



YMAC News

News from Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation

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YMAC's Co-Chair Announced **Elder of the Year**

Mrs Doris Eaton, Aboriginal Elder of the Nyamal people and YMAC's Pilbara Chairperson, was announced Female Elder of the Year at the NAIDOC Awards in Brisbane.

The National Aboriginal and Islander Day Observance Committee awards recognise the outstanding contributions Indigenous Australians make to improve the lives of people in their communities. Mrs Eaton was recognised for her cultural leadership and work in the Pilbara.

Mrs Eaton is involved in health programs for Aboriginal women and children, care for the elderly, native title issues and was the first woman elected as Co-Chair of Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation.

She is respected for her significant cultural role as an Aboriginal Law woman and is the matriarch for five generations of her own family. Mrs Eaton continues to educate herself about non-Indigenous culture and is currently studying at the Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education in Darwin.

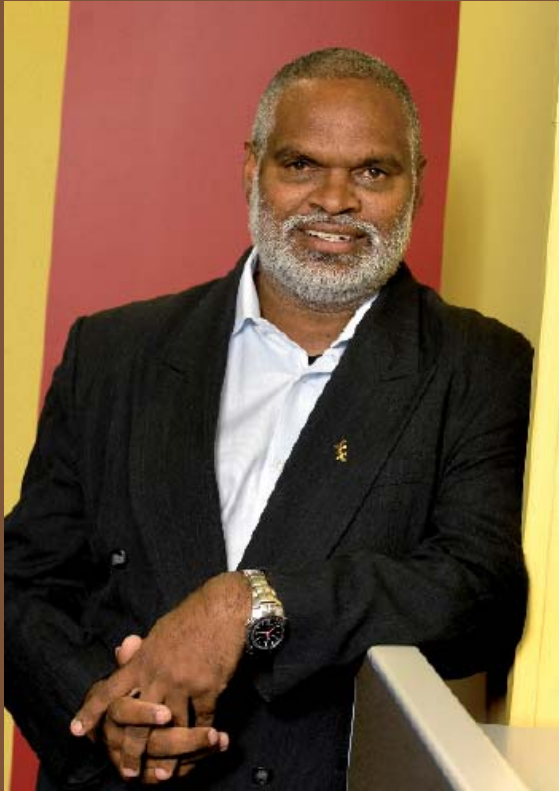
On receiving the award she said, "Preserving culture is important to keep traditions strong. Elders need to teach the youth their language, dreaming stories and cultural practices. First learn your own culture and then you can be strong enough to move between the two worlds, to marry Aboriginal and mainstream cultures together.

I'm honoured to receive the award, it's a good feeling. We need to keep learning and sharing and encouraging each other to move forward."



Message from

Yamatji Regional Manager - **Russell Simpson**
Pilbara Regional Manager - **Nyaparu Jeffries**



Above: Pilbara Regional Manager,
Nyaparu Jeffries



Above: Yamatji Regional Manager, Russell Simpson

“

Welcome to YMAC News!

Our Chairpersons have been in the national spotlight recently, with Mrs Doris Eaton announced as NAIDOC's Female Elder of the Year, and Roy Bellotti meeting with the Federal Minister for Indigenous Affairs, Jenny Macklin.

In this issue, we talk about the Kariyarra people's commercial agreement with Atlas Iron, as well as YMAC's work to increase understanding about uranium mining. We have also been proud to participate in the opening of the new ACCO food distribution centre in South Hedland, providing inexpensive groceries for low income families.

Our Annual Regional Meetings are coming up soon and we encourage all YMAC members to come along to hear about the work we have done over the last twelve months.

”



Yamatji Marlpa

ABORIGINAL CORPORATION

2009 Annual Regional Meetings

Our Annual Regional Meetings are for all YMAC members. They are a great opportunity to meet up with other members, to hear about the work we have done over the last 12 months and have your say about important issues.

