

YMAAC NEWS

News from Yamatji
Marlpa Aboriginal
Corporation

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Yamatji Marlpa
ABORIGINAL CORPORATION

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



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

Welcome to Issue 34 of YMAC News.

It has been a very busy few months at YMAC. We have achieved determinations on the Yinhwangka, Budina and Wajarri Yamatji claims; and settled an Indigenous Land Use Agreement between the Kariyarra People and the State of Western Australia.

The Annual on-Country Bush Meeting at Yule River was an outstanding success, with a historic resolution to form an independent representative group for the purpose of consultation with government.

YMAC has also formed a partnership with Pilbara Solar, offering an exciting opportunity for Aboriginal business development in the energy sector.

We hope that you enjoy reading about the positive outcomes that YMAC is achieving for our stakeholders.

This is the last YMAC News for 2017. From all of us at YMAC, we wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

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

ILUA registration for **Nyiyaparli people**

On 4 and 5 July 2017, a special Nyiyaparli Working Group was held at the Fortescue Metals Group (FMG) Christmas Creek mine to mark the registration of the FMG Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA) and to celebrate NAIDOC Week.

The FMG ILUA was signed on 15 December 2016 and effects changes to the existing land access agreement, including increased royalties and benefits management flexibility, stronger protection for the Fortescue Marsh and provisions to increase the economic participation of the Nyiyaparli People in FMG's operations through training, employment and contracting opportunities.

The Nyiyaparli Working Group visited the Fortescue Marsh and Kamtama camp facilities, met with key FMG team members, and were given a tour of the Christmas Creek operations. They also attended a dinner as part of NAIDOC Week celebrations.



Photo : L-R Debbie Drage, John Cross (Karlka Interim CEO), Natalie Parker, Brian Tucker on the Fortescue Marsh visit (image courtesy of FMG).

Proud day at **Yinhawangka** determination

After 20 years of negotiations with the State Government of WA, the Yinhawangka people celebrated the Determination of their Native Title claim on 18 July 2017 at an on-Country Federal Court hearing held at the Rocklea Pastoral Station.

The Area is home to many sacred sites including ancient rock art, traditional tool-making places, ceremonial grounds, permanent pools, and places of spiritual significance connected to cultural song lines and stories.

"It is a proud day for us as Yinhawangka people. After all of our hard work we are finally recognised as the owners of this land. We would like to thank YMAC for all of their support," Yinhawangka Traditional Owner, Rodney Parker said.

The Determination Area covers the townsite of Paraburdoo, the Aboriginal communities at Wakathuni and Bellary Springs, six pastoral leases, crown reserves and unallocated crown land.

YMAC CEO Simon Hawkins said *"the Yinhawangka People successfully negotiated a consent determination which included the recognition of exclusive native title rights and interests in seven areas of cultural significance located on unallocated Crown land. This is a great outcome and the Yinhawangka People should be very proud."*

Justice Bromberg said, *"The Court hopes that the Yinhawangka people enjoy both spiritual and material prosperity."*



ABOVE: Front row L-R: Nicholas Cook (Yinhawangka); Roy Tommy (Yinhawangka); His Honour Justice Bromberg; Barry Condon (Yinhawangka); David Cox (Yinhawangka); Adrian Condon Snr (Yinhawangka); Roma Butcher (Yinhawangka)
Second row L-R: Colletta Cooke (Yinhawangka); Kate Holloman (YMAC); Augustine Allen (Yinhawangka)

Landmark **Kariyarra** ILUA for Port Hedland



ABOVE: Standing (L-R) Hon. Ben Wyatt (Treasurer, Minister for Finance, Energy, Aboriginal Affairs, Hon. Rita Saffioti (Minister for Transport, Planning, Lands), Kevin Michel (Member for Pilbara), Simon Hawkins (CEO, YMAC); Seated (L-R) Kariyarra Signatories Cyril Gordon, Donny Wilson, Kerry Robinson, Diana Robinson-Brown

The official signing of an Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA) between the Kariyarra People and the State of Western Australia (WA) was held in Port Hedland on 29 September 2017.

