

BNTAC

# WANGGA

JUNE  
EDITION



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When reading this publication and sharing it with family and friends, please be mindful that it may contain images and/ or names of people who have since passed away.



*We acknowledge our Elders past, present and emerging who set the foundations for the future*

# Thanharru & welcome to the June issue of the **BNTAC Wangga (News)**

*In this edition we:*

- *Share highlights from the 2024 Karijini Experience*
  - *Talk to the BHP Banjima Rehabilitation team about their seed propagation project*
  - *Interview BNTAC members Nyima Tucker and Teeharnee Robinson on their career journey's*
  - *and a whole lot more!*
- .....

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## Message from the Chair Paula White

### THANHARRU,

It has been a busy start to the year and the BNTAC Board have been actively working on a variety of projects that will provide a strong future for Banjima. First and foremost, I'd like to share how much I enjoyed being amongst the Banjima community at the Karijini Experience. This year was a particularly special year, as we paid tribute to the life of Mr M. Parker who was a constant presence and advocate for this event. I send my condolences to the family during this time, and would like to thank everyone who collaborated on this event.

On behalf of the BNTAC board, I am pleased to present a summary of our achievements and ongoing initiatives for 2024 and beyond. These projects have been formulated to meet the goals set out in the BNTAC strategic and annual plan.

This year we have:

- Progressed preparations to commence the modernisation of our agreements with BHP and Rio Tinto.
- Continued our efforts in advancing economic development initiatives which includes strategies for renewable energy projects.

- Commenced the initial stages of the Trustee Selection Process that is required to be implemented under the trust deed.

- Continued advocacy efforts for the rehabilitation of Wittenoom.

- Commenced discussions with mining proponents on implementing a comprehensive Banjima water management strategy.

- Implemented language preservation initiatives that include creating language posters, bookmarks, cultural videos, and audio libraries for our Banjima community to access.

More detailed information on several of our special projects and other activity is included throughout this newsletter.

In other news, at the end of this year we will have three vacant director positions open for election at the November AGM. We encourage all members to consider whether they would like to nominate for these positions when the nominations process commences in the coming months.

With numerous projects in development, the board remain committed to keeping the community informed of our progress throughout the year.





## Message from the CEO ED armstrong

### THANHARRU,

Firstly, I want to acknowledge the memory of highly respected Banjima Elder, Mr M. Parker. His profound dedication to his people, community, country and culture will leave an ever-lasting impact on Banjima and the broader Pilbara community.

Mr. Parker's influence and impact reached far and wide as demonstrated by the support provided across sorry business and I would like to thank all those for their support during this time.

### KARIJINI EXPERIENCE

The Karijini Experience was a significant and important project to deliver this year. To see the Banjima community coming together, particularly the children, immersing in Banjima culture is certainly a highlight for the year. I'm certainly grateful to be a part of this event and welcome feedback from the community on how we can make next years Karijini Experience even better.

### NATIVE TITLE UPDATE

The Native Title Team have recently taken part in heritage meetings for Social Surrounds and cultural value mapping across Rio Tinto, HanRoy and FMG. Social Surrounds look at how projects impact the environment and the effects this will have on the ability to enjoy or use country. This

includes how dust, noise, light or changes to water ways affect hunting and camping areas, how seeing the project may impact country and the use of country.

In a recent Social Surrounds engagement, the Native Title team had the opportunity to join proponents, FMG. The focus was on discussing the proposed East Hammersley Rail Alignment through Banjima Country. This included a helicopter flyover of the proposed rail route, providing an important visual perspective of the project.

In a separate development, Rio Tinto has now granted access to the Power Bi Dashboard, representing the next phase in information sharing. This dashboard will allow Subject Matter Experts (SME's) and BNTAC to have shared access to environmental data and oversight of the Yinda Gorges Environmental function at Gudai-Darri mine operation. This access will provide valuable insights for evaluating mining operations and enable BNTAC to determine any concerns or if action is required for the protection across agreed areas.

There is also continued activity advocating for the rehabilitation of Wittenoom and securing Native Title over the determination area of Karijini National Park. Additionally, negotiations with HanRoy on the proposed Mulga Downs Iron Ore project continue.



