

ISSUE NO. 3 | 2020

# YINHAWANGKA NEWS



Gaju (Magic Pool)


## CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

**Halloway Smirke**

YALI BIDDI BARDA BARDA NHU  
YINHAWANGKA BARKANA JUNGOO  
THARMBARDI GOORDA NGAR

Hello and welcome all.

Being the Chairperson has been a learning experience in itself, having a Board with Independent members was beneficial and I'm sure the other Traditional Owner Directors observed events unfold from going into administration in 2019 and then to the process of ORIC handing back to the Yinhawangka People early this year. It was like the beginning of something new, something different and something deadly, we knew the road forward would have its challenges but we stayed focused on working out a strategic plan that would compliment all parties involved in the economic development of the Yinhawangka People.



Some setbacks were the COVID-19 pandemic, the destruction of the Juukan Gorge sites and the introduction of a new heritage bill, but also the loss of so many families, role models and mentors, made the process of doing business tougher.

This Board is knowledgeable, focused, and willing to use critical thinking when making difficult decisions. Using our Culture, Heritage, and Language is putting Yinhawangka closer to the status of other Indigenous groups nationally, collectively with surrounding T.O. Groups working with the Regional Framework Agreement (RFA) we as Pilbara Aboriginal People could take steps towards global leadership.

I have been involved closely with the Regional Implementation Committee, part of the RFA, and closely involved in discussion about the new heritage bill and the RFA standards, business development, employment, and training.

The Local Implementation Committee is a forum just for Yinhawangka and Rio Tinto. We have raised some serious issues with Rio Tinto, which I will talk about at the Meeting of Yinhawangka People and focusing on the RFA standards most relevant to Yinhawangka Country and People.

The Heritage and Environment Committee has been very busy dealing with two major Rio Tinto expansions in Yinhawangka Country and have been meeting every month. I am very grateful to them and our Survey Teams for their hard work. I am also very pleased with the work of the Finance Committee, which is ensuring that the Corporation uses its funding, from the Yinhawangka Trust, carefully and with accountability. I would like to thank the Yinhawangka staff, old and new for their ongoing efforts on the Boards behalf.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the Meeting of Yinhawangka People on 16 November and the Corporation's General Meeting on 17 November in Karratha for further discussion and direction regarding our Culture, Heritage and Language.

WALYI BINGARDA  
JUDIBITHUDRE

# NEWS FROM THE CEO

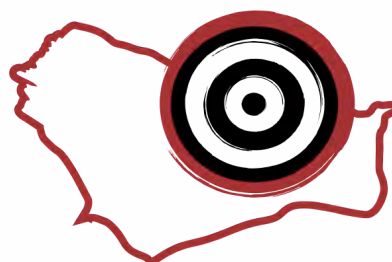
## Grant Bussell - Chief Executive Officer

Yinhawangka heritage continues to dominate our work here at the PBC. At the first Strategic Planning workshop that I attended, it seems to be the most important issue for Yinhawangka People as well, and why wouldn't it be? Every day I learn something new about the richness of the Yinhawangka lands and culture, living and ancient.

As recent events have shown, our local community aren't so aware of the landscape around them - we can work to change that. The State as a whole, in its new Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Bill, seems to be more interested on facilitating harm to heritage, than protecting it. While the Minister says his Bill empowers Yinhawangka People to protect their heritage, it doesn't. At best it will allow you, probably through the PBC, to be consulted, before a decision is made by someone else, somewhere else. The Board has resolved to oppose this Bill.



We have spent a lot of time talking to Rio Tinto since the destruction of the ancient PKKP rockshelters, trying to rebuild our confidence in the company. Halloway and I will report to you about that at the Meeting of Yinhawangka People on Monday 16 November in Karratha.



# NEWS FROM THE RANGER PROGRAM

## Hilton Gruis & Marlon Cooke - Lands Team Leaders

The Ranger team have been very busy working with the Yinhawangka Healthy Country Plan which forms the foundation of our conservation, land management and cultural heritage activities.

Important places in Yinhawangka Country will have a minimum of two monitoring visits per year and because there are fifty-five listed, this is a major activity for the Ranger team. Our monitoring involves recording the condition of the lands, water, invasive pests, plant and animal life.

To assist us with this work, the Rangers use drones to monitor these places. Drones provide us with the ability to monitor sites overtime and identify patterns to help protect, preserve and improve these sites.

