

**ROBE RIVER
KURUMA**
ABORIGINAL
CORPORATION RNTBC
ICN 7612



RRKAC Newsletter

October 2019

Message from the Chairperson

Welcome to the latest update from the Robe River Kuruma Aboriginal Corporation (RRKAC). This is our first newsletter under our new name, on 1st July 2019 we, formerly Kuruma Marthudunera Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC, proudly moved forward under our new corporation name, Robe River Kuruma Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC.

2019 has been a busy and eventful year for RRKAC, and as you can see in the newsletter, we've been working hard on a number of different projects, events, and heritage work.

In this newsletter, you'll be able to find the outcomes from the recent AGM in April. You may be aware that we've got another AGM coming up on the 26th November, so stay tuned for more information about that.

You can read more about some of the significant milestones achieved this year in the newsletter below, but I'd particularly like to emphasise the work being done by the RRKAC Youth Council; the new ATMS database for the corporation; and the Healthy Country Framework. All these projects form part of the RRK community's Strategic Plan – these are the projects that the community has identified as being important to encourage our young people to become future leaders, to maintain important information about our community members to ensure they are receiving the support they need, and to take care of Country. I'd also like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the

work of Sean-Paul Stephens in the Executive Management team, and Josie Borrell in the Member Services team and wish them all the best in their future endeavours.

Lastly, thank you all for your continued support and contributions to your corporation.

Kind regards,

Sara Slattery

RRKAC Board Chair

On behalf of the RRKAC Board.

Message from the CEO

Dear RRK Community,

I'm delighted to report back on an extremely eventful year to date and a continued busy year ahead which has seen much progress on your strategic priorities and a number of wonderful accomplishments of your staff, Board and fellow community members as captured in this newsletter.

We have heard from the community that cultural heritage projects need to be prioritised further and a number of areas within member support have been identified for improvement. Accordingly, your Heritage and Member Services teams have been busy focusing on your requests which has seen improvements to our systems, processes and procedures to ensure efficiency for our members. We are finalising the implementation of our new database, updating a more user-friendly Member Services Policy manual, streamlining our internal processes and

ensuring we have the resources to deliver the highest quality community projects. Our new community hub is at completion stages and we look forward to welcoming members to a morning tea to open this community space.

Our RRK Youth Council continue in their achievements and the Pilbara Indigenous Youth Council is about to launch. Both State and Federal Ministerial support has been garnered through meetings between the RRKAC and KML Chairs and RRKAC CEO, including Minister Ken Wyatt, Minister Ben Wyatt and Minister Alana McTiernan.

Our heritage team are moving to stage 2 of developing the Healthy Country Plan, progressing our Bawa reporting process under our new RRKAC best practice and as leaders in this space, and working on our Native Title country protections project.

Corporate rebranding is also nearing completion as we await the new external office signs to be installed in the coming weeks, hopefully in time for our community morning tea.

As part of our ongoing cost mitigation strategy, RRKAC continues to actively seek external grant funding to deliver on projects which provides a cost saving to the community. We currently have three grant funding applications lodged and under consideration at the time of writing this update, and have successfully obtained close to \$500, 000 in external funding over the last 12 months.

A reminder that our current three year Strategic Plan is approaching a conclusion and we will commence developing our new RRK Strategic Plan in January. This document captures our community project and priority areas that RRKAC will focus on for the next three years and directs the Corporation's efforts during that time. Strong community input is required to set the successful direction of your Corporation. The process will also be an opportunity to reflect on the Corporation's performance over the past three years.

Finally, please join me in welcoming our new staff members, Zoe, Daniel, Ostiane and secondee Gabby to RRKAC and wishing Sean-Paul and Josie the very best on all future endeavours as they depart.

Yours faithfully
Aoife McMahon
Chief Executive Officer

Staff updates

Farewell to Sean-Paul, welcome to Zoe

It is with sadness in September that we farewelled Cultural Heritage and Environmental Manager, Sean-Paul Stephens from Robe River Kuruma Aboriginal Corporation.

Since joining RRKAC in February 2017, Sean-Paul has been a valuable and well respected member of our team. As Cultural Heritage and Environmental Manager, Sean-Paul has been appreciated by his co-workers and community members alike. We will miss Sean-Paul's professionalism, and dedication to the Robe River Kuruma community. We respect Sean-Paul's decision to move into a new community role with Woodside in Roebourne, and we wish him all the best for his future endeavours.

