tenants who show pride in their homes.

The school children were also included in the Clean-up. The TSO met with the children and their teachers in the school yard. Every child and the teachers got a promotional T-Shirt and a garbage bag. The children divided into different teams. If the garbage bag was returned...
full of rubbish the children were given a little prize like bubble makers, bouncy balls or skipping ropes.

The teachers and TSO’s assisted the children with the rubbish collecting and all together collected a big pile of full garbage bags. The children were very proud of the work they did and TSO encouraged them to take care of their Community and to pick up litter straight away in the future.

On the third day we provided a sausage sizzle in the park for the tenants that participated in the clean-up. This year, because of the AGM the sausage sizzle was provided by Ngaanyatjarra Council to all members of the community.

After the BBQ the program held a free raffle. The lot number of all properties that completed a thorough clean-up of their yard and the inside of their house where entered into the raffle. Prizes included kitchen sets, dining sets, kettles and other helpful items for the household which the winners could choose for themselves.
The public face of the Warburton Clinic is in the process of receiving a significant makeover as part of a Mural Project to help promote healthy living and positive choices.

The project is a joint initiative between PHAMS, Warburton Clinic, Warburton Community Development Program (CDP), Tackling Indigenous Smoking (TIS), NG Health and Warburton School.

The original concept for the Mural was initiated by PHAMS and Warburton Clinic as a way of involving the whole community in positive health and enhancing community ownership over the Clinic space.

The design for the mural came about from a series of workshops in February with Warburton residents. Vivienne Sullivan drew the original design, which was the result of collating several ideas from the community.

Some of the key messages to be included on the mural in both English and Ngaanyatjarra languages include:
- Bush tucker is healthy
- Be strong, don’t lose your culture
- Go hunting
- Play sport and get exercise, and
- Non-smoking message.

Warburton CDP team kicked off the project, painting the base coat in the colours of the Aboriginal flag.

The next stage of the project is now underway, with both men and women artists expressing their interpretation of these messages, using a mix of styles including traditional dot painting and landscapes.

To complete the design, students from Warburton School will overpaint handprints in the lower portion of the mural. The mural is expected to be completed in early 2017.
In May of 2016, following a successful round of community consultation, Ngaanyatjarra Council agreed to trial the introduction of regular and organised sport for six communities - Warburton, Wanarn, Warakurna, Wingellina, Blackstone, and Jameson. These communities all indicated they could field teams each week and committed to move from traditional sporting carnivals to regular sporting fixtures. The football and softball players of The Lands said, "It is time to change from the old ways of Sporting Carnivals to a more professional approach to sport. We are being left behind. Just look at the APY players and see how fit they look and how well they play".

A meeting was held at Jameson on Friday 24 June 2016 to form the Ngaanyatjarra Lands Sports Association and the first senior AFL and softball competitions were launched on Saturday 2nd July 2016. Only three communities had ovals with suitable surfaces on which to play and therefore it was agreed to play games at Warburton, Blackstone and Wanarn. This meant the other three communities of Jameson, Wingellina and Warakurna would travel away every week.

The communities agreed to commit to travelling return distances of up to 540 kms to play sport on Saturdays. Fixtures were agreed to and published. It is now history that communities honoured their agreement to play every Saturday and 12 weeks of games were played before a Grand Final was held in Warburton, with Warakurna Roos becoming Softball Premiers 2106 by defeating Irrunytju Kungkas by 7 runs (16 to 9 runs) and Warburton Tigers claimed the AFL Premiership by defeating Irrunytju Warriors by 5 points (7.10 [52] to 7.5 [47]).

Additionally, an interstate game was held at Blackstone on Saturday 8th October with Ngaanyatjarra Lands Desert Storm winning the Softball Desert Challenge Cup 2016 by defeating APY Thunder by 6 runs (27 to 21 runs) and the APY Thunder taking home the AFL Desert Challenge Cup 2016 by defeating Ngaanyatjarra Lands Desert Eagles by 4 points (5.21 [51] to 5.17 [47]).

Ngaanyatjarra Lands Sports Association Senior AFL and Senior Softball Facebook pages were launched in June, with the assistance of Julian Green (NG Council), and became the most powerful means of communication for the Sports Association. Currently individual posts are consistently receiving over 2,000 views and to date there are 500 people consistently following the Facebook posts and over 250,000 views since being online.

In November, a Softball Development Course was written by the Ngaanyatjarra Lands Sports Association Sports Coordinator to link with the Australian Institute of Sport’s Community Coaching Course.

The five days course was endorsed by Softball WA and commenced at Wingellina. While most players registered to attend did not arrive due to family difficulties, funeral commitments and transport problems, the good news is that Amanda Nelson from Irrunytju Community completed the full course.