**HOMELAND COMMUNITY TENURES**

BNTAC are in the final stages of land tenures for Bidiltha, Bardulanha and Wirrilimarra, working with DPLH and the National Native Title Tribunal to finalise ILUAS and land management orders that have been in progress for a long period of time and it's a priority to have these finalised this year.

**ELDERS COUNCIL**

Following feedback from members the Elders Council was reconvened last month. The Elder's Council will ensure elders are engaged in culturally appropriate decision making and provide guidance on future activity including membership applications.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

A component of BNTAC's economic development strategy is to support and grow Banjima people and Banjima businesses, particularly when employment and contracting opportunities become available through industry. To support this activity we continue to develop and improve the Banjima Business Register to assist, identify and promote Banjima suppliers and contractors when employment, contracting and other enquiries are presented to the BNTAC office. If you have a business or are wanting assistance securing employment, we encourage you to reach out to the BNTAC office for support.

**IC, LIC AND RIC**

I would also like to thank the community for their participation in the IC, LIC and RIC elections and congratulate the elected committee members. After a thorough election process voted on by our members and conducted with an external independent returning officer, we are pleased to announce the individuals who have been elected to serve on these committees:

<b><u>BHP IC</u></b>	<b><u>RTIO LIC</u></b>	<b><u>RTIO RIC</u></b>
Johnnell Parker	Johnnell Parker	Angus Smith
Angus Smith	Angus Smith	Paula White
Sandra Cox	Sandra Cox	
Slim Parker	Slim Parker	
Paula White	Paula White	
	Delvene Hicks	

**TOM PRICE DIALYSIS**

BNTAC has participated in Tom Price Renal Dialysis meetings working with the Pilbara Aboriginal Health Alliance (PAHA), Purple House and other community members to secure \$3.5M in Commonwealth funding that will see a four-chair dialysis clinic providing services in Tom Price by late 2025. This much-needed project signifies progress toward improved healthcare accessibility in Tom Price. A special thank you to BNTAC Director Delvene Hicks for her participation, passion and drive on this project.

Thank you from the CEO for your on-going support.



**WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!**  
Have any suggestions for the next Karijini Experience?  
Please send your feedback to [communications@bntac.org.au](mailto:communications@bntac.org.au)



# THAT'S A WRAP ON THE 2024 KARIJINI EXPERIENCE

Looking back on the 2024 Karijini Experience—a week dedicated to celebrating and immersing ourselves in Banjima culture—we are filled with gratitude for the abundance of enriching activities and memorable moments shared. This year, we were privileged to host a diverse range of workshops, including guided walks led by Banjima elder Trevor Parker Snr and his family, weaving, language sessions, cooking demonstrations, sewing, crafts, football workshops, and more. In addition to these cultural events, we introduced several exciting new activities, such as helicopter flights showcasing the breathtaking beauty of Banjima country, reptile displays, spiritual healing sessions, art exhibitions, and yoga classes.

Musical performances by esteemed acts like the Bradley Hall Band, Broken Tides, Alice Skye, Dan Sultan, and Nathan Lamont added a vibrant soundtrack to the festivities.

We extend our appreciation to all who contributed to the success of this event, including the dedicated sub-committee, Banjima community and the dozens of volunteers, whose collaborative efforts were instrumental in bringing The Karijini Experience to life. Special thanks to CMS Events for their help running the event.

In the meantime, please take a look at the many highlights and photos from this year's event. As we anticipate next year's festivities, we welcome any feedback that could help us make the event even more unforgettable for all involved.





## BEHIND THE BHP BANJIMA TRAINEES SEED PROPAGATION PROJECT

The Yandi Seed Propagation Area (SPA) trial site has been successfully established. The project, delivered entirely by Banjima trainees under the guidance of the Yandi Site Rehabilitation team and subject matter experts from Biologic Seed, provided a wide range of nature-based training opportunities and showcased the potential for increased Traditional Owner participation in meeting the growing demand for native seed supply.

