



**WARRGAMBURUNI:  
BUILDING FOR THE  
FUTURE**  
**YAWURU ANNUAL  
REPORT 2014-15**



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## LOOKING AHEAD

The 2014–15 year has brought many achievements, milestones and challenges, as outlined in the pages of this report.

Alongside our work to rebuild the Yawuru nation, we have strengthened our **national profile**. This year, Patrick Dodson and other Yawuru leaders were instrumental in organising and hosting a roundtable on native title, which was attended by Indigenous leaders from around Australia and attracted national news coverage. We also hosted visits from the Prime Minister and other State and Federal Ministers.

As we move forward, this national profile will be important in helping us to form **productive partnerships** and advocate for the **rights and interests of Yawuru people**. It will also share the Yawuru story with a broader audience.

Our current strategic plan guided us through our start-up period, in which we built our organisational and governance capacity and set up long-term income streams. The current strategic plan ends in 2015, and there is now a need to review our priorities and focus.

Yawuru are preparing a **new strategic plan** that will direct our future priorities and steer us successfully through our next phase. This plan will have a major emphasis on Yawuru community engagement and financial accountability. As we develop the

new plan, we will consider the breadth of services we provide against the income we generate. There may be a need to change our approach and investment decisions to make sure we are sustainable into the future.

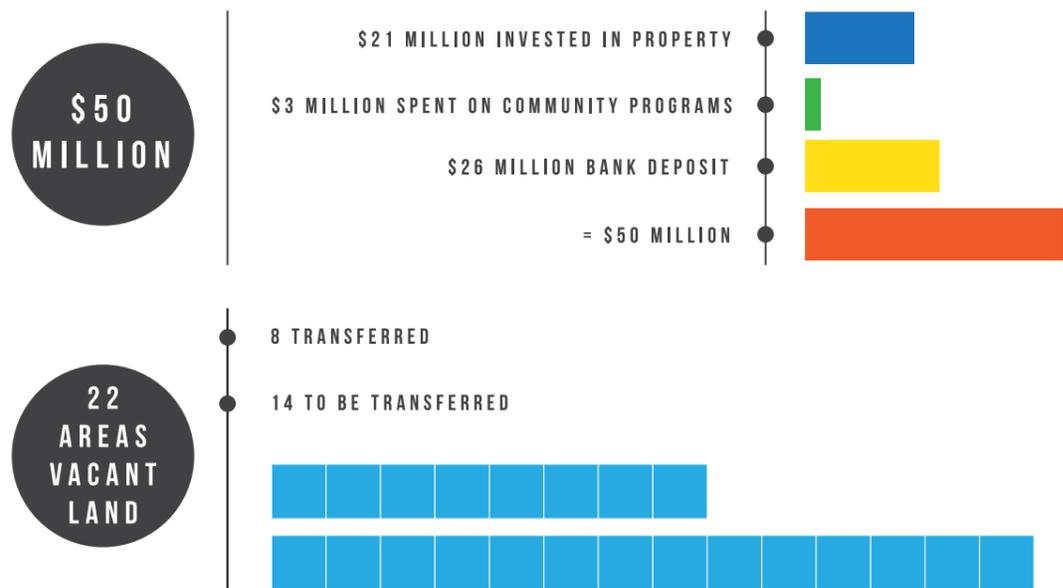
Our vision of **mabu liyan, mabu buru, mabu ngarrungunil** (good feeling, healthy country, strong community) will stay fundamental to our work, but the strategies and programs we use to realise that vision will be refocused.

In working towards mabu liyan, mabu buru, mabu ngarrungunil, we aim to honour our past and present elders and create a prosperous future for Yawuru people to lead fulfilling lives, nurture culture and protect country.

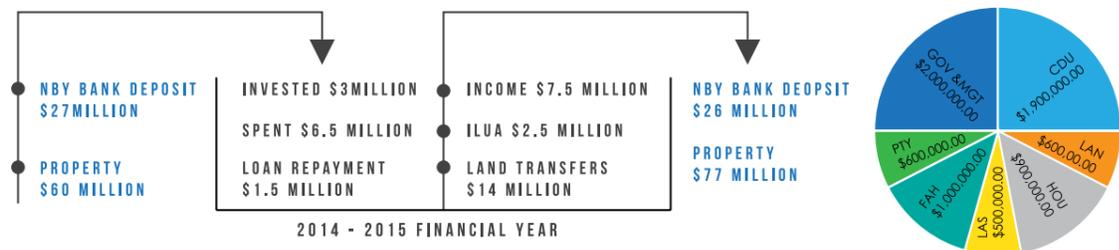
We look forward to what is in store for 2016 and beyond.

# MONEY STORY

## THE 2010 YAWURU ILUA : 2014 - 2015



## 2014 - 2015 FINANCIAL YEAR : WHERE IS THE MONEY GOING?



### HUMAN RESOURCES

This year saw the employment of a Human Resources Manager to focus on Yawuru's growing number of staff and workplace needs.

Yawuru established the **Workplace Health and Safety Committee** to review and develop measures to improve health and safety for our office and work activities. We also started a review of policies and procedures across the organisation to ensure that we are operating effectively and efficiently.

**Staff planning and review** processes were made consistent, with all staff members' performance being reviewed against set objectives. A Learning and Development Strategy will be prepared in the near future to support development across the organisation.

We currently employ 50 fixed term or permanent staff and 17 casual staff (such as Cultural Monitors and Mabu Yawuru Ngan-ga staff). Of these, **67 per cent are Indigenous and 64 per cent are Yawuru**. These statistics reflect our commitment to employing and developing Yawuru people.



## INTRODUCTION STATEMENT FROM THE YAWURU BOARDS

Welcome to **Warrgamburuni: Building for the Future** – the Yawuru Annual Report for 2014–15. This report provides a summary of Yawuru's highlights, achievements and challenges over the past year.

It also reflects on the journey we have travelled in the five years since the 2010 Yawuru Agreement.

One of Yawuru's priorities through the Yawuru Agreement was to achieve independence from government and build our future on our terms. A reliable and ongoing income stream is central to achieving this independence. By generating long-term income from our property assets and investments, we can deliver projects and services that benefit the Yawuru community.

This year, Yawuru received the final cash payment from the Western Australian Government under the Yawuru Agreement. Now, more than ever, it is crucial that we stand on our own feet and ensure our financial sustainability – which will, in turn, allow us to keep delivering programs and support to our community.

Yawuru's vision of mabu liyan, mabu buru, mabu ngarrungunil (good feeling, healthy country, strong community) continually informs

our work and aspirations. As always, we have focused this year on our community, delivering innovative projects focused on housing, youth, elders, employment, language and culture. We have also worked hard to protect and manage our buru (land) and nagula (sea) and create income from our property and investments.

We continue to support the development of our staff and are proud to have almost 70 per cent Indigenous employees across both permanent and casual staff, most of whom are Yawuru.

The Yawuru corporate group includes the Yawuru Native Title Holders Aboriginal Corporation (known as the Yawuru PBC), Nyamba Buru Yawuru and Murra Mala Yawuru. References to 'Yawuru' in this report are references to the activities of some or all of the organisations in the Yawuru corporate group.

Our journey to create a sustainable future for Yawuru people is well underway. We look forward to sharing the next stage of this journey with our people and the broader community over the coming year.

**Francis Lulga Djiagween**  
Chair, Yawuru PBC

**Patrick Dodson**  
Chair, Nyamba Buru Yawuru

**Peter Yu**  
Chair, Murra Mala Yawuru



Community Development Manager Nini Mills speaking at the CEDA State of the Regions event in May 2015

## 2010 YAWURU AGREEMENT – A FIVE-YEAR REFLECTION

Since having our native title recognised by the Federal Court, Yawuru have come a long way. Now – five years after finalising the 2010 Yawuru Agreement and securing our native title settlement – it is a fitting time to reflect on where we have come from and where we are going.

