



WARLPIRI LEADERSHIP SHINES

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CEO MESSAGE

**STEPHANIE
HARVEY, CEO**

COMMUNITY FIRST DEVELOPMENT

It is refreshing to start a new year and look to the future – especially after the multiple challenges that 2020 brought to many of us.

I'm grateful to step into 2021 with supporters like you by our side.

Your generosity gives our community driven projects a lasting impact. It means First Nations people can use their own strengths and local knowledge to achieve community goals – and keep control of their own development decisions. This unique approach is crucial for positive and meaningful outcomes throughout all levels of our involvement with people – communities, organisations, families, and individuals.

In this edition of Stepping Stones, you can read about how you're supporting an upcoming generation of young leaders through Ghurrumbil Dreaming Indigenous Corporation in Lismore, NSW (see page 8).

Readers should be aware that this newsletter may contain images and names of deceased people.

Cover photo: Warlpiri leadership shines in new branding

There is also a great story about Taribelang Aboriginal Corporation and their skills training program to create tourism employment opportunities in Bundaberg, QLD (see page 10).

You can read our Supporter Charter (see page 15). This is our promise to you as a valuable member of the Community First Development family. You are an important part of building a brighter future with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

I hope you enjoy reading these community success stories, made possible with your generous support.

THANK YOU!

Kurrawang thanking supporters after the completion of their new playground and sports courts.
(see page 5)



OUT AND ABOUT

CREATING A CULTURAL AND
COMMUNITY HUB

GERALDTON, WA



Bundiyarra Aboriginal Community Aboriginal Corporation, based in **Geraldton, Western Australia**, is working to support and empower the Yamaji people and Aboriginal people across the Midwest, Murchison, and Gascoyne regions. Their dream is to be a major cultural and community hub linking Aboriginal people and communities to tourism, small business, culture, hospitality, language, and training. Our volunteer, Ailsa, and Community Development Officer, Jackson, were invited to assist in developing a Strategic Plan to give Bundiyarra a clear view of their path ahead. This also led to the collaborated development of a Project Feasibility Assessment and an Operational Plan - both critical documents to solidify governance and administrative strength.

“*The Corporation is very appreciative of the support from CFD Community Development Officer Jackson Hunt and volunteer Ailsa Paterson...a challenging role but we are getting there.*”

BUNDIYARRA OPERATIONS MANAGER,
WAYNE MCDONALD



WA team member Jackson and volunteer Ailsa working with Bundiyarra community members on their new vision and strategic plan.

LAUNCHING A NEW PLAYGROUND AND SPORTS COURTS

KURRAWANG, WA



Last year, we worked with **Kurrawang Aboriginal Christian Community** to upgrade their playground and sports courts for the local children, young people, and young-at-heart. They shared with us their dream to have a homegrown space where Kurrawang kids could come together and play - surrounded by family and community. We're so pleased to announce that the launch of the newly completed playground and sports courts was a success!

GIVING COMMUNITIES BETTER ACCESS TO FOOD

ALICE SPRINGS, NT



Kere to Country is an Aboriginal owned and operated food supply company in **Alice Springs**. They were established this year to provide quality and affordable meat directly from farms to Aboriginal people living in remote communities within the Central and Southern regions of the Northern Territory. Jess from Kere to Country and her team have done a lot of work setting up the business. Volunteer, Phil, worked with Jess in areas such as financial modelling and distribution streamlining. By providing better access to food, Kere to Country is improving health and wellbeing for Aboriginal families in remote communities. To find out more, visit www.keretocountry.com.au.



➔
Volunteer Phil and Jess from Kere to Country talk through the operational aspects of providing remote communities with better access to food.



Community member Yumurna and volunteer Marion planning the car logo design.

NEW BRANDING REFLECTS *WARLPIRI LEADERSHIP*

YUENDUMU, NT



Yurrampi Child and Family Centre in the remote community of Yuendumu, northwest of Alice Springs, is led by a Reference Group of Yapa (Warlpiri) women helping families to 'grow children up strong.'

The Reference Group requested support to develop branding that would represent the Centre as Warlpiri-led. While it is officially run by the Department of Education, the Reference Group drives critical direction as kurdungurlu or 'guardians' of Warlpiri children in Yuendumu to create a culturally safe, self-determined early learning and childhood development space.