Three different varieties of spinifex were sown, totalling 3.5 hectares. The process involved installing large sprinkler systems and utilising precision seeders and tractors for planting. Trainees also participated in implementing the irrigation system, designed to replicate rainfall events known to optimise seedling recruitment.

A central focus of the trial is to identify the most suitable species for the 'seed farming' method. Species selection was meticulously carried out to maintain genetic and ecological integrity, with extensive genetic and growth testing conducted to ensure the viability of the seeds.





The next phase of the project will concentrate on seed collection, providing trainees with valuable opportunities to develop skills in native seed collection, processing, and quality testing.

We're excited about the possibilities this partnership with BHP holds and anticipate creating more opportunities in the rehabilitation space in the future.

If this is something you'd be interested in, we will be calling for the next intake of trainees in the coming weeks. This is a great opportunity to get back on Country, gain qualifications in conservation and land management and develop important skills and experience to assist participants to transition into full time employment with BHP at the end of the program.

If you're a Banjima member or business and want to learn more, please email [russell.hall@bntac.org.au](mailto:russell.hall@bntac.org.au). We can arrange for you to connect with a member of the rehabilitation team.



# SPECIAL PROJECTS UPDATE

## AGREEMENT MODERNISATION

BNTAC is currently preparing to commence agreement modernisation of both the BHP Comprehensive Agreement and RTIO Participation Agreement. BNTAC is working with both proponents to establish 2024 meeting dates and other related details, before negotiations can begin.

The negotiating teams for each agreement will comprise of selected members of Banjima including members of the BNTAC board, the BHP Heritage Advisory Committee and RTIO Heritage Reference Committee to ensure appropriate representation and experience.

### **About the Negotiations**

The scope of negotiations is proposed to include how the relationships can be strengthened, repaired, and grown with both parties needing to agree on various aspects of how this can be achieved.

BNTAC anticipates it will include matters such as:

- Mining expansion plans and sustainability of existing operations
- Reconsidering the rates and terms of compensation for Banjima People regarding this mining activity
- Processing and other related operations on Banjima country
- Measuring the performance of the Benefits Management Structure
- Ensuring that heritage and environmental values are upheld, protected, and managed sustainably; and

- How social, community and economic engagement will be advanced.

The negotiations are anticipated to take several years. We want to highlight that this is a formal process of Native Title rights and interests which will require free, prior, and informed consent and approval of the Banjima People. We'll keep the community informed with more updates as we move forward.

## TRUSTEE SELECTION

Following the outcome of the 2023 vote (which fell short of the 75% required for appointment of Australian Equity Trustees (AET) as Trustee for a further 3 years), AET will be in an automatic 12-month rollover period from 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025, in accordance with Trust Deed Requirements. Because of this, another trustee Expression of Interest (EOI) process will be commencing in late May and will go out to all eligible trustee organisations in Australia. An analysis of the EOI proposals will be received with interviews and assessment carried out by a selection committee who will operate through formalised Terms of Reference, and which will include two (2) independent specialists. The community meeting for Banjima People's decision-making is expected to take place in February 2025.

## WATER STRATEGY

To ensure that water is appropriately used, a Banjima Water Stewardship project has been commenced to exercise greater leadership and control by Banjima for transmission, management, and co-ordination of water across Banjima Country

and across proponents.

### **Why is this needed?**

Mining operations both use and misuse water. For example, surplus water is not valued and is sometimes disposed of irresponsibly and water extraction has also adversely impacted important water sources.

As each proponent manages water separately, the joint cumulative effects are not being adequately considered and currently there is no structure to manage the supply and demand across mines or multiple proponents. To combat this issue, a detailed mapping of water across Country is now underway with Pentium Water engaged to complete this work.

A business model and infrastructure network will be developed to secure and divert sustainable quantities of groundwater sources across Country and between proponents, for economic return. This model will be developed with the principles of co-creation and co-management for long term benefit to Banjima People.

A feasibility study for a trial project at Gudai Darri is now commencing. This will consider the economic viability and sustainability of providing a long-term groundwater supply to Rio Tinto in return for commercial terms. The next step will be to enter an MOU (Memoranda of Understanding) with RTIO.

