



Bundiyarra Gardantha

'a good place moving forward'



The come yarn with us Nannas Group/ Retail Development session got community excited about having a retail outlet at Bundiyarra, and the possibility of getting the Nannas Group happening again.

Come yarn with us gets community consulting

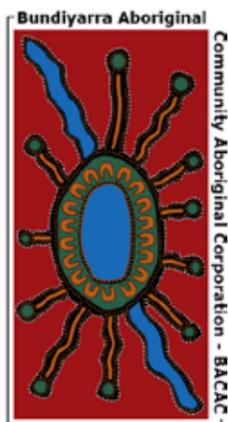
Bundiyarra's community consultation sessions – *Come yarn with us*, have proved to be a resounding success with solid input from community.

The consultation sessions have been held every Wednesday starting from 4 February and new faces pop up each week, which is fantastic.

The first session was a yarn about the City of Greater Geraldton's City Vibrancy Mural Project where funding has been provided by the CGG for community to paint a mural on the old Radio Theatre building. This was followed by discussion on Bundiyarra's involvement in community events, and then the Nanna's Group/Retail Store Development that really had the ideas flowing. A wrap up of these yarning sessions is inside and an update on the others will be in future newsletters.

INSIDE

- Elder Robert Ronan recalls memories at official opening of the Geraldton Visitor Centre
- Kanga bangers save the day
- Lost language gets preservation help
- Godfrey Simpson – the youngest Wajarri speaker
- Leann is a talented all rounder



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Bundiyyarra Gardantha has been designed by the Marketing Coordinator and staff at Bundiyyarra Aboriginal Community Aboriginal Corporation - BACAC



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 www.cgg.wa.gov.au

A MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

Nhurra Barndi

Things are really cranking up at 'the good place'. In the last edition of *Bundiyyarra Gardantha* we touched on the Bundiyyarra Strategic Plan 2015-2019.

This plan is one that will shape Bundiyyarra to be able to offer greater community a good place to come. Everyone that visits our grounds say they feel good when they are here.

We have a very strong group of Elders and community members to thank for creating this place for us. What we want to do is continue their dreams by building a café, commercial kitchen, public toilet block, develop a retail store, erect signage and then continue with a new language centre and conference facility.

For the past few weeks we have been holding Community Consultation every Wednesday. Each week a different topic has been covered and this will continue over the next month.

To date we have yarned about designs and concepts for painting the Bundiyyarra-Irra Wangga Language Centre and a mural in town (as part of the City of Greater Geraldton City Vibrancy Project), Community Events; recommencing the Nanna's Group at Yanaji Yanma in Beachlands; and opening a retail store at Bundiyyarra.

We have had a great turn out on a weekly basis and met many new community members.

The ideas that have been put forward are amazing – thanks to everyone who has shared their opinions and ideas.

For us to further develop our Strategic Plan we need community input so come along every Wednesday from 11.30am to 2.30pm for a yarn and a solid feed.

In addition, our Environmental Health Service continues to be extremely busy with more than 100 calls received every month for help.

We recently found out that we are a preferred



service provider in the eyes of the State Government. Well done team on receiving this acknowledgement. Community, we ask you to be patient for the service; the team works extremely hard to keep everyone happy and remember it is a free service, if you are in urgent need there are plenty of local contractors. The Bundiyyarra-Irra Wangga Language Centre continues to do an outstanding job.

We look forward to the launch of the Wajarri mobile app; this will be heavily promoted once details are finalised.

Bundiyyarra is a small, but dynamic team. From the Board of Directors, members and all staff we are committed to developing and delivering amazing opportunities for community. I would like to thank all staff for your ongoing contribution to the Corporation.

Till next month, urda urda.
 Marchelle

Bundiyyarra Community Consultation – come yarn with us

Throughout February and March Bundiyyarra, with support from the City of Greater Geraldton, is holding community consultation sessions every Wednesday for community to tell us what they want from the plans and projects Bundiyyarra aims to achieve throughout 2015. The first few weeks have seen great attendance and enthusiasm. The results from these consultations will be shared with the City and the Mid West Development Commission. The following pages are a round up of workshops so far. The next one is on Wednesday, 11 March, 2015 from 11.30am to 2.30pm in the Bundiyyarra Conference Room – FREE lunch every week! See page 12 for upcoming yarning sessions!

Radio Theatre Mural

The first Community Consultation – come yarn with us – for this month, got off to a great start on 4 February when more than 40 people turned up for a yarn about the City of Greater Geraldton's (CGG) City Vibrancy Mural Project.

The City has provided funding for community to paint a mural on the old Radio Theatre building on the corner of Marine Terrace and Fitzgerald Street.

Facilitated by Bundiyyarra's Jennifer Kniveton-Gregory, with Nola Gregory, the CGG's Aboriginal Community Development Coordinator, and Pieter Vorster, the CGG's Vibrancy Officer, in attendance, the workshop proved a great success with plenty of solid ideas coming out.

Jennifer asked community what they would like to see around town, "We need to come up with something that shows who we are and give us some presence," she said.

Making us visible

"This project is about breaking down the walls and making us visible."

