

Yamatji On-Country

Meeting Report from the 4th Annual Yamatji On-Country Meeting

to be read in conjunction with the
2024 Yamatji On-Country Call to Action Statement



Yamatji Marlpa
ABORIGINAL CORPORATION



The Annual Yamatji On-Country meeting is coordinated by Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation, and takes place on Southern Yamatji Country

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1. Introduction

This report should be read as a companion document to the *2024 Yamatji On-Country Call to Action Statement*

It contains:

- Overview of activity undertaken at the 2024 Yamatji On-Country meeting
- Key discussion and decisions made by community members and young people
- Key statements and commitment made by invited guests.



2. Meeting Overview

First Nations peoples of the Mid West, Gascoyne and Murchison regions of Western Australia gathered on Southern Yamatji Country in Geraldton on Wednesday 4 and Thursday 5 September 2024 for the 4th Annual Yamatji On-Country meeting.

About the meeting

The annual Yamatji On-Country meetings are coordinated by Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation (YMAC) at the request of its Yamatji Regional Committee to create a platform for community members from across Western Australia's Mid West, Gascoyne and Murchison regions to identify shared issues and place based, Aboriginal-led solutions for presentation and discussion with government.

The 2022, 2023 and 2024 meetings have all taken place at Bundiyarra Aboriginal Community Aboriginal Corporation in Geraldton, attended by First Nations peoples from across the region. The 2021 meeting - the first one presented by YMAC - took place in Carnarvon, focussing on Heritage protection.

For the 2024 meeting, YMAC would like to acknowledge and thank:

- The participating First Nations ACCOs, community members and presenters – including the young people - without whom there would be no Call to Action;
- Mr David Ronan, for presenting Day 1 and 2 Welcome to Country;
- Mr Des Mongoo and Ms Jenny Kniveton - Day 1 and 2 meeting facilitators;
- Venue manager Bundiyarra Aboriginal Community Aboriginal Corporation;
- The member organisations of the MAOA network;
- All participating schools – the teachers for supporting student involvement, and the students for their passion, commitment and contribution;
- The stall holders for joining with us and sharing what you do with community;
- Day 1 evening performers, for their exceptional performances, and;
- Day 2 invited guests, for accepting our invitation to join the conversation and work with First Nations community to create change.

Attachment A: Day 1 and 2 meeting agendas outline the full program for each day of the meeting.

Day 1: Community Day overview

Day 1 was for First Nations people only, for community discussion and decision making. Participation is open to YMAC Members, First Nations community members, Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations and their staff.

The day involved:

- Welcome and background to Bundiyarra presented by Bundiyarra CEO Mr Wayne McDonald.
- Opening Remarks from YMAC Chairperson – Yamatji Regional Committee and Co-Chair – Yamatji Region, Mr Peter Windie welcoming people back to the annual event.
- Hearing from young people about their personal leadership journeys, positive programs that were happening in their schools, and solutions to their key priorities from the 2022 and 2023 youth statements.
- Presentation by Mr Zain Laudehr-May from Bundiyarra on upcoming Youth Yarns event.

- Workshopping the students' questions to community (see youth section of this report)
- Presentations from the MAOA Co-Chairs about MAOA's work regarding the Call to Action since the 2023 Yamatji on-Country meeting, some of the programs delivered by member organisations, and highlighting some of their needs and frustrations faced in service delivery.
- Community reflection on the Calls to Action from 2022 and 2023, including discussing what progress has and has not been made.
- Discussion and decision-making about emerging issues and solutions for presentation to Day 2 guests.
- Nomination of Day 2 presenters.



The additional emerging issues and associated Calls to Action agreed upon by community and discussed later in this report year are captured in the *2024 Yamatji On-Country Call to Action Statement*.



