

YINHAWANGKA NEWSLETTER

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Inside this issue:



Living Cultures project gets underway

Donald Limerick celebrates 12 years on country at West Angelas



Meet our new ranger coordinator

Dates inside for member services team visits to Karratha, Port Hedland, Bellary Springs and Wakuthuni



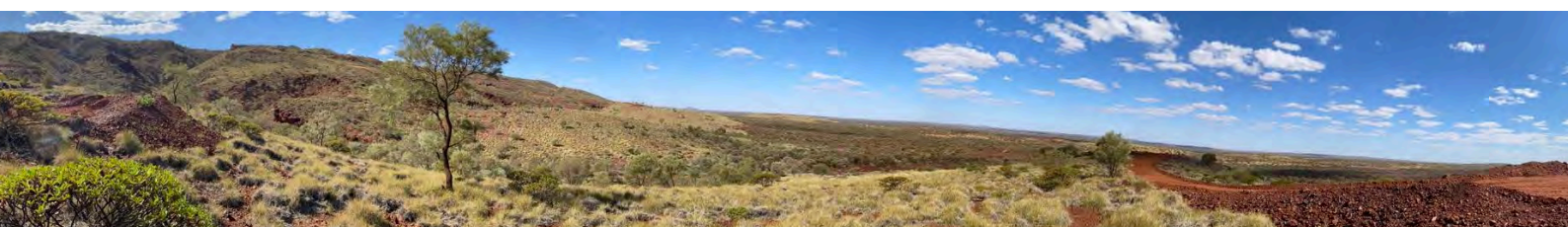
CONTENTS

1. Message from the Chair
2. Message from the CEO
3. Ranger program update
4. Agreements Modernisation update
5. Heritage update
6. Living Cultures update
7. Community stories & events
8. Member services update
9. Key dates



Our acknowledgement

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 peoples. We are committed to protecting and caring for our country, history, heritage and culture. We send our deepest condolences to our members and community that have lost a loved one and send comfort for those that are still grieving.





Lorraine Injje
Chairperson

Message from the Chair



Dear Yinhawangka members

I am delighted to share recent updates on the initiatives and progress made by the Yinhawangka Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC (YAC). Our commitment to the four key areas of our organisation remains steadfast, ensuring that our focus and resources go into cultural heritage, native title, good governance, and member services.

This year, the Cultural Heritage and Language Committee has diligently worked to develop policies, procedures and practices that align with our pillars above and promote good governance and fairness to the Yinhawangka apical groups. The board of directors has enjoyed receiving the CHLC reports and recommendations. We know that the CHLC will be able to achieve great things for our cultural heritage and language by building these strong governance foundations from the outset.

The board of directors has formulated the plan for an interim trust split of mining benefit payments that gets more cash into the pockets of Yinhawangka people and into the community. Historically 70% of all funds have gone into the charitable trust and 30% has gone into the direct benefits trust. The board has been in discussions with Mutual Trust and Rio Tinto about a new split (to be determined by Yinhawangka) to get more money into the direct benefits trust in the immediate future. This will support our Yinhawangka social housing program aspirations and ease cost of living pressures for our community. We are meeting with the trust and DMC about this in the coming weeks and hope to share more information soon.

One of our significant achievements this year has been the launch of the Living Cultures program. Thanks to Hilton Gruis and all involved in getting the project off the ground. We are excited to see this program evolve throughout the year ahead.

We have also prioritised enhancing our corporate governance practices. Following on from the reappointment of Mutual Trust as trustee in 2023, we have been collaborating with the Mutual Trust on better information sharing, reporting and planning. This helps maintain high standards of accountability and transparency in each of our operations. Mutual Trust representatives attended our Perth information session in April 2024. The YAC directors and DMC will have joint meetings throughout the year to progress common goals.

You will see the recruitment for the YAC CEO commence in the coming weeks. We are grateful to Anthony Beven for his interim service to YAC during this transition period.

