ISSUE 4 | October 2008

YLSC News

News from Yamatji Land and Sea Council

CONTENTS | **02** MESSAGE FROM THE REGIONAL MANAGER | **03** YOUR LAND COUNCIL, YOUR SAY | **04** WORKING FOR YAMATJI TRADITIONAL OWNERS | **05** PUBLICATION UNITES MID-WEST INDIGENOUS BUSINESS | **06** MY COUNTRY, MY LANGUAGE | **07** YAMATJI MEETING WITH NOEL PEARSON | **08** NEW FREECALL NUMBER

Above: Sunset in Wajarri Yamatji country.

Uranium education **essential**

With uranium becoming an important issue in WA, Yamatji Land and Sea Council (YLSC), has called for government support to educate native title groups on uranium issues.

Russell Simpson, Regional Manager of YLSC, said that regardless of which policies are implemented from the State election, there is a need for Traditional Owners to receive correct information about uranium exploration and mining.

"As a land council we are not for, or against, uranium. Our job is to ensure groups make fully informed decisions and have their rights protected under the *Native Title* and *Aboriginal Heritage Acts*," he said.

He said that cultural practices such as hunting, collecting bush tucker, conducting ceremonies and protecting sacred lands and waters mean that Aboriginal people needed to understand the effects of uranium activity on their lands.

Mr Simpson said YLSC had been working on uranium education but needed more support from government bodies to make sure Traditional Owners receive the information they need.

"We are speaking with groups about uranium and have worked with experts to develop a uranium schedule in our heritage agreements. However, we are not funded to do this and urgently need support to ensure Traditional Owners receive clear and balanced information.

"It's up to each Traditional Owner group to make the decision that's right for their people and their country. Its government's responsibility to make sure that they have the best information available to help make these decisions," Mr Simpson said.

While we have made every effort to ensure this publication does not contain any culturally sensitive material, there may be references to, and images of, people who have since passed away. If you have any concerns please contact us.

Message from the Yamatji Regional Manager **Russell Simpson**

Welcome to the fourth edition of YLSC News.

As Regional Manager, I encourage our members to attend one of the October workshops about the changes to the land council's constitution. It's important to be involved in these discussions and have your say on how your land council runs.

This edition talks about YLSC being governed by an Aboriginal Board for Aboriginal people, the need for the State Government to provide funding for uranium education, the visit to Cape York by the Co-Chairs of the Board and Yamatji language.

Enjoy reading our newsletter and please pass it on to friends and family, or call our office to get a copy delivered to your door.

Above: Wildflowers in Yamatji country.

Your Land Council, **Your Say**

This October, Yamatji Land and Sea Council (YLSC) will be holding community consultation workshops to talk about changes to the land council's constitution.

The changes are being made because of new government legislation about the way Aboriginal Corporations are run. The consultation workshops are a chance for native title claimants and members to learn about the proposed changes. A special general meeting to vote on the changes will be held in Exmouth on Saturday, 8 November. Meeting details will be available closer to the date.

For more information on the Corporations Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Act (CATSIA) visit: www.oric.gov.au, or phone 1800 622 431.

Community Workshops:

Geraldton

Date: Monday, 6 October

Venue: PCYC, 105 Pass Street

Time: 9am to 12 noon

Carnarvon

Date: Tuesday, 7 October

Venue: Woolshed Hall Civic Centre

Time: 9am to 12 noon

Meekatharra

Date: Wednesday, 8 October

Venue: Meekatharra Town Hall

Time: 9am to 12 noon

Mount Magnet

Date: Thursday, 9 October

Venue: Anzac Hall

Time: 9am to 12 noon

Perenjori

Date: Friday, 10 October

Venue: Pavillion Fowler Street

Time: 9am to 12 noon

Special General Meeting for all Members

Date: Saturday, 8 November

Venue: Exmouth

For information on the workshops, please contact YLSC:

Freecall: 1300 7 12345 or 9965 6222

Front L-R: Co-Chairs of the YMBBMAC Board of Directors, Roy Bellotti and Doris Eaton.
Back L-R: Richard Oakley, Kathleen Musulin, Allen 'Boyo' Mitchell, Toby Smirke, Natalie Parker, Peter Windie, Nora Cooke, Anthony Dann.