Day 1 evening program

The Yamatji on-Country evening program was a celebration of Culture and entertainment with artists performing from the region. The family-friendly, drug and alcohol-free event brought together all First Nations peoples from across the region to come together with Day 2 invited guests in a relaxed atmosphere while enjoying music, bushtucker and a BBQ,

The performers were:

- Zain Laudehr-May
- Trevor Farrell
- Cory Dickerson
- Billy Narrier
- Craig Pickett
- Aleah Toomalatai
- Carrum Mourambine



Day 2: Invited Guests Day - overview

Day 2 involved invited parliamentary and agency guests working at a Director / senior management level from local, State and Federal Government, as well as other influencers and decision-makers, including the following presenters:

- Hon. Tony Buti MLA, Minister for Education; Aboriginal Affairs; Citizenship and Multicultural Interests, representing Premier Roger Cook
- Senator Dorinda Cox, Senator for WA
- Lara Dalton MLA, Member for Geraldton
- Ms Jacqueline McGowan Jones, Commissioner for Children and Young People
- Mr Bradley Mitchell, Regional Executive Director, Midwest/Gascoyne, Dept. of Communities / Chair of Midwest District Leadership Group

The Day 2 meeting agenda included:

- Performances by Geraldton Primary School students and The Jimbinu Dancers from Rangeway Primary School to welcome guests;
- Hearing from young people about their personal leadership journeys, positive programs that were happening in their schools, and solutions to their key priorities from the 2022 and 2023 youth statements;
- Presentations from the MAOA Co-Chairs about the needs, aspirations and frustrations of MAOA members;
- Presentations to invited guests on Day 2 by nominated community members from discussion and decisions about emerging issues and solutions from Day 1;
- Responses to community member presentations from invited guest speakers, and;
- Panel Q&A session with community.



3. Mid-West Aboriginal Organisations Alliance (MAOA) update



In 2024, the member organisations of the Midwest Aboriginal Organisations Alliance (MAOA) accepted the community's invitation that came from the 2023 on-Country meeting to steer actions and advocate on progress to government on the Yamatji on-Country Call to Action.

On Day 1 MAOA Co-Chairs Ms Chloe Collard and Mr Wayne McDonald made a presentation to the community, outlining the structure of MAOA, the history of the group, the achievements made over the past year, as well as the aspirations and frustrations that are shared by their members.

Some of the programs and initiatives being run by MAOA members include:

- Helping young people move into their first rentals and assisting them with budgeting and planning;
- Wrap-around housing support programs to help tenants stay in their homes;
- Helping community members access housing;
- Helping long-term tenants' transition into home ownership via the Keystart program;
- Undertaking Healthy Homes assessments and making sure homes are safe;
- Helping with repairs, maintenance, and offering free equipment for loan;
- Undertaking the Thrive program to support tenants;
- Running an Aboriginal Family Led Decision Making program (AFLDM) to help families dealing with the justice system and to make sure that families of children in out-of-home care can make decisions about how to keep their children safe and connected to family, community, Culture and Country;
- Running IYCC camps to keep youth connected to Culture and Country;
- Supporting families of disengaged youth to attend re-entry meetings and assist kids in getting to school;
- Social and Emotional Wellbeing (SEWB) programs;
- Chronic disease prevention programs for youth;
- Holistic health programs including education and lifestyle advice;
- Counselling, family tracing and reunion services;
- Rehabilitation programs;
- Along with many others.

Ms Collard and Mr McDonald additionally advised that MAOA have secured funding for both secretariat services and strategic planning through the Mid West District Leadership Group (DLG). Through this strategic planning MAOA are seeking to identify and prioritise key initiatives in their *Priority Statement* which includes the *Yamatji on-Country Call to Action*, as well as develop and implement strategies that will drive MAOA and DLG priorities.

4. Calls to Action - community discussion on key issues

Community members present on Days 1 and 2 were able to hear about some of the progress made on some of the Calls to Action.

The key issue for many community members in attendance was that despite the Premier of Western Australia's commitment following the 2023 Yamatji on-Country to provide a report on the governments progress in delivering the CTA, this has not been forthcoming.

Community members repeatedly expressed frustration at the lack of responses, with the sentiment being government is not taking the CTA and the needs of the Yamatji community seriously.

It was strongly felt that the lack of a comprehensive response gives the impression that government does not hold itself accountable to community, and that progress is NOT being made.