We have set up flourishing organisations, strengthened our governance structures and started the huge task of rebuilding the Yawuru nation through community development, environmental conservation, cultural promotion and investment. In particular, we have:

- published the award-winning **Yawuru Cultural Management Plan**, which highlights Yawuru values and sets out a framework for managing Yawuru country and cultural heritage
- supported Yawuru people to gain stable and affordable **housing** and assisted our **elders, youth and bereaved families** through a range of financial and non-financial initiatives
- regained ownership of **Roebuck Plains Station**, established parts of the **Yawuru Conservation Estate** and generated income from **property developments**
- promoted the principle of **'free, prior and informed consent'** to ensure that Yawuru people have their say about what happens on country
- set up the **Mabu Yawuru Ngan-ga** language

centre and revitalised the teaching of Yawuru language in schools around Broome.

These are just some of our achievements in the few years since 2010.

There have also been challenges. The Yawuru community has high expectations, and we have had to strike a balance between delivering benefits now and investing for a sustainable future.

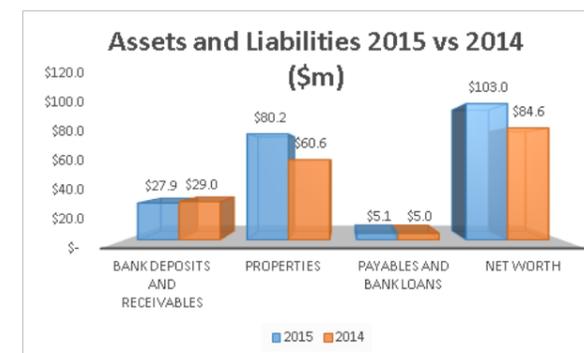
Implementing the Yawuru Agreement has been complex and time consuming, and some further native title issues have come to light. It has also taken time for the broader community to understand the implications of the Yawuru Agreement and to appreciate the unique role of Yawuru as native title holders, traditional custodians and private property owners in the Broome area.

We have dealt with and learned from these challenges over the past five years.

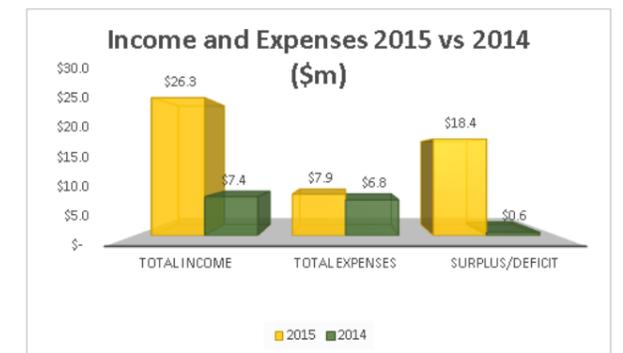
The State Government has now paid Yawuru the full \$50 million cash under the Yawuru Agreement. From now on, we must rely on our own sources of income. We must ensure that we are investing and spending wisely for a sustainable future.

The Yawuru corporate group is a national leader in terms of Indigenous independence and native title governance. Many PBCs and native title organisations look to Yawuru as an example of how to manage native title and deliver practical community benefits.

The assets and liabilities of the Yawuru corporate group at 30 June 2015 and 30 June 2014 are presented below:



The income and expenses of the Yawuru corporate group at 30 June 2015 and 30 June 2014 are presented below:



A MORE DETAILED ANALYSIS OF YAWURU'S PROFIT OR LOSS IS SUMMARISED BELOW:

Profit or Loss	2014-2015	2013-2014
OPERATING INCOME	\$4,564,561	\$3,957,949
OPERATING EXPENSES	\$7,478,350	\$6,544,552
OPERATING LOSS	\$2,913,789	\$2,586,603
PROPERTY DEV. PROFIT	\$533,735	\$0
OTHER GAINS	\$20,807,355	\$3,207,902
NET OVERALL PROFIT	\$18,427,301	\$621,299



## FINANCE AND HUMAN RESOURCES

### FINANCE

In 2014–15 the Yawuru corporate group had a net operating loss of \$2.9 million, which means that our operating expenses were \$2.9 million more than our operating income for the year.

However, Yawuru received other non-cash and non-operating gains this year by acquiring properties (such as Roebuck Plains Station) at no cost. These non-cash, non-operating gains outweighed the net operating loss and gave Yawuru an overall net profit of \$18.4 million for the year.

Not all of this profit is money in the bank – overall net profit includes both cash and non-cash transactions.

Our major sources of income included:

- \$19 million gain from acquisition of Roebuck Plains Station at no cost (non-cash)
- property developments (e.g. sale of Birragun Buru lots)
- commercial rents (e.g. Roebuck Plains Station lease)
- residential rents (e.g. Man-gala Apartments, social housing and rental relief properties)

- interest and investment (e.g. term deposits and cash in bank)
- grants (e.g. Indigenous Protected Area grant)
- fee-for-service work (e.g. cultural monitoring)
- final instalment (\$2.3 million) of the \$50 million cash payment from the State of WA under the Yawuru Agreement
- financial benefits under the Ungani Indigenous Land Use Agreement.

Staffing costs made up the major expense.

Overall, the 2014–15 operating results suggest that while Yawuru were able to grow the net economic value of the corporate group, the core operations of our business are not yet self-sustaining. In the coming years we will aim to maximise profit by diversifying our revenue sources, improving cost recovery and introducing a more cost-efficient organisational structure.

Despite this, we are still learning and still setting things up for our future. We should be proud of how far we have come and excited about where we are headed.

### 2010 YAWURU AGREEMENT

Yawuru people fought long and hard to have their native title recognised by the Federal Court. Finally, in 2006, the Federal Court determined that Yawuru were the native title holders of approximately 5,300 square kilometres of land and sea in and around Broome.

After the determination, Yawuru, the State of Western Australia and others negotiated the Yawuru Agreement (made up of two Indigenous Land Use Agreements or ILUAs) to provide land and financial resources to Yawuru. This helped Yawuru set up and manage its native title and land tenure, and provided certainty on how Yawuru's native title would coexist with other interests in land.

The Yawuru Agreement was registered on 6 August 2010.

#### What did Yawuru receive through the Agreement?

Yawuru received a compensation package comprised of land and financial benefits valued at almost \$200 million. It included \$50 million cash, land grants and the Yawuru Conservation Estate.

#### What did Yawuru give through the Agreement?

Yawuru agreed that this package would be the full and final compensation for impacts on Yawuru's native title.

Yawuru also consented to several 'future acts' including: the port land lease; extinguishment of native title in certain areas (such as the future airport and industrial site at Broome Road); validation of the State's illegal grants of freehold land in parts of Cable Beach; and grants of freehold land to Nyamba Buru Yawuru.

\$50  
MILLION  
CASH

LAND  
GRANTS

YAWURU  
CONSERVATION  
ESTATE



Man-gala Apartments

# JIRRIŊGANY NGARRUNGUNIL STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY

## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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### HIGHLIGHTS

LUSTRE: PEARLING & AUSTRALIA EXHIBITION  
CO-CURATED BY YAWURU AND LAUNCHED IN  
JUNE 2015

YAWURU DRUG ACTION AND AWARENESS  
GROUP FORMED BY YOUNG LEADERS

YAWURU LANGUAGE APP CREATED AND  
LAUNCHED BY MABU YAWURU NGAN-GA

MANGALA STORYLINES DIGITAL ARCHIVE  
ESTABLISHED TO STORE YAWURU MATERIALS

YAWURU CULTURAL INDUCTION PROGRAM  
DEVELOPED AND ROLLED OUT

MASTER PLANNING COMPLETED FOR LIYAN-  
NGAN NYIRRWA CENTRE

ELDERS, YOUTH AND BEREAVED FAMILIES  
PROVIDED WITH FUNDING AND SUPPORT

.....

Yawuru's community development programs are geared towards supporting and rebuilding the social and cultural fabric of the Yawuru community. The Community Development unit promotes mabu liyan through measures that improve individual, family and community wellbeing.

businesses to set up or expand in Broome, and its location close to the Broome Port is ideal for transport companies.

Yawuru launched a marketing campaign in mid-2015 seeking expressions of interest. We will investigate this further over the coming year.

### BROOME ROAD INDUSTRIAL — WARRGAMBURU BIRRAGUN

Yawuru entered into an agreement with LandCorp for a new water main to be constructed on Yawuru's land at Broome Road Industrial. This agreement unlocks Yawuru's land at Broome Road for development.