Yamatji Annual Regional Meeting

Date: Saturday, 14 November

Location: Anzac Hall, Mt Magnet

Time: Arrive 9am for a 9.30am start

Yamatji Contact: Chris Dann in YMAC's Geraldton office on 9965 6222 or Freecall 1800 7 12345

Pilbara Annual Regional Meeting

Date: 28 November

Location: Sports Pavillion, Tom Price

Time: Arrive 9am for a 10am start

Pilbara Contact: Kylie Lawrie in YMAC's Karratha office on 9172 5433 or Freecall 1800 7 12345

Catering: Lunch will be catered, but YMAC is not funded to pay travel allowance for the attendance of members at this meeting.

Proxies: If you can't attend, we do encourage proxies - contact your local office for a proxy form.

We look forward to seeing you there!



Above: Kariyarra members and Atlas Iron representatives at the agreement signing.

Kariyarra negotiate land access agreement

In September, the Kariyarra native title group and Atlas Iron announced a land access agreement.

The agreement was for iron ore mining to go ahead over the Kariyarra claim area, covering approximately 17,052 square kilometres in the Pilbara.

Negotiations took only two months, with a strong emphasis on protection for culture and country. Key features of the agreement include:

- Recognised Exclusion Zones for areas of high cultural significance to the Kariyarra people.
- Financial compensation payments to the Kariyarra people for the impact of mining on their land.
- Facilitation of Atlas Iron's mining operations for the Wodgina Iron Ore Project and their port facilities in Port Hedland.
- Processes for consultation about the environmental impacts of Atlas Iron's projects.

- Employment, contracting and cross cultural education programs.
- A Monitoring and Liaison Committee, to be set up for long-term implementation of the agreement.

Simon Hawkins, CEO, Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation said, "This demonstrates that native title agreements can be negotiated in very short time frames, when a professional and genuine approach is taken.

Atlas Iron are proactive commercial negotiators with a good understanding of native title issues. The Kariyarra people recognised this and have arrived at an agreement that successfully secures strong protection for culture and country."



Above: YMAC's Yamatji Chairperson, Roy Bellotti with Jenny Macklin, Minister for Indigenous Affairs

YMAC meets **Minister for Indigenous Affairs**

In October, YMAC representatives attended the Federal Community Cabinet meeting in Geraldton.

The Prime Minister regularly holds Community Cabinet meetings across the country and invites individuals and community groups to meet Ministers and Department heads. This provides the opportunity to discuss ideas, issues and concerns about important local matters.

The Geraldton meeting commenced with a welcome to country from Naaguja Elder and former Yamatji Committee member, Yvonne Radcliffe. During the public forum, Russell Simpson, Yamatji Regional Manager questioned the Prime Minister on his position regarding the upcoming PKKP v FMG case in the High Court. Both the Prime Minister and Attorney-General Robert McClelland responded to Russell's question with positive support for WA Traditional Owners.

Other questions in the public forum included native title claim issues, employment and the impact of major mining projects in the Murchison-Gascoyne and Midwest.

The YMAC team later held a private meeting with Jenny Macklin, Minister for Indigenous Affairs. Topics discussed included the Square Kilometre Array and Oakajee Port and Rail projects in the Yamatji region, and native title commercial negotiations in the Pilbara.

Roy Bellotti, Yamatji Chairperson said, "The responses from the Prime Minister, Attorney-General and Minister for Indigenous Affairs showed strong support for Traditional Owners. It was an opportunity for YMAC to raise awareness at a national level about the issues facing our members."



Above: Ranger Uranium Mine, Kakadu National Park, Northern Territory.

Uranium: Workshops and Northern Territory Visit

In July, Traditional Owners in the Pilbara and Mid-West attended workshops to learn about uranium mining.

The events, held in Geraldton, Carnarvon and Karratha, were hosted by Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation and featured presentations by Dr Stephen Long, from the Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency.

