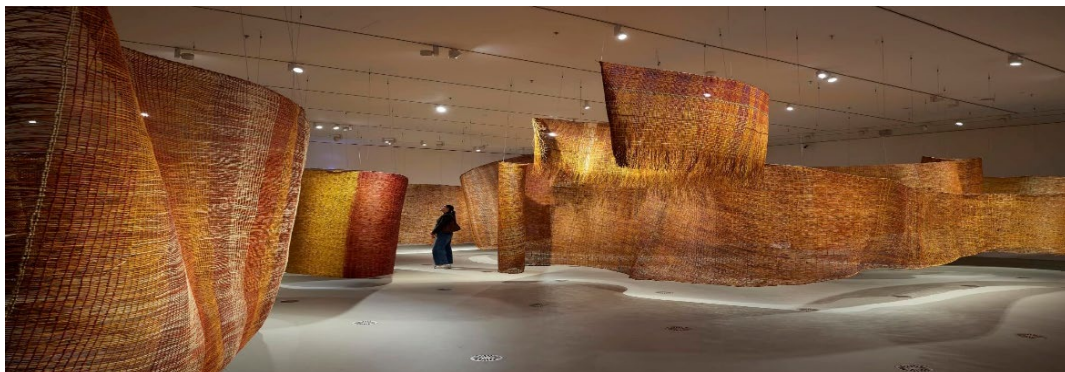




Caring for the Country

All the way into the new year Djelk Rangers have been insanely busy with late dry season wildfire suppression, and at the same time making the most of the late Big Wet to get lots of Homelands weed spraying completed. Our team are constantly out and about getting buffalo meat for community events, collecting crocodile eggs, assisting with tucker run to remote outstations and supporting cultural site projects.

A big welcome to our new staff: Ranger Operations Coordinator **Jason Koh** and to **Darius Wilson**, who is showing excellent initiative and willingness in his Senior Ranger role. Also congratulations to **Desmond Nangurrur** for receiving his CERT III in Fishing Compliance.

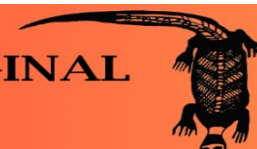


Maningrida Arts and Culture continues to maintain a high reputation with external stakeholders from galleries, museums and institutions nationally and internationally. The absolute highlight of the past few months was the opening at the National Gallery of Victoria's Triennial 2023 of *Mun-dirra*, 'Traditional Fishnet Fence', the largest weaving commission ever made in Australia. At one hundred meters long, this stunning work was produced over two years of numerous bush trips and countless hours weaving by Burarra artists **Freda Ali, Freda Wayartja Ali, Maureen Ali, Cecille Baker, Michelle Baker, Bonnie Burarrngarra, Gabriella Garrimara, Doreen Jinggarabarra, Lorna Jin-gubarrangunyja, Indra Prudence, Jennifer Prudence, Zoe Prudence and Anthea Stewart.**

An artists' meeting was held at the end of the year addressing the need to keep the quality high with artworks and that there will be no buying of any wet wood or bark

To get in touch, send us an email to info@bawinanga.com, call 89796555 or message our Facebook page

BAWINANGA ABORIGINAL CORPORATION



BAC NEWSLETTER

Issue 1 – January 2024



Dane and Nathan erecting scaffolding for a Room to Breathe.

Room To Breathe for Locals – Housing at Work

We have been lucky with the wet season holding off longer than usual, which means we were able to complete more work on Homelands usually flooded in by this time of the year. Our team have spent January at Buluhkaduru, Bolkdjam and on an emergency grant for power system replacement for Gochan Jiny Jirra.

The Homelands Housing Infrastructure Program (HHIP) planning is underway with Ji-Bena being the first homeland to be serviced and Ji-Balbal, Ji-Malawa, and Ji-Marda to follow. The housing team have now taken over the Mudbrick factory to manufacture bricks to be used on HHIP projects. BAC apprentices have been working hard on Room to Breathe builds, and recently completed their first house slab by themselves with minimal supervision – a major achievement!

