



# Yamatji Marlpa Business

Economic Development News from Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation

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**Above:** Shirley accepts her Indigenous Business Award. **L-R:** Rowena Roberts; Sinosteel Midwest Corporation, Shirley Drage, Rob Jefferies; Geraldton Iron Ore Alliance, Naomi Hill; Gindalbie Metals, Cliff Harding; Extension Hill Pty Ltd and Mark Bushell; Crosslands Resources.

## Catering Company Wins Indigenous Business Award

Geraldton catering company, 'Shirley Drage Catering Services' recently won Geraldton Iron Ore Alliance's Indigenous Business Award.

The award was part of the Mid-West Business Excellence Awards and was hosted by the Mid-West Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Shirley Drage's business has been providing the Geraldton region with high quality catering for conferences and

meetings since 2005.

Shirley was nominated for the Indigenous business award by Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation (YMAC).

YMAC's Yamatji Regional Manager, Russell Simpson, was pleased that Shirley won the award and commended her companies' professional services.

"Shirley Drage Catering Services has been supplying our native title working group and community meetings with catering for over four years. People who

attend YMAC meetings always comment on the quality and freshness of the catering - her delicious cakes and slices are particular favourites," said Russell.

In her submission for the Indigenous business award Shirley said, "I have built a great rapport within the non-Indigenous and Indigenous community of Geraldton, and formed many friendships along the way. In the future I intend to continue to provide and support the cliental I currently service."





**Above:** Kurama Marthudunera country in the Pilbara.

## Yamatji Marlpa **Business**

Yamatji Marlpa Business, formerly Yamatji Business News, is now expanding its readership into the Pilbara region.

Yamatji Marlpa Business is produced by Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation (YMAC) as part of our economic and business development program. The intention of Yamatji Marlpa Business is to increase awareness of projects and initiatives and create partnership opportunities towards Indigenous economic and social advancement.

Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation's CEO, Simon Hawkins said, "There are a lot of great initiatives happening in the regions, but there didn't seem to be one place for the community to go for information. Yamatji Marlpa Business 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."

If you would like to include information about economic or business development opportunities for Aboriginal people in the; Mid-West, Murchison, Gascoyne and Pilbara regions of WA please contact:

### **Mid-West, Murchison, Gascoyne**

Caroline Williams, Economic Development Officer

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### **Pilbara**

Cris Olegario, Business Development Officer

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YMAC does not receive payment for providing the information contained within, although we do endeavour to make sure it is correct and credible. Please note that information sent to Yamatji Marlpa Business may be altered to fit the available space. Images must also be sent in high resolution jpeg format.





**Above:** Carleen Kelly reviewing an early entry into the 2009 exhibition. Artwork 'Wajarri Barna' by Dawn Hamlett.

## 2009 Good Heart Mid-West Aboriginal **Art Exhibition**

This June, Indigenous artists from the Mid-West region will display their art at the 2009 Good Heart Mid-West Aboriginal Art Exhibition.

The exhibition, from 8-13 June at the QV1 building, 250 St Georges Terrace, Perth, will showcase contemporary and traditional works from Mid-West Indigenous artists. The event is sponsored by Oakajee Port and Rail Limited (OPR).

Naaguja Elder, Mrs Yvonne Radcliffe, said that she was delighted to be partnering with OPR and other Mid-West artists to assist in staging the 2009 exhibition.

"The majority of 2008 exhibitors were independent artists working from home, some in very remote areas. Several of these artists were inspired on seeing how their work compared with others', subsequently becoming successful entrants in other exhibitions and art awards," Mrs Radcliffe said.

"Development of the artists and their works for the exhibition commences many months in advance of the showing, and provides opportunity for skills development and enterprise.

"They are continuing to create new works in anticipation of this year's Good Heart Mid-West Aboriginal Art Exhibition."

Entries for this year's exhibition are expected to come from at least a dozen Mid-West towns and communities, including those that were well represented last year: Cue, Geraldton, Meekatharra, Morawa, Mt Magnet, Mullewa, Yalgoo and Yulga Jinna.

Artworks will be displayed at the 2009 Good Heart Mid-West Aboriginal Art Exhibition.

OPR Manager Community and Public Relations Kim Pervan said Oakajee Port and Rail was proud to coordinate the exhibition on behalf of participating artists for the second consecutive year.

"This is very much a community-based project with outstanding benefits, the type of project OPR is proud to support within the communities in which we will be developing new infrastructure," Ms Pervan said.

