

CONNECTING TO COUNTRY

Ngadju Newsletter



Ngadju Native Title Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC

NNTAC

Dear members and other interested people.

My name is Rob Klug and I am the Chief Executive Officer of Ngadju Native Title Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC (NNTAC).

I would like to begin by acknowledging the Ngadju people, Traditional Custodians of the land on which NNTAC represents as their body corporate and pay my respects to their Elders past and present. I extend that respect to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples here today.

Welcome to Issue 9 of the "Connecting to Country" Ngadju Newsletter.

NNTAC and our Board of Directors continue to engage in important matters and decision making which have been key to delivering opportunities to the Ngadju Community. Some of these matters will be highlighted in the Mining and Heritage section of the Newsletter.

What's inside our latest issue:

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NNTAC STAFF

NEW STAFF PROFILES

GRANT BUSSELL

NATIVE TITLE AND LAND ACCESS ASSISTANT



New to the NNTAC office is Grant Bussell, who has been employed as our new Native Title and Land Access Assistant. Grant was born in Perth and has come down from the Pilbara where he lived most of the last 20 years - working mainly at a Trustee in Port Hedland, and another PBC in Paraburdoo. Grant has a lot of experience working in Aboriginal communities, plus Aboriginal heritage and agreements with mining companies. With Grant's experience and skills in negotiating and drafting agreements, and mapping skills, it will help support the protection of Ngadju heritage and native title rights.

"I love the natural environment so I feel very lucky to work for the Traditional Owners of Ngadju country."

KATARINA BEVK

OFFICE MANAGER



Kat has been working with NNTAC for nearly 3.5 years and was previously in the role of Native Title and Land Access Assistant. Now in the role as Office Manager, Kat has the long-term knowledge and skill in understanding the operational area of NNTAC.

YARNING CIRCLES

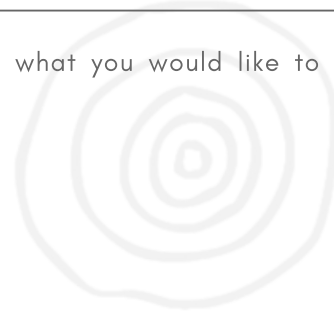
NNTAC would like to thank the Geraldton Ngadju community who attended NNTAC yarning circle. We had a great turn out and were able to answer their questions around membership, Native Title and The Rule Book and what's going on in the corporation generally.



Yarning Circles are a great opportunity to meet our mob and with NNTAC staff and management. You can discuss areas of the business, surveys, heritage, membership, The Rule Book and Native Title. We would love to see you so come along at any of the below times.

DATE	TIME	VENUE
WEDNESDAY, 19TH MAY	4.30PM TO 6PM	PERTH WOODBRIDGE RIVERSIDE PARK
THURSDAY, 20TH MAY	4.30PM TO 6PM	GERALDTON NGALA TRAINING CENTRE, 24 - 28 GREGORY STREET
WEDNESDAY, 9TH JUNE	4.30PM TO 6PM	KALGOORLIE HAMMOND PARK
TUESDAY, 22ND JUNE	4.30PM TO 6PM	NORSEMAN MARKS PARK

Let us know what you would like to see at our Yarning Circles.



COMMUNICATIONS

RECENT PASSING OF NGADJU FAMILY

NNTAC would like to extend our deepest condolences to the Ngadju community and to their extended family and friends.

If you are struggling or find it difficult to speak with family, you can contact the Spartan First Wellbeing hotline on 1800 370 747, which is Australia's first Indigenous suicide crisis line.

ABBOTT TRUSTEE SERVICES

A reminder to all members that NNTAC is a different organisation to Abbots. Abbots looks after all programs and payments to Ngadju common law holders. So if you have a query about a payment or a program or a voucher you should ring Abbots on 08 6165 4080 or 08 6165 4182 (Ngadju Application Hotline).

UPDATE OF CONTACT DETAILS

We have a high volume of members (201) who have the return to sender address (i.e. no address on our members register). It is mentioned in the membership section of the Newsletter, Rule 32b of The Rule Book states it is a membership responsibility to update your contact details. If NNTAC is unable to reach a member over a 2 year period The Board of Directors can remove a member from our register via a special resolution at a general meeting.