Amanda Nelson is to be congratulated on not only completing the five days, she achieved a perfect 100% result in each of the four modules of the online Australian Institute of Sport Community Coaching General Principles course.
Many benefits to Ngaanyatjarra Lands life have accompanied the introduction of organised sport. Community Police and Community Service Managers have reported less problems in communities. Store Managers have observed people excited to read weekly results and sporting news on community noticeboards and talking sport.

Health Services through Community Nurses have noticed a more positive outlook from people and happier communities, with engagement in healthy activities associated with sport. Community coaches, captains and team managers were proud to be leaders of sport and enjoyed training sessions during the week and community support at games.

Umpires were given respect by players and the Association’s Code of Conduct became a part of every game. School Principals and teachers commented on better attendance at schools and valued the use of AFL and Softball Facebook in classroom lessons. Women loved their softball games and the way their families stayed together during the Season of Sport. Youth Workers found more children becoming involved in activities.

The Sports Coordinator saw more people starting to become involved with their community sport and was amazed to see Facebook pages reaching above 20,000 views each week and some recent publications exceeding 6,000 views on a single post.

**WHAT’S SO GOOD ABOUT ORGANISED SPORT?**

**STATISTICS**

178 registered and actively participating AFL players
109 registered and actively participating Softball players
56 AFL officials actively engaged
24 softball officials actively engaged
94 AFL players scoring at least one goal
104 softball players scoring at least one run
31 games played in AFL in 12 weeks
29 games played in Softball in 12 weeks
300 people at community games each week
250,000 Facebook engagements in 12 weeks
Wheels are already in motion to improve the operation of the Ngaanyatjarra Lands Sports Association and prepare for pre-season training in May 2017, an opening carnival in early June, a mid-season interstate Desert Challenge, and Grand Finals late in September.

We are hopeful that our competition will expand next season and include a B-Division Masters Softball Competition and focus on developing junior sport.

And we are starting to look beyond 2017 and form a plan for the future. The Ngaanyatjarra Lands needs more people to step up and be leaders in sport.

On the people side, we need to develop our leadership in coaches, managers, umpires, community club organisation and community support.

On the facilities side, we need to improve playing surfaces and sporting venues (scoreboards, seating and shade, toilets, reticulation, food canteens, clubrooms). We also need to upgrade our image with the management of uniforms for players, umpires and officials. There is a lot to be accomplished and it will need many volunteers to put up their hands and make some real effort.

2017 SEASON

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND THANKS

A Ngaanyatjarra Lands Sports Record 2016 (122 pages) has been published and will be placed in community offices to fully recognise all people who contributed to the successful inaugural year. Accompanying this Sports Record, Ng Me Media has produced videos of the AFL and Softball 2016 Grand Finals, held in Warburton, and the AFL and Softball 2016 Desert Challenge, held in Blackstone. These videos are on a single 16GB USB (not DVD's) as they are large files, with many hours of entertainment.

Primarily, recognition must go to Kevin O'Keefe, Executive Principal of Ngaanyatjarra Lands School, for his vision and persistence to influence the introduction of structured sport to The Lands.

However, if the Ngaanyatjarra Council had not taken the decision to trial sporting fixtures for 2016, nothing would have happened and the old ways of sport would have remained. Of course, without funding from Ngaanyatjarra Council and Dept. Prime Minister and Cabinet there would have been no resources to operate the Ngaanyatjarra Lands Sports Association.

To players, officials and supporters goes a huge thank you for being willing to make a change to the social and sporting way of life in the Ngaanyatjarra Lands. It was a huge change, but now the Ngaanyatjarra Lands Sports Association is becoming known.

On behalf of the Ngaanyatjarra Lands Sports Association, we wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and look forward to an even better Season of Sport in 2017.
Land and Culture’s Working on Country Ranger teams from Warburton, Warakurna and Blackstone have been working with senior people from across the Ngaanyatjarra Lands collecting stories on plants.

We are working together and putting everything that we see and do into one place. We take photos, put the names and talk about early days people and how they used it. There are a lot of stories about these things. So far we have got over 40 different plants and we are collecting more and more.

Maybe next year we might do books for the school so the school kids can learn about the plants and about the families living around in the bush and the history. We want to make special books for the school.

Our old people taught us. They talked to us and were teaching and telling the story about the bush food and the water.

They told us about the ngalta tree (Desert Kurrajong), you collect the roots from this tree when the rock hole is dried out. You just go to the nearest tree and get the kapi (water) and mai (food). After its rained is when the seeds grow. I was taught from my families, I used to listen stories when I was young, like when stories were told at bedtime or when visitors come they tell stories about mai and all that. They would sit down together and talk about it.