Yilagarra Park at Birragun Buru



Installation of artwork at Yilagarra Park



Site for Gubinge Road Industrial development



Birragun Buru aerial view



Youth activities and sausage sizzle

## PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT

### HIGHLIGHTS

STAGE TWO OF THE BIRragun BURU DEVELOPMENT COMPLETED AND MANY LOTS PURCHASED BY YAWURU PEOPLE

MAN-GALA APARTMENTS COMPLETED AND LEASED, PROVIDING RENTAL INCOME FOR YAWURU

MARKETING CAMPAIGN FOR GUBINGE ROAD INDUSTRIAL LAUNCHED

Yawuru manage and develop land received under the Yawuru Agreement to create long-term revenue streams that support our social, community and cultural activities.

The last 12 months were challenging for the Broome property market. However, Yawuru's rigorous investment processes meant that we managed our downside risk. Market conditions now appear to be improving.

All our property developments in 2014–15 were completed on time and budget. We used local contractors, subcontractors and consultants as much as possible so that Yawuru money was reinvested in Broome. We also progressed a number of other potential developments so that they are ready to be delivered quickly when market conditions improve.

This year a Yawuru Project Officer joined the Property team to commence property development training, and we supported the Community Development unit by managing the planning of Liyan-ngan Nyirwa.

Market conditions will influence Yawuru's property investments over the coming year and the Property team will continue its collaboration with Yawuru's Investment Committee.

### BIRragun BURU

The 54 lot residential development at Birragun Buru has transformed the Palmer Road area of Cable Beach over the past year. The development was constructed by local contractors and provided employment opportunities to Yawuru subcontractors and individuals. Sixty per cent of the lots have been sold already, many to Yawuru people, and the subdivision is a hive of building activity. It is wonderful to see families starting to move into Birragun Buru and, with Yilagarra Park now flourishing, the new subdivision looks fantastic.

### MAN-GALA APARTMENTS

The Man-gala Apartments in Januburu Estate, Cable Beach, were completed in April 2015 and comprise eight contemporary apartments for lease. Yawuru leased more than 80 per cent of the apartments within three months of release.

### GUBINGE ROAD INDUSTRIAL

The 29 lot industrial development at Gubinge Road was approved for progression this year. The development offers opportunities for

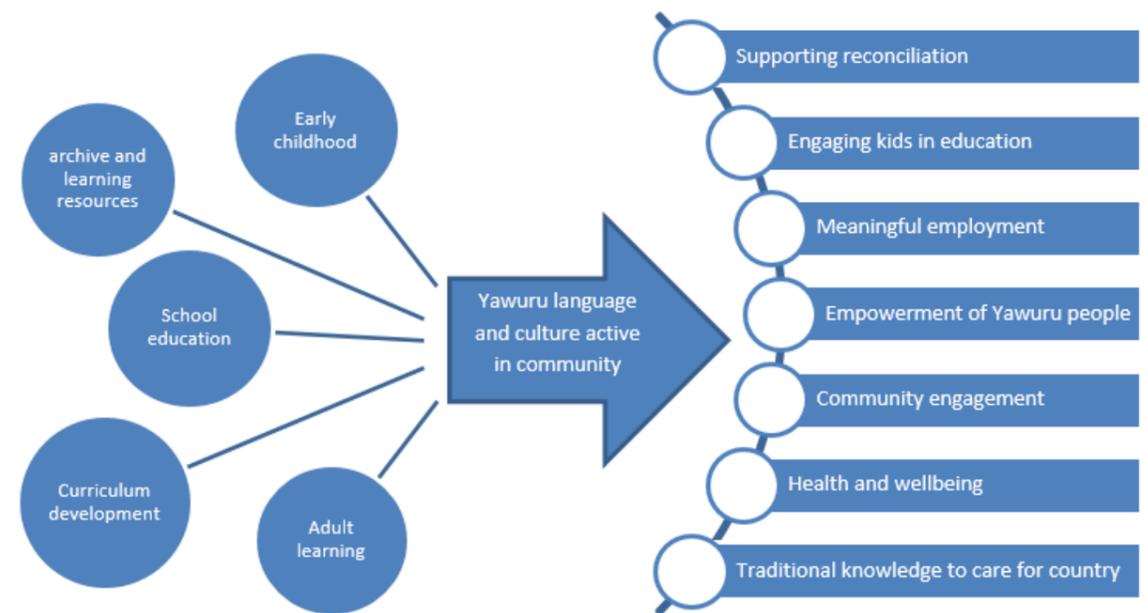
## YAWURU NGAN-GA (LANGUAGE)

Yawuru language revitalisation remains a top priority and is led by the Yawuru language centre **Mabu Yawuru Ngan-ga**, which has developed a number of language projects and programs. The next step for Mabu Yawuru Ngan-ga is to work on the strategies set out in the Yawuru Language Framework. To support the expansion of Yawuru language, Yawuru have invested a further \$100,000 to deliver programs to Broome schools in 2015.

**"I BELIEVE LANGUAGE IS THE BASIS OF ANY CULTURE. I WAS GIVEN KNOWLEDGE ABOUT THE YAWURU LANGUAGE FROM THE OLD PEOPLE YEARS AGO AND I FEEL A RESPONSIBILITY TO PASS IT ON TO THE NEXT GENERATION."**

MICK MANOLIS - YAWURU LANGUAGE SPECIALIST

## YAWURU LANGUAGE FRAMEWORK





Yawuru elder Cissy Djiagween at the Roebuck Plains ceremony

**"YAWURU LANGUAGE HAS ALWAYS BEEN IN THE HEART OF ALL YAWURU PEOPLE. NOW, IN ITS CURRENT FORM OF REVITALISATION, AND IN A MODERN WORLD, WE HAVE IMPLEMENTED TEACHING METHODS TO SUPPORT THE SPOKEN WORDS."**

DIANNE APPLEBY - YAWURU LANGUAGE SPECIALIST AND YAWURU CULTURAL COORDINATOR

**"YAWURU IS REALLY AWESOME. I LEARNT ANIMAL NAMES: MIRDIMALU, JARLANGADI, BIJARDA, BARRGARA, GURLIBIL, LINGURRA, WALGAWALGA AND DINY DINY. I ALSO KNOW HOW TO COUNT IN YAWURU: WARANYJARRI, GUJARRA AND GURDIDI."**

CABLE BEACH PRIMARY SCHOOL STUDENT

Mabu Yawuru Ngan-ga this year released the **Yawuru language app for smart phones**. The award-winning app uses the latest technology to promote Yawuru language learning and is especially aimed at school students. The app complements other animations and digital media produced by the centre.

Mabu Yawuru Ngan-ga's hosting of the **Western and Northern Australian Language Alliance (WANALA) conference** in September 2014 was a great success and received positive feedback from participants.

Mabu Yawuru Ngan-ga also continued its teaching, school holiday activities, radio segments and consultation on the use of Yawuru language in the Broome area. Judy Edgar completed the Language Other Than English (LOTE) training program, making a total of **four qualified Yawuru language teachers**.

### ELDERS

Yawuru elders are the backbone of the Yawuru community and are supported by the Community Development unit in a range of ways.

This year, more than 30 Yawuru elders received **housing maintenance, gardening and support with government services**. Yawuru also hosted morning teas and on-country trips for senior people.

**"IT WAS GOOD TO BRING MY DAD BACK TO HIS BIRTHPLACE. WE VISITED THE TAMARIND TREE WHERE HE WAS BORN AND WE SHARED STORIES UNDER THE TREE. DAD AND I GOT A PHOTO TOGETHER. IT MADE MY LIYAN MABU BECAUSE HE WAS FULL OF SMILES ALL DAY."**

MAXINE CHARLIE, AFTER AN ELDERS' ON-COUNTRY TRIP

**Board meetings** of the Yawuru corporations were held throughout the year. Boards received updates and made decisions on programs, finances and other issues.

From 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015:

- Yawuru PBC Board met eight times, plus one AGM
- Nyamba Buru Yawuru Board met seven times, plus one AGM
- Murra Mala Yawuru Board met twice, plus one AGM and a joint meeting with the Yawuru PBC and Nyamba Buru Yawuru.

The Legal and Governance team supported the board meeting process by collating agendas and board papers, providing papers and advice to directors, recording the proceedings of meetings and preparing minutes.