Some of those places monitored are; Kallanin Creek, Kabu/Gabor Springs, Warnarra Spring, Bibi Jibal Tree, Nyirrinba Spring, Kankalaggari (Coppin Pool), Jirrawing Spring, Wawu Rockhole, Jarrungka Jarrungka (Rocklea Station), Pirdawali (Palm Springs), Pangarnu (German Rockhole), Warndanygarlal Spring, Jubarda Hill (Jupiter Well), Barlgangarna Hill (Mt. Jope), Parndarla (Bundella Bore), Mardunyimi Spring, Warlarra Winya Creek, Wirndal Wirndal Springs, and Karlgatharra.

### Jabarda Hill



### Nganjulgardi



### Bibi Jibal Tree



# ABORIGINAL FLAG FLIES

A permanent flag pole to fly the Aboriginal flag was raised for the first time by Yinhawangka Elder, Roma Jean Butcher and Sergeant Carl Fjastad at Paraburdoo Police Station.

## TOURS ON COUNTRY

### 'On Country' with Rio Tinto

Marlon Cooke conducted a Cultural Heritage education session with Rio Tinto employees at Birdawali (Palm Springs), an important site on Yinhawangka Country. Marlon talked about Yinhawangka People's connection to the land and water, and the cultural significance of the area. Rio Tinto management have asked for more sessions in the future.



### Paraburdoo Primary School Curriculum Day at Bellary Springs

Ranger Kalwin Dann hosted a tour at Bellary Springs for primary school staff, sharing cultural knowledge about its importance and the Yinhawangka People's ongoing connection to the land evidenced by the rock carvings which adorn the cliff faces, and about the plant and animal life, and respecting the land and its Traditional Owners.



# NAIDOC

Yinhawangka staff and the Shire of Ashburton, Rio Tinto, Paraburdoo Youth Centre, Paraburdoo Primary School, Department of Communities, Sodexo, and Karingal Neighbourhood Centre, have been busily preparing to provide the Paraburdoo community with education and entertainment about Yinhawangka culture, heritage, and Country. Kalwin, Marlon and guest Amoy collected wood and made jarnjin (dance sticks) to use in traditional Yinhawangka ceremonial dance and song as a part of the celebrations. On display during NAIDOC will be a Yandi dish which Marlon hand carved from a scar tree, salvaged from an area soon to be mined.



## ARTEFACTS RETURN TO COUNTRY

The grinding stones were found by Terry in 1979, near the Paraburdoo mine site and were recently returned to Yinhawangka. The grinding stones can be seen at the Paraburdoo head office.



Kalwin



Marlon



Wooden Artefacts



Kalwin, Marlon, Terry & Allissa

# HERITAGE NEWS

**Dr Anna Fagan**

**Implementation Officer / Archaeologist & Anthropologist**

The heritage sphere has been extremely busy over the last few months – overwhelming at times and often heartbreaking. However, we have had some wins.

We are arguing in the National Native Title tribunal for the Right to Negotiate over exploration tenements that lie over or near significant Yinhawangka places. These include: Nyimili; the Three Pools complex – Nganjulgardy, Nyirrinpa, and Gathangura; and we are currently in the process of collecting evidence and witness statements to protect Barlgangarna. This is the best means we have to protect Important Places. These witness statements are very valuable and can easily and quickly be reused in the future. The more evidence we collect and have at our disposal, the better off we are.

Heritage surveys have been going full bore since COVID-19 restrictions eased. Yinhawangka do not have to consent to the destruction of sites. We are changing the reports from consultants, so that the information they collect about Yinhawangka places will be much clearer and will also be provided in audio-visual media. Written words do not fully capture or express Yinhawangka voices and landscape in the same way that film is able to.



On survey in Western Range

Audio-visual documentation is a great tool to support Yinhawangka's applications to the EPA, Native Title Tribunal, Rio Tinto and to the general public. It will furthermore be an invaluable resource for generations to come.



## **YINHAWANGKA JOBS**

There are two roles available at the Yinhawangka Paraburdoo head office. To apply please contact the office to put forward your resume.

- Customer Service Manager - Full Time
- Senior Administration Officer (Heritage) - Full Time

## **RIO TINTO JOB NETWORK**

Rio Tinto are keen to speak with people looking for a job in mining, all you need is a relevant manual drivers licence and you can get started by applying to their Job Talent Network, where they can help find a position for you.

- Call Kerry Lofts (Talent Advisor Indigenous Recruitment) on 0436 946 342

## **REGIONAL IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE**

Rio Tinto's RIC has the potential to be very effective, with meetings arranged with State Government Ministers and senior public servants, to get outcomes for Traditional Owners. Established under the Regional Framework Deed, the committee is formed by Pilbara PBC's with Rio Agreements. It influences Rio's behaviour and decisions on a regional basis. There is a position on the committee available, please contact the office.

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