Bundiyyarra Board Member and local artist, Bianca McNear, agreed to take the reins and lead the project, working with the CGG and a meeting was held the following week to progress the project.

Bianca said she would like to see youth work with Elders and cultural leaders to further the project.

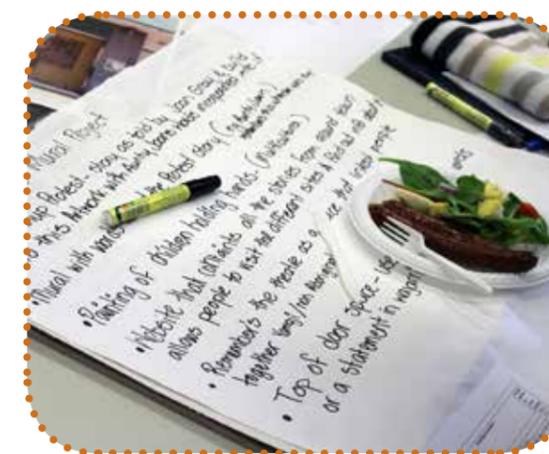


Left and above: Plenty of enthusiastic discussion was had about what should be included on the Radio Theatre mural. Below: Lunch notes...

"We need to get the kids involved; while painting the murals the Elders can talk to the kids and then they learn the stories," she said.

Significant location

The location has significance for some people; Elder Joan Gray recounted how the Aboriginal children used to get called names when going to the pictures at the Radio Theatre, and how her mother, Alice Nannup, stood up in front of everyone when Joan was about 10 years old and confronted the audience.*



"Although I was embarrassed, it was the start of making us realise we didn't have to put up with it," she said.

Discussion was had on how this story could possibly be interpreted into the mural, using Aunty (as she is affectionately called by most) Joan's words.

*This story is told in Alice Nannup's book, *When the Pelican Laughed*, co-authored with Lauren Marsh and Stephen Kinnane and published by Fremantle Arts Centre Press (now Fremantle Press) in 1992. In this book Alice tells her story of what it was like to grow up as an Aboriginal woman in Australia and has recorded some important heritage knowledge in doing so.

We'd like to share some of the feedback on our last newsletter, thanks everyone!

Looks great the page design has a fresh look to it. Congrats to you, Marchelle and all staff at Bundiyyarra looks like a great edition.

Tiambra Calvin, Aboriginal Student Support Officer, Geraldton Universities Centre

What a great Newsletter – I loved the layout and information. I learnt lots too – it was diverse and interesting!!

Barbara Thompson, Regional Development Coordinator, Regional Development Australia – Mid West Gascoyne

This really is an amazing newsletter!!! Packed full of great information.

Jenny Allen, Director, Geraldton Regional Community Education Centre

It looks great. I can see you guys have been very busy, as usual.

Samantha Rosenfeld, Communications Officer, YMAC

it's a great read!

Nyssa Colquhoun, Anthropologist, YMAC

Well done! This is a true 'NEWS'letter! Packed with relevant, interesting articles, good news stories, information, and reporting on Bundiyyarra's work out in the region. Plenty of clear colourful photos have made it a treat to read ... Thank you!

Tunya Brown, FBH Regional Tackling Smoking Coordinator, WA Country Health Service – Midwest



Yarning about community events

Australia Day

Another event Bundiyarra was involved in for the first time this year was Australia Day (26 January), and despite some original resistance in past years, the organisation's involvement was well received paving the way for expansion.

City of Greater Geraldton Event Team Leader, Joanne Panter, coordinator of the City's day-long Australia Day celebration, said it was heartening to see Bundiyarra be a part of Australia Day.

"There were many Aboriginal people on the foreshore on the day and it was a real honour to have an Aboriginal presence on the day," she said.

Workshop participants believe other Aboriginal organisations such as Midwest Aboriginal Organisations Alliance (MAOA) and Geraldton Regional Aboriginal Medical Services (GRAMS), Yamaji Art and Geraldton



Streetwork Aboriginal Corporation (Streeties) should be involved in Australia Day.

Harmony Day

The same sentiment was present for Harmony Day (21 March) that celebrates Australia's cultural diversity through inclusiveness, respect and a sense of belonging for everyone.

NAIDOC Week

NAIDOC Week (National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee) held in July saw overwhelming emphasis from workshop participants that *all* Aboriginal organisations should be involved.

Camp Gallipoli

Camp Gallipoli, (on the eve of ANZAC Day, 25 April) an inaugural event for Geraldton, will be a special night of remembrance for the 100th anniversary of Gallipoli, giving people the opportunity to sleep in swags just

like the Diggers did all those years ago, and is a joint initiative between Bundiyarra and the City of Greater Geraldton.

To be held at Bundiyarra, this event sparked a lot of interest and most agreed involvement could reach wider to other Aboriginal organisations and include the Flexible Learning Centre, Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation (YMAC), Clontarf Football Academy, Shine girls and Meenangu Wajarri Aboriginal Corporation, as well as the Geraldton RSL.