They told us about kampurarrpa, (desert raisin). It grows wild and lovely and when it’s brown it’s more better to eat, drying up. They collect it in the wirra and put it on the ground and cover around with the dirt and clean it and throw it up to clean it – the leaves and the thorns. They put in the wirra and take it home and grind it and wet it a little bit and make it into a lot of little buns – kapurtu. And they would collect Wangurnu and make a damper.

Now today we are doing it. Now the story passed on to us and to me. I remembered all those stories. Same way I heard the stories and today I teach my grandchildren. When we go out, of the motor car breaks down I can teach my children how to get the food, like kampurarrpa, (desert raisin) and all the mirrka. They’ll be right then.

Name: Ngalta
Common Name: Desert Kurrajong tree
Latin Name: Brachychiton gregorii
Use: Kapi, mirrka.
Portion used: Roots, seeds
Preparation: Have to dig up the roots to get the water. Seeds also eaten.
Indigenous Knowledge and Practice (IK&P):
Roots tjawalku , then kapi tjikilku. After, they peel the skin off, or put in the fire quickly- not cook it, just a little bit and start chewing. Roots its got mai and the kapi.
When there is no water long way, they go to this tree. It’s got food and all. We got it at Kunmanarra Bore Road going up Tjuntjunjarra road. Lots of Kurrajong. Walu road, Malytju yiwrangka ngalta tjurta. It’s all around. Anawari Mitchell.
Additional info: Fire sensitive
Location observed : Gibson Desert: sand dunes along Con- nie Sue Highway. Central Ranges: east of Mulga Park-Giles Rd south of Walpapuka.
Habitat:
Entered: BW 05/11/2016, BN 1/12/2016
Name: **Kartukultu/Kartumarru/yurrara**  
Common Name: Grass tree (*Xanthorrhoea thorntonii*)  
Use: Several parts of the grass tree can be used. 
Polly Jackson said that the heart of the Grass tree could be used: "she saw ladies in Wingellina boiling the trunk and mixing it with oil and wax for rubbing medicine. They mixed it up with the Irmangka Irmangka. The balls of sap coming out from the burnt main trunk section or from the bottom near the roots provide very efficient material to constitute a glue. This glue is also called Kirti and is used for different craft application, such as tip spear stone artefact gluing. Mr Bennett said: "kurli time the sap comes out that's when you can get it." 
Preparation: According to Polly Jackson, ladies used to boil the trunk section parts, mix it with oil, wax and Irmangka Irmangka leaves

**IK&P/ Additional info:**

Additional info: Found only on the way to Docker River on the side of the road near WA/NT border. 
Location: 496069 / 7252888 52J 
Datum: GDA 94 UTM 
IK&P info: Polly Jackson, Mr Bennett 
Entered: BN 15/12/2016, FM 2/11/2016

Name: **Wangurnu**  
Common Name: Woolybutt grass  
Latin Name: *Eragrostis eriopoda*  
Use: **Mirrka**  
Portion used: Seeds  
Preparation: crushed and reduce to powder mixed with water and cooked

**IK&P:** Collect Wangurnu with the wirra, like a piti and they take it to the pinirn (cleared area). Every time they collect it they put it there til it piles up and they get a stone and start hitting the wangurnu so it can be soft and when they finish hitting the Wangurnu they put a little bit of fire over to scorch the seeds out of the grass. They start sifting it with their hands so the wind can take all the grass part away and only the seeds fall down. When they see all the seeds they grab them and put them on the wirra and then they clean it by giving it a bit of a shake, the grass goes back and the seeds fall in the piti. And they grind the seeds then with a stone – the big part and the little part, underneath is the flat one and the top one is round like a hammer and they ground it by moving the top stone backwards and forwards, make it into flour. When its all finished, they mix the flour with the water and put it on the hot ground. They make a fire ready to cook it and put it and clean the ashes out and put the damper there. Sometimes they use a hot stick to go over the damper to make sure its cooked. Sometimes they put a lovely hot coal ash over it to cook it. And then they eat it (Dulcie Watson).

**Additional info:** Found on shortcut access track to Lake Christopher  
Location observed: GDA 94 UTM 52J/  
Habitat:  
IK&P info: Mr Bennett, Dulcie Watson  
MEETING CALENDAR 2017

FEBRUARY
15th Council Members
16th Council Directors

MARCH
15th Council Members
16th Council Directors

APRIL

MAY
17th Council Members
18th Council Directors

JUNE

JULY

AUGUST
15th Council Members
16th Council Directors

SEPTEMBER

OCTOBER
25th**Council AGM**
26th Directors/Services
Finance SC

NOVEMBER
15th Council Members
16th Council Directors