

Binarri-binyja yarrowoo Newsletter

Binarri-binyja yarrowoo Aboriginal Corporation
Empowered Communities East Kimberley



Message from the CEO

Being our first newsletter for 2020, we'd like to acknowledge the hard work of our members and Board this year so far. We had three new Directors join the BBY Board at our AGM in November last year, and welcome Natasha Short, Zenneth Cox and Merle Carter (also a WAAAC member) to the team who have settled in well and contributing greatly to the organisation already. We also thank outgoing directors Annabelle Cox, and Ian Trust and Robyn Long who both completed two full terms on the Board.

Strong leadership and good governance are critical to our collective work and vision for Empowered Communities, and we acknowledge your commitment and dedication. We look forward to working closely with our members throughout this year.

Christy Hawker, CEO

BBY Chair meets with Minister Wyatt

In February, leaders from eight Empowered Communities regions came together and met with Minister for Indigenous Australians, Hon Ken Wyatt.

Des Hill attended as the Chair of BBY, the backbone for Empowered Communities in the East Kimberley.

The leaders discussed 'Structural Reform' (how we do business with government) and Empowered Communities agendas across Australia.

Save the Date

Upcoming Local Management Committee Meetings:

Kununurra- Tuesday 9 June 2020

Halls Creek- Tuesday 16 June 2020

Wyndham- Wednesday 24 June 2020

For more information contact info@bby.org.au.



East Kimberley Aboriginal Business Survey

The East Kimberley Aboriginal Business Survey was designed in response to calls for economic empowerment- we needed more data and stories to show how aboriginal enterprises and organisations contribute to our regional economy.

The survey received a response rate of 50%- a huge success. Thank you to all businesses and organisations who participated. Your stories and insights are a powerful tool to shape new conversations about aboriginal workforce participation, economic contribution and wealth building.



Mirriwoong elder Mr Ted Carlton opening the launch of the Survey, held at Warinagri Arts

Thank you to our data collectors

BBY staff would like to thank Jawun secondees Liz (Macquarie Bank) and Hannah (Herbert Smith Freehills) for their work with BBY over the past five weeks collecting data and listening deeply to the stories of Aboriginal businesses.

Another big thank you to Wendy Casey and Paula Cooney for contributing their skills and time to assist with data collection.



Jawun secondee Hannah, with Ribinyung Aboriginal Corporation community members

Survey report to be released early April

Community Economic Development – Profile of East Kimberley Aboriginal Business Survey Report is set to be released late May. This report reports back on the data collected from all who participated in the Aboriginal Business Survey. All participants will be sent a copy of the report.

The report will also be publicly available to everyone on our website: <https://www.bby.org.au/survey>.

And the winner is....

PRK Radio – Puranyangu Rangka kerrem!

Congratulations to PRK Radio Puranyangu Rangka kerrem, the winner of the East Kimberley Aboriginal Business Survey entry prize. The prize is valued at over \$1,000 and includes:

- Promotion and advertisement package from [Waringarri Media](#)
- Business and financial mentoring from [KAS Accounting Solutions](#)
- A marketing strategy session with [Kimberley Small Business Support](#)
- Legal upskilling session with [Kimberley Community Legal Service](#)



From the Sector

Voice Co-Design Groups Announced

The Minister for Indigenous Australians, the Hon Ken Wyatt AM, MP, has announced the membership of the [Local and Regional Co-Design Group](#) tasked with developing options for local and regional voices.

Empowered Communities East Kimberley congratulates fellow Empowered Communities leaders Fiona Jose (Cape York) and Chris Ingrey (Inner Sydney) on their appointments to the group. BBY also congratulates Kimberley leader Vickie O'Donnell on her appointment.

The Local & Regional Co-design Group met on the 10-11 March and reaffirmed their commitment to building on what is already working well, as well as looking at new ideas, to create the space and flexibility needed to respond to the

unique circumstances, history and culture of each place. The Minister for Indigenous Australians, the Hon Ken Wyatt AM MP met with the Group and emphasised “one size does not fit all.” This is not about replacing existing arrangements but putting forward options to build on these arrangements to bring together local and regional voices.

A key focus for the Group will be developing mechanisms that support genuine partnerships with governments to improve shared decision making, before going out for broader conversation with communities. This will include ensuring shared responsibility and accountability for the development and delivery of government programmes at a local and regional level.

Welcome call for Indigenous Art infrastructure

Infrastructure Australia is an independent infrastructure advisor. It provides research and advice to governments, industry and the community on investments and reforms that will benefit Australia. In their recent [priority list](#), ‘social infrastructure’ has been included for the first time.

