

25 YEARS
CREATING A
STRONG FUTURE

FOR YAMATJI AND
MARLPA PEOPLE AND
COUNTRY



Yamatji Marlpa
ABORIGINAL CORPORATION



*This publication is dedicated to all
Yamatji and Marlpa Traditional Owners:
past, present and future.*

*Warning: Please be advised, this publication may contain the names, images and words of deceased persons.
YMAC sincerely apologises for any distress this may cause.*



Badimia Country

Peter Windie
Co-Chairperson – Yamatji Region



Co-Chairpersons' Message

This 25th anniversary publication is a celebration of the resilience, passion and achievements of Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation (YMAC).

Since releasing our 20th anniversary book, *Looking After Country: Our Mother, Our Provider and Keeper*, in 2014, it is inspiring to now look back over the past 25 years since YMAC was established – and the last five years in particular – through this new publication to see the spirit of

collaboration and fortitude that has enabled YMAC to accomplish so many important outcomes for Traditional Owners.

Representing native title claim groups from across Western Australia's Mid West, Gascoyne, Murchison and Pilbara regions for over a quarter century – each with

their own language, culture and traditions – has created a diverse remit for YMAC.

Our evolution from Yamatji Barna Baba Maaja Aboriginal Corporation – incorporated in 1994 – to become the nationally recognised Aboriginal leadership body we are today is a testament to the strength, courage and vision of the thousands of people who have come together to achieve recognition of native title rights.

Navigating the native title process can often be uncertain and unpredictable. However, through the years YMAC has remained true to its values, steadfastly working alongside Traditional Owners with respect, expertise and foresight.

We pay tribute to YMAC's past and present members, Regional Committee Members, Directors, staff, government representatives and other stakeholders who have contributed to our journey so far.

YMAC continues to evolve in response to the ever-changing native title landscape and is more committed than ever to deliver on its mission:

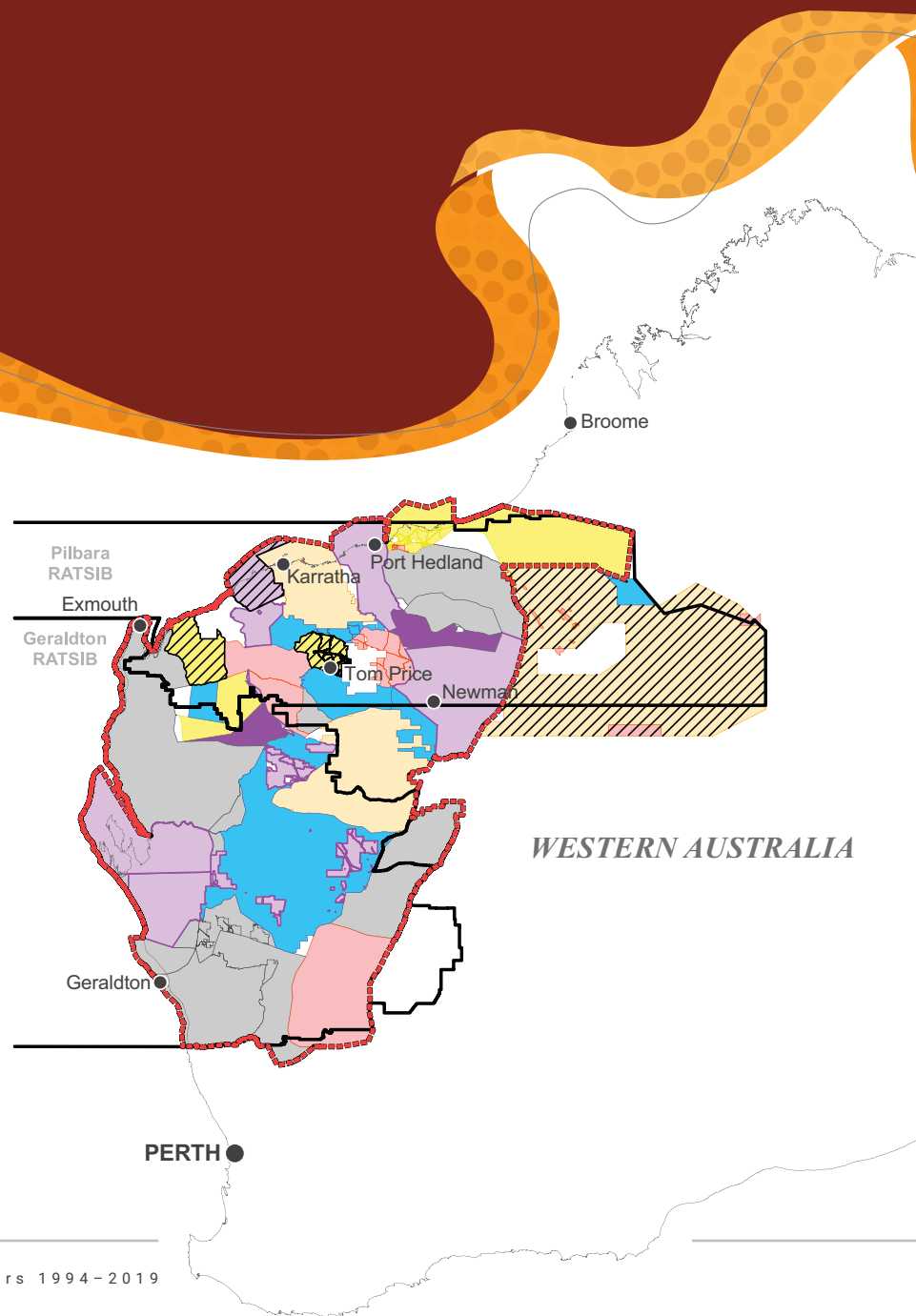
To work with Yamatji and Marlpa people to pursue:

