



YAWURU PBC ANNUAL REPORT 2013

REBUILDING THE YAWURU NATION





STATEMENT FROM THE BOARD

This is Yawuru's first annual report. It tells the story about how Yawuru are rebuilding the Yawuru nation based on our native title and the Yawuru Agreements signed in 2010. We are building on the work of Yawuru people who came before us.

This report talks about what Yawuru have achieved in the past year – 2012-13.

During this year we have moved to our new office – Nyamba Buru Yawuru, which we celebrated in May 2013. We are providing more houses for Yawuru families, supporting elders and helping younger Yawuru people build their futures. We are making Yawuru language strong, protecting and managing our country and investing money to create income to pay for all this work into the future.

In our decisions the Board is guided by Yawuru values and culture. That is the basis that we deal with people and companies who want to use Yawuru land.

The journey to becoming a strong nation for our children and grandchildren is a long one. If we stick together and follow Yawuru values then we are moving in the right direction.

The Chairman, Patrick Dodson, has told the Board that next year his role will change and now is the time for the next generation of Yawuru leadership. He will continue to work with the Board as the new generation steps up.

The Yawuru PBC Board would like to say thanks to those directors whose terms finish this year; David Pigram, Susan Edgar, Rowena Puertollano and Leah Dolby.



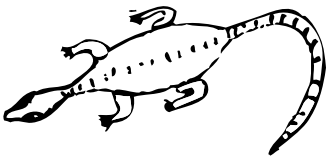
Streeter's Jetty

INTRODUCTION

In this report the Yawuru Story is presented under the three areas of Yawuru nation building – Strengthening Community; Strengthening Culture and Connection to Country; and Strengthening Yawuru Governance.

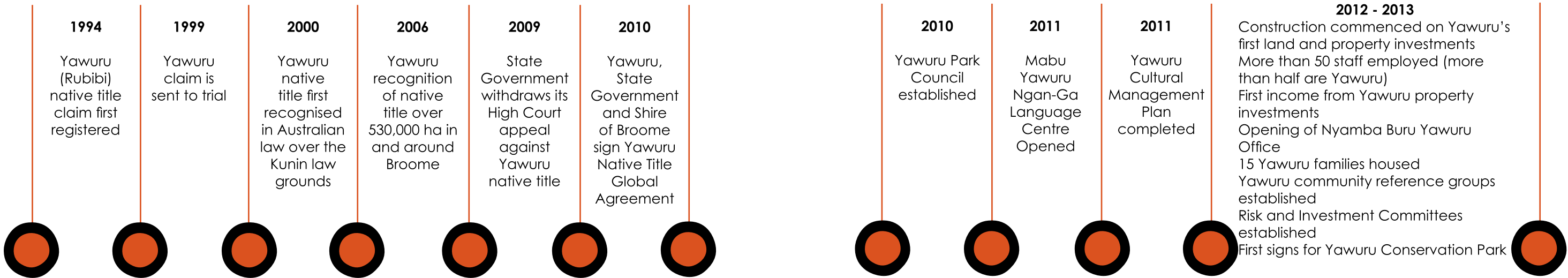
On many fronts Yawuru are rebuilding our community and reasserting our authority to manage Yawuru Country. Yawuru culture is being revitalised through the work of the Yawuru language centre and other cultural initiatives.

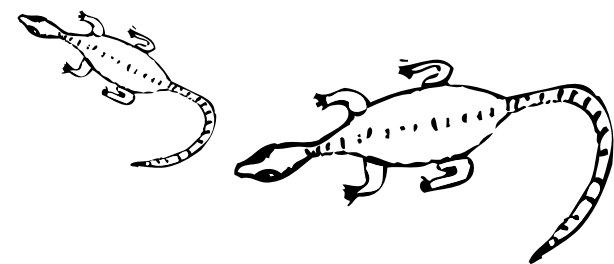
We have grown our organisation which now employs 50 people including casual staff. More than half of the staff are Yawuru. This year we opened the Nyamba Buru Yawuru office where all our staff work and our PBC and NBY Boards meet. The office is also a place for Yawuru community meetings held under the banner of “Welcome and Respect”.



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STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY

INVESTING IN YAWURU PEOPLE

To rebuild the Yawuru nation we are investing in the capacity of our people. We are making sure that our senior people are cared for and respected. We are building a future for our young people and we must begin a process of healing.

Over the past year Yawuru has worked with our young people to create opportunities. Many young Yawuru people are working across our organisation in community development, housing, finance, land and sea management, language development and communications. We held our first Yawuru Youth Forum and the Yawuru Youth Steering Committee has a long term agenda for youth development around cultural connection and employment.

Yawuru is committed to developing our future leaders but we are equally committed to supporting our senior people today. Over the past year Yawuru has provided assistance to senior Yawuru people with gardening and house maintenance and emergency support. We also bring the old people together for social events and honour their status in our community. The opening of the Nyamba Buru Yawuru office was dedicated to remembering the contributions that senior Yawuru people have made.

This year a number of Yawuru people worked with our community to get information from community members about housing and community wellbeing. This survey will help Yawuru measure the effectiveness of our work and how our community is being strengthened.



