

# CORPORATION REPORT

2021-  
2023

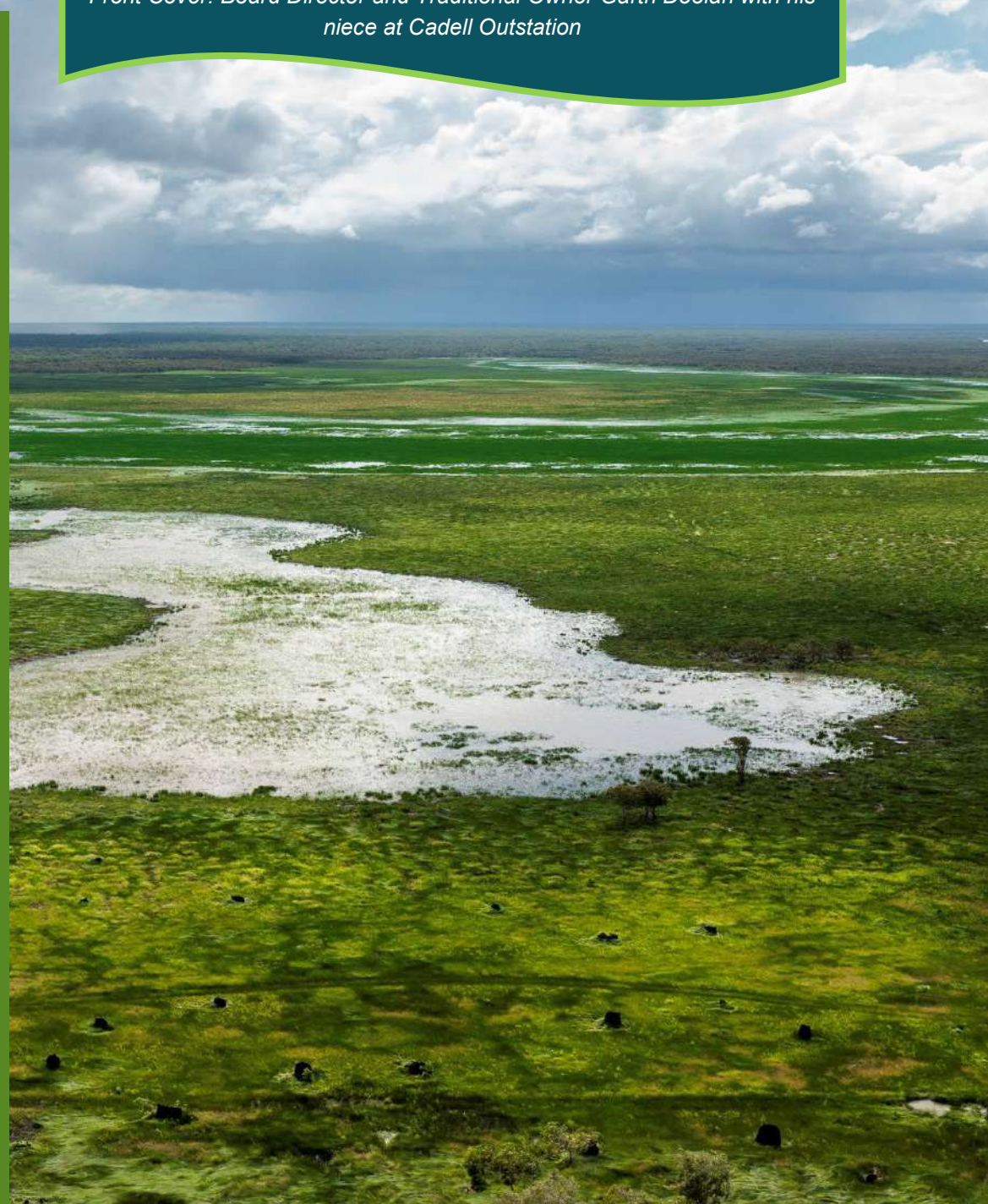




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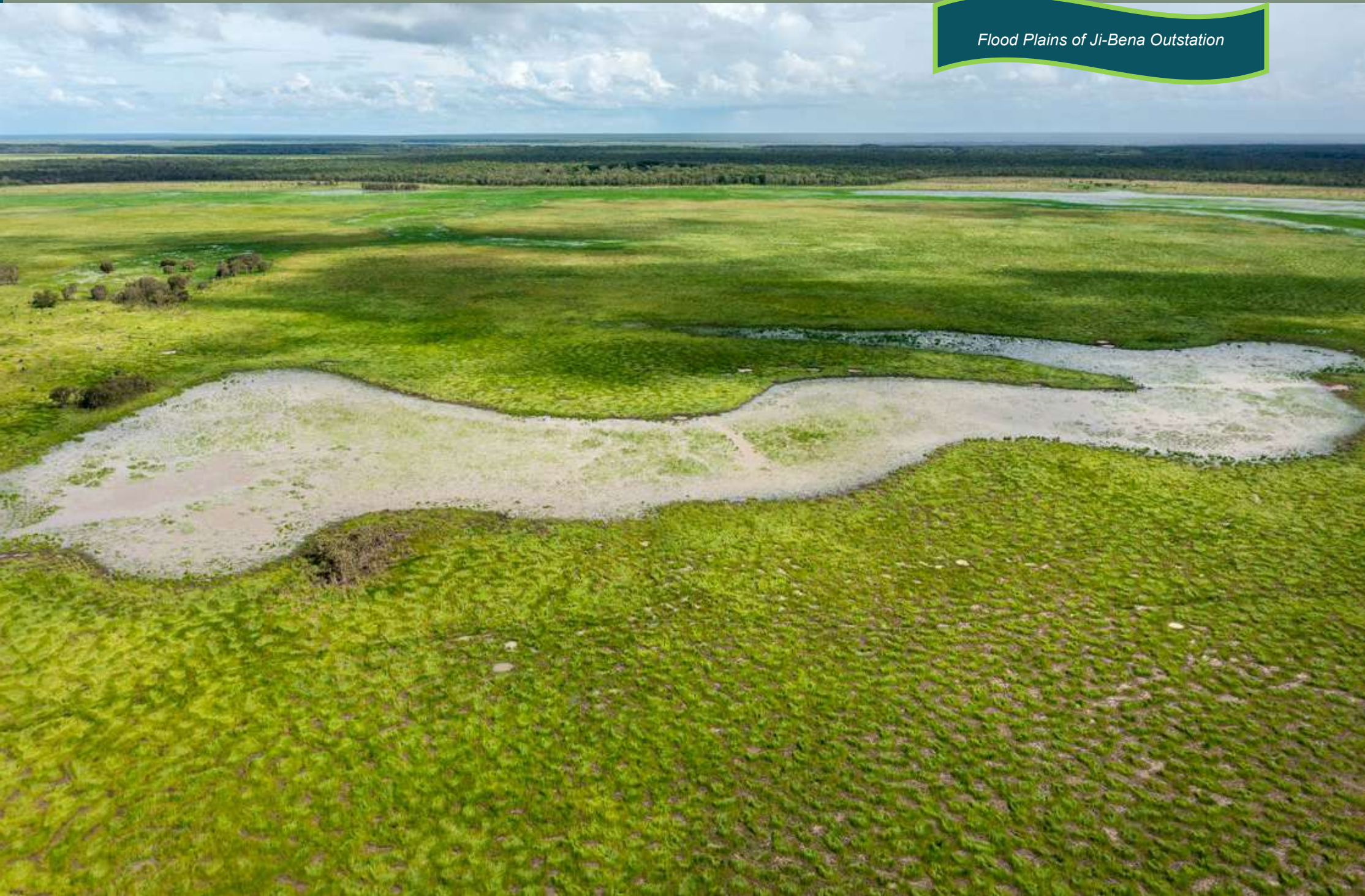
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*Front Cover: Board Director and Traditional Owner Garth Doolan with his niece at Cadell Outstation*





*Flood Plains of Ji-Bena Outstation*





## CHAIRWOMAN'S REPORT

Dear Bawinanga Members,

I would like to thank the Board of 2023 for the honour of being elected a Chairperson back in February this year. It is a privilege and a great opportunity to be the first Woman Chairperson in the 44 years since Bawinanga's establishment. This has given inspiration and encouragement to other women in this community and our region to take on leadership roles. I cherish the opportunity to lead the Board and to strengthen its governance and operation. The challenge is always there, but we are here to overcome challenges and grow a better future. There were tough lessons learnt within the Board about how to work together, but we have acknowledged those lessons, and our internal governance and decision making has improved in the process. I believe in being firm, fair and diligent and I believe this has changed the culture of Bawinanga's Governance.

We at Bawinanga have experienced both losses and wins in 2022 and 2023. As the previous Bawinanga CEO moved on in June 2023 and Deputy CEO Amanda Ewart had been delegated by the Board as Acting CEO, we are currently recruiting a new CEO who we hope will be coming on board early next year.

Bawinanga has had a lot of challenges to face, and I want to mention a few here:

- Due to the absence of senior leadership roles in the corporate and leadership team in 2021 and early 2022, a lot of information was missing, and BAC lost some of its direction. The new leadership team that came on board in late 2022 were left to unravel and re-design directions and revitalise operations. This has caused major confusion internally and externally and a lot of delays



*Jacqueline Phillips, Chairwoman*



in delivery of our work caused by the top-down approaches at a difficult time. Now we can safely say that Bawinanga management have a better understanding of our operations and deliver the best possible service in the circumstances.

