



Yamatji Marlpa Business

Economic Development News from Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation

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Above: Traditional Owners and guests gather at the opening of Ilgarijiri art exhibition in Geraldton.

Ilgarijiri - Things Belonging to the Sky

Over 500 guests attended the opening of Ilgarijiri - 'Things Belonging to the Sky', Aboriginal art exhibition in Geraldton on Friday 12 June.

According to the Geraldton Regional Art Gallery it was a packed event, and the largest event the gallery has hosted in its 25 year history.

ILGARIJIRI - 'Things belonging to the sky', is a collaborative project between Aboriginal artists associated with the Yamatji region, via the Yamaji Art (Y-Art) Centre in Geraldton, and radio astronomers from the International Centre for Radio Astronomy Research (ICRAR), based in Perth, Western Australia.

The project brings together Aboriginal artists and scientists to exchange and celebrate different perspectives about the night sky, and to explore those perspectives in art.

Up to 20 Aboriginal artists were involved with the project, which resulted in over 90 pieces of art. On opening night, 20 of the 58 pieces exhibited at the Geraldton Regional Art Gallery were sold, and more have been sold since.

The event was a huge success due to the talent of the contributing artists, the staff of Yamaji Art, the Geraldton Regional Art Gallery staff, sponsors Mid West Development Commission and CSIRO and the scientists.

Finally, the organisers respectfully acknowledge and deeply thank the Traditional Owners and custodians of the country that this project has taken place in, including Boolardy Station, Mullewa and Geraldton.

For more information on the project, please contact Priscilla Clayton, ASKAP Regional Manager, on 9921 0710.



Above: Geraldton Senior College students and teachers outside the local visitors centre.

Students Visit Local **Tourism Industry**

Aboriginal students from Geraldton Senior College's 'Warlugurra Walgamanyulu' program were recently given an insight into the tourism industry in the Geraldton-Greenough area.

The two day tour gave students information on available careers in the local tourism and hospitality industries. The tour was facilitated by Stefanie Schneider from Tourism WA, Caroline Williams from Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation (YMAC) and Susan Madgwick, Regional Industry Career Adviser.

The first day included the students visiting the WA Museum in Geraldton; Employment Directions for traineeship advice; the Visitor Centre; the Mantra; and finally a guided tour of the HMAS Sydney II Memorial.

On day two, the students travelled to the airport to meet with managers from Geraldton Air Charters, Shine Aviation and Skywest. Students then visited Bentwood Olive Grove to hear how manager, Beth Sievenpiper, started her unique café experience.

"The purpose of the visit was to gauge the students' interest in working in tourism and link them up with pathways for further

study, work experience and traineeships. The feedback from the students and employers was very positive, and we hope to continue these types of tours in the future," said Caroline Williams.

Thank you to the following sponsors of the tour: Water Corporation for the donation of bottled water and Tourism WA for morning tea. Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation also contributed the bus for transporting students during the two-day tour.

For further information regarding the tour, please contact Caroline Williams, YMAC Economic Development Officer on 9965 6222.



ACCO to Open Pilbara **Food Distribution Outlet**

On August 26, the Aboriginal Communities Charitable Organisation (ACCO) will officially open its Pilbara food distribution outlet at Pundulmurra Tafe in South Hedland.

The distribution outlet will allow ACCO to supply Aboriginal families with healthy and inexpensive groceries throughout the area.

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.

The ACCO's work aims to:

- Create a sustainable food supply;
- Teach the community to grow food;
- Provide nutrition education; and
- Facilitate training and job placement.

ACCO Chairperson Nyaparu Rose said, "The ACCO aims to help those most in need within our community. I would like to thank the volunteers and organisations who have worked for us to make the food distribution outlet in South Hedland a reality. The tremendous support we have received so far shows the great community spirit of the Pilbara", said Ms Rose.

ACCO is supported by Foodbank Inc, Newcrest Mining, and Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation.

For more information on the Aboriginal Communities Charitable Organisation (ACCO), please contact Cris Olegario, YMAC Business Development Officer on 9172 5433.



Above: Coastline north of Carnarvon, Gnulli Country.

Do You Have an **Indigenous Training Idea?**

Bridging the Gap, an organisation that provides employment and personal development opportunities, is seeking training proposals from community organisations.

Community groups and organisations are being asked to present their training proposals to 'Bridging the Gap' for partnership. The proposals should be designed to increase the skill level, and employability of Indigenous Australians.

An example of a recent project is the development of a hospitality training kitchen, where participants will learn new skills in the industry. This project is the result of several organisations coming together to form an informal partnership. Through the panel, financial assistance is available to get projects such as the training kitchen off the ground.