Further, this lack of detail does not allow for progress to be measured or gaps in support to be identified – this prevents opportunity for community and government to work together and deliver change.

Agreed-upon additions / extensions to existing Calls to Action

Community members and the young people present discussed the existing Calls to Action, identified some emerging / critical issues needing attention from government, and the solutions discussed have been added to the Call to Action Statement.

These were:

- The critical need for increased support in the areas of mental health and suicide prevention;
- The need to reinstate State and Federal funding for preventative programs;
- Increasing the State Government's Aboriginal employment targets in the health sector and other parts of government, to be proportional to percentage of the local Aboriginal population and not the lower state and national targets;
- Increased and more culturally appropriate support for addressing family and domestic violence;
- The growing need to urgently address housing and homelessness, which is getting worse amid the regions ongoing housing crisis, and;
- The need for action and education to address ongoing racism experienced in both school and community settings.

Community representatives to present on Day 2 were identified on key topics. They were:

- Mr Zain Laudehr-May – Housing
- Ms Denice Cotterall – Family and Domestic Violence
- Mr James Brookman – Mental Health
- Ms Chloe Collard – Employment
- Mr Trevor Farrell and Ms Shelby Clarke - Racism

Part 7 of this report details more on young people content and discussion at this year's meeting, that has also been included in the 2024 Call to Action.

5. Invited Guests' Day – presentations, discussion, commitments made

Day 2 included presentations from high school students and community representative presentations on key issues, followed by presentations and Q&A with the invited speakers.



Statements made in response to the community discussion and in speeches that respond to the Call to Action include:

- **Mr Zain Laudehr-May**, Bundiyarra Aboriginal Community Aboriginal Corporation mentioned that Bundiyarra have secured funding to start an Aboriginal Youth Council. They are also partnering with Social Reinvestment WA to design youth services for the Geraldton region. If they are successful in securing funding, they will look at an Aboriginal Youth Engagement Strategy and Aboriginal Youth Justice Strategy for the region. Bundiyarra are also a co-founding member of the WA Network for Aboriginal Language Centres and are looking to meet with the Department of Education to discuss language in schools, as well as lobbying for legislation to enshrine language being taught in schools regardless of who is in government.
- **Minister Tony Buti** stated that he and the Premier have looked at both the 2022 and 2023 Calls to Action over the past two years and have tried to approach it to identify the various agencies and portfolio responsibilities for each Action. He mentioned that the new Council of Aboriginal Services WA (CASWA) have been funded \$5.7million and provided with a grant program totalling \$3.4m to strengthen ACCOs in WA.
- Regarding education, Minister Buti announced the agreement between the State and Commonwealth Governments to provide an additional \$1.6billion to the public education system from 2025-2029 and stated that *The Better and Fairer Schools Agreement (2025-2034)* contains an ACCO strategy as part of the agreement that should also assist in implementing the ACCO Strategy in WA. He noted that schools in the region would fit criteria to receive additional support for this program, and that the partnership with the Commonwealth is pending finalisation.
- **Senator Dorinda Cox** reiterated her support for the community-led Call to Action and associated solutions and urged the young people in attendance to make a submission about why truth-telling is so important.
- Senator Cox had recently introduced the *Truth and Justice Commission Bill 2024* into the Senate, and the Joint Standing Committee on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs was seeking submissions from individuals and organisations. The Bill proposes to establish a Federal Truth and Justice Commission, which would provide a national framework for truth-telling about the history and impacts of colonisation, dispossession, and systemic racism on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. The commission would also make recommendations on how to advance justice, healing, raise awareness and increase public understanding, and reconciliation for First Nations communities and the wider Australian society.