- With any new change comes a challenging transition period. The New CDP Program has commenced in mid-year. Despite the hurdles the transition presented, operations did a fantastic job balancing Bininj way and the requirements of NIAA. The CDP Program is now running again on a new course.
- Bawinanga is currently in the process of renewing the Enterprise Bargaining Agreement and is looking to settle a fair and cost-efficient agreement with employees. In the coming new year Bawinanga will have an up to date EBA. This process has been challenging, as all parties from the Board and Operations had to unpack and begin from scratch to work out exactly what a new EBA means for Bawinanga
- Our Strategic Plan has been out of date for a while now. A new strategic planning process will be commencing in the new year and members will be invited to be a part of the process so they can provide input to the goals/targets of Bawinanga for the four upcoming years.

We hit some key milestones for the corporation this year, namely:

- Bawinanga supported the New Homelands School Company with \$100k to get started and is strongly committed to continue its support. Three Homelands Schools have now been officially registered in Gochan Jiny-Jirra, Gamardi and Buluhkaduru, with more schools to be identified and established. We look forward to countrymen having an opportunity to live on country while providing their children with quality education.
- In 2022 the Federal Government allocated \$100 million for urgent repairs and maintenance on houses on Homelands, of which Bawinanga received approximately \$8 million last month. Now proper toilets, showers, kitchens, laundry rooms and extra bedrooms will be added on to existing dwellings, not to mention street solar lights and bore and power upgrades on four outstations for a start. The Homelands housing infrastructure program will continue, each year focusing on a different group of homelands. This project will be commencing in November 2023. Our goal is to ensure all outstation homes in our IPA have proper amenities. This project is in alignment with the United Nation 9 Healthy Living Practice Standards.



- A major upgrade to the main office infrastructure is under way to cater for the Employment Pathway Service. This will complete in 2024 at a cost of \$800,000.

With a Labor Government strongly supportive of Homelands Services, we look forward to further assistance to help homeland people to reside on their homelands in proper living conditions and services to support being on country. We know from experience that people are healthier and happier when living on country, and have a solid connection to traditional culture.

As always, our gratitude goes to NIAA, NTG, and other stakeholders for their grants, service and financial support.

Our achievements could not have happened without the hard work of our entire team in Bawinanga. We have made extraordinary progress this year, and I'd like to personally thank every team member for their energy, persistence, resilience, commitment and consistency in driving Bawinanga forward through the many hurdles of the past two years.

Thank you all for yet another tough but rewarding year. I look forward to continuing to break barriers and achieve positive outcomes in 2024 with you all.

Jacqueline Phillips  
Chairwoman









## ACTING CEO'S REPORT

**Dear Bawinanga Members,**

I have been in Maningrida working for Bawinanga Aboriginal Corporation for 18 months now. Having commenced as the Deputy CEO, I have been Acting CEO since May 2023.

*The past twelve months was a challenging time for the corporation. We have a huge amount of day-to-day work to attend to with a large number of programs and businesses to run. To help us cope with the challenges, we reached out to our members on the homelands to guide us to improve our service delivery and supports to the homelands. We have gained lots of precious knowledge which we translated into action resulting in new funding being received by Bawinanga to work on the Homelands for the next 3-5 years.*

*We have been reviewing our financial systems and operations, improving and expanding the services we provide to the 32 Homelands within our region and recommenced a number of programs which had slowed down or closed totally due to COVID 19 (2020-2022).*

*Good progress has been made to upgrade our services, provide more employment opportunities for our members and employ local Indigenous people in our corporation. We have been mapping out a commitment to career pathways for our indigenous employees within our new Enterprise Agreement while ensuring all staff are involved in the negotiation process.*



Amanda Ewart, Acting CEO

## Programs and Services

Bawinanga manages a number of funded programs and provides a large range of services. Our aim is to provide employment opportunities for Indigenous people as well as services to the Homelands and community of Maningrida. As some of our businesses do not as yet make a profit, yet are of solid value to the community, they are supported and kept alive by the profits generated by other businesses within the corporation.

Below is a comprehensive list of Bawinanga departments. You will find more information on each department further in this report.

Djelk Rangers	Land care and sea country management
Maningrida Arts Centre	Art sales
Babbarra Women's Centre Textile Printing	Textile printing and sales by women
Mechanic Workshop	Vehicle and heavy machinery repairs and servicing
CDP Employment & Training Services	Job Seekers employment and training
Housing	Homelands housing repairs and maintenance Staff accommodation repairs and maintenance BAC workplace facilities repairs and maintenance External works for other agencies New Projects for BAC
Civil Works – road works	Main Road grading and drainage Main road damages monitoring and reporting to DIPL



Money Management	Financial counselling, assistance to customers with banking issues, consumer care issues, identification
Night Patrol	Safety of vulnerable people in the community at night
Remote Area School Attendance Strategy	Encourage parents to take their children to school regularly, provide bus transport in the mornings.
Djomi Museum and Culture office	Preservation of cultural heritage, language, customs, stories, songs and dance
Laundry	Provide access to washing facilities for visiting homelands people.
Community Bus Service	Local transport for community and visitors
Homelands Bus	Transport for groups to and from homelands for events
Barlmark Supermarket	Food sales and access weekdays and weekends
Wild Food Café	Food sales and access after normal trading hours
Enterprises	Mowing and yard maintenance Seafood harvesting and sales Nursery Bush Food product sales and development
Enterprise Development	Ecotourism and assistance to traditional owners who want to make a business.

### Financial Donations and contributions

Bawinanga provides a large number of donations and contributions to its members for funerals and ceremonies. We also assist non-members with their ceremonies and funerals with a \$500 groceries contribution. Smaller donations were made to non-member events and sports sponsorships.

The corporation provided financial support to Homelands covering the costs of extra road works and housing maintenance where the government grants supplied were not sufficient.

### Employment

The Corporation employs 198 staff across all its operations

Status	Number	Indigenous	Nonindigenous
Fulltime	76	36	40
Part time	28	28	0
Casual	87	82	5
Apprentices/Trainees	7	6	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>46</b>



### Partnerships

Bawinanga has developed a number of close partnerships with other agencies for the betterment of the environment across our IPA both land and sea country.

- AlfaNT – carbon credit fire abatement scheme
- Charles Darwin University – Sea Country cultural heritage mapping, Barramundi Research Project
- Inpex – Wumara (Junction Bay) Conservation Area Agreement
- Porosus Pty Ltd – crocodile egg collection
- Territory Natural Resources Management – Gamba grass eradication
- DAFF - Department Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries – Rangers Biosecurity work
- Outback Stores – Supermarket and Wild Food Café Management

### Government funding

Our major funding sources during the year came from a number of different government departments, both state and commonwealth.

- NTG DIPL – West Arnhem Region – Maintenance of Gravel Pavements. Cahills Crossing to Ramingining, Coburg Peninsula Rd.
- NTG DIPL – Housing – Homelands Maintenance and Essential Services
- NTG - Department of Industry, Tourism and Trade
- Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications & the Arts – Maningrida Art Centre and Babbarra Women's Centre.
- NIAA – CDP Employment & Training Services, Remote Area School Attendance Strategy, Community Night Patrol, Rangers, 1000 Jobs package
- Department of Social Services – Money Management Service
- NTG – Territory Families, Housing & Communities – Arts Trail Maningrida Art Centre upgrade

### Transport

Bawinanga's Community Bus Service commenced in July 2022. This is a free service for community members assisting them to get to appointments, shopping and work. Community members really appreciate the service, especially during the wet and hot days. Unfortunately, we have encountered problems with securing drivers to operate the bus during dry season, and we are actively looking for a solution.

The Homelands Bus service commenced in August 2022, being available for use during the dry season for funerals, ceremonies. This service again has been dependent on the availability of drivers who have to meet cultural criteria to be able to travel to various Homelands. We are organizing a course for drivers to obtain an LR Light Rigid Vehicle License, so that we have more bus drivers to work for us all year round.

The ceremony car was used until the end of 2022, but was then beyond repair and was taken off the road. A new vehicle was purchased to assist with transport and funerals, using BAC drivers only.

Our Cultural Liaison Officer Garth Doolan supported many people on the Homelands providing transport for urgent matters at various times. Our housing team and rangers were out and about the Homelands regularly for work purposes and often dropped off shopping, messages and other items as required.

### Properties and Facilities

We have commenced significant upgrades to our staff accommodation and facilities, despite this being an expensive exercise. However, we feel that our staff deserve the best, and the properties have deteriorated over the past 30 years. Planning and costing work has been completed for the Barlmark Supermarket to replace the broken-down cold rooms, freezer, fridges and air conditioning system, extend the dry goods storage area and improve the entrance. The estimated cost of the upgrade is \$2.1 million.

Renovations are currently underway at Bawinanga's main office which will become the new CDP office and training facility in 2024.



### Djomi Museum

The Arts & Culture Subcommittee worked closely with Troppo Architects to design a new museum located at the Maningrida Art Centre complex. NTG Territory Families, Housing & Communities have funded the building of a new museum for \$4m, with works commencing in 2024.

### Finance

We have been closely analysing the way we do business within each Department and making significant changes to improve their profitability. Some of our departments are business and profit focused, others are grant funded and focus rather on quality service delivery, while some operate on a mixture of both business and grant funding. Some departments made a loss which impacted on the profits of the corporation overall and we are working hard to improve their operations. A number of corrective actions has already been taken, such as increasing charges for completed works. Most of our pricing for housing, road works and mechanical works have been

based on prices dating back to 2019, while in reality the costs have increased by 40 percent across Australia in mainstream/urban areas. We are breaking down jobs and costing out for all components, inclusive of tradesmen and apprentices labour, and looking for cheaper contractors and suppliers to get better prices, discounts and deals. We are also applying for grants and wage subsidies to help cover costs where the business is not breaking even.