Training proposals that will be considered include projects that:

- Build the aspirations of Indigenous Australians via projects that promote success and provide career guidance and mentoring;
- Organise, develop or provide training for Indigenous Australians through projects such as work familiarization courses, on-the-job training, up-skilling and accredited language, literacy and numeracy training;
- Employer support services to recruit and retain more Indigenous Australians through projects such as providing practical support, including mentoring, to address issues that affect a person's capacity to get or keep a job; *and*
- Increase employment outcomes for Indigenous Australians by workforce development through projects such as community partnerships and developing Indigenous workforce capacity to support local and regional economic development strategies.

If you have a project you would like to develop, please contact Glenys, at Bridging the Gap, on 9965 5777.



Above: Mid-West artists gather at the official opening of the exhibition.

Mid-West Art Exhibition a Great **Success**

This year's Good **Heart** Mid-West Aboriginal Art Exhibition finished on a successful note with record sales and attendance.

In a huge endorsement of the quality of the artworks, 85 paintings were sold over the week-long exhibition, which showcased contemporary and traditional styles from Mid-West Indigenous artists. The art exhibition is proudly supported by Oakajee Port and Rail (OPR).

In addition to the 200 guests who attended the opening by Premier Colin Barnett, more than 4000 people viewed the exhibition at the QV1 building in Perth.

OPR's Manager of Community and Public Relations, Kim Pervan, said all artists were overwhelmed by the response to their works.

"The support of the community has been phenomenal, helping us to more than double the number of works sold compared with last year," she said.

"This exhibition would not have been possible without the enormous creative talent of Mid-West artists, the strong

support of our many sponsors and partners, as well as the local galleries and shires," added Kim.

The exhibition generated interest from interstate and overseas, with two of Morawa artist Dawn Hamlett's paintings shipped to buyers in Kuala Lumpur.



Above: Midwest Mining and Aboriginal Economic Development Partnership(MMAEDP) - making head roads in the Mid-West.

MMAEDP - Making Head Roads in the Mid-West

In 2007, key Indigenous community, industry and government representatives formed the 'Midwest Mining and Aboriginal Economic Development Partnership' (MMAEDP).

Since then MMAEDP has made significant progress with a number of new economic initiatives including; the new 'Gateway' organisation, the development of a new website, plus community consultations and skills audit.

The MMAEDP is currently in the process of establishing a 'Gateway' organisation for the Mid-West region. The Gateway will be a contact point for businesses who want to speak with Indigenous organisations in the Mid-West. The organisation will also act as a one-stop-shop for non-Indigenous corporations and businesses.

An information flyer and presentation on the 'Gateway' organisation is available by contacting MMAEDP.

MMAEDP is also developing its own website to inform the community and business on economic development in the region. The website will soon be available at:

www.mmaedp.com.au

MMAEDP is currently conducting a skills audit and consultations with Indigenous community members in the region.

The audit is being conducted to identify the current skills available, and interest in mining, in order to identify gaps. These gaps will then inform the organisation on what training and employment needs there are in the Mid-West region.

Consultations with the Indigenous community will be conducted through the Bundiyarra Aboriginal Community Aboriginal Corporation (BACAC). Information from these consultations will then be used to inform MMAEDP's objectives and seek feedback opportunities. For more information about the community consultations, please contact; Jenny at Bundiyarra 9920 7900.

For more information on the 'Midwest Mining and Aboriginal Economic Development Partnership' (MMAEDP), please contact Wayne at the Mid-West Development Commission on 9921 0702.

MMAEDP would like to take the opportunity to thank the organisations previous Executive Officer, Tracy, for her valuable contributions to the development of the organisation. The MMAEDP board wishes Tracy all the best in her future endeavours.



Above: A pumpkin crop, nearly ready for picking, grows in the Yamatji region.

Employment Opportunities on **Country**

The Midwest Employment and Economic Development Aboriginal Corporation (MEEDAC) are currently running an environmental management service in the Mid-West region.

The service aims to give land holders and communities the ability to transform non-productive land into agricultural production centres.

Transforming once unused land into productive areas includes the careful selection of plants and crops that will grow in a particular area, as well as the use of water conservation techniques. Crops that are grown can also be sold on to customers.

Creating new land uses in the Gascoyne and Murchison regions assists in;

- Erosion control;
- Effective use of available rain fall;
- Cessation of land degradation;
- Salt control;
- Conservation of natural flora and fauna; *and*
- Promotion of innovative land management.

The environmental management service also aims to enhance community, economic and employment development opportunities in the Mid-West region.

To learn more about how you can get involved in environmental management projects in your area, please contact MEEDAC on 9961 1531.



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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

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Pilbara

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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.

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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