

ISSUE • MARCH 2024

# YINHAWANGKA NEWS



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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT TO OUR PEOPLE

We pay our respects to the past, present and emerging custodians of Yinhawangka Country.

We acknowledge the Yinhawangka People as the rightful land owners and recognise the hardship of all Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islanders peoples.

We are committed to protecting and caring for our country, history, heritage and culture.

We send our deepest condolences to all Yinhawangka members and community that have lost a loved one and send comfort for those that are still grieving.



# CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT



## Lorraine Injie

It has been a busy time here at Yinhawangka Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC (YAC) with some important changes and updates for members.

### Leadership changes

Early this year the YAC directors made some decisions regarding the leadership at YAC. Kupa Teao's term as CEO ended in February 2024. We extend our heartfelt thanks to Kupa for his contributions and efforts at YAC during his time and wish him all the best in future endeavours.

We would like to introduce Anthony Beven who has stepped in at YAC to lead in an interim capacity. We are grateful for Anthony's willingness to step in during this time. Anthony has a long history with Yinhawangka and has been able to get up to speed quickly and hit the ground running.

It is no secret that the CEO role can be a challenging role. Finding our next leader who is a good fit culturally and organisationally is top priority for us

as a board of directors. Members will be able to see this recruitment process get up and running in the coming weeks.

### YAC strategy 2023 - 2025

The directors have spent significant time reviewing the strategy over the last few months. We are pleased to share our updated purpose and strategic pillars with you.

### YAC's purpose

**YAC's purpose is to honour our old people, the old ways, and their fight to ensure the future is better. We need to follow in their footsteps.**

We achieve this through four strategic pillars:

1. Looking after culture, heritage, language and country.
2. Solid and safe community.
3. Partnerships and collaboration.
4. Modernise and optimise agreements.

### Relationship with Rio Tinto

I would also like to acknowledge the significant achievements we have made in securing the 2023 Interim Funding Agreement - Co-Management Implementation with Rio Tinto through the Agreements Modernisation Process (AMod). Previously YAC was being largely funded out of the Yinhawangka Trusts which is our peoples' money. This new arrangement sees a more equitable use of funding for YAC's operations.

I express my sincerest gratitude to every member for your unwavering support and dedication towards Yinhawangka and YAC. We have been through many challenges and will continue to face challenges ahead of us. These challenges are not insurmountable. We are stronger together and despite the upsets that occur within our community, as a collective we continue to care deeply about and take steps for our culture, land and our families.

Regards  
Lorraine Injie



Lorraine Injie  
Chairperson



# CEO'S REPORT



## Anthony Beven - Interim CEO Services

It has been a busy time here at YAC with some important changes and updates for members. It is a pleasure to be appointed to assist YAC and Yinhawangka during this time.

Having spent some time in Paraburdoo and Perth over the last few weeks and getting reacquainted with the corporation, I am pleased to see that YAC has come a long way since the special administration period which ended in 2020.

YAC is a prescribed body corporate (PBC) which means it is an entity with a special role and responsibilities under the Native Title Act 1993.

The main job of YAC as a PBC is to manage and protect native title and cultural heritage on behalf of the Yinhawangka native title holders. This is laid out in the YAC rule book.

My role is an interim one and I will be assisting the directors to recruit a new CEO in the coming months.

My focus will be getting to meet as many members as possible, hearing your concerns and feedback and working with the directors to refocus YAC on its core job as a PBC and its key focus areas.

### Four key focus areas:

1. Native title and future acts.
2. Cultural heritage.
3. Good governance.
4. Member services & communications.

There are likely to be some changes in the coming months but the intention is to minimise these so there is no disruption to the business of YAC.

You will see that we have also started early planning for our 2024 AGM which is an important meeting for Yinhawangka members to gather and consider YAC business.

Please contact me if you would like to discuss any matters relating to the corporation.

