Governor of WA pays Bundiyarra a visit: Page 3

First garden crop: Page 7

Bush Camp for language: Page 9

**Capturing language before it’s lost**

Elders from around the region including Ollie George, Rosie Hamlett, Bevan Dingo and Victor Mourambine joined about 50 others at the Bundiyarra-Irra Wangga Language Centre Bush Language Camp in early November.

Yamatji Marlapa Aboriginal Corporation sponsored the camp that was held at Gunnado Farm, east of Geraldton over two days, and brought together seven languages to be worked on for preservation.

The Language Centre gets community together every year or so to make sure it is on the right track, and to garner good information from people coming in from different language groups to ensure language is not lost.

Read the full story on page 9.
A MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

Bundiyarra will be closed from Wednesday 21 December 2016 at 2pm and re-open on Monday, 9 January 2017 at 8.30am.

To ensure the hard work that has been achieved throughout the year is continued to be maintained, our caretaker will remain in place and many staff have been engaged to check the grounds on a daily basis.

There has been an array of achievements made through all areas of the Corporation. The Bundiyarra-Irra Wangga Language Centre continues to exceed the expectations from our funding partners, and the Bundiyarra Environmental Health Services Team has been transitioning their services to become more proactive and less reactive to the endless demands of community.

Our Jobactive Work for the Dole activities have brought a new dynamic and it really has to be questioned as to why many of these people are without work.

Their dedication, attendance and participation on a daily basis has seen the Bundiyarra grounds revitalised and full of colour.

This will continue throughout 2017 with upcoming projects to include a garden of honour to commemorate Aboriginal soldiers who served for country, a healing garden in memory of the stolen generation, a new brick fire pit inclusive of rotisserie, grill, barbecue, coal cooking, damba (damper) oven and warming oven.

Stage One works will be completed by April, and then we will be busy planting and completing the gardens around the new infrastructure.

In addition, we have been working hard on improving our operations to leverage more paid contracts which will allow us to employ more of our participants.

I would like to thank the Bundiyarra Board of Directors, Life and Honorary Members for their ongoing contribution and support and all the staff for their dedication to the Corporation. The ‘Good Place’ is well on the move.

Unfortunately the funding for the printed editions of Bundiyarra Gardantha has now ceased.

We thank the City of Greater Geraldton for their three-year commitment to the publication.

We are currently looking at other opportunities to retain a printed version but until then it will only be distributed in email format.

I wish everyone a safe and happy Christmas and prosperous New Year. See you in 2017!

– Marchelle

Testimonials for July August Bundiyarra Gardantha...

Huge Congratulations to Marchelle and her team on such fantastic achievements for Bundiyarra.

The Bundiyarra Newsletter is so interesting, full of stories that the public would never know about other than being presented in this format.

Nan Rickards
Director
West Coast Arts

Wow – a bumper edition!
Bundiyarra should be feeling very proud of their achievements!!!

KNJ Diehm
Chief Executive Officer
City of Greater Geraldton
Her Excellency the Honourable Kerry Sanderson AC, Governor of Western Australia, visited Bundiyarra on 6 September.

The Governor was most impressed with the reception she received, a Welcome to Country and some lively commentary from that inimitable raconteur Elder Clarrie Cameron, a bit of Bundiyarra history, a delicious (she said) kangaroo burger, some singing from the Language Centre staff and presentation of a book produced by students at the Flexible Learning Centre.

Her Excellency, along with David Dunham, Honorary Aide-de-Camp, joined Bundiyarra Board members and staff for a couple of hours of entertainment and informal chat.

Board Chairman, Ross Oakley, told the story of Bundiyarra: where it started, where it is today and the community’s plans for the future of the organisation.

Work for the Dole participants made kangaroo burgers, and Kyra Johnson worked diligently making damper rolls (under the tuition of Language Centre teacher, Leeann Merritt), for the burgers.

Kyra served Her Excellency with the kangaroo burger who said it was delicious, and an unidentified man, clearly a regular, quipped: “you always get a good feed when you come here”.

