



**WINUN
NGARI**
ABORIGINAL CORPORATION



WINUN NGARI NEWSLETTER

October 2020

THE LAPSED COMMUNITY

DERBY DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL – A SHORT HISTORY

The town of Derby was once the centre of the Kimberley where families working remotely, on stations, or in other small towns would accommodate their children so they could receive an education. Children often stayed with family or friends, or in hostels – either the Catholic-run St Joseph's, or the United Aborigines Mission (UAM) owned and operated by the WA State Government. While the ability to read and write is critical in gaining employment, the cost of an education was, and still is, prohibitive for many families.

In 1898, the citizens of Derby started pleading with the Government for a school for their children. The request was rejected by the Government based on cost. The costs at the time were 650 pounds (\$1,187.09 Australian dollars) to build a school and 150 pounds (\$273.94 Australian dollars) per year for a teacher.

The Government rejection did not deter the citizens of Derby, who continued their fight to get a school and teacher, so their children could have a chance at an education. After some time, their determination paid off and on the 19th of June 1905, the first school in Derby was opened in Hardman Street (the old Freemasons building - where the Youth Centre is today) with Johnstone Steen as the first headmaster. The first students were from the Ah Chee, Buckle, Brown and Wells families who still have descendants living and receiving an education in Derby today.

In 1959, this building was destroyed by fire and a new school was built on the site where Derby District High School (DDHS) is now located. This new school was bigger to accommodate the growing number of children in need of an education. In 1960, principal Mr Frank Harding remembers the excitement of the new school well, along with collecting students from old Mowanjum on a tractor and trailer.

THE MODERN ERA

In 2013 the school was fortunate to gain funding and support from the Government in being awarded a building program to add a home economics facility, music room, early years centre, performing arts centre and a new science room. These new buildings were completed in 2014 and are still being used today to deliver education to all our attending students. Education is essential to our community and over the last 115 years DDHS has been vital to many children in Derby and our surrounding communities.

Today at DDHS we have over 600 students, 85% of which identify as Aboriginal. That is not to say that they all attend, but we do have committed teachers and a wonderful principal, supported by a strong student council and parents, along with many programs and services that are delivered both inside and outside the school. These programs and services are designed to help students' complete school with the ability to read and write.

It appears this is not enough for our current Labour Government nor the previous Liberal Government as neither have committed any money in their budgets to Derby District High

School. The last real funds committed was through 'Royalties for Regions' which built the DDHS auditorium. In the last 12 months we have had a roof replaced on one classroom block, fencing replaced around the school premises, and scheduled stumps to be replaced on the same block. This is not enough. Without support, DDHS will fall into a state of disrepair and pose safety risks to the children.

SAD STATE OF THE INFRASTRUCTURE

DDHS has classrooms that are full of asbestos and they're deteriorating very fast each year. The toilet and shower facilities that accommodate over 600 students are not fit for any person to use, let alone our kids. The old blackboards, lighting, air conditioners, windows, doors cannot be removed because the buildings have asbestos walls.



*The only female toilet available for girls in years 8 to 12
(ABC: Tyne Logan)*

The Education Department's solution is to put whiteboards over the blackboards, fit lighting, fans and air conditioners elsewhere within the classrooms, and just band-aid the windows and doors to ensure there are no visible cracks.

These are not acceptable measures by any standard and pose a great risk to our children and teachers. Exposure to asbestos can be deadly and the Government needs to provide a long-term fix rather than more band-aid solutions.



*There are calls for the high school classrooms to be replaced, and new toilets and showers built.
(ABC: Tyne Logan)*

The Minister of Education Sue Ellery stated that the Government has begun a feasibility study on upgrade to the showers, toilets and laundry facilities at DDHS, with \$900K committed to these works. These facilities should be demolished with new facilities built to accommodate the 600 students.

Work has commenced on the upgrading of the current facilities, however, we cannot replace the 20-year-old lights or the big exhaust fan on the roof that is not working as the building is full of asbestos.

Unfortunately, it seems the Government cannot commit anything to DDHS as it is not located where you can swim in the blue water, ride

camels or have a coffee down the trendy café strip. Another cited excuse is that it is too costly to build in our town which is only 220 kilometres north east of Broome. It seems to be a case of out of sight, out of mind for those towns who do not have majority voters.

The impact from this poor approach to community care is that the students, teachers and others that work within this school can just suck it up and get on with providing an education. The Principal, teachers and staff each year clean, paint and dress up their classrooms (they want to provide an environment to their students whereby they feel safe and comfortable).

These costs are not borne by the Education Department (God forbid! They don't have the money for this school.), it comes out of the pockets of the teachers, parents and fund raising because they care and want to make a difference.

Additionally, the school has a concrete ramp that cost millions to build and doesn't even meet safety standards laid out by the government. This ramp is not aligned correctly, does not comply with the building or occupation and health standards either, but the Government's

attitude is not to tell anyone or fix it, just to turn a blind eye as it will cost too much to comply with the standards that everyone else in WA follows when it comes to buildings.