Regards  
Anthony Beven



*Anthony Beven*  
**Interim CEO Services**





# INFORMATION MEETINGS

## FOR YINHAWANGKA MEMBERS & COMMUNITY

## AGENDA

- Yinhawangka heritage
- Members services
- Agreements Modernisation
- Living Cultures
- Presentation from mining proponents if available
- Info on 2024 AGM

Please RSVP for catering purposes by emailing [admin@yinhawangka.com.au](mailto:admin@yinhawangka.com.au)

Note: lunch and refreshments will be provided. Travel, accommodation assistance and sitting fees are not available for these meetings.

## MEETINGS

### KARRATHA

**Date:** Friday 12 April 2024

**Time:** 11am - 3pm

**Venue:** Pegs Creek Pavilion,  
Pegs Creek, Karratha

### PARABURDOO

**Date:** Monday 15 April 2024

**Time:** 11am - 3pm

**Venue:** Ashburton Hall,  
Paraburdoo

### PERTH

**Date:** Wednesday 17 April  
2024

**Time:** 11am - 3pm

**Venue:** YAC Perth Office  
Level 9, 16 St Georges  
Terrace Perth

# 2023 AGM OVERVIEW

## 10 November 2023 South Hedland

YAC is pleased to share the highlights and outcomes of our recent Annual General Meeting (AGM) held on 10 November 2023 on Kariyarra country in South Hedland.

The AGM is a compulsory meeting that YAC has to hold each year. The AGM is an important opportunity for YAC members to:

- find out what has been happening at YAC over the past year
- review and ask questions about YAC financial reports
- elect new directors
- choose an auditor
- check details of members are recorded correctly on the register of members
- set director remuneration
- ask questions of the YAC CEO and directors.

YAC had 103 members register attendance at the 2023 AGM.



This was the first time YAC has used an external facilitator for the AGM, Yawuru traditional owner Mandy Gadsdon. There were some benefits and drawbacks to this. It was good to trial a different approach so YAC can utilise this where it may be beneficial in the future. It is not intended to be a permanent change for all future meetings though.

Our financial report, presented by our Interim Chief Financial Officer Stephen Bushell, showed a healthy financial position for the 2023 financial year. This stability enables us to continue our work and strengthen our cultural heritage and members services functions in 2024.



One of the key aspects of the AGM was the election of the YAC directors and nomination of members of the Cultural Heritage and Language Committee (CHLC). We are excited to welcome some new faces to the board alongside our experienced board and committee members. We would like to thank Kathleen Condon whose term as director ended at the 2023 AGM.

We thank all members for their valuable contributions and attendance. Your ongoing support and engagement are the pillars of our future growth and success.



### Yinhawangka Board of Directors at end of 2023 AGM

- **Lorraine Injie,** Jarndunha, *term ending 2024*
- **Gail Cox,** Jarndunha, *term ending 2025*
- **Brandon Cook,** Minatangunha, *term ending 2024*
- **Cecil Parker,** Minantungunha, *term ending 2025*
- **Robyn Tommy,** Thurantanjinha & Wilga, *term ending 2024*
- **Halloway Smirke,** Thurantajinha & Wilga, *term ending 2025*
- **Frank Parriman,** *Independent director, term ending 2024*
- **Karen Boyce,** *Independent director, term ending 2024*



# LANDS UPDATE



## Expanding the YAC Ranger program

The YAC Ranger program recruitment is in full swing with interviews in progress and letters of offer made.

YAC has secured a 3 year funding agreement with the WA Government for three ranger trainees. YAC has also applied for Commonwealth Government funding for six female Ranger positions.

The Ranger Program is also looking for a new Ranger Coordinator with extensive experience and qualifications in leading aboriginal ranger teams on country.

