

YMAC 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 the latest edition of YMAC News. In this edition we read about:

- The Malgana Shark Bay People's Native Title Claim Group successful application for State Government funding for the “Pathway to a Malgana Country Land and Sea Management Program”.
- An alternative settlement of native title claims involving Southern Yamatji, Hutt River, Mullewa Wadjari and Widi Mob claim groups. It is hoped that these negotiations with the State of WA will lead to an agreement called the Geraldton Alternative Settlement Agreement (GASA).
- Changes to the Pilbara and Yamatji Regional Committees and welcome the new members.

As always, there's a lot happening. In 2018 we hope to progress six native title claims to determination in both the Yamatji and Pilbara regions. We are also busy planning the Annual On-Country Bush Meeting (Yule River) which is happening on 11 and 12 July – hope to see you there!

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

Aboriginal Ranger Program Receives Government Funding

The first round of WA State Government funding for its Aboriginal Ranger Program was announced on 10 February, with \$8.5 million awarded to 13 successful applicants. During the next five years, this program will provide a total of \$20 million to support Aboriginal people in the management and conservation of their traditional country.

As one of the successful applicants in the first round of funding, YMAC – on behalf of Malgana Shark Bay People's Native Title Claim Group – will receive backing for the employment of one Malgana Ranger and one Land and Sea Management Coordinator for 18-months, as part of the proposed "Pathway to a Malgana Country Land and Sea Management Program".

The State Government grant is a great first step in involving Malgana Traditional Owners in the management of their land and sea country in the Shark Bay area.

Shark Bay has been recognised for its unique and outstanding environmental values, evidenced by its inclusion on both the National and World Heritage Lists, and this ranger initiative has the potential to become a comprehensive Malgana-led land and sea management program for the entire Shark Bay area. It's a positive outcome for the Malgana community that will generate local economic, training and employment opportunities, as well as generating environmental and cultural outcomes.

Currently, the majority of the Shark Bay area is classified as either: 'National Park', 'Nature Reserve', 'Conservation Park', 'Marine Park' or 'Marine Nature Reserve', and managed by the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA).

The recently produced '*Gutharraguda Land and Sea Country Management Plan*', endorsed by the Malgana Shark Bay People's native title working group ('Malgana Working Group'), clearly articulates some of these aspirations, alongside a set of values and assets, both natural and cultural.

The current funding will assist Malgana People to deliver some of their objectives as described in the '*Gutharraguda Land and Sea Country Management Plan*', including:

- Set-up a Malgana reference group which will act as an interface between the wider Malgana community and all stakeholders with an interest in land and sea management in the Shark Bay area. This group will also form part of the negotiation team on behalf of Malgana People when Indigenous Land Use Agreement negotiations start in earnest with the State of Western Australia.
- Provide a direct employment position, within DBCA's Denham office, for a Malgana Ranger.
- Train six Malgana People (three females and three males) in accredited conservation and land management modules.
- Provide a coordinating position for a Malgana person who will be responsible for the facilitation, support, and management of the program.

YMAC is in the process of signing the funding agreement with the State Government, on behalf of the Malgana Shark Bay People's Native Title Claim Group. YMAC will support the Malgana People with their projects and ensure they are directly involved in the decision making and practical management of the cultural heritage and environmental assets on their Country.



Photo : Malgana Country

Welcome to our new **Yamatji Regional** Committee members

The following committee members were elected to the Yamatji Regional Committee for a two year term at the Yamatji Annual Regional Meeting held in December 2017 in Northampton.



Sharna Oakley

Sharna is a Malgana woman who grew up in Carnarvon. Sharna is pleased to be elected as a committee member as it will give her the opportunity to learn more about YMAC's operations and provide input on issues that matter.

As a committee member, Sharna hopes to see the Aboriginal people who are fighting for their land have access given back to them so that the elders can teach the younger generation about the land and its background. She is also willing to learn and gain experience from her elders to better Indigenous lives.



Albert Winder

Albert is a Malgana man who grew up in Carnarvon and then moved away for about 30 years to live and work in Perth. Albert has worked on the mines and at a large steel company. He recently made the move back to Carnarvon around three years ago.

Albert became a committee member so that he could get involved in Aboriginal matters affecting the community.

In 2018, he would like to see that the Malgana people, and other claim groups, get a determination so they can have access to their land.



Rodney Ryan

Rodney is a Nanda and Wajarri Yamatji man who grew up in Northampton. He left when he was 16 years old and has been living and working in Carnarvon ever since. Rodney is semi-retired, however he has previously, worked on stations, for Main Roads, a community development program, and in health and community care.

Rodney enjoys being a committee member and the discussion that is generated during meetings. As a member, he wants to help the community get access to their land and get claims determined so that the Aboriginal people can go back to Country. In 2018, he would also like to see more partnerships established with the Aboriginal communities so that more jobs can be created, and health and education can be improved.

The YMAC Board of Directors would also like to extend a warm welcome to Paul Baron as a new Director and Deborah Oakley as a Deputy Co-Chairperson.



Karla Tittums

Karla grew up in Carnarvon but later moved to the southwest and attended High School in Busselton. The majority of Karla's career has been spent with Child Protection and Community Alcohol Drug Service in Carnarvon.

