

# Binarri-binyja yarrowoo Newsletter

Binarri-binyja yarrowoo Aboriginal Corporation  
Empowered Communities East Kimberley



## Message from the CEO

### CHRISTY HAWKER, CEO

2021 has started strong for Binarri-binyja yarrowoo - Empowered Communities East Kimberley. We'd like to acknowledge the hard work of our members and Board this year so far. Our ways of working shifted dramatically with the COVID-19 pandemic, during which many of our members transitioned to new modes of communication, with community participation occurring through different platforms. We congratulate our members and our community for the rapid response that ensured the safety of our community last year.

We had two new Directors join the BBY Board at our AGM in February 2021 and welcome Carolyn McAdam & Brenda Garstone to the team. Office mob are expanding, and we welcome Jenny Whyte (Sector Development Coordinator), Malvern Gareta (Communication Coordinator), Alison Gibson (Community Development Adviser) and Ruth Abdullah (Community Development Adviser). We farewelled our Data Manager, Samantha Betts and thank her for her contribution to ECEK.

Christine Deng (currently Community Development Adviser) will be moving into the role of Technical Adviser (Data & Evaluation).

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.



Welcome lunch for BBY's new staff

## SAVE THE DATE !

### Upcoming Local Management Committee Meetings:

Kununurra - Tuesday 1 June  
Wyndham - Wednesday 9 June  
Halls Creek - Wednesday 20 April

### Community Forum

Wyndham- TBC 2021

### Sector Development

HR Workshops - TBC 2021  
Partnership Workshops - TBC 2021

### Voice Consultation

Kununurra - 29 April 2021  
Halls Creek - 6 May 2021

## Joint Decision-Making Process - Community Panel

The Empowered Communities East Kimberley (ECEK) Joint Decision Making (JDM) process is a practical mechanism to support government funded organisations to align their activities to community priorities and the East Kimberley Aboriginal Development Framework. JDM is for LMC members and members of the community who have an interest and knowledge in services in the community to provide feedback and recommendations to the Directors of BBY.

The community panel is a way for ECEK to receive community input and feedback from the grass-roots level. As a participant, you will be asked to contribute to group discussion and be a part of providing feedback on contracts that are funded under the Indigenous Advancement Strategy (IAS).

You are not expected to provide technical analysis of the programs but provide feedback on community views on the services.

Contact Office mob (08) 9169 2272 or [info@bby.org.au](mailto:info@bby.org.au) if you are interested in being a community panel representative.

## From the Sector

### Indigenous Voice Interim Report

In January, NIAA released an interim report on the Indigenous Voice co-design process.

The proposed framework has been designed to build on and extend the work of existing local and regional decision-making arrangements, including the Empowered Communities model.

Not only does this proposal provide a way for an Indigenous Voice to give advice and input on decisions, laws, policies, programs and services, it ultimately provides a mechanism for Indigenous Australians in communities around the country to have a say on how to improve their lives.

To have your say in the proposal for Local & Regional and National Voice, feedback submissions are still open until 30 April 2021. Further consultations will be conducted in the Kimberley in early May, with four locations including Broome, Derby, KNX, and Halls Creek

Further info: [Indigenous Voice](#)

## Minister Wyatt presents LotteryWest Grant



On Saturday 31st of January, BBY Board Chairman Des Hill, Directors Jean O'Reeri, Merle Carter and Natasha Short met with Minister Ben Wyatt as he presented a LotteryWest grant to BBY for the new Empowered Communities East Kimberley Sector Development Initiative. BBY Directors wished the departing Minister well.

The grant will enable Empowered Communities to support our member organisations and the wider services sector by building capability through a series of workshops focused on program data and evaluation, organizational human resourcing and supporting effective partnerships.

The workshops will be rolled out in Kununurra, Halls Creek, and Wyndham across 2021 - stay tuned for details!

## Closing the Gap National Agreement

National Agreement on Closing the Gap signed in July 2020 by the Coalition of ATSI Peak Organisations and all Australian Governments focuses on changing way governments work with Aboriginal people.

Four Priority Reforms:

- Strengthen and establish formal partnerships and shared decision-making
- Build the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled sector
- Transform government organisations so they work better for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people
- Improve and share access to data and information to enable Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities make informed decisions.

