

# ANNUAL REPORT

2020-2021

**BAWINANGA**  
ABORIGINAL  
CORPORATION  
MANINGRIDA



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Djinkarr Flood Plains

# CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

2021 has been a tremendous year for Bawinanga Aboriginal Corporation, both financially and operationally. We have faced many challenges from Covid-19, but we have worked hard to overcome them.

Attracting quality Balanda staff has been an ongoing problem while also tackling the crippling government changes to the CDP program and its impact on our Bininji participants and staff.

Our mission to improve the lifeways of our people through preserving and growing language and culture has been celebrated this year with strong cultural knowledge through men's business ceremonies within our homelands and Maningrida communities. We have also secured a conservation partnership that will give extra protection to our land and sea

Under the stewardship of our CEO, all departments in the organisation have performed very well, despite significant staff shortages. She shows great strength, honesty and integrity in guiding the Board and managing our organisation.

As Chairman I am very proud of our organisation and what we have achieved for our members, particularly those on our homelands. I wish to thank our Board members, particularly Wally Grimshaw (who is leaving us after ten years) and Caroline Marsh, for their service to our organisation. And I thank our CEO and her team for all their hard work.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Wayne Kala Kala'.

Wayne Kala Kala  
CHAIRMAN

## FRONT COVER IMAGE

Leila Nimbadja, looking for Kakadu Plums (Djiripitj) on her Djinkarr Homeland.

# CEO'S REPORT

**This year I am immensely proud of the Bawinanga Aboriginal Corporation team. We are the largest employer in the community, with our opportunities gained through competitive government funding grants, tenders, fee for service contracts with governments and private agencies, and commercial business operations.**

Our business practices are sustainable, innovative, culturally respectful across all aspects of our service delivery. But living and working remote is a hard gig. Physical activity in the red dirt and constant heat is a challenge. Added to that is, of course, the extra stress and strain of a new world that is COVID-19.

Over the past year, we have focused on improving our service delivery and capability, whether building new houses within Maningrida, continuous repairs and maintenance on homelands, grading homelands and main roads, fighting fires or harvesting fish and bush food. We have delivered well, and our organisational results are a testament to that hard work.

Despite restrictions, we have offered ongoing training to our staff and local community members resulting in more job opportunities for those that want them. The BAC team has been recognised for our efforts and services to the community through award nominations and wins. However, like every other business in the

bush, we have struggled to attract and recruit staff due to COVID-19. We have paid attention to our team's mental fitness, ensuring our people have had breaks. We have also offered mental fitness training and resources, particularly to staff with no access to their families due to COVID-19.

Over the last year, we have operated an incredibly successful Community Development Program (CDP), engaging daily with the community members through activities, leading to job opportunities. We were successful in the performance and compliance of our CDP service delivery, passing our NIAA Provider Performance Review, a considerable achievement for our understaffed team, during a COVID-19 crisis.

Our team of dedicated staff has served the people of our 32 homelands and Maningrida community well. So on behalf of our members, Board and myself, I say a sincere thank you for being part of the most successful year in BAC's history!



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ingrid Stonhill".

**Ingrid Stonhill**  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



CEO Ingrid Stonhill accepting the NT Community Service award for the Tucker Run.

Jo Brosnan, Raylene Bonson, Phyllis Dungudja and Ingrid at the Telstra Business Awards 2020.



# BAWINANGA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Bawinanga Aboriginal Corporation is governed by a board of up to 12 directors who are elected by corporation members every two years. Up to ten of the directors are members of the corporation and two are non-member, independent directors.



**Wayne Kala Kala**  
CHAIRMAN



**Julius Kernan**  
DEPUTY CHAIRMAN



**Oliver Ankin**  
DIRECTOR



**David Jones**  
DIRECTOR



**Cindy Jinmarabynana**  
DIRECTOR



**Phyllis Dungudja**  
DIRECTOR



**Valda Bokmarkarry**  
DIRECTOR



**Cynthia Brown**  
DIRECTOR



**Caroline Marsh**  
INDEPENDENT DIRECTOR



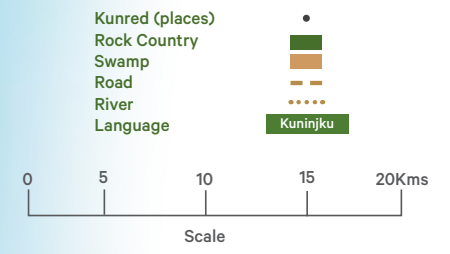
**Walter Grimshaw**  
INDEPENDENT DIRECTOR



Ji-Balbal, Blyth River Flood Plains



# LANGUAGE MAP



# YEAR IN REVIEW

**This year was one of growth and maturity for Bawinanga Aboriginal Corporation. While there is no doubt financial stability is an essential measure of maturity, so are the accolades bestowed on our organisations and services by others.**

We grew out of the decision of land-owning Aboriginal people to exercise their rights to live on their ancestral country in the regions surrounding Maningrida. Our services and programs are designed to support our members who choose to live on their homelands. They sustain them and provide employment and economic opportunities.

One of our critical homelands services is the Tucker Run, a mobile shopping service to the 32 homelands in the Maningrida region, operating for 41 years. The Tucker Run has been BAC's response to one of the key barriers faced by the very remote residents of the homelands: poor access to food supplies due to long distances to the supermarket.

This service does not receive any government, Land Council or philanthropic funding. It is run using Bawinanga Aboriginal Corporation's funds and can be a costly operation, however, necessary for our members to remain on their homelands.

We are proud that our Our Tucker Run was recognised as the 2020 NT Community Group of the Year.