The Flexible Learning Centre students produced a book – Nganhu waayi ngurliyimanha wannggagu Wajarri Irra – We are not afraid to talk Wajarri language - comprised of photos taken on Amangu and Nhaaguja Country that they captioned in English and then translated to Wajarri. A copy of the book was presented to the Governor by Oliver Murray, Head of Campus for the Flexible Learning Centre.

After the more formal proceedings, Her Excellency mingled with Board members and staff and enjoyed a friendly chat.

The Honorable Kerry Sanderson AC, Governor of WA enjoys a kangaroo burger prepared by Bundiyarra’s Kyra Johnson. Right: Elder Clarrie Cameron performs the Welcome to Country.

Oliver Murray, Head of Campus for the Flexible Learning Centre, presents the Governor with the Flexible Learning Centre students’ book, Nganhu waayi ngurliyimanha wannggagu Wajarri Irra. Right: Aide-de-Camp, David Durham joins her with a kangaroo burger.

Bundiyarra Deputy Chair, Tiambra Calvin and Chairman Ross Oakley have an informal chat with Her Excellency. Right: Leeann Merritt gives Kyra Johnson some damper making tips.

Left: Bundiyarra-Irra Wangga Language Centre staff sing the Welcome Song. Right: Mission accomplished: Kyra Johnson gives a big smile as she relaxes after the event.
Working the beast

Daniel Jupp (Juppy) wanted a blue Bundiyarra T-shirt. In fact, he told CEO Marchelle Retallack, he wanted two so that he’s always got one to wear when one is in the wash...

To prove it, the Work for the Dole participant – who once ran his own earthmoving business – organised an excavator and spent two-and-half days clearing and levelling space for the Bundiyarra Environmental Health Service Team’s new shed.

Participants get a blue T-shirt when they’ve come through the scheme and gain employment at the Good Place.

Daniel completed the required time for the scheme but kept coming back he enjoyed being there so much. Then he hopped onto the excavator and showed his proficiency with the 9-tonne beast. Daniel also has tickets for other plant equipment including excavator, bobcat, and front end loader.

So did he get his blue T-shirt?

He sure did, and kept on showing his enthusiasm for working at the Good Place.

We are pleased to now report that Daniel has reinvigorated his earthmoving business and is busy fulfilling some paid contracts.

“Daniel is a hard worker with plenty of initiative – and cheek,” said CEO Marchelle Retallack, “and well deserving of his blue T-shirt, I wish him well with getting his business back on track and am over the moon that Bundiyarra and the Work for the Dole scheme has helped him get there.”

Another good outcome from the Work for the Dole program!
Kathleen Nelly may not have brought home the title of WA Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Student of the Year at the 2016 WA Training Awards, but she was impressed with the event itself.

Kathleen, 21, Bundiyarra’s Administration Coordinator, was a category finalist having been named Durack Institute of Technology’s Aboriginal Student of the Year in April this year.

She said the whole event at the Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre on Friday 23 September, had been put on by TAFE training staff, including the food, wait staff and bar staff.

“Although disappointed not to win, I was impressed with the way the awards night was run with people in training with TAFE doing all the work. The food presentation was excellent and the staff were so polite and attentive,” she said.

The State’s training elite were in the spotlight celebrating their achievements.

Kathleen said she was encouraged to study at TAFE by Marchelle Retallack, Dwayne Smith and Tiambra Calvin.

“Study did have a lot of benefits,” she said, “I did a lot of study and applied for five scholarships and won four. It has been very good for my self-confidence.”

The WA Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Student of the Year is sponsored by the Graham (Polly) Farmer Foundation and Kathleen took part in the foundation’s Follow the Dream Program when she lived at Tom Price when she was younger.

Kathleen was up against some stiff competition at the awards and was joined by another Geraldton finalist, Kelsey Nicholas from local hair salon, Hot Locs, and two other state finalists.

The winner was Naomi Beath from Perth and she was presented with her award by Polly Farmer Foundation President, Dr Sue Gordon.

“Kathleen may not have won the State award but she’s a winner in our eyes,” said Bundiyarra CEO, Marchelle Retallack.

