



**ARDS**  
ABORIGINAL  
CORPORATION

CREATIVE MEDIA & COMMUNICATION SPECIALISTS

**ANNUAL REPORT**  
**2016 – 2017**







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# ABOUT ARDS

We are an Indigenous Corporation and have worked with indigenous communities in the NT for over 40 years. Our skilled cultural and language consultants are uniquely placed to listen to Indigenous voices, understand their aspirations and the challenges they experience. Our vision is for Indigenous people to be able to engage on equal terms with the wider Australian society, its organisations and systems. We 'span the gap' that often exists between mainstream services and the information they typically share, and the information Indigenous communities want and need.

As communication and creative media specialists, we utilise a unique approach that has been developed and honed over the decades.



*Nelumbo nucifera*



*Nelumbo nucifera*



*Nymphaea violacea*



*Nymphaea violacea*



# Water lily - Dirrpu

Each year our annual report design is inspired by a plant of significance for Yolŋu society.

This year we look at dirrpu (water lilies) and where they are found, in doing so we cover both Dhuwa and Yirritja moieties\* as there are aspects of both moieties in the water lily story. The lily itself is Yirritja, and the billabongs (guḷun) where they grow, are Dhuwa. There are a number of waterlily species that grow in the Northern Territory and the terms listed are generic to both Dhuwa and Yirritja.

**Water lily - Dirrpu** is the common name for the water lily plant and is considered to be Yirritja however for Yirritja people the leaves are known as *Dhulumburrk* or *Gadiki* but for Dhuwa people the leaves are known as *Dhatam'*

**Water lily flower - *Wäkwak***

**Water lily root (smooth) - *Nyamnyam***

**Water lily root (hairy) - *Wanangitj***

**Water lily root corm - *Bulpi'***

**Water lily stem - *Nawknawk***

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**Botanical name:** *Nelumbo nucifera*

**Common name:** Lotus Lily

This perennial aquatic herb is commonly found in freshwater lagoons, swamps and billabongs. It arises from submerged creeping rootstock, leaves and flower stems reaching from 0.5 - 1.5m above the water on prickly stalks. The large (30 - 75cm) water-repellent leaves are smooth and roundish with distinct blue green veins radiating from the centre.

Flowering between March and November, the 12 - 25cm flowers are fragrant with deep pink petals and yellow centre.

Seeds may sit dormant for decades while still being viable after many hundreds of years.

**Botanical name:** *Nymphaea violacea*

*Nymphaea violacea* is a perennial floating aquatic herb with its rhizome below the water.

Unlike the Lotus lily, the large (10 - 30cm) smooth roundish leaves float on the surface. Darkish green above and purplish or paler green beneath they have a split at the base to the point of the stem attachment.

Flowering takes place between January and July. The flowers (5 - 15cm) have white, blue-mauve or pink petals with numerous yellow stamens in the centre, and rise on long solitary stalks at water level or up to 30cm above.

Common in freshwater lagoons, swamps and billabongs, plants produce many seeded berries (January - July) which are carried underwater and break up irregularly when ripe. The plant may be propagated from seed or division of the rhizomes

**General Uses:** Root tubers, stems and seed heads are edible raw or cooked. The seeds can be ground into flour for bush bread/damper and the juice from leaf stalks used to treat sickness and diarrhoea.

The large water-repellent leaves of the lotus lily may be used as umbrellas.

\*Moiety – The physical and social universe of Yolŋu people are divided into two moieties (or halves) everything within the physical environment (including each particular species of flora and fauna, land and water) and cultural environment (songs, designs, material objects, symbols of law etc.) is either Dhuwa or Yirritja. In addition each *bäpurru* and *ringitj*, and their respective membership, are classified as being either Dhuwa or Yirritja. A person belongs to the moiety of their father and he/she must marry into the opposite moiety, so that a man and his children are in the opposite moiety to that of his wife and mother. In traditional law it is not possible to have shared ownership or legal title that combines both Dhuwa and Yirritja descent groups.





# REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

Yo, narra Maratja Dhamarrandji. Dhiyan bala narra dhuwal Chairperson ARDS-gu 2016-nur ga dhuwal 2017. Narra ga report narra gurrupan, Chairperson Report ARDS-gu. Nunhi nayi dhuwal Aboriginal Organisation ga dhärra nayi ga gunga'yunaraw Yolŋuw. Gunga'yunaraw Yolŋuw, märr nayi dhu Yolŋu dharanjan nhä mala Rom mala, ga gaka, ga nayanu - nhaltjarr limurr dhu djäma rrambanji ga gunga'yunmirr, nhakun education and community development.

Dhiyal world-nur nunhi nayi dharrwa dhuwal nhakun happening dhiyan bala limurrungal. Gumurr-däl nhakun ga limurrun nayanu, nhaltjan ga government dhu djäma, ga nhaltjan ga bura balanya nhakun Yolŋuwal ga government-kal bularryunmaram, ga gunga'yun ga nhä mala djugu' ga märram government-kal.

Yan nhakun ARDS dhuwali nayi dhiyan bili nayi ga dharrwa nhakun turnover staff-nur, ga marrtji nayi ga dhiyan bili-i-i-i balanya nhakun nhawi changes mala happening. Bulu nayipi ARDS nhakun nayi ga badak nhawi nhakun gumurr-däl nayi ga malŋ'maram balanya nhakun rrupiyakurr gali'kurr, ga nanya luku-nhirrpan nanya. Bili nayi luku-nhirrpanhawuynyndja, yurr nhakun gumurr-däl nayi gan rrupiyakurr malŋ'maranal nayipiny dhiyanuny organisation-dhu, balanya nhakun nuriki office-ku. Yan bala nayi ga nuthan bulnha, bulnha nayi ga nuthan.

Yolŋu Radio dhuwali nayi ga receiving nayi ga dharrwa Yolŋuy mala ga näma dhäwuw, ga manymak mirithirr dhuwali. Nayi ga ARDS-thu marngi-gurrupan manikay mala, näthilinj manikay ga gurranjay mala dhäwu märr dhu

limurr marngithirr mala limurrungiyingalanaw dhäwuw yolŋu'yulŋuw mala. Yuwalk gal'nu ga bitjandhi marngithirr ga nhäwi märr-nal'yunmirr ga dharanjanamirr balanya rom, limurr Yolŋu walal borrmuŋu ga limurr dhu märr-nal'yunmirr, nhaltjan nhakun limurr dhu ga nhina rrambanji dhiyal nunhi fast-changing world dhuwal ga dhiyan bala marrtji. Ga nhaltjan limurr ga rom dhu lakaram nhä mala dhukarr limurrun nhakun: djamarrkuliw' nhaltjan limurr dhu raypirri'-gurrupan. Wiripu, wiripu balanya nhakun dharrwa nayi gumurrmirr djäma.

Staff dhuwali gi nhakun ga gunga'yunamirr mala nhina limurrun, Yolŋu Mathakurr walal ga waŋa: waŋa napurr ga waŋa walal ... napurrun walal dhu ga gurrupan dhäwu Yolŋu Mathakurr märr dhu nunhili ... nunhalatjandhi nayi dharanjanamirr norra ga bularryunmaram nayi dhu dhäwu mala limurrun. Dhuwali nayi gämurru' mirithirr nhakun nurrun, märr dhu ga yaka limurr witjarr'yunmirr ga märr-dhumbal'yunamirr balanya rom nayi norra limurrungal. Märr limurr dhu ga manymak decision djäma gunga'yun limurruny dhu beŋur bili lukuŋur yan bili ga nunha top nayatham, nunha bala, grass roots-nur.