### **RENEWABLE ENERGY**

There is significant activity unfolding in the renewable energy sector both in Western Australia and nationwide as efforts ramp up to meet decarbonisation goals set by the federal government for 2030 and 2050. These targets carry significant implications for miners in the

Pilbara region, which contribute approximately 30% of all carbon emissions in Australia. Operators on Banjima Country have also publicised their own 2030 carbon reduction targets and are currently preparing their strategies. In addition, the Western Australian State Government is in the process of devising renewable energy transmission line plans for the Pilbara, scheduled to unfold in stages over the next two decades.

BNTAC was recently engaged in initial discussions with the State, alongside other Traditional Owner groups in the Pilbara, where they were briefed on forthcoming opportunities and potential impacts.

BNTAC is actively positioning Banjima as a key player in renewable energy initiatives, aiming to represent the economic, environmental, and social interests of Banjima People in energy projects on Country. This endeavour is crucial as non-participation could lead to proponents developing solutions with limited benefits.

To support these efforts, BNTAC has enlisted Resources WA to develop a comprehensive Banjima Master Plan and Business Case for renewable energy zones on previously disturbed land within Banjima Country, with the aim of providing a clear roadmap for advancing commercial and economic outcomes while addressing governance needs. A grant application has been submitted to the State to strengthen this endeavour.



*We interview*

# BANJIMA MODEL NYIMA TUCKER

*Say hello to Nyima Tucker, the vibrant Banjima model shining brightly in the fashion world. It was truly a pleasure to get to know Nyima and see her on the runway during this year's Karijini Experience. At just 18 years old, Nyima has already made a significant impact in the industry, embarking on her freelance modeling journey a mere seven months ago. Inspired by an opportunity with Halo Modelling, Nyima's journey into modeling has been propelled by her passion, supported by her loved ones, and fueled by her determination to succeed.*

**YOU RECENTLY HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO WALK THE RUNWAY ON YOUR OWN COUNTRY IN BEAUTIFUL KARIJINI. CAN YOU DESCRIBE THAT EXPERIENCE?**

Phenomenal. Walking for the Kirrkin brand in Karijini National Park was no other than breath taking. Karijini is Banjima land, and I am a proud Banjima woman, and to be working on my land and be representing an indigenous owned brand for my second ever runway show at 18 years old was just absolutely mind blowing.



**WHAT MADE YOU WANT TO GET INTO MODELLING?**

People have always told me I've had potential to be a model. My mother, my friends, my sister in laws ... so when I was approached by Halo Modelling and had the experience of being a model for the first time (getting my make up done, doing fittings) — I fell in love.

**HOW DO YOU INCORPORATE YOUR PERSONALITY INTO YOUR MODELLING WORK?**

By being myself. Every time I am working with someone such as a photographer, I always remain my true and authentic self. This allows me to incorporate my personality into my work with ease, and by also expressing the confidence and happiness through my eyes in each photograph that is taken of me.

**CAN YOU SHARE A MEMORABLE EXPERIENCE IN YOUR CAREER THAT YOU'RE PROUD OF?**

My most memorable moment was my second shoot with Jurgen Nitt, I had to stare straight into the sun for the perfect shot because he was right underneath it. It was nearing sunset, around 5:00, so my goodness I was trying my hardest not to squint. The shots were stunning, though. My most proud achievement was definitely being featured in Lamodèls Fashion Vol 43 March Issue 1's back cover. My jaw dropped when I saw myself on the back cover of a magazine!

**WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE LOOK TO PUT TOGETHER?**

I love me a monochrome moment. But only in neutral colours, so think tan, black, white, brown... etc. Black is definitely my go- to colour when putting together an outfit, it's so universal and goes so good with my skin tone. My main fashion tip is to wear what makes you happy and comfortable. If you enjoy jeans and a t-shirt you rock that, if you enjoy intricate layers and a bunch of accessories you do you.

**WHAT DO YOU ENJOY MOST ABOUT MODELLING, AND WHAT KEEPS YOU MOTIVATED TO PURSUE IT?**

Meeting new people. That's the number one thing which interests me. I've met people from all walks of life, from all different parts of the world. Europe, Asia, the Americas...you name it. What keeps me pursuing modelling though is definitely the support I've received from everyone. Family, friends, photographers, models ... even strangers!