- **Ms Lara Dalton MLA** stated that each year she contacts departments to ask what is happening with the Call to Action to identify where they currently sit, what has been done and what outcomes have been achieved.
- Ms Dalton stated she is provided with responses and answers by government but noted community's concern that this information is not being shared with community and that communication needs to be better. They committed that this would become a big part of her advocacy – ensuring that departments do better, and that information is shared with community to make sure that government are meeting the targets that community are requesting.
- Ms Dalton has met with Department of Education and has a commitment for the Department to embed culture and language into schools as a priority, and that it was a need that the Department are showing how they are achieving this at both a Primary and Secondary school level.
- Ms Dalton noted there were several schools in the region running programs targeting disengaged children – last year the Department of Education's Engagement and Transition Team worked with TAFE to develop an engagement program for disengaged students over years 11 & 12 – noting that she has been made aware by the community that this needs to exist for primary school students as well.
- Ms Dalton had additionally noted that the Department of Education has highlighted a range of pathways to increase Aboriginal employment in the Department.
- Ms Dalton reaffirmed her commitment to working with the local community and community members to deliver on the priorities in the region.
- **Commissioner for Children and Young People, Ms Jacqueline McGowan-Jones** spoke about the framework regarding preventing racism in schools. The Commissioner noted that by not addressing racism for children, critical issues such as reconnection to culture, family, community and language cannot be achieved – addressing those issues are critical for young people's health and wellbeing.
- The Commissioner stated she has heard the Call to Action and had been advocating for changes to better address racism and engaging young people in decision making.
- The Commissioner stressed that early intervention is the missing link on every issue facing young people and reiterated that she stands with the young people in the Yamatji community along with their Elders and ACCOs, as change is about having Aboriginal people at the table and making sure it happens early.
- **Mr Bradley Mitchell, Department of Communities Regional Executive Director Midwest/Gascoyne**, spoke about the work his department is doing regarding the CTA.
- Mr Mitchell noted that they have identified funding for MAOA to help with their strategic planning and engagement mechanisms.
- Mr Mitchell advised that the Department of Communities have included in their regional plan the development of cultural awareness and cultural induction as well as cultural immersion, which has been developed and delivered at a local level by staff in the office of Aboriginal Reform and Engagement – and that all staff are mandated to attend. He noted positive feedback by staff undertaking this training in that it would help inform their work with community members.
- Mr Mitchell noted that the Department of Communities have acquired a further 170 houses in the region and are working with their head maintenance contractor to identify ways they can monitor the maintenance to return houses to the housing stock to bring more online.

- Mr Mitchell shared the 15% Aboriginal employment within the Department of Communities. They have a modified application process and have created a talent pool that makes it easier to employ Aboriginal people.
- The Department is currently in the planning phase, looking at how the Department can provide better services, utilising the 4 priority reform areas of the *National Agreement on Closing the Gap* as well as the Call to Action – so that those priority areas and Call to Action are being addressed at a local level.



6. Q&A – other discussion and commitments made



Additional to the direct response to the CTA community members present had opportunity to ask questions of invited guests.

Key discussion points and questions answered as part of the Q&A panel discussion include:

- Minister Buti acknowledged whilst there has been **progress on ensuring accurate and truthful Aboriginal history is taught in schools, it is still not good enough**. Minister Buti stated that there needs to be more opportunities for Stolen Generation survivors to attend schools and teach their history.
- Responding to a question **regarding Unit 18**, Minister Buti insisted that the numbers have dropped at Unit 18 and Banksia Hill from a combined total of over 200 to 55. It was noted that Minister Papalia is exploring other policies and there will be a response from State Government soon (since the meeting the State Government has announced they are building a replacement facility for Unit 18 at Banksia Hill).
- Responding to a **question regarding employment for people with a criminal record**, Minister Buti noted that this is a problem preventing people from getting their lives back on track when coming out of prison. They noted when young kids come out of prison, they need assistance that is currently not being offered, and mentioned this is an area he believes the government needs to significantly improve in.
- In response to a question about the **feasibility of an Aboriginal school being established in the region**, Minister Buti mentioned he has not been formally approached with the idea in the region. He did note that there is a need to increase the First Nations education workforce, and this will be included in the new agreement between the State and Commonwealth Governments to provide an additional \$1.6bn to the public education system from 2025 – 2029. There was a follow-up question asking if Minister Buti would support a submission and help get it to Treasury if one was made – Minister Butti noted he would consider it when he receives it, and that he can't give support to something he hasn't seen.
- Responding to a question about the **lack of a dedicated Aboriginal Police Unit and an unsatisfactory number of Aboriginal Officers in the Geraldton community**, Inspector Colin Keen was also in attendance, and conceded there is only a small amount of Aboriginal Police Officers in Geraldton, and that WA Police need to expand that. He mentioned difficulties in recruiting Aboriginal people into the police force, that better measures need to be implemented to improve those numbers, and that those measures need to be on both the Police and community to address.