**Expressions of interest for these positions can be made by emailing: [recruitment@yinhawangka.com.au](mailto:recruitment@yinhawangka.com.au)**

The Ranger Program NBN connection is underway after a 6 month delay due to installation difficulties. YAC should be able to utilise the increased bandwidth and speeds needed to make full use of its drone fleet activities as well as a new server in which all the collected data can be stored. This marks a significant investment not only by YAC but also by Rio Tinto in allowing and supporting YAC connectivity to its mine-site NBN infrastructure. All thanks must go to the perseverance of Renee Manser, GIS specialist who is leading the project for YAC and Devina Ranger who is supporting her efforts in Paraburdoo.

The Pilbara Cultural Land Management Program (PCLMP) is now to be known as the Pilbara Rangers Network (PRN). The end of 2023 saw our Ranger program involved in the strategic planning workshops which sets the on-going direction of the program which has 12 Pilbara ranger groups. YAC continues to provide auspice for the drone training and advanced training for the PRN in partnership with Winyama.

This years focus is on ranger training, water sources, cultural burning, and drone licensing.

## Living Cultures project

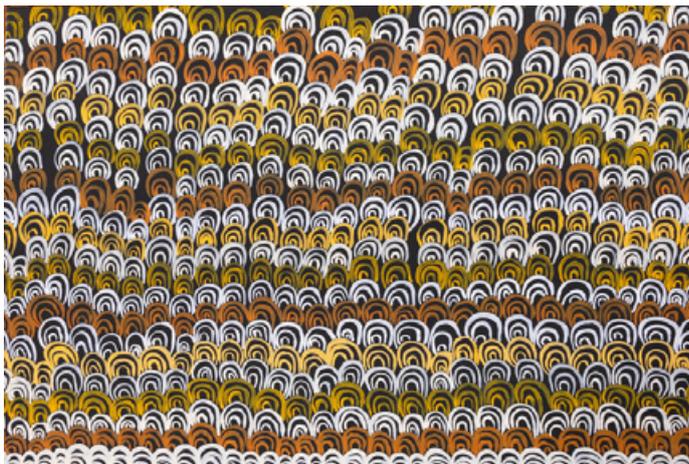
The Yinhawangka Living Cultures partnership will deliver projects and programs on behalf of the Yinhawangka community to enhance the practice, protection and intergenerational sharing of Yinhawangka culture, thereby contributing towards a strong and connected Yinhawangka people.

The Project aims to support Yinhawangka people to enhance access and connection to country practice and share cultural knowledge and build capacity and capability for Yinhawangka people.

Hilton Gruis has been appointed to drive this project full time at YAC and members can expect Living Cultures sessions and work to ramp up in 2024.

## The projects and programs delivered through Living Cultures include:

- cultural preservation through recording and transferring language, living history and heritage, womens' business, arts and culture, song lines, and traditional stories.
- increased local economic development.
- improved social and emotional wellbeing for the community.
- enhanced cultural land management by Yinhawangka People.
- access to and delivery of cultural awareness training.
- focus areas and outcomes identified by Yinhawangka People.



Painting by Yinhawangka Ranger, Devina Ranger



# HERITAGE UPDATE



YAC has recently appointed an Interim Heritage Manager, Patricia Edwards.

YAC has been busy locking in dates with mining companies who want to do heritage surveys in 2024. Twenty heritage surveys have been locked in from March to November 2024.

The Cultural Heritage and Language Committee (CHLC) has introduced a new Traditional Owner (TO) Leads system to make sure the three apical groups are represented on all heritage surveys and monitoring jobs. The TO leads will select survey participants and provide the names to the YAC Heritage Manager.

The CHLC will meet regularly to review past surveys and monitoring jobs and discuss the upcoming jobs. The CHLC will keep working on the system to make it as fair as possible.

## GIS Update

The Yinhawangka Information Management System (YIMS) is a web-based mapping system which stores land related information. The goal of the YIMS is to help keep country healthy by providing a consolidated mapping system. This is achieved by identifying mining activities; identifying the locations of heritage surveys; and maintaining the health and safety of culturally important sites and areas.

To achieve these outcomes, the following information is added to the system:

- mining agreements
- heritage reports
- heritage survey areas
- identified heritage sites
- ranger fieldwork.