Working for Yamatji **Traditional Owners**

Yamatji Land and Sea Council is run for Aboriginal people by an Aboriginal Regional Committee and Board of Directors.

YLSC is part of the Yamatji Marlpa Barna Baba Maaja Aboriginal Corporation, which also represents native title groups in the Pilbara (Marlpa Country)

Because of the differences between Yamatji and Marlpa cultures, each region elects a Regional Committee to give direction on matters that are related to either Yamatji or Marlpa country.

Six members from each Regional Committee are elected to create Yamatji Marlpa Barna Baba Maaja Aboriginal Corporation's (YMBBMAC's) Board of Directors.

The Board of Directors run YMBBMAC's direction and govern the organisation. The Board is also accountable to our members.

Your YMBBMAC Board of Directors are:

- Co-Chairperson, Roy Bellotti
- Allen 'Boyo' Mitchell
- Richard Oakley
- Anthony Dann
- Kathleen Musulin
- Peter Windie

Your YLSC Regional Committee is:

- Chairperson, Roy Bellotti
- Vice-Chairperson, Allen 'Boyo' Mitchell
- Doug Comeagain
- Mavis Curley
- Anthony Dann
- Colin Hamlett
- Brian Jones
- Vince Jones
- Vaughan Lane
- Kathleen Musulin
- Richard Oakley
- Peter Windie
- Fred Taylor
- Wayne Warner
- Laurence Hodder

Above: The Yamatji Land and Sea Council team with the first issue of *Yamatji Business News*.

Publication unites **Mid-West Indigenous business**

In September, YLSC launched the first issue of *'Yamatji Business News'*, promoting Indigenous economic and business opportunities in the Murchison, Gascoyne and Mid-West regions.

YLSC recently appointed Ms Caroline Williams to the position of Economic Development Officer.

Her first initiative has been to establish *'Yamatji Business News'* as a focus point for the Aboriginal community, government agencies and other stakeholders.

Regional Manager, Russell Simpson said, "There are a lot of great initiatives happening in the region, but there didn't seem to be one place for the community to go for information.

Yamatji Business News aims to bring everyone together to increase business opportunities for Aboriginal people.

We've had a great response from local organisations and we invite Indigenous businesses to be featured in upcoming editions."

Caroline Williams said, "The aim of *Yamatji Business News* is to increase people's awareness of projects and initiatives in the region.

I am hoping it will create more partnership opportunities for everyone to work together towards Indigenous economic and social advancement."

Yamatji Business News is a free publication and subscriptions can be made by calling Caroline Williams on 9965 6222, or visit: www.yamatji.org.au

*The Economic Development Officer position has been made possible thanks to contributions by the Indigenous Land Corporation, Mount Gibson Iron, Arc Energy, Harmony Gold, the Water Corporation, Giralia Resources, the Shire of Shark Bay and the City of Geraldton-Greenough.

Above: Migarda, Thorny Devil.

My Country, **My Language**

Around 250 different Aboriginal languages were spoken when Europeans first settled in Australia, including three in the Shark Bay region: Malgana, Nanda and Yingkarta.

The Malgana people, Traditional Owners of the central Shark Bay area, are currently enjoying a revival of their traditional language. Malgana is being taught in the local school, and is also being used in community projects, government information and local tourism ventures.

Preserving language is important for Traditional Owners as it keeps their culture strong and ensures that the next generation have a strong sense of identity.

To find out more about the region's Aboriginal languages contact the Yamatji Language Centre: (08) 9964 3550.