I congratulate Eliot Money DDHS Principal and Sarah Hardman Chair Derby School Council for their strong resolve to highlight the issues with the buildings at DDHS. Eliot has advocated for the interests of the Derby community ahead of the interests of the Education department, which I have no doubt has put him in the sights of department administrators.

A CALL TO ACTION

I encourage all parents, students, grandparents, aunties, uncles, siblings, services delivery agencies and those that are really concerned about our school and students to write to the Minister of Education Sue Ellery and Mark McGowan, plus speak to the media. They need to hear our message – that we want funding to replace our deteriorating classrooms and facilities with new ones over the next two years. Considering the WA government posted a huge surplus of \$3 billion and will continue to do so with the GST they are getting back, we don't think that our children's' future is too much to ask for.

Suzanne Murphy





BUSINESS INCUBATOR PROGRAM

Winun Ngari Aboriginal Corporation's Business Incubator Pilot Program, funded by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, supports the development of Indigenous businesses and business ideas in Derby and surrounding remote communities. Through

the Business Incubator program, Indigenous businesses have started up locally. Brendon Charles Art and Design and Shakira Kitching's 'Beautiful Again' are two of these successful businesses.

The work of Warlmajarri/Nyikina artist, Brendon (Bugsy) Charles, is an exploration of his rich Aboriginal history. Born in Derby WA and raised in Mowanjum by Ngarinyin and Dambirangari Wandjina group, Bugsy says he was brought up under the stars.

Bugsy currently resides in Derby with his family and is a renowned local artist. Bugsy has been painting and designing all his life and his talent is recognised nationally. Painting, art and design has always been a way of life for Bugsy that has enabled him to express his creativity and meaningful story telling. Bugsy will often be seen vibrantly and insightfully inspiring through the powerful medium of story telling to a mesmerized audience.

Bugsy uses a variety of styles and mediums employing a bold colour palette; with his unique blend of traditional Aboriginal art techniques along with his own signature contemporary art and design.

Through the Business Incubator program, Brendon has been commissioned to design and paint murals, design logos and promotional material, authentic Indigenous art and craft along with accessing wrap around

business services to ensure his business is sustainable and successful. If you would like more information on Brendon's art and design services, please phone 0475 602 179.



THERE IS A NEW BUSINESS IN TOWN!

Shakira Kitching is a local expert beauty therapist with a passion for motherhood, beauty, style and creating indigenous art.

Taking her passion for beauty therapy, Shakira has created 'Beautiful Again', a local and 100% Indigenous owned business. With an impressive list of qualifications, life experience, expertise and an eye for detail, combined with the studio's calming and inviting atmosphere, Beautiful Again is set to be a success.

OPENING SOON!

Through the Business Incubator program, Shakira has secured business premises, resources and materials for her business all while accessing wrap around business services to ensure her business is sustainable and successful. A big Thank you to Kris Young at Many Rivers for a successful collaborative approach.



EXPLORING PATHWAYS TO MENTAL HEALTHCARE FOR YOUNG AUSTRALIANS

Nous Group (Nous) has been engaged to support the Mental Health Commission (MHC) to develop a culturally safe and secure service for young people in the Kimberley with alcohol and other drug (AOD) issues called the Kimberley Youth AOD Service. The service is being co-designed with young people and families, community Elders, service providers, and other stakeholders from across the region.

As part of the co-design process, Nous conducted a series of virtual co-design workshops in late July with government representatives and service providers to develop ideas for components of the service. Following this, Nous conducted two visits to the West and East Kimberley, to speak with young people, families and community Elders. Nous has since consolidated the ideas and insights gathered through these engagements into an emerging service model for the Kimberley Youth AOD Service.

Winun Ngari hosted a 90-minute virtual workshop to test and refine the emerging service model for the Kimberley Youth AOD Service. This was the

final opportunity for stakeholders to input into the co-design process.

The objectives of the virtual workshop was to:

- » To test and refine the emerging service model.
- » To identify the enablers (e.g. staff, assets and infrastructure, partnerships) required to implement the service.
- » To understand the characteristics required of the service provider commissioned to deliver the service and how it could be governed.

We will be running multiple sessions of the workshop to ensure as many people as possible are able to attend.

Winun Ngari staff representatives from across our services and programs shared feedback and their perspectives on where the funding could be best used in Derby.



CONTAINERS FOR CHANGE

The **Containers for Change** depot at 24 Wells Street Derby opened for business on the 1st of October 2020. We are open to the public from 8am - 12 Noon Friday and Saturday to bring in eligible containers for cash. We are delighted Derby is getting behind the program from kids right through to older members of our community. Since opening, the hard-working

team have counted nearly 60,000 containers which is a massive effort – thanks Rocci, Gareth and the rest of the team for doing such a great job. Keep bringing those containers in but remember to make sure they are empty, the lids are off and for any transactions over 825 containers we will need to see ID (scheme rule - not ours).

