

DIRECTORS MESSAGE:



My name is Preston Thomas, some people call me Mr T. I'm the Chair of Kanpa Community and a Director of Ngaanyatjarra Council Aboriginal Corporation, Ngaanyatjarra Health and Ngaanyatjarra Services.

I am also a Councillor on the Shire of Ngaanyatjarraku, I hold a seat on the Aboriginal Lands Trust and I represent the Central Desert Region on the Aboriginal Legal Service of Western Australia as well as the Aboriginal Health Council of Western Australia.

I work with a lot of organisations that represent Aboriginal people because that is how I can help with the issues that affect us all. If you don't have a voice at the table, if you don't have a say or a vote at the meeting, then you have no power over the things that affect you.

So I strongly urge all Ngaanyatjarra people to attend meetings and to participate in discussions. Make sure you are connected to the organisations that have a say in how things are done. If you are not a registered member of Ngaanyatjarra Council then make sure you join. You can't vote at meetings unless you are a member.

WANARN'S NEW CHAIR:

Congratulations to Alistair Reid, who at the recent Wanarn Community AGM was elected to the position of Chairperson of the Community. This of course means that Alistair has become the newest Director of Ngaanyatjarra Council Aboriginal Corporation. Welcome aboard Alistair!



OPEN LETTER:

To Ngannyatjarra Community Members, NCAC and NHS Board Members and Staff

Recently I advised the Ngannyatjarra Council and Ngaanyatjarra Health Boards that I was unable to continue in my role as an Independent Director for these Boards and I have since resigned from these positions. Unfortunately family and business pressures made it extremely difficult for me to continue as an Independent Director and I was therefore not able to complete my current term until September this year.

I wanted to write to all members of the Ngaanyatjarra Community, Board and Staff to express my sincere appreciation for having the opportunity of working with you all over the last 18 months. It was a great privilege to be appointed as one of your first Independent Directors and I hope I have been able to make some small contribution to your communities during the time that I have served as an Independent Director.

I would like to thank everyone who helped me to understand more about the Ngannyatjarra Lands and to support me in my role as an Independent Director.

I would like to wish you well and hope that I can continue to maintain some connection with the Ngaanyatjarra Communities and organisations in some way into the future.

Kind regards



Mr Dixon

12 April 2016



WARAKURNA WIRUNYA: Recycle!

How's this for a great idea worth sharing. In Warakurna Community, kids are now able to make a little pocket money and help keep their community clean at the same time.

Warakurna Community has started a recycling program where every Saturday, kids in the community can turn in plastic bottles and cans and receive the recycling money. The collected bottles will be transported to Alice Springs for recycling at a later date. This program is going ahead with the support of the Warakurna Community Store.

NEW COUNCIL STAFF



Adele Hunt is now working in the Warburton CDP Office as support officer. Adele is working with Di Mahoney, helping with CDP appointments.



We are all going to miss Christina Lake in the Alice Springs Office. Christina is heading to Warakurna soon as the new CDP Case Manager.



STAFF PROFILE: Sue Sokol

I was born in the United Kingdom but moved to Adelaide in 1964. I relocated to Alice Springs in 1984, where I took up a position as a Draftsperson with Pine Gap. In 1989 I got a job with Tangentyere Bank where I stayed for ten years. We moved to Kangaroo Island for the classic 'sea change', stayed for 4 years, however life on the Island proved a little too slow for my liking so we moved back to Adelaide.

We still had 2 sons in Alice Springs and eventually we realised we were ready to return and see what the next phase of our life might bring. I saw a position advertised with Ngaanyatjarra Council, and given my 10 years background with an Indigenous Community Organisation I was keen to join the Council.

I started with NCAC in 2006 as Executive Assistant. In 2007 I became HR Manager and in 2011 I took on the position of Operations Manager.

The Operations Manager is part of the senior management team of NCAC, providing support to the CEO in managing the day to day operations of the organisation. I work closely with the CEO on the development and implementation of organisational strategies, policies and practices, as well as working on best practice governance processes.

An important part of my job is liaising with Government Departments and Funding Bodies. I have developed beneficial relationships with government departments such Prime Minister & Cabinet, Department of Social Services and Department of Housing. We may not always agree on the issues, but at least we have the opportunity to meet and work closely with the departments that fund our programs.

The Operations Manager oversees the Financial Capability & Resilience program with Team Leader Sue Waldron, the Participation & Governance Project with Communications & Engagement Officer Julian Green and the HR Department with HR Manager Linda Robertson.

Another part of my role is to work closely with the Remote Support Manager who oversees Community Services Managers (CSM's), this ensures that any and all issues that the CSM's may have are related back up through senior management for consideration and action if necessary. I also work with the Strategic Services Manager in Perth and the NCAC Accountant when considering budgets and expenditure related to the Municipal Services Program.

I travel out to the Lands whenever time permits, this is usually around the same period as the monthly Council and Board meetings, this gives me the opportunity to catch up with remote staff and community members.

I have a passion for working with Council, staff and its members and Board and hope to remain a part of this dynamic organisation for many years to come.



WORKING ON COUNTRY: Camel Bores

Since last winter, the Warakurna ranger group have been very busy trying to locate, set up and protect new water points in the vicinity of Warakurna to avoid feral camel damages.