Our most enduring business, Maningrida Arts & Culture, represents the work of more than 1000 regional artists whose livelihoods and capacity to remain living on their

homelands rests with the art centre's ability to sell their work.

Since the Covid-19 pandemic decimated the global arts industry, we have feared for Maningrida Arts Centre's viability.

Over the past 18 months, MAC has restructured its business operations to survive. It shifted from acquiring stock to have on-hand to a consignment business model. This change of business practice was a massive and challenging shift for artists, with whom MAC staff worked closely to explain the economic impact of Covid-19. Previously artists created pieces which, if good enough, MAC purchased to form their inventory until sold. Now artists must wait until there is an order, exhibition or awards event and create pieces tailored for that order.

This targeted supply and demand model has inadvertently improved the quality of art produced, which has generated more consumer demand via direct online sales. The artists have also developed a better understanding of how their industry operates. It's a credit to MAC that its 2020 sales have eclipsed 2019 year on year, and a best practice business has emerged.

In 2020, Maningrida Arts & Culture was a finalist in the Chief Minister's NT Industry and Export Awards.

In May this year, we were invited to feature in an online webinar series coordinated by Monash University called HEALTHY STORIES = GOOD FOOD. The live online series featured stories from remote communities

and leaders on supporting healthy foods in remote community stores.

The initiative addressed the issue of food security and aimed to foster critical discussion towards health-enabling stores. It was a celebration and sharing of initiatives, whilst acknowledging barriers and focusing on a food secure future for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander remote communities.

We were very proud they selected three of our enterprises to feature as case studies – The Wild Food Cafe, The Tucker Run and Maningrida Wild Foods.

Subsequent to the work done during the reporting period, we are thrilled to announce that BAC was selected by INPEX, on behalf of its Joint Venture Partners, to deliver a best practice conservation and land management approach within the Djelk IPA. This is one of the most exciting initiatives in the organisation's 42-year history and reflects BAC's reputation as a respected, trusted First Nation's organisation.

And reflective of this hugely successful year, CEO Ingrid Stonhill was announced as a finalist in this year's national The CEO Magazine's 2021 Executive of the Year Awards. Ingrid takes her place alongside some of Australia's most respected not-for-profit CEOs. The winner had not been announced at the time of reporting.

Ingrid has also just been announced as a Bronze Stevie award winner in the Women in Business, not-for-profit division. This is a highly prestigious international award.

Inpex Team visiting Bawinanga to announce landmark agreement

**Back row L to R** Jakawan Hill-Martdee, Felina Champion, Julie Dennien, Jamie Yibarbuk, Bill Townsend, Angus Darcy, Valeri Ee, Stephen Watt, Ben Davis, Sophie Holt, Edward Dudanga, Rowan McIntyre, Jamie Carle.  
**Middle row L to R** Desmond Nangurrur, Ingrid Stonhill, Russel Stewart, Gregory Wilson. **Front row L to R** Scott Stewart, Dickson Marrayday.





Oliver "Ollie" Ankin, long time serving Barlmark and Tucker Run man



Celebrated artist, Deborah Wurrikdj

# PERFORMANCE REPORTING



Buffalo damaged flood plain. Djelk logo crystal incrustated on buffalo skull (insert)

## Bawinanga Rangers

**Traditional landowners formed the Bawinanga Rangers in Western Arnhem Land to address growing environmental concerns in the Djelk Indigenous Protected Area (IPA). The IPA incorporates 670,000 hectares of land and sea country stretching from the central Arnhem Land plateau to the Arafura Sea.**

While the IPA encompasses biodiverse and stunning, structurally intact landscapes, we face the same ecological challenges found in the rest of northern Australia. These include changing fire regimes, threatened native species, invasive weeds and feral animals.

The ranger team consists of traditional owners and Djunkay. They blend traditional knowledge with contemporary land conservation techniques to care for the Djelk IPA land, sea and waterways. Training for the rangers and pathways for our youth through Learning on Country is integral to our success.

### HIGHLIGHTS

- **The Ranger team worked hard to develop a comprehensive Expression of Interest document** in the hope of being selected for a 40-year partnership with INPEX-operated Ichthys LNG to deliver a best practice conservation and land management approach within the Djelk IPA. The initiative is part of INPEX's environmental offset commitments program. We have since been announced as the successful partner. This arrangement will strengthen our Ranger's ability to protect some of the IPA's specific species and habitats, using world-class research and methodologies coupled with cultural heritage management, generally not made possible through current funding. The partnership will deliver enormous benefits to the Ranger team, the IPA and the wider Maningrida community.
- **Crocodile management** – The Bawinanga Rangers' annual three-month-long crocodile egg harvest resulted in 800 crocodile eggs, which were incubated before being sold to a crocodile farm. This traditional method of collecting crocodile eggs takes exceptional bush skills and a thorough understanding of crocodile behaviour. The Rangers also trap and relocate problem crocodiles. This year they set traps around the town barge landing and boat ramp.



Ranger Manager, Alex Earl

## PERFORMANCE REPORTING



Chopper pilot Seb Robinson with Ranger Jonah Ryan, aerial incendiary burning.