MESSAGE FROM BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dear BAC Members and people on Outstations and in the Maningrida community: a big welcome into the New Year for all of you!

We at Bawinanga have experienced both losses and wins in 2023. As the previous Bawinanga CEO moved on in June 2023, we are currently recruiting a new CEO who we hope will be coming on board early next year. Despite all challenges, we have made extraordinary progress last year, and we'd like to personally thank every team member for their energy and resilience in driving BAC forward.

We welcome our new Board Directors Shane Namanurki and James Woods and look forward to continuing to break barriers and achieve positive outcomes in 2024 with you all.



Workshop: Fleet Maintenance Heroes

Though facing challenges such as parts and skilled mechanics availability, the BAC Workshop does a great job keeping up with community demands. A fourth FIFO mechanic has commenced in January, improving our capacity to take on external works for the fleets of NTG, WARC, DTC, GT Build and Outback Spirit. It's also been a major job cleaning up for the Cyclone season and securing BAC assets for the Christmas closure. We are proud of our tyre fitters **Andre Pascoe and Lexter James**, both are very reliable hard workers.

Civil Crew – First Grade Works

After nine months of grading roads from Maningrida to Ramingining and Cahill's Crossing, in Cobourg National Park and to 32 Homelands, the crew has now closed works due to end of season. Our plant & machinery are now having extensive repairs carried out by heavy vehicle expert mechanics.



We would like to highlight **Larry Wawee and Benjamin Burrunali** who have done an exceptional job in running the two crews and getting the works completed on time.



We are proud of our local employees: **Sarita Brown, Robert James and Llewyn Brown**, who work hard to help their countrymen to break the welfare dependency

SAFE PROUD PEOPLE CONNECTED TO COUNTRY THROUGH SONG LINE

More Jobs – Healthier Community

Community Development Program is looking forward to a busy and successful new year with plenty of challenges ahead: achieving Cyber Security accreditation required to maintain CDP contract, completing the remaining Trial Project Pathways to Employment and identifying partnerships with service providers to advance employment and training opportunities.

Babbarra – Bold, Bright and Beautiful

Babbarra Women's Centre walked into 2024 with confidence by launching new screen prints by Maningrida's leading Daluk artists: **Rosanna Bonson, Ruth Bindeidbal, Abigail Namundja** and others. The Centre is also strengthening understanding and engagement with Aboriginal Culture around the world by working with artisan led woodblock manufacturer Tharangini Studio in India to develop a range of exquisite block printed

textiles. Having recently secured licensing of two designs with a renowned fashion brand Helen Kaminski, Babbarra is driving the trend for recognition of unique local textile art by Australia's fashion industry and making Bawinanga very proud by its achievements.



Enterprise: Shape your Own Future

BAC Enterprise is talking on new challenges with transition of some CDP activities under Enterprise. We are happy to announce the signing of two grants: one providing \$553,000 in wage subsidies for local jobs over 2 years and another providing for the purchase of a Troopy for the Buluhkaduru-Bolkdjam Homelands project. Our nursery, thanks to the dedicated efforts of **Leila Nimbadja, Esau Yangula and Jaylene Campion** is making



steady sales and our bush soaps and spice mixes are a big hit with the shoppers at the Art Centre, so more local retailers are now eyeing our products. We are also looking to fill the positions of the bush foods coordinator and nursery coordinator – please get in contact if you are interested!

Work can be Fun – Community Services

RSAS and Night Patrol went into the festive season with a bang – lots of fun for kids and family with the School Xmas concert, Maningrida pool Xmas party and of course, the Maningrida Basketball Semi and Grand final. The Sunday Yulaba cook up is a big hit, feeding yummy home-cooked food to about 50 kids each time. Maningrida Laundry is now operating from 9am to 4:30pm Monday to Friday and is very popular with the community.

And we in the department are so proud of the fact that **ALL our staff are indigenous!**

