

Boost for Gascoyne region as Carnarvon office opens doors

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CAPTION FOR ABOVE: YMAC Co-Chairperson – Yamatji Region, Mr Peter Windie, and YMAC Yamatji Regional Manager Chris Dann officially open the Carnarvon office.

Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation’s (YMAC) new Carnarvon office celebrated its official opening on 25 November.

Located at 4 Francis Street, the new office is designed to support YMAC members and Prescribed Bodies Corporate (PBCs) in the Gascoyne region.

The building was originally the town bakery and, more recently, home to the Department of Sport and Recreation – but had been closed for several years.

Yamatji builder Hooky Ryan completed renovations to re-fresh and modernise the space.

“The result is a functional office to suit our requirements and the needs of our clients,” YMAC CEO Simon Hawkins said.

“It’s great we were able to utilise the services of Hooky Ryan – YMAC will continue to use First Nations businesses wherever possible.

“The new Carnarvon office has a large boardroom with video-conferencing equipment, which will be useful for PBCs because they can hire the room for meetings.

“Initially, we will have staff from the Geraldton and Perth office on a rotational basis and, in the longer term, we hope to have two full-time staff based here.”



Yamatji Marlpa
ABORIGINAL CORPORATION



To date, there have been 12 determinations in the Yamatji area with YMAC continuing to support Traditional Owners in the native title space, along with providing services such as future acts and agreement-making (in relation to mining and exploration, renewable energies and other land-use projects), heritage services, land and sea management and corporation support.

YMAC has also been focusing on progressing research and recognition for Traditional Owners in the Yamatji region through new claims such as Middamia – lodged earlier this year – and in various unclaimed areas.

“Our first-ever office in Carnarvon is designed for YMAC to provide support for the long-term, helping to identify local needs more quickly,” Mr Hawkins said.

“This way, we are ensuring even greater participation from First Nations peoples by having staff right here on the ground.

“Numerous people were involved in the planning and renovations and YMAC appreciates the contributions that made the Carnarvon office a reality.”

Visitors to YMAC’s Carnarvon office are by appointment only and can be made by calling (08) 9965 6222.

Ends

Pronunciation guide:

Yamatji – Yam-aht-gee

Marlpa – Marl-pah

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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