Directors also took part in various **subcommittees** of the Boards, such as the Risk Management Committee and the Mining and Resources Subcommittee. These subcommittees have authority from the Boards to engage with stakeholders, consider issues in detail and make recommendations to the Boards. However, subcommittees cannot make decisions.

We held **governance workshops** this year with directors about the role and responsibilities of directors and how to understand financial statements. We also conducted governance workshops for seven young Yawuru people – potential future leaders and directors of Yawuru corporations.

### YAWURU PBC MEMBERSHIP

**AS OF 30 JUNE 2015, THE YAWURU PBC HAD OVER 1000 MEMBERS. GENEALOGIES SHOWING YAWURU FAMILIES AND DESCENDANTS ARE A VITAL FOUNDATION OF THE YAWURU PBC AND YAWURU NATIVE TITLE. WE HAVE STARTED TO UPDATE THE GENEALOGIES AND FAMILY TREES TO ENSURE THEY ARE AS ACCURATE AS POSSIBLE. ANY YAWURU PERSON AGED 18 OR OVER CAN BECOME A PBC MEMBER. CONTACT THE YAWURU OFFICE FOR MORE INFORMATION OR DOWNLOAD A MEMBERSHIP FORM FROM WWW.YAWURU.COM.**



Yawuru PBC directors at the Roebuck Plains signing ceremony



Yawuru Easter celebration 2015



Yawuru directors with Terry Redman MLA (centre), Minister for Regional Development and Lands

**DIRECTORS OF THE YAWURU CORPORATE GROUP – As at 30 June 2015**

YAWURU PBC	NYAMBA BURU YAWURU	MURRA MALA YAWURU
Francis Djiagween (Chair) Maxine Charlie Patrick Dodson Leah Dolby Thomas Edgar Jnr Neil McKenzie Dean Mathews Debra Pigram Darren Puertollano Peter Yu	Patrick Dodson (Chair) Debra Pigram (Deputy Chair) Roseanne Healy (Independent) Kim Ivey (Independent) Reuben Lee-Chi Cara Peek	Peter Yu (Chair) Dianne Appleby Patrick Dodson Leah Dolby Darren Puertollano

**YOUTH**

Yawuru are passionate about connecting with our young people and supporting them to reach their potential. This year, we processed 28 **Encouraging Excellence Fund** applications from young Yawuru people, assisting them with sporting, educational, leadership and cultural activities.

We also formed the **Yawuru Drug Action and Awareness Group** and carried out public anti-drug campaigning. The group is made up of young Yawuru leaders and aims to develop strategies to combat illegal drug use, particularly in young people.

Two Yawuru **youth on-country trips** took place over the past 12 months, targeting at-risk and disengaged youth. The Community Development team also provided support to the PCYC Alternate Learning Centre through a weekly Yawuru youth program.

**"I REALLY APPRECIATE THE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE THAT I RECEIVED AND IT HAS ENABLED ME TO KEEP DREAMING BIG TO BECOME A PROFESSIONAL MUSICIAN. MY ADVICE TO OTHER YOUNG PEOPLE IS THAT YOU SHOULDN'T BE SHAME TO LITERALLY FOLLOW YOUR DREAMS. JUST BE DETERMINED AND FIGHT FOR WHAT YOU WANT AND NEED BECAUSE YOU ALL DESERVE TO LIVE YOUR DREAMS."**

DORA SMITH - ENCOURAGING EXCELLENCE FUND RECIPIENT 2015

**"IT IS GOOD TO KNOW THAT OUR LOCAL YAWURU ORGANISATION IS SUPPORTIVE OF THE MEMBERS' YOUNGER GENERATION TO ATTEND SPORTING EVENTS SUCH AS THE MIRRABOOKA BASKETBALL CARNIVAL TO ENHANCE THEIR PROFESSIONAL AND PERSONAL ACHIEVEMENTS."**

NO LIMITS BASKETBALL TEAM

**CULTURAL SUPPORT AND DEVELOPMENT**

Cultural development focuses on supporting Yawuru culture in everyday Yawuru life and promoting its significance to the wider community.

To reflect our commitment to this priority, Yawuru invested this year in the creation of a **Yawuru Cultural Coordinator** position. This role develops and implements language and cultural programs to maintain and strengthen culture, including a Nurlu program, cultural induction and education programs.

**"NURLU IS THE SPIRITUAL CREATION TO OUR CONNECTION TO EVERYTHING LIVING."**

DIANNE APPLEBY - YAWURU CULTURAL COORDINATOR

Over the past year, senior Yawuru people delivered more than 50 **Welcome to Country** ceremonies in Yawuru language and distributed almost 60 Yawuru plaques at the Shire of Broome's citizenship ceremonies.



Liyan-ngan Nyirwa masterplan - design by Laird Tran Studio



Roebuck Plains Station

The huge task of digitising Yawuru materials started through the **Mangara Storylines project**. Mangara is a digital archive that stores materials, documents and recordings about Yawuru people and culture. The State Library of WA supported us to establish the archive, which is being built up with the help of Yawuru staff and volunteers, who are learning valuable on-the-job skills. The collections held in Mangara will be open to the Yawuru community and others.

Another major project this year was the **Lustre: Pearl & Australia exhibition**, which included training for two young Yawuru people to become emerging curators.

### COMMUNITY PROJECTS

Yawuru have partnered with other organisations on numerous public projects around Broome. Two major community projects this year were:

- **Jetty to Jetty Heritage Walk Trail** – Yawuru signed a partnership with the Shire of Broome for the Jetty to Jetty project, an interactive walking trail that takes in the historic and cultural sites between Streeker’s Jetty and Town Beach in Broome. The smart phone app for the trail was finalised and signage and seating were installed.

- **Broome North Primary School Percent for Art Project** – Yawuru artists successfully completed the public art at Broome North Primary School, providing a colourful backdrop for students at the new school.

### LIYAN-NGAN NYIRRWA: PROPOSED COMMUNITY AND WELLBEING CENTRE

Liyan-ngan Nyirwa is a proposed Yawuru community and wellbeing centre. We envisage Liyan-ngan Nyirwa to be a place to honour and celebrate Yawuru people and culture and a place for healing and reconciliation. It is proposed to be built next to the Yawuru office in Bernard Way, Cable Beach.

The construction of Liyan-ngan Nyirwa depends on Yawuru securing enough funding. We are hopeful that this can occur through productive partnerships with government agencies and other organisations.

Over the past year, Yawuru have consulted with community reference groups about the potential design and function of Liyan-ngan Nyirwa. This visioning and master planning process led to a business case, and we have since made a number of funding submissions with the hope of attracting funding to construct the facility.



Liyan-ngan Nyirwa masterplan - design by Laird Tran Studio

### GOVERNANCE

Governance is about having proper systems and structures in place to make decisions and ensure that an organisation runs smoothly. It involves compliance, risk management, ethics, administration and decision-making.

The Yawuru corporate group – the PBC, Nyamba Buru Yawuru and Murra Mala Yawuru – complied with all **statutory requirements** in 2014–15 and provided the necessary reports to statutory bodies (Office of the Registrar of Indigenous Corporations, Australian Securities and Investments Commission, Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission).



### YAWURU CORPORATE GROUP

<b>Yawuru PBC</b>	Represents the Yawuru community and holds and manages Yawuru's native title. Makes decisions and policies about native title, country, culture and community.
<b>Murra Mala Yawuru</b>	Is a holding company and sole member of the Yawuru PBC.
<b>Nyamba Buru Yawuru</b>	Is an operational organisation and charitable trust that delivers programs, services and policies to provide social, cultural, environmental and financial sustainability for Yawuru people and other Indigenous people in the Broome area. Employs staff to support the Yawuru corporate group.



Bart, Maya and Sarah at the Luste exhibition

### What is 'freehold'?

'Freehold' is a strong type of land tenure (ownership) which lasts forever. People sometimes call freehold land 'private property'. Most land Yawuru got under the 2010 Yawuru Agreement is freehold land. The State insisted on this type of tenure. Freehold tenure extinguishes native title but the upshot is that it is a very strong form of tenure.



### ROEBUCK PLAINS STATION AND EXPORT DEPOT RETURN TO YAWURU

Last year, Yawuru reached agreement with the ILC to transfer the Roebuck Plains pastoral lease, the Roebuck Export Depot and the OTC property back to Yawuru. This agreement was marked with a wonderful celebration at Roebuck Plains Station in September 2014.

