

# YMAAC NEWS

News from Yamatji  
Marlpa Aboriginal  
Corporation

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Yamatji Marlpa  
ABORIGINAL CORPORATION

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# Hello and welcome

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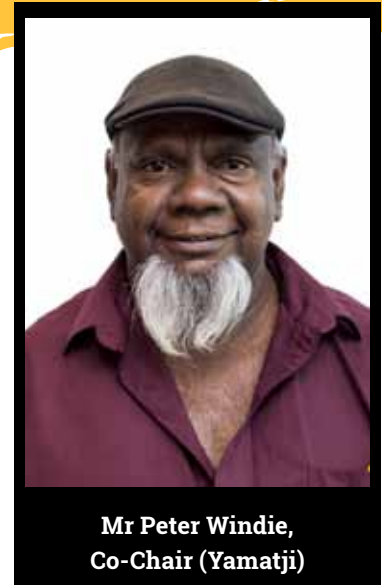
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New YMAC office in Wedgefield

**Warning:** Aboriginal People are warned that this publication may contain images of deceased people.



**Ms Natalie Parker,  
Co-Chair (Pilbara)**



**Mr Peter Windie,  
Co-Chair (Yamatji)**

Welcome to the latest edition of YMAC News and happy new year to all our members.

In this edition, you can read about the celebration of native title determinations for the Robe River Kuruma people and Ngarlawangga people. We also highlight the Bundiyarra-Irra Wangga Language Centre's first language bush camp.

There has been some changes to the Pilbara and Yamatji Regional Committees, and we would like to congratulate the new members, and thank Doris Eaton and Ben Roberts for their time as Co-Chairs of YMAC, and Victor Mourambine for his role as Deputy Co-Chair. Doris Eaton will continue on as the Co-Chair for the Pilbara Regional Committee and as the Deputy Co-Chair of YMAC. Both Ben and Victor will continue to serve on the Yamatji Regional Committee, and Victor will continue as a Director on the Board.

In 2017, we will continue to progress towards more successful determinations in both the Yamatji and Pilbara regions. We look forward to sharing more stories from Yamatji and Pilbara Traditional Owners in 2017.

# Recognition for the Robe River Kuruma

On 1 November 2016, the Robe River Kuruma people celebrated the legal recognition of their land and culture at an on-Country Federal Court hearing, held at Mindoona on the Robe River.

Federal Court judge Justice Michael Barker made the consent determination which recognised the Robe River Kuruma people's claim, known as Kuruma Marthudunera Part A.

The Part A native title determination application was filed in 1998 and covers approximately 4109 km of land located in the Shire of Ashburton and Roebourne.

The Part A area - often called Silvergrass, is home to many sacred sites, ceremonial places and permanent pools along the Jajiwara (Robe River). The area and its surrounds is a unique and culturally important landscape which is part of the

Robe River Kuruma people's cultural connection to their land.

Sara Slattery, Robe River Kuruma Traditional Owner, said the celebration was a long 20 year journey.

"We still have more work to do to achieve our Part B determination, today we celebrated the recognition of our Country and culture," she said.

Simon Hawkins, CEO, Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation said it's reassuring to see the success of the Robe River Kuruma people's native title determination.

"This determination took an extra 18 months of negotiation, the result from this saw the group securing five significant sites as exclusive possession areas," he said.



**LEFT TO RIGHT:** Elaine James; Neil Findlay; Cyril Locker; Gloria Lockyer



# A gathering of languages



Bundiyarra-Irra Wangga Language Centre in Geraldton hosted their very first language bush camp at Gunnado Farm in November 2016. The two-day camp had over 50 people attended both day and evening sessions.

People travelled from Carnarvon, Mullewa, Mount Magnet and Geraldton to take part in the activities. The camp was a get-together to talk about language and to look at what's happening with Wajarri, Badimaya, Malgana, Warriyanga, Yinggarda and Ngarlawangga languages.

Language groups worked together to translate a welcome song in each of their languages. Yamatji Regional Committee member Ben Roberts and the Wajarri group welcomed participants, along with local elders Ollie George, Rosie Hamlett,

Bevan Dingo and Victor Mourambine who helped translate the welcome song into "We are Australian" and sang it out with everyone.