**IF YOU COULD CHOOSE ANY LOCATION FOR A DREAM PHOTO SHOOT, WHERE AND WHAT WOULD IT BE?**

I would love to do a shoot in the Plitvice Lakes National Park in Croatia. The concept for the shoot would be something resembling a mystical and ethereal goddess, one which resides in the gorgeous park itself. I'd love to do a look like either a mermaid or a fairy, or both, to be honest.

**HOW DO YOU SEE YOUR CULTURE INFLUENCING YOUR WORK AS A MODEL?**

My culture influences my work because I have opportunities to work with indigenous brands and indigenous creators; such as MUA's, designers, hairstylists, etc. It also influences my work through the respect I carry for my own land I'm working on, and other peoples land I'm working on.



**WHAT GOALS OR ASPIRATIONS DO YOU HAVE FOR YOUR CAREER IN MODELLING?**

I want to be famous, so I can be an inspiration to all little boys and girls around the world to pursue their dreams in the creative arts industry. I aspire to become an ambassador for a luxury brand, such as Alexander McQueen, or Guess. Maybe even Dior or Versace one day.

# CONGRATULATIONS TO TEEHARNEE ON GRADUATING FROM HER ADVANCED DIPLOMA



You may already be familiar with Teeharnee Robinson through her organisation of numerous BNTAC and Trustee meetings. Yet, beyond her professional activities, Teeharnee has recently graduated with an advanced diploma in Indigenous Studies (Ministry). In our conversation with Teeharnee, we delved into her studies and the motivations driving her journey.

## WHAT MADE YOU WANT TO STUDY?

To learn more about God. It was something I really enjoyed and has extended past that where I am now expanding my studies to Pastoral.

## WHAT SPECIFIC AREAS OF MINISTRY STUDIES ARE YOU MOST PASSIONATE ABOUT AND WHY?

Childrens ministry. I'm passionate about creating more interactive experiences for the next generation to learn. Whether through our fortnightly kids dedicated services, or our youth camps. They are the next generation, and they are the ones who will continue it.

## WHAT HAVE YOU LEARNT THROUGH YOUR STUDIES?

Studying for me taught me so many skills from public speaking and beyond. On top of this it gave me a purpose. Which I can now pass on through comforting words to help others get through tough times. People need help everywhere. One of the best things about studying is it gave me the chance to sit down and connect with people. It has had an impact not only to my life but to my family's life when they come as well.

## WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO PEOPLE WANTING TO GO INTO MINISTRY STUDIES?

It is a lifestyle choice that you'll never regret. I applied through Mamarapha College and have gained knowledge and experience at the college. Throughout this journey you build relationships with the staff and students that will last a lifetime.

We would like to congratulate Teeharnee on all her hard work and look forward to seeing where her studies take her next.

# CELEBRATING PILBARA'S FINEST AT THE JUNDUNMUNNAH ART EXHIBITION



Amidst the energy of this year's Karijini Experience, the Karijini Visitor Centre played host to a spectacular showcase of talent and culture, courtesy of the latest Jundunmunnah Art Exhibition.

An array of talented Pilbara artists showcased their work along with two of our own members, May Byrne and Sally White.

We extend our gratitude to the entire team at Jundunmunnah for their tireless efforts in curating

and organising this year's event. It's through their dedication and passion that the talents of the Pilbara region are given a platform to shine.

With each passing year, the bar is set higher, and we have no doubt that next year's exhibition will surpass even our wildest expectations.

## WHAT'S ON?

# BNTAC EVENTS & REMINDERS

**27 May  
-3 June**

### Reconciliation Week

Every year from 27 May to 3 June is National Reconciliation Week a time for all Australians to get involved to learn about our shared histories, cultures, and achievements, and to explore how each of us can contribute to achieving reconciliation in Australia.