**All staff and members are encouraged to access YIMS here and create a new user profile:**

<https://yinhawangka.essolutions.com.au/>

## Mineclosures

Mine closure planning activities for the Rio Tinto Channar and Eastern Range iron ore projects remain ongoing. The current estimated end of mining for these projects is 2026 with closure proposed to commence in 2027.

YAC and the Mine Closure Working Group (MCWG), which consists of up to six Yinhawangka Traditional Owners, last met with Rio Tinto in November 2023. Engagement sessions to discuss closure planning activities will continue in 2024.

## West Angelas SCHMP

Rio Tinto submitted a draft Social Cultural Heritage Management Plan for West Angelas to the Environmental Protection Authority in December 2023. Development of the draft plan involved significant consultation with the Yinhawangka People through Social Surroundings workshops.



# MEMBER SERVICES UPDATE



## Bringing dialysis support to Tom Price - community consultations

YAC and dedicated members have given commitment to the Tom Price Dialysis project attending a number of consultation meetings. Pilbara Aboriginal Health Alliance and Purple House are working together on the application for the Commonwealth Better Renal Services in Remote Communities Program which, if successful, will enable a four chair dialysis unit in Tom Price.

Tom Price was selected as one of three bids for the Commonwealth funding round and a building site has been identified. It is expected that the outcome for the next stage will be announced in May 2024. We see this is as another important step in not only supporting members in the area but helping members to return to country.



↓ READ MORE ↓

## New member app

The new YAC member app, Aboriginal Trust Management System (ATMS) is a CRM software system built for managing, handling, storing and protecting member information and more. It is designed specifically for Indigenous trusts member and beneficiary management.

YAC is working on getting the ATMS member app up and running in the coming weeks.

Here's a glimpse of the features awaiting you with the app:

- Effortless management of member register: say goodbye to cumbersome paperwork and manual data entry. The app simplifies the process, allowing effortlessly manage member registrations and updates with just a few taps.
- Enhanced security measures on information: protecting sensitive information is paramount. The app incorporates security measures to safeguard your data, ensuring confidentiality and peace of mind.

- Get paid faster: time is of the essence, especially when it comes to financial transactions. With the app, expedite payments and financial transactions, enabling you to access funds swiftly and efficiently.
- Insightful analytics of the corporation: unlock the power of data-driven decision-making with our comprehensive analytics tools. Gain invaluable insights into the corporations performance, trends, and areas for improvement, empowering informed strategic decision making.
- Seamless integration with accounting system, etc.: integration is key to maximising efficiency. The app seamlessly integrates with pay run and other essential tools, streamlining workflows and minimising manual effort.

Stay tuned for more updates on how you can gain access to the member app in May 2024.



Painting by Yinhawangka Director, Gail Cox

# COMMUNITY STORIES



## 2023

### Art workshop

YAC secured funding from Rio Tinto for the purpose of educating and supporting members who are creatives, and want to explore developing their creative hobby into a business. A week long workshop was delivered on country in Pirupardo (Paraburdoo) with a diverse group of members attending, participating in creating art and engaging in the daily seminars by artist curator Emilia from Emailia Galatis Project.

At the same time YAC staff were busy winding up the year, preparing the AGM in November and then a beautiful Christmas gathering in December out at Wakuthuni community. Kids got to choose a lucky dip Christmas gift and everyone had lots of fun enjoying the new toys with plenty of food and drinks!



Painting by Jennifer -Sue Cox



## 2024

This year is about building better connections and communications with members. This means more member service visits to Wakuthuni and Bellary communities as well as the main centres where most of our members are based. Our visits will include support with applications, access to external service and support providers and to have a good yarn with our members to learn a bit more about their needs and wants from YAC. We will be sharing more information on Facebook, trialling different ways of getting feed-back and keeping members up to date with what YAC is up to.

In February 2024 YAC met with IBN and Karlka Niyarpali Aboriginal Corporation to discuss how we can work together to provide better member support and look at a collaborative approach when it comes to training and other initiatives. It was a positive visit being able to identify opportunities for us all.