2012 Yawuru Youth Forum Participants



"We have an obligation to our old people to achieve great things and to continue important things. They have invested in us; our culture, language and history. What we do now is up to us mob."

Bart Pigram

HOUSING YAWURU FAMILIES

Yawuru members have identified safe and secure housing is central to strengthening the Yawuru community. Yawuru will not take over government's responsibility to provide housing. But some Yawuru people fall through the cracks and need help.

Over the past year Yawuru has bought 6 houses and built 9 houses for Yawuru families to rent. More houses are being built for Yawuru families. The designs for these houses are based on the comments Yawuru people have made at workshops and information sessions. Community surveys done in 2011 and 2013 give information about how best Yawuru can use our resources for the greatest need.

Yawuru's housing effort is long-term, for Yawuru people today and in to the future. Yawuru Housing needs to be sustained through the rents that Yawuru families pay. This rent money means that more houses can be built now and for Yawuru children and grandchildren.

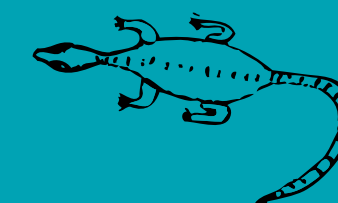
This year the Yawuru Housing team was created to assist Yawuru families with housing. The Housing Team has helped some Yawuru families whose incomes are above the limit for public housing and some Yawuru families where government has failed to provide housing.

The Yawuru Housing team has also supported a number of Yawuru families deal with government agencies and provided help on housing issues like budgeting and maintenance.



"It feels good to be living in a Yawuru house. There is no more moving from house to house, we are comfortable and relaxed. It is great to be able to cook in our brand new kitchen".

Desmond Billy





Dalia Pigram launching new Yawuru books with children from local day care centre

REVITALISING YAWURU NGAN-GA (LANGUAGE)

Revitalizing Yawuru language is fundamental to rebuilding the Yawuru nation. As Yawuru language specialist Michael Manolis says, "Yawuru ngan-ga is food and medicine for our liyan." Over the past year the Mabu Yawuru Ngan-ga Language Centre has grown Yawuru language in everyday use and nurtured a growing community of Yawuru language speakers.

Language centre staff have produced materials such as books and songs in Yawuru, taught Yawuru in 3 Broome primary schools, read books at day care centres and taught staff at the Yawuru office. Yawuru language workers have joined up with the Yawuru Rangers on the successful school holiday program. The language centre is supporting the training of more Yawuru people to become teachers so Yawuru ngan-ga can be taught to more students.

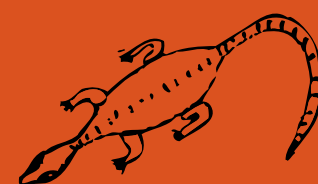
Yawuru language is increasingly seen and heard in public spaces such as Radio Goolarri, Shinju Matsuri festival and the naming of places. Work on the Yawuru language dictionary continues with nearly 4,000 words and over 500 phrases with audio track links.

The effect of these efforts was on display at the opening of the Yawuru office with the performance by school children of various songs in Yawuru ngan-ga.



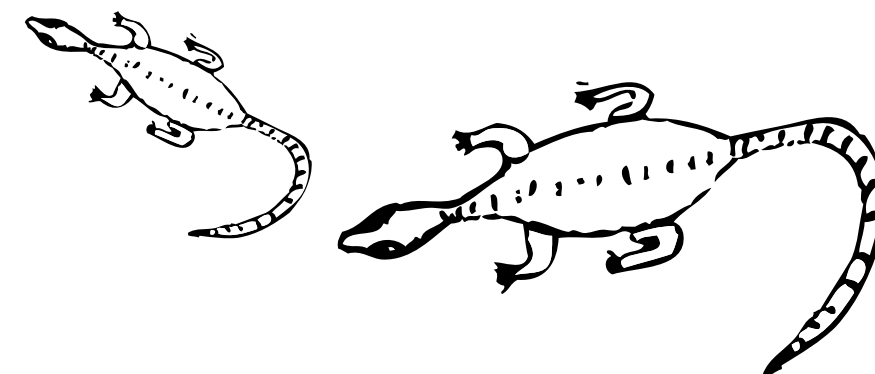
"Our Bugarrigarra is stories, song lines, dance, music, skin groups and heritage and it is the Yawuru Ngan-ga that binds all this together. Without the Yawuru language we have nothing but with Mabu Yawuru Ngan-ga we can do many things."

Dianne Appleby



"It is our role to stand up and tell our story. We want people to understand about our Country and to respect it, that our Country was created in Bugarrigarra and that we have to look after it. We have so many stories to tell."

Cissy Djiagween



RESPECTING YAWURU VALUES

As the Traditional Owners and native title holders, Yawuru have a responsibility to look after Yawuru Country, including Broome. Part of this responsibility requires Yawuru to help shape the future vision for Broome and surrounding land and seas. Yawuru values for culture, Country, family and community should be reflected in the way Broome is planned, built and serviced.

Over the past year Yawuru has influenced Broome's character in many ways including formal Welcome to Country ceremonies and recognising Yawuru heritage in citizenship ceremonies. Yawuru's submission to the Shire of Broome's new planning scheme and strategy asked the Shire to include Yawuru values and protocols in its plans and change the zoning categories consistent with Yawuru native title.