- In response to a **question about the consultation process for the new *Firearms Act 2024***, Minister Buti stated that the Minister for Police, Paul Papalia, had engaged in extensive consultation over a long period regarding gun laws and the proposed reforms. Minister Buti stated he had not received any representation or submissions from Aboriginal groups in opposition to the gun laws.
- In response to a **question about the selection processes and transparency for community representatives serving on CASWA and other advisory committees**, Senator Cox stated she has had similar questions in the past about several ministerial councils at State and Federal level. She noted Minister Buti has his own council. In response Minister Buti mentioned that his Aboriginal Advisory Council is statutory mandated and has State-wide representation appointed by the Government. He mentioned it is the responsibility of those members to filter information back to their communities. **Ms Rani Randle identified herself as the member for the Mid West on the State Government’s Aboriginal Advisory Committee**, explained the selection process and committed to the community that any information she is privy to is filtered back to the community, and shared with MAOA, and that she is happy to speak at any community events.



7. Youth and school's component - detail

YMAC is very proud of the work undertaken over the past four years to involve young people in the Yamatji on-Country program, which has evolved to become a meeting highlight and source of immense community pride.

Performances

Two primary schools performed at the 2024 Yamatji on-Country. Following the success of 2023, the Geraldton Primary School choir joined us again to perform songs in language followed by a special traditional dance performance by The Jambinu Dancers from Rangeway Primary School.



Youth Program

YMAC invited students from high schools in Geraldton, Carnarvon and Mullewa to participate in Yamatji on-Country 2024.

Although students from Carnarvon and Mullewa were unable to attend this year, Carnarvon did participate in 2023.

Youth participation for the 2024 meeting involved:

1. Taking part in a pre-event workshop in August 2024 at which the young people discussed their issues and concerns affecting youth in their community that had been raised in 2022 and 2023, and then workshopped the solutions and changes they would like to see happen.
2. Youth Presentation to community members on Day 1 on workshop outcomes (see below), followed by joining community discussion.

3. Youth Presentation to invited guests on Day 2. Nominated young people also spoke on the main community Calls to Action alongside adult community members.
4. Showcasing of posters and social media tiles arising from their 2023 YoC involvement with YMAC and the Aboriginal Health Council of WA.
5. Participation in an Elders luncheon, providing young people with the opportunity to share in a special luncheon with Elders in their community.



Youth Calls to Action

Throughout 2022 and 2023, youth from high schools in Geraldton and Carnarvon have had opportunity to discuss and identify solutions to issues/concerns occurring in the Yamatji region.

Their Calls to Action have been presented to the community on Day 1 and then to the government on Day 2 and have now been integrated into the 2024 Call to Action.

The young people have focussed on the following priority areas:

- Racism
- Youth Substance
- *Lack of Culture (now Reconnection to Culture)
- Online Bullying
- Intergenerational Trauma leading to Violence
- Home Environment





Pre-event workshop and resulting 2024 YoC involvement

In 2024 several young people from Nagle Catholic College and Champion Bay Senior High School continued the students' work from previous years, attending a pre-event workshop to discuss "Where to from here?"

The young people discussed the need to move forward with finding solutions to their issues and concerns, while also highlighting their own personal journeys and the very positive impact that Yamatji on-Country has had on them, including the ability to grow their friendship networks out of school. The young people also wanted to highlight programs that run in their schools and how the programs have positively impacted them.

During the presentation, students also raised the issues and concerns again, but this time focussed on possible solutions or ways of improving their environment.

Bundiyarra Aboriginal Community Aboriginal Corporation also attended the pre-event workshop to discuss their Youth Yarns event and their new youth precinct with the young people to gain insight into what they would like to see happen with the space and the programs they would like to see run there.