We are very pleased to announce that Zoe Ramsden, who has recently joined the Cultural Heritage team as Senior Heritage Project Officer, will be stepping into the role of Cultural Heritage and Environmental Manager. Zoe has extensive relevant



experience in managing Indigenous cultural heritage initiatives for government, private industry and registered Native Title Body Corporates and has formal qualifications in Environmental Land Management. Zoe moved to Karratha from Queensland where she had been working for the Myuma Group which is owned and managed by Camooweal's Indjalandji-Dhidhanu traditional owners. There Zoe managed cultural heritage, PBC governance and the Lake Eyre Basin Indigenous Ranger program.

Please contact Zoe for all Cultural Heritage matters moving forward on 9185 5005 or z.ramsden@rrkac.org.au.

Farewell to Josie

In September we have also sadly farewelled Josie Borrell from our Member Services team. Josie has been an exceptional staff member, working with the corporation for over four years. Josie has been dedicated to providing support and advocacy for our members. We will miss Josie's kind and considerate approach to her work, and her passionate commitment to the Robe River Kuruma community. We wish Josie all the best for the future.

Welcome to new staff

Daniel Roy – Project Officer, Youth Development and Partnerships

Daniel is a Wiradjuri man, who has recently moved to Karratha from Perth to join the Members Services Team as our new Project Officer – Youth Development. Daniel's exciting new role within the Corporation will be supporting our young people, our Youth Council and their initiatives including the development of the Pilbara Aboriginal Youth Council. We have been fortunate to receive some external funding to support these initiatives, and Daniel will be working with our Member Services and Operations Manager on securing further funding to support this fantastic work. Daniel comes from an extensive background in youth work, employment and education, having worked across Aboriginal communities and local councils in the Northern Territory and Western Australia, developing and implementing youth programs, services and events. Daniel is currently a Board Director of the Youth Affairs Council of Western Australia and is studying Youth Work and Psychology at University.

Daniel is very excited to be working at RRKAC, and is looking forward to collaborating with the Robe River Kuruma and Pilbara community.

You can reach Daniel at d.roy@rrkac.org.au or on 9185 5005

Ostiane Massiani – Senior Heritage Project Officer
 Ostiane joined the RRKAC team this September as the Heritage teams Senior Project Officer. Ostiane has lived and worked in the Pilbara for a number of



years and is an experienced land and water management Geomorphologist. Ostiane has held roles with Rangelands NRM, Greening Australia, The Northern Land Council, and with Yindjibarndi Aboriginal Corporation as their Conservation Biodiversity Manager.

Ostiane is excited to be working with the RRK members and developing projects within the Heritage team.

Ostiane can be reached at o.massiani@rrkac.org.au or on 9185 5005.

Gabby Raetz – Seconded from National Indigenous Australians Agency (formerly Prime Minister and Cabinet) PBC Policy Unit

In her current role at NIAA, Gabby focuses on developing and refining the policy for PBC-related native title reforms which were introduced into the Parliament in November last year, focusing on changes to the Native Title (Prescribed Bodies Corporate) Regulations. It will be a fantastic opportunity to have Gabby in the RRKAC team for the next three months to develop a mutually beneficial relationship between our two organisations, and for Gabby to gain an understanding of the on-the-ground operations and daily compliance obligations, community support, heritage obligations and strategic program development that happens within RRKAC!

Gabby can be reached at g.raetz@rrkac.org.au or on 9185 5005.

Intern and casual pool update

Community within the corporation is key.

- We currently have five Aboriginal employees / three are RRK community members (this includes two heritage roles for which recruitment is currently being finalised).
- We have placed a strong emphasis on building the RRKAC Casual Pool of Employees with 10 office casuals in the last financial year. These roles provide the opportunity for community members to undertake flexible work hours within the office



to get a better understanding of how the corporation works, and identify possible future job pathways. If you are interested in undertaking some casual work in the office please get in touch with Sally Atkinson on 9185 5005 or s.atkinson@rrkac.org.au.

- In 2019 two RRK community members successfully completed heritage internships. Congratulations to Leanne Evans and Katherine Glass!
- In the last financial year RRK community members have undertaken 819 paid days of fieldwork
- Currently eight RRKAC committees to advise and support Board and management – this is 50 committee positions!
- We have a new Robe River Kuruma Environment and Conservation Advisory Committee with six positions filled at the April AGM.