Since that time, Yawuru have worked closely with the ILC to finalise the legal requirements for the transfer of these properties. Roebuck Plains pastoral lease was transferred to Yawuru on 1 April 2015 and the Roebuck Export Depot was transferred on 7 May 2015, making Yawuru the legal holders of these properties. Yawuru have also renewed the Roebuck Plains pastoral lease from the WA Government for another 50 years from 1 July 2015.

The ILC continues to operate Roebuck Plains Station and Roebuck Export Depot through subleases. The rent from these subleases is a valuable income stream for Yawuru.

Roebuck Plains covers a large area of Yawuru country that is rich in cultural and ecological values. The legal transfer of the Roebuck Plains pastoral lease and associated property is a significant step. As native title holders and pastoral lease holders, Yawuru can ensure proper land management and protection while also drawing benefits from the cattle station operations.

### LUSTRE: PEARLING & AUSTRALIA

Pearling and pearl shells are intimately tied to the story of Yawuru people and the Broome region. This story – along with the broader history of pearling in Australia – features in *Lustre: Pearling & Australia*, an exhibition that was launched at the WA Maritime Museum in June 2015.

*Lustre* highlights the saltwater people's long connection to pearl shell – or guwan – and explores Aboriginal, Asian and European involvement in the pearling industry.

Yawuru was privileged to curate the *Lustre* exhibition in partnership with the WA Museum. Sarah Yu, Bart Pigram and Maya Shioji from Yawuru's Community Development unit worked tirelessly on the exhibition, consulting with Yawuru, Karajarri, Bardi Jawi and Mayala elders throughout the process.

Bart Pigram and Maya Shioji were trained as emerging curators on the exhibition. This exciting opportunity was funded by the WA Department of Culture and the Arts. *Lustre* is expected to tour major Australian museums before coming to rest in Broome in a few years' time.

**"THE EMERGING CURATOR PROGRAM AND LUSTRE EXHIBITION HAS DEFINITELY BEEN THE HIGHLIGHT OF MY EMPLOYMENT AT NYAMBA BURU YAWURU. THE SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE DEVELOPED IN THE PROGRAM HAS TRULY GIVEN ME A DIRECTION TOWARDS LOOKING AFTER OUR STORIES, CULTURE AND LANGUAGE."**

BART PIGRAM - YAWURU CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT OFFICER AND TRAINEE CURATOR

### CONNECTING WITH OUR MOB

- SIX YAWURU COMMUNITY NEWSLETTERS PER YEAR

- COMMUNITY REFERENCE GROUP MEETINGS AND INFORMATION SESSIONS ON DIFFERENT ISSUES

- YAWURU WEBSITE AND FACEBOOK PAGE (WITH OVER 1000 'LIKES'!) FOR NEWS AND UPDATES

- THREE LARGE ANNUAL YAWURU COMMUNITY EVENTS (NAIDOC, EASTER AND CHRISTMAS) WITH HIGH ATTENDANCE AND FANTASTIC FEEDBACK

- YAWURU PBC AGM AND OTHER GENERAL MEETINGS

- APPOINTMENT OF YAWURU COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COORDINATOR (LLOYD PIGRAM)



Afternoon tea with representatives from the Kimberley Ports Authority and Yawuru Boards

## HOUSING

### HIGHLIGHTS

EIGHT SUCCESSFUL YAWURU APPLICANTS BECOME HOME OWNERS THROUGH THE YAWURU HOME OWNERSHIP PROJECT

JIRRIL MINGARAN PROGRAM DEVELOPED TO PROVIDE PERSONALISED CASE MANAGEMENT

HOUSING SERVICES LINKED WITH COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND WELLBEING FRAMEWORKS TO PROVIDE BROADER SUPPORT TO YAWURU PEOPLE

In recognition of the crucial role that housing plays in people's wellbeing, Yawuru have worked hard to develop and deliver a range of housing programs for the Yawuru community.

Over the past year, we reviewed our housing programs to assess how well they were achieving Yawuru's vision. The housing programs are now aligned with Yawuru's Community Development Framework to ensure that Yawuru people are getting the broad support they need to build their capacity and wellbeing and improve their housing situation. This holistic approach is more time consuming and resource intensive, but the benefits will ensure that Yawuru people make the most of opportunities and move towards sustainable housing.

### YAWURU HOME OWNERSHIP PROJECT

The Yawuru Home Ownership Project was launched in April 2015. It provides a shared equity arrangement where a person or family owns their home jointly with Yawuru.

**Eight Yawuru families** were successful applicants and are in the process of achieving **shared equity home ownership**. All eight participants will become co-owners of new houses in Yawuru's Birragun Buru estate, with all homes expected to be built by March 2016. The families involved have provided overwhelmingly positive feedback about the project.

Yawuru received \$750,000 of funding from the Kimberley Development Commission for the Yawuru Home Ownership Project and worked closely with Keystart in getting this unique project off the ground – an achievement of which all partners are proud.

Over the past 12 months Yawuru have assisted 13 Yawuru families, including the Yawuru Home Ownership Project participants, to transition to home ownership.

### SOCIAL HOUSING RENTAL SCHEME – JIRRIL MINGARAN

The Social Housing Rental Scheme has assisted Yawuru people who are on the waiting list for a Department of Housing rental property. It has housed 84 people (47 children and 37 adults) in 20 properties since 2013.

Following the review of Yawuru housing programs, we developed the Jiril Mingaran

- the **sublease of Roebuck Plains Station and Roebuck Export Depot** to National Indigenous Pastoral Enterprises Pty Ltd, which is a subsidiary of the ILC

- the Shire's proposed **Regional Resource Recovery Park** (to replace the Broome tip), which may have implications for the Roebuck Plains pastoral lease

- a potential **short stay accommodation** facility on the corner of Dickson Drive and Pembroke Street, on which we are working with the Shire and WA Government

- the issue of **Shire rates**, which Yawuru believes it should not have to pay on undeveloped land – Yawuru commenced legal proceedings against the Shire of Broome in the WA State Administrative Tribunal about the payment of rates, which will require mediation

- legal contracts involving Yawuru co-owners, Yawuru and Keystart for the **Yawuru Home Ownership Project**.

### YAWURU AGREEMENT AND OTHER NATIVE TITLE ISSUES

Although the 2010 Yawuru Agreement was very detailed, some native title and land issues were left out. Dealing with these issues and implementing the land transfers under the Yawuru Agreement has taken some time.

Land within Yawuru country held by the **Aboriginal Lands Trust** (ALT) was deliberately not included in Yawuru's native title claim on the understanding that the land would eventually be transferred back to Yawuru. This

year we started discussions with the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs about the return of ALT land. During the negotiations with the Minister and ALT, we will consult with the Yawuru community and others who live on or use ALT land.

This year, Yawuru also took the following action on land transfers:

- **Unallocated Crown land strip near Gubinge Road** – joined the strip of unallocated Crown land into Yawuru's Gubinge Road Industrial freehold land.

- **12 Mile land swap** – swapped 12 Mile land in exchange for part of Lot 704 Cable Beach, which adjoins existing Yawuru land (with an unimproved value of \$7.2m).

- **Lot 300 Reid Road** – negotiated with the State that Lot 300 is for Yawuru cultural use and drainage and cannot be used for any other purpose than 'drainage and recreation'.

- **Lot 3143 Dickson Drive/Pembroke Street (Southern Cross Care lease land)** – asked the Minister for Lands to lift restrictions on Lot 3143 to potentially allow for the construction of short stay accommodation.

- **Lot 131, Great Northern Highway (Sheep Camp)** – negotiated with the Department of Lands for the creation of a reserve for Yawuru cultural purposes, which has now been completed.

- Obtained agreement from the State to extend time by two years (to 6 August 2017) in which to take transfer of freehold land under the Yawuru Agreement.