This year Yawuru has developed a cultural induction program which we will be used to teach industry and government about Yawuru Country, culture and heritage.

The potential to create jobs for Yawuru people in the cultural economy is now emerging. Visitors and people who live in Broome want to learn more about Yawuru culture and the environment. Yawuru has been working with the Visitors Centre and Tourism WA to develop Yawuru cultural tours in Chinatown and along the foreshore. We are also developing a self-guided audio Jetty to Jetty tour (Streeter Jetty to the Old Jetty) using Yawuru, and other local Broome storytellers, to provide a rich interpretation of our living cultural and historical heritage.

STRENGTHENING CULTURE AND CONNECTION TO COUNTRY



YAWURU PEOPLE MANAGING COUNTRY

Yawuru land and sea are looked after in a number of ways. On the front line, protecting and managing Yawuru Country are Yawuru Conservation Park Rangers, Yawuru Country Managers and Yawuru Cultural Advisors and Monitors.

The Yawuru Country Managers and the Yawuru Rangers make sure that Country is being looked after by working in conservation, cultural and biodiversity management, research and monitoring.

Yawuru Country Managers are building up their skills, working on Country, recording data and doing data analysis training. This year Country Managers have carried out research in partnership with wetland scientists. This work involves water monitoring and analysis for climate change events over 7000 years across the marine plains, threatened wetlands and springs. It includes aligning the monitoring with the annual seasonal cycle.

This year Yawuru Land and Sea have developed a management plan for a Yawuru Indigenous Protected Area. On-country work has been done to identify areas of high biodiversity and cultural values. The plan will set out ways to protect and manage these areas.

All of this work is helping to build up the Yawuru cultural and environmental work force that is responsible for doing the on-ground work to manage and protect Yawuru Country.



"Any thing that happens here on Roebuck Plains affects what happens in Roebuck Bay."

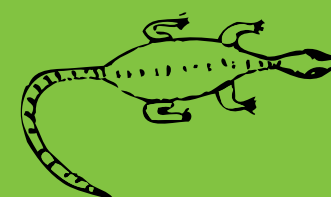
Pius Gregory

"It's really good to work with scientists and learn more about our Country, changing sea levels and how groundwater works. We want to use this knowledge to protect our Country"

Thomas Djiagween

"I've been working with the team for about 18 months and am studying my Certificate II. The best bits of my job are looking after and cleaning up country as well as educating the public about how unique the place is. I get to meet and work with great people."

Preston Manado



YAWURU CONSERVATION PARKS AND RANGERS

The Yawuru Conservation Parks are created under the 2010 Yawuru Agreement and allows different areas of Yawuru Country to be managed together as one interconnected landscape. The Yawuru Park Council is made up of Yawuru, Shire of Broome and the Department of Parks and Wildlife. The Park Council is responsible for developing and implementing the joint management plans for the Parks. The plans will mean the management of the Conservation Parks is consistent with Yawuru values and the Yawuru Cultural Management Plan.

The Yawuru Rangers are based at the Department of Parks and Wildlife. The Rangers do site patrols, inspections and improvements, trail maintenance, weed control, research, monitoring and community education. The rangers are getting qualifications and two have been recognised as the best trainees across the State. The Yawuru Rangers are using technology to assist with management and to map environmental factors such as lyngbya algal blooms, turtle activity, shorebird migration and fire activity.

Over the past year Yawuru Rangers have also used technology to accurately record vehicle and pedestrian numbers. The Rangers have become skilled in radio communications, online weather and fire databases and stormwater drain data loggers.

SERVING THE YAWURU COMMUNITY

ACHIEVEMENTS 2012-13



Teaching Yawuru in Broome Schools.
4 trainee teachers teaching language in St Mary's, Broome Primary and Cable Beach Primary.

Publishing books and other resources in Yawuru.
12 books, 6 animated songs and 7 audios completed. Key word cards, seasonal calendar posters, songs and a calendar produced.

Supporting Yawuru families when a family member passes. Funeral Fund assisted 11 families this year.

Rental Relief Scheme for over income Yawuru families. This year 5 Yawuru families renting Yawuru houses.

Social Housing Scheme assisting Yawuru Peoples' housing needs where government is unable to provide support. This year 10 Yawuru families renting Yawuru houses.

Making Yawuru language highly visible. Word of the Matsuri language night. Shinju Yawuru language classes.



Supporting Yawuru Elders and members with disabilities. More than 30 Yawuru Elders have been assisted this year. 2 elders' social events. 5 Yawuru members with disabilities have received support.

Preserving Yawuru language for future generations. Doubled the Yawuru language entries to more than 3,900 Yawuru words and phrases.

Increasing recognition and respect of Yawuru. More than 85 Welcome to Country ceremonies by senior Yawuru people in language.

Housing and Advocacy Support helping Yawuru people deal with government agencies and getting maintenance done. This year 57 Yawuru people have been assisted.

Building the skills of young Yawuru people in Yawuru language. 2 Yawuru trainees employed in graphic design and general language work.

Supporting the development of the next generation of Yawuru leaders. Annual Youth Forum and creation of Yawuru Youth Steering Committee.