Buffalo in floodplains



Rangers Randy Yibarbuk and Dickson Marrday, vegetation monitoring



- **Feral buffalo control** – Buffalo cause substantial habitat damage, their wallows, trails and trampling cause erosion, channelling of floodwaters, increased saltwater intrusion into freshwater habitats and destruction of wetland vegetation. Important wildlife areas, including crocodile nesting sites and magpie goose habitat, are also damaged by buffalo disturbance. With support from National Landcare, the rangers worked with Territory Natural Resource Management to establish survey plots and record some drone footage of the current situation. The data collected will be used as part of a monitoring program to track the outcome of buffalo management activities being undertaken in the region. Bawinanga Rangers are assembling buffalo and pig exclusion fencing around a water hole at Ji-Balbal. They have mounted monitoring cameras on surrounding trees to capture the land’s recovery over time. The cameras have been programmed to photograph the area every day at noon until the next dry season. The rangers will also get drone footage monthly. The project will provide evidence for landowners and other stakeholders of eradicating buffalo’s impact on the floodplain’s recovery.
- **Fire management** – Customary fire management practices are to burn early in the dry season, when there is a heavy dew and light winds, so fires go out overnight; to burn strategically, adding to natural breaks such as moist ground along creeks, cliff lines and tracks to create a mosaic of burnt and unburnt areas; to protect jungles, heaths and sacred places using early-burned breaks; and, to consult with ‘the right people for country’ in planning and delivery. This year they did over 40 days of burning, travelled more than 15000 kilometres by land and air, flew more than 140 hours in a helicopter, used 105,000 incendiaries and 20,000 matches.

# PERFORMANCE REPORTING

Rangers Felina Campion, Grestina Wilson and Cindy Rostron  
LOC cadet, camera trapping in stone country.





Sea Rangers (L-R) Angus Darcy, Samuel Gulwa, Russel Stewart, Simon Brown, Desmond Nangurrur, Scott Stewart

## PERFORMANCE REPORTING

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- **Weed management** – The Bawinanga Rangers have also been tackling a resurgence of Mimosa Pigra on the Blyth River Flood Plain near Ji-Balbal. Mimosa is an incredibly invasive weed from tropical America that has already taken over 800,000 hectares of floodplains in the Northern Territory. The flood plains of the N.T comprise some of Australia's largest relatively unmodified wetland systems, and the Blyth river flood plain (alongside the Liverpool) is one of the most significant. It is vital to keep mimosa out of the floodplains in the Djelk IPA as it grows aggressively and can form dense, impenetrable thickets three to six metres tall. It can overtake other native wetland species of plants to form monocultures that could impact landowners' access to the floodplains to gather bush foods, go hunting, and reduce overall floodplain biodiversity. The Rangers logged each infestation of baby plants in the GPS, tagged the plants, and then treated it with Graslan Herbicide. They have mapped each infestation so that they can return over the next few years to check their progress.
- **Biodiversity surveys** – Women rangers and landowners of Kolorbidadah outstation have been deploying camera traps at Dukaladjanj. Setting up these remote sensor cameras aims to capture the presence or absence of animal species. Monitoring animals via camera trap took place in the Dukaladjanj area by scientists and landowners in the 90s and between 2010-2014. Many of the smaller medium-sized mammals are still missing and have not been detected, such as Djabbo (Northern Quoll), Yok (Northern Brown Bandicoot), Wumbu (Brush Tailed Phascogale), Badbong (Brush Tailed Rock Wallaby) and Dukula (Red Cheeked Dunnart). It was fantastic to capture some great images of Barrk (Black Wallaroo). The Black Wallaroo is endemic to the sandstone escarpment country of Arnhem land and is found nowhere else in Australia, and has cultural and spiritual importance for Bininj people.
- **Sea rangers have formed a partnership with the Australian Institute of Marine Science (AIMS)** and Parks Australia to monitor the overlap area between Arnhem Marine Park and Djelk Indigenous Protected Area sea country. They are deploying sea surface temperature loggers, drop cameras and Baited Underwater Video stations (BRUVs). High sea surface temperatures are the primary driver of coral bleaching. Monitoring allows us to identify if coral bleaching is due to elevated temperatures. As the ocean is a key climate controller, scientists use the data to model the climate and understand its changes. High sea surface temperature can also reduce the availability of food for fish. Baited remote underwater video stations (BRUVs) are a non-destructive survey method to assess fish biodiversity. BRUVs can be used to increase knowledge of economically and culturally important fish species. The BRUVs unit comprises a lightweight frame, GoPro camera and a bait bag, which is lowered into the water and left to soak for an hour; during its deployment, the GoPro camera records the fish species attracted to the bait bag. We review the video footage back in the office. Drop cameras are also used to survey benthic (sea floor) communities and ascertain places of interest to conduct BRUVs surveys.



Rangers Dickson Marriday and Stuart Guymala collecting crocodile eggs.



Setting croc trap at boat ramp



Ranger Jethro Brian, on watch during croc egg collection

## PERFORMANCE REPORTING

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Sea Rangers launching Bawinanga IV at the boat ramp, heading for a sea patrol





Ranger Grestina Wilson on stone country

Fishing Legend Jimmy Olsen

## Community Services

### COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

We deliver the Australian Government's Community Development Program to around 1000 Maningrida residents. It is a remote employment and community development service designed to help job seekers build skills, overcome employment barriers, gain full time paid work and contribute to their community.

We work with the community to develop culturally appropriate and meaningful activities that build pathways to 'real jobs'. Covid-19 concerns saw the Australian government cease mutual obligations, so people did not have to attend activities in return for welfare payments until October 2020. Then, from 12 May, the federal government removed compulsory activity requirements while it consults over the next 18 months on the evolution of its CDP framework. The immediate impact has been far fewer people attending CDP activities.