- Recognition and acceptance of Yamatji and Marlpa culture in Country.
- A strong future for Yamatji and Marlpa people and Country.

As we look towards the next 25 years, we know YMAC will continue to meet new and different challenges and opportunities with strength and resilience.



Natalie Parker
Co-Chairperson – Pilbara Region



Legend

Native Title Determinations (by year determined)

- 2000-2005
- 2006-2010
- 2011-2015
- 2016-2017
- 2018
- 2019
- YMAC Representative Area (681,723sqkm)
- Geraldton and Pilbara RATSIBs (1,242,304sqkm)
- Native Title Determinations YMAC didn't represent
- Native Title Claims in YMAC Representative Area

DID YOU KNOW?

Over the years, the expert work and significant contributions made by individual YMAC staff, as well as our Committee and Board Members, have been recognised through the awarding of distinguished accolades. This has included recipients of: NAIDOC Female Elder of the Year, Leighton Holdings Indigenous Award, Senior Woman Lawyer of the Year, and Senior Lawyer of the Year.

Looking back, looking forward

YMAC's 25th anniversary is an opportunity to reflect and acknowledge the hard work and accomplishments that have made the organisation one of Australia's most respected Native Title Representative Bodies.

While it would be easy to judge our success simply on the many determinations we have achieved for the Yamatji and Marlpa people of Western Australia, there is so much more to our story.

Over the years, YMAC has grown from a small, academically focussed organisation, to a diverse, highly professional entity. We now have a large, dedicated team specialising in everything from research and heritage, native title law and anthropology, to finance, policy, governance, and project management.

We are proud to be thought of as an innovator, often requiring the belief, courage and commitment to make tough calls when they are the right calls.

The native title process can be long and oftentimes difficult, and Yamatji and Marlpa people have had to be understanding of the processes involved, remain resilient, and manage competing interests and expectations.

There can be differences and conflicts, on a range of issues, which require resolution. However, most often in these circumstances comes the realisation that by coming together positive results can be achieved.

While resolving native title claims has always been central to YMAC's focus, our staff have also worked tirelessly in partnership with Traditional Owners to negotiate comprehensive mining, land access, future acts, and heritage agreements, many of which have been significant in the national landscape.

DID YOU KNOW?

Since its establishment, YMAC has worked alongside Traditional Owners to achieve 26 native title determinations (as at June 2019) across the Pilbara, Gascoyne, Mid West and Murchison regions of Western Australia; 18 of these have been achieved since the beginning of 2015, with more scheduled for finalisation by the end of 2019.



Simon Hawkins
Chief Executive Officer

Further, we are increasingly working alongside other Aboriginal corporations as they build their capacity and develop strategies to fulfil their visions for their people and Country.

Our role in supporting Traditional Owner groups and corporations to transition to full independence has been a catalyst for YMAC to evolve and restructure. Most recently, this has led us to introduce additional expertise to the organisation, including town planning, housing, corporate services, and property management. YMAC's strong culture, professional team, and stable Board provide us with the robust foundation necessary to deliver superior outcomes, now and well into the future.

For YMAC, the journey towards enduring heritage and culture continues, as does our dedication to creating a powerful legacy for Yamatji and Marlpa people.

The YMAC Journey...

Yamatji Barna Baba Maaja Aboriginal Corporation (YBBMAC) incorporated.

15 April
1994

6 December
1994

YBBMAC achieves full Native Title Representative Body (NTRB) status under the Native Title Act (1993) (initially relating to the Geraldton (Yamatji) region).

Achieving this status enabled YBBMAC to manage claims in the Geraldton representative area. This established the organisation's main objective which remains the core business of YMAC today.

30 June
2000

YBBMAC appointed NTRB for Pilbara (Marlpa) region.

YBBMAC's strong performance record and experienced staff saw the Federal Minister for Indigenous Affairs also appoint the organisation as the NTRB for the Pilbara representative area.

Consequently, the organisation adopted a tailored governance framework that maintained strong regional control for Yamatji and Marlpa Traditional Owners; part of which involved establishing two operational arms: Yamatji Land and Sea Council, and Pilbara Native Title Services.

DID YOU KNOW?