Developing the careers of young Yawuru people. 12 Yawuru young people employed by NBY.

Developing the potential of young Yawuru people. Encouraging Excellence Fund has assisted 21 young people with sporting, educational, leadership development and cultural exchange.



Low tide on the way to Crab Creek



"What I do as a cultural monitor is important because we protect places that are special to Yawuru people. We also teach people who work on our country about Yawuru stories. We make them culturally aware. I enjoy this work because I spend time with our senior people. I hear their stories and that strengthens my connection to my Country and my culture."

Wayne Edgar

PROTECTING YAWURU COUNTRY

Rebuilding the Yawuru nation means Yawuru people working with land users to increase respect for Yawuru culture, heritage and responsibility to look after Country. Yawuru cultural advisors and monitors work to make sure that Yawuru heritage is respected and protected. Yawuru cultural advisors and monitors are led and trained by Yawuru Law Bosses.

Things are beginning to change – more people are speaking first to Yawuru before doing what they want on Yawuru Country. This year the Shire, Horizon Power, Water Corporation and others have provided their work programs to Yawuru. Mining companies like Buru Energy and Iluka have also talked to Yawuru about their work on Yawuru country.

In response, Yawuru cultural advisors have done heritage surveys. Cultural advisors ask the company for the work plans, go to the site and consider the location of any culturally significant areas. The cultural advisors tell the company where it is OK and where work cannot go ahead. Yawuru cultural monitors keep an eye on the works on the ground as they happen. Monitors watch to make sure that the companies are following instructions and places are being protected.

There are still problems. Some land users come to Yawuru once they have completed their plans, some don't listen to the answers Yawuru give. Yawuru continue to work with these people to encourage respect for Yawuru Country, heritage and decision making processes.

FREE, PRIOR AND INFORMED CONSENT

There are around 50 exploration and mining permits on Yawuru Country. Under the Native Title Act, being native title holders does not give Yawuru a veto to stop mining. Mining companies only need to negotiate with Yawuru before they are given permission from the government to explore or mine.

Yawuru's position is there should be free, prior and informed consent before any exploration or mining takes place. This means having all the relevant information before the exploration or mining starts, understanding what is going to happen on Country and making agreements without pressure.

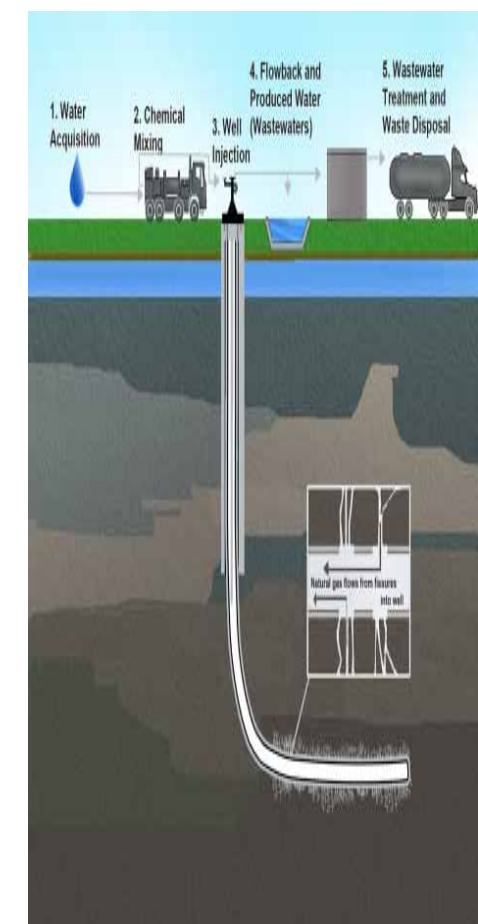
Buru Energy (BE) is exploring for oil and gas on Yawuru country. A Yawuru PBC Reference Group is talking to BE to explain free, prior and informed consent and to understand, set conditions and seek changes about what BE wants to do. The Reference Group reports back to the PBC Board. We have told BE we need more information about their proposals and we need advice from independent experts. The previous licence holder did a frac test at Yulleroo in 2010. BE wants to do more fracking in 2014. Yawuru have told BE that Yawuru are opposed to fracking until it can be shown to be safe beyond doubt. Yawuru have not given permission for fracking.

This year we have provided updates on third party activities on Country to Yawuru members in the newsletter, community forums, meetings and fact sheets.

Decisions about mining on Country are stressful. Yawuru PBC is working to make sure Yawuru people are fully informed, understand what is proposed and are ready to make decisions.