Rom nhaltjan nayi ga waŋa recording mala dhuwali nhawiku manikay mala limurrun, bala'balanya malany. Dhuwali nayi manymak mirithirr gunga'yunamirr limurrun ga dignity limurrunha, rom limurrunha, gaka limurrun, nhaltjan limurr dhu dhärra yolŋu. Bili mundhurr nunhi, mundhurr nhakun. Nayi Waŋarryu gurrupar limurrun mundhurr nunhi limurr dhu ga nhina ga djäma ga gunga'yunmirr bala-räli'yunmirr. Ga nuli limurr dhu moma dhuwali nhä mala limurrun mundhurr mala,

limurr dhu ga nhakun märr-ganga ñayi dälñha, wakwakthuna limurr dhu ga. Ñanydja limurr dhu nhäwi ñanya rur'maram, nhaltjan ñayi ga waña limurrñ dhäruk, ga rom, ga mayali', manikay, bungul, rom malany. Yuwalk balanya yuwalkkum ñanya djäma ga märr limurr dhu guñga'yunmirr bala-räli. Yolñu'yulñu rrambañi, ga Balanda ga Yolñu, balanya märr limurr dhu dharañanamirr yuwalk ñayi ga rom ñorra.

Yo, balanyan lurrkun' dhuwal ñarra gurrupar dhäwu. Ga bulu limurr dhu yalala ñula nhätha nhawi ñäku dhäwu dhuwandja nhawiku ñarra as a Chairperson. Ñunhi ñarra ga nhakun laylayyun wiripu wiripu djäma, ñunhi ARDS dhuwal djäma ñarra li gyaña ga mala-djarr'yun – ga nhaltjan dhu ñarra guñga'yun, dhukarr djäma, yalalañuw ñunha djamarrkuñiw' limurrungalaw, märr walal dhu marrtji märrmay' romdhu, Balanda ga Yolñu. Märr dhu märram manymak yan dhukarr ñunhi mägya ga burrmidi ga guñga'yunmirr walal dhu yalalañumirriy. Ga balanya.

As the current Chairperson for ARDS in 2016-17, it is my pleasure to present this Annual Report. As an Aboriginal organisation, ARDS exists to support Aboriginal people. Our main focus is to assist Aboriginal people to understand life in contemporary Australia and the many different systems, how they operate and on what principles. In this way we can work together to improve outcomes in education for our young people and development in our local communities.

Right now, there is so much happening in our world. It's easy to feel overwhelmed in the face of many challenges and by the approaches that government takes to address these challenges. ARDS Board and staff often find ourselves in the middle of this turmoil. We are making information more accessible to people through contract work on a range of topics: Tackling Indigenous Smoking (smoke-free spaces), Gambling, Power and Water, Family Violence, Cyclone knowledge and practice, Women's health, legal workshops, and so on. We use film, radio and multimedia to help with this.

This year has brought some challenges with staff turnover and other changes. Even though ARDS is well-established, we still have financial difficulties. We continue to find it extremely difficult to secure funding for our basic operational costs. ARDS continues to grow, but it is gradual growth.

It is very pleasing that the programs on Yolñu Radio are well-received by Yolñu listeners. ARDS schedules a variety of informative programs, traditional and contemporary songs, and our

grandest stories, so that we can all learn. This is really helping to raise our sense of pride in who we are as Aboriginal people, and as we recognise and honour one another through mutually respectful relationships. Yolñu Radio promotes ways to live together in this fast changing world, including ways to work with and encourage the next generation. This is just one of many examples of how we work through relationships.

We appreciate the work of our ARDS staff, who learn to speak Yolñu Matha as part of their work. When we discuss things together in our first language, the new information is more easily absorbed. Mutual learning takes place as we unpack the key concepts and we see things more clearly. This quality communication is our highest priority, so that people are not left confused or lose their sense of direction. We can make better decisions for our future when we grasp the underlying concepts and the overarching ideas.