Several staff and members attended the fire safety and chainsaw courses in Paraburdoo gaining skills and knowledge to correctly use chainsaws and first attack firefighting equipment such as portable fire extinguishers, fire hose reels and fire blankets in emergency situations.



## March 2024

In March YAC organised the Aboriginal Mental Health First Aid courses in Perth and Paraburdoo. These were well attended by members and staff. Please get in touch with Hayley Wickham on 0417 900 612 if you would like to register for these courses in the future.

YAC will be hosting the Deadly Thinking Youth course in June 2024 (dates TBC). Keep an eye out for details.

### Health and wellness support service visits

Please keep an eye on our Facebook page for more information about visiting services.

### Work ready program

In collaboration with Rio Tinto, Desert to Coast and Karlka Niyarpali Aboriginal Corporation we are working on a work ready program for members to support them to get into or return to the workforce or just wanting a change of career.



# AMOD UPDATE



## 2023 progress

During 2023 the AMod team achieved a number of significant outcomes:

- Rio Tinto agreed to pay mining benefit payments from all mines from 1 October 2021 and a cash payment of \$13million was distributed equally to all members in April 2023.
- A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was executed with Rio Tinto for an additional \$12million to support the development of a governance structure to deliver a community and social outcomes package.
- Rio Tinto and YAC have entered into funding arrangements to cover YACs costs of implementing its role under the Claim Wide Participation Agreement. This reduces YACs reliance on the charitable trust funds for its operational costs. The funding arrangement includes six Yinhawangka identified positions.
- Rio Tinto agreed in principle with the Yinhawangka BMS Principles:

## 2023 communications

- Three Apical groups and four all Yinhawangka consultations sessions were held. 113 members attended the sessions, providing their recommendations and feedback in relation to the structural vision and establishment of YCSO that were adopted by the YAC Board.
- AMod held three consultation sessions with the DMC and the Trustee seeking input and guidance prior to the Yinhawangka consultation sessions.
- Three AMod newsletters were circulated to members providing detailed updates on activities, outcomes of the consultation sessions and relevant board resolutions.

## Yinhawangka BMS principles

The BMS must allow for prioritised and accelerated significant benefits to elders.

The BMS must be more efficient and cost effective in its structure and processes.

The BMS operations and policies must complement and be guided by the Yinhawangka strategy.

The BMS must recognise the key role of YAC as RNTBC particularly in respect of:

- certainty of funding for YAC from the BMS.
- YACs role in the BMS governance.

Contributor involvement and oversight must be removed.

It is for Yinhawangka to decide how the funds are split between the trusts.

It is for Yinhawangka to decide how the funds are expended, saved and invested.

## 2024 activities

The YAC Board plans to meet with Simon Trott and other key Rio Tinto decision makers to address three key priority areas in 2024.

### Three priority areas in 2024:

1. The transfer of Rocklea Station into Yinhawangka ownership (as promised decades ago).
2. Business opportunities for Yinhawangka businesses from Rio Tintos activities in or around Yinhawangka country.
3. Constructive forward-looking resolution of legacy issues arising from lack of mining benefits payments or other compensation.



# CULTURAL HERITAGE AND LANGUAGE COMMITTEE INTRODUCTION



In 2023 YAC created the Yinhawangka Cultural Heritage and Language Committee (CHLC).

The CHLC is a subcommittee of the YAC board which is established to support YAC in fulfilling its native title and cultural heritage responsibilities as a PBC.

## The need for the CHLC

Since the Yinhawangka native title determination in 2017, YAC as a PBC is required to consult and obtain consent from Yinhawangka traditional owners in regards to any decisions that surrender or affect native title or heritage rights and interests.

The CHLC was established to assist and ensure YAC meets its native title and heritage consultation requirements. Also to better preserves, protect and manage Yinhawangka cultural heritage and language.