Our Kathleen is leaving us! After five years, four scholarships, 2016 Durack Institute of Technology Aboriginal Student of the Year, and a finalist in the 2016 WA Training Awards, Kathleen Nelly, Bundiyarra’s Administration Coordinator, has decided to make the move to the big smoke in Perth to continue her career.

Kathleen has a few irons in the fire for work in Perth and it won’t be long before she is snapped up and on the way up the ladder.

She is going to be sorely missed at Bundiyarra for her bright personality, helpful nature, great photography skills and being the CEO’s right-hand woman.

While sorry for herself, CEO Marchelle Retallack said it is a great move for Kathleen to spread her wings and further her career.

“Kath has been a delight to work with for the past five years,” said Marchelle, “she will be a strong Aboriginal leader in the future.

“Farewell my Petal.”
Ally Oliver is a very happy Bundiyarra employee, and another success story from the Work for the Dole Program.

Ally is the Environmental Health Services receptionist, but also cheerfully helps the other admin staff at Bundiyarra. The role gets pretty busy but Ally handles it with aplomb. The 23-year-old is Geraldton born and bred and started her working life shelf packing at Target then moved to the checkout where she became checkout supervisor. From there Ally worked her way up to managing the front end, where she said it was a great confidence booster.

“I used to be quite shy, so working with the public helped me develop good communication skills that I use every day at Bundiyarra,” Ally said.

She then worked as a Team Leader at Bunnings, but recovering from an operation found her out of work for quite a while.

“I was finding it hard to find a job, despite having many interviews,” said Ally.

Then through the Work for the Dole scheme Ally found herself at Bundiyarra in June this year, and has never looked back.

She proved her worth and in September was offered part time, paid work from 9am to noon, but liked the job so much she would stay until the other part-timers finished at 2pm. This didn’t go unnoticed and before long Ally was getting paid for that too!

When asked what she likes about working at Bundiyarra Ally said:

“Everything! Being a part of the community is amazing, and making friendships here is easy as everyone is friendly and happy.

“It’s a nice environment to work in. It’s inspiring to work here to see how much has been achieved and how much more there is to come.

“I enjoy it so much more than working in a shop; I’m good with technology and I get to use my skill in this admin position,” she said.

Ally said she’d love to contribute more to the community.

“I hope that there will be an opportunity to offer my experience in other areas at Bundiyarra.

“I really enjoy coming to work; a lot of my friends are like: urgh work on Monday and I’m like: yay work on Monday!”

CEO Marchelle Retallack said she had no idea Ally had never worked in an admin role in the past.

“I totally threw her in the deep end. She had been attending Bundiyarra for about three weeks when Kathleen needed time off,” Marchelle said.

“I gave Ally a huge list of tasks, and it wasn’t until the end of the week she told me she had never done the role before and mainly worked in retail. She could have fooled me.”

“All Ally has brought another gorgeous smile to the front reception and has slotted into the team nicely.”

First crop harvested from community garden

The first vegetable crop from the Bundiyarra Community Garden was served up with a delicious roast on 15 September.

The roast and veg lunch was cooked by Bundiyarra’s Kyra Johnson and Andrea Green-Ugle.

Bundiyarra Board Chairman, Ross Oakley, joined Work for the Dole participants for the tasty lunch, where he congratulated Bundiyarra’s WFTD program supervisor, Matt Antonovich for his mentoring of the participants and said the garden and the first crop of produce was a credit to the team.

“It is so rewarding to see the hard work done by this team produce such an amazing outcome,” he said.

“And the lunch was delicious. Well done to all involved.”
We love bringing you Bundiyarra achievement updates; and here’s another.

Back in March/April we reported how Kane Hart had found permanent employment with Bundiyarra’s Environmental Health Services Team, after being a participant in the Work for the Dole program, and how he was in the second phase of his driver’s licence completing 25 hours driving over six months as part of the scheme.

Kane now has his licence and is pretty chuffed about it and looking forward to owning his own car for the first time.

This means Kane can drive team members to jobs and they don’t have to wait for the only other driver to ferry them around. A win for the team in time saving and a win for Kane for independence.

Kane said it has been great coming through the scheme to find permanent work, and now he “doesn’t have to walk everywhere”.

“It’s a real bonus,” he said.