One comment was that it would be good to see GRAMS on board, and perhaps they could give a talk about what the medics went through during the war.



Bundiyarra Board Member, Richard Nelly left, throws around an idea.

Reconciliation Week

Reconciliation Week (starting 26 May), sees input from the City of Greater Geraldton and Bundiyarra, and again the feeling was that more Aboriginal organisations should be involved, including the Department of Aboriginal Affairs.

and involvement in the Sunshine Festival. A recurring theme was the development of didgeridoo playing at events.

Marchelle said the second *Come yarn with us* had been a great success with valuable and constructive input from all attendees.

And of course thanks go to Domestic Goddess, Tania Gray, for a fabulous traditional kangaroo tail stew and chicken casserole to feed the hungry horde!



National Apology Day

National Apology Day in Geraldton, (13 February) when [then] Prime Minister Kevin Rudd said 'sorry' to the Stolen Generation on 13th February, 2008, saw a lot of local Aboriginal people get up and tell their stories for the first time ever. Some workshop participants felt that Apology Day could be a healing day as it was a very significant event for these people.

Other great event ideas

Some great ideas for other events included an art exhibition open to all Mid West Aboriginal artists in February or March, to complement the Mid West Art Prize funded by the City and the Art Gallery of WA, now in its fourth year; an arts festival during wildflower season in September; an Aboriginal choir; recognition of the Yamiji region and its people;

Local Apology Day movie gets more than 1000 views

For last year's National Apology Day, Bundiyarra produced a short film in conjunction with local ABC Open's Chris Lewis which was launched at a morning tea on Bundiyarra's grounds.

To date this movie has been viewed 483 times on the ABC Open website and 1673 views on the Bundiyarra You Tube channel. Visit <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCDMSR5gFNtYVcGxSFCbeUww> to view the video.

The second community consultation – *Come yarn with us* – workshop on 11 February attracted a smaller but just as enthusiastic group as the previous week.

Facilitated by Bundiyarra CEO, Marchelle Retallack, participants were asked how Bundiyarra could raise its profile at events throughout the year, how other organisations could be involved and what events people would be interested in supporting.

Waitangi Day

Events discussed included Waitangi Day (21 February), New Zealand's national day, which the local New Zealand community celebrates each year in Geraldton and Bundiyarra supported for the first time this year. The Waitangi Association has been very supportive of Bundiyarra over the past 12 months.

Waitangi committee supportive of Bundiyarra

Waitangi Day is New Zealand's national day, which the local New Zealand community celebrates each year in Geraldton. The Treaty of Waitangi was signed on 6 February 1840 making New Zealand a part of the British Empire and guaranteed Maori rights to their land and the rights of British subjects.

Bundiyarra was involved for the first time this year as the event recognises the first peoples, and joined white New Zealanders, Maori and Torres Strait Islanders as they celebrated their heritage. (See pictures page 9)

The local Waitangi Day Committee

used Bundiyarra's fire pit last year to cook their hangi for Geraldton's GFest finale. They chose Bundiyarra as it is a cultural ground.

"It is a traditional setting and we feel very comfortable there," said Bronwyn Barrett representing the Geraldton Waitangi Committee.

Bundiyarra Board Chairperson, Ross Oakley, said being involved shows Geraldton we have an Aboriginal community and it is good to give back as the local Waitangi group has been very supportive of Bundiyarra.

"It shows we are part of what happens," he said.

Let's go shopping...!



contributed by Elders. Artwork of all different types produced by the community – weaving (bowls, baskets, placemats), didgeridoos, tapping sticks and boomerangs.

It was agreed the shop should be welcoming, warm and inviting with earthy tones and natural or good lighting with possibly a historical

Aboriginal timeline around the walls. Tania Gray of course, served a delicious lunch – Gold band snapper from Super IGA cooked to perfection in the barbecue with salad (not in the barbecue) and Mavis Dann's delectable damper.

The sessions are worth coming to just for the solid lunch!

It's a good place says Delores



Delores Dingo, left, from Port Hedland, with Annette Cameron, Mavis Dann and Yvette Carnamah also from Port Hedland, came along for the retail yarning session. Delores said it was the first time she had been to Bundiyarra, "and it has a great feel," she said.

A late change of plan saw the third Community Consultation – *Come yarn with us* session changed to focus on the Nanna's Group/Retail Store Development which drew some welcome new faces, some from as far away as Port Hedland!

This was the most successful to date with ideas flowing really fast from the get-go. In the hour before lunch the 'wish sheets' were full to overflowing with great merchandise ideas and of impressions of what the store should look like.

Jennifer Kniveton-Gregory talked about the original Nannas' Group that used to gather at Yanay Yanmar Hall in Beachlands.

"It was a safe place to laugh and yarn," she said, "they used to make tea towels and other things; we want to get the Nannas back, it's about getting our Nannas and looking after them, making sure they are happy."

A list of known 'Nannas' was compiled with more than 60 names being added to it!

CEO Marchelle Retallack facilitated the session and said the Bundiyarra logo was a strong marketing tool for retail products.