*A point of note: The young people agreed at the 2024 pre-event workshop to alter the wording for the "Lack of Culture" issue and concern as it didn't quite reflect their thoughts and feelings. Jointly, they decided that they would like to rename it to "**Reconnection to Culture**" to highlight the need to reconnect to their culture and shine a more positive light on the issue.

School-based programs that were highlighted included:

- from Champion Bay Senior High School, the Follow the Dream program,
- from Geraldton Senior High School, the STARS and Clontarf Academy programs.

Unfortunately, Nagle Catholic College does not run programs specifically for Aboriginal students, so the three students that attended the event from Nagle put forward a suggestion on what programs should and could run at the school, that they hope to secure support for.

Additionally, recognising the benefits to be gained from these kinds of programs, the students consistently spoke of their desire for ALL Aboriginal students to have opportunity to participate in these kinds of programs.

The young people also posed questions to the community to discuss as a group, as below. The community took the time to discuss the questions and offer solutions. Below are the questions posed to the community and notable responses of possible solutions.

Question 1: Besides sporting competitions what does, or can Geraldton offer for youth?

- **What sort of youth activities are there for young people to be involved in?**
- **Are they accessible to everyone?**
- **What about transport, i.e., a community bus for those unable to get there?**
- **Costs involved, can they be funded or subsidised?**

Community thoughts and suggestions in response included:

- On-Country programs could be developed, for example in Carnarvon there is a men's group that receives funding to take young people on-Country.
- Activities such as laser tag, ten pin bowling etc. need to be in Geraldton to give young people something to do and keep young people occupied.
- It was recognised that a lot of young people are unable to participate in activities due to various monetary reasons, so there needs to be free or affordable activities and programs for young people.
- A recommendation to check what the local councils have in their RAP's that support the delivery of programs and activities to young people was suggested.
- ACCO's could work together to put on community festivals, these simple community gatherings could be held at the beach for all families to attend, with stalls from ACCO's participating.
- Government doesn't just roll out pre-determined programs, but they consult young people in the region first on what we want.

Question 2: With the amount of youth violence growing in the community, what ideas can the community come up with to solve this issue, as violence does not solve the problem?

- The community agreed there is a real need for preventative programs and services to be re-introduced in the community.
- Using social media is a great way to promote anti violence etc.
- The community could also restart basketball carnivals, giving young people the opportunity to participate in an organised community sporting competition.
- Bundiyarra offered to run school holiday programs through their upcoming youth precinct.

Question 3: This is specifically for Nagle Catholic College and schools that are not in the public school system. We want your suggestions as a community to encourage Aboriginal programs in the school like the public schools have the Clontarf, Deadly Sister Girlz and Follow the Dream. What do you suggest we do to make this happen?

- The community need to band together to advocate for the young people and speak with the Catholic Education system to try and implement programs into the school.
- The community suggested they write to the organisations that deliver the programs to ask them to contact the school directly to offer the programs.
- Write to Bishop Michael or the church involved with Nagle to request more program opportunities.

The Nagle students would like to see the programs made available to all students that attend Nagle Catholic College.



8. Information Stalls

In 2024 YMAC welcomed a record number of stalls from community and government organisations at the Yamatji on Country meeting.

Day 1 stalls were:

- Aboriginal Health Council of WA
- Bundiyarra Aboriginal Community Aboriginal Corporation
- Council of Aboriginal Services WA
- Department of Energy, Mines, Industry Regulation & Safety
- Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries
- Geraldton Universities Centre
- Hope Services
- Real Futures
- Reconciliation WA
- Woollahra Group
- Yamatji Southern Aboriginal Corporation
- Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation

Day 2 stalls were:

- Bundiyarra Aboriginal Community Aboriginal Corporation
- Centrecare Family Services
- Council of Aboriginal Services WA
- Department of Energy, Mines, Industry Regulation & Safety
- Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries
- Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage
- Geraldton Universities Centre
- Headspace
- Hope Services
- Real Futures
- Reconciliation WA
- Yamatji Southern Aboriginal Corporation
- Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation

“Our team took a trip to Yamatji Barna (Country) at the start of this month - to have a yarn about how we can best support our communities on the path to reconciliation!”