In the Wajarri language, *Yamatji* means Aboriginal person, *Barna* means ground, dirt, sand, earth, or Country; *Baba* means water, and *Maaja* means boss.

Marlpa is used by many Traditional Owners to denote the Aboriginal people of the Pilbara.

YBBMAC hosts the annual National Native Title Conference, held in Geraldton.

2002

Southern Yamatji Claim Area

8 February
2003

Name changed to Yamatji Marlpa Barna Baba Maaja Aboriginal Corporation (YMBBMAC), and amendments made to the organisation's constitution.

In 2003, the organisation's name was officially changed to reflect commitment to both the Geraldton and Pilbara representative areas.

The increased workload associated with representing both regions was also a catalyst for major growth for the organisation.

2003

Formation of the Pilbara Central Negotiation Committee to collectively negotiate with Rio Tinto.

"Working at Yamatji Marlpa was a privilege and the single biggest influence on my career and political passion. I look back at that experience and reflect upon the extraordinary people that I met, worked with, sometimes fought against, and continue to advocate for, and think, "I wouldn't have missed it for the world."

During my short time as CEO, the organisation was faced with challenges brought about by a changing native title regime and the realities of operating across two native title representative areas, being Geraldton and the Pilbara. Difficult decisions needed to be made and achieving community support to incorporate the Pilbara Traditional Owners in the constitution of the organisation was extremely difficult.

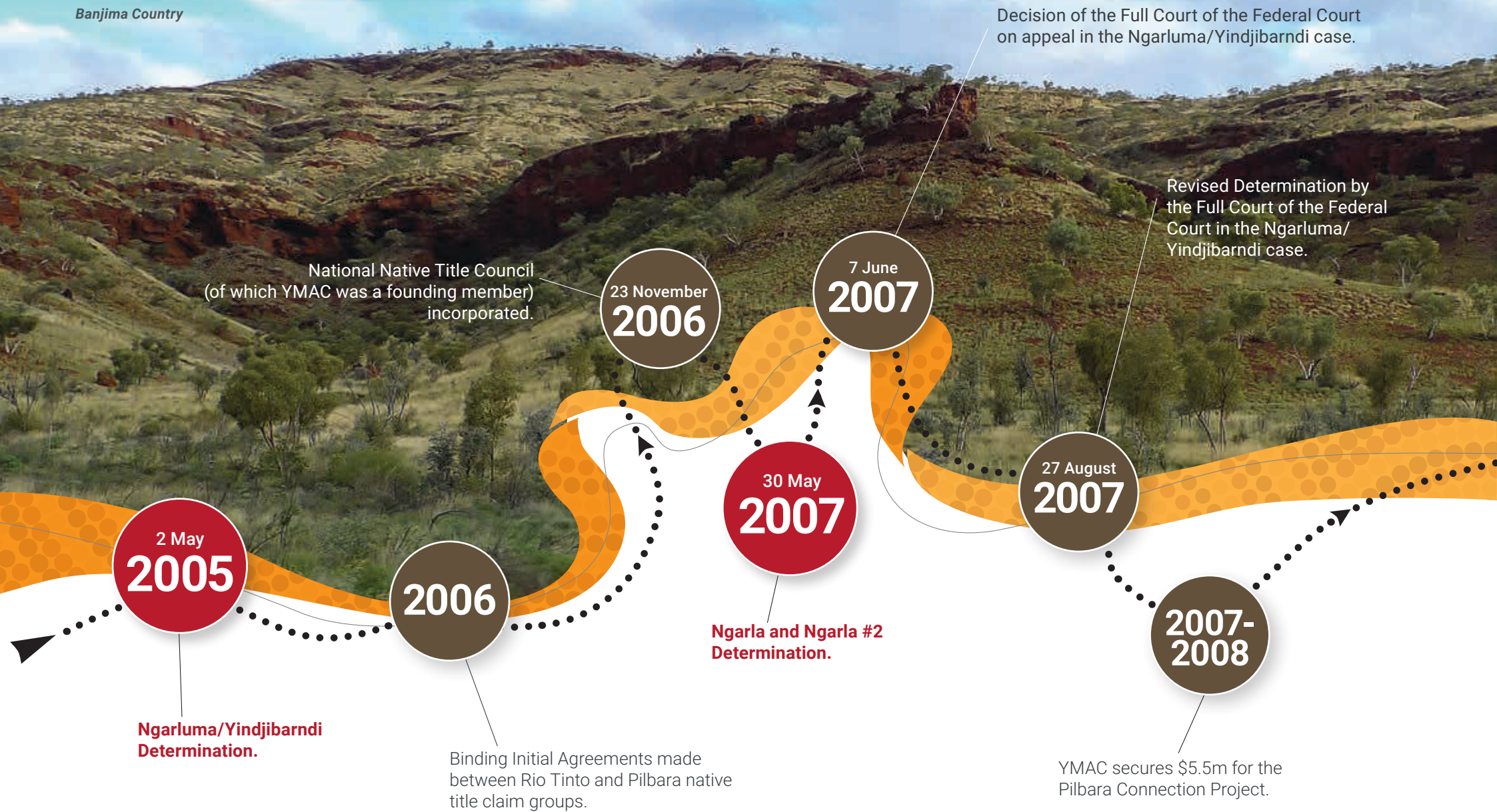
The leadership shown by the community in changing the organisation into an inclusive and effective Native Title Representative Body was strong and resolute. I was frequently amazed by the resilience and strength of the community leaders to understand and create change, often in the face of strong resistance.