## HIGHLIGHTS

- The federal government requires CDP providers to undertake a performance review assessed against five specific criteria every six months. During the performance period from October 2020 to May 2021, we exceeded the requirements against each of the five criteria for the first time. To put this in perspective, very few CDP providers across Australia achieve this.
- During that performance period, we reached an employment placement record in February 2021, with 41 confirmed trackable placements secured. We set another record in May 2021. The previous record was 31, achieved in February 2013.
- Participants at the Mud Brick Factory constructed bricks to build community garden beds and a women's weaving circle.
- In May 2021, 12 community members graduated with a Certificate 11 in Construction, and BAC Housing, Homelands and Construction employed all.
- CDP job seekers, catching salmon, trevally, queenfish, mullet and barramundi daily, sold their catch to locals at their Thursday afternoon fish markets. They also sold fish in other local communities, such as Ramingining, in June 2021.
- The CDP's women's group, Brighter Futures, has been hand-making soap with Ti Tree oil to supply Mala'la Health Service. Making the soap is the women's way of contributing to better hygiene, which helps combat rheumatic heart disease in children.
- The mowing crew cleaned up yards on a fee for service basis and mowed for people with rheumatic heart disease. The homeland support crew travelled to the homelands to tidy lawns and gardens and clean up at the end of the wet season.
- Participants propagated plants for vegetable gardens and native plants at the Maningrida Nursery activity.



Employment Consultant Tayla Walsh



Employment Consultant Benny Repu

Brighter Futures



Tim Kalakala, mud brick legend



## PERFORMANCE REPORTING

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Community Patrollers Wesley Pascoe  
and Vicky Brown



## COMMUNITY PATROL

Bawinanga Aboriginal Corporation's Community Patrol plays a vital role in protecting Maningrida's most vulnerable people after dark and maintaining the community's safety and wellbeing. We resolve problems in the township, help settle disputes and support the local police in dealing with community problems. The staff have a strong relationship with the community and understands family, tribal and clan affiliations.

### HIGHLIGHTS

- The patrol team operates two shifts, travelling the town's streets between 7.30 pm and 5 am.
- The Patrol employs six men and seven women from different language groups such as Burarra, Nakara, Ndjebbana. Most of the patrollers speak up to five different languages, which helps them communicate with other community members.



Community Patrollers women crew

## PERFORMANCE REPORTING

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RSAS worker Tim Wilton, collecting children for school as Lilly supervises.

## RSAS

The Remote School Attendance Strategy (RSAS) works with the school, families and the N.T. Government to improve school attendance.

### HIGHLIGHTS

- We pick up children from their homes in the morning to take them to school and drop them back in the afternoon.
- We held informal community gatherings, usually with a BBQ, to talk to parents about school attendance and identify challenges and solutions with them.
- We collaborate with Night Patrol and the Australian Government's Families and First Teachers program, so our work responds to families' needs.
- Staff support compliance officers when they visit families to discuss absenteeism.
- On the last day of term, we went into the classrooms to give out certificates and small prizes to children who had achieved more than 95 per cent attendance rates. Families whose children had more than 80 per cent attendance rates went into the draw for a washing machine or fridge.
- We ran school holiday programs which offered activities like fishing, sports and games.



RSAS team Justina Williams, Caroline Prudence, Deslene Miralaidj, Sherana Turner, Tim Wilton, Ben "Baru" Pascoe



Back to school march, Term 2

# PERFORMANCE REPORTING



Daniel Marday working on homelands



Feral Buffalo damaging the flood plains







Lily Pascoe and Renel Palmer at Money Management

## MONEY MANAGEMENT

Money Management Service (MMS) helps around 1006 people living in Maningrida and the homelands do business with financial institutions, superannuation funds, insurance companies, the Department of Human Services and the Australian Taxation Office. The Department of Social Services provides financial support to MMS.

The MMS Financial Capability Workers work closely with their customers to give them the skills and confidence to get appropriate and relevant service from government and private agencies.

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Helped clients get identification papers, such as birth certificates, evidence of age cards, and Medicare cards
- Assisted clients to register deaths, apply for death certificates and make death insurance claims
- Created email accounts, MyGov accounts and linked them to Centrelink, ATO and Medicare
- Worked with clients to get ready for tax time by checking clients MyGov accounts
- Supported the NT Remote Supervising Driver training and processed and distributed drivers licences.

## PERFORMANCE REPORTING

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Dempsey working at Barlmarkk





## Barlmark Supermarket

Barlmark Supermarket is owned and operated by Bawinanga Aboriginal Corporation. Our goal is to provide Maningrida and homeland residents with fresh, nutritious and affordable food. We also stock a range of camping gear, household products and white goods.

We have a unique management arrangement with Outback Stores that gives us the buying power to keep our food and products reasonably priced, despite operating in a remote community at the mercy of expensive freight logistics.

We are responsible for contributing to our community's good health, so we have adopted healthy food and drink policies where low sugar drinks and fruit and vegetables are less expensive than other options.

The Supermarket also funds the Tucker Run service, a weekly service that supplies food and essential equipment to people living on the 130 remote homelands in the 7000-hectare Djelk IPA. BAC subsidises the service to ensure its remote customers can purchase products at the same price as people living in town.

### HIGHLIGHTS

- In January 2020, Bawinanga Aboriginal Corporation (BAC) was awarded the Northern Territory Community Group of the Year Award for its Tucker Run at the inaugural NT Community Achievement Awards. Providing affordable food security to Maningrida and homeland residents, particularly during the Covid-19 pandemic, has remained one of BAC's primary goals.
- Bawinanga Aboriginal Corporation was invited to feature in an online webinar series coordinated by Monash University called HEALTHY STORIES = GOOD FOOD. This live online series featured stories from remote communities and leaders on supporting healthy foods in remote community stores. The online series celebrated and shared initiatives whilst acknowledging barriers and focusing on a food secure future for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.