"It lends itself to all manner of retail items," she said, "fabric for sarongs, scarves, hats, jewellery, crockery, the list is practically endless, and it would be done sensitively.

"It's a great opportunity for the Nannas to be part of a weekly group that could assist with screen printing, sewing, beading, jewellery making, and catch up for a yarn and enjoy time with other women."

Among the many other suggestions were stocking bush tucker, hand creams, T-shirts with the logo, and a bush tucker recipe book, with recipes

Fellowships available for regional artists

Funding is available for WA Aboriginal regional artists, including those from the Mid West and Gascoyne, to develop professional skills and experience in the broader arts landscape, through Regional Artist Development Fellowships.

Federal Member for Durack, Melissa Price, said the Australian Government announced funding for five Fellowships in October last year, to support professional regional artists and promote a vibrant, creative life in Australia's regions; and she strongly encourages all Mid West and Gascoyne artists to apply.

"This is a chance for regional artists to work in other regions, cities or overseas with experienced artists and I encourage local artists and arts workers to consider applying," Ms Price said.

"There is so much artistic talent in Durack, including in the Mid West and Gascoyne, and we lead artistic development in many ways that I'd hope we manage to be successful in applying for these great fellowships."

Local WA Aboriginal art expert and Director at West Coast Arts, Nan Rickards, who lived for many years in the Pilbara, and is now a Geraldton



Aboriginal art expert, Nan Rickards, encourages Mid West Aboriginal artists to apply for a fellowship.

resident, said this is a wonderful opportunity for all WA regional Aboriginal artists.

"I have had the pleasure of meeting and discovering some extremely talented Aboriginal artists over the past 20 years," she said, "and an opportunity such as this is just wonderful."

Ms Rickards coordinates and curates high profile Pilbara Aboriginal art exhibitions including Rio Tinto's *Colours of our Country* and Woodside's *Ngurra Nyingu*, held annually in Perth, that has resulted in much West Australian Aboriginal art being acquired for collections worldwide.

She was also the curator for Oakajee Port and Rail's *GoodHeart* annual exhibition of Mid West Aboriginal art in Perth, until its demise in 2013.

"Now that there is less support or exposure for talented Mid West artists, an opportunity such as this is very important and I encourage them to seriously consider applying," Ms Rickards said.

Regional Artist Development Fellowships are administered by Regional Arts Australia. For more information visit www.regionalarts.com.au. **Applications close at midnight on Friday 17 April 2015.**

"These fellowships will provide artists and arts workers with new and valuable experiences that not only support their career but also deliver long-term benefits to the cultural life of their communities," said Ms Price.

"I have personally acquired a number of works from the Mid West. I would buy art every year at the GoodHeart exhibition and I now have pieces by artists such as Marion Dingo, Dawn Hamlett and Annette Williams.

"We need some momentum and leadership that might lead to another major exhibition that takes the art from the Mid West and Gascoyne to a broader and larger market, such as Perth."

Fellowships available

- \$20,000 Indigenous creative development fellowship open to Aboriginal regional artists to support a placement or experience outside their region (including international, metropolitan or other regions) to develop creative practice.
- \$30,000 each for an Institutional fellowship and Indigenous institutional fellowship to support a placement for a regional artist or arts worker at an Australian arts institution. The placement could include formal training, mentoring with institutional leaders or a work placement.
- The Young artist creative development fellowship offers \$15,000 for regional artists aged between 18 and 26 to support a placement or experience outside their region (including international, metropolitan or other regions) to develop creative practice or support their career path.
- \$30,000 International creative development fellowship open to regional artists to support a placement or experience outside Australia to develop creative practice.

Keep your jinjamarda mayu safely restrained in the car

Remember when you are travelling in your car your julygu* (baby) must be in an approved child car restraint.

Using an appropriate child car restraint can greatly reduce the risk of death or serious injury to your jura* (child, children) in the event of a crash.

Your julygu must be put in a rearward facing baby capsule or rearward facing convertible restraint **from birth until six months of age.**

For jinjamardu mayu* (from **six months until four years old**) they must be in a rearward facing restraint, or a forward facing restraint with a five point internal harness, or a combination restraint used with a five point internal harness.

When they are between **four and seven years old**, they must be safely secured in a forward facing restraint, a booster seat with a lap sash seatbelt or h-harness, or a combination restraint used in a booster seat mode. If you are going to be travelling in a



Mum Shelley checks out a new, approved Australian Standard car restraint for four-and-a-half-month old baby daughter Violet.

taxi, you will need to book it to make sure it has a child restraint fitted as not all taxis have them.

Alternatively you can take your own

restraint or hire one to take in the taxi.

The Australian Standard for Child Car Restraints AS/NZS 1754:2010 is based on a child's age and height, this has changed from earlier Standards which included weight. **When using a restraint from an earlier Standard you must still comply with the manufacturer's weight limit for that restraint and must exhaust all options available, before considering moving to the next category of restraints.**

Keep your children safe, and be aware there is a penalty for the driver if you get caught with your children unrestrained in the car or not using the correct safety restraints; the driver could be fined up to **\$550 and lose four demerit points.**

Remember to put *your* seatbelt on too, or you could be fined \$550 plus lose four demerit points! And double that on a long weekend or Christmas and Easter break. For more information visit: <http://www.ors.wa.gov.au/Road-Safety-Topics/Road-Issues/Seat-Belts>

**Thanks to the Wajarri App!*

Stay healthy for you and your family with a FREE BreastScreen WA cancer screening

Regular breast x-rays save lives

Women 40 and over stay strong and healthy for you and your family.