Karla has always had a keen interest in Native Title and became a committee member to learn more to educate and inform members of her community of the processes, facts and future directions.

As a committee member, Karla hopes to see progress in the native title claims for all the groups in the Yamatji area. She encourages everyone in the community to work together to build a positive future for all, especially the younger generations.



Paul Baron

Paul is a Baiyungu man and a member of the Gnulli native title claim. He is the general manager of the Baiyungu Aboriginal Corporation, which is involved in development and land holdings in the Coral Bay area, including the Cardabia pastoral lease.

Paul lives in Carnarvon and is a keen fisherman, but also enjoys hunting and camping in his spare time. Being on the YMAC Regional Committee is important to him because he believes that full recognition of traditional ownership provides Aboriginal people a base for building strong communities and enterprises.

Paul previously served on YMAC's Board of Directors from 2009 to 2015 and was re-elected in 2017. He was re-elected to the Yamatji Regional Committee in November 2015.



Deborah Oakley

Deborah is a Malgana woman. She currently works with the Carnarvon Aboriginal Medical Service and looks forward to contributing her cultural knowledge and skills towards her work for the Yamatji Regional Committee and Board of Directors.

Country is very precious to Deborah's heart. For her, Country goes way back to ancestors and now it is up to the current and younger generations to respect what is here.

Deborah is very active. In her spare time she enjoys singing and dancing as well as playing basketball, football, softball, darts and going fishing and swimming.

Deborah was re-elected to the YMAC's Board of Directors and the Yamatji Regional Committee in November 2016.

Geraldton Alternative Settlement Agreement (GASA)

On 31 August 2017, the State of Western Australia invited Southern Yamatji, Hutt River, Mullewa Wadjari and Widi Mob claim groups to enter into negotiations about an alternative settlement of native title claims.

Negotiations formally started on 6 November 2017 and it is hoped that these negotiations will lead to an agreement called the Geraldton Alternative Settlement Agreement (GASA).

The four native title claim groups currently involved in the GASA negotiations are collectively known as the Separate Proceeding Area (SPA) claims.

YMAC will provide ongoing advice and representation to the native title claim groups that it represents in the SPA, which

are currently Hutt River and Southern Yamatji.

The four SPA claims have set up a 12-person Traditional Owner Negotiation Team (TONT). Through their Working Groups or Applicant Groups, each of the four claims has nominated and authorised representatives to be on the TONT.

The TONT will be negotiating face to face with representatives of the State under instruction from their Working Groups.

The aim is to achieve an agreement that reflects the aspirations and needs of the Geraldton Traditional Owner community as a whole. Any agreement that is reached will need to be endorsed by the community.

The TONT members are:

Mullewa Wadjari Representatives

Leedham Papertalk Snr
Glenda Jackamarra

Widi Mob Representatives

Shirley McPherson
Kathleen Pinkerton

Hutt River Representatives

Paul Eley
Helen Nutter

Southern Yamatji Representatives

Wayne Warner
Fred Taylor
Rod Little
Carol Martin
Ross Councillor
Delveen Whitby
Leedham Papertalk Snr
Glenda Jackamarra
Shirley McPherson
Kathleen Pinkerton



ABOVE: (Front from left) Fred Taylor, Paul Eley, Wayne Warner, Rod Little and Leedham Papertalk (Back from left) Glenda Jackamarra, Shirley McPherson, Delveen Whitby, Carol Martin, Helen Nutter and Kathleen Pinkerton

Rhodda Capewell – the “Smiling Assassin”

Our committee members all have interesting stories to tell.
In this edition of YMAC news we find out more about Yamatji
Regional Committee member Rhodda Capewell.



As a teenager, Rhodda grew up in Carnarvon and had a keen interest in sports, playing softball and basketball. Her passion for sport was evident as she represented Carnarvon in the North West championships over a number of years. Rhodda also played in local Carnarvon and Perth competitions, and many Aboriginal basketball carnivals.

Rhodda moved to Perth in 1990 and a couple of years later, and after seeing a women's rugby league match for the first time, decided to give it a go and started playing. Rhodda was 42 at the time.

In 1998 and 1999 respectively, Rhodda was the first Aboriginal woman to represent WA at the National Rugby League championships held in Queensland and Canberra.

In 2003, Rhodda played for the Indigenous National Championships in Canberra and was then selected to play for the Inaugural Australian Indigenous Women's Rugby League Team called “The Boomerangs”, a month before her 50th birthday. Rhodda says she was a grandmother figure to the team as the youngest member was 14 and the next oldest team members were in their late 30s. Unfortunately the team didn't get to play for the World Cup in New Zealand, however Rhodda was asked to return for selections the following year.

She played contact rugby league for 6 years where she acquired the nickname of “the smiling assassin” for her happy disposition on the field and having fun.

Another impressive achievement came in 2011, at the Australian Masters Games. The Western Diamonds softball team from Geraldton, which Rhodda played for, won gold at the tournament. The Western Diamonds were a group of ladies between the ages of 45 and 66 years old. The team played 12 games over the 9-day tournament and won 11.