Guests at the camp also listened to Eric Dalgety, part of popular band Red Ochre, accompany the songs with his music. Language speakers and others also participated in art sessions with Yamatji Art.

The language camp was recorded by ABC Radio, and was broadcast throughout the Mid West and Wheatbelt. The recordings also aired on Radio National shortly after the camp ended.

Congratulations to Bundiyarra-Irra Wangga Language Centre on such a successful event! YMAC was proud to sponsor this event.

**ABOVE:** Participants at the Bundiyarra Bush Camp

# Ngarlawangga celebrates



**LEFT TO RIGHT:** Maureen Jackamarra; Matthew Limerick; Dianne Limerick; Justice Barker; Tadgee Limerick; Maisey Hyland; Damien Hubert; and Jason Hyland

On 7 December 2016, the Ngarlawangga people celebrated the consent determination recognising the remainder of their rights to Country which was denied at the August 2000 Nharnuwangga Determination.

Federal Court judge Justice Michael Barker made the consent determination recognising the Ngarlawangga people's claim to the non-exclusive rights to the area of land. The Ngarlawangga native title determination application was filed in 2005 and covers approximately 6100 km of land located within the Shires of East Pilbara and Meekatharra.

Dianne Limerick, Ngarlawangga Traditional Owner, said the journey towards the Ngarlawangga

people's native title determination has been a long and difficult one.

"We've lost much family in this time, both Elders and young ones. With the determination, we finally have a happy ending as our Country has been returned to us," she said.

Simon Hawkins, CEO, Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation said the determination was a great day of celebration for the Ngarlawangga people.

"After 11 long years of legal process, the Ngarlawangga people have finally gained the recognition of a part of their Country which was previously denied," he said.

**"We finally have a happy ending as our Country has been returned to us."**

- Dianne Limerick, Ngarlawangga Traditional Owner



# 2017 Yamatji Regional Committee



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Chair, Yamatji Regional  
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Davina Mourambine  
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Ben Roberts  
Yamatji Regional Committee

# 2017 Pilbara Regional Committee



Natalie Parker  
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Albert Pianta  
Pilbara Regional Committee

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Pilbara Regional Committee



Selina Stewart  
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Terry Jaffrey  
Pilbara Regional Committee



# Yinhawangka Project Agreement

Yinhawangka Aboriginal Corporation and BHP Billiton Iron Ore celebrated the signing of the Yinhawangka BHP Billiton Project Agreement on 19 October 2016.

The Project Agreement covers the area of the Yinhawangka Native Title Claims in the Pilbara.

Negotiations took four years to be finalised. During this time, YMAC represented the Yinhawangka people and helped establish the Yinhawangka Aboriginal Corporation.

The Yinhawangka Aboriginal Corporation will

begin putting the Project Agreement into action, and coordinate the work.

Simon Hawkins, CEO of Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation said this agreement between BHP Billiton and the Yinhawangka people is a positive outcome after many years of negotiation.

"This agreement is a great achievement for all involved. It's a positive example showing mining and Traditional Owners can co-exist if all parties are willing to listen to one another and work co-operatively," he said.



**LEFT TO RIGHT:** Marlon Cooke; Edgar Basto, Asset President BHP; David Cox; and Adrian Reggie Condon



# Niyaparli people **sign Land Access** **Agreement**

On 18 November 2016, the Niyaparli people signed a Land Access Agreement (LAA) with Greenmount Resources, a subsidiary of Capricorn Metals. The LAA will allow Capricorn to advance its Karlawinda Gold Project, a proposed gold mine 50km south-east of Newman, with Niyaparli Traditional Owners as partners.

Simon Hawkins, YMAC CEO, said agreements like this LAA are the basis for a future of positive outcomes for Traditional Owners.

“This agreement demonstrates how negotiating in good faith with Traditional Owners can prove to have a positive outcome for both parties.



**ABOVE:** Mount Newman, Niyaparli Country

It has far-reaching benefits for the community, not only now, but in the future, enabling Niyaparli people to have access to training, employment and contracting opportunities “associated with the Karlawinda Gold Project,” said Mr Hawkins.

Karlka Niyaparli Aboriginal Corporation will represent the Niyaparli people for this project. Edith Hall, Karlka Chairperson, said the group is pleased that Capricorn Metals listened during negotiations.

