

KMAC News December 2018

A message from Sara Slattery, KMAC Chair

As another year draws to an end, we reflect on the year that was and what's yet to come.

2018 was a big year for KMAC and the Robe River Kuruma people. We had some significant community losses, and yet came together to celebrate some great community outcomes. I'm positive that our loved ones would be proud of what we have all achieved and where we are today.

One of our most significant milestones this year was the successful determination of our Part B Native Title Claim. Whilst this was the conclusion of our Native Title legal journey, it is also the beginning of a new phase for the Robe River Kuruma community and KMAC as the community endorsed PBC to protect and promote our recognised connection to Robe River Kuruma Country.

The coming year will see KMAC implement exciting new projects on Land, Heritage and Water Management as we support the community to Care for Country. KMAC is also creating new partnerships with other local corporations and community service providers to combine resources to collectively benefit our community. We currently have solid relationships with local government

departments and representatives and can advocate for members if requested.

Another exciting achievement for KMAC and the Robe River Kuruma community is KMAC's recognition as one of the top five Indigenous Corporations in the country in the National Indigenous Governance Awards. The KMAC Board and staff strive to deliver best practice governance and services to the corporation and the community; our vision, values and policies reflect this. Whilst the recognition is great, there is always room for improvement and KMAC welcomes suggestions on the programs and projects we deliver to our members.

The KMAC Board wish all our members a Merry Christmas and a safe and prosperous New Year.

Kind Regards

Sara Slattery

KMAC Board Chair

On behalf of the KMAC Board.



A message from Aoife McMahon, KMAC Interim Chief Executive Officer

To the RRK Community,

Firstly, I acknowledge community loss throughout 2018 including the recent loss of a respected Elder, Leader, former KMAC Director and Robe River Kuruma Traditional Owner Mr. C Lockyer, and pay my respects to family and the Robe River Kuruma community. This is a significant family and community loss that will ripple throughout for some time to come.

As we draw a close to the end of 2018, I would like to take this opportunity to reflect on the year we leave behind and on the exciting year ahead. 2018 saw changes, achievements and forward planning for 2019 with KMAC progressing a number of strategic projects throughout the year.

A year highlight occurred on 26th April, a momentous occasion with the Robe River Kuruma Community receiving Part B native title recognition and KMAC extending its role as the PBC over the Part B determined area.

KMAC's focus on Robe River Kuruma youth and emerging leaders has seen the successful establishment of KMAC's Youth Council (YC) led by YC Chair Daniel Farmer. A YC priority will be to immerse themselves in KMAC business including attending various committee meetings which has commenced, and undertaking training and development opportunities to build the YC framework. This included representatives attending the Youth in Governance Masterclass in Melbourne in November and the opportunity to attend the 2019 ABC Heywire Trailblazers Program in Canberra.

Country and culture activity continues as a community priority. KMAC acknowledges the importance of Bawa

(Water) to country and community and has created a new initiative in response - KMAC's Bawa Project - which will be steered by KMAC and the community. KMAC has commenced holding workshops with community to discuss this important issue and to inform KMAC's Bawa reports about Robe River Kuruma Country. These will be circulated to the community. KMAC has also completed the consultant tender process to support KMAC in the development of its 'Healthy Country Plan' framework. Community workshops will commence in early 2019 and community participation is critical to ensure this project is community-led and championed.

KMAC and the RRK community's strong governance has been recognised on a national level with KMAC reaching national finalist status in the 2018 Indigenous Governance Awards. These awards recognise and celebrate outstanding Aboriginal-led organisations that make extraordinary contributions to communities and the nation. KMAC has been inspired by this process and its success has encouraged us to pursue the awards when they are next held in 2020. Congratulations to you all for reaching the top 5 position in Australia. KMAC has demonstrated itself to be a governance corporate leader.

KMAC's AGM will be held on Country in April 2019 and KMAC is looking forward to taking this opportunity to celebrate the Robe River Kuruma People with activities on Country at that time. Further information will be provided when the AGM notice is sent out closer to the time.

Finally, thank you all for your continued support and contributions to your corporation. 2019 is looking like a very busy and exciting year for KMAC. As always, come and say hi in the office and I look forward to seeing you all at the AGM. In the meantime, I wish you all a happy Christmas and New Year.