Looking ahead, we are committed to fostering a stronger sense of community and belonging among our members. We will continue to focus on initiatives that promote our four key areas. There will be more information sessions and consultation meetings for Living Cultures and Agreements Modernisation throughout this year. Our efforts are dedicated to building a resilient and prosperous future for the Yinhawangka People and continuing in the footsteps of our ancestors and elders to fight for a better future.

Thank you for your ongoing support and engagement. While it is tough at times, together we will achieve our shared vision for a thriving Yinhawangka community and culture.

Warm regards,

Lorraine Injje
YAC Chair



Anthony Beven
Interim CEO
services

Message from the CEO



Dear members

Welcome to the second YAC newsletter for 2024. Your corporation has been very active in recent months in delivering on our main pillars of managing native title, protecting cultural heritage, providing services to members and delivering strong governance.

In this edition we profile our new acting ranger coordinator, Brian Murgha and Donald Limerick, who is celebrating a milestone working with Rio Tinto on Yinhawangka country. We have also doubled our Yinhawangka employees with new rangers joining us as well as a number of full-time heritage positions advertised and filled in early May. These new roles are on top of the many people receiving casual heritage work, and will form an important part of how we manage and protect land and cultural heritage, and provide meaningful jobs on country for Yinhawangka people.

We wrapped up our first series of information meetings with the Karratha session held on 29 April 2024. While the numbers were small, the feedback was very positive and we were able to provide a lot of information to members about what is happening at YAC, and to answer questions. The next round of information meetings will be held in August 2024. Please keep an eye on the website for the dates and venues for the next round of information meetings. The Paraburdoo staff are also recommencing regular community visits to Bellary Springs and Wakathuni on the last Tuesday and Wednesday of every month to assist members with trust forms and membership queries.

In good news for members, the YAC directors listened to the members and requested Rio Tinto to change the apportionment of compensation payments from the Western Turner Syncline S17 area between the Yinhawangka direct benefits and charitable trust, and Rio Tinto agreed to this on 10 May 2024. What this means is that the 75% of the compensation from the Western Turner Syncline will now go to the direct benefits trust, which is used to make cash payments to members and to fund the wealth creation programs, instead of the usual 30%. The trust will consider the additional payments received and decide on how much and when payments will be distributed to members. The directors asked for these changes, which only apply to Western Turner Syncline payments and not other compensation, to help members with the increased cost of living that everyone is experiencing.

Members have also asked for a community bus for a long time and the directors recently approved the purchase of a new YAC mini-bus. The bus will be based in Paraburdoo and be used to assist with transport members to community events and funerals. The bus is currently being prepared with YAC logos and will soon be on the roads around Paraburdoo.

I travel frequently between the Paraburdoo and Perth offices and am available to meet with members. If I am not available the YAC staff are always happy to assist and answer questions.

Thank you

Anthony Beven
Project manager



Marlon Cooke inducting new acting ranger coordinator, Brian Murgha to country.



Members' information meeting in Paraburdoo, April 2024



Frankie Benning and Anthony Beven on country



Brian Murgha appointed acting ranger coordinator

In April 2024 YAC welcomed Brian into the role of acting ranger coordinator.

"I am a proud Gunggandji man from Yarrabah, QLD. My experience in this field spans over 10 years, with a significant portion spent coordinating ranger programs in Queensland. As a proud Aboriginal man, I hold cultural values and respect as some of the most important aspects of my work. I love what I do, and I look forward to contributing to the YAC team."

Rangers on country

Message from our acting ranger coordinator

I have been in the role of acting Ranger Coordinator now for just over two weeks and am enjoying the experience of working on Yinhawangka country. I thank everyone, particularly the ranger team and Hilton Gruis for the warm welcome I have received.

I also thank Marlon Cooke for the cultural induction he provided me on Yinhawangka country – this was a special experience.

The Yinhawangka rangers have been busy on country in recent weeks. We look forward to providing more regular updates of ranger activities.



Recent Healthy Country plan activities

- setting up trail cameras at specific locations on country to allow rangers to capture data and activity at the locations, including the movement of native and feral animals. This data is used by rangers to develop management strategies to minimise potential impact caused by animals and other factors to the natural environment.
- drone missions to survey recorded sites twice a year - one in the wet season and one in the dry season. This allows rangers to see changes on country across the seasons.
- when rangers are not working on country, the team spends a lot of time at the ranger base cleaning and maintaining our assets. This includes vehicle checklists, washing vehicles, cleaning up the ranger shed, and checking all equipment to ensure it is operational and usable.