Thank you to the Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation (YMAC) for a space full of different perspectives and insight we're thankful to share with everyone in attendance 🌸”

Reconciliation WA, LinkedIn post

9. Attachments

Attachment A: Day 1 and 2 Meeting Agenda
Attachment B: Evening program flier

10. Further Information & Contact Us

This report should be read as a companion document to the **2024 Yamatji On-Country Call to Action Statement**.

For previous information on Yamatji on-Country Calls to Action, please refer to the following documents, available on YMAC website – ymac.org.au

- 2022 Yamatji on-Country Call to Action
- 2023 Yamatji on-Country Call to Action

Previous Youth statements are available upon request.

For further information on the Yamatji on-Country meetings and this Call to Action, please contact Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation.

Freecall: 1800 270 709

About this report and the Yamatji on Country Call to Action

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Calls to Action Project Officer: Mr Henry Sims (Perth): hsims@ymac.org.au

About the Yamatji on Country event, school involvement and information stalls

Project Officer: Mr Ken Capwell (Geraldton) kcapewell@ymac.org.au

About the Yamatji on-Country Day 1 – Evening Performance Program

Mr. Carrum Mourambine, Project Officer, Geraldton Office: cmourambine@ymac.org.au

Annual Yamatji On-Country Meeting

Day 1 Agenda

Wednesday, 4 September 2024 - 9.00am (9:30am start)

Bundiyarra Aboriginal Community Aboriginal Corporation

ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDERS ONLY

1	9.30am	Bundiyarra welcome and One minute silence – Wayne McDonald, CEO Bundiyarra Aboriginal Community Aboriginal Corporation
2.		Welcome to Country – David Ronan who is a Wilinyu and Wajarri man
3.		Opening Speech – Mr Peter Windie, YMAC Yamatji Regional Committee Chairperson
4.		Facilitator Introduction – Mr Des Mongoo & Ms Jenny Kniveton
5.		'Housekeeping' – Mr Des Mongoo & Ms Jenny Kniveton
6.		Coming Together Agreement and Proceedings– Mr Des Mongoo & Ms Jenny Kniveton
7.		Update on the Call to Action from 2023 – Mr Des Mongoo
8.		Presentation from the Midwest Aboriginal Organisations Alliance (MAOA) – Mr Wayne McDonald and Ms Chloe Collard
9.		Presentation of Youth Issues – (Youth Representatives from Yamatji region high schools)
10.		Youth Issues Discussion – (Whole Community)
11.		Presentation on Youth Yarns –Mr Zain Laudehr
12.		Determine approach to discussion on community issues affecting the Yamatji Regions
13.	12.05pm	Lunch approx. 1 hour <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elders lunch with youth representatives Visit Community and Information Stalls
14.	1.05pm	Whole Community discussion on 2024 Call-to-Action, including priorities – Mr Des Mongoo & Ms Jenny Kniveton to facilitate. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youth representatives to join community in the conversations
15.		Report back on Session Outcomes – Mr Des Mongoo & Ms Jenny Kniveton to facilitate
16.		Confirmation of delegates, representatives, and items to be addressed with Ministers and invited guests on Day 2 – Mr Des Mongoo & Ms Jenny Kniveton to facilitate
17.	4.00pm	MEETING CLOSES

Evening program: Entertainment and dinner (commence at 5:30pm), also at Bundiyarra Aboriginal Community Aboriginal Corporation – see separate program overview

Annual Yamatji On-Country Meeting

Day 2 Agenda

Thursday, 5 September 2024 - 8.00am Breakfast, 9.00am (9:20am start)