Kane’s now king of the road

Darren West gets a Bundiyarra update

The Australian Labor Party’s Darren West, Member for the Agricultural Region, dropped into Bundiyarra recently to see what’s been happening.

He was pleasantly surprised at all the work that has been done and continues to be done at the Good Place.
A grevillea by any other name

Aboriginal Elder Joan Gray is a Bundiyarra founding member and an avid gardener, including around Bundiyarra’s administration buildings. Well, she was until she fell over early this year, injuring her hip and making it difficult for her to get around and walk without aid. Every Sunday Aunty Joan would spend the morning planting, weeding and tending to the plants around the building, nurturing them and planting her favourite species including vincas, bottlebrush, grevillea, and succulents.

Her injured hip prevented her from visiting Bundiyarra for many months. However, she came along to enjoy the WA Governor’s visit in early September and the delight on her face as she saw the fruits of her labour in full bloom was glorious.

Bundiyarra grows a garden of abundance

The community garden just keeps on producing fantastic vegetables; this is from the latest crop – Spanish onions, squash and prize-winning-size zucchini!

Chooks and ducks are the latest addition; their waste will go to make compost and fertiliser for the garden, and the scraps from the garden will go to make their waste. Recycling at its best – you get the idea. As well as producing eggs, and if they don’t - chicken soup...

The participants have converted an old caravan into a comfortable chook shed for the girls.

They’ve left their legacy by giving it a really creative paint job, building a shelter for the roof and signing their names on it.

Tyrone Gunn, Bundiyarra volunteer gardener with the amazing caravan chook shed transformed by participants; the girls are really clucky about it and have been excellent layers.

The chooks, all of whom have been adopted and named by Bundiyarra regulars, are kept company with three ducklings who grow bigger by the day.

Funds received from a grant from the Waste Authority have enabled the construction of the chook pen, and a beehive system and mobile cool room will also be purchased from the funds, to help the corporation further its recycling mandate.
The Bundiyarra-Irra Wangga Bush Language Camp at Gunnado attracted participants from across the Mid West and Gascoyne for two days of sharing, learning and teaching language.

Camping out for the love of language

More than 50 language lovers from across the region gathered at Gunnado Farm at Walkaway about 25km east of Geraldton in early November for the Bundiyarra-Irra Wangga two-day Bush Language Camp.

Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation kindly sponsored the event on November 8 and 9 bringing together language speakers and representatives from language groups of the Mid West and Gascoyne to participate in the language and culture experience with plenty of activities and presentations.

People from Carnarvon, Mt Magnet, Mullewa and Geraldton came together to share, learn and participate through yarning and song, to help preserve and discuss the future of their languages.

YMAC Chair, Ben Roberts, welcomed the participants on the first day and Bundiyarra-Irra Wangga Language Centre staff gave an overview of their roles and entertained the audience with the ‘Welcome Song’.

During the camp, the ‘Welcome Song’ was translated into each language and then sung by each group with guitar accompaniment from well-known local muso, Eric Dalgety, one part of popular local band Red Ochre.

Groups worked on translation and recording and took part in some art activities run by Yamaji Art, producing some stunning small artworks.

Elders including Ollie George, Rosie Hamlett, Bevan Dingo and Victor Mourambine, joined in the translating of the Welcome Song and told some of their fascinating oral histories, recalling the experiences of growing up in the region and hearing and speaking language.

Chris Lewis, from ABC Open, Mid West and Wheatbelt, popped in to record some speakers and the recording was broadcast on ABC.
Midwest and Wheatbelt Mornings Show with Glenn Barndon on November 17 and again on Radio National a couple of days later. Bundiyarra-Irra Wangga Language Centre Coordinator, Jenni Gregory-Kniveton, said we need to keep building relationships with our communities.

“We need to be guided by the elders in the communities, the elders that are the speakers, and the people living there.

“As a language centre it’s important to get together to have a talk every year or so to make sure we are on the right track. Also to capture some really good information from our local people coming in from different language groups, so that’s not lost,” Jenni said.

Language Centre Linguist, Rosie Sitorus is concerned about Indigenous peoples having to constantly fight for the preservation of their languages.