The workshops provided information on radiation, types of mining, environmental and health risks, regulations and rehabilitation of mine sites. Questions raised by Traditional Owners included concerns over water use in mining, transportation of uranium from mine sites, impact on cultural practices and the long-term effects on flora and fauna.

Simon Hawkins, Chief Executive Officer, Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation said, "If a uranium mine does go ahead in WA, our members need to know how it's going to affect their country, communities and families."

In August, YMAC's Chairpersons and staff travelled to the Northern Territory to learn about the long-term impacts of uranium exploration and mining.

They met with representatives from Central Land Council and Northern Land Council to hear about their experiences of the uranium industry.

The group also met with Traditional Owners from Alice Springs and the Kakadu area. They visited mine sites and saw the damage done to country from old mining methods. They also met with companies who are working hard to rehabilitate damaged country and make sure mistakes from the past are not repeated.

The workshops and the trip to the Northern Territory were filmed. YMAC members will be notified when the DVDs are available.



Above: YMAC's Business Development Officer Cris Olegario, ACCO Chairperson Nyaparu Rose with YMAC's Pilbara Regional Manager, Nyaparu Jeffries at the Food Distribution Centre.

ACCO Food Centre for low income families

In September, the Aboriginal Communities Charitable Organisation (ACCO) celebrated the official opening of its Pilbara food distribution centre, providing inexpensive groceries to low-income families.

The ACCO food distribution centre will provide groceries for around a third of the usual supermarket price to people with Centrelink pension or concession cards.

The centre is a joint initiative for YMAC, Foodbank Inc and Newcrest Mining as the first project of the ACCO. The ACCO was formed in late 2008 as a non-profit charitable organisation working to 'close the gap' in local Indigenous communities.

ACCO Chairperson, Nyaparu Rose, said, "The opening of the centre is a testament to the great community spirit of the Pilbara. We are proud to be providing real benefits to Aboriginal people living in a mining town, where the cost of

living is artificially high", said Ms Rose.

Simon Hawkins, CEO, Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation said, "We encourage families to visit the centre, and for local businesses to support the ACCO. Substantial grocery savings will make a real difference to closing the gap for Aboriginal people in the Pilbara", said Mr Hawkins.

The ACCO food distribution centre is located at Pundulmurra TAFE Complex, 7 Roberts Street South Hedland. Opening hours are Wednesdays and Thursdays from 10am - 3pm.

To find out how you or your company can support the ACCO please contact YMAC's Business Development Officer Cris Olegario, colegario@ymac.org.au or (08) 9172 5433.



YMAC News

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Achievements Honoured

YMAC congratulates Allen 'Boyo' Mitchell, Nyaparu Rose and Mrs Doris Eaton on their recent achievements.

Boyo Mitchell has retired from YMAC after many years serving the Yamatji Committee and YMAC Board. A much loved and respected Board member, Boyo was thanked by staff at a celebratory morning tea.

Mrs Doris Eaton was also congratulated on her NAIDOC Elder of the Year award. Nyaparu Rose was thanked for her work in achieving native title rights for the Nyangumarta people.

YMAC also congratulates Nyaparu Rose on her recent graduation from Karratha TAFE in October. Nyaparu gained her Certificate IV in Business (Governance). The course is designed for directors and staff of Indigenous corporations. It provides training in business development, finance and governance. Nyaparu Rose will use the skills gained from the course to help run the Nyangumarta people's prescribed body corporate, 'Niyamarri Pukurl Aboriginal Corporation.'



Above: Allen 'Boyo' Mitchell, Nyaparu Rose and Doris Eaton.

ABOUT US

YMAC News is produced by the Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation (YMAC).

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 and Marlpa (Pilbara) Aboriginal people to pursue:

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

MEMBERSHIP

YMAC membership is open to all adult Yamatji and Pilbara people. Our membership also includes people who live in other areas but who have a traditional connection to Yamatji or Marlpa (Pilbara) 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

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