Photos above and on right show of recent ranger program activities.

Environmental monitoring & surveys

Over the last three weeks the ranger team has undertaken a number of environmental surveys as part of monitoring activities on country:

- five day aluta quadrata health monitoring activity at Western Range.
- four-day quadrata pollination survey at Western Range.

Agreements modernisation update

The plan to finish Agreements modernisation (AMod)

As part of the push to finalise AMod the board has appointed an AMod negotiations committee to meet regularly with Rio Tinto decision makers.

Members of the negotiations committee are:

- Roy Tommy
- Holloway Smirke
- Lorraine Injie
- Darren Injie
- Cecil Parker
- Brendon Cook
- Rhonda Parker

The negotiations committee had its first meeting with Rio Tinto decision makers Friday 3 May 2024. This meeting was to discuss with Rio Tinto Yinhawangka's expectations in relation to the three key priority areas.

1. transfer of Rocklea Station into Yinhawangka ownership.
2. business opportunities from Rio Tinto's activities in and around Yinhawangka country.
3. constructive forward looking resolution of legacy issues arising from lack of mining benefits payments or other compensation.

Yinawangka expects to meet with Rio Tinto CEO Simon Trott for the purpose of seeking alignment on the expectations to finish AMod in the near future.

You will hear from us soon with dates for the next round of consultation sessions.



Western Turner Syncline payments to go into the direct benefits trust

Rio Tinto and YAC are finalising an agreement to vary the mining benefit payments between the direct benefits trust and the charitable trust for Western Turner Syncline (WTS) only as follows:

- 75% will be paid to the direct benefits trust and
- 25% to the charitable trust

This change applies only to payments from WTS.

Mutual Trust will be seeking the endorsement of the DMC and Council to make the WTS payments at meetings on 21 and 22 May 2024, and discuss the timing of payments. Mutual Trust will communicate the details to members after these meetings.

A new interim % split for mining benefit payments

Yinawangka people require additional cash benefits to assist with cost of living and other pressures. To achieve this YAC is seeking to vary the % split of mining benefit payments. This is in line with the benefits management structure (BMS) principle 'it is for Yinawangka to decide how the funds are split between the trusts'. YAC has prepared draft legal documentation to vary the split.

YAC will be meeting with Mutual Trust, DMC and Council in the coming weeks to progress this with Rio Tinto, and get more direct distribution payments out to members.

BMS negotiations with Rio Tinto

YAC, through AMod, continues to negotiate changes to the BMS in line with the approved BMS principles. These changes are complex and will take time to draft, consult with and seek the authorisation of Yinawangka people.

Yinhawangka heritage

The Yinhawangka CHLC and heritage department has started the year strong. Yinhawangka survey teams have been conducting archaeological cultural salvage, archaeological site recording and ethnographic surveys at Western Range and West Angelas. Additional surveys have been added in May 2024 for West Angelas and Western Range.

If you want to go on a survey, please make sure you are on the list that is provided to the CHLC leads by sending an email to heritage@yinhawangka.com.au with your name, mobile number, what town you live in and availability.



Rio Tinto West Angelas mine artefact display cabinets



A big thank you to Marlon Cooke who went to West Angelas mine to set up Rio Tinto new artefact display cabinets. We think you will all agree these are a great way to enhance the visibility of Yinhawangka culture.

Rio Tinto West Angelas mine excavation results

In October 2023 YAC, Rio Tinto and Snappy Gum took a sediment sample from the base of an excavation pit at rockshelter site WARE13-10, under section 18 consent (reference 69-162610).

WARE13-10 is located at Rio Tinto's West Angelas mine 110km west of Newman. The pit was originally excavated in 2018, however under Rio Tinto's integrated heritage management procedure it was agreed that dating work take place on samples from the area.