The strength of culture and the endurance of the community is a character of the Yamatji and Pilbara communities. I will always be grateful for the opportunity to serve the community and I'll never forget the support and friendships that surrounded me during the time I spent at the Yamatji Marlpa Barna Baba Maaja Aboriginal Corporation."



Hon Roger Cook MLA
Western Australian Deputy Premier;
Minister for Health; Mental Health

NB: Roger Cook was YMAC's
Chief Executive Officer 2001-2003



Name changed from YMBBMAC to Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation (YMAC).

A Special General Meeting of YMBBMAC members was held in November 2008 at Cardabia Station near Coral Bay and a decision was made to change the name to 'Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation'.

This new name – which reflects the equal standing of both regions and symbolises the way both cultural sides respect each other – was officially changed on 15 December 2008.



15 December
2008



To this day, the Yamatji and Marlpa regions maintain their own Regional Committees, made up of Traditional Owners who appoint six members each to sit on YMAC's Board of Directors.

YMAC's Board of Directors has two Co-chairpersons and representation from the Yamatji and Marlpa regions, providing strong strategic direction.

Kuruma Marthudunera Country

Kuruma Marthudunera and Mineralogy
NNTT (s35) Decision.

17 April
2009

**Nyangumarta People
(Part A) Determination.**

11 June
2009

**Ngarla People
(Mount Goldsworthy
Lease Proceeding)
Determination.**

6 August
2010

Wajarri Yamatji-Murchison
Radio-Astronomy Observatory
Agreement.

13 November
2009

**Thudgari People
Determination.**

18 November
2009

"It's about knowing who you are and where you're from in regards to our ways in the Pilbara: knowing your language, your traditions, your Country, your Law and your customs. We call it *Yinta Ngurrara*; meaning you are from and belong to a particular area; this is what gives you a right to speak for Country.

Country is so very important, a very special place. It gives you your identity, makes you feel proud; we are taught by our Elders that if you look after Country, Country will look after you."

Donny Wilson
Regional Manager - Pilbara Region



Kariyarra Country



Nyangumarta Country

20 October
2010

WA Alliance of Aboriginal Land Councils (of which YMAC was a founding member) holds its first meeting.



YMAC is proud to have been a founding member of the Western Australian Alliance of Aboriginal Land Councils, which met for the first time in October 2010. This alliance provides a single interface for representatives from State and Federal Government to engage with Aboriginal leaders from across Western Australia.

Providing this channel for open and robust communication, the alliance ensures the views and concerns of Western Australian Aboriginal communities are heard, and that solutions are developed in partnership between them and government.

YMAC and Nyangumarta Warrarn commence work towards establishing the Nyangumarta Indigenous Protected Area (IPA) and related ranger program.

YMAC is extremely proud of its work in natural resource management, a highlight of which has been supporting the establishment of the Indigenous Protected Area (IPA) for the Nyangumarta people.

IPAs and related Aboriginal ranger programs enable Traditional Owners to meet their cultural obligations and aspirations toward their Country.



2011

YMAC has worked alongside Traditional Owners to deliver many successful outcomes. These have included the training and employment of Nyangumarta people, extensive Healthy Country Planning, the declaration of the IPA, and their undertaking of years of on-the-ground activities to help conserve, protect and enhance their country.

Building on the traditional culture and ecological knowledge passed down through generations, the program continues to involve Elders, who strengthen the ability of the Nyangumarta Rangers to effectively manage their land.

Initial Rio Tinto Participation Agreements and Regional Framework Deed executed.

Maintaining a positive relationship with Traditional Owners is important for companies wanting access to do business on their Country. For the groups it represents, YMAC has excelled at facilitating the negotiation of agreements which deliver long-term, mutual benefits.

This period saw the first four of six landmark agreements finalised between YMAC-represented Pilbara native title claim groups and Rio Tinto. This work was the result of seven years of extensive negotiations, which collectively represented one of Australia's most comprehensive native title agreements.

Under these agreements, the groups secured a range of economic and non-economic benefits. These include an income stream from mining taking place on their lands, training and job opportunities, access to contracts for services provision, and support for environmental and heritage activities. The agreements also include mining exclusion zones that recognise the importance of significant sites such as burial and ceremonial sites, as well as important water holes and ecologically sensitive areas.



10 February
2011

YM Consulting Pty Ltd
(Ngurra Barna) registered.

March
2011

24 February
2011

Wilgie Mia Aboriginal Ochre
Mine inscribed on the National
Heritage List (NHL).

21 September
2011

Wajarri Yamatji and Weld Range Metals NNTT (s38) Decision.