Since 2011, the Kariyarra People have been engaged in negotiations with the State of WA regarding compensation for the expansion of the Port Hedland Port and a residential area in South Hedland, acts which occurred within the Kariyarra native title claim.

The State of WA approved the Kariyarra-State ILUA in Cabinet on 31 July 2017. The agreement offers benefits to empower Kariyarra People to end intergenerational poverty and help their families get ahead.

Kariyarra Elder, Diana Robinson said *“the ILUA negotiation has been a long, challenging journey that has changed the way we see ourselves and empowered us to create a better future for our people.”*

Key benefits of the ILUA include houses in South and Port Hedland, management orders for several reserves for the use and benefit of Aboriginal people, both town based and further away in the claim area, freehold lots and financial benefits.

“YMAC’s goal is to empower Aboriginal people to take a leadership role in their communities to achieve the outcomes they want for themselves.” YMAC CEO Simon Hawkins said.

Historic outcome at **Yule River** on-Country Bush Meeting

The 4th Annual on-Country Bush Meeting at the Yule River meeting place was held on Wednesday 20 and Thursday 21 September 2017. Traditional Owners, key Members of Parliament and government officials gathered over two days to discuss a range of concerns raised by the community members living in the region. More Traditional Owners, politicians and key figures attended the event than ever before.

Day 1 was for Traditional Owners and included separate Men's and Women's Business discussions. The evening was celebrated with traditional dance performances from the Kariyarra, followed by Nyangumarta, and Njamal with a stunning Martu performance to finish. The dancing occurred under a clear, star filled night, in the light of camp fires, accompanied by the singing of elder men and women.

The dancers were organised by YMAC Pilbara Regional Manager, Donny Wilson. Congratulations Donny for organising the first Kariyarra dance performance in the past four years of the Yule River meeting.

Many thanks also go to YMAC Director and Co-Chair (Yamatji), Peter Windie, for providing the delicious kangaroo that was served for lunch.

Day 2 was open to the Public. A presentation from Hon. Ben Wyatt (Treasurer, Minister for Finance, and Minister for Aboriginal Affairs) was warmly received by all. Presentations were also made by Hon. Stephen Dawson (Minister for Environment; Disability Services, and Deputy Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council), Senator Patrick Dodson and Hon. Robin Chapple (Member for Mining and Pastoral Region).

Three resolutions were passed at the Yule River meeting:

- The Pilbara Yule River Bush Meeting proposed an independent Representative Group to give advice to the government on behalf of Aboriginal Pilbara People.
- The community want to see action to achieve: language preservation, improved education in the Pilbara, improved health services (mental, renal and men's health), support of a treaty with the State Government, improved housing services for Aboriginal Pilbara people, opposition to the Cashless Welfare Card and Aboriginal heritage protection.
- The Marlpa People made a strong delivery at the meeting calling on the WA State and Federal Government to fully commit to a process towards Voice, Treaty and Truth.

Watch a video of highlights from the 2017 Yule River event by using the link:

<http://ymac.org.au/type/video/>



ABOVE: Community members voting on a resolution at the 2017 Annual on-Country Bush Meeting.

ABOVE: Community members enjoying the evening entertainment at the conclusion of Day 1.



ABOVE: Hon. Ben Wyatt, Treasurer, Minister for Energy, Aboriginal Affairs presenting on Day 2 of the Annual on-Country Bush Meeting.

ABOVE: Simon Hawkins, CEO YMAC; Senator Patrick Dodson, Mr Danny Brown, Mrs Doris Eaton, Hon. Ben Wyatt and daughter Georgina.



ABOVE: Mr Thomas Mayor (far left) with the Yinhawankga dancers, and the canvas with signatures supporting the Statement from the Heart.

RIGHT: YMAC team member cooking a barbecue lunch for the meeting attendees.