Devita Hodgeson working at Barlmarrk



Board Member and  
Tucker Run man "Ollie" Ankin

### Wild Foods Cafe

**Bawinanga operates Wild Foods Café to provide healthy takeaway alternatives to people in Maningrida. It sells fresh takeaway food, cool drinks, great coffee and baked goodies.**

It retails seafood and bush food harvested by Maningrida Wild Foods and offers daily salad and vegetable-based meals. The Café also provides catering for meetings and other get-togethers.

Its outdoor setting gives customers a place to enjoy coffee or dining together.

While the priority is on promoting healthy food options, the Café also creates hospitality training, work experience and employment opportunities and injects its profits back into community services and programs.

#### HIGHLIGHTS

- Wild Foods Café featured in the Monash University webinar series HEALTHY STORIES = GOOD FOOD, which showcased ‘good food store’ stories from remote Australia. The Café was profiled under the theme of Remote Stores: Healthy takeaways and employment opportunities.
- Trivia nights – this year, the Café held Trivia nights to bring people together over dinner. The aim is to provide people with a hub to interact in a safe, relaxed place.
- Pizza nights – Every Thursday night is pizza night.



Fisherman Randall Darcy



Wildfoods harvested from country

## PERFORMANCE REPORTING



Stefan receiving instruction from  
Kylie Gregson, Workshop Manager



# Mechanical Workshop

**The mechanical workshop keeps everyone on the move. It services the BAC fleet and maintains residents', NT Government, contractors and visitors' vehicles.**

The workshop team comprises a Workshop Manager, eight mechanics, seven local trades assistants, and one apprentice during the reporting period.

It's been a tough year for the workshop. Covid-19 has slowed down the delivery of parts from outside the community, making it difficult to schedule repairs. It has also resulted in low staff attendance.

These challenges are not unique to the workshop, they continue to impact many BAC businesses, and it's a credit to the management team that they have continued to run strong enterprises.



Stefan Darcy, Epirama Tagi and workshop guard dog "Bruce"



Gary Cooper is always working hard

# Housing, Homelands and Construction

We provide new housing and commercial building construction services, repairs and maintenance and essential services in Maningrida and its 32 homelands.

In Maningrida, we have government contracts to build new houses and renovate others under the Room to Breathe program. These projects allow us to employ locally trained construction staff to work and learn alongside tradespeople.

This year we employed 12 Certificate 11 in Construction graduates aged between 19 and 50 years to work on construction and maintenance projects in Maningrida and its homelands.

We must also maintain a team of qualified tradespeople, and Covid-19 has impacted our ability to recruit this year. Local community members remain concerned about interstate contractors coming into Maningrida with eastern states in and out of lockdowns. Potential interstate staff were concerned about moving to an isolated community when they were not confident they could return home to family when required. This ongoing problem pushed out timeframes and project schedules.

## HIGHLIGHTS

This year we:

- constructed three new house builds
- renovated three houses under the Room to Breathe project
- upgraded the power in the Barlmarkk Supermarket, Wild Foods Cafe and Nursery
- addressed the acute accommodation constructing a major, self-contained contractors camp
- built new toilets in the supermarket
- constructed accommodation for Wild Foods Cafe staff
- were awarded contracts for six new builds.



JiMardi Homelands



HHC Tradies James Bantjawa with Sean Radalj



Blair Hartland working with Cesco Dempsey



“JJ” Johnathon Stewart

## PERFORMANCE REPORTING

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Soland Watson, cleaning BAC offices



Luke Davis working on homelands

### Civil

**The civil department comprises two road crews that employ eight staff; six Bininj and two Balanda.**

One Civil team keeps the 190 km gravel road network and six airstrips connecting the 32 outstations to Maningrida open, serviceable and safe.

The road network is damaged by rain events each wet season. The crews work full time between May and November each year (dry season) to improve road conditions.

The 32 outstations are home to a permanent population of about 1500. The road network provides access for the homelands population to attend services and programs in town, including school and work.

Road safety is also a key driver for the homelands civil crew's maintenance program. Heavy rain in the wet season damages the road surface, causing potholes and severe corrugations. They represent a significant safety risk to drivers without adequate road maintenance.

Each week during the dry season, the homeland communities are serviced by the Tucker Run, which takes fresh produce, groceries, medical supplies, camping equipment and homewares to homelands residents. Emergency Services also rely on a good road network to reach the homelands.

The Northern Territory Government contracts the second team to maintain and improve 520 km of gravel roads between Maningrida, Ramingining, Oenpelli and Coburg Peninsula. Their work ensures safe travel between towns and communities throughout Arnhem Land.

Around Maningrida, the civil crew provides gravel and other building supplies for construction activities.

Wet seasons are spent maintaining the machinery and certifying local staff through civil construction training.

#### HIGHLIGHTS

- The Civil team were very excited to receive a new grader, funded through the Australian Government's NT Indigenous Economic Stimulus Funding, developed with the Northern Land Council. They had nursed their 43-year-old grader every kilometre for the last few years.
- Seven civil employees completed two-week training course to drive the new grader. Four either renewed or upgraded their licences, and three got new machine tickets.





Civil crew conducting on the job repairs



## PERFORMANCE REPORTING

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Civil Manager Tim Schroeder supervises earth works in Maningrida





## Maningrida Arts and Culture



Long time serving Arts Centre employee  
and mentor Derek Carter



Brooke Ainscow and Derelysa Carter of the Arts Centre

### **Maningrida Art Centre**

Established as 'the craft shop' in 1963, the centre became Maningrida Arts & Craft in 1968 and operated under the Maningrida Progress Association. In 1979 Maningrida Arts & Craft became part of the newly incorporated Bawinanga Aboriginal Corporation. The Maningrida Arts & Culture art centre supports artists in Maningrida and on homelands through the marketing of contemporary fine art and craft, sale of artwork, management of artists' careers, coordination of special projects, and overseeing copyright and licensing rights.