In Australia, breast cancer is one of the most common causes of death from cancer for women.

All women aged 50 and over should have a breast x-ray every two years.

FREE breast screening is also available to women aged 40 and over.

The BreastScreen WA mobile service will be at Geraldton Regional Hospital

in the car park off Milford Street until 1 April and screening is **FREE**.

To book your **FREE** appointment, phone BreastScreen WA on **13 20 50**

For more information call your local Aboriginal Medical Service or health worker.



Hungry hangy queue: Waitangi Day committee member, Bronwyn Barnett offers free kangaroo sausages from Bundiyarra to people queuing for a taste of the free hangy.



Two-year-old Kayley enjoys a kangaroo sausage while dad, Clinton, shows her the January issue of Bundiyarra Gardantha.

Kanga bangers save the day!



Waitangi Day on the Geraldton Foreshore on 21 February was a great success for the Waitangi Day committee, and the free hangy was so popular people had to queue patiently to get a taste.

Bundiyarra to the rescue! People in the queue happily tucked into an entree of free marlu (kangaroo) sausages while they waited. Unlike Australia Day, the kanga bangers were bouncing off the barbie into waiting hands with people coming back for more, and international tourists intrigued and keen to have a taste of marlu.

On Australia Day the locals were very reticent about eating a kangaroo sausage, even though they were free!

City to launch 'Welcome to Country' guide

The City of Greater Geraldton and the Reconciliation Committee has produced a new 'Welcome to Country' Guide.

"This Guide will reinforce and celebrate Aboriginal culture and heritage, and assist City staff and community groups seeking direction about Welcome to Country matters," said Nola Gregory, the City's Aboriginal Community Development Officer.

The formal document will guide people in the protocol of



City of Greater Geraldton Aboriginal Community Development Officer, Nola Gregory, with the Welcome to Country guide to be launched in the near future.

Welcoming people to Country and for the acknowledgement of Country.

The information has been sourced from City documents and in consultation with the Native Title Groups and the Geraldton Aboriginal Community.

Once the guide has been launched it will be available free of charge to the public and other agencies from the City of Greater Geraldton Offices at 63 Cathedral Avenue, Geraldton.



Yamaji Elder, Robert Ronan, conducting the Welcome to Country at the official opening of the new Geraldton Visitor Centre.



Unveiling the plaque: Melissa Price, Terry Redman, City Mayor, Ian Carpenter, and Member for Geraldton Ian Blayney.

Elder recalls memories at Welcome to Country for heritage building

Yamaji Elder and Bundiyarra Member, Robert Ronan, was privileged to do the Welcome to Country at the official opening of the new Geraldton Visitor Centre, housed in the old, but new again, Original Railway Station Building on 3 February.

This much loved community icon, built in 1879, has been saved at last – lovingly restored by the City of Greater Geraldton – and is breathing new life as the relocated Geraldton Visitor Centre.

Mr Ronan talked about how much things have changed around the Marine Terrace icon over the years.

“I remember as a young boy climbing on this tree and running around the veranda of this building,” he said, as the assembled guests gratefully stood out of the sun in the shade of the Moreton Bay Fig tree’s sprawling branches, adjacent to the building.

The Hon Terry Redman, Minister for Regional Development, officially opened the visitor centre and quipped: “It seems like a third of the Upper House is present here today!” referring to the other polities in attendance.

He said he could remember walking through town and looking at the building. “This is a fantastic transformation,” he said.

Federal Member for Durack, Melissa Price, representing the Hon Warren Truss, Minister for Infrastructure and Regional Development, launched the book, *The Original Railway Station – Geraldton* by Gary Martin, the latest in Geraldton Regional Library’s Midwest Heritage series of booklets, available from the visitor centre and regional library for \$9.95.

Ms Price said opening the Geraldton Visitor Centre in its new location was a great way to kick off the year for her.

“Facilities such as these underpin community life in regional centres, as well as drive employment and tourism growth throughout the region,” she said.

“It will also encourage holidaymakers to include a stopover in the town to break up their journey and attend community celebrations.”

Geraldton’s Local Member, Ian Blayney, representing Hon Kim

Hames, Deputy Premier and Minister for Tourism, said he was very glad to see the restoration.

“The Original Railway Building has remained in a derelict condition for some time and had been a headache for me,” he said, “I was always worried it would catch fire and be gone forever!”



Geraldton Visitor Centre staff with Robert Ronan. Bundiyarra hopes to work more closely with the visitor centre in the near future.

But now the lovely old heritage building stands proud and majestic in its new role, and will hopefully help direct some tourism action to Bundiyarra in the near future.