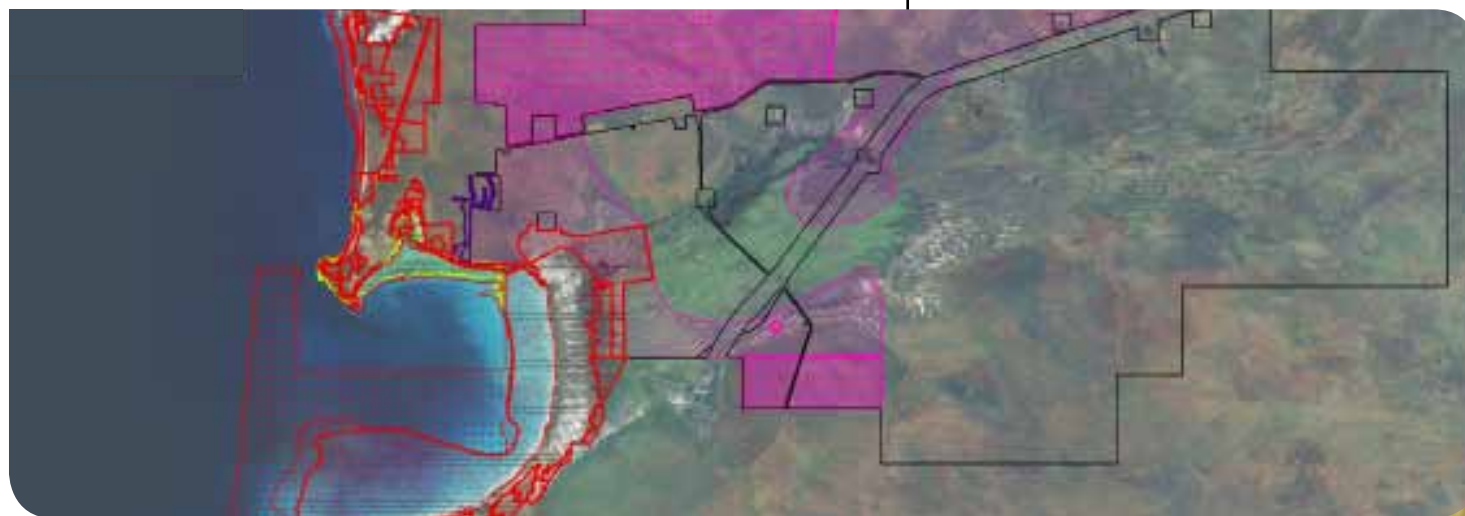
"Yawuru are opposed to fracking until it is proved safe beyond doubt."

Yawuru PBC



MAPPING YAWURU COUNTRY AND VALUES

Yawuru Conservation Parks and proposed indigenous protected area

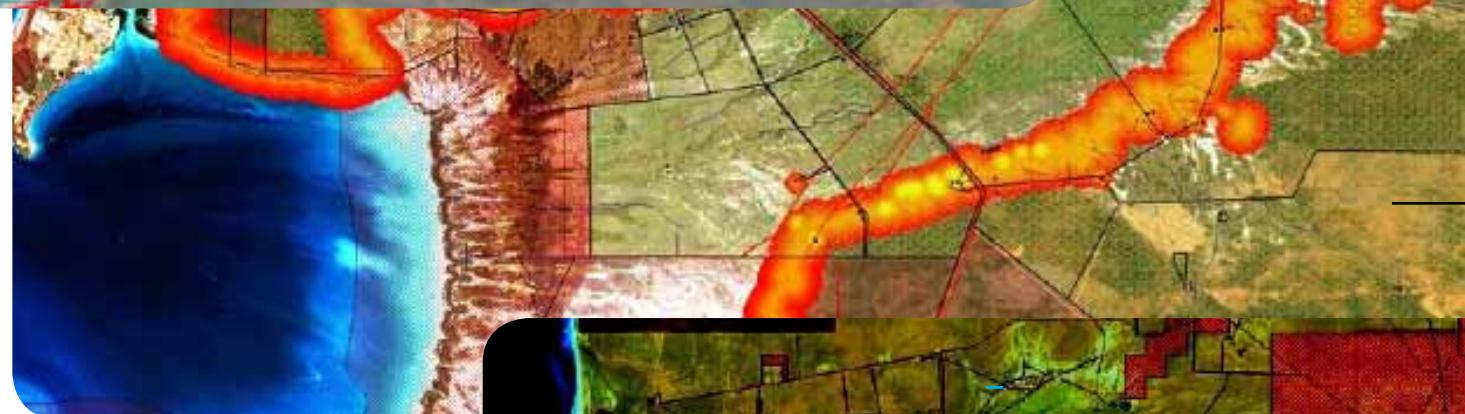


Yawuru are using geospatial technology to map Yawuru cultural and heritage values, as well as pastoral and biodiversity values to manage Yawuru Country. Yawuru are building the skills of Yawuru staff to do this. Yawuru have also joined with universities and private researchers to ensure that Yawuru have detailed cultural and scientific knowledge to do this work. In the last year 8 research partnerships have been developed.

Creating the Yawuru Conservation Parks to manage Country as one interconnected landscape based on Yawuru responsibilities for looking after Country. The draft management plans have been completed and will be now released for public comment. The first Yawuru Conservation Park signs were put up this year.

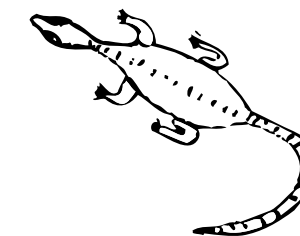
Creating an Indigenous Protected Area (IPA) to protect Yawuru country. The draft IPA Management Plan has been developed and negotiations with landholders have started. A stakeholder reference group has been established.

Yawuru Rangers Over the last year the Yawuru Rangers have maintained more than 10 kilometres of walking trails in Minyirr Park and have participated in 11 community events. They have also coordinated 25 school holiday program activities with over 700 people attending.