AGM Outcomes – 17th April 2019

RRKAC's first ever on-Country Annual General Meeting was held on the 17th April 2019, with 56 attendees. The RRKAC Chair, Sara Slattery noted this was a milestone event as it is the first event run by RRKAC for the community on Country, and the Chair thanked everyone for attending. The AGM was reporting on outcomes from 2018, and a number of important resolutions were passed at the AGM, these included:

1. The RRKAC Members resolved to appoint Sara Slattery and Naomi Bobby as directors to the RRKAC Board in accordance with Rule 8.4.2(a) of the RRKAC Rule Book for a period of two (2) years pursuant to Rule 8.5(a). The Board of Directors is as follows;
 - Sara Slattery – Chair
 - Kristie Willock
 - Elaine James
 - Naomi Bobby
 - Peter Iancov (Independent)
 - Rob Houston (Independent).
2. The RRKAC members resolve to appoint Naomi Bobby to the RTIO LIC in accordance with the CWPA for a term of three (3) years.

The Local Implementation Committee is as follows;

- Sara Slattery
 - Naomi Bobby
 - Darielle Lockyer
 - Mark Lockyer
 - Neil Finlay
 - Deanna McGowan.
3. The RRKAC Members resolve to appoint the following members to the new RRK Environment and Conservation Advisory Committee in accordance with the committee's terms of reference;
 - Elaine James
 - Mark Lockyer
 - Naomi Bobby
 - Arnold Bobby
 - Nathan Evans
 - Bowen Larry.
 4. The RRKAC Members resolve to:
 - Amend the definition of "K&M People" in the RRKAC Rule Book by replacing "K&M People" with "RRK People";
 - Replace all references in the Rule Book of "K&M People" with "RRK People"; and
 - Instruct RRKAC to undertake the necessary to implement this change.
 5. Given the Part A and Part B determinations have now been made in favour of the Robe River Kuruma People, the RRKAC Members resolve to:
 - Remove the existing Rule 1(a) which reads: The name of the Corporation is Kuruma Marthudunera Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC
 - And; Replace the existing Rule 1(a) with:
 - The name of the Corporation is Robe River Kuruma Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC
 - Instruct RRKAC to undertake the necessary to implement this change.

Resolutions were also passed about RRKAC's Fitness for Work Policy and updating the Rule Book to include the requirement that all RRKAC Directors and



Alternates provide RRRKAC with a negative Alcohol and other Drug test.

One of the biggest decisions of the day was to change the name of the corporation to Robe River Kuruma Aboriginal Corporation. As of the 1st of July we have been operating under our new name Robe River Kuruma Aboriginal Corporation (RRKAC).

The 2019 AGM will be held **on the 26th November** at the Ngurin Cultural Centre in Roebourne, and we encourage all members to attend to ensure they are kept informed on corporation activities and have a voice when it comes to voting about important community decisions.

Grant Funding Success

RRKAC are actively exploring opportunities to identify alternative funding streams, including a strategy to seek grant funding for the development of strategic projects.

In the last financial year, RRRKAC has secured funding and project support to the value of ~\$400,000. There are a number of current applications lodged and pending seeking a total of almost \$600,000.

Broome – Information Exchange Trip February 2019

During the last week of February 2019, Directors, several RRRKAC Elders and multiple RRRKAC staff members travelled to Broome to engage with some of the innovative community organisations active in the

Kimberley region to share learnings about their successful programs, foster strong relationships with our Kimberley counterparts, and explore ways in which we can support and learn from one another. RRRKAC is keen to understand what has worked in effective community-managed programs in the region, and explore how we can reflect this in our projects in the Pilbara.

Organisations we had the opportunity to visit included Nyamba Buru Yawuru, winner of the 2018 National Indigenous Governance Award, and other leading Kimberley Aboriginal and community services providers such as Nirrumbuk Aboriginal Corporation, Broome Circle, Aarnja, and KRED Enterprises.



Co-Designing Indigenous Benefit Management Structures – 8th August 2019

RRKAC Chair, Sara Slattery and KML Chair, Jason Masters, welcomed the invite to join a panel of

industry experts at a FDIO-hosted event; Co-Designing Benefit Management Structures.

Dr Ian Murray represented UWA's research team to launch their findings from a three year research project that explores the structure, operation and purposes of benefit management structures, examines key issues in implementation and outlines guidelines for best practice in design.

RRKAC and KML were able to share our successful governance story and key learnings from the design and operation of our own best practice benefits management structure.