Earlier in 2011, the Weld Range located in Wajarri Yamatji Country was included on the NHL.

In September this same year the National Native Title Tribunal made the unusual ruling that a mining lease should not be granted over parts of this wider area because of the significance of the place to its Traditional Owners.

This was only the second time the National Native Title Tribunal had ever made such a decision, and YMAC was honoured to support the Wajarri Yamatji people in the fight to protect their cultural heritage.



"Congratulations to YMAC on its 25th anniversary as a Native Title Representative Body. For a quarter of a century YMAC has provided a high standard of professional service to native title holders and claimants in the Mid West, Gascoyne and Pilbara regions.

Its achievements, in terms of both native title determinations and agreements, reflects the quality of YMAC's leadership at both the Board and organisational levels."

Hon Ben Wyatt MLA
Western Australian Treasurer;
Minister for Finance;
Aboriginal Affairs; Lands



Kuruma Marthudunera-Churdy
Pool Siding Special Lease ILUA.

11 November
2011

**Nyangumarta-Karajarri
Overlap Proceeding (Yawinya)
Determination.**

25 May
2012

Yugunga-Nya People and Sandfire
ILUA (Non-Overlapping Area).

21 September
2012

Decision of the Full Court of
the Federal Court on appeal
in Ngarla (Mount Goldsworthy
Lease Proceeding).

5 November
2012

Kuruma Marthudunera
and Rio Tinto ILUA.

11 February
2013

"For me, a big part of being on-Country is the sharing and caring you get; not just from your own family but from other families too. People will invite you into their homes; that is just how we are. There is a real sense of calm and healing when you are on-Country.

We want to show others our Country, and how we live and practice our culture."

Natalie Parker
Co-Chairperson – Pilbara Region

Nyiyaparli Country

**Ngarla Overlap
Proceeding
Determination.**

Revised Determination
by the Full Court of the
Federal Court in the Ngarla
(Mount Goldsworthy Lease
Proceeding).

22 February
2013

Niyiyaparli People and
BHP Billiton Comprehensive
Agreement - Initial ILUA.

13 March
2013

Niyiyaparli and
Rio Tinto ILUA.

6 March
2013

Ngarlawangga People
and Rio Tinto ILUA.

24 April
2013

PKKP and
Rio Tinto ILUA.

5 July
2013

Yinhawangka and
Rio Tinto ILUA.

28 November
2013

**YMAC was the inaugural winner of the 2013
Pinnacle Award for Aboriginal Leadership
Development Excellence.**

The prestigious award, presented by AIM WA and
The West Australian newspaper, recognised YMAC's
professionalism and outstanding representation of
its Traditional Owner group members.

Each winner was awarded \$10,000 to donate to a
charity of their choice, with YMAC selecting Clontarf
Foundation for their dedicated work in Aboriginal
education, training and leadership development.



Malgana Country

Wajarri Yamatji and Weld Range Metals Agreement.

Yugunga-Nya and Yellow Rock NNTT (s35) Decision.

Banjima People Determination.

December
2013

11 March
2014

1 May
2014

29 July
2014

Njamal and Muccan Minerals NNTT (s35) Decision.

Decision of the High Court in the Ngarla (Mount Goldsworthy Lease Proceeding).

The Ngarla people, represented by YMAC, welcomed a High Court decision confirming their native title rights were not extinguished by mining leases.

The landmark ruling by the Court dismissed arguments by the Western Australian Government that mining leases, granted over areas 150km east of Port Hedland, permanently extinguished all native title rights in that land.

After mining has finished, the Ngarla people will be able to fully exercise all their native title rights through the entire area again. This historic decision contributed significantly to native title nationally, as the Court unanimously found Ngarla's rights under the leases were not inconsistent with mining interests; native title can continue to exist, even in areas where native title rights cannot be exercised. This decision is important since as the High Court stated, native title cannot be revived once it has been extinguished.

12 March
2014

Inaugural Annual On-Country Bush Meeting at Yule River (Pilbara).

The Yule River meeting place on Kariyarra Country has both cultural and historical significance. It is a place where people from different language groups can come together to discuss common issues affecting Aboriginal communities across the region. Stemming from the actions taken in the lead up to the 1946 Pilbara Strike, Pilbara Aboriginal people continued in their efforts to advocate for improved conditions and outcomes by organising bush meetings. Many important initiatives have been borne from Yule River meetings, with both concerns and solutions coming directly from Pilbara Aboriginal people; and with government expected to attend to hear and address their concerns. Through the efforts of then YMAC Co-Chairperson, Mrs Doris Eaton (whose father was a key player in the 1946 Pilbara Strike), and the YMAC Pilbara Regional Committee, the Yule River meetings recommenced in 2014.