Empowered Communities welcomes the news of prioritisation being given to the ‘social infrastructure’ of Indigenous art and cultural centres, to support artists by creating more employment opportunities, improve wellbeing, educate people on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures, and improve national identity. This recognises the high demand from tourists for Aboriginal cultures and arts, and the contribution art centres make to the regional and national economy. This is in line the [Regional Development Agenda](#) and our member organisations such as Waringarri Arts. Also, on the list for our region is road network safety improvements for the Great Northern Hwy and access to remote communities, earmarked for work in the next 5 years.

Coronavirus (COVID-19)

BBY has been working hard over the past few months assisting information and collaboration efforts for coronavirus responses across the Kimberley. BBY partnered with Kimberley Aboriginal Medical Service to produce Kimberley Bulletins- providing weekly up-to-date and relevant information to Aboriginal organisations, communities and people.

There is still help available to organisations, communities and families if you're affected by Coronavirus. Visit these websites for more information:

[Kimberley Aboriginal Medical Service](#)

[WA Government](#)

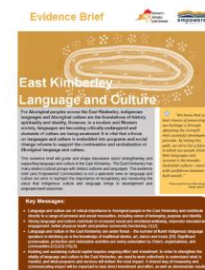
[Federal Government](#)

Remember to keep safe and healthy!

Evidence Brief: Language and Culture

As a part of supporting data-driven decision making, BBY has developed a range of evidence briefs. These briefs are all available on [our website](#), and draw on local consultations and priorities, as well as seeking the most relevant data and research to support robust discussion and quality decisions.

In 2019, Empowered Communities members came together and co-designed indicators on Language and Culture. A new evidence brief has been prepared to support the roll out of the indicators, and to support ACCOs to advocate for their use in program development.



[Access the Language and Culture indicator set here](#)

[Read the Evidence Brief here](#)



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Around the Region

The 5 Social Norms in action

BBY's vision is of enduring and effective Aboriginal-led reform, which transfers power and responsibility to Aboriginal people and creates opportunity for the social, cultural and economic development of our children and families. Aboriginal Organisations who 'opt-in' to the Empowered Communities reform agenda in the East Kimberley commit to promoting and living up to the 5 social norms- 'walking the talk'- to create lasting change. Members of Empowered Communities are committed to working together to make sure it happens. We've discovered 5 inspiring examples of individuals and organisations bringing the 5 social norms to life.

Halls Creek celebrates opening of Op-Shop

Social Norm: Vulnerable people, young people and old people are cared for so that they feel secure and loved

Wunan's Child and Parent Centre are doing their bit in Halls Creek to provide good quality clothing and household items to children, elderly and vulnerable residents of the community. The profit from the Op-Shop has enabled the centre to fund incentives for high attendance at school. These ongoing contributions continue to impact to families to live healthy lives and access at affordable prices.



Op-Shop Items for sale

Hard worker destined for job offers

Social Norm: Adults who are capable of work will find employment so that they may find purpose and economic prosperity

MG Corp's 100+ Jobs program not only assists with finding employment for their clients, they also assist with obtaining ID, police/WWC clearance and licence to increase employability and economic empowerment, furthermore, provide ongoing guidance and mentoring. A supervisor in the gardening/landscaping industry praised the good work ethic of 100+ Jobs client Scotty, stating "Scotty, is a very hard worker and is always ready and waiting to be picked up every morning". Unfortunately, due to the recent economic downturn caused by the Covid-19 virus, his employment has been terminated. Program Manager Keith "believes Scotty will be offered a job once we are past this pandemic and the economy improves".

Keeping families occupied – What KWAC are doing

Social Norm: No crimes are committed so that individuals and families enjoy a safe and supportive family life

Kununurra Waringarri Aboriginal Corporation's Strong Men's and Youth programs working together to ensure the youth of Kununurra still have enough activities to get them through the holiday period. Staff delivered packages to young ones, conducting night patrol and creating alternative activities to keep kids occupied and off the streets. Night patrol service continuing to interact with the street present youth, educate them on COVID19 and encourage them to find a safe place to sleep.

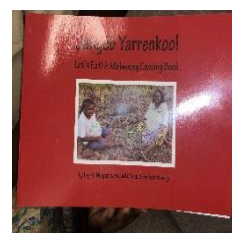


KWAC Staff Thomas, Chris & Noel

Jangeb Yarrenkoo! Let's Eat! A Miriwoong Cooking Book

Mirima Dawang Wooralab-gerring launched *Jangeb Yarrenkoo! Let's Eat! A Miriwoong Cooking Book* on the 19 Feb in Kununurra.

"Language and Culture starts at home, this cookbook not only teaches how to cook traditional food in Miriwoong Language, it also teaches valuable life skills".



Miriwoong language worker Glennis Galbat-Newry & Acting Chairperson Ingrid Ningarmara

If you have a good news story to share with us next newsletter, let us know! info@bby.org.au