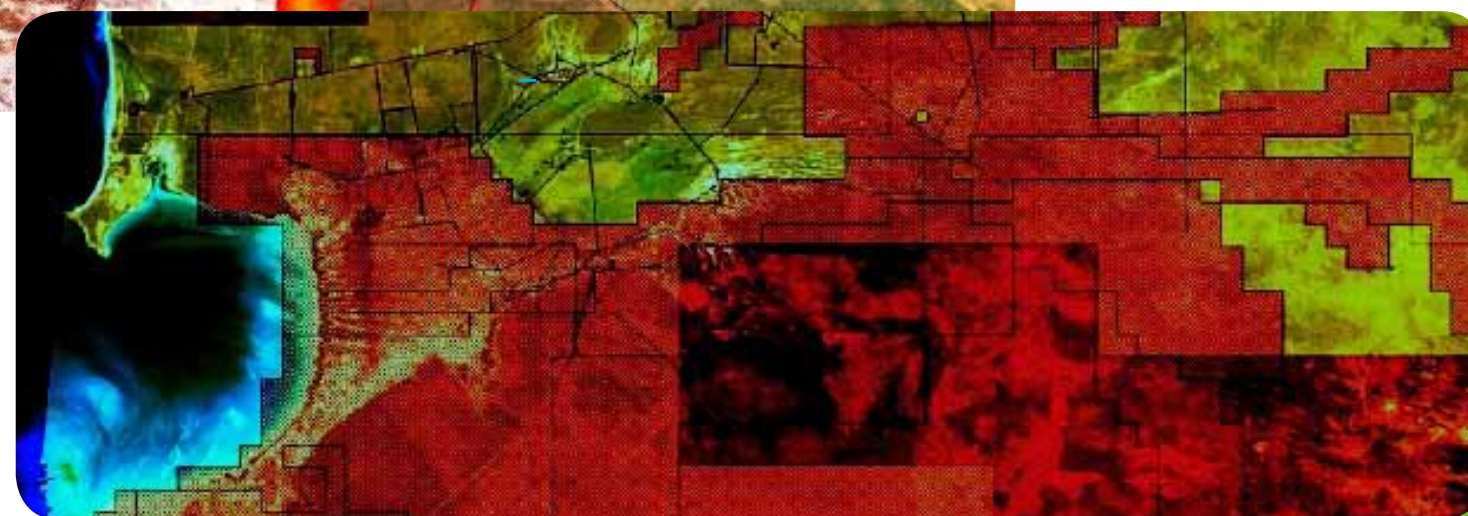
Wetland research and land management on Roebuck Plains Station has been carried out, with the data used to create maps to assist with developing the draft IPA Management Plan.

Integrated values - Yawuru cultural values and pastoral values



Negotiating with third parties including exploration and mining companies Yawuru have negotiated heritage agreements with companies and government agencies about the use of Yawuru Country. The agreements require companies to ask Yawuru to do heritage surveys before the company goes on ground. Heritage surveys have been done for Iluka Resources, Water Corporation and Buru Energy.

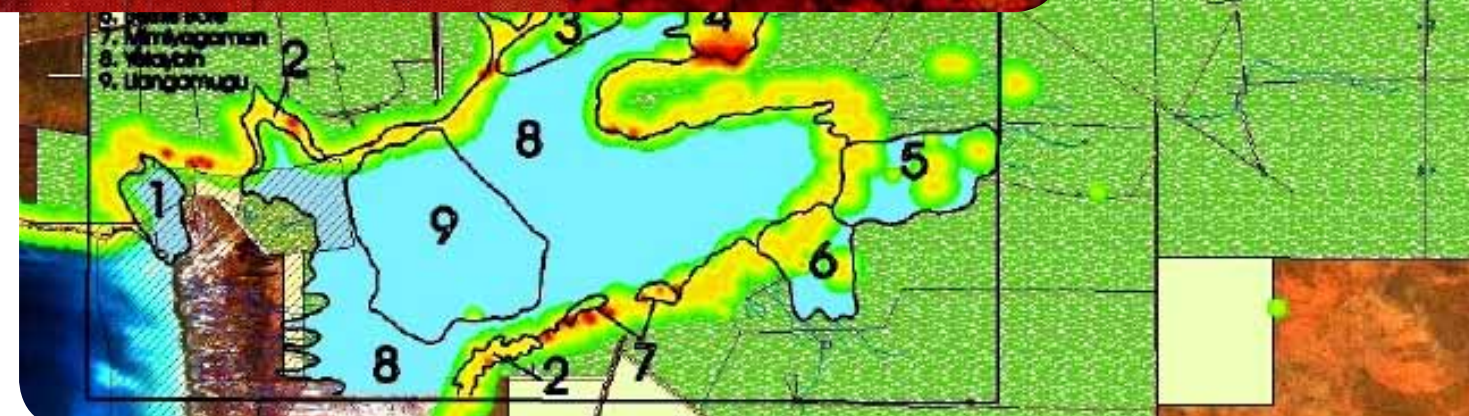
Yawuru people working on Country Yawuru senior people and younger Yawuru men and women are working on-country to manage and protect Yawuru Country. Over the last year 16 Yawuru people were employed as Country Managers and more than 20 Yawuru people were employed as Cultural Advisors and Monitors.