"The partnership with Mrs Yvonne Radcliffe has been remarkable. Yvonne has provided the enthusiasm needed to drive this event to fruition and provide a network of opportunity for Mid-West Aboriginal Artists to promote and sell their works of art outside the Mid-West region."

Sales from the 2008 Good Heart Mid-West Aboriginal Art Exhibition reached more than \$50,000, with all income going directly back to the artists.





Above: Minjin in Yamatji country.

## Desert Knowledge Business **Networks Project**

The Desert Knowledge Australia Outback Business Networks Projects represents a \$10 million investment in outback Australian business.

The Project connects business across nine regions of outback Australia including: Barkly, Central Australia, Central West Queensland, Far North South Australia, Far West New South Wales, Kalgoorlie-Boulder, Mid-West/Gascoyne, North West Queensland and the Pilbara.

The Desert Knowledge Australia Outback Business Networks Project can help SMEs by providing targeted training programs, information sessions and meetings; connecting businesses to projects and forums and providing links to corporate partners, government agencies and established regional services.

The Australian Government through Enterprise Connect and the Aboriginal Benefit Account (NT), BHP Billiton, NT Government, Telstra and Qantas have combined with a wide range of regional partners to support the project.

Locally, Barbara Thompson is the Network Development Officer for the Mid-West Gascoyne region, based at the Mid-West Gascoyne Area Consultative Committee. Barbara brings a wealth of experience in tourism, manufacturing and retail. She has worked extensively through the Mid-West and Gascoyne as

a Small Business Field Officer and is now seeking businesses interested in joining the Desert Knowledge Australia Outback Business Networks Project.

“This Project is a fantastic opportunity for small to medium sized outback businesses in the Mid-West and Gascoyne regions of WA. Through cross-border link-ups businesses can cluster their knowledge and identify opportunities and collaborations with other businesses in outback Australia. This will bring both economic and social growth to all involved,” said Barbara.

For more information on the project contact Barbara at: [outbackbiz@mwgacc.com.au](mailto:outbackbiz@mwgacc.com.au) or on 0408 534 998. Alternatively visit [www.desertknowledge.com.au](http://www.desertknowledge.com.au)





**Above:** Marvis Curley, Ron Bradfield and Rowena Roberts at the pre-conference dinner. *Photo supplied courtesy of Geraldton Guardian Ltd.*

## Working in Partnership **Conference**

The Midwest Mining and Aboriginal Economic Development Partnership (MMAEDP) and the Department of Resources, Energy and Tourism hosted a 'Working in Partnership (WIP) – Way Forward' Conference in Geraldton on Thursday 26th March.

Close to 100 people attended the WIP conference including representatives from the Indigenous community, government, mining and other industries. Throughout the day a number of presentations were given by the Indigenous Implementation Board, the Geraldton Iron Ore Alliance, the Australian Employment Covenant, as well as a presentation about Indigenous people in mining.

Representatives of the MMAEDP spoke about progress to date and the future aspirations and visions of the partnership which provided opportunity for participants to break into groups to discuss solutions to areas like sustainable Indigenous employment, training and business development.

The outcomes of the conference were:

A proposed way forward for an Indigenous Employment Strategy/Framework for the Mid-West, which will include:

- A 2009/10 Action Plan for the MMAEDP;
- Development of a Communication Strategy;
- Indigenous Community Action Plan to address the Indigenous Employment Strategy;
- Consultation with the Indigenous community in the Midwest-Gascoyne region to promote and raise awareness of the MMAEDP project; *and*
- Establish linkages with current projects; MMAEDP Gateway and Skills Audit Consultancies.

The MMAEDP have continued to work together to maximise employment and enterprise development for Indigenous people in the Mid-West since forming in 2007 and have been very successful in bringing some mining companies to the table. Further work and partnerships are required to ensure the success of the long-term vision of sustainable Indigenous employment and business opportunities for the Mid West.

Consultations with the Indigenous community will be conducted through BUNDIYARRA Aboriginal Community Aboriginal Corporation (BACAC) in collaboration with the newly appointed project facilitator Tracy Board. Tracy can be contacted on 9920 7900 or [tbconsultant@bigpond.com](mailto:tbconsultant@bigpond.com)



**Above: L-R** Homeless support workers Donita Larry, Clem Taylor and Bethwyn Ryder, ACCO Chairperson Nyaparu Rose, YMAC's Cris Olegario and Chris Ball from Linfox with the first Pilbara shipment from Foodbank.

## New organisation makes food delivery to Pilbara

The newly-formed Aboriginal Communities Charitable Organisation Inc (ACCO) is officially up and running following the delivery of three pallets of non-perishable food to Port Hedland.