Launch of Pilbara Solar

The Pilbara is widely recognized as having the best solar resources in the world. The International Energy Agency's (IEA) Task 8 Committee highlighted the Pilbara as suitable for very large-scale photo-voltaic (VLS-PV) implementation.

The prefeasibility study, "*Evaluating the potential to export Pilbara solar resources to the proposed ASEAN grid via a subsea high voltage direct current (HVDC) interconnector*," was launched in August this year by Hon. Alannah MacTiernan, Minister for Regional Development. This study examines the case for exporting Pilbara solar resources to southeast Asia, where electricity demand is rapidly increasing.

Pilbara Solar Pty Ltd (Pilbara Solar) was formed to enact the recommendations of the prefeasibility study. The Pilbara Solar corporate structure includes equity ownership by the Traditional Owners of the Pilbara and aims to grow Aboriginal communities and leadership opportunities for a new industry in Northern Australia.

For decades, YMAC has attempted to bring equity opportunities for Aboriginal people into mining projects, however the mining companies were not receptive to the idea. However, the renewables industry is embracing the model of true Aboriginal partnership. YMAC has a seat on the Board of Pilbara Solar, to provide opportunities to our stakeholders in the Pilbara.



ABOVE: L-R Mr Richard Finlay-Jones (Director Pilbara Solar), Ms Sam Mella (Director Pilbara Solar), Mr Ade Padmo Sarwono (Consul General of the Republic of Indonesia in Perth), Mrs Raylene Button (Director Pilbara Solar), Hon. Alannah MacTiernan (Minister for Regional Development), Mr Simon Hawkins (CEO YMAC, Director Pilbara Solar), Ms Kylie Chalmers (Lawyer, YMAC and Senior Project Adviser Pilbara Solar)

Download the prefeasibility study from:

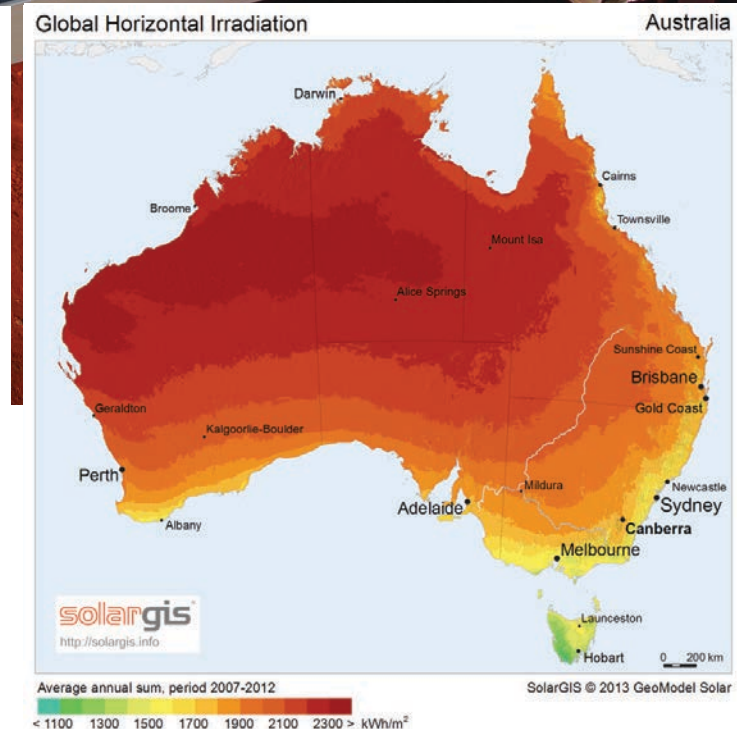
<http://www.pdc.wa.gov.au/our-focus/pilbara-blueprint/pilbarasolar>

offering **Indigenous** equity ownership

Pilbara Solar's goals in the short term are to provide secure, long-term, low-cost solar power to local industry. The company's aim in the medium term is to scale up the solar industry in the Pilbara, building up the supply chain and expertise to develop globally cost-competitive solar power at scale, adapted to local Pilbara conditions. Its vision in the long term is to export Australian solar energy via a High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) interconnector, and/or hydrogen to Indonesia.