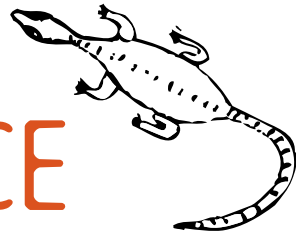
Exploration and mining tenements on Yawuru Country

Wetlands sites on the marine plain

Protecting areas within Broome town site - Yawuru cultural monitors and advisors are working to protect Yawuru Country within the Broome town site. Monitoring work has been done on 25 projects undertaken by the Shire, Water Corporation, Horizon Power, Land Corp, and other companies.



STRENGTHENING YAWURU GOVERNANCE



REPRESENTING THE COMMUNITY

The PBC Board's role is to represent the Yawuru community. It meets regularly to make decisions on protecting and managing Yawuru Country, policies for the development of the Yawuru community, the use of Yawuru lands and revitalisation of Yawuru culture. Board Directors are chosen by Yawuru members each year at the Annual General Meeting.

During the year the PBC Board continued the Governance Development Program. Directors have held regular workshops about making sure that board decisions and policies reflect Yawuru values and vision.

All policy and financial commitments must receive board approval. The PBC Board receives regular reports on community programs, on-country activities and company operations. PBC Directors are also members of the Housing, Community Development and Land & Sea reference groups and the Risk Management Committee. The PBC Board receives regular financial updates. The updates tell the board about how much income has been received and how money is being spent compared to the budget for the year. The financial records are independently checked by an auditor from Perth - UHY Haines Norton. The independent auditor's report is available for PBC members at the Annual General Meeting and on the internet.

During the year the PBC Board has dealt with some challenging issues. The board has used the experience and knowledge of all Directors to discuss the issues and make decisions that all Directors support. Making decisions by consensus sends a strong message of strength and unity to those dealing with Yawuru.



Yardoogarra Dancers performing at the opening of Nyamba Buru Yawuru

"I am very pleased to advise that the standard of corporate governance at the corporation is very good and that the financial records kept by the corporation are well maintained... everyone involved with the corporation is working with a good degree of care and diligence to carry out the important work."

Office of Registrar
of Indigenous
Corporations (ORIC)

"It is important to stop pindan run off into the Bay and the Yawuru proposal to send water runoff back into Country in a natural way is a much better drainage system for development and should be used by other Broome developers."

Neil McKenzie



BUILDING INCOME

The Yawuru Agreements are based on Yawuru using the land from the agreement to create an income. Yawuru is developing some of the land and the property team works closely with the PBC Board and cultural advisors to make sure the developments stick to Yawuru values.

The focus of income generation this year has been on progressing the housing development at Palmer Road – making sure the civil works (roads, power, sewerage) are all connected, and doing the design work for the next stages. Some of the lots in the development will be used for Yawuru housing and others will be sold to create income.

During the year two tenants have been found for land at the Broome Road industrial estate. Renting property is another way of creating income from land. The property team has worked with the Yawuru Housing Team to supervise the building of 9 houses this year for Yawuru families. The designs of the houses are based on what Yawuru people have told us. The rent Yawuru families pay helps meet the costs of building more houses.

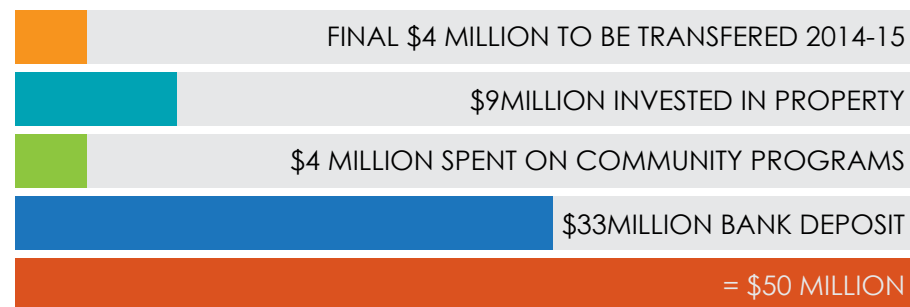
The successful completion of the Nyamba Buru Yawuru office on-budget this year means that all NBY and Yawuru Language Centre staff work at the same place, and Yawuru members have a place to meet and find out what is happening.