With the support of Foodbank Inc, Newcrest Mining and Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation (YMAC), the Aboriginal Communities Charitable Organisation (ACCO) will soon supply Aboriginal families with healthy and inexpensive groceries through a local distribution outlet at Pundulmurra Tafe in South Hedland.

The ACCO's work aims to:

- create a sustainable food supply for families
- teach the community to grow food
- provide nutrition education
- facilitate training and job placement

The ACCO was formed in late 2008 as a non-profit charitable organisation to help 'close the gap' in local Indigenous communities. The idea came about from a common desire to make a difference to the lives of Aboriginal families living in Pilbara's mining economy, where food and housing prices can be artificially high. Frequent flooding in the region also means

communities can be cut off from food supplies and the ACCO is working to establish an emergency-response plan for the cyclone season.

ACCO Chairperson Nyaparu Rose said, "The ACCO is the result of many volunteers and organisations working together to bring real benefit to Aboriginal people. The tremendous support we have received so far shows the spirit of the Pilbara," said Ms Rose.

Simon Hawkins, CEO, Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation said, "The ACCO members live locally and understand their community's needs. They are in the best position to identify local issues and solutions. With support and donations we hope ACCO can keep providing healthy groceries to people who need it most."

The ACCO is seeking partners, volunteers and direct donations before the official launch of the ACCO Food Distribution Outlet in July 2009.

To find out how you or your company can get involved contact: Cris Olegario, Business Development Officer, Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation, [colegario@yamatji.org.au](mailto:colegario@yamatji.org.au) or 9172 5433.





**Above:** New recruits at Crossland Resources.

## Company Employs **Indigenous Recruits**

Crosslands Resources, owner of the Jack Hills iron ore project in the Mid-West, has recently recruited five new employees, including a newly created position of Indigenous Training Co-ordinator.

A Site Clerk and three Mine Technicians, all of whom are Indigenous recruits and are participating in the Australian Government's Structured Training and Employment Projects (STEP) initiative.

The three Mine Technicians; Peter Bell, Samuel Danischewsky and Victor Mourambine, are on two-week on, one-week off rosters and will be flying in and out of Geraldton to the Jack Hills mine site. Site Clerk Amanda Jones is also based at the Jack Hills operation.

Crosslands' Chief Executive Officer Stuart Hall said the company was pleased to be able to employ additional, quality staff to assist in the operation of the Jack Hills iron ore mine, 380km north-east of Geraldton.

"Finding the people we need within the local community is particularly pleasing as we broaden and develop further relationships with them" he said.

"In addition, these new team members underscore our policy to attain at least a 10% local Indigenous employee ratio as

we increase our iron ore exports from 1.5 million tonnes per annum to 1.8 million tonnes during 2009.

Simon Hawkins, Chief Executive Officer of Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation (YMAC) said he was happy to see companies such as Crosslands Resources recruiting local Aboriginal workers.

"It's great to see companies who work on country committing to Indigenous employment policies."

"One of YMAC's mission statements is to build a strong future for Yamatji and Pilbara people and country. By building on relationships with local Aboriginal communities and working towards sustainable economic goals we can all contribute to the mission of a strong future."

For further information contact regarding Crosslands Resources, please contact Claire Blatchford;

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## Fact Finding in Townsville

Barb Dowling of Northampton recently returned from Townsville where she attended the Australian Indigenous Tourism Conference (AITC).

The theme of the conference was: Many Tribes, One Country. The conference focus was on the environment, young people, business opportunities and maintaining culture.

Indigenous Business Australia and Tourism WA collaborated to send 19 Aboriginal tourism operators from WA to Townsville to attend the conference and learn from some of Queensland's most successful Aboriginal tourism operators.

Barb Dowling, who operates "Ngoorda wa Errinoo", which means 'camp by the river' in the Badimia language, was sponsored to attend the conference.

"The conference was just, wow, so much information on offer, so much to learn. It was very encouraging talking to the old timers who kept saying 'from little things big things grow' –that's where I fit in," said Barb.

Stefanie Schneider, Tourism WA's Product Development

Manager for the Australia's Coral Coast Region said, "Barb will have gained valuable experiences and extend her network on this trip. Barb can use what she has learnt and apply it to her own business, get it export ready and added to the Product Manual."

For more information on how to start your own tourism business contact: Stefanie Schneider on 9964 3685.



Above: Barb Dowling, operator of 'Ngoorda wa Errinoo'.

### ABOUT US

**Yamatji Marlpa Business** 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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or contact your local YMAC office.

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