A new financial software will be implemented in the 2023/24 period aiming to reduce double entry of accounts. to provide more detailed reports and allow us greater scrutiny of the accounts in a timely manner.

Insurance was very expensive this year costing \$906,000 for 12 months to adequately cover BAC assets (\$42 million). This included public liability and coverage for the high-risk work that our employees undertake on a daily basis.

The Bawinanga Enterprise Agreement expired and we are currently bargaining with our employees to make a new Enterprise Agreement with wage increases and extra benefits. The changes will increase our wages costs and in turn reduce our estimated profit by end of the 2024 financial year.

## Future

In the next twelve months many of our projects and changes will start to roll out providing positive impacts for our members. I look forward to working with our members and supporting you where I can.

Amanda Ewart

Acting CEO





## BAWINANGA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Bawinanga Aboriginal Corporation is governed by a Board of up to 12 Directors elected by Corporation members for a term of two years. Up to ten of the Directors are members of the Corporation and two are non-member Independent Directors

### BOARD 2021-2022



Julius Clint Kernan, Chairman



Cynthia Brown, Deputy Chair



Jacqueline Phillips, Director



Matthew Ryan, Director



Valda Bokmakarray, Director



Phyllis Dungudja, Director



Oliver Ankin, Director



Rick Callaghan, Independent Director



Karl Dyason, Independent Director



## BOARD 2023 -



Jacqueline Phillips, Chairwoman



Cynthia Brown, Deputy Chair



Garth Doolan, Director



Victor Rostron, Director



Manuel Brown, Director



Julius Clint Kernan, Director



Matthew Ryan, Director



Valda Bokmakarray, Director



Wayne Kala Kala,



Russel Stewart, Director

## Bawinanga Aboriginal Corporation

MANINGRIDA



Karl Dyason,  
Independent Director



Richard Callaghan,  
Independent Director



## PERFORMANCE REPORTING

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## BAWINANGA RANGERS

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*Men Rangers  
removing beach  
garbage on a hot  
day*



The **Bawinanga (Djelk) Rangers** is a unique Indigenous land management program established in 1995 under the Bawinanga Aboriginal Corporation. Formed by senior Traditional Owners and Djungkay (managers), the Bawinanga Rangers respond to and maintain land and sea country management needs of the Djelk Indigenous Protected Area, which extends over 2,350 km<sup>2</sup> of sea country and over 6,732 km<sup>2</sup> of land in central northern Arnhem Land and encompasses the land of 102 clans, representing at least 12 language groups.

The Bawinanga CEO, directed by the Board, has the primary management and administration responsibility over Rangers. The Rangers also facilitate regular Djelk IPA meetings to discuss the pressing issues of traditional land management.



*Daluk Rangers on beach patrol*

The Rangers operate in complex and challenging remote environment, which includes monsoon rainforests, tropical savannahs, coastal and sub coastal land and rocky areas. They deal confidently, and on a daily basis, with staggering environmental challenges such as spreading wildfire, decline of native animal species, invasive weeds and introduced wildlife, and pollution. There were many challenges in 2021-23, but the Rangers worked hard, managing the environmental impact of feral buffalo, conducting thousands of kilometres of aerial burning operations, sampling vegetation, physically removing invasive plants, monitoring turtle and crocodile population, conducting sea and land patrols and decreasing land and sea pollution by regular garbage removal raids.



Continued upskilling of the Rangers is an important part of the Bawinanga Ranger program. The Rangers have a continuing training program with Batchelor Institute, working through components of a Land Management Certificate II, such as First Aid/CPR, Operate Side by Side Utility Vehicles Operate Side by Side Utility Vehicles, Operate 4WD on unsealed roads, Work effectively in the industry, Participate in Workplace Communication and Assist in Planned Burning. Many of our Rangers have now their Certificate II qualifications and will be graduating in the upcoming months. Through the Certificate III in Fisheries compliance training delivered by CDU and Northern Territory Fisheries, Rangers get the opportunity to increase their knowledge in compliance and develop their skills further in investigating non-compliant activity.

Women form a vital and proud part of Bawinanga Rangers, proactively participating in learning courses like the Women's Digital Land Management workshop and representing Djelk Rangers at Strong Women for Healthy Country forum.



*Jamie Yibarbuk on a knowledge exchange to Mapoon in FNQ*



The Djelk Rangers actively collaborate with a wide range of institutions and government bodies, such as Australian Institute of Marine Science (AIMS), Parks Australia, Charles Darwin University etc. AIMS and Bawinanga Sea Rangers used Baited Remote Underwater Video Station (BRUVS) to monitor the aquatic life within the Djelk Indigenous Protected Area and Arnhem Marine Park. In conjunction with the Drop camera work completed previously, this data can help the Bawinanga Rangers, and surrounding communities better manage their sea country and fish stocks in line with their Traditional Ecological Knowledge of the area.

*Cleaning up  
beaches could be  
fun!*





## COMMUNITY SERVICES – COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (CDP)

*CDP Employment  
Consultant  
attending to job  
seekers*





### CDP - THE NEW WAY

The Bawinanga Aboriginal Corporation has a long history of delivering the CDP program, seeing many changes and challenges. CDP's key focus is to support job seekers in remote Australia to build skills, address barriers to employment. One of the changes, has come from an election commitment, to replace CDP with a new program, that will lead to real job, proper wages, and decent conditions. The National Indigenous Australians Agency held community consultation in 2022, to collect local voices on the 'replacement CDP'. The new model will be released in 2024. BAC will apply for the new model to retain the program with a local Aboriginal owned Organization.

In 2022, the Australian Government direction was for CDP's to be create a new program that would lead job seekers into employment. BAC CDP commenced its first trial project in 2023, called "Pathways to Employment". Fifteen job seekers entered this 13-week program, that provided six weeks non vocational training, followed by seven weeks of on-the-job work experience. Job seekers were provided, workplace induction, time management, basic computer and literacy, information sessions from BAC Work Health and Safety Officer, Money Management Team, Centrelink, and NIAA staff on employment with government. Tours of the various worksites occurred to increase connections between employers and job seekers who have not worked for some time. CDP is very proud of our jobseekers and staff who attended the two day 2-day Aboriginal Mental Health First Aid Training with all being able to achieve accreditation.



Accreditation assessment participants

*In August 2023 NIAA approved the new Pathways to Employment project model for CDP in Maningrida. Thus, our focus is no longer on activities but rather on engaging job seekers in job-ready training and moving them into job placements with ongoing support and encouragement.*

CDP is growing: the number of job seekers registered with Bawinanga CDP Service increased from 1,187 in July 2022 to 1217 in October 2023. It employs a higher number of local people and has management support to build continue to develop their skills and confidence to be successful in higher paid jobs or seek other employment opportunities. CDP Work for the Dole activities recommenced in June 2022 with 16 activities established. Unfortunately, as only about 200 job seekers attended the activities regularly with about 50 attending daily across the 16 activities, it was expensive to employ supervisors and maintain facilities and vehicles for a limited number of participants. We tried hard to get more job seekers in but the only improvement in attendance occurred for income generating activities, such as lawn mowing, seafood-fishing and crabbing.



*Lawn-mowing team get-together*

Our CDP income-generating activities transitioned into enterprise, moving job seekers into paid position, these being fisheries, mowing and nursery. Bush Foods was moved out of the nursery into a business in 2022 and continues to operate well. CDP acknowledges that these times were challenging for all job seekers, but hearing from one fisheries person 'I am on real money' was a real breakthrough.

CDP is integral to the Bawinanga Aboriginal Corporation and Maningrida and CDP focus in 2024 is to create new opportunities for job seekers to address barriers, attend appointments, participate in training that will assist them in their career path.



*Tayla Walsh, CDP  
Employment  
Services Manager,  
supporting and  
caring for our local  
people*