Bundiyarra Aboriginal Community Aboriginal Corporation

PUBLIC DAY

1.	8.00am	Breakfast and Registration at Bundiyarra
2.	9.20am	Bundiyarra welcome and One minute silence – Wayne McDonald, CEO Bundiyarra Aboriginal Community Aboriginal Corporation
3.		Welcome to Country – David Ronan who is a Wilinyu and Wajarri man
4.		Song Performance in Wajarri Language – Geraldton Primary School
5.		Traditional Dance Performance – Rangeway Primary School
6.		Opening remarks – Mr Peter Windie
7.		Facilitator Introduction – Mr Des Mongoo & Ms Jenny Kniveton
8.		'Housekeeping' – Mr Des Mongoo & Ms Jenny Kniveton
9.		Coming Together Agreement and Proceedings – Mr Des Mongoo & Ms Jenny Kniveton
10.		Opening speeches: summary of Day One – Mr Des Mongoo & Ms Jenny Kniveton
11.		Presentation from the Midwest Aboriginal Organisations Alliance (MAOA) – Mr Wayne McDonald and Ms Chloe Collard
11.		Presentation of Youth Issues – (Youth Representatives from Yamatji region high schools)
12.		Presentations by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community representatives on resolutions from Day One - Community Delegates/Representatives (decided Day 1)
13.		Attending Parliamentarians and government representatives invited to respond and present (followed by Q&A session) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minister Tony Buti MLA; Minister for Education; Aboriginal Affairs; Citizenship and Multicultural Interests • Senator Dorinda Cox, Senator for WA • Ms Lara Dalton MLA, Member for Geraldton • Ms Jacqueline McGowan-Jones, Commissioner for Children and Young People • Mr Bradley Mitchell – Regional Executive Director, Midwest/Gascoyne, Department of Communities & Chair of the Midwest District Leadership Group
14.		Meeting wrap-up – Mr Peter Windie – Chairperson – Yamatji Region, Ms Chris Dann – YMAC Yamatji Regional Manager, and Bundiyarra Aboriginal Community Aboriginal Corporation – CEO, Wayne McDonald
15.	1.20pm	Lunch approx. 1 hour <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visit Community and Information Stalls
16.	2.20pm	Meeting close and next steps – Mr Des Mongoo & Ms Jenny Kniveton

Fruit, biscuits and tea/coffee will be served from the tea & coffee stand all day.

For first aid assistance, please visit the YMAC tent.

Yamatji region schools involved (as of 30 August)

Geraldton Senior High School
Champion Bay Senior High School
Nagle Catholic College
Rangeway Primary School
Geraldton Primary School

Tell us what you think! Fill in a feedback form and drop it to the YMAC stall to go in running to WIN one of five gift vouchers, to be drawn at lunch on Day 2.

Visit the following stall holders to learn more about their programs and services.

Community Stalls – Day 1

Aboriginal Health Council of WA
Bundiyarra Aboriginal Community Aboriginal Corporation
Council of Aboriginal Services WA
Department of Energy, Mines, Industry Regulation & Safety
Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries
Geraldton Universities Centre
Hope Services
Real Futures
Reconciliation WA
Woollahra Group
Yamatji Southern Aboriginal Corporation
Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation

Community Stalls – Day 2

Bundiyarra Aboriginal Community Aboriginal Corporation
Centrecare Family Services
Council of Aboriginal Services WA
Department of Energy, Mines, Industry Regulation & Safety
Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries
Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage
Geraldton Regional Aboriginal Medical Service
Geraldton Universities Centre
Headspace
Hope Services
Real Futures
Reconciliation WA
Yamatji Southern Aboriginal Corporation
Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation



Yamatji On-Country

ANNUAL MEETING 2024 EVENING ENTERTAINMENT

WEDNESDAY 4 SEPTEMBER - FROM 5.30PM



Join us from 5.30pm to 8.30pm for bushtucker and entertainment at the Bundiyarra Aboriginal Community Corporation - 56 Eastward Rd, Geraldton

FEATURING LOCAL ARTISTS INCLUDING:

Trevor Farrell Jnr, Corey Dickerson, Craig Pickett, Billy Narrier, Latia Robertson, Zain Laudehr-May, and Aleah Toomalatai

For more information, contact: Carrum or Ken on
(08) 9965 6222 or visit ymac.org.au



Alcohol and Drug Free Event!