### **Bábbarra Women's Centre inc. Bábbarra Designs**

Established in 1989, Bábbarra supports the meaningful engagement and livelihoods of women in Maningrida and on homelands through social and business enterprises, including the design and production of hand-printed fabric, exhibitions, design work, special projects, a sewing centre, an op shop, a laundromat and remote homelands women's centres.

### **Djómi Museum**

Officially opened in April 1980, the museum is home to a nationally significant collection that includes rare artefacts, a bark painting collection, canoes, weapons, sculptures, fibre art, musical instruments, dance and ceremonial regalia, prints and photographs.

### **Cultural Research Office**

Established in 1993, the Culture Office is a library and collection of unique research materials vital for community members, staff, Maningrida College students, museums, galleries, institutions, universities, schools, and government organisations. The Cultural Research Office creates and acquires new materials in various media. It also repatriates materials for community access and uses and coordinates partnerships and collaborations on community-led research priorities.

## Art Centre

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Renovations to the art centre were completed with funding from the NT Government's Arts Trail grant program. They comprised new plasterboards in all gallery spaces, track lighting in internal galleries, new plinths, moveable walls and a new sales desk. Visitors in person and online can now view artworks at their best.
- Preliminary works began to improve access and cultural safety at the art centre site, including a wheelchair lift, respite accommodation for artists based on homelands or in Darwin for medical reasons, and facilities to welcome First Nation creatives in residence. This major project has been funded through the Aboriginal Benefit Account.
- Weaving workshops – Artists Doreen Jinggarrabarra, Bonnie Burarngarra and Freda Wayartja held popular weekly weaving classes at the art centre to teach Maningrida residents and visitors how to weave pandanus.
- John Mawurndjul Exhibition – Mawurndjul, Kaye Lindjuwanga, Sally Ann Wurrkidj, Owen Yalandja, Lena Wood, Derek Carter together with arts administrator Brooke Ainscow travelled to Charles Darwin University Gallery in mid-March 2020 for the final venue of the touring exhibition 'I am the old and the new' and panel discussion with Dr Murray Garde.
- The Darwin Aboriginal Art Fair – For the first time, art lovers worldwide visited the Darwin Aboriginal Art Fair online. Maningrida Art Centre presented a diverse range of artworks by the prolific artists of Maningrida and its surrounding homelands.
- Wynne Prize finalist – Maningrida artist Paul Namarinjmak Nabulumo's lorrkkon's (hollow log) was selected as a Wynne Prize Finalist by the Art Gallery of NSW. The Wynne Prize is one of Australia's most prestigious and influential art prizes. It is awarded annually for the best landscape painting of Australian scenery or the best example of figure sculpture by Australian artists.
- Gamanyjan Doreen Jinggarrabarra and Kamarrang Paul Nabulumo were selected as finalists in the 2020 Telstra NASIAA awards. Within Australia, NASIAA is the longest-running and most prestigious art award for Indigenous artists. Artbank subsequently secured Doreen's Mat, and Paul's 235 cm tall Lorrkkon, was acquired by a private collection.
- Art Gallery of South Australia, Tarnanthi 2020: Open Hands – Mother and daughter Lena Yarinkura and Yolanda Rostron created an intergenerational installation work, 'Ngalbanbe' (sun story). Open Hands pays tribute to the work of senior artists who pass on vital cultural knowledge to younger generations as the future leaders of their Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.



Deborah Wurrkidj's "Eiffel Tower" entrant in the 2020 Telstra Award (celebrating her trip to Paris)

Freda Ali, weaving artist



Derek Carter and Belinda Keillor  
at the Djomi Museum







## Culture Office and the Djomi Museum

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Indigenous Languages and Arts funding – This project follows the mapping of the Balkarranga clan (Burarra language group) and captures the nuanced cultural knowledge, clan-lect and Country. This is a community-led project with members of the Balkarranga clan leading the documentation process. This project has seen significant delays due to Covid-19 restrictions but is now gaining momentum as local staff seek ways to continue the project by drawing on resources and skills available within the community.
- The Djomi Museum is home to a large, unique, and extremely valuable cultural collection. Tristen Harwood came to Maningrida for a three-month internship as part of the NT Heritage grant. The project is to ensure that significant intangible cultural knowledge associated with the displayed objects are appropriately researched, documented, and distilled into interpretive signage. Whilst the research component of this project was completed in late 2020, the panel installation has been delayed due to ongoing COVID-19 restrictions.
- Museum of Contemporary Arts (MCA) Maningrida Collection: The MCA currently holds 573 works in fibre and other materials by Maningrida artists. Independent researcher, Freya Carmichael, visited Maningrida to work with community members on identifying and cataloguing the collection. The proposed opportunity for community members to visit the Maningrida Collection in Sydney has been postponed due to COVID-19 restrictions.
- Donald Thompson Collection: The Culture Office staff continued to liaise with Carol Christophersen and Julie Banks from Melbourne University regarding the Donald Thompson Collection currently held at Museums Victoria. This collection spans multiple communities and includes artifacts and documentation acquired during Thompson's field work in various communities between 1935 – 1965. The ongoing discussions aim to facilitate community access to the collection and best practice pathways for the repatriation of artifacts and human remains.