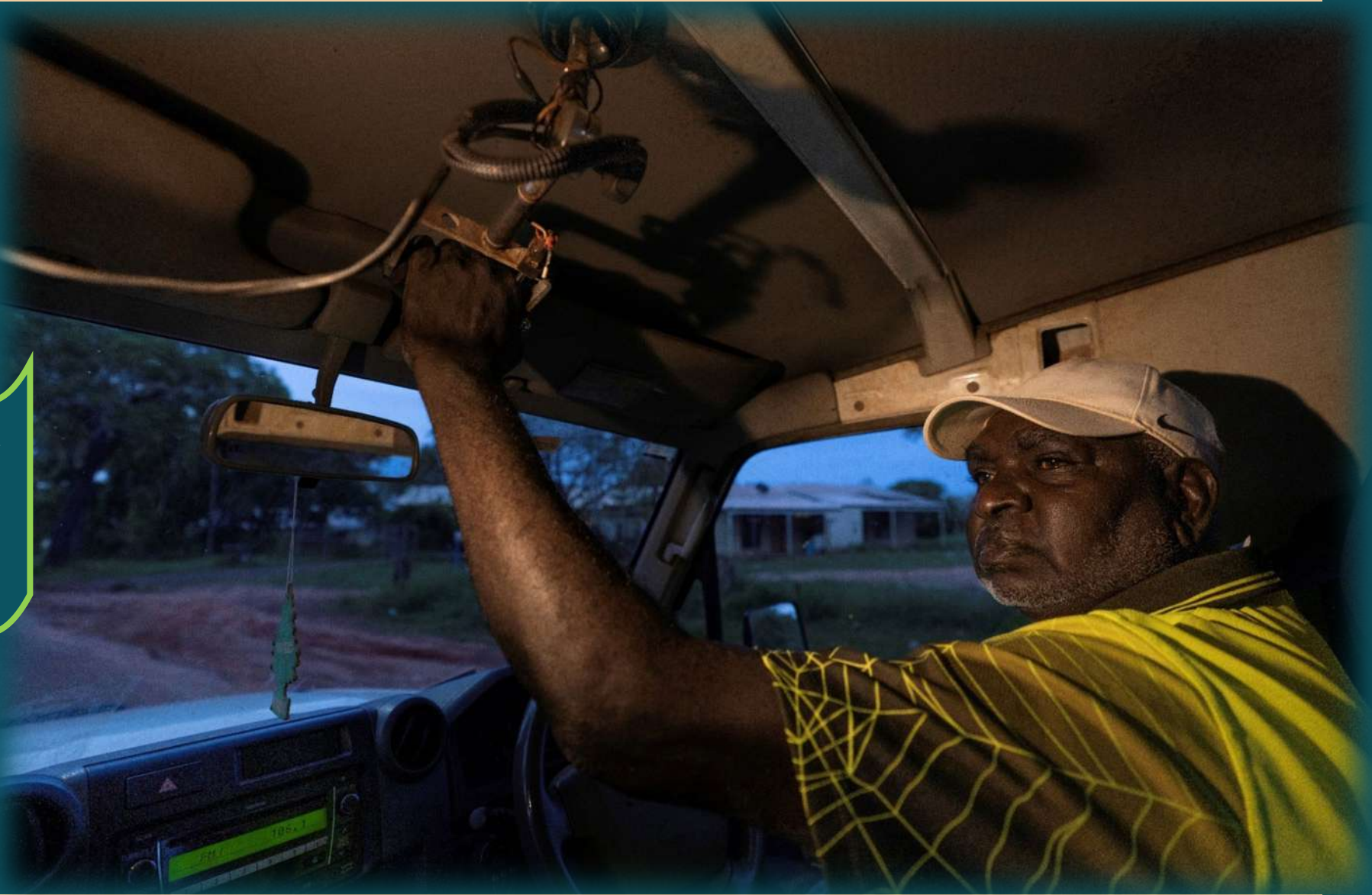




## COMMUNITY SERVICES - NIGHT PATROL

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*Hard night's work  
for night patroller  
Andy*



The Maningrida **Night Patrol** is a community assistance program of supreme importance, employing up to 10 local aboriginal people. All of the Community Patrol's team are Maningrida community members with the majority of members having extensive knowledge and long-term background working within Night Patrol. The Community Patrol team works 8pm to 1am and 1am to 6am, seven days a week.

While the foremost consideration for our Night Patrol team is their individual ongoing safety, they often act selflessly, eager to improve general community safety. Working within a Memorandum of Understanding with Maningrida Police and Maningrida Heads of Agencies, Night Patrol's responsibility focuses primarily on the welfare of young people, those who stay out late at night, particularly during the school week, and those who are vulnerable to, or exposed to, substance abuse.

Night Patrol are the eyes and ears of community looking to prevent incidents of crime, such as break-ins, and report on gates left open, preventing possible opportunities for crime. Night Patrol plays a caring role, offering to assist women to the women's shelter if required. They are often approached to assist with mediation in resolving family or community disputes. Night Patrol support the school holiday programs and are also helping to keep the community safe during grog days, major sports events, patrolling at footy matches, including the 2022 and 2023 grand final and basketball competitions. Their hours of work are

Through Bawinanga's ongoing focus on engagement and education, in 2023 several Night Patrol staff attended Community Services Certificate II courses and monthly "No More" Catholic Care workshops. Four officers also attended one-week work experience with Larrakia Nation in Darwin.

Community Patrol performs a vital role in Maningrida, and each member is dedicated to their roles and to Maningrida Community as a whole.



*John Darcy keeping  
the community safe*



## COMMUNITY SERVICES – REMOTE SCHOOL ATTENDANCE STRATEGY (RSAS)

*Tim Wilton  
yarning  
education*

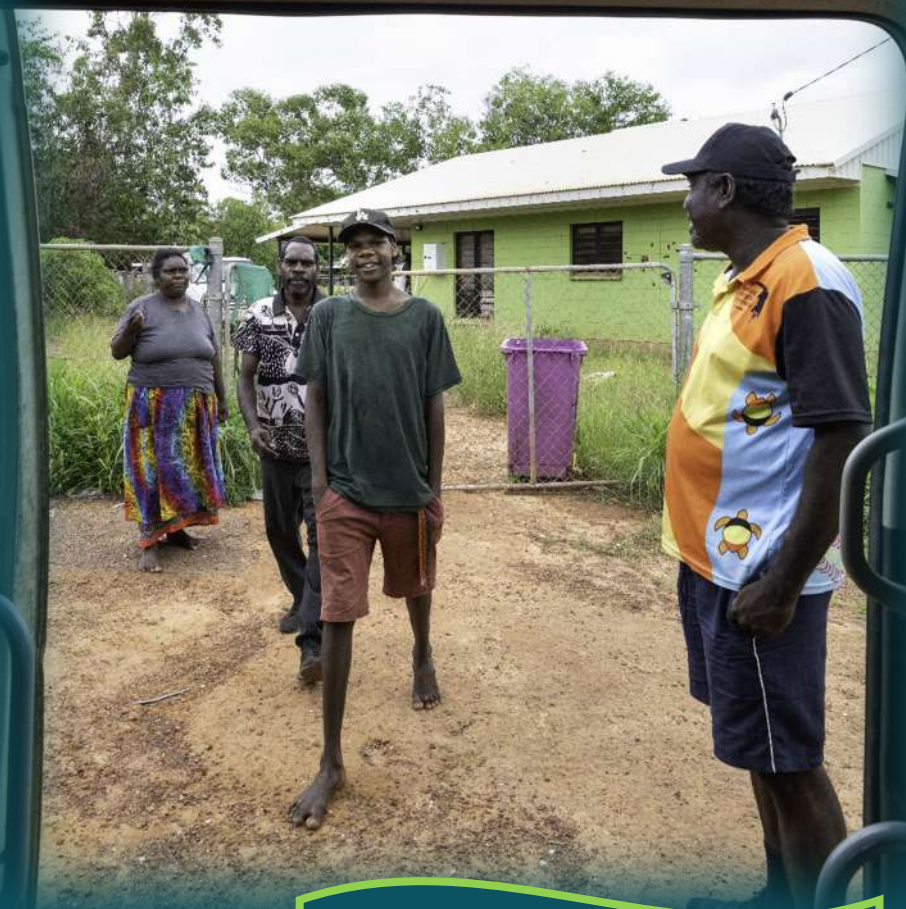




The Remote School Attendance Strategy is designed to raise school attendance in communities by employing local RSAS teams. The Maningrida team is dedicated and passionate about what they do and possess a high standard of work ethic and moral standing in the community fostering positive relations with both internal and external stakeholders.

We work cooperatively with families, care givers and the school to put in place strategies that support school attendance. We consider school attendance to be everyone's business and rely on these relationships to support us in getting kids to school every possible day. Working closely with Traditional Owners, community leaders and other service providers is pivotal in the success of our programme.

Our core business is transporting students to school, following up on non-attending students and raising attendance. The case management approach to our service delivery through yarns with families enables us to identify barriers that may be present in preventing their child from attending school. This approach proves to be invaluable in uncovering any issues we can assist with or link families in with other services within the community. RSAS team also has monthly meetings with school staff during school term to ensure we are on the same page in promoting education values and co-ordinate strategies. It is successfully partnering with West Arnhem Regional Council, Northern territory Government and other agencies to host school holiday activities.



*RSAS picking up youngsters for school*

Our organized trips out bush are a huge success: 30 young people attended a recent trip to the Rocky Point outstation, learning on Country and enjoying the unspoiled beauty of the bush. Each Sunday, 50 meals are delivered to community kids as part of the Yulaba Cook-up initiative.

The RSAS team attended training throughout 2021-23 providing staff with strategies to deliver a quality service to the students and families of Maningrida. Opportunities are provided for all staff to further develop their skillset and further their career goals.

We have been successful in establishing a high profile in the Community and are generally well received in our endeavours.



*Kelvin Doolan – a  
star student and  
working for RSAS  
now!*



## COMMUNITY SERVICES – MONEY MANAGEMENT

*Lily Pascoe, Senior  
Financial Capability  
Worker managing  
the client files*



**Money Management Service (MMS)** has had a very successful year delivering services to our Maningrida and Homeland clients. Lily Pascoe, Cynthia Brown, Kathleen Brown, Roseanne Darcy and Deborah Armstrong are the current MMS team. The MMS team has successfully completed accredited training. Cynthia Brown has completed 17 modules of her Diploma of Financial Counselling ready to work as a registered Financial Counsellor.

The MMS team focuses on supporting our clients to help themselves. We encourage our clients to develop a positive relationship with their financial institutions. Successfully using MyGov, ensures our clients communicate effectively with government departments like Centrelink, the Australian Taxation Office and Medicare.



*Kathleen Brown, Financial Capability Worker completing a NT Births, Deaths & Marriages Name Search Request*

Everyone knows how important it is to have current identification. The MMS teams liaises with NT Births, Deaths and Marriages to apply for birth certificates for our clients. We support DriveSafe Remote NT to visit Maningrida to help people get their NT driver licences.

We appreciate the support our clients give to MMS.