The inaugural 'Annual On-Country Bush Meeting' was the first time in almost a decade a gathering this diverse had been held, and it was a much-needed opportunity for Traditional Owners to add their voice to the discussion surrounding the protection of Aboriginal Heritage in Western Australia. A significant outcome of this meeting was the decision to send a delegation to Parliament, to meet with then Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Hon Peter Collier MLC, Hon Brendon Grylls MLA and Ben Wyatt MLA. The delegation raised their concerns about the proposed amendments and presented a petition signed by over 1600 concerned community members.



Wajarri Yamatji and Rusa NNTT (s35) Decision.

26 September
2014

Since 2014, these meetings continue to take place each year and have become an important platform for ensuring Traditional Owners are at the centre of decisions that affect them and their communities.



17 October
2014

Nyangumarta PBC
Kimberley Science and
Conservation Strategy
(KSCS) ILUA.

20 February
2015

YMAC registers and
launches 'Knowledge
Partnerships'.

28 January
2015

Wajarri Yamatji and
Sinosteel Agreement.

2 April
2015

25 May
2015

Badimia People
(unsuccessful)
Determination.

Ngarluma People (Townsites) Determination.

Following a seven year legal process, the Ngarluma People (Townsites) Determination was a great win for Ngarluma Traditional Owners. The subject townsites had previously been excluded from the original claim, however, YMAC joined Ngarluma during its appeal process and assisted in finalising the determination through which an additional 21.5 square kilometres encompassing Wickham, Point Samson and Karratha were recognised under the Native Title Act. This favourable outcome acknowledged Ngarluma's existing system of laws and customs in relation to land and ownership prior to European settlement and ensured Ngarluma Traditional Owners would continue to be consulted about developments within these townsites.



**Puutu Kunti Kurrama
People and Pinikura People
#1 and #2 Determination.**

Gnulli and Rusa NNTT
(s35) Decision.

Nyangumarta IPA
declared.

**Jurruru People
(Part A)
Determination.**

16 July
2015

1 September
2015

2 September
2015

21 December
2015

February
2016



YMAC engaged to provide management, administration, accounting and legal services to Western Deserts Lands Aboriginal Corporation (WDLAC).

Through a competitive tender process, YMAC was appointed to provide executive office services to WDLAC, which holds the native title rights and interests for 136,000 square kilometres of Martu lands.

Working with the WDLAC Board, YMAC successfully negotiated new agreements with several mining companies, delivered a budget surplus and strengthened relationships and vital programs for the cultural, social and economic benefit of the current and future generations of Martu people.

Jurruru Country



YMAC assists with the establishment of Pilbara Aboriginal Voice. (Kakurrka Muri).

Those gathered at the 2017 Annual On-Country Bush Meeting at Yule River resolved to establish a reference group of Pilbara Aboriginal people to provide a voice and advise all levels of government on matters affecting them.

This group was tasked with the objective of working towards a permanent, formal structure for departments and agencies to obtain full, free and informed consent from Pilbara Aboriginal people on issues relating to their wellbeing and advancement. Following this decision, the group formed as 'Pilbara Aboriginal Voice (Karkurrka Muri)' acknowledging the Kariyarra name for Yule River where it was created, and YMAC has been providing ongoing secretariat support to its members.



22 September
2017

Pilbara Traditional Owners resolve to support the Uluru Statement from the Heart, constitutional recognition and a Federal Government treaty.

Those in attendance at the 2017 Yule River meeting also resolved to support the Uluru Statement from the Heart – a national consensus position on Indigenous constitutional recognition.

The statement calls for a 'First Nations Voice' to be enshrined in the Australian Constitution, and the establishment of a 'Makarrata Commission' to supervise agreement-making and truth-telling between governments and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.



16 October
2017

Budina People Determination.

Wajarri Yamatji (Part A) Determination.

19 October
2017

26 October
2017

YMAC is a Finalist for the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety's Community Partnership Resources Sector Award (for the 'Strategic Environmental Assessment Traditional Owner Stakeholder Engagement' initiative with BHP Billiton Iron Ore).

Negotiations formally commence for the Geraldton Alternate Settlement Agreement (GASA) (known as the Yamatji Nation Southern Regional Agreement 'YNSRA').

In a YMAC first, the State Government entered into negotiations with the Southern Yamatji, Hutt River, Mullewa Wadjari and Widi Mob native title claim groups about an alternative Native Title Settlement Agreement.

Now known as the YNSRA, it serves to collectively settle native title claims across the 'Special Proceeding Area' (the subject of the negotiations). These negotiations are being conducted through confidential mediation (ongoing in the Federal Court at the time of publication) and aim to support recognition, growth and self-determination.

6 November
2017



YMAC announced as a recipient of funding support from the first round of the State Government's 'Aboriginal Ranger Program' to work with Malgana people to enhance their land and conservation management program.

YMAC acknowledges the leadership taken by Minister for Environment, Hon Stephen Dawson MLC, to honour the election commitment made in 2017 and also for his recognition of the critical role Traditional Owner Rangers play in natural resource management.

20 December
2017

YMAC announces its formal support for the Uluru Statement from the Heart.

10 February
2018

8 March
2018

Kariyarra-FMG
Land Access ILUA.

