Yamatji *Business News*

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Do you work from home? >

Complimentary 12 Months Membership to MWCCI

The Mid West Chamber of Commerce and Industry is keen to have Indigenous home-based businesses join the MWCCI and are offering membership free of charge for one year.

The MWCCI membership has many benefits that can lead to increased business opportunities including:

- invitations to monthly 'Business After Hours' functions.
- discounted advertising in the MWCCI Directory
- electronic weekly bulletins
- significant savings on accommodation and telecommunications
- savings on attendance costs to industry events such as the Mid West Resources Forum

So if you're committed to success and to the wellbeing of the region in which you work and live, why not join us today?

For more information call 9964 6767 or email mwcci@wn.com.au

Caution: Readers please be advised this publication may contain the names, images, and words of deceased persons. We apologise for any distress this may cause.

Proposed gateway organisation for the Midwest >

Key Indigenous community, Industry and Government representatives have come together to form the Midwest Regional Partnership Steering Committee.

The Steering Committee has met to discuss a number of issues relating to Indigenous employment and training, including a proposed Indigenous Gateway for the Midwest.

Indigenous Gateway

It is proposed that Bundiyarra Aboriginal Corporation act as a contact point for employers and other organisations who want to speak with Indigenous organisations in the Mid-West. Bundiyarra would provide a one-stop-shop for non-Indigenous corporations, businesses and bodies to get information about who to approach for their needs.

In the next 3 to 4 weeks the Committee will be seeking to gain support from the State Government to develop the concept and will be encouraging native title claimants in the Mid West, Murchison regions to participate.

Indigenous Employment

The Steering Committee has also tabled the development of a Regional Indigenous Employment Strategy to enhance Indigenous employment and enterprise outcomes emerging from the mining industry. This initiative is being supported and driven by the Indigenous community in partnership with key industry groups, which includes the Geraldton Iron Ore Alliance and is supported by government agencies.

For More Information contact; Jenny at Bundiyarra (08) 99207900 or Wayne at the Midwest Development Commission (08) 99210702

Yamatji Land & Sea Council

Subscribe to Yamatji Business News for free: call 9965 6222 or visit www.yamatji.org.au

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Above: The Gascoyne Aboriginal Heritage and Cultural Centre. Image courtesy of Jones Coulter Young

Gascoyne Aboriginal Heritage and Cultural Centre >

The Gascoyne Aboriginal Heritage and Cultural Centre in Carnarvon is nearing readiness to open to the public. Furniture has been arriving and the fit-out of the Centre is almost complete.

Part of the fit-out for the Centre is three business incubator pods for Indigenous people who might have a great idea for a cultural tourism business that they want to start. The pods consist of a desk equipped with a computer and a phone to help get their venture off the ground.

An artist-in-residence space is being established to host a program of local artists and craftspeople who can spend some time working out of the Centre and exhibiting their creations.

A small retail space will enable a mix of locally made and other Indigenous products available to the general public for sale.

The Cultural Centre has been a long time in the making. The result of a 2002 native title agreement to open up land for housing in Carnarvon, it is a testament to the vision, hard work and long-term commitment of many Gascoyne Indigenous people.

For more information, contact Centre Manager Lorraine Fitzpatrick on 9941 1803.

Who do you contact for Business Start-up Information?>

The Small Business Centre Mid West is set up to available to help and support Aboriginal businesses, groups or individuals who want to start up or expand their own business.

The manager of the Small Business Centre in Geraldton is Malcolm Smith. He has many years experience managing and building small business' throughout Australia including ten years in Geraldton. He was also recently appointed as a "Preferred Service Provider" by Indigenous Business Australia.

Malcolm can provide a vast variety of business information including direct access to the Australian Taxation Office. He can also provide current information about licensing, strategic planning, banking, business planning, budgeting, cash flow management, human resources, industrial affairs and marketing and promotion.

All of the services provided by the Small Business Centre Mid West are free and Malcolm can be contacted on 99214741 or 0427851035 or e-mail malcolm@sbcmw.com.au

More support for Indigenous Tourism Operators >

Tourism WA's Product Development Managers help develop tourism products and services – such as attractions and accommodation. They provide tourism operators with advice and support for initiatives which will help grow their business.

Stefanie Schneider, who was previously responsible for running the Geraldton Visitor Centre, has been appointed as the Tourism WA's new Product Development Manager for Australia's Coral Coast, the coastal strip that stretches about 1200 kilometers from Cervantes to Exmouth. Stefanie will be based in Geraldton and regularly visit key areas in the region.

"Tourism WA is keen to accelerate the development of Aboriginal Tourism, especially in the regions." Ms Schneider says.

For information on how to start or develop your Indigenous tourism business please contact Stefanie Schneider on 9964 3685.