*Deborah Armstrong,  
Manager, Money  
Management  
Service - friendly  
and efficient as  
usual*





## BAWINANGA ENTERPRISE



*Leila Nimbadja and  
Leslie Gordon  
inspecting plants in  
the nursery*



*Bawinanga's Enterprise unit provides a range of fresh produce, plants and useful services to the community. Enterprise liaises on a regular basis with community members to help turn their ideas into employment and income generating opportunities on the homelands. Achieving local control is a key goal and Bawinanga is assisting community members develop the skills and capacities to run their own enterprises.*

*Our overarching goal is to incubate enterprises which are not only financially healthy but also environmentally sustainable and of benefit to the broader community. We also ensure management of Enterprises facilitates the maintenance of language, culture and traditional practice.*

*Major challenges to Enterprise over the past two years were the transition away from CDP activities and subsequent adjustments to business processes and arrangements. Nonetheless, these ultimately proved beneficial to the organisation by clarifying the role of Enterprise and increasing operational efficiency.*





## BAWINANGA ENTERPRISE – FISHERIES

*The fisheries  
team in  
action*





After a tough start to the year due to COVID disruption, our fishing program ended on a high note. We are now regularly supplying whole fish and fillets direct to local customers, local organisations, including Aged Care, with residents highly appreciating the catch! We also send an occasional shipment to Darwin. Five of our fishermen completed their Elements of Shipboard Safety certification, the first step toward gaining their Coxswains Qualification. Next year we are hoping to start selling fillets in stores and send regular Mud Crab shipments to Darwin or interstate.

Some of the fishermen and Sea Rangers attended the Blue Mud Bay celebrations in July. They gave a fabulous speech and brought the house down with their singing and dancing.



*Jeremiah Darcy brings in the day's catch*

## BAWINANGA ENTERPRISE – TOURISM

With West Arnhem land ripe with tourism opportunities, we conducted feasibility studies at a few locations on the Maningrida Homelands including Djingarr, Rocky Point and Nardilmuk.

In 2024 we are hoping to run some pilot tours and begin regularised operations

*Nardilmuk Outstation - Aerial view*



## BAWINANGA ENTERPRISE – NURSERY AND BUSH FOODS

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*Green Ants –  
Yum!*



*Our Bush Foods business moves from strength to strength. We've been collecting Green Ants and are currently working on systems to provide a regular shipment to distributors down south. This should provide a stable, regular income to supplement seasonal Kakadu Plum and Bush Apple harvests. The team has begun experimenting with Djarduk Apple Juices and is looking into selling packets of dried fruit. We ventured into more sophisticated products by releasing a batch of our signature Mardanggich Spice Mix which the team has been selling at a special price for Maningrida residents.*

*In 2022 a Bumper Kakadu Plum harvest put around \$100,000 in the hands of homelands residents*

*Commencing regular green ant sales to Adelaide A small Kakadu Plum harvest in 2022 did not discourage us, but shifted our focus towards green ants development of soaps and candles, especially in view of the upcoming Christmas season.*

*As usual, we are focusing on training our local staff and expanding their horizons: thus, star team members Leila Nimbada and Terrence Cameron participated in an international fine food exhibition in Sydney on behalf of the North Australian Aboriginal Kakadu Plum Alliance. We are now in talks with East Asian importers interested in our products.*

*The Nursery is open on a regular basis with our hard-working staff skilfully propagating plant materials and supplying the community with garden plants, seedlings and grafted trees.*



*More plants for customers!*







## BARLMARRK SUPERMARKET

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Barlmarrk supermarket, a major commercial enterprise of Bawinanga, is operated by Outback Stores company, which allows Bawinanga access to wider supply options and keeps food and products reasonably priced.

Barlmarrk is popular in the community for its wide range of fresh fruit and vegetables, groceries, meat as well as everyday consumer products, camping gear and white goods. It has performed well over the last two years, exceeding projected profits. With major refurbishment plans under way, Barlmarrk is well on track to becoming a proud flagship of remote community retail service delivery.

The Supermarket adopts a healthy food policy, keeping fruit and vegetables at low prices and offering lottery coupons to customers for eligible purchases to encourage healthy buys.

## WILD FOODS CAFÉ

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The Bawinanga owned café is a popular venue with the local community mob, especially for its late operating hours allowing residents to do their last-minute shopping in comfort.

The café sells good quality takeaway food, including salad and vegetable options, cool drinks and a decent range of fruit, vegetable and groceries.





## MECHANICAL WORKSHOP

*Mechanic  
Eparama Tagi  
mentoring  
Hezekiah  
Guwanguwan  
– changing  
out wheel  
bearings*





BAC LV **mechanical workshop** is a vital hub of Maningrida daily life and is doing a great job battling hard against the challenges of limited remote area access to skilled workforce and supplies and erratic IT and phone services.

Despite the challenges, the workshop provides high quality services and ensures ongoing maintenance of Bawinanga fleet along with fleets of other Maningrida based organisations such as Northern Territory Government, West Arnhem Regional Council etc.

The workshop also services the wider community, repairing vehicles, providing tyre service and selling a wide range of new and second-hand spare auto parts.



*Hezekiah Guwanguwan – Trades assistant*



*Kylie Gregson,  
Manager for BAC  
workshop, civil &  
fleet*





*Our clients  
appreciate their  
prompt tyre  
service*





## CIVIL

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Bawinanga is contracted by the Northern Territory Government to maintain gravel roads between the Blythe River and Cahills Crossing as well as parts of the Coburg Peninsula Roads. The crew is operating in harsh weather conditions ranging from high heat to torrential rains. The rains of the wet season are the main reason for the dire road conditions, with the crew required to work hard during the dry season of May to November to repair the damage done. During wet seasons, the team focuses on training and machinery maintenance.

Over the past two years the following contracts were completed:

- Cahills crossing to Cobourg
- Cobourg park roads
- Maningrida access road
- Ramingining access road
- Re-sheet repairs at Cadell River, Blythe River, Gati Creek, Ji-Balbal causeway

Our Maningrida-based team also works for long stretches out bush, maintaining airstrips and grading and maintaining roads to outstations, to ensure the Homelands population has access to Maningrida for services and programs, including school attendance. In 2022 the crew, contracted to Aldebaran Civil Engineering Company, assisted in the construction of the new culverts on the Maningrida and Ramingining access roads – a great opportunity for the lads to work with new people & learn new skills.



*Let's get this show on the road!*



## HOUSING, HOMELANDS AND CONSTRUCTION

*Housing team out  
bush – more  
services to  
Homelands!*





The hard-working team of professionals at the Bawinanga Aboriginal Corporation Housing, Homelands and Construction Department provides essential infrastructure services to all 32 outstations in Bawinanga IPA. We are also responsible for in-town maintenance works for Bawinanga departments, staff housing, and external works for other Maningrida businesses. COVID restrictions have left the construction sector with huge industry gaps in supply of crucial building materials and machinery. Bawinanga Housing have mitigated the effects of this challenge with careful planning and improvements to the stocking system allowing us to continue providing high quality services to Homelands.

The Homelands maintenance team includes a complete team of tradesmen, several apprentices and trade assistants. We are currently training eight apprentices, six of them Indigenous, in a variety of trades, such as refrigeration, carpentry, plumbing and painting. We are proud that one of our apprentices, Shaun Morris, successfully completed his trade certificate in carpentry and Jacque Sagiba was nominated for Indigenous Apprentice of the Year 2023.



*Shaun Morris has successfully completed his Carpentry apprenticeship and is now a fully qualified tradesman*

Over the past two years, we have worked hard to bring homelands housing up to date adhering to the nine healthy living standards where possible, and ensuring homelands families can return to live on country. Our service delivery plan is designed to ensure supply of water and power, as well as regular maintenance of outstation housing and assets. Bawinanga chips in to help where there is no government finding and provides assistance to non-funded homelands Munmunya, Mumeka and Rocky Point to improve their chances of government funding next year. We are hopeful that the contributions made to these homelands will see them back on board as funded homelands soon.

Within the scopes of the Room to Breathe project, our town-based team completed refurbishment and added extra bedrooms to five houses in Maningrida, with seven houses in line for the future and an impressive 60% indigenous employment on this project. The HHIP program will be implemented over the next four years, with staggering \$8.4 million of investment into housing improvement spread across four homelands: Ji-Bena, Ji-BalBal, Ji-Malawa and Ji-Marda.

Thanks to capital grants we have been able to access extra funding to assist with necessary upgrades to power systems at the outstations of Kolorbidahdah, Mumeka and Gochan Jiny Jirra and water reticulation at Nardilmuk, Rocky Point, Gochan Jiny Jirra and Gorrong-Gorrong.

*The famous mangoes of Ji-Malawa – well worth the soak!*







*Jacque Sagiba: nominated for Indigenous Apprentice of the Year 2023 Award*



## MANINGRIDA ARTS AND CULTURE

Art Centre staff  
Ricky Ankin,  
Lincoln Bidingal,  
Derek Cater,  
Brooke Ainscow,  
Alison Cooper,  
Kelly Butler with  
artists Freda  
Wayartja Ali and  
Bonnie Burarngarra







Kiani Thompson, Cindy Rostron, Cinela Rostron –  
young Daluk model designers



## MANINGRIDA ARTS AND CULTURE – ART CENTRE

Maningrida Arts & Culture is a pre-eminent site of contemporary cultural expression and art-making, abundant with highly collectable art and emerging talent.

The area where artists live encompasses 7,000 square kilometers of land and sea, and over 100 clan estates, where people speak more than 12 distinct languages. We are an Aboriginal art center of empowered local artists who pursue successful global careers from our homeland and township bases. Our artists have control over all stages of the production of their work and use materials derived from and sustainably harvested on their clan estates

21 commercial and non-commercial exhibitions for Maningrida artists were held at territory, interstate and international galleries and institutions. Some notable exhibition highlights include:

Shadow Spirit which featured the collaborative work 'Kubumi' by Anniebell Marrngamarrnga and Dorothy Bunibuni, in partnership with artists Paul Nabulumo and Ken Djungkidj, at RISING Melbourne. Notably, this project marked a significant milestone for Anniebell Marrngamarrnga and Dorothy Bunibuni in that it was their largest scale installation to date. The collaborative effort between these artists has contributed to a captivating and immersive installation that beautifully encapsulates their Country and culture.