Member Services Program Update

Database System

In February RRKAC transitioned the delivery of the Member Support Program from Mutual Trust to internal delivery through RRKAC. As part of this transition, and in line with RRKAC's Strategic Plan, as guided by the Robe River Kuruma community, RRKAC has been working on the development of a Robe River Kuruma fit for purpose database.

This confidential database is a centralised system which not only allows RRKAC to track, process and manage distributions under the Member Support Program, but also provides a repository for management of members' information – this includes resumes, driver's licenses, qualifications and identification documents, along with case management history. This also provides a record and

information management system for RRKAC as an organisation to be able to capture demographic information in order to better advocate on behalf of individuals, families, and the community as a whole.

The Aboriginal Trust Management System (ATMS) is live and operating, if you need support regarding applications speak to the Member Services Team. Reminder: turnaround time for applications is three to five working days.

Youth Register

To ensure our database holds accurate information, and appropriately manages fund allocations RRKAC requests that members provide details of all children under 18 years of age, including dependents that are under legal guardianship of members.



RRKAC will require:

- A completed Youth Register Form available at the RRKAC office
- A copy of the child's Birth Certificate
- Up-to-date contact details from the parent/guardian
- Child-care or school enrolment details.

This information will be held confidentially. These details can be provided to the Member Services Unit in person at the RRKAC office, via mail, or via email to memberservices@rrkac.org.au.

Keeping Your Details Updated

In order for RRKAC to provide ongoing support, and as part of your membership obligations we need to have your current contact details. Please let us know if you get a new phone number, if you move house, or if you change your bank account details. To keep your information up-to-date please complete an *Update Personal Details* Form available from the RRKAC office.

Waba Mangan Community Hub

The fit-out of the Community Hub is now close to completion with some minor cosmetic final touches and furnishing required. The Heritage team consulted with HAC and community members to name the Community Hub.



The Hub will have an opening day in October, with regular activities held on a weekly / monthly basis.

This includes;

- Job Search Club
- Youth Council Meetings
- Housing Exchange
- Seniors Activities
- Financial Counselling
- Rio Tinto IPS
- Introduction to Computers
- Resume Writing/Interview Workshops
- The Stronger Aboriginal Women's Yarning Group
- Healthy Eating Workshops
- Mum's and Bubs Group

For more information about the Waba Mangan Community Hub and how you can get involved, contact Sally Atkinson on 9185 5005. Please register your interest for any of our proposed activities!

Employment

Citic Pacific Traineeships

We would like to congratulate Rehanni Papae Lockyer, Emma-Jean Evans, Marlene Narrier and Kelsey Narrier on being the successful candidates in this year's intake of Citic Pacific Traineeships within the Pit Technicians and Administration teams.

The four girls worked extremely hard to achieve this goal through three interviews and site visits and we are very proud of them. The girls began their 12 month traineeships in February this year.



Are you looking for work?

Are you looking for work and need some support? RRKAC can assist members to get 'job-ready' and



connect with opportunities for employment from mining to local businesses. Please contact RRKAC's Member Services team on (08) 9185 5005 or email memberservices@rrkac.org.au.

Join our Facebook page for other employment opportunities, or come into the office and have a chat!

RRKAC casual pool

Are you interested in working for the RRKAC team? RRKAC 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@rrkac.org.au.

Inter-Agency Support

Department of Housing

RRKAC holds a regular monthly Housing Exchange with Department of Housing at the RRKAC Office. If you would like to arrange a time to meet with the housing officers please contact the RRKAC Member Services Team.

Red Dirt

Anybody need help getting their L's or P's, Need some driving lessons? Well then this is for you!

The Red Dirt Driving Academy will be at the RRKAC office on 10.30 on **Friday 11 October**, if you want to come in and have a yarn with them.

If you cannot make it into the office please contact us with your details and they will give you a call while they are here.

Please let the MSU team know if you wish to attend so they can book you a time slot so you don't miss out – (08) 9185 5005.

Youth Council

In 2018 RRKAC facilitated the establishment of a Youth Council in response to the youth cohort in our community needing a forum where they could have their say, and know that their voice was being heard and responded to when it came to the programs and projects that RRKAC was developing for the RRK community. The RRK youth are the emerging leaders of our community and we need to empower them with

skills in leadership, organisation, governance, advocacy and negotiation to fulfil their future roles. The Youth Council is a forum to develop these future leaders, and the Youth Council underpins RRKAC and KML's joint succession strategy to future proof our corporate governance structure.