Aoife McMahon
Interim Chief Executive Officer

Key Activity	No. of RRK Participants
<i>Gained employment in 2018 (internally and externally)</i>	26
<i>Went into the various employment pathways programs</i>	15
<i>Survey participants</i>	69
<i>Completed Alcohol and other Drug testing</i>	46
<i>Undertook training courses via KMAC (including KMAC RRK employees and Caring for Country)</i>	20
<i>KMAC RRK Interns</i>	3

Cultural Heritage and Caring for Country



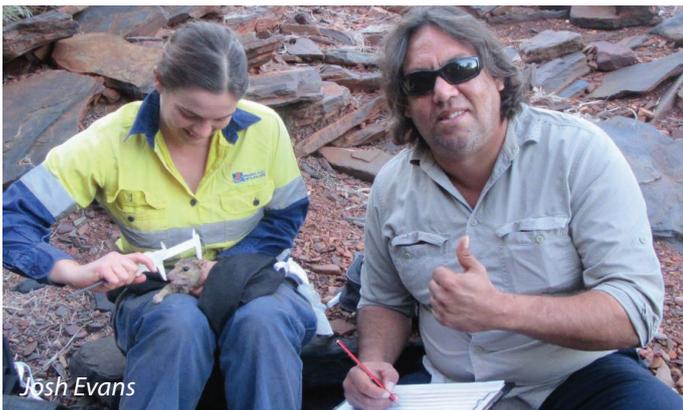
Gunarika: A place of special significance for Robe River Kuruma People.

A long time ago a star came from the sky and passed through the Mernda (hill). The ancestors were standing atop of nearby hills, including Yallangkhanana (Mt Farquhar), all the way to Mt Delphine, where they watched this happen. It frightened them greatly! The hill now has a crescent shape. This wangka (story) has been passed down from generation to generation of Robe River Kuruma People. The wangka remains strong, and so does Robe River Kuruma people's law and culture.

Caring for Country

Robe River Kuruma People have been undertaking rangers work with a number of groups on Country, including Norther Quoll works with Parks and Wildlife, Weed Spraying works with our partner Handy Hands, and Rio Tinto as part of their Hydrogeology and Ecology works along Jajiwarra (Robe River) and the pools.

KMAC is in the process of planning consultation with the Robe River Kuruma Community around important matter to do with Country. These include Healthy Country values, informing a Healthy Country Framework document, followed by a Healthy Country Plan.



Cultural Heritage

The Cultural Heritage Unit would like to thank all Robe River Kuruma community members, who have undertaken archaeological surveys, ethnographic surveys, salvage programs, Heritage meetings, Cultural Awareness Training and Monitoring. It has been another busy year – and we are grateful for everyone's contributions.

A special thanks goes to the Elders who have participated in our Knowledge Capture and Transfer projects, where we have recorded stories on Country to protect, preserve and promote Robe River Kuruma traditional knowledge and stories for future generations of Robe River Kuruma People.

We acknowledge that lore business is commencing, and as such heritage works will take this into account over the summer.



Bawa Project - A new KMAC initiative

KMAC knows how important bawa (water) is to the Robe River Kuruma People!

KMAC held the first Bawa Workshop on Wednesday 5 December at the KMAC Office. The purpose of the workshop was for the Robe River Kuruma community to participate and advise on the key values around water on Country. We will workshop ideas and a plan for how mining companies should report about their use of water on Country to the community. The KMAC Heritage Advisory Committee attended, along with Robe River Kuruma people who have undertaken Caring for Country (rangers) works over the past two years. This is the first of many consultations so if you would like to attend future workshops, please register your interest by calling the KMAC office on 08 9185 5005 and speaking to the Cultural Heritage team.



Get to know our KMAC staff



Pamela James

I am the Receptionist at KMAC. My role sees me engage with community members and organisations as the first port of call at the KMAC office, provide support to members and KMAC staff. I love working at KMAC. Being a Robe River Kuruma person myself I get to help my people and work towards

change for a better future for all Robe River Kuruma people. I am an outdoorsy person, so every chance I get I am out there fishing somewhere enjoying the great outdoors!



Leanne Evans

My job as an Intern Heritage Officer means a lot to me, I'm very excited to be able to work for my people and for my family. Understanding my work load and learning what is expected of me from an experienced

heritage team, is for me, a great experience. My job is to assist with all matters heritage including co-ordinating surveys, drafting invoices and assisting with setting up heritage meetings with mining companies. A fun fact about me is that I like to socialise with my family and friends and I love the bush life and countryside, but most of all life experiences and adventures.