The unique selling points of the Pilbara Solar business model have also caught the attention of the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet. Pilbara Solar will be presenting at the Northern Australia Investment Forum hosted by Austrade in Cairns in late November 2017 and the company has also been invited to attend the Indonesia Australia Business Summit in Adelaide later this year.

Watch the Pilbara Solar video on YouTube:
<https://youtu.be/WELEFCVidtl>



Native title win for **Budina** at Lyndon Station



ABOVE: the Budina applicants celebrate their determination with family, neighbours, YMAC staff, the Federal Court team, and representatives from the State government. The Federal Court hearing was held at the Lyndon Station Homestead.

The Budina community celebrated the legal recognition of their land and culture at an on-Country Federal Court hearing held at Lyndon Pastoral Station on 16 October 2017.

The Budina determination area is about 4,096 square kilometres in size. It is located about 300 km southeast of Exmouth and 400 km north east of Carnarvon. The area occurs within the Shire of Ashburton, Shire of Carnarvon and Shire of Upper Gascoyne. The area overlaps seven pastoral stations: Lyndon, Towera, Emu Creek, Uaroo, Middalya, Mangaroon and Maroonah.

Justice John Griffiths, from the Federal Court congratulated the parties involved in the determination process and appreciated the efforts made by everyone who travelled to Lyndon Station to witness the historic event.

"This is an important outcome for the Budina people and I'm so glad to see so many people could make it out here to celebrate with us." Budina Elder Clive Lyndon said.

YMAC CEO Simon Hawkins said *"This is a great outcome for a beautiful group of people."*

Recognition for **Wajarri Yamatji** at Budara on Wooleen Station

On Thursday 19 October 2017, the Wajarri Yamatji community celebrated the legal recognition of their land and culture at an on-Country Federal Court hearing held at Wooleen Station.

The consent determination covers the majority of the Wajarri Yamatji claim area, 68,743 square kilometres of the total 97,676 square kilometres and encompasses parts of the Shires of Meekatharra, Mount Magnet, Murchison, Upper Gascoyne, Cue and Yalgoo, as well as 56 pastoral leases.

Many families have been involved in the journey to this native title recognition which started more than 20 years ago.

The Wajarri Organising Committee stated that the native title determination was a historic day for the Wajarri people.

"It recognises our connection to our Country (barna) that has existed since long before European colonisation. We have always known where we come from, but this determination means that our connection to our barna is recognised by Australian law." the Committee said.

It was a day of excitement and emotion, as many elders recalled stories of their childhood spent on Country and how proud they were to have finally achieved formal recognition of native title.

Representing WA State Treasurer Hon. Ben Wyatt, Mr David Edelman said the Western Australian Government looked forward to building an enduring relationship with the Wajarri Yamatji people and welcomed their engagement to discuss opportunities for economic development.



ABOVE: a crowd of over 300 people gathered at Budara on Wooleen Station to witness the federal court consent determination of the Wajarri Yamatji Part A.

Community Partnership Finalist in Excellence Awards

The Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety Awards for Excellence were held on 26 October 2017. YMAC, along with partner BHP Billiton Iron Ore, were selected as finalists in the Community Partnership category.

The collaboration between YMAC and BHP involved undertaking a targeted stakeholder engagement program over 18 months with six Traditional Owner groups on the company's Pilbara Strategic Environmental Assessment.

The workshops allowed for a shift in conversation from project-by-project discussions on environmental approvals required by regulators to a focus on identifying environmental issues important to Traditional Owners.

The partnership between YMAC and BHP Billiton has allowed for more meaningful and broader engagement on issues such as sustaining traditional land uses pre-and post-mining, and working towards longer-term stewardship and improving environmental outcomes for Traditional Owners.