The successful applicants of the Yawuru Home Ownership Project

# MABU BIRGA NGARRUNGUNIL STRENGTHENING GOVERNANCE

## LEGAL AND GOVERNANCE

### HIGHLIGHTS

ROEBUCK PLAINS PASTORAL LEASE, ROEBUCK EXPORT DEPOT AND OTC PROPERTY TRANSFERRED TO YAWURU

LAND TRANSFERS NEGOTIATED FOR YAWURU'S BENEFIT AND DISCUSSIONS STARTED WITH THE MINISTER FOR ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS REGARDING THE RETURN OF ALT LAND

ALL STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS MET BY YAWURU CORPORATE GROUP

Yawuru's work gives rise to legal questions and issues on a daily basis – whether to do with native title, corporate compliance or commercial negotiations. Yawuru's Legal and Governance unit is on hand to provide legal advice on these issues and to oversee the governance of the Yawuru corporate group.

### COMMERCIAL MATTERS

Yawuru dealt with a number of commercial matters this year. These included:

- the legal transfer and renewal of **Roebuck Plains pastoral lease** from the ILC to Yawuru
- the legal transfer of **Roebuck Export Depot and OTC property** from the ILC to Yawuru

program in place of the Social Housing Rental Scheme. Jirril Mingaran still assists Yawuru people who are on the Department of Housing waiting list, but it also provides wraparound **case management support** to help tenants build their capacity and move towards sustainable housing.

Ninety-five per cent of tenants are pleased about the changes to the program and look forward to having further assistance to improve their personal situation.

### RENTAL RELIEF SCHEME

This year, Yawuru continued to assist the five tenants in the Rental Relief Scheme, which is open to Yawuru families whose income is over the threshold for public housing. We worked with the Rental Relief Scheme tenants to explore **sustainable housing options**. One Yawuru family successfully transitioned out of a Rental Relief Scheme property into home ownership.

**“THE SUBSIDY PROVIDED BY NBY ALLOWED US TO SAVE UP THE DEPOSIT FOR OUR NEW HOME!”**  
SARAH PARRIMAN – FORMER RENTAL RELIEF SCHEME TENANT

### HOUSING ADVOCACY AND SUPPORT

Yawuru's Housing unit continues to provide a range of advocacy and support services to Yawuru people. This year we assisted 18 Yawuru families.

## FEEDBACK FROM YAWURU HOME OWNERS

Eight Yawuru families or individuals are on their way to becoming co-owners of new homes under the Yawuru Home Ownership Project. All participants in the project stated that they had mabu liyan (good feeling) and felt happy about the future.

When asked to comment on how home ownership would affect their lives, some of the participants' responses included:

**“THE OPPORTUNITY HAS HAD A HUGE IMPACT ON ME IN A VERY POSITIVE WAY. I FEEL A SENSE OF SECURITY FOR THE FUTURE OF MY SON AND I. I FEEL VERY BLESSED TO HAVE THIS WONDERFUL OPPORTUNITY!”**

**“IT WILL BE GREAT. WE WILL HAVE A HOME FOR OUR CHILDREN AND WILL HAVE SOMETHING TO GIVE TO THEM LATER ON.”**

**“HOME OWNERSHIP HAS MADE ME BUDGET MY MONEY MORE WISELY AND IN THE FUTURE I WILL BE ABLE TO OWN MY HOME.”**

**“IT'S AN OPPORTUNITY THAT WAS OUT OF REACH AND WILL NOW PROVIDE STABILITY AND SECURITY TO ME AND MY BOYS.”**

**“IT WILL SET ME UP FOR LIFE.”**



Welcoming cruise ship visitors to Broome



Yawuru Cultural Advisors on a heritage survey

## SOCIAL ENTERPRISE

### HIGHLIGHTS

SOCIAL ENTERPRISE UNIT CREATED TO PROMOTE EMPLOYMENT, EDUCATION AND TRAINING FOR YAWURU PEOPLE

OVER 50 YAWURU PEOPLE OR BUSINESSES ASSISTED SO FAR WITH EMPLOYMENT, TRAINING AND BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

INNOVATIVE BUSINESS AREAS ESTABLISHED, SUCH AS TOURISM AND MERCHANDISE

One of 2015's exciting developments was the creation of Yawuru's Social Enterprise unit.

A social enterprise is a business or enterprise that creates positive economic and social outcomes for people.

A social enterprise creates a space for people who are unable to find a job or who have few work skills to have a 'soft' entry into employment. It is also a tool to encourage young people to continue with their education or obtain vocational training.

Social enterprise can provide a solution to issues like long-term unemployment, social exclusion, poor health and low income. When people are economically and socially connected they

have good liyan. Our social enterprise work complements our other community development projects and allows us to focus more on the economic and social wellbeing of Yawuru people. We leverage productive outcomes for Yawuru people through our own programs and our partnerships with external agencies.

### EDUCATION TRANSITION

Finishing school and entering the workforce can be daunting for our young people. Yawuru are involved in **school-to-work transition programs** and activities that provide a supported path for students finishing their secondary education. Our partners in delivering successful educational outcomes and transition pathways include Broome Senior High School, St Mary's College, Aboriginal Workforce Development, Wunan, Kimberley Group Training, Kimberley Training Institute, industry and local businesses.

### TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT

Training and work experience are vital pathways into ongoing employment. The strategic partnerships Yawuru have developed with local training and employment organisations will help to maximise the **employment potential** for Yawuru people.

This year, the Social Enterprise unit helped Yawuru people to take up the following opportunities:

- 13 pre-employment and work experience placements

### HERITAGE SURVEYS 2014-15

This year Yawuru carried out heritage surveys for the following projects:

- Buru Energy Banana A and Olympic A wells (Thangoo)
- Buru Energy Ungani Depot, Praslin 1 well and radio repeater towers (Roebuck Plains)
- Buru Energy Praslin 1, Praslin North 1 and Jackaroo well sites (Roebuck Plains) (note that Praslin 1 was drilled in August 2015)
- Iluka Resources drill lines in the unclaimed area (south of Roebuck Plains and east of Thangoo)
- Buru Energy Kurradjong 3D seismic survey (Roebuck Plains)
- Buru Energy Hilltop 2D seismic survey (Thangoo)
- Broome Volunteer Sea Rescue Base (Entrance Point)
- Water Corporation projects including an expansion of the Broome Borefield and extensions to the Fairway Drive water mains.

### CULTURAL MONITORING 2014-15

Yawuru employed 15 Cultural Monitors this year, including three of our senior Law Bosses, who supervise the monitoring program. Cultural Monitors worked on several projects including:

- the Broome Road Industrial Park
- the construction of new water mains at the Broome Port and Fairway Drive and the expansion of the Broome Borefield
- clearing and site preparation works associated with Buru Energy's new exploration wells Olympic A (Thangoo) and Praslin 1 (Roebuck Plains)
- Buru Energy's Jackaroo 3D seismic survey on Roebuck Plains
- vegetation clearing for new development areas at Broome Port
- construction of the Lorikeet Drive extension from Roebuck Estate
- the site clearing and preparation works of the MI-SWACO drilling fluid facility at Broome Port.

**"CULTURAL MONITORING ALLOWS US TO OVERSEE GROUND DISTURBING WORKS THAT ARE TAKING PLACE ON YAWURU COUNTRY AND MAKE SURE SITES OF SIGNIFICANCE ARE PROTECTED. WE HAVE A DUTY TO OUR ELDERS TO PROTECT THE LAND AND SEA, AND TO PASS ONTO THE NEXT GENERATION OUR KNOWLEDGE OF THE BUGARRIGARRA."**

BEN DOLBY - YAWURU CULTURAL MONITOR



Yawuru emerging leaders information session

### MINERAL EXPLORATION

As well as oil and gas, Yawuru deal with mineral exploration and mining projects. Iluka Resources, Sheffield Resources and Kallenia Mines all explore for, or plan to explore for, mineral sands.

- In mid-2015, **Iluka Resources** carried out their new exploration drilling program on Yawuru land in the unclaimed native title area.

- Yawuru are in negotiations with **Sheffield Resources**, who hold one mineral exploration licence on Roebuck Plains and have applied for another four licences overlapping Yawuru country.

- **Kallenia Mines** applied several years ago for five mineral exploration licences on Roebuck Plains and Thangoo. This matter has been referred to the National Native Title Tribunal.

### PROTECTING CULTURE AND HERITAGE

Yawuru's future act and heritage work provides front-line protection of country. The Yawuru PBC Board, Nominated Law Bosses and senior Cultural Advisors consider projects that companies or governments want to carry out and then decide what response and heritage process is required.

