

wdlac NEWS

AUGUST 2021

Strong Culture, Strong People



Board meets Minister for Environment

The WDLAC Board met with WA Environment Minister, Hon Amber-Jade Sanderson at Parliament House in June, to talk about Martu joint-management of Karlamilyi and the recognition of Martu native title rights over this ngurra.

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wdlac
western desert lands aboriginal corporation
Jamukurnu-Yapalikurnu



Special General Meeting

A Special General Meeting of WDLAC members and Martu Common Law Holders was held in Punmu on the 20 May 2021. We met to discuss protecting the Percival Lakes and Lake Waukarlycarly, and to progress a native title claim over unclaimed areas on the western boundary of Martu ngurra.

Martu families, Elders and knowledge holders want to protect and preserve the lake systems on their ngurra and resolved to authorise WDLAC to establish a Martu Indigenous Protected Area (IPA) for the Percival Lakes system and Lake Waukarlycarly.

Along the western boundary of the Martu determination there are a number of small unclaimed areas. The Wanajarra and Yina (Elders) Council had met in Port Hedland in March and endorsed making a native title application over these unclaimed and unprotected areas.

The meeting of Martu Common Law Holders authorised a native title claim to be made for these areas. Central Desert Native Title Services are handling this claim for Martu.

Camps On Country



Melvin Farmer, WDLAC Chairman went to the Minerals Council of Australia in Melbourne two years ago and challenged leaders of the mining industry to invest in Martu inter-generational knowledge transfer. He explained the importance of passing on our science, our language and our knowledge of country to our children.

Last year, WDLAC added its own money to funds received from the Martu Future Fund and a BHP grant to the Cultural Camps project. When finished, it will mean that Mijijimaya and Puntawari are repaired and refurbished for use by Martu families.



The first job is a joint-venture with KJ Rangers to install toilets. Puntawari is completed and the toilets will be in at Mijijimaya this year.

The project will then move on to repairs to existing buildings, water supplies and road repairs to make these great places for long-term camps.

Anne Mitchell, WDLAC Deputy Chairperson and Kieran Wong from the Fulcrum Agency presented a report about the project to the 2021 Pilbara Summit. Anne told Pilbara leaders about the importance of camps on country – “for families and spending time together on ngurra to stay ngyine (strong inside)”.

The on-country camps will also be available to take young people who need guidance and time to connect with their culture, back to country with Elders and community leaders.

Our ngurra camps are becoming a reality, but our pitch for more support doesn't stop with Melvin in Melbourne, Anne at the Pilbara summit, or with the welcome contribution from BHP. This is a program that should be supported by all mining companies and Governments.



**Protect
your
ELDERS**

**Protect
your
FAMILY**

**Protect
your
COMMUNITY**

**Protect
YOURSELF**

URGENT – time for all Martu to get vaccinated!

From 16th August 2021, the COVID Pfizer vaccination will be available at all Puntukurnu Aboriginal Medical Service (PAMS) Clinics.

Vaccinations for PAMS Clients started on Monday 2nd August in Newman and will be available in the remote communities of Jigalong, Parnngurr, Punmu and Kunawarritji from Monday 16th August for Martu mob.

WDLAC and PAMS Chairman, Melvin Farmer says it is really important that Martu people get vaccinated. “This COVID virus is really dangerous for Indigenous people all over the world,” Melvin said.

“It’s more dangerous for Indigenous people than other people - we have to get all of our people vaccinated and protected.”

Contact PAMS to get your jab to keep our mob safe and strong.

All our clients over 16 years of age can get the Pfizer vaccination.

For more information speak to your nearest PAMS Clinic



For more information: phone **PAMS 9111 1777** or go to puntuturnu.com.au/covid-19/booking-your-vaccination.aspx

Martu Youth Festival

The Martu Youth Festival, a celebration of Martu sports, music and culture will be held in Nullagine from Monday 16th – Thursday 19th August.

WDLAC is a sponsor of the festival and will run buses from Kunawarratji, Punmu, Jigalong and Newman

Ngurra Kujungka will provide travel assistance for those in their own vehicles.



Contact

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Image: Wangkinpali P/L

'Gone Surfing' - RAWA Community School

The RAWA community school took the primary school students from Punmu community to Exmouth for their first ever surfing experience.

It was a two day journey on the WDLAC bus to reach Exmouth from Punmu. They spent four adventure-filled days jumping in the waves, surfing and fishing for whatever tasty fish they could get on the line.

They managed to catch some mud crabs which they cooked up in a chilli sauce that night back at camp.

The Primary School kids from Kunawarratji community will also get a chance to hop on the WDLAC bus and experience Exmouth in August.



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