"Our vision is a nation in which the First Australians are economically independent and an integral part of the economy"

Indigenous Business Australia

Funding for your community projects>

Crosslands @Heart community support program provides funding support to projects in the community.

Crosslands Resources Ltd is the owner and operator of the Jack Hills iron ore mine located 380km north east of Geraldton, and also has mining leases at Weld Range near Meekatharra.

Under the Indigenous Programs Priority Focus Area, Crosslands can support projects that lead to Indigenous economic and social enhancement, promote cultural heritage or build Indigenous capacity.

Closing date for the current round of funding is September 15. For more information contact Crosslands' Indigenous Affairs Manager, Mark Bushell at mbushell@crosslands.com.au or on 9965 2240

Crosslands supported Anthony Little in his recent Olympic campaign. (from left) Trainer, Jeff Peterson with Crosslands' Mark Bushell, Olympian Anthony Little and Crosslands' Carleen Kelly

Increasing Indigenous Employment>

The City of Geraldton-Greenough's Reconciliation Committee, which was formed on 29 May 2008, consists of representatives from;

- Department of Child Protection
- Indigenous Coordination Centre
- Yamaji News
- Department of Indigenous Affairs
- Streetworkers Aboriginal Corporation
- Geraldton University Centre
- Kurongkurl Katitjin School of Indigenous Australian Studies
- Yamaji Language Centre
- Community members of the Naaguja and Amangu Groups
- the City Council

Investigations have revealed that no WA Local Governments have written Aboriginal employment policies and guidelines in place. Therefore, the Reconciliation Committee is drafting an Aboriginal Employment Policy to submit to Council.

It is intended that the policy will be accompanied by an Aboriginal employment strategy that will eventually lead to more Aboriginal people being employed by the Council.

For more information contact Lyn Geerlings, Indigenous Community Development Officer on 99210530.

Greater Opportunities with Indigenous Business Australia>

Indigenous Business Ausralia (IBA)'s vision is for "A nation in which the First Australians are economically independent and an integral part of the economy," and this vision is realised by assisting Indigenous Australians to:

- purchase their own homes through low interest loans
- participate in business through commercial projects, enterprises and partnerships
- progress in business with continuous support, including financial and economic advice
- own and control companies and investments that are likely to provide a long-term commercial return and economic self sufficiency
- gain higher economic returns from their assets

IBA works hard to ensure that future generations of Indigenous Australians live in better circumstances than current generations by removing the obstacles that prevent them from creating wealth, accumulating assets and fulfilling their aspirations.

If you are interested in finding out more about how IBA might be able to assist you to purchase your own home or start-up a business, please call 08 9237 7711 or visit our website www.iba.gov.au

Caroline Williams with YLSC Regional Manager Russell Simpson.

New Face at Land Council >

Yamatji Land and Sea Council has appointed Ms Caroline Williams to the position of Economic Development Officer. Caroline is keen to work with individuals, industry, Government and non-Government organisations to produce real training, employment and economic development outcomes for Yamatji people. Caroline can be contacted on 08 99656222 or cwilliams@yamatji.org.au.

The 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.

WGM Joint Venture with Gumala >

WGM Pty Ltd, have invited Gumala Aboriginal Corporation to enter into an agreement with the Indigenous people of the Wiluna through to Midwest areas, to establish general earthworks contracting.

WGM Pty Ltd was created to represent Wiluna and Midwest Aboriginal people in their negotiations to support regional-based businesses.

Gumala is a leading Indigenous development organisation based in the Pilbara and employing over 100 staff. Gumala's business interests include civil construction, contract mining, property management and tourism development.

Gumala's chairman Mr Stuart Injie said "Gumala and WGM will work together to ensure 'win win' outcomes that result in better living standards and opportunities for Traditional Owners in the Midwest."

WGM Chairman Jim Sandy said "A long consultation process with local Indigenous groups has been undertaken and that consultation will continue." A Memorandum of Understanding between WGM and Gumala was signed on Thursday August 28.

Image above: WGM Chairman Jim Sandy and Gumala Director Stewart Ingie at the signing.

Your Land Council, Your Say >

In October, Yamatji Land and Sea Council will be holding community consultation workshops to talk about changes that need to be made to the Land Council's constitution. The constitution changes are being made because of new Government legislation about the way Aboriginal Corporations are run*.

The community workshops will be held from the 6-10th of October in Geraldton, Carnarvon, Meekatharra, Mount Magnet and Perenjori. The workshops are a chance for all Land Council members and native title claimants to learn about the proposed changes. A special general meeting to vote on the changes will be held in Exmouth on the 8th of November.

For more information please contact Chris Dann at Yamatji Land and Sea Council on 9965 6222

**For more information on the Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Act please call or visit: www.orac.gov.au t:1800 622 431 e: info@oric.gov.au*

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