In the 2014–15 year Yawuru undertook eight **heritage surveys** and numerous **cultural monitoring** projects. The Future Acts and Heritage team supported these processes by engaging with companies to find out information about their projects and

researching the location, tenure and any previous surveys in the area.

Following a heritage survey of Buru Energy's Jackaroo 3D seismic program in 2014, applications were made to add **two significant archaeological sites** to the Department of Aboriginal Affairs site register.

This year we also created a **comprehensive mapping tool** that can be used to quickly identify all the previously recorded heritage information for any given location on Yawuru country.

### ..... UNGANI INDIGENOUS LAND USE AGREEMENT

At a meeting held on 1 April 2015, the Yawuru community authorised the Yawuru PBC to enter an Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA) for the grant of the petroleum (oil and gas) production licence and other project titles for the Ungani project. The Ungani ILUA was registered with the Native Title Tribunal in June 2015.

The main impact of the project on Yawuru land will be the transport of oil along a road or pipeline, as the Ungani oil facility is located on Nyikina Mangala determination area. In return for agreeing to the production licence and project titles, Yawuru received financial and other benefits. Yawuru did not consent to any fracking or extinguishment of native title.

The Yawuru community has a direct say about how the ILUA money will be used. A community consultation is already underway, including a community survey and workshops.

- 3 Certificate II in Retail placements
- 25 employment placements

- 7 traineeships

- 11 work-for-the-dole placements, with an additional 20 in the pipeline.

We publicise these employment and training opportunities through emails and social media.

### ENTERPRISE AND BUSINESS CREATION

Yawuru promote innovation and support Yawuru individuals and families to create sustainable businesses. This year we helped five existing Yawuru businesses to obtain subcontracts with a leading civil contractor. We also provided support to nine Yawuru businesses by referring them to **contractors or other business support organisations** such as Many Rivers, Morrgul and Indigenous Business Australia.

Throughout the year, Social Enterprise staff welcomed the many **cruise ship tourists** to Broome. Passengers and crew were provided with a Yawuru map of Broome and had an opportunity to meet Yawuru volunteers, who were pleased to share information about Broome's rich culture and diversity.

We have also promoted **business creation** and are establishing income streams through:

- a garden maintenance and handyman service
- short-term tourist accommodation at one of

Yawuru's Man-gala Drive apartments  
• Yawuru merchandise lines

- work-for-the-dole participation in Mangara Storylines, Roebuck Plains Station, and conservation and land management

- Jetty to Jetty book publication, merchandise and tour

- certification of two Yawuru tour guides for Chinatown tours.



Ann Janette Phillips secured employment after taking part in Yawuru's work placement program



Tyrone Bedford, Kevin Murphy and Gabrielle Chi – Operators on site at Broome Road Industrial Park



**MANGAYIGARRA  
MABU BURU  
GURRBURLAN  
JAYIDA  
STRENGTHENING  
COUNTRY AND  
CULTURE**

**LAND AND SEA**

**HIGHLIGHTS**

DRAFT MANAGEMENT PLANS RELEASED FOR NAGULAGUN MARINE PARK AND BIRRAGUN OUT OF TOWN CONSERVATION AREAS

THREATENED SPECTACLED HARE-WALLABY DISCOVERED ON ROEBUCK PLAINS

COUNTRY MANAGERS INVOLVED IN A RANGE OF FLORA, FAUNA AND WATER SURVEYS

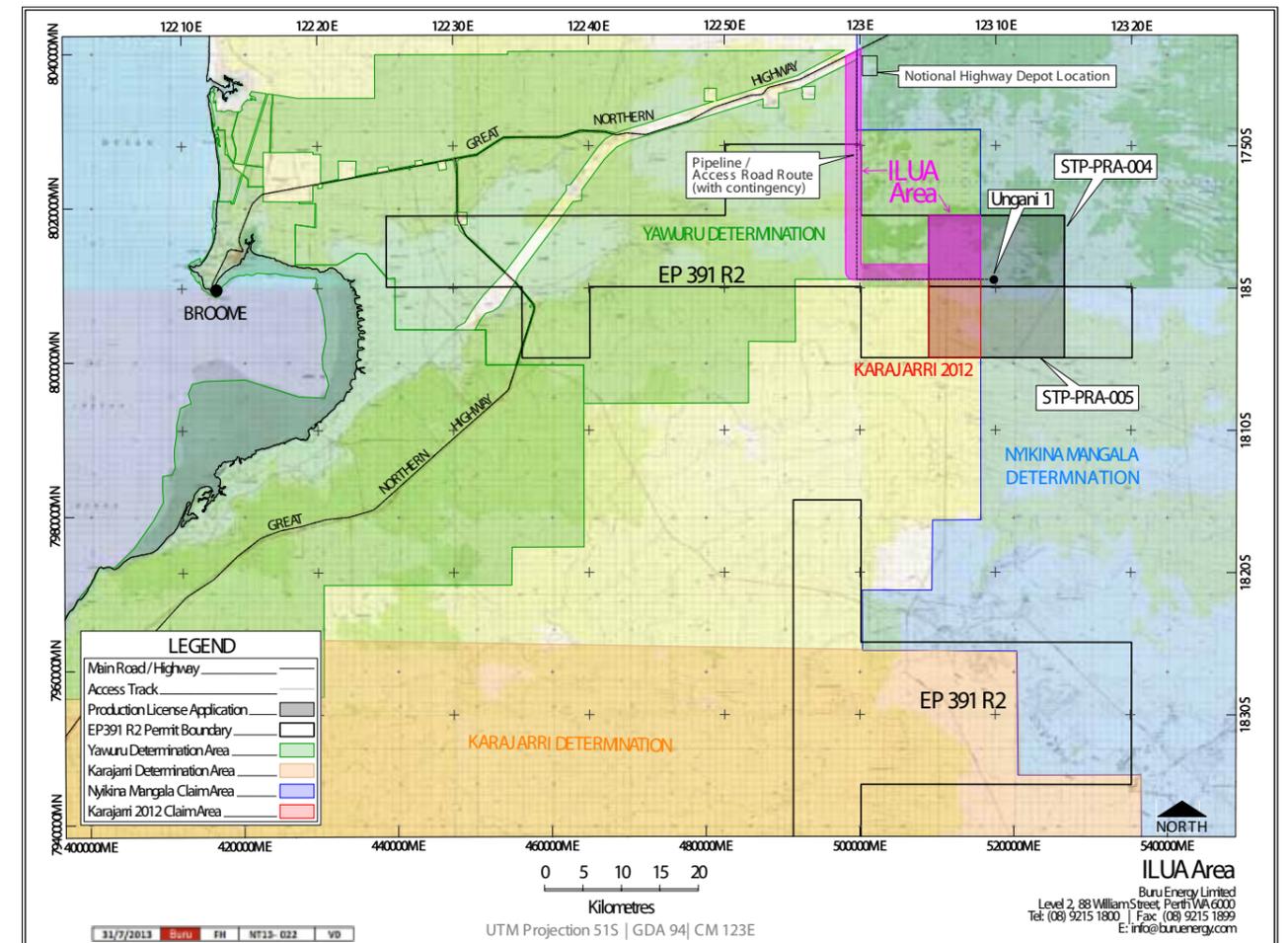
DATA COLLECTION INCREASED AND CULTURAL MAPPING RESOURCES BOOSTED

The work of the Yawuru Land and Sea unit is about caring for country the right cultural way, promoting and transferring traditional knowledge, building the capacity of Yawuru people and creating economic opportunities through research and development, cultural tourism and fee-for-service projects. We promote partnerships that are based on applying traditional knowledge to inform Western science. Our land and sea work is informed by a framework that we call the Yawuru Cultural and Conservation Economy.

**YAWURU CONSERVATION ESTATE**

The creation of the Yawuru Conservation Estate is crucial to the long-term protection of Yawuru country. The Yawuru Conservation

**INDICATIVE MAP OF UNGANI ILUA AREA**



**Yawuru does not agree to the 2014/2015 fracking at Yulleroo, but if Buru Energy goes ahead with the fracking, Buru Energy must agree to meet environmental, cultural, social and economic conditions set by Yawuru.**

Despite Yawuru members' decision Buru Energy intends to go ahead with its Yulleroo fracking program. For this reason Yawuru developed a list of **proposed conditions** and we asked the WA Environmental Defender's Office to review them. We then sent these conditions to Buru Energy who have recently provided the company's response. The PBC will consult Yawuru members before any conditions are finalised.