So if you have moved over the last 2-3 years, know family members who do not receive our communications or just need to double-check your address, please contact NNTAC on 08 9462 3500 to update your details.

NNTAC FACEBOOK GROUP

The NNTAC face book page and group is receiving positive feedback with more members joining the group.

We currently have 147 Ngadju members in our Ngadju members group and 90 following our NNTAC Facebook page.

Ngadju members group has job opportunities being advertised from different external sources. The NNTAC page has general information to communicate to the public who follow our page and shares other good news stories or information out to the community.

In the next column it shows the NNTAC Facebook page. Please like and follow the page. To the right of our Corporation name is a visit group button. If you are Ngadju you can join this group by answering a question on who your family group is and agreeing to comply with the rules of the group.



Below is the Ngadju members group.



If there is a particular industry or skill area you would like to see more of in the shared employment, then please let us know.

Also if there are any good news stories of employment from the job opportunities advertised, please let us know and we would be happy to share your success.



ORIC

ORIC is the Office of the Registrar of Indigenous Corporations. ORIC supports and regulates Indigenous corporations that are incorporated under the Act.

Ngadju Native Title Aboriginal Corporation report to ORIC on a regular basis, and you can view details of the corporation by searching on ORIC's website www.oric.gov.au, using our ICN 8297.

SUPREME COURT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

ADMISSION CEREMONY

Our Native Title and Land Access Manager, Michelle Alexander was admitted as a Lawyer and Officer of the Supreme Court of Western Australia 07 May 2021. Michelle's admission was a culmination of 12 years of hard work juggling full-time work and study, including while living in a remote community in the Western Desert. Well done Michelle!



And yes, that's our CEO Rob Klug in gown. Rob was pleased to be able to move for Michelle's admission.

NGADJU WELCOME TO COUNTRY EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

NNTAC is calling for Expressions of Interests from the Ngadju Community to put forward their name and represent the organisation and the Ngadju Community in doing a Welcome to Country for events on Ngadju country.

MINCOR NGADJU SMOKING CEREMONY

In March, NNTAC was extended an invitation to attend Mincor's opening of the Cassini Nickel Mine, located just south of Kambalda. As part of Mincor's opening they acknowledged Ngadju as the Native Title holders of the land, with NNTAC Chairman James Schutlz (Snr) performing a welcome to country and smoking ceremony for the employees and invited guests.



NGADJU EMPLOYMENT

With the many employment opportunities advertised we have recently heard a Ngadju member was successful and employed as an underground diesel fitter with Pit N Portal at their northern operations around Kambalda. We wish the successful applicant all the best and will ensure we keep in contact on how they are developing with their new employment.



IPA CEREMONY

We recently celebrated establishment of the Indigenous Protection Area (IPA) for the Western Woodlands on Saturday 20th March 2021.

It was a wonderful event for the Ngadju people, NCAC, NNTAC and other external parties to come together and to be recognised for the work that has gone into achieving this.

To start the celebrations, a smoking ceremony was performed followed with a Welcome to Country by Ngadju Elders Sonny Graham and Valma Saunders.

After the formalities of unveiling of the sign and signing the IPA certificate, the Ngadju Dancers performed wonderfully with traditional dance ceremonies. We also had Ngadju bands Yabu and Pipeline join in with the celebrations.

We would like to thank Les Schultz and Helen Langley of Ngadju Conservation and the Ngadju Rangers for their time and effort to make the day run smoothly and enjoyed by all.



OPERATIONAL MATTERS

MEMBERSHIP

NNTAC continue to receive membership applications and when needed our membership officer assists applicants in person or over the phone to help the applicant understand the requirements of the membership application.

It is important to complete the membership application form in full and most importantly to provide identification, which shows your date of birth. Your driver's license or birth certificate is usually the best form of identification. Providing your identification ensures NNTAC are receiving applications from the applicant on the form, confirms the applicant is over the age of 18 and in some cases family lineage.