Bundiyarra has been a member of the Geraldton Visitor Centre for the past 18 months and the visitor centre

Geraldton Visitor Centre upper house: City of Greater Geraldton Mayor, Mr Ian Carpenter, third from left, flanked by a row of politicians; Hon Martin Aldridge MLC, Hon Paul Brown MLC, Hon Terry Redman MLA, Melissa Price MP, Ian Blayney MLA, Hon Brian Ellis MLC and Hon Darren West MLC, celebrating the restoration of the Original Railway Building at the official opening of the Geraldton Visitor Centre.



has been encouraging Bundiyarra to offer tourism products, which are now about to be developed under the Corporation’s Strategic Plan.

Bundiyarra CEO, Marchelle Retallack, said it is hoped that within the next six months Bundiyarra will be able to have a presence at the Geraldton Visitor Centre.

“With our strategic plan we are aiming to have a retail area at Bundiyarra, and in the interim, be able to supply the visitor centre with some of our local product to complement the wonderful range they offer visitors and locals through their retail section,” she said. The \$2.13 million Original Railway

Building restoration was jointly funded by the State Royalties for Regions Program contributing \$1 million through the Mid West Development Commission Mid West Investment plan, Regional Development Australia Fund gave \$130,000 and the City of Greater Geraldton \$1 million.

Bundiyarra enjoys Geraldton Visitor Centre’s first Sundowner in new location

Bundiyarra staff members, Gordon Gray and Sue Chiera, attended the first Geraldton Visitor Centre Tourism Sundowner of the year last month – the first to be held in the beautifully restored Original Railway Station Building on Marine Terrace.



Coordinator Tourism and Visitor Centre, Beck Tuesley, Sue Chiera and Gordon Gray from Bundiyarra, Myriam Glorieux, Membership and Visitor Information Officer and Barbara Thompson, Regional Development Australia Mid West Gascoyne at the visitor centre’s first sundowner.

Hosted by the Tourism Council of WA, Budget Car and Truck Rental, National Australia Bank, Lion and Arthur J. Gallagher, the setting overlooking the foreshore was a fantastic backdrop for the event.

“The sundowner was an

opportunity for all local tourism stakeholders to network, share ideas, and work towards making Geraldton a leading tourism destination,” said Myriam Glorieux, Membership and Visitor Information Officer.

Bundiyarra has been a Geraldton Visitor Centre member for about 18

months and views the membership as an important step towards developing tourism awareness and driving visitor traffic to Bundiyarra in the near future. The corporation is also looking forward to having some retail items in the centre.

Tourism and Visitor Centre Coordinator, Beck Tuesley welcomed the idea of retail items.

“It will be great to have some products created by local Aboriginal people,” she said, “tourists are always interested in the local product, to take away as gifts or a memento of their visit to Geraldton.”

Bundiyarra Community Consultation – come yarn with us

Who said there's no such thing as a free lunch? Bundiyarra is willing to dispel the myth... for a while; and the lunches are mighty solid, thanks to the deadly culinary skills of Bundiyarra's Tania Gray!

Bundiyarra is the regional Aboriginal community meeting place, it's a 'good place'. We have many plans and projects we would like to achieve throughout 2015 and we want you to come yarn with us and walk alongside us to make them a reality.

The Bundiyarra Community Consultations have proved very successful and we hope you can come along to the next ones, starting on **Wednesday, 11 March from 11.30am to 2.30pm** in the Bundiyarra Conference Room – **FREE lunch!**

Wednesday
March **11**

Website: www.bundiyarra.org.au

We want to redevelop our website to focus on community. What do you think our website should include, what should it look like, who would like to be a part of the design and development process? Should we have a website and phone app? Come and brainstorm your ideas with us.

Wednesday
March **18**

'The Learning Journey' Program Development



Bundiyarra has been meeting with our local employment agencies, Durack Institute of Technology and Geraldton Universities Centre to develop a program to help to continue to close the gap in training and employment opportunities. Does a career in Hospitality or Marketing interest you? If you had a mentor with proven results to assist you through the process of gaining additional training with real employment opportunities would you take the time to be involved? Come and help us write the training programs to suit you. Find out more about the employment opportunities we are developing. Help us make your dreams a reality by coming and having your say.

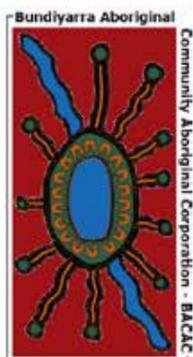
Wednesday
March **25**



Song Lines/Dream Trails and Signage

Did you know there are some very significant song lines and dream trails at Bundiyarra? Did you know these trails have been mapped for the City of Greater Geraldton? Bundiyarra is going to be further developing with the addition of a café, public toilet block and commercial kitchen over the next three years. Should we be building over these song lines/dream trails? How should they be represented throughout the City of Greater Geraldton? Come and have a look at the work that has been done and have your say about how we should develop them – or not develop them at all.

Call Bundiyarra on 9920 7900 before each consultation to register your attendance and your FREE lunch!



A good place – your chance to make it even better!

Looking for a conference venue with a difference?

Bundiyarra has just the place for you.