## Bábbarra Women's Centre

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Kip&Co collaboration – Leading lifestyle brand Kip&Co and Bábbarra Women's Centre released a contemporary homewares collection, which sold out in record time following its release in September 2020. The homewares were announced as a finalist at the highly respected TDF Design Award in November 2020. Australia's national copyright licensing organisation, the Copyright Agency, was engaged to help develop a framework to protect the integrity of the designs and the artist's intellectual property rights. All profits from the collaboration will be shared equally with the artists at Bábbarra Designs. Artworks by seven Bábbarra artists feature in the Bábbarra x Kip&Co collection:
  - Deborah Wurrkidj, Manwak 2017, and Marebu, 2012
  - Elizabeth Wullunmingu, Barnkabarra, 2010
  - Helen Lanyinwanga, Ngarduk Kunred, 2017
  - Janet Marawarr, Kunkurra, 2015
  - Jennifer Wurrkidj, Kunronj, 2007
  - Margot Gurawiliwili, Djenj dja komrdawh, 2006
  - Raylene Bonson, Wubbunj, 2016
- Jarracharra – This exhibition was launched at the Australian Embassy in Paris in 2019. It travelled through the National Museum of Anthropology and the Spanish Embassy, National Museum of Madrid this year between Dec 2020-Mar 2021. Participating artists were Lucy Yarawanga, Raylene Bonson, Deborah Wurrkidj, Melba Gunjarrwanga, Sonia Namarmyilk, Jennifer Wurrkidj, Belinda Kuriniya, Lennie Goya-Airra, Elizabeth Kala Kala, Kylie Hall, Linda Gurawana, Elizabeth Wullunmingu, Dora Diaguma, Jacinta Lami Lami, Miriam Jinmanga, Janet Marawarr, Carol Campion, Susan Marawarr, Elizabeth Kandabuma, Helen Layinwanga
- Saloon Design House, known for handcrafted 'slow fashion', selected a range of Bábbarra artist's textile designs for a collection to be sold through Liberty Of London, a luxury department store in London, England.
- Piinpi: Contemporary Indigenous Fashion – One of Australia's oldest and largest regional galleries, Bendigo Art Gallery, purchased five dresses made from textiles designed by Bábbarra Women's Centre artists, for its permanent First Nation's textile exhibition titled Piinpi: Contemporary Indigenous Fashion. The artists wore the dresses in Paris at the opening of their textile exhibition, Jarracharra, at the Australian Embassy in January 2020. The dress fabrics feature screen-printed designs printed by hand in Maningrida, representing some of the artists' stories of cultural significance. They were made for the women by Darwin-based business Raw Cloth.
- Big Rivers Creative Industry Summit, Godinmayin Yijard, Katherine, NT – Bábbarra representatives and artists Jessica Phillips, Elizabeth Wullunmingu, Deborah Wurrkidj and Janet Marawarr were invited to speak on a public panel about the intersection between art, culture, entrepreneurship and how they connect to create social, cultural, and economic value.



Senior Artist Janet Marawarr



Senior Artist Raylene Bonson



# Maningrida Wild Foods

Maningrida Wild Foods sell native foods sustainably harvested by local people from their traditional lands and seas. The enterprise creates economic opportunities for people to work and live on their homelands, connected to their songlines.

- Senior Traditional Owner and Gurr-Goni woman Leila Nimbajda was awarded the delicious magazine/Harvey Norman National Produce Awards' Outstanding Native Producer', selected by judge Kylie Kwong. Leila is the mainstay of Maningrida Wild Food's bush foods team, and her intricate knowledge of native produce has been pivotal to its commercial success.
- In 2020, Bawinanga Aboriginal Corporation (BAC) leased three units of a barramundi licence for a year. Under the licence, the crew catches barramundi, threadfin salmon, shark and queenfish. Most of the barramundi and threadfin salmon is filleted and sold to takeaway outlets in the community, including the Wild Foods Cafe. Some are sold outside the community, and unfileted fish is being sold whole directly to community members. The licence provides food security and entrepreneurial opportunities to locals.
- Leila Nimbajda and BAC Enterprise Development Manager, Rowan McIntyre, were invited to present at the Territory Natural Resource Management Conference in November 2020. They shared the history and vision of Maningrida Wild Foods through a presentation titled Developing Sustainable Enterprises in the Djelk IPA.
- Leila Nimbajda and Rowan McIntyre also attended a workshop in Darwin to help develop a 5-year strategic plan for the Northern Australia Aboriginal Kakadu Plum Alliance (NAAKPA).
- Maningrida Wild Foods nursery staff teamed up with Bawinanga Rangers to learn the art of relocating native stingless bee nests (sugarbag) into constructed hives. The two-day workshop was facilitated by the Northern Australia Aboriginal Kakadu Plum Alliance (NAAKPA) with funding from the Indigenous Land and Sea Corporation. WA based native bee expert, Alan Pigram, presented the workshop and showed participants how to construct four hives. It is hoped that locating the native bees near flowering bush food trees, like Kakadu Plum and Djarduk (bush apple), will increase pollination.



Leila Nimbadja collecting Kakadu Plums



Kakadu Plum spice mix



Kakadu Plums



# CORPORATE

BAC's corporate office is located in Maningrida and supports each of its businesses and social enterprises. It also provides front line customer service.

It comprises the office of the Chief Executive, Human Resources, Environmental Health and Safety, Finance, Grants, Communications, Enterprise Development, IT and governance.

Its customer service function covers a range of administrative services to community members, including weekly payments, fine recoveries and various deductions. It also provides support for obtaining identification through to managing travel assist and vital cultural support.

Over the last few years, BAC has transformed its business systems and processes. This whole-of-business structural change management process was designed to overcome a lack of rigour in reporting and accountability and create greater transparency, particularly around finances. New technology was introduced to each of the organisation's eight separate divisions.