THE YAWURU MONEY STORY

THE 2010 YAWURU ILUA

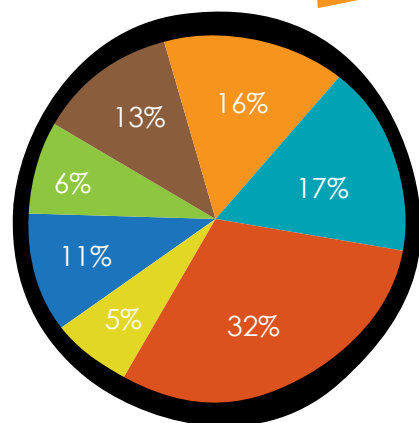
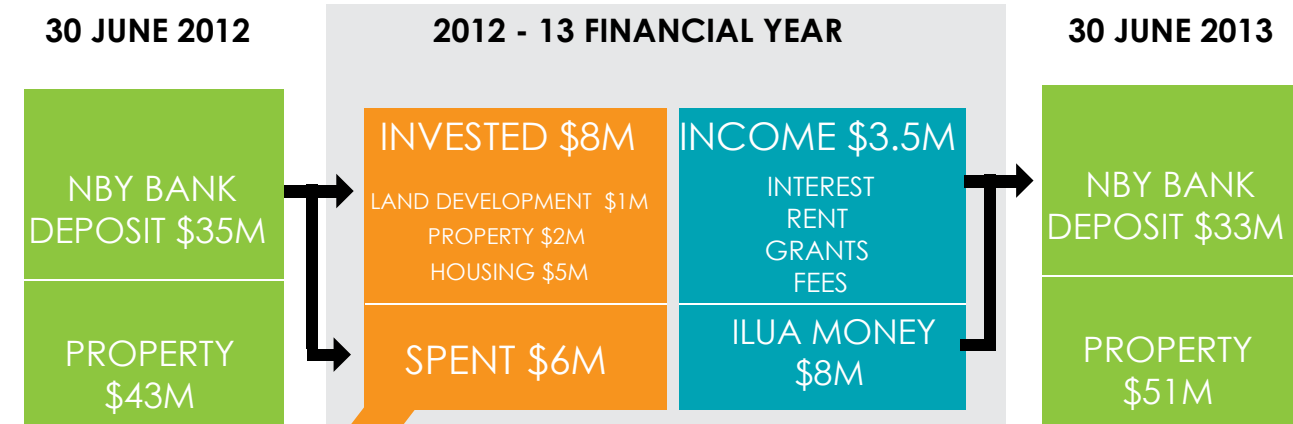
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22
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LAND



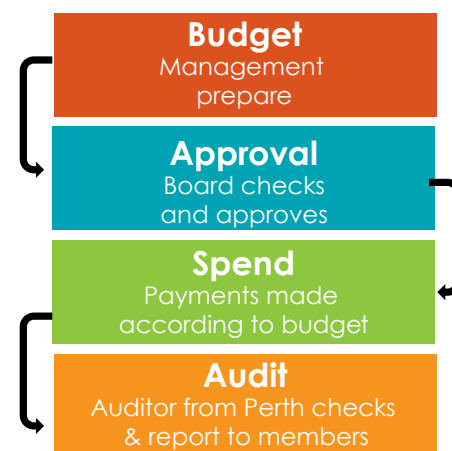
YAWURU MUST USE THE LAND AND MONEY TO REBUILD THE YAWURU NATION NOW AND FOR OUR CHILDREN

2012 13 FINANCIAL YEAR: WHERE IS THE MONEY GOING?



- HOUSING
- COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
- LANGUAGE
- LAND & SEA
- FUTURE ACTS
- PROPERTY MANAGEMENT
- GOVERNANCE & MANAGEMENT

WATCHING THE MONEY



ENGAGING WITH THE YAWURU COMMUNITY

A well informed community is needed to rebuild the Yawuru Nation. The Yawuru website (www.yawuru.com) has been launched where members can find the latest news, important documents and forms. The opening of the new office this year, with the theme of Welcome and Respect, means all Yawuru members can come in and speak directly to staff.

We are working to make sure the ideas and concerns of Yawuru members are used to improve what we do. During the year there are community meetings where Yawuru people ask questions and give feedback. Reference groups for Housing, Community Development and Land and Sea have started. These are made up of Yawuru members and meet regularly to get information, ask questions and make suggestions.



Our Mission

The Yawuru PBC holds the Yawuru Native Title rights and the corporate group carries out tasks to provide for the long term wellbeing of Yawuru people.

The Yawuru corporations do this through respect and active maintenance of Language, Law and Culture; through prudent investment in land development and businesses; and through investment in health, housing and education.

The work of the Yawuru corporations to create and grow Yawuru Equity will enable Yawuru people to be active participants and contributors, as well as beneficiaries, of sustainable economic, cultural and social practices so that they can care for and enjoy their land, values and culture in perpetuity, while enhancing families and the community in which they live.

Our Vision *Mabu liyan, mabu buru, mabu ngarrungu.*

Good liyan, healthy Country, strong community.

The Yawuru community supports individual and family aspirations while being firmly rooted in the Bugarrigarra so that customary law and practice is a living part of family life and celebration.

The Yawuru community is an inclusive community that incorporates and enhances traditional Broome values of inclusiveness, hospitality and friendship.

The Yawuru community believes that benefits flowing from the native title determination, while allowing rewards for personal endeavour, should always flow to the benefit of the community as a whole.

The Yawuru corporations invest to work for these aspirations and to create a Yawuru economy where families seek and have ongoing opportunities for employment and business.

Our Values

Our cultural values stem from the relationship that we as Yawuru have with our Country. Like the Country itself, they arise from Bugarrigarra, which gave form to the landscape, determined our laws and gave Yawuru the responsibility for looking after our Country.

- Clear Liyan
- Country as Foundation
- Culture is Knowledge
- Build for the Future
- Together, not Individually
- Individual and Corporate Responsibility and Accountability