After running a local art competition to inspire the new logo, the Reference Group worked with skilled volunteer, Marion, to adapt the winning artwork into branding. Young Warlpiri artist and graphic designer, Jason, helped to digitise the artwork and design promotional materials.

Marion and the Reference Group collaborated with Warlpiri educators, Ormay and Barbra, to create icons for each stage of the Warlpiri Theme Cycle - to keep culture strong and promote two-way learning.



The Reference Group women discuss the new branding with volunteer, Marion.



“ Working with Community First Development meant we did it together. It’s really good that you helped us – now we can look back on each theme. The pictures of each theme have meaning and are connected to what we are teaching.

ORMAY, WARLPURI LITERACY WORKER



Widespread recognition of the new branding has promoted community ownership, pride for Warlpiri leadership, and greater respect for the Centre.

The Reference Group aspire to formalise their Warlpiri governance structure - enhancing their ability to safeguard children, families, and culture, and provide direction to Early Years programs in Yuendumu.

THANK YOU for supporting this important example of strengthening community ownership.

The icons for each stage of the Warlpiri Theme Cycle.



Warlalja Family



Jurnarpa Trees, Plants & Tools



Ngapa Weather



Kuyu Meat & Animals



Jaru Rdaka-Rdaka Communication



Jukurrpa Dreaming



Palka Body and Spirit



Nyurruwiyi History



Miyi Bush Foods



Kuku Monsters



Ngurra Walya Home



Purlapa Ceremony



SUPPORTING AN UPCOMING GENERATION OF YOUNG LEADERS

LISMORE, NSW

Ghurrumbil Dreaming Indigenous Corporation are a young and determined community group with a focus on engaging young adults and youth within the Lismore and surrounding Northern Rivers region in NSW.

They strive to provide opportunities for individual and social development through training and education in culturally sensitive ways that acknowledge each person's unique history, song lines, and aspirations.

We were first invited to work with Ghurrumbil on a business development plan for a youth centre. This centre will be an avenue to provide critical support services such as training, mentoring, and counselling to young people, particularly Aboriginal youth.

Now wishing to make the youth centre a reality, the group members have been working with our volunteer, Ian, to attain grant funding.

Ian is also assisting the group to persuade Lismore Council to set up a Youth Forum where important issues concerning Indigenous Youth in the community—such as mental health and suicide prevention—can be discussed by all stakeholders in a collective way.



Gwen and Eddie, Community Development Officers, talk with Ghurrumbil board members about engaging young people in Lismore and surrounding areas.

Ian's wealth of experience has helped the group members to build their confidence and knowledge on the workings of the Australian political system. Ian has provided guidance on lobbying and advocacy skills that will benefit the group now and into the future.

THANK YOU

for supporting this community-led, youth-focused project to develop an upcoming generation of Aboriginal leaders.

SKILLS TRAINING FOR EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

BUNDABERG, QLD



Often, one community development project leads to another. We were recently approached by Taribelang Aboriginal Corporation about a project, which soon expanded into two projects running alongside each other.

Taribelang Aboriginal Corporation is a traditional owner group for the custodial land of Bundaberg in Queensland, providing services in cultural heritage, land management, and tourism.

Our initial project was to assist in developing a soft skills employment program to support people to engage in further education and build capacity in the Indigenous community. Our Community Development Officer, Gwen, worked alongside Taribelang and engaged local Elders to design the training program focused on tourism employment.

It soon became clear that funding was required to get the program off the ground. So, our second project came to life as we were invited to train Taribelang staff and board members to write funding submissions and assist with the development of a template to streamline the application process. They now have a clear understanding of the requirements to lodge a successful grant application. The community put their newfound knowledge into practice,



Taribelang board members discuss how they can create tourism employment opportunities for the Bundaberg community.

with volunteer support, and lodged a grant submission for funding to roll-out their soft skills program.

The Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Employment Program in Tourism will provide soft skills training to young people aged 18-25 and mature aged people who wish to upskill or change careers.

THANK YOU

for supporting this project to create employment opportunities for the local community and set a pathway of self-determination for the Taribelang people.