Malgana wangganyina *(talking Malgana)*:

Aboriginal person	Yamaji
Woman	Nyarlu
Man	Gardu
Friend	Yadgalah
Shark Bay	Gathaaguda
Dirk Hartog Island	Wirruwana
Sea	Wirriya
Shark	Thaaka
Pearl	Warda
Fresh water	Baba
Tree	Yalgari
Snake	Thayadi
Emu	Garlaya

Clockwise from top left: Noel Pearson, Peter Callaghan, Simon Hawkins, Allen 'Boyo' Mitchell, Roy Bellotti, Lou Griffiths, Mrs Doris Eaton and Natalie Parker.

Yamatji meeting with **Noel Pearson**

In July, Directors of Yamatji Marlpa Barna Baba Maaja Aboriginal Corporation, visited Cape York in northern Queensland.

The trip included a visit to Cape York Land Council and the Cape York Institute for Policy and Leadership. Co-chairs Roy Bellotti and Mrs Doris Eaton, with Deputy Chairs Allen 'Boyo' Mitchell, Natalie Parker and CEO Simon Hawkins met with land council staff and the Director of the Cape York Institute, Mr Noel Pearson, to talk about issues affecting Traditional Owners in Australia.

YMBBMAC visited the Aboriginal communities of Hopevale, Wugal Wugal and Mosman, which gave the team an insight into different ways in which communities do their business. The communities are part of a new welfare reform project that helps people with income management and business and economic development.

Noel Pearson also gave a presentation to YMBBMAC about developments in mining and the need for Traditional Owners to work together to strengthen their negotiation position.

Cape York Land Council Chairperson, Michael Ross, also shared his experience and knowledge of the area's environmental issues and coastal native title rights.

YMBBMAC co-chair, Roy Bellotti, said the experience was very valuable and the issues that were discussed impact all Traditional Owners and their country.

"Visiting other land councils in Australia and learning from each other is important for all Traditional Owners. If we can share our knowledge and work towards a common goal then it will benefit the future of our organisation and the Traditional Owners we represent," said Roy.

YLSC News

News from Yamatji Land and Sea Council

Above: Near Shark Bay, Malgana country.

New Freecall Number:
1300 7 12345

Yamatji Land and Sea Council now has a new freecall number. The number has been created to make it cheaper and easier for members to contact us.

Callers using the number will be automatically directed to the closest YLSC office.

Please note that the 1300 number is only for landlines, not mobile phones.

ABOUT US

YLSC News is produced by the Yamatji Marlpa Barna Baba Maaja Aboriginal Corporation.

We are the native title representative body for native title claims in the Murchison, Gascoyne, Mid-West and Pilbara regions of Western Australia.

We work with Yamatji Aboriginal people to pursue:

- Recognition and acceptance of Yamatji culture in country
- A strong future for Yamatji people and country

MEMBERSHIP

YLSC membership is open to all adult Yamatji people. Our membership also includes people who live in other areas but who have a traditional connection to Yamatji country.

SERVICES

Our work includes:

- Providing legal representation and research to assist with native title claims
- Negotiating land use agreements
- Heritage protection services
- Community, economic and environmental projects

SUBSCRIBE

Get YLSC News delivered to you!

To join our mailing list, visit:

www.yamatji.org.au

or contact the YLSC office.

Please note that the information contained in this newsletter does not constitute legal advice.

CONTACT US

FREECALL: 1300 7 12345

GERALDTON (Head Office)
171 Marine Tce Geraldton WA
PO Box 2119 Geraldton WA 6531
Tel: 08 9965 6222
Fax: 08 9964 5646
Freecall: 1300 7 12345

PERTH
5th Floor Septimus Roe Building
256 Adelaide Terrace Perth WA 6000
PO Box 3072 Adelaide Tce Perth WA 6832
Tel: (08) 9268 7000
Fax: (08) 9225 4633

www.yamatji.org.au
ICN 2001