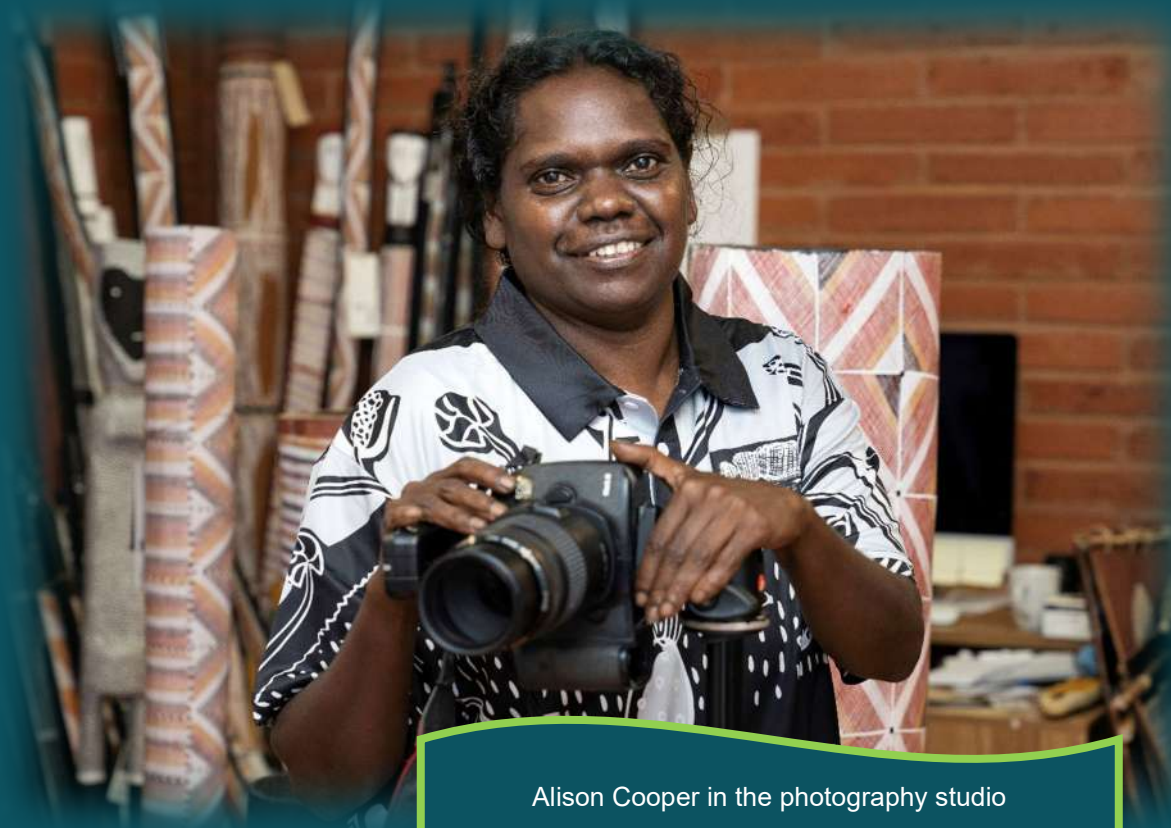
Artist Bonnie Buramgarra weaving



Bonnie Burarrngarra & Freda Wayartja Ali won the Telstra NATSIAA Wandjuk Marika 3D Sculpture Award. Their collaborative efforts were recognized for the creation of an extraordinary three-meter An-jucheiya, a traditional conical fish trap, meticulously crafted from Jungle Vine (*Malasia scandens*). This award is the first for both artists. The recognition of their artistic talents and cultural contributions on such a prestigious platform reflects their dedication and skill in creating intricate and culturally significant pieces.

2023 also saw the return of Outback Spirit overland tours to Maningrida Arts and the Djomi Museum, from May - September the art center and museum hosted two tour groups a day every second day. There were over seven paid tour guides for this period who showed guests through the Djomi Museum informing them of the histories of various art forms and cultural knowledge from Maningrida. At the art center tour guides presented demonstrations of weaving materials and techniques. The tours were instrumental to a boost in sales of art works direct to customers from the gallery.

Full-time employee Allison Cooper was also accepted into ANKA (Arnhem Northern & Kimberly artists) Arts Worker Extension Program (AWEP) for 2023. As one of eight participants selected Allison received incredible professional development opportunities as she traveled to Darwin, Sydney, Canberra and Melbourne. Visiting some of Australia's leading institutions and galleries, developing and sharing knowledge of art and cultural heritage, conservation, curation and exhibiting. Allison also gave presentations to audiences at the NGA, Canberra and Grimwade centre Melbourne on Maningrida, MAC and her role at the Art Center.



Allison Cooper in the photography studio

*Assistant  
Manager Kelly  
Butler - in love  
with the delicate  
carving*





*Ricky Ankin  
packing  
artworks to  
ship*



## MANINGRIDA ARTS AND CULTURE – BABBARRA WOMEN'S CENTRE



*The hands that  
work  
miracles...*



# MANBURRBA

Our story of printed cloth from Bábbarra Women's Centre



Senior artists Janet Marawarr, Deborah Wurrkidj and Abigail Namundja with Kuningku Textiles at Manburrrba: Our story of printed cloth exhibition



**Babbarra Women's Centre** is a textile-based Women's Art Centre and a major employer of women in Maningrida with 42 member artists representing more than 7 language groups in the region. Its textile brand, Babbarra Designs, has been on a growth trajectory since 1989 with its exquisite hand printed textiles being sold and exhibited around the world. Each length of fabric is unique and tells the ancestral stories of Arnhem Land country and cultures.

Babbarra Women's Centre also operates a community led Op Shop, youth fashion workshops (Young Daluk), various donation drives and facilitates a program of textiles workshops, exhibition and travel throughout the year.



Raylene Bonson with her new design

2021 – 2023 has been an epic and exciting two-year period. The Centre has benefitted from a dedicated and experienced team with manager Jessica Stalenberg working alongside Ziian Carey, Raylene Bonson, Josephine James and casuals Esther Yarllarla and Abigail Namundja.



In 2022 Babbarra Designs implemented the Stories Art Money (SAM) financial management system to improve preexisting, clunky sales systems and increase the provenance of textiles through cataloging. This change in business supported our application for IVAIS (Indigenous Visual Arts Industry Support) operational funding which we were finally awarded in 2023.

Babbarra Designs jumped back into the Indigenous textile and fashion conversation in 2022 and won two NIFA Awards (National Indigenous Fashion Awards). Esther Yarllarla was presented with the Textile Adornment Award and Babbarra was runner up to the Indigenous Business award. In February 2023 Babbarra designs hosted fashion industry workshops for young women in a program called 'Young Daluk' supported by some seed funding from Stronger Communities for Children.

The positive result was a youth led fashion collection designed and made in community and by Darwin supporters, Raw Cloth Couture.



Kiani Thompson wearing bush dye dress by Apphia Wurrkidj and Deborah Wurrkidj, sewn by Raw Cloth

Babbarra Designs worked together with Mala'la Wellness Centre to support two models to travel to Darwin for the indigenous runway show, Country to Couture 2023. This was a moment of pride for Maningrida and the young women to present ancestral stories on textiles for the first time since 2017.

In January 2023, three delegates from Babbarra Women's Centre travelled to India to launch their touring exhibition Jarracharra (Dry Season Wind) and accompany the Australian Consul General – Kolkata on a textile tour of West Bengal. Jarracharra was also exhibited in Berlin, Germany, Dubai World Expo, Kuwait, Turkiye and Cyprus over the two years.

Other achievements from 2021-2023 include:

- Participating in Darwin Aboriginal Art fair, National Indigenous Art Fair (Sydney) and Tarnanthi Art Fair (Adelaide). Art Fairs increase BWC's reputation as an ethical indigenous art centre and provided revenue, travel and training opportunities for 11 staff and artists over the 2-year period.
- In November the team held an art camp at Gorrong Gorrong Outstation with funding support from the NLC. Textile facilitator Bobbie Rueben visited Maningrida to facilitate the workshop and 14 new screen print designs were developed.

*Exchanging ideas in India: Babbarra Manager Jessica Stalenberg with Padmini Govid from Tharangini, Janet Marawarr and Deborah Wurrkidj*







*Artist Jay Jurrupula Rostron with two new screen print designs at workshop in Gorrong-Gorrong outstation*



## MANINGRIDA ARTS AND CULTURE – CULTURE RESEARCH OFFICE AND DJOMI MUSEUM

*Artist Derek Carter  
at the Djomi  
Museum*





**The Djomi Museum** is a jewel of West Arnhem Cultural Heritage and is home to a nationally significant collection that includes bark paintings, rare artefacts, ceremonial regalia and a comprehensive collection of media resources. The museum was established in the 1980's as an extension of the Maningrida Arts Centre and was subsequently followed by the inception of the Cultural Research Office (CRO) in 1993.

For over two decades, the Cultural Research Office has been a keeping place for the 13+ distinct cultural groups represented in Maningrida and surrounding homelands. The CRO is guided by the Maningrida Arts and Culture sub-committee and continues to create and acquire new material in a wide range of media. The collection provides a multitude of resources for the community, staff, art institutions, museums and researchers.