The Youth Council has three main focus areas:

- Culture – to be alive and strong within RRK youth
- Education and Training – to ensure our youth are engaged to learn and develop skills to be our future leaders
- Social and Emotional Wellbeing – to strengthen our social and emotional connections and ensure our community is healthy and strong now and for future generations.

Call out for Youth Council Members

Do you want to be a part of the RRK youth voice? Are you passionate about your mob? Do you want to help build a strong pathway for future RRK generations? Do you want to be a leader?

We are currently seeking more Youth Council representatives. We need dedicated youth who want to be involved in the projects we have set up for 2019 and into the new year. We meet regularly on a Thursday every fortnight and you will get to be involved in some amazing experiences throughout the year.

If you would like to be involved and meet the below requirements please contact Daniel Roy on 9185 5005 or via email d.roy@rrkac.org.au:

- Aged 15-25 (you will need parental or guardian permission if under 18)
- Be able to pass an AOD test
- Must be an RRK person – those under 18 and not members will be approved by the board
- Attend fortnightly meetings, and complete work between meetings
- Attend, support and run RRKAC and RRKAC YC events.

Trailblazers – Canberra Trip

Towards the end of 2018 RRKAC supported the Youth Council to apply to the ABC's 2019 Trailblazers

program. From thousands of applications from around regional and remote Australia, the Youth Council were successful in securing a spot in the 2019 program!

Trailblazers is an opportunity for young, regional change makers to have their stories on the ABC. Applications come from individuals and groups of up to three people who are aged 18-28 and working on projects to make regional Australia a better place. Successful applicants receive an incredible package of support, including media, networking and mentorship opportunities to help them share the story of their work with the nation. They also receive an all-expenses-paid trip to the Trailblazers Lab in Canberra.



Aдриanna Irvine shares her experience below.

“Daniel Farmer Jr and I attended Trailblazers Lab 2019 which is organised by ABC Australia.

Trailblazers is a national program for young people to get support and outcomes for their projects including financial support to get projects off the ground and running. This is done by providing networks and introduction to politicians, national organisations and philanthropic groups. We also got to engage, listen and learn about what other youth from around Australia are doing within their communities. This was a great part of the trip as we formed bonds and links with other inspired youth.

RRK Youth Council Chair Daniel and myself as the Vice Chair got the opportunity to be mentored by Mitchell Dahlstrom, a Gamilaraay/Gomeroi man from Moree in North West of NSW who works for the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet and who also has experience in running youth councils.

The Trailblazer team got to go on live broadcasts on the ABC radio station in Canberra, including the Triple J Hack program!

Throughout the Trailblazers Lab we got to meet people like the Governor General of Australia Sir Peter Cosgrove and his wife Lynne Cosgrove.

We also went to Parliament House for a morning tea, this is where we had to present our project (pitch) to a group of politicians, ministers, and philanthropists and large national companies.

On the last night we attend a Gala Dinner at the National Museum of Australia, we received our certificates of participation and got to speak to some amazing people who have a lot of influence to help communities and their projects.

We are excited about what the Youth Council can achieve in the future and we hope more people will get involved in the Youth Council!”



Life Skills Program

The biggest things we hear from RRK youth? What is budgeting? Why do I pay tax and how do I lodge a tax return? What does my pay slip mean? How can I save money? What do I wear to a job interview? How do I apply for a rental home? How can I eventually own my own home? In response RRKAC, and our Youth Council, sought funds to support the development of a program which supports our community through the delivery of workshops, one on one support, and easily accessible resources to provide advice and tutorials on basic tasks such as budgeting, understanding money, resume writing, job interview preparation, and other important life skills.

RRKAC has been successful in securing funds from the Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal (FRRR) and Heywire to contribute towards the development and implementation of the first module

of the RRRKAC Youth Council driven Life Skills program, a culturally appropriate financial literacy program. The grant will support the development of a visual, interactive program resource pack – a suite of money management tools and products tailored to the needs and aspirations of RRRK youth to compliment the program and face-to-face workshops.

Pilbara Youth Council

Robe River Kuruma Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC (RRKAC) and the Robe River Kuruma Youth Council are seeking support for the establishment of a regional Aboriginal Youth Council.