Katherine Glass

I'm working at KMAC in the Cultural Heritage unit as an Intern Heritage Officer, learning how we can protect and preserve our sacred sites. I like the diversity of KMAC, working with people from all kinds of backgrounds and helping the Robe River Kuruma community. Something you might not know

about me is that I am an intuitive artist and share my work on Instagram @kjglassintuitiveart



PALS Awards – Congratulations Baynton West Primary School

PALS is an initiative of the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries which encourages Western Australian schools to develop projects that promote reconciliation in their local community. Baynton West Primary School was successful as a joint winner of the Aboriginal Language and History category. KMAC was proud to support two of our Robe River Kuruma children to attend the awards ceremony and accept the award on behalf of the school. Congratulations to Milly Evans and Kylah Carsons on the success of their wonderful project. KMAC also extends our congratulations to Baynton West Primary School and Aboriginal Education Coordinator Kerry Bishopp for this fantastic initiative.

"The aim of our project was to identify and learn about the different languages and history of the Aboriginal students and families at our school. We sent out a letter to our families to find out the language groups they belong to and purchased language dictionaries for our library and Indigenous language maps for all of our classes. We used the language dictionaries to translate some English words into eight different Aboriginal languages and made a digital resource to be used by all of our classes. We also asked our family members and Aboriginal Corporations to help us with the translations. We loved working on the project because it was fun to learn how to say English words in different Aboriginal languages. Some of the words were similar. We also enjoyed teaching our Teachers.

We would like to thank Baynton West Primary School, KMAC, and the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries for helping us get to Perth to receive our award."

Milly Evans and Kylah Carsons





Part B Native Title Determination

A major event of 2018 was the determination of the Robe River Kuruma Part B claim. On the 26th April 2018 the Part B ceremony was held at Parlapuuni. The Part B determination area includes the Robe River, the Bungaroo Valley and the Buckland Ranges in the Shire of Ashburton.

Jajiwura (Robe River) has long been considered the 'lifeblood of the KM people' and the 'main artery of the KM country'. Jajiwura is central to the Robe River Kuruma peoples' identity and is where they take their name as the 'Robe River Kuruma' people. Robe River Kuruma people's understanding of their identity and their place in the world and that of the River cannot be separated from their sacred beliefs, or from the rituals and ceremonies that flow, as both are ordained by the Dreaming. Jajiwura contains other specific places of importance and significance such as archaeological sites, camp sites, thalu sites and law grounds.

Bungaroo Creek is considered to be a fundamental part of the Kuruma law cycle and it is an important, ritualised travelling route between Jajiwura and ceremonial places to the south and south-east. Bungaroo Creek is considered a living place, with a powerful, creative life-force that can be called on in order to effect change within the country. Bungaroo Creek South is considered to be the creation of a powerful ancestral warlu named Bardimindi. The

main creek channels were created as a result of Bardimindi's travels through the Bungaroo Valley. In handing down his decision, Judge Darryl Rangiah said *"Today the Federal Court of Australia is not giving you this land. The Federal Court is recognizing what you have always known to be true, that you are the owners of this land, this is an occasion to celebrate and look to the future"*.

Chairperson and Robe River Kuruma Traditional Owner Sara Slattery expressed that *"The Federal Court of Australia's recognition of the Robe River Kuruma Peoples' rights, interests and connection to country is an extremely significant milestone for our families, who have tirelessly pursued our native title claim for over twenty years. It is a testament to my community's strength, resilience and perseverance which has brought about this success. Whilst we celebrate the end of our Native Title Legal journey, we also remember and honour our Robe River Kuruma Ancestors & and Elders who started this journey for us all those years ago."*



National Finalist for the 2018 Indigenous Governance Awards

KMAC was delighted to be awarded a finalist of the National 2018 Indigenous Governance Awards. Winners were announced on 23rd November at an awards ceremony in Melbourne and KMAC congratulates the co-winners Nyambu Buru Yawaru and Institute of Urban Indigenous Health. These awards recognise and celebrate outstanding Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander-led organisations that make extraordinary contributions to communities and the nation.

This is a significant collective accomplishment that acknowledges the strength of Robe River Kuruma community leadership and which is embedded throughout your organisations. The community's long-term vision, forward-planning, courage and perseverance has empowered KMAC to reach this success for and on behalf of the community to be recognised as a high achiever in Indigenous governance.

*I congratulate each and every Robe River Kuruma member, the KMAC Board members (both past and present), and the KMAC team. I also pay tribute to the strength of those leaders who are no longer with us and who led the community and KMAC on this important path. **Aoife McMahon, Interim Chief Executive Officer***

KMAC is honoured to be in such great company as a finalist, and we are inspired to share our stories of success from the Robe River Kuruma community when the awards are held again in 2020.