*Fish traps and boats – coastal life through thousands of centuries*

In December 2021, the Djomi Museum received the new interpretive signage labels that were part of the 2019 GrantsNT Djomi Upgrade. Darwin based artist, Liz Martin, came to Maningrida and worked with Ngarrich Derek Carter and Gojok Elijah Nelson to complete the label install. In January 2022, we secured further GrantsNT funding for the continued upgrade of the Museum. The funding allowed to install two new dehumidifier units in the Djomi Museum.



The Djomi Museum and Art Gallery NT (MAGNT) facilitated a three-day Collection Care workshop in Maningrida. CRO and Art Centre staff attended the training along with senior students from Maningrida College. 20+ hours of cultural knowledge were also recorded, in 10 different languages. These recordings included six song cycles in Burarra, Djinang, Gun-nartpa, and Kuninjku.

A Collection Care workshop was delivered in September 2022 by Carolyn McLennon and Kerry Nancarrow from the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory (MAGNT). Arts Workers Gojok Elijah Nelson and Balang Ricky Ankin brushed up on their collection care and handling skills and worked with the consultants on implementing an accessioning process for objects being returned or donated to the collection. Students from Maningrida Collage also attended the workshop, and we are working closely with the school to establish ongoing engagement with the collection. As part of this funding, we were able to provide training and contract work for local language workers to transcribe and translate audio recordings.



*Art treasures of the Maningrida region*



It has been a busy couple of years for the Djomi Museum, with significant art works being returned to community and a roof makeover for the museum building. With so much activity happening around the collection, we are working closely with external stakeholders to re-establish the *Friends of the Djomi* support network to promote greater awareness of the collection nationally and increase support and acknowledgment of the work and care the Maningrida community put into maintaining this nationally significant collection.

We are closely collaborating with Museum of Contemporary Arts (MCA) Maningrida Collection that currently holds 573 works in fibre and other materials by Maningrida artists. The MCA has supported two visits for artists and family members to visit the collection in Sydney and provide consultations on the works, with a view to develop a user-friendly and culturally informed portal for ongoing community access to the collection. The CRO maintains ongoing communication with Allens Lawyers regarding the Memorandum of Understanding between Bawinanga Aboriginal Corporation and the MCA, sustaining the partnership and ongoing care of the collection.



*The Djomi Mermaid*

## Indigenous Languages and Arts Program

This project follows the cultural mapping of the Balkarranga clan - Martay Burarra language. In July 2022 we completed the second cultural camp at Ana-jola (Southeast of Ji-Marda Outstation). With over 60 people in attendance, the team spent two days documenting and recording cultural knowledge, bunggul (dance/performance) and manikay (Songline). Burarra linguist, Margaret Carew, attended the camp along with Aboriginal Resource Development Services (ARDS) film crew Kane Chenoweth and Lena Smith. Over the past six months, Balkarranga clan member Martha Carter has been working on transcribing and translating the project recordings in preparation for the final publication.

In November 2022, clan elders Ngarrich Tommy Wurlakarra and Ngarrich Derek Carter, along with clan junggay Gojok Marcus Pascoe and MAC Arts Worker Gojok Elijah Nelson, attended the film studio in Darwin to assist with the post-production of the project's short film.



*Gamarrang Lionel Bonson and Gamarrang Cedric Bonson Performing Galabarrbarr (ancestor spirit) at Ana-jola*



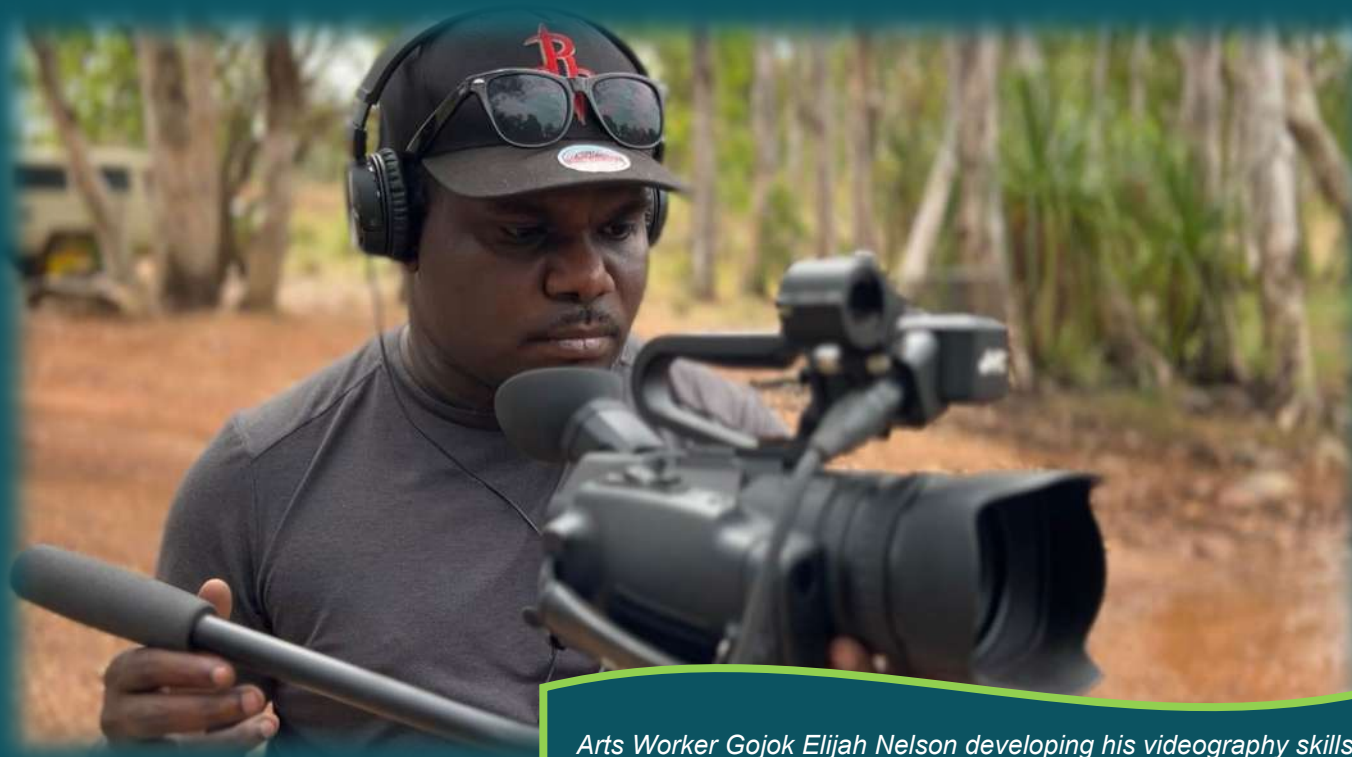
### Highlights:

- Recorded 10+ hours of Martay Burarra language and cultural knowledge.
- Completed a three-day cultural camp at Anajola with 60+ participants in attendance
- Produced a short film that was screened at the 2023 Pullima Indigenous Languages Conference in Darwin.
- Produced a 170-page bilingual publication showcasing Balkarranga clan, country and cultural knowledge

**Donald Thompson Collection** - The Culture Office staff continued to liaise with Carol Christopherson and Eve Chaloupka from Melbourne University regarding the Donald Thompson Collection currently held at Museums Victoria. This collection spans multiple communities and includes artifacts and documentation acquired

during Thompson's field work in various communities between 1935 – 1965. The ongoing discussions aim to facilitate community access to the collection and best practice pathways for the repatriation of artifacts and human remains. Local CRO and Art Centre workers have been contracted to provide 100 photographs and 52 videos of Maningrida and surrounding Homelands for the DTC website.

The Cultural Research Office (CRO) in Maningrida plays a central role in preserving and sharing the region's diverse cultural heritage. Guided by the Maningrida Arts and Culture sub-committee, the CRO actively collaborates on cultural research projects and documentation and oversees the Djomi Museum and archives.



*Arts Worker Gojok Elijah Nelson developing his videography skills*



*Bulany Blake  
Carter and  
Gamarrang  
Cedric Bonson  
recording  
manikay (clan  
song) at  
Djingarr  
Outstation*







## FINANCIAL REPORT 2021-2022

Bawinanga Aboriginal Corporation Statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income For the year ended 30 June 2022

	Note	2022 \$	2021 \$
<i>The above statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes</i>			
Revenue	5	3 22,801,606	25,480,825
<b>Expenses</b>			
Employee benefits expense	4	(10,210,470)	(10,068,655)
Depreciation expense	4	(1,338,601)	(1,360,524)
interest expense		(82,123)	(136,841)
Motor vehicle expense		(1,004,948)	(645,155)
Materials and contractors		(4,208,446)	(3,522,460)
Utilities expense		(467,654)	(458,133)
Staff training and development expense		(56,875)	(184,266)
Audit, legal and consultancy fees		(964,885)	(1,001,879)
Other expenses from ordinary activities		(1,070,494)	(1,576,628)
Net surplus for the year		3,397,110	6,526,284
<b>Other comprehensive income</b>			
<b>Items that will not be reclassified subsequently to profit or loss</b>			
Other comprehensive income for the year - -			
Total comprehensive income for the year		3,397,110	6,526,284
Surplus attributable to members of the corporation		3,397,110	6,526,284
Total comprehensive income attributable to members of the corporation		3,397,110	6,526,284