The benefits of this frequently challenging transformation were realised in this financial year. BAC has moved from a business in administration to posting a surplus this year of \$6.5m. As a not-for-profit, this success means more jobs for Aboriginal people and more money to support the community's programs and services.



Norman Olsen, BAC Groundsman



Jo Brosnan Communications Manager and CEO Ingrid Stonhill



Michelene Rigby,  
Human Resources Manager



Dianne Cross, Office Manager

# FINANCIALS

## BAWINANGA ABORIGINAL CORPORATION

ABN: 58 572 395 053 Financial Report For The Year Ended, 30 June 2021.

	Note	2021	2020
		\$	\$
<b>Revenue</b>			
Revenue from government and other grants		8,710,671	7,824,292
Trading income		7,262,226	4,611,268
Other income		9,507,929	9,157,325
<b>Total Revenue and Other Income</b>		<b>25,480,825</b>	<b>21,592,885</b>
<b>Expenses</b>			
Depreciation expenses	2a	1,360,524	1,241,410
Employee benefit expenses	2b	10,068,655	10,175,988
Interest expense		136,841	114,158
Motor vehicle expenses		645,155	841,407
Utilities expense		458,133	501,851
Staff training and development expense		184,266	128,009
Audit legal and consultancy fees		1,001,879	1,353,599
Materials and contractors		3,522,460	2,362,553
Other expenses		1,576,628	2,093,471
<b>Total expenses</b>		<b>18,954,541</b>	<b>18,812,446</b>
<b>Net current year profit / (loss)</b>		<b>6,526,284</b>	<b>2,780,439</b>

	Note	2021	2020
		\$	\$
Other comprehensive income items that will not be reclassified subsequently to profit or loss :		-	-
<b>Total Other Comprehensive Income</b>		<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total Comprehensive Income for the year</b>		<b>6,526,284</b>	<b>2,780,439</b>
<b>PROFIT / (LOSS) ATTRIBUTABLE TO MEMBERS OF THE CORPORATION</b>		<b>6,526,284</b>	<b>2,780,439</b>
<b>TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME ATTRIBUTABLE TO MEMBERS OF THE CORPORATION</b>		<b>6,526,284</b>	<b>2,780,439</b>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.



BAWINANGA ABORIGINAL CORPORATION

ABN: 58 572 395 053 Statement of Financial position Ended, 30 June 2021.

	Note	2021	2020
		\$	\$
<b>ASSETS</b>			
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	3	16,014,634	12,070,344
Trade and other receivables	4	1,103,525	833,518
Inventories	5	1,594,543	1,327,974
Other assets	6	536,994	552,663
<b>Total Current Assets</b>		<b>19,249,697</b>	<b>14,784,499</b>
<b>NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Financial assets	7	2	2
Property, plant and equipment	8	6,735,278	6,148,624
Right of use assets	9	1,707,066	1,409,959
<b>Total Non-Current Assets</b>		<b>8,442,346</b>	<b>7,558,585</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>		<b>27,692,043</b>	<b>22,343,084</b>

	Note	2021	2020
		\$	\$
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
<b>Current Liabilities</b>			
Trade and other payables	10	1,794,262	3,615,497
Grants received in advance		3,063,446	2,595,557
Lease liabilities	11	179,539	180,522
Employee provisions	12	688,949	608,245
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>		<b>5,726,197</b>	<b>6,999,821</b>
<b>Non-Current Liabilities</b>			
Lease liabilities	11	1,376,531	1,262,032
Employee provisions	12	76,382	94,582
<b>Total Non-Current Liabilities</b>		<b>1,452,913</b>	<b>1,356,614</b>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>		<b>7,179,110</b>	<b>8,356,435</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>		<b>20,512,933</b>	<b>13,986,649</b>
<b>Equity</b>			
Retained earnings		20,512,933	13,986,649
<b>Total Equity</b>		<b>20,512,933</b>	<b>13,986,649</b>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.



## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF BAWINANGA ABORIGINAL CORPORATION

### REPORT ON THE AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL REPORT

#### Opinion

We have audited the financial report of Bawinanga Aboriginal Corporation, which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2021, the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, notes comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information, and the directors' declaration.

In our opinion the accompanying financial report of Bawinanga Aboriginal Corporation is in accordance with the Corporations

*(Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006*, including:

- (i) giving a true and fair view of the corporation's financial position as at 30 June 2021 and of its financial performance for the year then ended; and
- (ii) complying with Australian Accounting Standards – Reduced Disclosure Requirements and the Corporations *(Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006*.

#### Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report section of our report. We are independent of the corporation in accordance with the auditor independence requirements of the Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006 and the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

We confirm that the independence declaration required by the Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006, which has been given to the directors of Bawinanga Aboriginal Corporation, would be in the same terms if given to the directors as at the time of this auditor's report.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

#### Responsibilities of the Directors for the Financial Report

The directors of the corporation are responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and have determined that the basis of preparation described in Note 1 to the financial report is appropriate to meet the requirements of the Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006 and is appropriate to meet the needs of the members. The directors' responsibility also includes such internal control as the directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of a financial report that gives a true and fair view and is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, the directors are responsible for assessing the corporation's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the directors either intend to liquidate the corporation or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

The directors are responsible for overseeing the corporation's financial reporting process.

## Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a

basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.

- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the corporation's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the committee.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the committee's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the corporation's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit

evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the corporation to cease to continue as a going concern.

- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with the directors regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

LBW Business & Wealth Advisors



Sripathy Sarma – Principal

Dated this 17th day of September 2021

**BAWINANGA**  
ABORIGINAL  
CORPORATION  
MANINGRIDA



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