Further info: [National Agreement on Closing the Gap](#)

# Community Successes

## Empowered Communities in Wyndham

BBY joined the Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley in a tree planting community event that took place at Croc Park. The event ran under the theme, 'Growing through Covid together' to recognise the resilience of the Wyndham Community during the Covid pandemic.

Among those who attended the event were community members, aboriginal organisations and Wyndham school students who assisted in planting trees. The event gave exposure to BBY to showcase its upcoming community forums in Wyndham this year. A number of LMC meetings were held in 2020, and a prioritization meeting was held in November that year which identified top three priorities; connection to country, trauma-informed community and enterprise & employment .

The priorities will be critical in empowering and enabling social, economic and cultural development in the region. BBY will facilitate a series of community forums under the direction of Wyndham LMC this year.



## Workshop: Kimberley Regional Governance

Regional ACCOs; KLC, KAMS, KALAAC, KLRC, West & East Empowered Communities came together on Thursday 11 March to discuss approach for One Region, One Voice governance structures.

The group reaffirmed the message from the old people since Crocodile Hole in 1991 that Kimberley wide challenges need Kimberly wide solutions.

Work is underway to develop Regional Governance developments for further consultation with Kimberley Aboriginal people.

Further info: Contact CEO Christy, BBY 9169 2272

## Wunan wins Headspace contract

More than 75 per cent of mental health issues develop before a person turns 25. And yet, many traditional services aren't equipped to address the unique barriers that young people face to accessing mental health support.

Headspace centers are designed not just for young people, but with them, to ensure they are relevant, accessible, highly effective and culturally safe.

Wunan has recently been announced as the Headspace provider in Kununurra.

Further info: Contact Wunan 08 9168 3881

## East Kimberley Employment Roundtable

Employment system stakeholders met at the East Kimberley Employment Roundtable in October 2020 with the intent of bringing together people from across East Kimberley who have deep experience in employment opportunities and challenges to explore what could be done in the region to bring more local people into sustainable employment.

Agreed actions included improved collaboration amongst employment service providers, embedding mentoring across the system, and developing system-specific changes.

The Roundtable is meeting regularly to action their priorities.

Further info: Contact Michele Pucci, CEO East Kimberley Job Pathways at 08 9168 1589

# Around the Region

## ECEK Social Norms in Action

Our 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. This will only happen if individuals, families and communities are empowered to achieve these five social norms. 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.

### Upgrading the Community Resource Centre (CRC) - Halls Creek

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

Locally operated Jungarni-Jutiya Indigenous Corporation provides a range of services to the local Halls Creek community and surrounds. The CRC is a central community hub that has been upgraded and is capable of hosting up to 20 people for conference/training purposes. Whether you need to be connected to a service provider, require support with booking for funerals, email and printing support or wanting to know what's happening in HC drop into the centre. The newly refurbished centre has 7 computers. In addition to the resource centre, we have financial capability officers and financial counsellors who are on hand to assist the community with banking or ID issues and so much more.



Contact team at Jungarni-Jutiya on (08) 9168 6168 to talk with the team

### What are Waringarri Arts doing to strengthen Cultural Engagement?

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

Since late 2019, six Kimberley Art Centres have been collaborating to deliver an intergenerational engagement and learning project as a strategy to strengthen social/emotional well-being using an arts and cultural framework. Each of the participating art centres of Kira Kiro Artists Kalumburu, Mangkaja Arts Fitzroy Crossing, Mowanjum Art and Culture Derby, Waringarri Aboriginal Arts Kununurra, Warlayirti Artists Balgo and Warmun Art Centre Warmun Community have facilitated activities independently as well as collaboratively with activities focused on developing next generation cultural resilience and well-being.

Activities have included invaluable re-engagement with Country and cultural learning, workshops with school groups and opportunities for knowledge sharing between artists and cultural mentors. Developing strong regional networks has also been an essential part of the project with the delivery of a regional women's camp, 2 regional men's camps and a regional planning meeting. As the lead agency for the project, Waringarri Aboriginal Arts has worked with Binarri-binyja yarrowoo (BBY) to deliver M&E training and support the project evaluation.

Contact Waringarri Arts 9168 2212 for further information.

**If you have a good news story to share with us for our next newsletter, let us know!  
[info@bby.org.au](mailto:info@bby.org.au)**