ELIGIBLE CONTAINERS





Are you interested in donating to a **local charity**, keen to get a bit of **extra cash**, or just wanting to do your part in **protecting our land**? Drop into our refund point today.



Check out our
**EMPLOYMENT SUCCESS
STORIES THIS MONTH**



We would like to congratulate Gareth Councillor, Stephany Mills and Austin Dann for completing their forklift ticket! Another big congratulations to Gareth Councillor on his new role as Project Officer.

Gareth has progressed from being a CDP participant to traffic management team leader to now Project Officer with Frilled Enterprises. Well done Gareth on your hard work and dedication. He's a great Barista too!



Winun Ngari would like to announce that our guys at the Kimberley Meat Company (KMC) are continuing to do a wonderful job and we are super proud of them. WNES have supported our current 7 men to remain in employment, in which 3 have now reached the 6-month mark of employment.

Kimberley Meat Company recently had an external audit come through and as a result have provided feedback that our guys are doing an amazing job. KMC have stated that our guys have a guaranteed job in the new year. Congratulations on a great achievement.

EMPLOYED NOW FOR 26 WEEKS OR MORE;

Laurence Churnside
Frankie Skeen
Richard Manado

EMPLOYED NOW FOR 13 WEEKS OR MORE;

John Malay
Mark LayLay
John Malay-Cox
Daniel Patrick

We'd like to welcome our newest recruit
Maxwell Lennard



**Always Was,
Always Will Be.**

8-15 NOV 2020

NAIDOC WEEK 2020
COMMUNITY EVENT

**Thursday 12 November 2020
4pm - 6pm
Derby Health Service (Lawn
behind Scott House)**

**AN INTER-AGENCY COMMUNITY EVENT
HOSTED AT DERBY HOSPITAL TO
COMMEMORATE NAIDOC WEEK 2020.**

**LOTS OF STALLS, FUN, FOOD,
ENTERTAINMENT AND ACTIVITIES**

UPCOMING NAIDOC DAY CELEBRATIONS

NAIDOC Week celebrations are held across Australia each year to celebrate the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. NAIDOC is celebrated not only in Indigenous communities, but by Australians from all walks of life. The week is a great opportunity to participate in a range of activities and to support your local Aboriginal

and Torres Strait Islander community.
<https://www.naidoc.org.au/>

This year Winun Ngari supports the inter-agency community event held in Derby which is hosted at the Derby Hospital with stalls and fun activities. We can't wait to see you all there.

MENTAL HEALTH WEEK FAMILY FUN DAY

The RSAS Team had the pleasure of supplying the BBQ and cooking materials for our community members. In attendance were stall members Healthy Minds, Shire of Derby Environmental Health, DAHS, Soccer West, KAMS - Kimberley Supports, WA Police and Fire Department.

It was a fun day for all with many prizes given out along with items from the stalls. The kids got creative at the hair spray station and were able to cool down using the water slide. It's safe to say it was a fun afternoon for all.





A BIG THANK YOU TO THE MEN'S HUB & OUR CDP PARTICIPANTS!

Exciting news for WNAC as our CDP participants make their way back to the team after a long break due to Covid-19. Working alongside the Men's Hub, our participants will help restore and tidy the yards at Bungarun. What was once a place on the verge of falling into ruin is now being restored along with the rich history that comes with it. It is hoped that the restoration of the site will help in the healing and memory of those who lived at Bungarun.

We would like to thank the Men's Hub for their dedication and hard work not only in the revitalisation of Bungarun but in regards to the various tasks they perform in and around town. The Men's Hub is responsible for helping the community in town including the elderly, people with a disability and people who do not have the support to clean their yard. It has always been a priority for WNAC to help those in the community. We see the difference you provide and thank you for it.

CDP update

CDP UPDATE

From Monday 19 October 2020, the Community Development Program (CDP) will resume full CDP servicing arrangements.

The Government has been committed to ensuring mutual obligation requirements have remained flexible and appropriate for job seekers throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. The resumption of full CDP servicing will include the reintroduction of mutual obligation requirements for job seekers. For more information: <https://www.niaa.gov.au/>.

DumbaraBurru



CARAVAN PARK

DUMBARA BURRU UPDATE

Our newly opened caravan park, Dumbara Burru has welcomed it's first customers. We've received a raving review about their wonderful experience at the park and looking forward to many more.

Check out Dumbara Burru's website to keep up to date on all the exciting news about the park. www.dumbaraburru.com.au

You can also find us on facebook.



The team at Athletics West provide athletic activities for children through centres state-wide. Little Athletics is a great way to keep fit and builds the foundation skills of running, jumping and throwing which are highly transferable to other sports.

Wednesday afternoon 16 September at the Town Oval, Little Athletics West visited Derby to conduct an afternoon of athletics with over



100 local children who enjoyed all the fun and benefits of athletics. Derby Athletics Community Coaching Workshop was also available to anyone 16 years and over and thank you to the parents and caregivers who attended this free community coach education. Thank you to the RSAS team who provided support and delicious food.

Great feedback from local parents with kids looking forward to more!