## Bawinanga Aboriginal Corporation Statement of financial position As at 30 June 2022

	Note	2022 \$	2021 \$
The above statement of financial position should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes			
<b>Assets</b>			
<b>Current assets</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	5	20,745,406	16,014,634
Trade and other receivables	6	920,383	1,103,525
Other Assets	7	834,592	536,994
Inventory	8	1,942,627	1,594,543
<b>Total current assets</b>		<b>24,443,008</b>	<b>19,249,697</b>
<b>Non-current assets</b>			
Property, plant and equipment	10	7,147,635	6,735,278
Right of Use Assets	11	1,608,862	1,707,066
Investments	9	2	2
<b>Total non-current assets</b>		<b>8,756,499</b>	<b>8,442,346</b>
<b>Total assets</b>		<b>33,199,507</b>	<b>27,692,043</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>			
<b>Current liabilities</b>			
Trade and other payables	12	2,419,905	1,794,262
Employee benefits	13	499,647	688,949
Grants in Advance	14	4,775,683	3,063,446
Lease Liabilities	15	213,846	179,539
<b>Total current liabilities</b>		<b>7,909,082</b>	<b>5,726,197</b>
<b>Non-current liabilities</b>			
Lease Liabilities	16	1,299,939	1,376,531
Employee benefits	17	80,444	76,382
<b>Total non-current liabilities</b>		<b>1,380,383</b>	<b>1,452,913</b>
<b>Total liabilities</b>		<b>9,289,464</b>	<b>7,179,110</b>
<b>Net assets</b>		<b>23,910,043</b>	<b>20,512,933</b>
<b>Equity</b>			
Accumulated Surplus	18	23,910,043	20,512,933
<b>Total equity</b>		<b>23,910,043</b>	<b>20,512,933</b>

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF BAWINANGA ABORIGINAL CORPORATION 2021-22

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### Report on the Audit of the Financial Report

#### Opinion

We have audited the financial report of Bawinanga Aboriginal Corporation, which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2022, the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, notes comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information, and the directors' declaration.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial report of Bawinanga Aboriginal Corporation is in accordance with the *Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006* and Division 60 of the *Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* (ACNC Act), including:

- (i) giving a true and fair view of the corporation's financial position as at 30 June 2022 and of its financial performance for the year then ended; and
- (ii) complying with Australian Accounting Standards – Simplified Disclosures and the *Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres*



*Strait Islander) Act 2006 and with Division 60 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Regulation 2013..*

### **Basis for Opinion**

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report* section of our report. We are independent of the corporation in accordance with the auditor independence requirements of the *Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006* and the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

We confirm that the independence declaration required by the *Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006* and *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* (ACNC Act), which has been given to the directors of Bawinanga Aboriginal Corporation, would be in the same terms if given to the directors as at the time of this auditor's report.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

### **Responsibilities of the Directors for the Financial Report**

The directors of the corporation are responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and have determined that the basis of preparation described in Note 1 to the financial report is appropriate to meet the requirements of the *Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006*, the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* (ACNC Act), the Australian Accounting Standards - Simplified Disclosures and is appropriate to meet the needs of the members.

The directors' responsibility also includes such internal control as the directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of a financial report that gives a true and fair view and is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. In preparing the financial report, the directors are responsible for assessing the corporation's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the directors either intend to liquidate the corporation or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

The directors are responsible for overseeing the corporation's financial reporting process.

### Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the corporation's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the committee.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the committee's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the corporation's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the corporation to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.



We communicate with the directors regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

LBW Business & Wealth Advisors

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Sripathy Sarma', is displayed on a white rectangular background.

Sripathy Sarma

Principal

Dated this 16th day of November 2022

## FINANCIAL REPORT 2022-2023

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The corporation is currently in a sound financial position with a good cash flow.

The financial audit for 2022-2023 was conducted by L&BW Chartered Accountants. An unqualified financial audit report for 2022-2023 was achieved which is a very positive outcome resulting from the hard work of the Finance team to maintain our paperwork and continue reporting against grant funding milestones.

The corporation made a profit of \$1.2m over the period of 1/7/2022 – 30/6/2023 overall from all of its operations.

The amount of \$8.8 million was placed in the Bawinanga Aboriginal Corporation Special Purposes Trust Fund. These funds will be invested to grow the nest egg and provide higher interest earnings to the corporation.



## Bawinanga Aboriginal Corporation Statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income For the year ended 30 June 2023

	Note	2023 \$	2022 \$
<b>Revenue</b>	3	23,851,260	22,801,606
<b>Expenses</b>			
Employee benefits expense	4	(11,149,234)	(10,210,470)
Depreciation expense	4	(1,417,091)	(1,338,601)
interest expense		(81,289)	(82,123)
Motor vehicle expense		(1,362,127)	(1,004,948)
Materials and contractors		(4,149,146)	(4,208,446)
Utilities expense		(497,363)	(467,654)
Staff training and development expense		(137,858)	(56,875)
Legal and consultancy fees		(1,287,077)	(964,885)
Other expenses from ordinary activities		<u>(2,517,081)</u>	<u>(1,070,494)</u>
<b>Surplus for the year before transfer of funds to The Bawinanga Aboriginal Corporation Special Purposes Fund</b>		1,252,994	3,397,110
Transfer of funds to The Bawinanga Aboriginal Corporation Special Purposes Fund	(i)	(8,800,000)	-
<b>Net surplus/(deficit) for the year</b>		<u>(7,547,006)</u>	<u>3,397,110</u>
<b>Other comprehensive income</b>			
<b>Items that will not be reclassified subsequently to profit or loss</b>			
Other comprehensive income for the year		-	-
<b>Total comprehensive income/(loss) for the year</b>		<u>(7,547,006)</u>	<u>3,397,110</u>
<b>Surplus/(deficit) attributable to members of the corporation</b>		<u>(7,547,006)</u>	<u>3,397,110</u>
<b>Total comprehensive income/(loss) attributable to members of the corporation</b>		<u>(7,547,006)</u>	<u>3,397,110</u>

(i) Bawinanga Aboriginal Corporation Special Purposes Fund (ABN 45 639 768 537) was established as per the trust deed dated 11 June 2021.

A total of \$8,800,000 (\$6,800,000 on 8 August 2022 and \$2,000,000 on 23 September 2022) was transferred to an investment account controlled by the Bawinanga Aboriginal Corporation Special Purposes Fund.

## Bawinanga Aboriginal Corporation

## Statement of financial position

As at 30 June 2023

	Note	2023	2022
<b>Assets</b>			
<b>Current assets</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	5	16,696,292	20,745,406
Trade and other receivables	6	1,401,610	920,383
Other Assets	7	1,210,619	834,592
Inventory	8	<u>1,871,375</u>	<u>1,942,627</u>
Total current assets		<u>21,179,896</u>	<u>24,443,008</u>
<b>Non-current assets</b>			
Property, plant and equipment	10	7,871,978	7,147,635
Right of Use Assets	11	1,372,850	1,608,862
Investments	9	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>
Total non-current assets		<u>9,244,830</u>	<u>8,756,499</u>
<b>Total assets</b>		<u>30,424,726</u>	<u>33,199,507</u>
<b>Liabilities</b>			
<b>Current liabilities</b>			
Trade and other payables	12	3,399,663	2,419,905
Employee benefits	13	711,834	499,647
Grants in Advance	14	8,561,933	4,775,683
Lease Liabilities	15	<u>216,484</u>	<u>213,846</u>
Total current liabilities		<u>12,889,914</u>	<u>7,909,082</u>
<b>Non-current liabilities</b>			
Lease Liabilities	16	1,096,925	1,299,939
Employee benefits	17	<u>74,850</u>	<u>80,444</u>
Total non-current liabilities		<u>1,171,775</u>	<u>1,380,383</u>
<b>Total liabilities</b>		<u>14,061,689</u>	<u>9,289,464</u>
<b>Net assets</b>		<u>16,363,037</u>	<u>23,910,043</u>
<b>Equity</b>			
Accumulated Surplus	18	<u>16,363,037</u>	<u>23,910,043</u>
<b>Total equity</b>		<u>16,363,037</u>	<u>23,910,043</u>



## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF BAWINANGA ABORIGINAL CORPORATION 2022-23

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### Report on the Audit of the Financial Report

#### Opinion

We have audited the financial report of Bawinanga Aboriginal Corporation, which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2023, the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, notes comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information, and the directors' declaration.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial report of Bawinanga Aboriginal Corporation is in accordance with the Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006 and Division 60 of the Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 (ACNC Act), including:

- (i) giving a true and fair view of the corporation's financial position as at 30 June 2023 and of its financial performance for the year then ended; and
- (ii) complying with Australian Accounting Standards – Simplified Disclosures and the Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006 and with Division 60 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Regulation 2013.

### **Basis for Opinion**

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report section of our report. We are independent of the corporation in accordance with the auditor independence requirements of the Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006 and the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

We confirm that the independence declaration required by the Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006 and Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 (ACNC Act), which has been given to the directors of Bawinanga Aboriginal Corporation, would be in the same terms if given to the directors as at the time of this auditor's report.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

### **Responsibilities of the Directors for the Financial Report**

The directors of the corporation are responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and have determined that the basis of preparation described in Note 1 to the financial report is appropriate to meet the requirements of the Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006, the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 (ACNC Act), the Australian Accounting Standards - Simplified Disclosures and is appropriate to meet the needs of the members. The directors' responsibility also includes such internal control as the directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of a financial report that gives a true and fair view and is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, the directors are responsible for assessing the corporation's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the directors either intend to liquidate the corporation or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

The directors are responsible for overseeing the corporation's financial reporting process.



### **Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report**

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the corporation's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the committee.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the committee's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the corporation's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the corporation to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with the directors regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

LBW Business & Wealth Advisors



Sripathy Sarma

Principal

Dated 15 November of 2023



PLEASE ADDRESS ALL QUERIES TO

Galina Lazareva  
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Bawinanga Aboriginal Corporation  
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