The Pilbara Aboriginal Youth Council would be the collective voice for the youth of the Pilbara, and be representative across all language groups. We know that young leaders have the vision and passion to create meaningful change within their communities, and RRRKAC proposes that the development of a regional Youth Council would provide a forum to equip them with the skills to do so. The Youth Council will also provide a forum to engage with and discover the issues most important to young people in the Pilbara. It is imperative that young people in our community have a voice when it comes to decision-making that directly impacts them. Youth issues are community issues and we must provide a forum for our young people to share their experiences and perspectives.

A Pilbara Youth Council will have opportunity to engage with Local, State and Federal government, along with other Pilbara regional representative bodies to consult on matters that directly affect them, and seek to co-design solutions. The Youth Council also has the opportunity to engage with bodies such as the Youth Affairs Council of WA and UN Youth Australia to consult on issues directly impacting Aboriginal youth in the region. RRRKAC will provide support by actively engaging with leaders in the field of youth participation best practice to establish a leadership training program which meets the needs of the Youth Council as emerging leaders.

In a recent meeting with the RRRKAC and Kuruma Marthudunera Limited (KML) Chairs, the Minister for Indigenous Australians, the Hon. Ken Wyatt MP voiced his support for the Pilbara Youth Council and requested an invitation to a future meeting. We look forward to accepting the Minister's offer and providing

Pilbara youth a meaningful way to engage on a Federal level.

RRKAC will soon be heading out on the road to consult with Pilbara Aboriginal Corporations and community groups around the co-design of the Youth Council. If your organisation has an interest in discussing the Pilbara Aboriginal Youth Council please contact Daniel Roy at d.roy@rrkac.org.au or call 9185 5005. We look forward to seeing this initiative grow!

Events

On-Country Community Movie Screening – April 2019

On the 16th April, the evening before the AGM, the corporation hosted a sundowner community event at the Pannawonica drive-in cinema.



All RRRK community members, along with stakeholders and the local Pannawonica community were invited to attend. A BBQ was provided, and attendees were able to watch a film of achievements from the last 12 months, followed by a screening of *Exile and the Kingdom* on the drive-in cinema screen. It was a fantastic night and we hope to hold this as an annual event.

NAIDOC 2019 – Voice, Treaty, Truth – July 2019

A wonderful NAIDOC event was held in collaboration with RRRKAC, the Shire of Ashburton and Rio Tinto at Pannawonica on the 5th July 2019. The event this year was held in the style of night markets and was a great evening celebrating Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and culture. The evening featured live music by Jokeria, cultural displays and activities, stalls, bush tucker catered by the RRRK community and a BBQ with a traditional twist catered by Sodexo. The RRRKAC NAIDOC Award winners were:

- Terry Hunter – Robe Valley Employee of the Year for Rio Tinto
- Michelle Champion – Robe Valley Employee of the Year for Sodexo
- Allen Jones – Robe River Employee of the Year for Workpac
- Rykia Blanco – Reconciliation Award
- Craig Coleman – Pannawonica Community Contribution Award
- Kristie Willock – Robe River Kuruma Community Contribution Award
- Neil Finlay – Senior of the Year
- Daniel Farmer Jnr – Youth of the Year
- Leanne Evans – Community Pride Award

Thank you to all of the RRK community who took the time to nominate someone for the awards.



Seniors Fishing Day Out – August 2019

On Friday 23 August, staff from the Member Services Team hosted a Seniors Fishing Day Out with four RRK Elders, and two members of the RRKAC Youth Council. First stop of the day was Point Samson for lunch, and then to Cossack for some fishing.



It was a great opportunity for the Seniors to get out and about, and a special congratulations to Anne Wally who caught the only fish of the day!

R U OK Day – September 2019

On Thursday 12 September RRKAC Joined with IBN and PKKP to hold a free community BBQ in the grassed area at the front of the office for R U OK Day. R U OK Day encourages everyone to meaningfully connect with the people around them and start a conversation with anyone who may be struggling with life.



The day was a great success with many members, local organisations and the wider Karratha community in attendance while we highlighted the importance of having a break and asking each other R U OK? and talking about Mental Health.

Yule River – July 2019

Robe River Kuruma Aboriginal Corporation were proud to once again sponsor the Annual Yule River Bush Meeting, held over the 24th and 25th of July 2019. Gatherings at Yule River are an important opportunity for a diverse range of Aboriginal voices to be heard, with both concerns and solutions coming directly from Pilbara Aboriginal people. It was fantastic to meet with Ben Wyatt, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, and to utilise this forum to launch RRKAC's Pilbara Aboriginal Youth Council initiative. We hope to next year see a youth forum as part of the two day event.



