

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, present and emerging.

Welcome to Issue 10 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 and protecting and preserving Ngadju country.

What's inside our latest issue:

NEW STAFF PROFILES

YARNING CIRCLES

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NNTAC STAFF

STAFF UPDATES

ROB KLUG

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



Unfortunately Robert Klug has tendered his resignation as CEO of NNTAC and the Board of Directors are actively searching for Rob's replacement. All members who wish to apply should forward their application to James Fairbairn at Lester Blades Recruitment in Perth james@lesterblades.com.au on email. Rob's last day at NNTAC will be 24th September 2021. The Board of Directors would like to thank Rob for his contribution during his time as CEO. Tony Noonan will be interim CEO until Rob's replacement commences.

MICHAEL ALLBROOK AND ANTHONY NOONAN

Michael Allbrook has stepped down as an independent Director of NNTAC due to Michael moving to Queensland to take up a new work opportunity. We would like to thank Michael for his service and support at NNTAC. In Michael's place the Board has appointed Anthony (TONY) Noonan. Tony has had a successful career in a variety of fields including science, education, training, human resources and management in the mining industry. Along with this, Tony has established a number of successful Aboriginal businesses such as Gooring Jimbila Contracting in the Kimberly, Yamatji Mining and Civil in the Midwest and Triodia in the Northern Goldfields. Tony said "I have had nothing but great experiences working with a few Ngadju people in the past and I look forward to meeting many more." Welcome Tony.



KATE FULLER

New to the NNTAC Office is Kate Fuller who was employed on a 12 month contract in the position Heritage Coordinator. Kate is recommencing full time employment after having some time off to spend with her young daughter. Kate is Perth born and bred and has lots of experience in the Native Title industry having worked for a number of years with Central Desert Native Title Services as well as a short time with Yindjibarndi Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC. Kate said "I'm excited to be working at NNTAC alongside the Ngadju people and getting to know you all."

SHANICE DIMER

Also new to the NNTAC office is Shanice Dimer. Shanice has commenced work as our Administration Officer. Shanice is a Ngadju Lady born in Esperance and moved to Perth at a young age where she grew up and currently lives. From time to time she goes back to country to visit family living in Norseman, Esperance and Kalgoorlie. Shanice said "I am really excited about working at NNTAC and being able to engage more with my family and NNTAC stakeholders."



YARNING CIRCLES

YARNING CIRCLES ARE HERE AGAIN!



Yarning Circles in Geraldton

Yarning Circles are a great opportunity to meet our mob and chat 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 and I look forward to meeting a lot more of NNTAC'S members.

DATE	TIME	VENUE
WEDNESDAY, 15TH SEPTEMBER	4.30PM TO 6PM	PERTH WOODBIDGE RIVERSIDE PARK
MONDAY, 20TH SEPTEMBER	4.30PM TO 6PM	GERALDTON NGALA TRAINING CENTRE, 24 - 28 GREGORY STREET
TUESDAY, 21ST SEPTEMBER	3PM TO 4PM	KALGOORLIE RAILWAY HOTEL
THURSDAY, 23RD SEPTEMBER	12 NOON TO 2PM	NORSEMAN OLD POST OFFICE

The Yarning Circles work the best when we have lots' of mob show up. Let us know what you would like to see at our Yarning Circles. They only work if you tell us what you want!



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 Rule book, Rule 32b that 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 165 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 reports 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.



Gold pour at Karora's Higginsville operations



Verna Newchurch, Yvonne Green and Alison Dimer at the Karora committee meeting holding a bar of gold (no they didn't get to keep it!)

NGADJU WELCOME TO COUNTRY EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

A small number of people sent their names and experience to be considered for performing Welcome to Country ceremonies for events on Ngadju country. A reminder that if you would like to be considered by the Board to perform Welcome to Country ceremonies send a letter to the CEO of NNTAC explaining why you think you would do a good job and the Board will consider it.

MINING AGREEMENT COMMITTEES

A number of Elders and Ngadju members recently attended committee meetings with the mining companies who are operating mines on Ngadju Country. The companies are Mincor Resources NL, IGO and Karora Mining. The committees are an opportunity for Ngadju people to sit down with the companies and ensure that the companies are doing the right thing on Ngadju country with employment, environment and country generally



Committee members that attended the meetings were: **Mincor:** Trevor Donaldson, Pearl Scott, Jeffrey Wicker **Karora:** Allison Dimer, Yvonne Graham, Verna Newchurch **IGO:** James Schultz, Rebecca Stokes, Yvonne Graham, Damien Graham.

NGADJU EMPLOYMENT

With the many employment opportunities advertised we have recently heard that Ngadju member Gavin Clinch was successful in gaining employment as an underground diesel fitter with Pit N Portal at their northern operations around Kambalda. We wish Gavin all the best and will ensure we keep in contact on how he is developing with his new employment.

With the current increase in exploration and mining activity on Ngadju country there are a number of job opportunities available for Ngadju members that want to work full time in the mining industry. If you are interested in obtaining a job and live in the Goldfields call Yvonne Green on 0447 537 450 and Yvonne will help you with your CV and getting in a job application. If you are based in Perth call Shanice Dimer on 9462 3500 and Shanice can help with your resume and getting in a job application.