NNTAC review all applications before they go to the Elders Advisory Group and the Board of Directors. NNTAC ensures all the criteria is complete with any incomplete questions or missing identification to be followed up with the applicant. As instructed by The Board of Directors, incomplete forms will not be reviewed by the The Elders Advisory Group or The Board of Directors.

There have been concerns raised by members on the process of membership and confirming if someone is Ngadju. NNTAC now have a very robust process in place, one which is supported by the Elders Advisory Group and Board of Directors. NNTAC review the genealogy of the applicant via the genealogy research undertaken by Ethical Research. As this information is not 100% complete, each application is also reviewed by the Elders Advisory Group, which consists of 10 family group Ngadju Elders. Once the Elders review each application, their recommendations are presented to The Board of Directors who have the final decision for each application.

As part of each decision the Directors are required to include reasons for any application that they decline. NNTAC management then advise each applicant in writing whether they have been successful or unsuccessful outcomes, including giving reasons for these decisions.

As a reminder when you become a member of NNTAC you have to follow certain rules. These include Rule 32 of The Rule Book of Ngadju Native Title Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC.

Rule 32. Each member has the following responsibilities:

- a. to comply with the Act and these Rules;
- b. to notify the Corporation of any change in their address within 28 days of the change;
- c. to comply with the Code of Conduct set out in Schedule 5 of these Rules;
- d. to treat other members and the Directors with respect and dignity;
- e. to seek to attend all General Meetings; and
- f. to not behave in a way that significantly interferes with the operation of the Corporation or any Corporation meetings.

NNTAC currently have 1214 registered members. We would like to welcome our new Ngadju members and look forward to seeing you at future meetings and yarning circles.

If you have any questions on membership, how to apply or would like an update of your application, to contact Monique on 08 9462 3505.

POST OFFICE

The Ngadju Charitable Trust No.2 (**Trust**) recently purchased the old Post Office in Norseman. Abbotts purchased the building in its capacity as trustee for the Ngadju people. This means Abbotts own the Post Office for the benefit of the Ngadju people. Abbotts can not do anything with the building without the approval of the Ngadju people.

The Trust is in the process of entering into a lease, to lease the building to NNTAC. NNTAC's purpose for the building is to use it for NNTAC office space and a showroom for Ngadju history and artefacts.

The Trust recently completed renovations for the Post Office. We would like to thank all trainees who contributed and congratulate **Reece Whitby, Brooklyn Collard and Grantley Flynn** on completing their white card, along with positive feedback of their time and commitment as a trainee on the renovations.



Above: Ngadju trainee Reece Whitby showing us some of the work he helped out with at the Post Office.

LAND ACCESS AND FUTURE ACTS

In the last newsletter, we provided an update on the high volume of Land Access and Future Acts matters that are ongoing including exploration and mining negotiations that NNTAC is currently undertaking. Things continue to be very busy in this area. As well as dealing with the high volume of negotiations, NNTAC are also going through and checking activities that companies are undertaking on Ngadju Country to make sure they are complying with any agreements and not undertaking unauthorised activities on Ngadju Country. This is a very big job given the size and remoteness of some areas of the Ngadju Determination area but is an important part of NNTAC helping to protect Ngadju's Native Title Rights for future generations of Ngadju People. We should also acknowledge the role of NCAC and the Ngadju Rangers also in being NNTAC's eyes on the ground as they have been invaluable in letting us know when there are unauthorised activities being undertaken on Ngadju Country.



A number of heritage surveys have been conducted since the last newsletter and we continue to have a high volume of survey notifications that we are currently working through to get more surveys up and running over the next few months. The new heritage survey process implemented by the Elders Advisory Group and the Board is rolling out. To date we have had some issues in contacting people for surveys. If you are not sure if your contact details are up to date and you are on the list of survey participants, please give our Heritage Manager a call to provide your updated details so that we can make sure we can get you out on surveys.

As part of engagement with companies working on Ngadju Country and monitoring companies activities, the Board recently undertook a site visit to the Nova Operations. IGO are looking to expand their exploration activities on Ngadju Country.