23 April
2018

Wajarri Yamatji
(Part B) Determination.

Kariyarra and
State of WA ILUA.

29 May
2018

Kariyarra-Alinta Electricity
Infrastructure ILUA.

2 November
2018

YMAC was proudly announced as a finalist in Reconciliation Australia's 2018 Indigenous Governance Awards.

These national awards highlight success in Indigenous Australia with a focus on strong leadership, good management, effective partnerships and brave, creative thinking.

23 November
2018



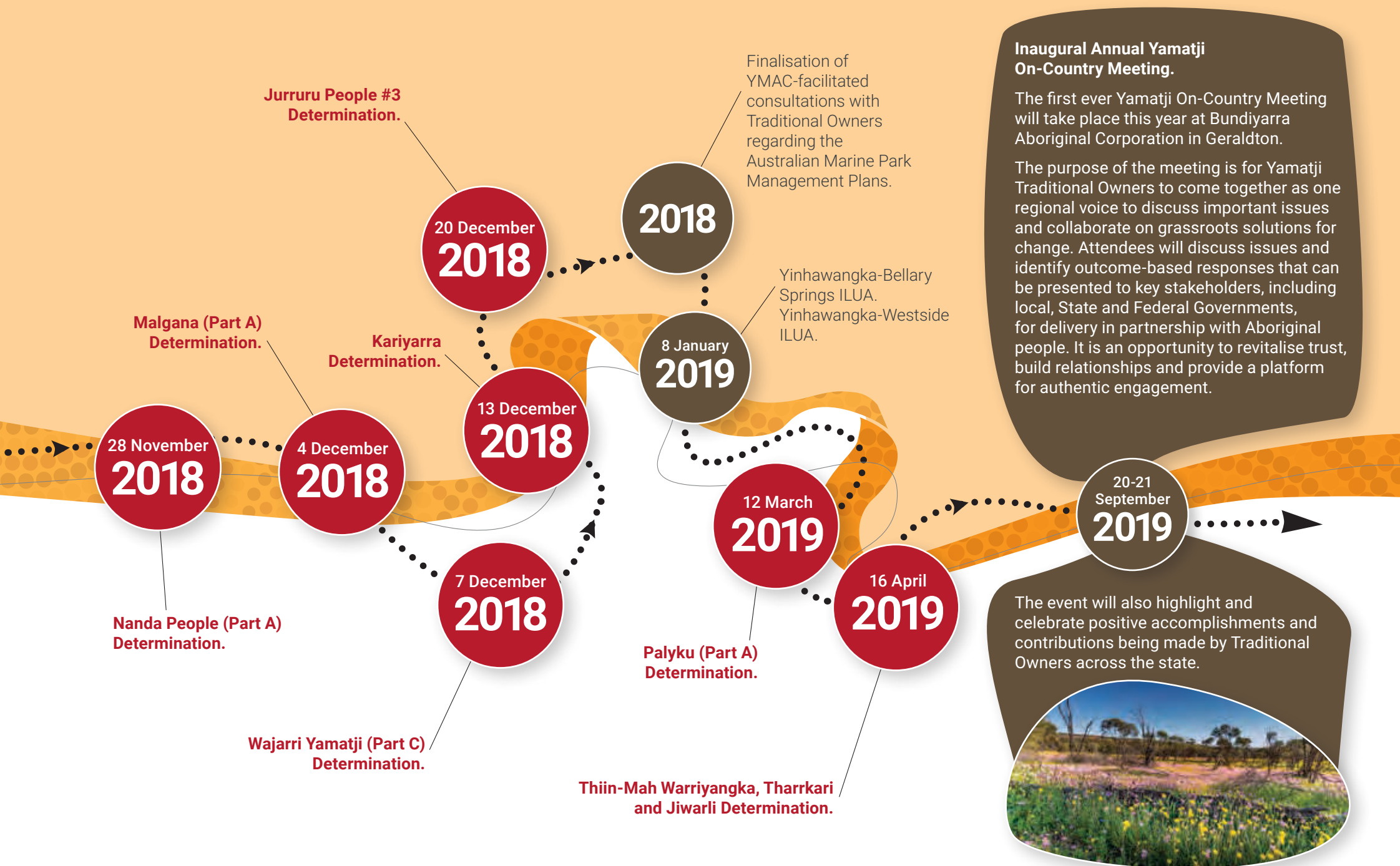
26 April
2018

Kuruma
Marthudunera
(Part B)
Determination.

26 September
2018

Nyiyaparli and Nyiyaparli
#3 Determination.

Ngarlawangga Country





"Too many of our people have been lost, often caught between the two worlds, and native title has been a powerful way to help bring them back to their land and connect them with their culture.

I don't think you ever lose your spiritual connection to the land; it is something that is in your heart, in your blood, it is everywhere.

My connection and my people's connection go back longer than anyone can remember, long before colonisation.

Once you get on your own land, you feel the difference. The best way to do it is to take your shoes off and feel your Country beneath you."