OPERATIONAL MATTERS

MEMBERSHIP

NNTAC continues 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 is receiving applications from the applicant on the form, confirms the applicant is over the age of 18 and in some cases family lineage.

NNTAC reviews all applications before they go to the Elders Advisory Group and the Board of Directors. NNTAC ensures all the criteria are 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. That is why it is important that all sections of the form are completed.

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 genealogical research can never be 100% accurate each application is also reviewed by the Elders Advisory Group, which consists of 10 Ngadju Elders comprising one representative from each of the 10 Ngadju apical family groups from the Ngadju Native Title determination. 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, including giving reasons for these decisions.

As a reminder when you become a member of NNTAC you have to follow certain rules. One of those rules is Rule 32 this rule is reproduced below. These Rules are set out in the Rule Book of Ngadju Native Title Aboriginal Corporation. A copy of the Rule Book is available to read and download on the ORIC website

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 1239 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, please contact our membership officer on 08 9462 3505.

POST OFFICE

Now that the old Post Office in Norseman has been tidied up inside and the Lease between NNTAC and the Ngadju Charitable Trust NO.2 (Trust) has been signed, the Post Office is ready for use by NNTAC.

The current plan is for the Post Office to be used as a multi-use facility by NNTAC. It will act as an office for NNTAC staff based in the Goldfields and will be open 5 days a week for local Ngadju people to get assistance with forms, resumes and other administrative tasks. It will also be used as a base for heritage surveys departing from Norseman. There will also be a meeting room set up from which the Board and Elders will hold their meetings in Norseman. Perth office staff will also be encouraged to work from this office whenever convenient. The front room of the Post Office is planned to be an area where Ngadju history and memorabilia can be displayed. This area will require significant planning however, before it is ready and may not be ready at the same time as the office opens.



Outdoor area behind the Post Office



Inside the main room at the Post Office



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 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.

One of the interesting land access discussions that NNTAC is currently having is with the Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions (DBCA). DBCA wish to extend Peak Charles and Frank Hann National Parks as well as create a Marine Park on Ngadju country and enter into joint management agreements with Ngadju on these areas. The idea of these joint management agreements is to protect country and biodiversity by working together with the Government. DBCA might come to the NNTAC AGM in November and explain more about it to members.

RETURN TO COUNTRY

NNTAC is very excited to present the first Ngadju Return to Country celebration to be held in Norseman on the afternoon of Saturday 20th November 2021.

The Return to Country celebration will be an opportunity for families to return to Norseman and reconnect with each other. There will be cultural activities, food, bands and activities for the children.

Mark it in your diary and we look forward to seeing you there!



FINANCIALS

THE MONEY STORY

The Corporation generated an unaudited surplus of \$648,981 for the Year Ended 30 June 2021. This is a positive result against a budget of \$11,415. The surplus has been assisted by the Corporation minimising legal and consulting costs and a higher than budgeted Mining Agreement Income and Covid-19 related Government support. This is an excellent result by the Board and management of NNTAC.

BALANCE SHEET (STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION)

	30 June 2021 (unaudited)
Assets	
Current assets	1,260,669
Non-current assets	346,068
TOTAL ASSETS	1,606,737
less	
Liabilities	
Current liabilities	309,046
Non-current liabilities	2,644
TOTAL LIABILITIES	311,690
EQUITY	1,295,047

INCOME STATEMENT (STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION)

	30 June 2021 Actuals (Unaudited)	30 June 2021 Budget
Income		
PBC administration funding	1,550,000	1,550,000
Heritage Services	983,891	273,750
Various Income	744,407	328,060
TOTAL INCOME	3,278,298	2,151,810
less		
Expenses		
Land access & native title expenses		
Legal and consulting fees—land access	38,383	215,000
Heritage survey costs	835,133	238,050
Total land access & native title expenses	873,516	453,050
Board meeting & governance expenses		
Legal fees—governance	-	24,000
Consulting fees—governance	-	12,000
Directors and Elders Meetings	174,522	268,448
Members Meeting Cost	197,803	120,000
Total board meeting & governance expenses	372,325	424,448
Administration & office expenses	1,383,476	1,262,897
TOTAL EXPENSES	2,629,317	2,140,395
SURPLUS	648,981	11,415

For any questions, please contact

NNTAC on 08 9462 3500



Katarina Bevk
Office Manager



Kate Fuller
Acting Heritage
Manager



Anna Tait
Heritage Manager
(on Maternity Leave)



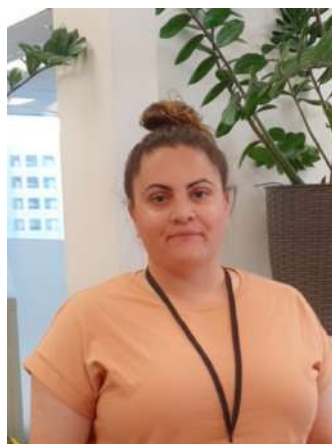
Grant Bussell
Native Title and
Land Access Assistant



Currently Recruiting
Governance, Communication
and Membership Officer



Yvonne Graham
Norseman Administration
Officer



Shanice Dimer
Administration Officer



Helen Rule
Administration Officer
(on Maternity Leave)



David Graham
Financial Controller



Rob Klug
Chief Executive Officer



Michelle Alexander
Native Title and Land Access Manager