“Our heritage and the environment are very much linked and we as Traditional Owners want to work with companies like Capricorn Metals to protect our heritage and the environment for future generations,” said Ms Hall.

Capricorn Metals has agreed to involve Niyaparli people in both cultural heritage and environmental surveys and studies.

# A 25,000 year-old archaeological find

An archaeological project at Yellabide Cave near Eneabba shows that the Aboriginal people of the area were occupying the site 25,000 years ago – 15,000 years earlier than originally thought.

University of Western Australia PhD student Carly Monks did the research with the help of Wilunyu Traditional Owners Thomas Cameron, Reg Brockman, and Buddy Edwards.

Emu eggshell, stone artefacts, and animal bone were discovered at the site. Thomas, Reg, and Buddy told the UWA researchers their ancestors would have used the cave as shelter during the hottest time of the year and to harvest food.

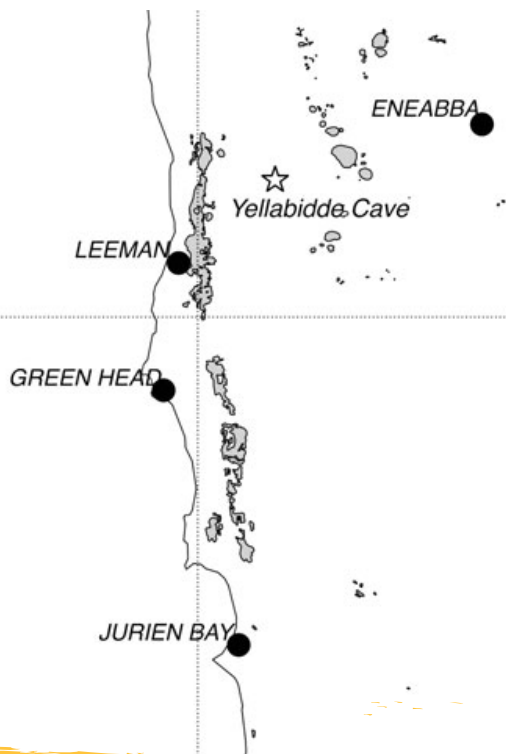
Carly said the site is especially significant

because radiocarbon dating showed the cave had been used for these purposes repeatedly over thousands of years.

“Archaeologists have long suspected that the sandy coastal plain between Perth and Geraldton contained evidence of Aboriginal occupation, but until now, research has only documented people’s activities in the past 10,000 years,” she said.

“This new information gives us an opportunity to look at how people’s use of the landscape, plants, and animals changed over a long time period.”

UWA students, researchers, and volunteers all took part in the dig. Carly’s article was published in the scientific journal *Australian Archaeology*.



**LEFT:** The location of Yellabide Cave relative to nearby sites

**RIGHT:** Wilunyu Traditional Owners and Carly Monks examine Yellabide Cave



# New YMAC office in Wedgefield



**ABOVE (L-R):** Elsie William; Raylene Button; Lena Alone; Diana Robinson; Hon Stephen Dawson Member for Mining and Pastoral; Donny Wilson, YMAC Pilbara Regional Manager  
**BELOW:** YMAC Hedland staff

On Friday, 4 November, YMAC celebrated the opening of its new Hedland office in Wedgefield. Traditional Owners, guests and staff gathered at the event which was officially opened by Kariyarra Elder, Diana Robinson and the Hon Stephen Dawson MLC, Member for Mining and Pastoral.

The new office is a great space with modern office facilities and a large storage warehouse big enough to house vehicles and equipment. As part of the celebrations, Pilbara Regional Manager Donny Wilson announced the name for

the boardroom: Nhurtu Ngarlikuru Wangkagai - this means “here we talk” in the Kariyarra language. This illustrates what YMAC does best - we talk to our members, elders and Traditional Owners. Aboriginal culture is about talking and sharing stories of culture and traditions.

If you are in the Hedland area, please stop by the Wedgefield office and say hi to Donny and his team. The new YMAC office can be found at 2/29 Steel Loop, in Wedgefield.



# country culture peoplefuture

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## 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 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; and
- A strong future for Yamatji and Marlpa people and country



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