KMAC Youth Council

On the back of multiple community call outs for expressions of interest to participate in a KMAC Youth Council (including at AGMs/GMs and most recently in June 2018), our Youth Council is now up-and-running and currently busy finalising the committee framework.

We have established the Youth Council to provide a voice for the youth back to KMAC's Board of Directors and staff in order to ensure youth issues and priorities are included in the strategic planning and development of our Corporation, and so we can learn how the Corporation runs as we will be its future leaders. We have identified the three pillars which form the Youth Council's goals – Culture, Education and Training, and Wellbeing. We look forward to updating the community on our activities at the AGM in April.

*If you are interested in becoming involved in the Youth Council, all new participants between the ages of 16 - 25 are welcome. **Daniel Farmer, KMAC Youth Council***

KMAC was recently successful in securing scholarships for some of our Youth Council representatives to attend the Indigenous Youth in Governance Masterclass organised by the Australian Institute of Governance and held in Melbourne on the 20th November. The Masterclass combined guest speakers, presentations and small group activities to form an interactive workshop. It covered critical areas in Indigenous Governance including, foundations of governance, culture in governance,

agitating for change, and negotiation skills. Around 45 young people from all over Australia attended the course. Saige Hicks and Latisha Evans were successful in being awarded a scholarship from the Australian Institute of Governance to attend the Masterclass.

"Attending the Masterclass was great, I learnt a lot more about governance and that currently there are barely any Indigenous men or women in law or government. I also learned more about the law system and was given a history lesson on Indigenous governance and real life cases in law. I plan on using this knowledge to assist me in life when I go to university to study law and when I return to Karratha I plan to assist KMAC whenever I can. The best thing about the Masterclass was the connections you make while you're there, those people who have the same goal, the same overall bigger picture and the common desire to learn about that particular subject."

Saige Hicks

The KMAC Youth Council has also been awarded a position in the 2019 ABC Heywire Trailblazers Program. The Youth Council will receive recognition as a 2019 ABC Heywire Trailblazer, networking and participation in the Heywire Regional Youth Summit in Canberra in February 2019 and an ABC-produced video about our Youth Council which will be shared nationally through the ABC networks.

Keep a look out for Youth Council activities in 2019, and don't hesitate to contact Member Services if you would like to get involved.

KMAC Community Support

Successful Grant Funding

As part of its ongoing cost reduction strategy, the KMAC executive management team has been successful in obtaining over \$100,000 in various government funding since our June General Meeting, including PBC Basic Support Funding for the Corporation, support for our NAIDOC celebrations, and support for various projects. KMAC continues to explore external grant funding options to support the Corporation to deliver a number of projects and programs and which reduces the costs required from the Trust.

Community Sponsorship

The local community may apply to KMAC, who is administering the Community Sponsorship Fund on behalf of KML, to receive help from the Charitable Trust to set up or support an Eligible Project. KMAC welcomes applications for eligible projects which are of benefit to the Community. KMAC has been proud to support a number of community initiatives including support for Roebourne District High School sports uniforms, supporting Robe River Kuruma students from Baynton West Primary School to attend the PALS awards ceremony in Perth, and donating a gift of local Aboriginal history resources to Peg's Creek Primary School 40 Year fete. We look forward to supporting further eligible community projects in 2019. For more information about the Community Sponsorship Fund please contact Manager, Member Services and Wellbeing Programs, Brooke St James on 9185 5005.

Business Planning Assistance Fund

In August 2018 KMAC was pleased to open the first round of the Business Planning Assistance Fund. The fund aims to ensure that Robe River Kuruma people have access to professional business related advice in order to establish and run their own businesses and participate successfully in the local and regional economy. The first round of funding saw KMAC proudly support Guma-Warnii Pty Ltd to prepare a capability statement for their joint venture initiative.

The fund will be open again in February and August 2019 and KMAC looks forward to receiving further

expressions of interest from Robe River Kuruma businesses.

Employment

Are you looking for work and need some support?

KMAC can assist members to get 'job-ready' and connect with opportunities for employment. Please contact KMAC's Member Services team on 08 9185 5005 or email memberservices@kmac.org.au Join our Facebook page for other employment opportunities, or come into the office and have a chat!

Are you interested in working for the KMAC team?

KMAC are currently taking Expressions of Interest to join the casual employment pool to undertake casual work within the office as required. You will need to pass an AOD test. Please contact the Member Services team on 08 9185 5005 or email memberservices@kmac.org.au

Are you interested in FMG's VTEC program?