**07-14  
July**

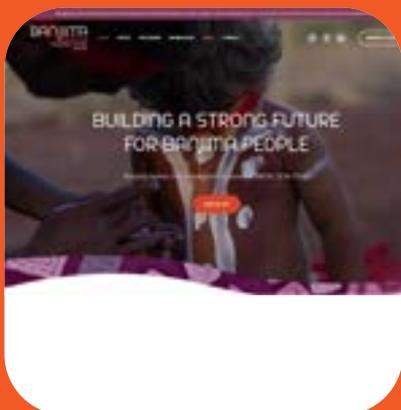
### NAIDOC Celebrations

Save the date! BNTAC are in the process of planning a small gathering to celebrate NAIDOC with the community. Keep an eye out on your emails as more details are sent out closer to the date.

**16  
November**

### 2024 Annual General Meeting

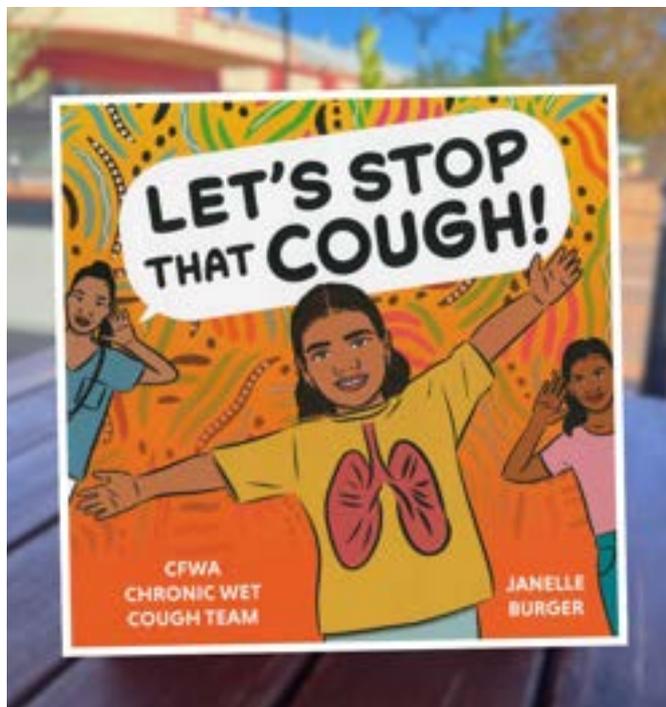
The BNTAC AGM will be held in Karratha on the 16th November 2024 at the Red Earth Arts Precinct.



### Check out our new and improved website!

We are thrilled to announce the launch of our new website, marking a significant milestone in our journey towards enhancing accessibility and engagement with our community. Whether you're seeking valuable resources on our dedicated page or exploring job opportunities, we hope this new website will serve as a useful platform for all our members to learn more about what is going on within our organisation.

# A MESSAGE FROM THE CHRONIC WET COUGH TEAM!



Chronic lung sickness is a bad lung sickness that lots of Aboriginal children have, the breathing tubes get damaged and stop working properly. The wet cough is caused by mucus in the airway. The mucus becomes infected with bacteria and causes airway inflammation they can progress to permanent lung damage known as bronchiectasis. They may have a wet sounding cough which stays for a long time.

If you know a child who has had a wet sounding cough every day for four weeks or more, get them to clinic for a check-up! The doctor might prescribe some oral antibiotic treatment for 2-4 weeks to help stop the coughing and keep little one's lungs healthy.

The CFWA education team are working hard to spread the wet cough message across regional WA. As part of this they have developed a children's book which is ready to share with communities across the state! Join little girl and Aunty as they find their way to clinic, meeting family and animals along the way!

The book has been shared with our Chronic wet cough community champions, and communities and playgroups in the Wheatbelt and Goldfields with families and children loving the bright pictures and important health message! We are heading back to the Pilbara this year and would love to catch up with you and your community.

If you would like to find out more or know of a community group that would like to have a yarn, please contact Michelle at [michelle.buck@cfwa.org.au](mailto:michelle.buck@cfwa.org.au) or on 08 6224 4100.

More information please visit [www.cfwf.org.au/chronicwetcough/](http://www.cfwf.org.au/chronicwetcough/)