Careers Expo – May 2019

The 2019 Epic Careers Expo, held at the Karratha Leisureplex, was an enormous success this year with over 1000 people in attendance from Karratha Senior High School, St Luke's College and the general public.



Our MSU team alongside our RRK community representatives had a great time interacting with participants and businesses. The community engaged with us by learning about RRKAC, about the RRK community and culture, artefacts on display and interactive games.

RRKAC is proud that we were once again the only Aboriginal Corporation in attendance alongside companies from the mining oil and gas industry, local businesses and universities from around WA.

A big thank you to Royce Evans and Leilani Evans for helping out on the day.

Pilbara First Nations Women's Policy Forum – September 2019

On Wednesday 25 September a number of staff from RRKAC, as well as RRK members and Youth Council members attended the First Nations Women's Forum out in Roebourne with guest speakers Malarndirri McCarthy - Senator for the Northern Territory and Linda Burney - Shadow Minister for Families and Social services and Shadow Minister for Indigenous Australians.

The day was a great opportunity for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women from across the Pilbara to come together and discuss and address grass-root issues that impact the Pilbara region and our communities. The topics spoken about included: Housing and Homelessness; Health and Wellbeing;

Language, Country and Culture; and Education and Youth.

From the small group discussions, policies will be implemented and tabled to the Government to ensure change for Aboriginal people. It was a great and very powerful day with over 100 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women making their voices heard.



Heritage Update

Welcome to Country Signs

RRKAC was successful in receiving some grant funding for interpretive signage on Country. The first signs to be put in place were Welcome to Country signs on the way in and out of Pannawonica. Further signage is planned to tell the story of Jajiwurra, and larger Welcome to Country signs to be placed on North West Coastal Highway.



The Keeping Place

RRKAC have been scoping out The Keeping Place (TKP) as part of the RRKAC database build, to incorporate this platform into our heritage and compliance processes and to be an interactive repository for RRK repatriated materials. TKP is an information management system for protecting

cultural knowledge and managing native title. It enables PBCs to establish their own private, secure and self-managed digital cultural centre. There is capability to restrict data through customisable security groups and cultural protocols, and enables TOs to keep their cultural and heritage information safe for future generations. We will provide the community with an update of this database at the AGM.

Return of Research Materials (RoRM)

With the determination of the RRK Native Title Claim, RRKAC is working with YMAC to repatriate the research materials developed over the course of the claim. Workshops were held between RRKAC, YMAC and the HAC and other community members, towards the end of 2018 and into 2019 to develop the policies and guidelines proposed for the return and ongoing management of the Robe River Kuruma Native Title Determination Research Materials.

The return process looks to be finalised by years end, and will provide opportunity for RRK community members to be repatriated significant personal and family information collected over the course of the native title claim process. RRKAC seek to ensure this information is held in a cultural appropriate and meaningful way for community members to be able to access under the developed access protocols.

Healthy Country Framework and Plan

Throughout late-2018 into 2019, RRKAC, together with the RRK community, constructed the Robe River Kuruma (Kuruma Marthudunera) Healthy Country Framework (HCF). The HCF will help to achieve RRK Traditional Owners' Vision for Country, culture and people. The Framework talks about the important natural and cultural values that RRK Traditional Owners want to look after on their traditional lands (the Targets). The Health of each Target was rated based on the knowledge of Traditional Owners and western science. These ratings will assist RRK people to check whether the Plan is working and if the health of Targets will improve over time. The Plan also identifies the problems or threats facing RRK Country. For each threat, a rating is given that describes how bad a Threat is. The structure of the RRK Healthy Country Framework helps to check that the projects RRKAC and RRK Traditional Owners are working on will improve the targets and decrease the impact of threats.

Research Framework and Plan

Throughout 2018-19, RRKAC developed a Research Framework and Research Plan based on thorough consultation with the RRK community. The Framework and Plan outline RRK People's interest in research areas in their Country. The Research Plan states RRK People's aspirations, goals and objectives when it comes to their approach and position on the projects they would like to see.

