



Yamatji Marlpa
ABORIGINAL CORPORATION



C'arn for a yarn at re-scheduled Yamatji On-Country

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Mr Peter Windie, Co-Chairperson – Yamatji, Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation is calling on people to attend the re-scheduled Yamatji On-Country on 12 and 13 October.

After its cancellation in August due to an extreme weather event, the re-scheduled second annual Yamatji On-Country meeting will take place on 12 and 13 October – and Aboriginal Affairs Minister Tony Buti has re-confirmed he will attend.

Geraldton MLA Lara Dalton, representing Community Services, Child Protection, Women's Interests and Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence Minister Simone McGurk, will also be attending.

To be held in Geraldton, the event is presented by the Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation (YMAC) and gives First Nations people across the Mid West, Murchison and Gascoyne regions the opportunity to have a say on matters important to their communities.

It follows the inaugural Yamatji On-Country in Carnarvon in 2021 where, following discussions about various issues, First Nations individuals and Aboriginal corporations worked on solutions together and then presented them to government decision-makers.

In addition to Minister Buti, several other parliamentarians and senior government representatives will attend this year, along with directors and senior staff from the Departments of Communities, Education and Planning, Lands and Heritage; WA Country Health Service; WA Police and National Indigenous Australians Agency.



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From 9am, 12 October, discussion on the first day is reserved for First Nations people with an agenda that has a strong focus on community issues, as well as updates on heritage protection laws and outcomes from last year's meeting.

At 5.30pm, a free, family-friendly bush tucker barbecue is open to meeting participants, invited representatives and the broader community, providing an informal setting for First Nations people to talk about their communities with day two guests.

The evening also features a celebration of culture through various performances with several local musicians.

On 13 October, an 8am breakfast is on offer before the meeting gets underway at 9am with invited delegates joining the conversation.

In a first for the event, high schools will be taking part to give students in the Geraldton region a forum to highlight areas of youth concern.

Information stalls from Headspace and Helping Minds will be on hand during day one, with the Wajarri Yamatji Aboriginal Corporation – SKA Employment Expo on day two and Geraldton Regional Aboriginal Medical Service (GRAMS) and Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries – Aboriginal Cultural Centre on both days.

YMAC Co-Chairperson – Yamatji Region, Mr Peter Windie, said the event was an opportunity for the Community to come together and become a strong regional voice and driver for change for First Nations people.

“The main aim of Yamatji On-Country is to provide a vital link to connect with both State and Federal Governments,” he said.

“The need for better and regular information is important, with the Yamatji community talking and learning from each other, so others gain a better understanding and respect for First Nations knowledge and cultural connection to Country.

“Once the issues are discussed, they can be shared with the government and work can begin on possible solutions together.

“I would encourage people to attend Yamatji On-Country because it's an opportunity to voice your concerns and have a say on things affecting us all.

“With the support of each other, a difference can hopefully be made and key decision-makers will listen to what we all want to see happening to improve the Yamatji Community.”

Yamatji On-Country is being held at Bundiyyarra Aboriginal Community Aboriginal Corporation, 56 Eastward Road, Utakarra, Geraldton.

Updates and further details will be available at ymac.org.au .

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All quotes to be attributed to Mr Peter Windie, Co-Chairperson – Yamatji, Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation.



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Pronunciation guide:

Yamatji – Yam-aht-gee

Marlpa – Marl-pah

Bundiyarra – Bun-dee-ya-rah

About Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation

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

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