



Yamatji Marlpa
ABORIGINAL CORPORATION



2026 Yamatji on-Country to focus on place-based solutions and youth connection to culture

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The Jambinu Dancers at 2025 Yamatji on-Country (image: José Kalpers)

The 6th annual award-winning Yamatji on-Country will be held on Wednesday 23 and Thursday 24 September 2026 on Southern Yamatji Country at Bundiyyarra Aboriginal Community Aboriginal Corporation.

This year community members are invited to engage in solutions-focused discussions around their access to services in the region, including the successes and challenges Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations (ACCOs) face in delivering their services and programs.

On Day One, First Nations community members and Aboriginal organisations will engage in discussion to progress the [2025 Yamatji on-Country Call to Action Statement](#) (CTA), including hearing presentations from various ACCOs in the region. The CTA has been informed by community at previous Yamatji on-Country meetings and identifies how community and government can work together to Close the Gap.

On Day Two, government ministers and agency representatives will respond to the key priorities identified by community on Day One. They will also participate in a Q&A session, providing community members with the opportunity to ask questions directly and engage with government representatives from the floor.

Last year's event delivered significant outcomes, with Minister for Aboriginal Affairs Hon Don Punch MLA announcing \$300,000 in funding to progress the CTA and committing to provide regular updates on this work to the Midwest Aboriginal Organisations Alliance (MAOA). MAOA have been tasked by community with leading on advocating and delivering on the Call to Action, and YMAC are proud to be a MAOA member.



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Minister Punch will be attending again this year to speak to and hear from the community on Day Two.

A key highlight of Yamatji on-Country each year is the involvement of First Nations young people from across the region. The youth program offers opportunity for growth and leadership, as well as connection with Elders and other First Nations leaders in the region.

In the lead-up to this year's event, high school students from across the region have been working together on an exciting Elders Film Project, announced at last year's Yamatji on-Country. Workshops have been held in Geraldton, Mullewa, Exmouth and Carnarvon.

The project will produce a series of films capturing the voices, stories and wisdom of Elders, filmed and directed on-Country by local students. Participating students will be in attendance, with this year's event will also featuring performances by students from local Primary and High Schools.

Mr Peter Windie, YMAC Co-Chairperson – Yamatji Region, looks forward to welcoming all First Nations people across the region to attend and take part in this important event for the community.

"Now in our 6th year, we're focused on advocating for place-based solutions which will have real and positive effects on our community," said Mr Windie.

"Join us this year at Yamatji on-Country and be part of these discussions and building a future where all First Nations people have an opportunity to thrive."

Community members will also come together for the annual Yamatji on-Country evening of culture and entertainment on Wednesday 23 September 2026. Community members are welcome to join us from 6.00pm at the Bundiyarra Aboriginal Community Aboriginal Corporation for free bushtucker and an evening of First Nations performances. A community breakfast will also kick off Day Two, from 8.00am on Thursday 24 September.

YMAC extends its appreciation to Lotterywest for their support of this event

For more information, visit ymac.org.au/events/yamatji-on-country

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Further images and interviews available upon request.

Pronunciation Guide:

Yamatji – Yam-aht-gee; **Marlpa** – Marl-pah; **Bundiyarra** – Bun-dee-yar-rah

About Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation

Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation (YMAC) is the Native Title Representative Body (NTRB), delivering native title and other services across the Pilbara, Mid West, Murchison and Gascoyne regions of Western Australia. YMAC is run by a First Nations board of directors, representing several native title groups, each of whom have their own language, culture, traditions and protocols. YMAC services include native title claim and future act representation; heritage services; executive office, community, and economic development assistance; land administration, and natural resource management support.