WINNER OF THE BILL ARMSTRONG AO HUMAN RIGHTS AWARD

In 2019, our highly respected Co-Chair, Bill Armstrong AO, retired after 20 years with the organisation, and 13 years as Co-Chair. Bill leaves a legacy of leadership in the community development field and his influential work in human rights.

The Bill Armstrong AO Human Rights Award will be presented annually to a staff member, supporter, volunteer, or community member who has made an outstanding contribution to human rights in connection with the work of Community First Development.

We received a number of strong nominations. Thank you to everyone who sent in a nomination or was nominated.

We are delighted to announce the
2020 winner of the Bill Armstrong
AO Human Rights Award is
MERVYN EADES!



Doyen, WA Regional Manager, proudly presents Mervyn Eades with the Bill Armstrong AO Human Rights Award.

Mervyn is a Menang/Wilaman man from the Noongar nation and has been recognised for leading the way for prison reform in Western Australia. Mervyn started Ngalla Maya Aboriginal Employment Access in 2014 to provide training, education, mentoring, and skill development for Aboriginal people coming out of the prison system.

After spending many years in and out of prison himself, Mervyn discovered the lack of support for ex-offenders to break the cycle of reoffending. He now visits prisons and juvenile detention facilities to encourage inmates towards a pathway of change.

“ I remember meeting Mervyn in 2014. All he had was a tin shed and a dream. The organisation had no money and Mervyn was paying the rent out of his own pocket. Now look at what he has achieved. ”

DOYEN, REGIONAL MANAGER, WA.

Ngalla Maya's **'Prison to Community Reintegration'** program has helped about 300 men, women, and youth to find employment after prison.

We are honoured to work alongside Mervyn and Ngalla Maya.

We would also like to recognise Dr Ian Tiley, another deserving nomination, for his valuable contribution to human rights. See page 14 for more on Dr Tiley!

VOLUNTEER PROFILE

MEET DR IAN TILEY



Dr Tiley has volunteered across 27 projects since 2002. He has assisted communities to develop their advocacy skills through his unique experience and knowledge in the political arena. His mentorship extends across crucial areas such as grant submissions, policy development, and lobbying. Dr Tiley's contribution in providing these essential skills has supported communities to gain confidence and use their own voices to advocate for their needs.

“The feedback I receive from communities is that Dr Tiley is respectful, easy to work with, and allows others to provide guidance on how they want the project to be fulfilled. He provides feedback and guidance when called for and is always respectful of First Nations people and their customs, culture and needs.”

GWEN, SENIOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

Dr Tiley is currently working on multiple projects with Community First Development, ranging from large grant applications to local lobbying initiatives. He never slows down and always enjoys his interactions with Aboriginal communities across Australia.

Dr Tiley is in high demand within our organisation and we thank him sincerely for his commitment!

PHOTO: Dr Tiley, pictured (left) with community member Robin (right) from Dorrigo, NSW

SUPPORTER CHARTER

OUR PROMISE TO YOU

Your trust is vital to us and we are committed to being transparent and accountable to you when you choose to support Community First Development.

- 1. WE'LL RESPECT YOUR RIGHT TO DECIDE TO DONATE**
We understand it's your choice to give and we appreciate when you choose to support us.
- 2. WE'LL ALWAYS RESPECT YOUR PRIVACY**
Your donations are completely personal to you and we will keep your information confidential.
- 3. WE'LL KEEP YOU UPDATED**
If you'd like to hear from us, we'll keep you updated so you can feel connected to the work you are supporting.
- 4. WE'LL USE YOUR DONATION CAREFULLY**
We will make sure we're as cost effective as possible, so your gift can have the greatest impact for communities.
- 5. WE'LL ACT QUICKLY**
We will always aim to answer your call or respond to your email, letter, or other query as promptly as possible.
- 6. WE'LL RESPECT YOUR WISHES**
If you tell us you don't want to hear from us again or want to communicate in a different way, we will change the details on your record.

PLEASE GIVE WHAT YOU CAN. **THANK YOU**

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COMMUNITY FIRST
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www.communityfirstdevelopment.org.au/donate

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