Fortescue's VTEC team will present an information session on the 18th December at 11:00am at Lotteries House in Karratha, and 2:00pm at Ngurin Centre in Roebourne. Contact KMAC if you would like further information.

If you are interested in participating in Rio Tinto's Individual Placement Support Program,

we are currently taking Expressions of interest for 2019. This program is designed to assist our members that have a limited working history, are looking to get back into the workforce, or have some barriers to employment they would like support to overcome. Please contact the Member Services team on 08 9185 5005 or email memberservices@kmac.org.au

If you are interested in a traineeship in 2019,

we are currently registering members' interest in new traineeships opening up at Citic Pacific Mining. The areas the traineeships will be in are varied and may include engagement by other areas of the business. The roles may include warehouse and logistics staff, admin on site, security and site access, mining, geology and survey and a range of trade assistant roles. An example of some of the certificates that



can be undertaken as part of the traineeship are

- Cert III in Fitness
- Cert II in Process Plant
- Cert II in Security
- Cert II in Engineering
- Cert III in Engineering Mechanical Trade
- Cert II in Warehousing
- Cert II in Logistics
- Cert II in Surface Extraction
- Cert II in Business

Contact the Member Services team to discuss this opportunity!

Financial Planning Support

Pilbara Community Legal Service will be available at the KMAC office on the 5th and 12th of December 2018 to provide budgeting advice for members free of charge. Come in and have a confidential chat with Suzanne who can help you make a plan to pay off any debts, survive the festive season, and use your DBT wisely. Suzanne will be in the office from 11am – 12pm. Please contact Sally in Member Services if you would like to book in 08 9185 5005 or s.atkinson@kmac.org.au

Alternative times and dates can be arranged to suit.

KMAC Community Events

KMAC has had a wonderful year connecting with community members and other local organisations at our community events including Yule River, NAIDOC celebrations, RU OK Day, Seniors events, and community BBQs. We were also delighted to

host a community discussion with Senator Pat Dodson at the KMAC office. We aim to hold some great community events in 2019 and welcome any suggestions from community about how you wish to engage with the KMAC office, and what you would like to see happening in the new year.





Congratulations to Year 12 Graduates

KMAC extends our warmest congratulations to all Robe River Kuruma students graduating from Year 12!

A reminder that KMAC engages with key stakeholders such as local schools and student support programs to support Robe River Kuruma youth, encourage school attendance and increase completion rates. We offer assistance with career planning, and provide information, support and advocacy around scholarships, training and apprenticeships.



Camden Tevelen (L) – Morayfield State High School

KMAC AGM

As we approach the end of 2018 and reflect on the busyness of the KMAC office since the General Meeting in June, the KMAC Board has decided to convene the 2018 AGM in early 2019 to ensure the most productive community meeting. This will also allow for a number of matters to be progressed in the coming months that require community consideration and approval. We aim to hold the AGM on Country in Pannawonica in April 2019, and will keep the community updated once dates are confirmed.

KMAC Office Closure / Seniors Cards

The KMAC office will be closed from the **21st December and will re-open on the 2nd January**. Please note that no applications will be able to be processed during this time. All Seniors grocery cards will be sent out on the 19th of December.

Mutual Trust Applications

Please make sure all applications are submitted by **Monday 17th December** to ensure they are processed before the Christmas break. Mutual Trust will be closed from the 21st December and will re-open on the 7th January 2019.

Your KMAC Staff	
Interim Chief Executive Officer	Aoife McMahon a.mcmahon@kmac.org.au
Manager, Member Services and Wellbeing Programs	Brooke St James b.stjames@kmac.org.au
Cultural Heritage Manager	Sean-Paul Stephens s.stephens@kmac.org.au
Team Leader, Executive Services <i>Commencing Maternity Leave Feb 2019</i>	Dana Keong d.keong@kmac.org.au
Administration Officer <i>Covering Dana Keong Maternity Leave</i>	Rebecca Wilkinson r.wilkson@kmac.org.au
Member Services Support Officer	Josie Borrell j.borrell@kmac.org.au
Member Services Programs Officer	Sally Atkinson s.atkinson@kmac.org.au
Agreement Implementation and Compliance Officer	Yvette Bradley y.bradley@kmac.org.au
Heritage Officer	Royce Evans r.evans@kmac.org.au
Heritage Officer (Intern)	Katherine Glass k.glass@kmac.org.au
Heritage Officer (Intern)	Leanne Evans l.evans@kmac.org.au
Receptionist	Pamela James p.james@kmac.org.au

Wishing all our members a very Merry Christmas and a Safe and Happy New Year