In addition to her sporting success, Rhodda was in the Role Model Program with the Department of Sports and Recreation to assist others in their sporting development. She also got involved in NAIDOC week and cultural festivals through her work at the Department of Culture and the Arts.

Rhodda has five sons and tries to set an example by encouraging them to play sport and get involved. She also encourages her children and grandchildren to talk to the old people so that they can understand their culture.

Rhodda is also a member of the Wajarri Yamatji and Amangu claim groups and was elected to the Yamatji Regional Committee in 2014.

YMAC All Staff Conference

The 2018 All Staff Conference was held over two days on 20 -21 February at the Adina Hotel, followed by a Conference Dinner at the Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre on day two.

YMAC staff participated in a range of workshops and seminars including Cross Cultural Training, Leadership, Indigenous Land Management and Wellness. The speakers were professionals in their field of work and the content was valuable.

The conference provided a great opportunity for staff to network and take part in group activities outside of work.

The awards dinner celebrated the people who made YMAC's achievements possible. There were two categories of Awards - the Values Awards and the Long Service Awards.

The YMAC Values Awards recognised staff that were nominated by their peers, went the extra mile and displayed YMAC's values:

• Respect • Professionalism • Integrity • Collaboration

These values show YMAC's commitment to providing the best possible service to Traditional Owners across the Yamatji and Pilbara regions. They also reflect the way staff work with each other. Employees who have worked with YMAC over the course of 5, 7 and 10 years were also acknowledged.

The Board and Executive Management Team congratulates all the 2018 award recipients.

Award Winners

VALUES AWARD

- Sarah Cimetta
- Megan Healy
- Cheryl Collins
- Callum Forsey
- Jackie Fielding
- Deirdre Callan
- Amy Usher

YMAC LONG SERVICE AWARDS

5 YEAR LONG SERVICE AWARD:

- Jackie Fielding
- Ruth Lawless
- Lynette Meehan
- Amanda O'Hehir
- Amy Usher

7 YEAR LONG SERVICE AWARD:

- Michelle Goodlet
- Elizabeth Harper

10 YEAR LONG SERVICE AWARD:

- Cheryl Collins
- Anna-Marie Gibbs
- Kate Holloman
- Martie Oosthuizen



Aboriginal Heritage Act Workshops

Aboriginal Affairs Minister Ben Wyatt has announced a review of the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972*, the legislation responsible for preserving and protecting Aboriginal Heritage in Western Australia.

The release of the Consultation Paper marks the commencement of a three-phase public consultation process that will ultimately lead to

the introduction of a new Aboriginal heritage legislation into the Western Australian Parliament. Community meetings and stakeholder workshops will be held across regional WA and in Perth throughout May 2018.

To find out more about the locations of the workshops visit the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage website: daa.wa.gov.au.

Save the Date

The Annual on-Country Bush Meeting will be held on Wednesday 11 July and Thursday 12 July 2018. For more information on this year's event, call YMAC on **(08) 9268 7000**.



From L-R: Hon. Senator Patrick Dodson MP (Shadow Assistant Minister for Indigenous Affairs and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders), Hon. Ben Wyatt MLA (Treasurer, Minister for Finance, Energy, Aboriginal Affairs), Hon. Stephen Dawson MLC (Minister for Environment; Disability Services, Deputy Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council) and Alfred Barker (Kariyarra) on the panel at the 2017 Yule River event.



Traditional Owners meeting at the 2017 Yule River event

Indigenous women leaders meet MPs at Parliament

As part of International Women's Day celebrations in March this year, six Indigenous women leaders from Outback WA travelled to Perth to attend a morning tea at Parliament House. The morning tea was hosted by Minister for Women's Interests Simone McGurk.

YMAC Deputy Co-chair Doris Eaton and Senior Cultural Advisor Nyaparu Rose were among the six Indigenous women that attended the event.

Nyaparu Rose is a Nyangumarta Elder who works closely with the Nyangumarta Rangers. She is also CEO of Nyangumarta Warrarn Aboriginal Corporation. YMAC supports the Nyangumarta Ranger program by providing training and development.

Mrs Eaton is a Deputy Co-Chairperson on the YMAC Board of Directors. At the morning tea, she spoke of the importance of connection to country for grounding young people and helping them understand where they belong.

The women shared their perspective on how connection to country can improve lives on the ground in Outback WA, and how Parliament in Perth can help support their work.

The Create Ranger Parks proposal, aims to protect five million hectares of former pastoral stations and they would like to see these areas be managed by Indigenous ranger teams.

To find out more about the proposal visit www.create ranger parks.org.au

From L-R: Minister for Women's Interests Simone McGurk, Mrs Doris Eaton (Njamal Elder), Bianca McNeair (Northern Agricultural Catchments Council), Nyaparu Rose (Nyangumarta Warrarn Aboriginal Corporation), Philippa Jones (Meeangu Wajarri Aboriginal Corporation), Heidi Parker (Marditja Banjima Ranger), Jennylyn Hamlett (Meeangu Wajarri Aboriginal Corporation), Rebekah Revesz (Ranger Coordinator, Banjima Country Management).



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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



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

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