The optically stimulated luminescence (OSL) dating results returned a date of 30,000 years for the base of the excavation pit, suggesting there may have been occasional occupation of the rockshelter going that far back.

If you would like to see the full report log on to YIMS.



Mapping

Winyama has recently updated and relaunched their online free mapping courses Indigenous mapping workshop (IMW). For more information & to access the courses go to:

<https://www.imwaustralia.com/on-demand>

Winyama is also holding an in person event, this time in Boorloo (Perth) early September. There will be an expression of interest (EOI) process to secure a spot. Further information will be uploaded to the website and on Facebook.

Don't forget to sign up to the Yinhawangka Information Management System (YIMS).

YIMS is an online mapping webpage where you can view what surveys have occurred, where known heritage places have been recorded and what mining tenements are active on country yinhawangka.essolutions.com.au

Renee Malacari will be showcasing the YIMS system to upcoming CHLC, board and future YAC information meetings.



Photo from Living Cultures launch in March 2024.

Living Cultures update

Living Cultures presented at the YAC community information forums held at Paraburdoo, Perth and Karratha and provided an overview of the aims and timelines of the project.

YAC will be tendering for expert consultants to undertake the community engagement & partnership, history & living heritage work. The tender documentation has been prepared and will proceed soon.

Some queries were also raised about the possibility of Living Cultures funding business ideas from members. Living Cultures is not a funding agent and does not fund individual businesses. However there is potential scope for it to assist members to identify and access funding agencies and philanthropic trusts as well as the fundamentals of establishing a new business and grant writing.

The **partnership coordinator** position is an important role for the Living Cultures. The person appointed needs to be a senior knowledge holder, have exceptional communication and community engagement skills with a strong understanding of the Yinhawangka people and culture. This position is based in Paraburdoo but will work across all the major Yinhawangka population areas of Perth, Geraldton, Onslow, Karratha/Roebourne, South Hedland, and Paraburdoo. Keep an eye out for the advertisement soon.

Living Cultures member forums

Once we have the partnership coordinator's position filled and the tender is completed the project will start recruiting for community consultants from the Yinhawangka members to facilitate the promotion and conducting community engagement workshops.

These workshops will gather data from Yinhawangka people to form the Living Cultures project plan against the eight priority areas.



Roy Tommy is giving a speech at the Living Cultures launching in March 2024.

Rocklea



Upcoming events

There are number of Paraburdoo community events coming up soon.

Reconciliation Week activities a virtual breakfast and storytime session will include a reading of a story composed and told respectively by Yinhawangka authors Jugari Injie and June Injie, *The girl is looking for her little brother*.

NAIDOC Week will kick off on the anniversary of the determination date in Paraburdoo on Wednesday 17th July, and Rowan's Walk.

Information will be sent out to members closer to these dates. We encourage everyone to attend.

Reconciliation week

- Mon 27 May – national virtual breakfast
- Tue 28 May & Thu 30 May – storytime @ Lesser Hall
- Sun 2 June – art showcase sundowner @ Ashburton Hall

NAIDOC week

- 17 July – 23 July 2024 (Paraburdoo)
- Keep an eye out on Facebook for NAIDOC activities



**KEEP THE FIRE
BURNING!
BLAK, LOUD
AND PROUD**

7-14 JULY 2024

Rowan's Walk

- Friday 23 August 2024
Paraburdoo & Pilbara wide

Donald Limerick's milestone

Donald Limerick, an Yinhawangka Cultural Heritage and Language Committee member, celebrated a milestone this month. Donald has been working at West Angelas since 2012 so that is a grand total of 12 years.

He is employed as a gardener and maintenance worker and travels in and out of Karratha on a FIFO roster.

Congratulations Donald on your milestone. We hope you get to 20 years!



Introducing our new community van: driving positive change together

We're thrilled to announce our new community van is on its way.

Why is this van such a big deal?