Specifically the Research Plan further supports;

Caring for Country, which includes:

- Healthy Country Planning and Implementation
- RRK Rangers Program
- Protection and Recording of Environmental Values
- Bawa (Water) Management

Keeping Culture, which includes:

- Cultural Knowledge Capture
- Intergenerational Cultural Knowledge Transfer (Indigenous Cultural Pedagogy)
- Personal and Family Oral History Recording

Cultural Mapping, which includes:

- Yinta and other pool mapping
- Law Ground Mapping
- Cultural Precinct Mapping
- Cultural Landscape Mapping

Bawa (Water) Values and Principles

The Bawa Values and Principles document serves to outline the core values that Robe River Kuruma (RRK) People hold in regards to Bawa (water) on their Country. RRK People talk about their values in relation to water (known to the RRK People as bawa) every day. 'Bawa is life. There is no life without Bawa.' Bawa is intrinsic to the culture, country and heritage of RRK People. This document is the result of consultation with the Robe River Kuruma Community at a consultation session held in December 2018 at the RRKAC office. The values explored are:

- Spirituality
- Healthy Country
- Life
- Natural Resources
- Family
- Talking to Country

- Ecology and Resilience
- Respect.

Bawa (Water) Report

RRKAC has started development of a water reporting template in conjunction with expert consultants. As mining companies use large amounts of water on RRK Country, RRKAC is developing ways in which information about water use by mining and other companies can be better understood by Traditional Owners. Some mining companies who operate, or intend to operate, on RRK Country, are required to provide information on their water use to RRKAC and to regulators. The Water Report aims to provide meaningful information to Traditional Owners, to form a cumulative repository for such information, and intends to be published.

Caring for Country – Rangers

The RRK Caring for Country initiative has continued throughout 2019. RRK Rangers are engaged on a regular basis on Parks and Wildlife Threatened Species Offset Planning works, Weed Spraying under Partnership Principles with Handy Hands, and Rio Tinto hydrogeological and ecological works in the Robe Valley.

Surveys

RRKAC continue to undertake surveys for RTIO and a range of other proponents. RRKAC has undertaken for RTIO a number of ethnological surveys, archaeological surveys, salvage programs, monitoring works, and section 16 excavation programs.

Good News Stories

Josie Alec’s success at the Dream Summit

RRKAC member, Josie Alec, has beaten out the competition at a summit in Sydney to win seed money for her business idea.



She was one of 70 emerging Indigenous entrepreneurs who converged on the Dream Summit in Sydney.

The entrepreneurs were given the chance to pitch their business ideas before a panel with the winner taking home tens of thousands of dollars in seed money.

RRKAC would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Josie, it’s great to see her hard work with her business is paying off.

Elaine James completes a Cert IV

RRKAC Director and senior member, Elaine James, has successfully completed a Cert IV in Business (Governance).

RRKAC is so proud of Elaine’s commitment to ongoing learning, and we’d like to congratulate her on this amazing achievement.



Sara Slattery joins the PDC Board

The Pilbara Development Commission has welcomed the appointment of Sara Slattery to the Commission’s Board.

Commission chairperson Brendan Hammond warmly welcomed Ms Slattery’s appointment. “Ms Slattery brings to the role valuable leadership experience gained in Pilbara based organisations, a professional background in career and employment services and a powerful personal connection to the region, where she was born and raised, and has worked most of her life,” Mr Hammond said. “A Robe River Kuruma Native Title Holder, Ms Slattery has worked for diverse Pilbara organisations and is well connected to Traditional Owner groups in the region.

“She will bring a valuable new perspective and professional experience to the Commission Board.”

Congratulations Sara!

Michael Rickards nominated as Year 6 Indigenous Leader

Congratulations to young Michael Rickards who has been nominated to be a Year 6 Indigenous Leader at his school. Michael says "Senior Indigenous school leader is my role, I will now be looking after all our younger mob in grades lower than me". We wish Michael all the best in his new role and his last year of primary school.

Meeting with Ministers

The Robe River Kuruma Aboriginal Corporation Chair, Sara Slattery, KML Chair, Jason Masters, and CEO Aoife McMahon, were honored to meet with the Hon Ken Wyatt in Karratha on Friday 12 July to discuss Robe River Kuruma community driven projects including the development of the Pilbara Youth Council. With the success to date of the Robe River Kuruma Youth Council we look to utilise this model to facilitate a Pilbara youth voice, and look forward to Minister Wyatt joining us at a future meeting of this committee.



Save the date!

Save the date for these upcoming events:

- Youth Council Meetings – 9 October 2019; 24 October 2019; 7 November 2019; 21 November 2019
- RRKAC AGM – 26 November 2019
- Red Dirt Meeting – 11 October 2019
- Chemical Training – 31 October 2019
- HAC Meeting – 29 & 30 October 2019
- LIC Meeting – 31 October 2019