Yawuru's position continues to be that no fracking should occur unless Yawuru people provide their **free, prior and informed consent**.

**OTHER OIL AND GAS PROJECTS**

Two petroleum tenements are pending on Yawuru land: **Goshawk Oil and Gas** applied for an exploration permit at the north-western end of Roebuck Plains Station and part of old Waterbank Station, and **Buru Energy** applied for an exploration permit at the southern part of Roebuck Plains Station. Yawuru are in negotiations with both companies.



Ben Dolby and Daniel Tamwoy monitoring at Broome Road Industrial Park



Spectacled hare-wallaby

## FUTURE ACTS AND HERITAGE

### HIGHLIGHTS

HERITAGE SURVEYS AND CULTURAL MONITORING CARRIED OUT BY 15 YAWURU CULTURAL MONITORS AND ADVISORS

UNGANI INDIGENOUS LAND USE AGREEMENT AUTHORISED BY YAWURU COMMUNITY

YAWURU MEMBERS HAVE THEIR SAY ABOUT PROPOSED FRACKING AT YULLEROO

FREE, PRIOR AND INFORMED CONSENT' PRINCIPLE PROMOTED

One of Yawuru's core functions is protecting and managing Yawuru's native title rights. This is usually done through the future acts process and heritage assessments.

There are many companies, individuals and government agencies who want to carry out projects on Yawuru country. Assessing these projects can be very challenging if companies notify Yawuru late in the process, want to do projects in sensitive areas, or do not engage with Yawuru at all. On the other hand, projects can lead to positive outcomes where companies respect Yawuru protocols.

### What is a future act?

A future act is an activity that might affect native title rights, such as granting a mining lease or building a road. The Native Title Act sets out a process that Yawuru and the relevant company/agency has to follow before a future act can be done.

**Yawuru's guiding principle for visitors coming to Yawuru country is to show respect and ask first.**

Yawuru Cultural Management Plan

### BURU ENERGY UNGANI OIL PROJECT

A major focus for 2014–15 was Buru Energy's Ungani oil project, located about 100 kilometres east of Broome. In April 2015, after almost three years of negotiations between Yawuru and Buru Energy, the Yawuru community authorised the PBC to enter an **Indigenous Land Use Agreement** for the Ungani project (see page 21).

### BURU ENERGY YULLEROO GAS PROJECT

Buru Energy intends to carry out hydraulic fracturing or 'fracking' at its two Yulleroo wells under its current exploration permits. At a Yawuru PBC General Meeting on 18 July 2014, a clear majority of Yawuru members voted:

Estate includes **four conservation areas: in town, out of town, marine and intertidal**. Yawuru will manage each of these areas jointly with either the Department of Parks and Wildlife (DPaW) or the Shire of Broome.

There has been lots of consultation about the joint management plans for the four areas. Consultation over the past year included field trips with Yawuru Law Bosses, other senior Yawuru people, Yawuru Rangers and Yawuru Country Managers to talk about management arrangements for the Crab Creek and Thangoo areas.

This year, two draft management plans were released for public comment: the draft **Nagulagun Marine Park Plan** and the draft **Birragun Out of Town Plan**. Yawuru and the Shire of Broome continue to work on the draft Minyirr Buru In Town Plan and the Northern Intertidal Plan.

### COUNTRY MANAGERS

Yawuru Country Managers work closely with Yawuru Rangers and other project partners to undertake research and land management activities on Yawuru country.

Over the past year, Country Managers took part in seven projects with external partner organisations. These included:

- **water monitoring** (with scientist Vic Semeniuk)
- **snubfin dolphin survey** (with WWF)
- **spectacled hare-wallaby survey** (with WWF)

- **bilby survey** (with WWF)
- **Minyirr Park weed mapping** (with Environs Kimberley and DPaW)
- **Broome Port weed control** (with Kimberley Ports Authority)
- **rangelands condition monitoring sites identification** (with the ILC).

In two of these projects there were sightings of near-threatened species, including the rare spectacled hare-wallaby on Roebuck Plains – a finding that made national news headlines.

Country Managers commenced a **Certificate II in Conservation and Land Management**, completing units in fire management, chainsaw use, and flora and fauna survey techniques. This formal training will increase Country Managers' skills and add to their wealth of knowledge about Yawuru country.

### INDIGENOUS PROTECTED AREA

Yawuru are close to establishing an Indigenous Protected Area (IPA) to safeguard important parts of Yawuru country. The IPA covers all of the Yawuru Conservation Estate plus significant cultural sites and portions of Roebuck Plains Station.

The **draft management plan** for the IPA has been developed. Yawuru and the Indigenous Land Corporation (ILC), which operates Roebuck Plains Station, are now doing further work on sustainable grazing and have jointly developed the Roebuck Plains



Pasture identification with Yawuru Country Managers and the ILC

Station **Ecologically Sustainable Rangelands Management Plan**. Yawuru Country Managers will carry out environmental and pastoral monitoring at various locations on the station.

In November 2014 the Yawuru Land and Sea team and ILC representatives presented at the **IUCN World Parks Conference** in Sydney about the Yawuru IPA. They spoke to an international audience about the unique challenges of balancing ecological protection with a commercially viable cattle station.



Pius Gregory leading the wetlands water sampling

### DATA COLLECTION AND MAPPING

Yawuru people know Yawuru country – its seasons, its changes and its heritage. The Land and Sea unit is doing important work to record this knowledge so that Yawuru have our own electronic database of cultural and environmental values.

This year, Yawuru purchased **hand-held electronic devices** that are used to collect data on country about animals, plants and other observations. This information can be sent to a central database, and special **GIS software** is then used to produce maps and images depicting the information.

This capability merges traditional knowledge and Western technology and allows us to analyse different values and areas of Yawuru country in a new and exciting way.



Yawuru Country Managers set up shop at the KLC AGM 2014

### RESEARCH

As well as the research projects involving Country Managers, Yawuru became involved this year in two major research projects:

- A partnership with the **Western Australian Marine Science Institute** and Kimberley coastal native title groups, including Yawuru, to develop a project focusing on how traditional ecological knowledge can inform Western science and land management arrangements in marine environments.

- **Archaeological assessment of Roebuck Plains** focusing on the link between the society living 7,000 years ago around the old (now inland) shoreline of Roebuck Bay and the present Yawuru society.

This year, we were lucky to host two talented **Australian National University** students whose projects relate to Yawuru country. One of the projects focuses on mapping Yawuru values along the Broome and Roebuck Bay foreshore, while the other explores how monitoring can be used as a land management tool for Roebuck Plains Station.



Yawuru Rangers and Yawuru Country Managers at biosecurity workshop

**"TO WORK PROFESSIONALLY IN THE MANAGEMENT OF YOUR OWN TRADITIONAL COUNTRY IS REWARDING AND SATISFYING BUT IT ALSO CARRIES AN ENORMOUS SENSE OF RESPONSIBILITY. YAWURU COUNTRY IS FACING ENORMOUS PRESSURE ON MANY FRONTS. WHAT WE CAN DO IS WORK INNOVATIVELY TO BUILD THE CAPACITY OF OUR COMMUNITY TO MANAGE OUR COUNTRY SUSTAINABLY AGAINST THE INEVITABLE PRESSURES THAT WE WILL INCREASINGLY DEAL WITH."**  
DEAN MATHEWS - SENIOR PROJECT OFFICER

**"I WAS TOLD BY MY FATHER, 'YOU START SOMETHING, YOU FINISH IT.' AND THE RESULT I LIKE TO SEE IS ANIMAL NUMBERS COMING BACK UP TO WHERE THEY SHOULD BE. BECAUSE EVERYTHING THAT'S BEEN PUT ON THIS EARTH HERE, EACH AND EVERY THING HAS GOT A REASON TO BE HERE, EVERY LITTLE ANIMAL."**  
PIUS GREGORY - YAWURU COUNTRY MANAGER