Peter Windie
Co-Chairperson – Yamatji Region

Thiin-Mah Warriyangka, Tharrkari, Jiwarli Determination Area

"I congratulate Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation on its 25th anniversary as a Native Title Representative body – representing more than 20 Traditional Owner groups in the Pilbara, Mid West, Murchison and Gascoyne regions of Western Australia.

YMAC has been a strong advocate for the rights and interests of First Nations peoples and has consistently worked with Yamatji and Marlpa people to pursue recognition of Yamatji and Marlpa culture and secure a strong future for its people.

I was pleased to be at an on-Country meeting at Yule River where a resolution was passed to form an independent representative group to give advice to governments on behalf of Pilbara Aboriginal people - the Pilbara Aboriginal Voice. Regional voices will have an essential role to play in the development of the future relationship of First Nations

people to the Parliament and to both Commonwealth and State Governments on how services should be managed and delivered within the Pilbara. Their role and function will be critical to everyday issues and to the achievement of justice our history demands as we go forward. Pilbara Aboriginal Voice will be part of a broader project of reconciliation and recognition of the unique status of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in our nation.

Congratulations on your track record and your continuing excellent efforts. I wish you all the best for staying the course in the future."

Senator Patrick Dodson
Senator for Western Australia;

Chair of Joint Select Committee on Constitutional Recognition relating to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples

*Portrait of Senator Pat Dodson
© Michel Lawrence*



"Self-determination is something that, as an Aboriginal woman, is very important to me. The ability to make choices, to determine our future – be it social, economic or cultural development – has a value that cannot be measured.

I believe being on-Country is what it is all about and if YMAC can assist in creating opportunities for our community to return or remain on-Country, this can only be positive."

Chris Dann
Regional Manager – Yamatji Region

DID YOU KNOW?

Through the years YMAC has been fortunate to work with several highly experienced and respected pro bono partners. In particular, we extend a special thank you to Peter Seidel and Arnold Bloch Leibler. Peter has worked with YMAC for over 20 years and his advice has been integral to our operations.

We would also like to acknowledge Tim Lyons from Gibson Lyons, Philip Hunter and HWL Ebsworth Lawyers, and Stephen Wright. Their assistance has



helped to further our success and we appreciate their generous support. YMAC recognises these valuable contributions and looks forward to continuing these critical relationships into the future.

“Creating leading-edge enterprises that will deliver strong, equitable ownership and allow Traditional Owners to shape their destiny, now and well into the future, is one of the most rewarding aspects of YMAC’s function.”

Simon Hawkins
Chief Executive Officer

“I congratulate Yamatji Marlpa on its 25th anniversary. You have been a pivotal organisation in supporting local people, in particular your focus on native title and land issues that have been important to communities and families across the Pilbara, Gascoyne, Murchison and Mid West regions.

Your vision, your astuteness and your leadership has been significant in the gains that have been made. Celebrate and celebrate well: Firstly, on the basis that the hard work you have undertaken has impacted on the lives of many people; Secondly, by acknowledging those who took the journey with you and have contributed to Yamatji Marlpa becoming the great organisation it is today. I wish you well for the next 25 years, as you consolidate and build on your achievements so far.”

Hon Ken Wyatt AM, MP
Minister for Indigenous Australians



Tomorrow’s vision, today

As YMAC Traditional Owner groups enter the post-determination landscape, the future holds significant promise for even more new and exciting possibilities.

Contrary to any perceptions that Aboriginal commercial enterprises are mostly resource-focused, a new breed of businesses and projects are emerging, and their potential is impressive.

With an appetite for innovation and sustainability, Traditional Owners are rapidly entering growing industries, with local, national and international prospects, including renewable energy, conservation and land management, and eco and cultural tourism.

A strong example of YMAC’s commitment to diversifying opportunities for Traditional Owners is the organisation’s investment in Pilbara Solar Pty Ltd, which offers a ground-level entry point for groups to become partners in the growing renewable energy sector.

Providing expert advice and services that other Aboriginal corporations need to prosper - particularly Prescribed Bodies Corporate post-determination - is part of YMAC’s strategy to remain relevant, influential and progressive. This will include development and implementation of transition planning to support long-term sustainability.

YMAC will continue to advocate for the removal of barriers, and focus on delivering skills development and rigorous management and administrative frameworks, so businesses and related projects are set-up with strong governance and for long-term, sustainable success.

This type of advocacy has been demonstrated in YMAC’s role in the delivery of the dynamic Nyangumarta and Malgana land and sea management programs, which have established a positive blueprint for similar Aboriginal ranger initiatives, as they demonstrate the enormous benefits to be gained from dedicated training and employment.

Maintaining a deep, ongoing connection to Country is the key driver to pursue such initiatives, which will deliver lasting cultural, environmental, social, training and employment opportunities for current and future generations.

In another 25 years, we hope to still be able to look back and recognise the amazing foundation that has been created for Yamatji and Marlpa people through their vision, collaboration and commitment working with YMAC.

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Denham WA 6537

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ICN 2001

*YMAC All Staff Conference
2019*