- **Increased accessibility:** with our new van, accessibility becomes a reality for everyone in our community. Whether it's people needing transportation for members attending Yinhawangka meetings, or individuals attending community events, our van is here to ensure that no one gets left behind. This will be outlined in a new policy that will be written and published.
- **Environmental friendliness:** by consolidating trips and promoting carpooling, we're taking meaningful steps towards sustainability.
- **Strengthened community bonds:** a shared mode of transportation fosters connections among community members. From spontaneous chats during rides to collaborative outings and group activities, our van serves as a catalyst for building stronger bonds and nurturing a sense of belonging.
- **Versatile utility:** from shuttle services for local events to mobile outreach programs and beyond, the possibilities with our van are endless. Its versatility allows us to adapt to the evolving needs of our community swiftly and efficiently.

Our new community van represents more than just a mode of transportation — it symbolises our collective commitment to inclusivity, sustainability, and solidarity.



Welcome to all new members

YAC has accepted 34 new members since July 2023.

We are planning regular member services visits to Karratha, Port Hedland, Bellary Springs and Wakuthuni communities.

Our members services team would like to encourage members visiting Paraburdoo who require access to a computer and phone to visit our office in the IGA shopping centre. The members self-serve desk has been set up so members can print, lodge and follow up applications. If you are visiting Perth, you can visit the Perth office anytime at Level 9, 16 St Georges Terrace to get copies of any of the application forms.

Any queries?
Contact the member services team on 08 9189 5110 or email admin@yinhawangka.com.au

Recent activities

The members services team has been busy supporting and setting up the YAC information sessions in Paraburdoo, Perth and Karratha. These sessions are an opportunity to hear the latest news from the CEO and team, and for members to ask questions. All are welcome to attend these sessions and we hope to see you at the next one.



Aboriginal mental health first aid training

Aboriginal mental health first aid training was held in March 2024 in Perth and Paraburdoo. We'd like to thank Estelle Ingie for providing the training in Perth. Attendance and feedback was great. It highlighted the need for YAC to continue providing these important courses to members and staff. The aim of the course is to provide tools to help ourselves, family or friends when experiencing mental health issues and crises.



Next round of mental health first aid:

We will be running more free Aboriginal mental health first aid training:

- Karratha - 5th & 6th June
- Port Hedland - 13th & 14th June 2024

Please call Hayley on 0417 900 612 to register

KEY DATES

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

MAY 2024

Mutual Trust personal plan sessions

- Mon 20 May – Paraburdoo
- Thu 23 May – Perth, Mutual Trust offices
- Wed 29 May – South Hedland, Youth Involvement Council

Member services community visits

- Tue 28 May – Bellary
- Wed 29 May – Wakuthuni

Meetings

- Thu 30 May – Joint DMC & YAC directors meeting
- Fri 31 May - YAC directors meeting

JUNE 2024

Member services community visits

- Fri 7 Jun – Karratha
- Wed 12 Jun – Port Hedland

Payments:

- Thu 20 Jun – direct distribution payment

JULY 2024

- Mon 1 Jul – charitable trust and wealth creation policy reset

NAIDOC week in Paraburdoo

- Wed 17 Jul to Tue 23 Jul
(Keep an eye out on Facebook for events)

AUGUST 2024

- Thu 15 Aug – relief of poverty payment

YAC information meetings

- Thu 1 Aug – Perth
- Mon 19 Aug – Karratha
- Tue 20 Aug – Port Hedland
- Thu 29 Aug - Paraburdoo

SEPTEMBER 2024

Meetings

- Thu 26 Sep – DMC & Council meeting
- Thu 19 Sep - direct distribution payment

OCTOBER 2024

- Fri 25 Oct – Joint DMC & YAC directors meeting
- Sat 26 Oct – YAC directors meeting

NOVEMBER 2024

- Thu 7 Nov – Relief of poverty payment

Meetings

- Fri 8 Nov – YAC directors meeting
- Mon 11 Nov– DMC & Council meeting
- Tue 12 Nov – Beneficiaries meeting
(Venue: Red Earth Arts Centre Karratha)
- Wed 13 Nov -YAC 2024 AGM
(Venue: Red Earth Arts Centre Karratha)

DECEMBER 2024

Direct distributions payments

- Fri 13 Dec
- Sat 28 Dec

Website www.yinhawangka.com.au

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