Yinhawangka country is filled with commercial mining and other activities and is continuing to be appealing country for future mining.

This means that YAC receives a large number of requests from proponents to undertake exploration and commercial mining activities on country.

Yinhawangka was previously involved in the Rio Tinto Heritage and Environment Committee (HEC). This was a Rio Tinto committee set up during the Yinhawangka native title claim days.

The CHLC will help YAC handle these proponent requests and future acts.

Another key responsibility of the CHLC is to ensure right people for country on surveys and other heritage and future act activities.

## CHLC charter

The CHLC is governed by a charter. The initial charter has been developed with the input of the previous HEC members.

This committee is still in its first few months of operations and it is expected that the charter will be updated and revised a few times throughout the first year.

## CHLC members

The first round of CHLC members were nominated at the 2023 AGM.

### The CHLC members are:

- Roy Tommy
- Donald Limerick
- Rhonda Parker
- Brendon Cook
- Darren Injie
- Juanita Lyndon

## CHLC delegations

The CHLC has delegated authority by the directors to make decisions and recommendations about native title and heritage matters.

The CHLC is also responsible for advising and having input on the right people for country in survey activities.

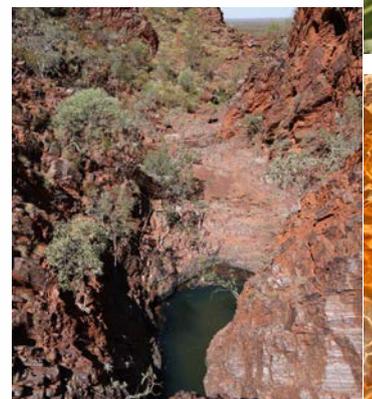
One of the most exciting things about the CHLC is that the members can involve other knowledge holders and elders in projects as needed to ensure the principle of right people for country is realised.



Painting by Brandon Cook



Painting by Devina Ranger



# KEY DATES

These dates are for information purposes only and may be subject to change.

<p><b>April 2024</b> 8 &amp; 9 April DMC &amp; Council meeting 18 &amp; 19 April 2024 AMod consultation sessions with DMC, Council and YAC directors 20 April YAC board meeting <b>YAC information meetings</b> <b>12 April 2024 Pegs Creek Karratha</b> <b>15 April 2024 Paraburdoo Ashburton Hall</b> <b>17 April 2024 Perth YAC office</b></p>	<p><b>May 2024</b> 30 May joint DMC &amp; YAC directors meeting</p>
<p><b>June 2024</b> 4 June DMC &amp; Council meeting <b>5 June Beneficiaries meeting</b> <b>Venue: Red Earth Arts Centre Karratha</b> 20 June Direct Distribution payment</p>	<p><b>July 2024</b> 1 July Charitable trust and wealth creation policy reset</p>
<p><b>August 2024</b> 15 August relief of poverty payment</p>	<p><b>September 2024</b> 26 September DMC &amp; Council meeting</p>
<p><b>October 2024</b> 25 October joint DMC &amp; YAC directors meeting 26 October YAC directors meeting</p>	<p><b>November 2024</b> 7 November relief of poverty payment 8 November YAC directors meeting 11 November DMC &amp; Council meeting <b>12 November Beneficiaries meeting</b> <b>13 November YAC 2024 AGM</b> <b>Venue: Red Earth Arts Centre Karratha</b></p>
<p><b>December 2024</b> 13 &amp; 27 December Direct Distributions payments</p>	

## YAC information meetings 11am - 3pm

Friday 12 April 2024 Pegs Creek Pavilion  
Karratha

Monday 15 April 2024 Ashburton Hall  
Paraburdoo

Wednesday 17 April 2024  
Perth YAC Office

These are information sessions for YAC to provide general updates on YAC activities to the Yinhawangka members and stakeholders. All Yinhawangka members, proponents, stakeholders, and community members are welcome to attend.

**YINHAWANGKA ABORIGINAL CORPORATION**  
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