



**Yamatji Marlpa**  
ABORIGINAL CORPORATION



## MEDIA ALERT

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**EMBARGOED: 25 August 2021, 9am**

### **7<sup>th</sup> Annual On-Country Bush Meeting at the Yule River Meeting Place.**

**Date:** Thursday, 26 August 2021

**Time:** 10.00am – 1.30pm

Please email [editor@ymac.org.au](mailto:editor@ymac.org.au) with the names of staff intending to attend by 12pm Monday 23 August.

COVID Registration of attendance of the event will be required upon arrival.

YMAC will ensure the meeting meets the current State and Local Government guidelines and requires all attendees support these efforts to keep the community safe.

ALL attendees will be required to -

- Have their temperature checked on arrival.
- Sign the attendance register agreeing to adhere to the recommended safety measures and give your name and contact details (including telephone number) for the purpose of contact tracing.

YMAC is required to hold these details for 28 days and pass them to the Department of Health if required;

- Sanitise your hands on arrival and regularly during the course of the meetings; and cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue (or use your elbow).
- Maintain a 1.5m distance (about two arms lengths) from each other.

**Place:** Yule River Meeting Place (see map attached)

The 7th Annual Yule River bush meeting will be held on 25 and 26 August. This year the focus of discussions will be on cultural heritage protection and the 2020 Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Bill draft.

Day one is for Traditional Owners only, to come together to discuss their concerns and how they would like to tackle issues raised.

Day two will welcome visitors from Government to join the conversations and hear directly from the community.

Media is invited on day two Thursday 26 August, from 10am.

Yule River has become an important platform for ensuring Traditional Owners remain at the centre of decision-making and we again look forward to involvement from Traditional Owners, politicians and stakeholders in 2021.

Opportunities to interview Ministers and Traditional Owners attendees will be coordinated after the conclusion of business.

YMAC will distribute a media release following the event.

**Media contact:** For more information please contact Jane Mitchell on **0427 463 796** or email [jmitchell@ymac.org.au](mailto:jmitchell@ymac.org.au).

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### **About Yule River Bush Meetings**

Meetings held at Yule River are historic, having been organised by Aboriginal people in the vast Pilbara region for decades.

The dry river bed off the North West Coastal Highway, just south of Port Hedland, is seen as a place where people from different language groups can come together to discuss common issues affecting Aboriginal communities across the region.

The meetings stemmed from the actions taken in the lead up to the 1946 Pilbara Strike, when Aboriginal people held secret meetings in remote bush locations to plan an ambitious three-year walk off by Aboriginal pastoral workers who were living on cattle stations in conditions of virtual slavery. Pilbara Aboriginal people continued in their efforts to advocate for improved conditions and outcomes by organising bush meetings.

During the land rights era, from the late-1970s, Yule River became the focal point for such gatherings which were often attended by up to 2,000 Aboriginal people from all over the Pilbara. At this time, "Old Man Parker" (born Herbert), was the Pilbara representative for the National Aboriginal Consultative Committee, the first national body elected by Aboriginal people, and introduced by the Whitlam Government.

Mr Parker presided over these meetings on the river's sandy banks as Aboriginal people from all over the Pilbara region gathered to talk about lands trust business, housing complaints, and land rights.

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.

All language groups from across the region are invited to attend these meetings and share their concerns.

Much like they were decades ago, gatherings at Yule River are an important opportunity for a diverse range of Aboriginal voices to be heard.

### **About Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation**

Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation (YMAC) is the Native Title Representative Body (NTRB) for what are described as the Pilbara and Geraldton regions of Western Australia. YMAC is run by an Aboriginal Board of Directors, representing several native title groups (each of whom have their own language, culture, traditions and protocols). YMAC provides a range of services, including native title claim and future act representation, heritage services, community and economic development assistance, and natural resource management support.

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## Travel Information

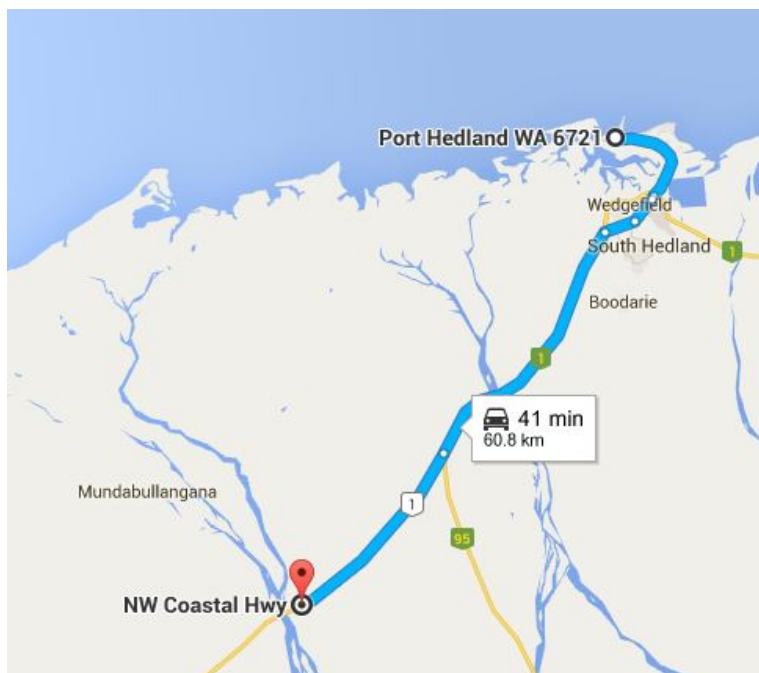
### Driving Directions

The Yule River Meeting Place is situated on North West Coast Highway, near the rest area on the north-western side of the Yule River bridge crossing. There will be signs posted along the sides of the road for the event, alerting you to the site.

### Directions from Port Hedland

It is an approximate 55km drive from Port Hedland. Upon leaving Port Hedland take the Great Northern Highway. Continue straight onto North West Coast Highway for another 15 minutes (20km). The Yule River Meeting Place will be on the right, prior to the bridge crossing.

**Total estimated drive time: 40minutes.**





### **Directions from Karratha**

It is an approximate 180km drive from Karratha. Upon leaving Karratha take the North West Coast Highway. The Yule River Meeting Place will be on the left, just after to the bridge crossing.

**Total estimated drive time: 1 hour and 50 minutes.**



### **Directions from Tom Price (or Paraburdoo)**

It is an approximate 400km drive from Tom Price. Upon leaving Tom Price take Karajini Road out to meet National Highway 95. Follow this until you meet the North West Coast Highway, and turn left. The Yule River Meeting Place will be on the right, just before the bridge crossing.

**Total estimated drive time: 4 hours and 30 minutes.**