3 new bores were set up to comply with this approach: one near Vladimir pass at Pyultjarra, another one just outside the Warakurna gap and a last one on the flat sandy beds East of the Sladen Waters.

Moreover the rangers have been looking after protecting these infrastructures from feral camels as well as weed invasion. With all the recent rain, buffel grass has been growing around those water points and Warakurna Rangers have been making sure to control and keep clean these places for camels to enjoy them as well as bush species.

The rangers finished the protective fences and recently cleaned out weeds from around Pataalku bore near the big Telstra antenna as well as Abencerrages bore on the Warakurna northern sandy flats. Camel tracks started to come along a bit more now with the lack of water being a bit more stressful for them, even an emu track was sighted at Pyultjarra, making locals in Warakurna quite excited!!



Patrick Reid and Desmond Freddie



PATJARR CLEANS UP

There was a big community cleanup at Patjarr recently as the community gets ready to host visitors and generally keep on top of the current growing season. Terrific rains have added to the workload when everything grew so well around the piles of rubbish ready to be removed. With very little equipment but with community labour, there was a good start on the annual cleanup. Snakes were making everyone wary, especially when moving steel, sheeting and boxes. "It's been really crazy for snakes", said Patjarr coordinator Simon Henshall, as his volunteers walked very carefully about.

Simon was also lamenting how his allocations for equipment are based on the number of people in the community, and not the size of the job. "With a trailer and a pretty old backhoe, one whipper snipper and a temperamental hand mower, it's a battle.", he said. Still much had been done and between rain showers, more was planned.





NG Media happened to be in town and caught the action on camera. That helped keep everybody looking cheery for such a dirty job. The local families then went into the newly arrived computer facility and made videos of their cleanup. It was fun for all.

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS!!

This year is an election year for Ngaanyatjarra Council.

What that means is that in October, at the Ngaanyatjarra Council AGM, members will have their chance to vote for the Chairperson of Ngaanyatjarra Council.

Ngaanyatjarra Council Chairpersons hold the position for a term of two years which means the next election wont be until 2018!

DON'T MISS OUT ON YOUR CHANCE TO BE A PART OF THIS YEARS ELECTION PROCESS.

Fill in a membership form at your Community Office today.



CDP Report

Samuel Frazer, Nathan Smith, Rhys West, Berman Giles, Joshua Dawson and Leece Giles

In Warburton, the Men's Shed gained a huge boost earlier this week when our brand new tyre changing machine arrived. The fellas were quick to get on top of it and are now changing tyres for all. The cost is \$20 for Community Members and \$40 for visitors. Community Maintenance is really important with the fellas doing a big job cleaning people's yards while also tidying up around the college building. With the Shire Rubbish truck out of the community for maintenance, the fellas are pitching in, emptying the bins around town.

In the Women's Room, excitement is growing for the upcoming art exhibition on the 18th of May. This will be in the College space. There will be plenty of paintings that tell a us a range of stories. There'll be an afternoon tea provides. All are welcome to come, make a cup of tea and have a chat with the ladies about the beautiful paintings on show. In the coming weeks, the ladies will be making story books which they will make by hand and read the stories to children at the school.



The Wanarn Park

In Wanarn, CDP participants have been working on expanding the wrecking car yard and working on the park area next to the shop. The park is progressing nicely with a well established grass area and trees and plants are due to go in the ground soon. There are even discussions around how to use the grey water from the Dialysis unit for landscaping needs around the community.

CDP Report cont.



Marlene Mitchell searching for honey ants.

In Warakurna the ladies have been going bush as part of their CDP activities and working together to make something to eat and tell stories and sometimes we sing too. It's good to get out bush and share stories and culture.

If you're a Warakurna lady, and would like to join in, come and see Louise in the CDP Office. The CDP Office is now across from the 50 cent; its the door next to the community office. The long anticipated uniforms for the men have arrived and all are looking the part and set to start. In fact the Warakurna Community Maintenance team have been working together on a few projects and are making some steady progress.

The new crib room is set to be hooked up to power and water soon, so the crew have been getting out and clearing the spare material away from the area, pruning the grass and taking the rubbish to the tip. Now when the tradies arrive, there will be a clear

path to run the cabling. The workshop area is also coming along nicely and the spare material is getting tidied around the yards.

The crew work each week on different areas in Warakurna tidying up the grass and made a huge effort to target rubbish at the town entrance, taking a trailer load to the tip. The team are supervised by leading hands, SJ (Clayton) and Terry Porter who rally the crew together. The Community Maintenance team are working towards several projects and the leading hands are looking forward to playing a big role in planning the projects and working on schedules for the team.



Craiden Jackson, Sheldon Shepherd, Fabian Porter, Jake Robertson, SJ (Clayton) (Leading Hand), Terry Porter (Leading Hand) and Luke Booth, showing off their hard days' work clearing the rubbish and weeds at the entrance to Warakurna in their new uniforms.

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

WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE IN YOUR NEWSLETTER???

Hi everyone. I hope you are enjoying your newsletter. We are still looking for stories from our communities. This is your newsletter and we'd really love to hear from you.

We're calling out for community input and are looking for the next newsletter to be full of your good news stories from the Ngaanyatjarra Lands.

What's happening at school, in the art centre, who won the footy?

If you have a story to tell or upcoming event you'd like to publicise, please send it to:
julian.green@ngacouncil.org.au Photos welcome!