CULTURAL AWARENESS TRAINING

Earlier this year, NNTAC staff attended their Cultural Awareness Training in Norseman and surrounding areas.

Cultural Awareness Training is an important part of any organisation when working with a diverse group of people from different cultural backgrounds. It helps to better understand each others ways of working, their cultural beliefs and how to positively engage and respect one another.

From this, it was a great opportunity for NNTAC staff to have their Indigenous Cultural Awareness Training.

This was a great opportunity for NNTAC staff Rob, David, Michelle, Mick, Kat and Monique to go out on country and learn a little bit about Ngadju Culture.

NNTAC caught up with Ngadju knowledge holder and NNTAC Chairman James Schultz (Snr) to learn about Ngadju traditions and history.

We set up camp for the day near Youndarn Rockhole and with a small fire lit, we sat and listened to Ngadju stories. James told us about the importance of the rockholes along the Ngadju highway and how valuable the water source was for our Ngadju ancestors when travelling. Ngadju people would create these rockholes by heating up the granite with fire, causing it to crack and create the holes. Maintenance or clean up of these were also very important, this was so water source would not become contaminated by dead animals or animal waste. Ngadju Rangers today ensure the rockholes are cleaned up and maintained as a part of keeping heritage and history sustained.

We learnt about the didgeridoo whilst hearing about Ngadju stories and families during English settlement in the area. Music was played to capture the mood of what it could have been like during those difficult times of Ngadju ancestors.

Other important instruments and tools for the Ngadju people was the use of woomeras and spears and the local wood used for spear making. There was a short history of Norseman, the gold rush and also the history of the Norseman Mission and the families who have resided there over the years. An important food source in Aboriginal culture is roo tail. We weren't fortunate enough to catch them ourselves, but we had a go at preparing the tails for BBQ lunch, and eating them over a cup of tea and damper.





A great day was had by all. It was a very peaceful day being out on country and a nice change from the construction and busy city of Perth.

NNTAC would like to thank James for sharing his stories and giving us an insight to Ngadju land and culture.



FINANCIALS

THE MONEY STORY

The corporation generated an unaudited surplus of \$438,678 for the first nine months of the financial year, another good result. The surplus has been assisted by the Corporation minimising legal and consulting costs. It has also been assisted by the one-off job keeper payments.

BALANCE SHEET (STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION)

	31 March 2021 (unaudited)
Assets	
Current assets	935,427
Non-current assets	382,847
TOTAL ASSETS	1,318,274
less	
Liabilities	
Current liabilities	218,462
Non-current liabilities	15,036
TOTAL LIABILITIES	233,498
EQUITY	1,084,776

INCOME STATEMENT (STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION)

	31 March 2021 Actuals (unaudited)	31 March 2021 Budget
Income		
PBC administration funding	1,162,500	1,162,500
Heritage Services	496,249	191,625
Various Income	539,199	273,545
TOTAL INCOME	2,197,948	1,627,670
less		
Expenses		
Land access & native title expenses		
Legal and consulting fees—land access	35,943	160,000
Heritage survey costs	388,230	166,635
Total land access & native title expenses	424,173	326,635
Board meeting & governance expenses		
Legal fees—governance	-	18,000
Consulting fees—governance	-	9,000
Directors and Elders Meetings	134,663	214,169
Members Meeting Cost	198,995	120,000
Total board meeting & governance expenses	333,658	361,169
Administration & office expenses	1,001,407	958,021
TOTAL EXPENSES	1,759,238	1,645,825
SURPLUS	438,710	(18,155)

For any questions, please contact

NNTAC on 08 9462 3500



Katarina Bevk
Office Manager



Mick Moore
Acting Heritage
Manager



Anna Tait
Heritage Manager



Grant Bussell
Native Title and
Land Access Assistant



Monique Dimer
Governance, Communication
and Membership Officer



Yvonne Graham
Norseman Administration Officer



Helen Rule
Administration Officer



David Graham
Financial Controller



Rob Klug
Chief Executive Officer



Michelle Alexander
Native Title and Land Access Manager