Since the early 1900s, Bundiyarra has been a 'meeting place'.

Set amongst a natural bush setting, Bundiyarra exudes culture from the minute you arrive.

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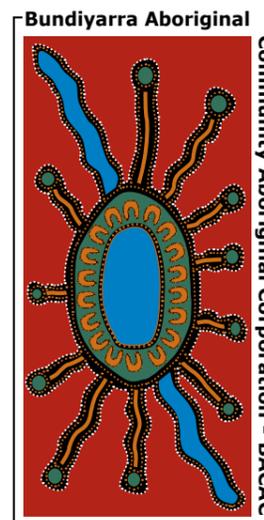
Plenty of **FREE** parking

To make a booking, inspect our Conference Room facilities or make an enquiry please phone

Kathleen Nelly on 9920 7900 or email your enquiry to reception@bundiyarra.org.au

The people at Bundiyarra are amazing, experts in their field and love to enjoy a good yarn with anyone that wants to share culture. By hiring our conference facility, you will be helping us to build many more significant facilities for our future.

Please respect Bundiyarra does not permit the consumption of drugs or alcohol on the grounds or inside the buildings.



Lost Nhandra language gets preservation help

The loss of language is of great concern to many Aboriginal people and thanks to the Bundiyarra-Irra Wangga Language Centre, preservation of Nhandra language is a big part of their focus.

As has happened with so many of the world's languages, the last full speakers of the Nhandra language were sadly lost years ago.

"This can make it difficult to work on the Nhandra language," said Bundiyarra-Irra Wangga Linguist Rosie Sitorus during her visit to Kalbarri recently as she and Language Centre Coordinator, Jayden Dann, worked on preserving the language.

On 27 January they worked with Colleen Drage and her extended family at Kalbarri, to finalise the Nhandra alphabet materials, including talking alphabet poster and flash cards.

"These will be a great education tool for the Nhandra language, they will complement the resources and community knowledge already in existence," said Rosie.

"There is still residual knowledge in the community, and often people know more than they think they do because they've grown up listening to language being spoken.

"Nhandra is different from other languages in the region so it's important to document and distribute it as much as possible," she said.

ABC Open's Chris Lewis also went along and is creating a video



Rosie Sitorus, left, and Jayden Dann, work on preserving the Nhandra language with Colleen Drage at Kalbarri last month. Pic courtesy Chris Lewis

about Nhandra language and the kind of language work that can be undertaken.

Work on the language is continuing in 2015 with the development of the Nhandra Dictionary and the language centre looks forward to working more with the Nhandra community throughout this process.

Anyone who wishes to contribute to, or hear more about the work on Nhandra

language should get in touch with the language centre on 9920 7900.



The Bundiyarra-Irra Wangga Language Resource Program is proudly funded by the Australian Government.

Visit the Bundiyarra online store at www.bundiyarra.org.au

Order your copy of the Wajarri Dictionary, and check out the Bundiyarra-Irra Wangga Language Centre's booklist, great educational resources and a great gift idea too!



Godfrey – the voice behind the Wajarri App

The voice you hear on the Bundiyarra-Irra Wangga Language Centre Wajarri app, is that of the youngest person who can converse in the Wajarri language today.

Godfrey Simpson, at 38, is one of the very few younger Aboriginal people who have a solid grasp of the language and is a very knowledgeable chap in his own right.

As a child Godfrey spent a lot of time with his paternal grandparents, Doris Ryan and Fred Simpson around the Yallalong and New Forest pastoral stations, in the north and east of WA.

He was the inquisitive type; always asking questions.

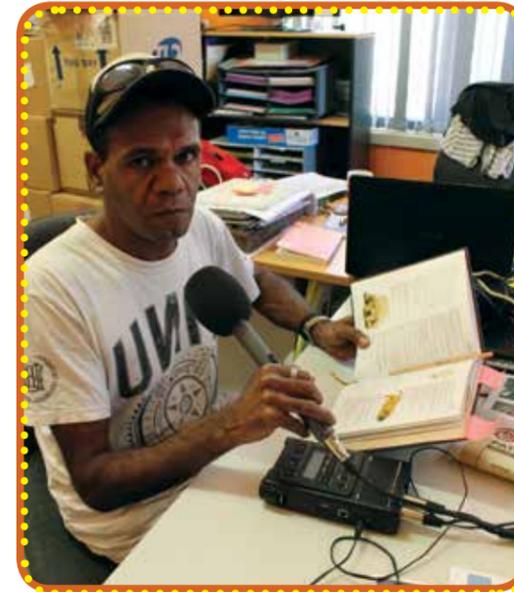
"Curiosity didn't kill the cat, I did," Godfrey said, "I was always asking questions, while the other kids were playing I was inquiring!

"Language has always been a passion for me, since the day dot, English or Wajarri."

Godfrey's education began at Yalgoo Primary School and later at Pallottine Mission, Tardun until 1989 when he was a boarder at Guildford Grammar School until Year 12. He later studied teaching at Notre Dame University in Broome.