“Indigenous peoples still have to fight for their language. Language should be about joy and family and beautiful lived experiences, something we can be happy about,” she said.

“My dream is that in my lifetime I will see a space in Australian society for Indigenous languages that is taken for granted, that we don’t have to fight for; that we don’t have to fight for funding for its preservation. So that Indigenous kids three, four, five generations down the track can say I’ve never had to think about the place for my language because it’s always been with me.”

Cooks, Jenny Clayton and Julie Dwyer made sure hungry tummies were filled with plenty of delicious meals created in Gunnado’s camp kitchen, with the competent aid of Kasi Sitorus.

A number of people camped overnight at Gunnado, and attendees and their families were treated to a farewell dinner under the stars on the last night with chops, kangaroo rissoles, sausages, kangaroo tail cooked in the ground, and curried kangaroo stew cooked in camp ovens, accompanied with rice, and coleslaw, potato salad and caesar salad, with a delicious desert of bread and butter pudding. A...
cook up fit for language royalty!
The last Language gathering was held in Geraldton in 2014 and Jenni Gregory-Kniveton said:
“These language gatherings are a way of finding out what our community elders want for their language.

October saw Shark Bay mark the commemoration of 400 years since Dutch explorer Dirk Hartog arrived on the coast of Western Australia, with a five-day festival. The Dirk Hartog Voyage of Discovery: Shark Bay 1616 Festival included the performance of five Malgana people singing Yandani or ‘welcome’ in the Malgana language of the people of Shark Bay, a language that is rarely heard today.

Bundiyarra Board member, Bianca McNeair, a Malgana woman herself, said the last known fluent speakers of the language died in the 1990s, but some recordings of elders from the 1970s still exist.

The Bundiyarra-Irra Wangga Language Centre is working to revive the Malgana language and they visit Shark Bay regularly to talk with elders and community to help preserve it; alphabet posters and other resource material has been created as learning aids.

Local Malgana woman, Ada Fossa, said she was proud to have been part of the Dirk Hartog festival. “It’s big for the town,” she said. Ada is an author and has written her autobiography which is a very interesting read. It describes her time as a fashion model, her experiences as a local in Shark Bay and the diverse characters she has encountered in her incredible life.

ABC Open Midwest’s Chris Lewis was in Shark Bay for the festival and compiled a great video of the song performance and interviews with local Malgana people. You can view the video by visiting the following link: http://www.abc.net.au/news/2016-10-24/shark-bay-traditional-owners-sing-in-language-not-heard/7959768

A group session at the Language Camp.

“It is good to bring language speakers together; survival of language depends on intergenerational transmission and safekeeping of recordings and documentation from elders.”

Susan Merry looks at Bundiyarra photos.

Former politician and Labor Candidate for North Metropolitan region, Alannah Mctiernan, WA Labor Member for the Agricultural region, Darren West MLC, and Labor’s candidate for Geraldton, Lara Dalton paid a visit to the Bush Language Camp on November 9.

Nadine Taylor and Charlie Collard.
**A B C in Shark Bay**

**Language Centre ladies, Rosie Sitorus and Jenni Gregory-Kniveton, returned for a second visit to Shark Bay in September to do more work on the Alphabet Poster, which is now almost complete.**

They took photos for the poster and worked with local elders who gave excellent guidance on some wording for it and what pictures would be good to include.

A highlight of the trip was joining elders on a trip out to Hamelin Station that is now managed by Bush Heritage Australia. They went on a tour of part of the station, a real treat as it was the first time many of the elders had returned to that part of the country as it had been a closed pastoral lease for years.

Rosie and Jenni also joined the elders on a tour with Darren Capewell of Wula Guda Nyinda Eco Adventures that operates a variety of tours to explore the cultural ties of Aboriginal people to Shark Bay. This tour took them to Gregories in Francois Peron National Park.

“This was a wonderful opportunity for them,” said Rosie, “the ladies don’t often get to go out together on country so it was a good way for them to get to some hard to access areas together.”

“We looked at bush tucker and ate berries – it was great – and Shark Bay is a truly magnificent place!”