ABOVE: Kate Holloman, YMAC Lawyer (left) and Natalie Parker, YMAC Co-Chair Pilbara (Right) at the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety Awards for Excellence.

Cashless Debit Card Senate Committee hearing in Kalgoorlie

The Senate Community Affairs Legislation committee held a public hearing on the Social Services Legislation Amendment (Cashless Debit Card) Bill 2017 in Kalgoorlie on Thursday 12 October 2017. The committee received 58 submissions on the proposed Bill from across Australia.

The Senate Community Affairs Legislation committee members in attendance were:

- Senator Peter Georgiou
- Mr Bowler
- Senator Slade Brockman
- Senator Malarndirri McCarthy
- Senator Pauline Hanson
- Senator Louise Pratt
- Senator Rachel Siewert
- Senator Sue Lines

Witnesses attending the public hearing represented a cross section of the Australian community:

- five local government authorities
- four individuals
- four health and social services organisations
- one police officer
- four community and aboriginal corporations
- three business organisations



PARLIAMENT of AUSTRALIA

The Bill proposes to amend the *Social Security (Administration) Act 1999* to remove certain restrictions on the cashless debit card trial and thereby allow the extension of trial arrangements in current sites and to further sites. The implication is that the system could be implemented anywhere at anytime, without justification or evidence to support the merits of the system.

YMAC presented a witness statement at the Senate Committee hearing via teleconference. The key messages delivered on behalf of YMAC members were:

- strong opposition to the introduction of the cashless debit card to YMAC stakeholders
- concern about the lack of consultation and use of racist stereotyping to justify the program
- there is a lack of robust data to support the claims that the scheme has resulted in a transformation of the trial communities
- concern about the influence of a business organisation on community affairs policy

The full transcript of the Kalgoorlie public hearing is available for download from:

https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Senate/Community_Affairs/CashlessDebitCard/Public_Hearings

Agreement between **Thiin Mah Warriyanka Tharrkari Jiwarli** & Hastings Technology Metals



On Thursday 9 November 2017, the Thiin-Mah Warriyanka Tharrkari Jiwarli (TMWTJ) community authorised the Yangibana Project Area Agreement with Hastings Technology Metals in Carnarvon.

The TMWTJ Negotiation Team first met with Hastings in March 2017, negotiations progressed quickly thanks to the hard work of all the parties involved.

The Yangibana Project is a rare earth minerals operation 270kms north-east of Carnarvon, and the successful completion of the Agreement marks the first such Agreement entered into by the new combined claim.

The authorisation of the Agreement will bring both direct financial benefits and a variety of employment and contracting opportunities to the TMWTJ People.

Executive chairman of the Hastings board, Charles Lew, thanked the TMWTJ People for their hard work in negotiating the Agreement with the presentation of a pewter plaque, made from tin mined near his childhood home in Malaysia.

TOP LEFT: Mr Charles Lew (left), Executive Chairman of the Board of Hastings Technology Metals presenting Mr Herbert Eagle (right) with a Royal Selangor plate.

BOTTOM LEFT: The Royal Selangor plate.



Annual report

available online

The YMAC annual report for the year 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017 provides a summary of the key achievements and activities completed during the reporting year.

In particular, significant progress has been made on several native title claims, future act agreements and advocacy projects such as ranger programs.

The report was approved by the Board of Directors on 6 October 2017 and a copy was posted to all YMAC members the following week.

The report is also available for viewing and download from the YMAC website:

www.ymac.org.au/annual-reports

Please call the Perth office on (08) 9268 7000 if you would like extra copies of the annual report posted to you.



Season's Greetings



As 2017 draws to a close, the Directors, Executive Management Team and Staff at YMAC extend their thanks to our members for your ongoing support.

We wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Holiday Shutdown

YMAC offices will be closed for the Christmas and New Year period from Friday 22 December 2017 and reopen on Monday 8 January 2018.

country culture peoplefuture

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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Send your questions, ideas, letters and photos to editor@ymac.org.au

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