Godfrey has worked in the education sector for more than 20 years, and has also worked for CSIRO. He has also worked in all of Geraldton's language centres as they developed and changed names over the years.

In 1995 Godfrey was working at Mullewa District High School as an Aboriginal Education Worker when the principal discovered he could speak Wajarri; suddenly he had two roles AEW worker and Wajarri



Godfrey Simpson, recording from the Wajarri Dictionary for the language centre's Wajarri App.

Language Teacher!

He has also taught at Pia Wajarri Aboriginal Community in the Murchison, after hooking up with Meekatharra School of the Air.

Godfrey was heavily involved in the creation of the Wajarri Dictionary, 25 years in the making and is now the voice of the Wajarri App.

He said he has been influenced by many fluent speakers from the Simpson, Ryan, Merry, Wingo, Gilbert, Boddington, Mongoo, Dann and Egan families.

"Many of them are sadly no longer with us," he said, "I also acknowledge my parents, Yvonne Lawson and Wayne Simpson, and thank all those people from the bottom of my heart."

Godfrey has been very busy and we're curious about where he'll be and what he'll be up to next!

And now I'd like to introduce

The old, humorous adage: they've got 'a face for radio' certainly didn't fit when the Irra Wangga Language Centre and Radio MAMA teamed up recently for a bit of broadcast training.

It was a great opportunity for the staff to learn the basics of radio production, including using broadcast equipment like recorders and microphones, and preparing content.

The Bundiyarra conference room was set up as a recording studio and a group of (good looking) young guns enjoyed the chance and expertise of Radio MAMA to learn interview and recording skills. They learnt how to produce a story for radio from start to finish, and how to integrate language into radio.

Irra Wangga Language Centre Linguist, Rosie Sitorus, said producing material for radio is important for the language centre as language is not just about words in a book but the lived experience of its people, and the interviews being made for radio express that.

"As part of the training we produced some interviews for Yamaji Yarning which will be played on Radio MAMA," she said.

"Telling the community about language and the experiences people have with it is an important way to continue discussion and foster respect for language and language speakers."

If you or someone you know has a good yarn about language, call Bundiyarra on 9920 7900 or email Rosie at linguist1@irrawangga.org.au.

Operated by Mid West Aboriginal Media Association (MAMA), Radio MAMA broadcasts to a large part of the Mid West and Gascoyne and you can tune in in Geraldton at 100.5 FM and Carnarvon at 102.9 FM.

Leeann is a talented all rounder

Talented artist and Bundiyarra-Irra Wangga Senior Language Worker, Leeann Kelly-Merritt, has been busily developing a series of Wajarri language resource posters for use in classrooms.

Using her illustrative skills, Leeann has created a series that covers body parts, animals, birds, family and bush tucker – all original designs and artwork by her fair hand, guaranteed to appeal to schoolchildren. These posters will be available for sale from the language centre in March.

Leeann is training to be a Language Teacher, studying Aboriginal Languages Teacher Training where she has been travelling to Broome and Perth for block releases. The course is run by the Education Department.

She is in her second year of training and will graduate in September, then do a year of probation in the classroom as a qualified Language Teacher.

Part of Leeann's training is teaching a class using minimal English, including finding out all the sentences and vocabulary for classroom instructions, such as greetings.

Training also involves making Wajarri Language Resources for lesson planning, this includes making a story book, keyword flashcards, games, charts, song, and an activity using sentence patterns to get the students to learn sentences; all these resources are written in Wajarri Language.

In collaboration with ABC Open Mid West producer, Chris Lewis, Leeann and former language worker, Rosalie Jones, have made two videos using Wajarri language, launched last August for the ABC Open Mother Tongue project.

You can view the Wajarri Language 'Body Parts' video on Bundiyarra's You tube site by entering this link in your browser: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jFQwfvLpPyo>



Leeann Kelly-Merritt with her beautiful animal poster used as a language teaching tool.

A little bit about Leeann ...

Leeann was born in Carnarvon and is the daughter of a Wajarri mother and Nhanda father. She has a strong background in education; in the 1990s Leeann worked for a number of years as an AEIO, at Carnarvon Primary School, Waggrakine Primary School and relief work in other Geraldton schools.

She also worked as a Teacher's Assistant at Saint Mary Star of the Sea Catholic School in Carnarvon.

In the early 2000s Leeann was a Support Officer for Gascoyne Family Violence Services at Gascoyne Women's Refuge in Carnarvon and later at Geraldton Family Advocacy Services as an Advocate/Support Worker.

Leeann is an accomplished artist, evident with her poster art among other things, with a CERT III in

Visual Arts and Technology from Durack Institute of Technology, and has used her illustrations in her language teaching.

She started at Bundiyarra-Irra Wangga Language Centre in 2006 as a Language Worker, was promoted to Senior Language Worker in 2013 and has completed her first year of training to become a qualified language teacher.

Leeann teaches Wajarri once a week at Meekaway Kindy at Beachlands Primary School and has attended workshops from Melbourne to Broome and Perth to develop her skills and extend her knowledge of language and linguistics. She is passionate about her role in the language centre and looks forward to new opportunities in the future as the centre develops further.