**Girls from Wiluna Remote School pay a visit**

Students from Wiluna Remote School popped into Bundiyarra for a visit earlier this month, where they had a tour of the premises and enjoyed lunch cooked by Kyra and her crew.

They were really taken with Eden McLachlan’s lovely wild mop of hair which he let loose for them!

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**First Languages Australia Update**

**Bundiyarra-Irra Wangga Language Centre Coordinator, and FLA committee member, Jenni Gregory-Kniveton gives an update on what the organisation has planned.**

Being on First Languages Australia, a National committee of this nature is very important for WA and particularly for this region. People from all around Australia are members of the committee and important discussions centred around some of the national projects FLA has instigated over the past year.

One of the most important decisions made this year was to acknowledge Language for National NAIDOC week. The 2017 NAIDOC Week theme is *Our Languages Matter*

The importance, resilience and richness of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages will be the focus of national celebrations marking NAIDOC Week 2017. So the challenge is up for Bundiyarra-Irra Wangga Language Centre this year, to ensure we access funds through NAIDOC to celebrate this rich cultural history and put language at the forefront of who we are and what we do as Aboriginal people from this region.

Myself and Nadine Taylor (Language Worker) also attended the National Aboriginal Languages Teacher Forum in Adelaide on the 2 and 3 November. This forum was hosted by First Languages Australia and people from education sectors, universities, private sector organisations and language centres met together to discuss the concept of developing a National Aboriginal Language Teacher Training Framework.
Julgara Grijmaji (Merry Christmas)
From us mob at Irra Wangga Language Centre

How to make a stick Christmas tree

Find some thin tree twigs.
Break them into long and short pieces.
Get a piece of cardboard strip.
Glue the twigs smallest to the biggest onto the cardboard strip.
Glue a star on top or tie a piece of pipe cleaner to the top for hanging. Decorate with craft items.

Find the Wajarri Christmas words in the grid

BADURA
W B I M J P A A G A
BIRRUWA
I U N U I X L R Y G
BAMBURDU
L R W L R R H L U U
MARLU
A R A R D A A U N W
JIRDILUNGU
R U L A I R R D G A
YARLU
A A A K L H D R A M
BALHARDA
B I R R U W A U T A
WALARNU
L Y N B N J G B H B
BUNDARA
W A U U G P Q M A A
WILARA - moon
GAGUWAMA - mistletoe
YUNGATHA - family

Now see if you can find these extra words
WILARA - moon
GAGUWAMA - mistletoe
YUNGATHA - family

Fill in the missing letters
A look back on some of the action at Bundiyarra over the year:

On 2 March, Bruce Sherwood from Eastman Poletti Sherwood Architects presented the plans for Stage 1 of Bundiyarra Muguri – Bundiyarra’s plan to promote a cultural experience to tourists. Bundiyarra Board and Members gave their approval. Stage One includes the construction of infrastructure to accommodate tourists and address regulatory concerns.

A sad day on 31 March when more than 50 people farewelled Gordon Gray. The popular Aboriginal issues advocate at Bundiyarra was given a send off with some heart-felt words of thanks for his 13-year commitment to the corporation.

State Manager of the Department of Employment, Ian Richards, paid a visit to Bundiyarra to see first-hand the success of the government’s Work for the Dole program.

“Bundiyarra certainly has something to share with other organisations in how to run programs like this,” he said.

on 11 August, Minister for Regional Development; Lands, Terry Redman handed over a cheque for $272,000 through the Royalties for Regions Regional Grants Scheme.

The funding allows the corporation to realise a long-held aspiration to expand, be more self-sufficient and become an Aboriginal Cultural Centre while offering a unique Aboriginal tourism experience.

Funding from Country Arts WA will help capture the extensive cultural knowledge of Badimaya Elder, Ollie George, including traditional stories and oral histories of his people from the mid-1930s to today.

The grant of more than $38,000 will fund a collaborative project encompassing visual arts and literature and production of a book, *Nganang Badimaya Wangga: Stories by Uncle Ollie George.*

Earlier in the year, Elders and Flexible Learning students came together to speak Wajarri.

It was great for both groups and helped them to feel connected to their culture.