Our culture and clan relationships are expressed through our traditional songs, and we do have funding to record and broadcast this music. This work especially builds our sense of dignity and pride, and we are reminded of our mutual responsibilities towards each other and to stand strong together. Our culture is a gift. God the creator gave us this gift, so we can live and work in cooperation with others. If we ever forget this gift of our culture, we would come adrift and life would be very difficult. So, we promote the use of our languages and all the symbolism and meaning within, also through law, ceremony and song. We really have to work together in this: Aboriginal people working together, and also with non-Indigenous people, in order to achieve mutual recognition of our law and culture. In this way, we also hope to extend our footprint around Arnhem Land.

As the Chairperson, I look forward to staying in touch over the next year. Even when I am busy with other things, I often reflect on the best way forward for ARDS, and what I can do to help lay the foundations for a better future for generations to come. It is crucial that our children can go forward with confidence as bilingual and bicultural learners, so they can choose pathways leading to cooperation and peace for all. Thank you.



**Maratja Damarrandji**

**Chairperson**



# FROM THE CEO



ARDS is passionate about providing a diversity of services to span the communication and information gaps between Aboriginal people, their communities and mainstream Australian society, systems and services.

Over the four plus decades of working with Aboriginal people and communities, we have gained a deep knowledge of the barriers that Aboriginal people face when engaging with external service providers and government representatives.

We use this knowledge to work alongside service providers to help them to communicate more effectively.

We also work with Aboriginal people and communities to share their culture and voice to a wider Australian audience.

The ARDS Board of Directors are senior Aboriginal leaders from across Arnhem Land. They provide insight and wisdom drawn from their lived experience of a sense of futility and frustration, when engaging with government systems and decision making.

In March 2017 we had an election for new Directors. I would like to welcome our new Board members

**Chair:** Maratja Dhamarrandji

**Vice Chair:** Gawura Wanambi

**Directors:** Basma Dipililŋa Bukulatjpi  
Gwen Warmbirberr Ganambarr  
Elizabeth Gurimaŋa Bukulatjpi  
Biritjaluwuy Gondarra  
Matthew Dhulumburrk  
(Peter Jones Specialist Director)

Our Board continue to stand firm in their belief that the development of their communities must be based on the maintenance and promotion of their time honoured cultural strength - and with this strength, they can then engage on an equal footing with mainstream society.

To achieve these aims, we have a dedicated team of Aboriginal and non- Aboriginal people drawn from a wide range of backgrounds, knowledge and experience.

This year has been full of activity with our efforts focussing on

- broadening our footprint outside of East Arnhem Land
- exploring innovative opportunities for social enterprise development
- seeking grants from a wide range of funders

Highlights of this year have been

- Delivering an innovative language program "Ancient Languages New Sounds" a program that honours the language work done over many years and brings this knowledge into contemporary life.
- Producing several films on topics including women's health, cyclone information, traditional mining of stone spear heads and historical community life.
- Delivering a program across three communities to promote Smoke Free Spaces.
- Increased number of Aboriginal radio producers presenting weekly radio programs and a high quality series about poker machines

All our work continues to be of a high standard and this cannot be achieved without the hard work of



all our team and specialist contractors who work to deliver the programs. A heartfelt thank you to you all.

Sadly, despite our best efforts and very positive feedback about the efficacy and professionalism of our work, we continue to struggle to achieve sustainable funding levels. Each year is another scramble for funding to keep our organisation afloat – this cycle cannot continue.

The Board recognises that the pursuit of a sustainable financial base is fundamental to the ongoing survival of the organisation - a significant challenge for the year ahead.

I feel confident that with the guidance of our Board, the strong relationships with key stakeholders and

the high standards achieved by all our team, we will be able to determine a way forward to achieve sustainability of ARDS into the future.

I look forward to another exciting year of challenges and achievements.



**Johanna Ward**

**CEO**



ARDS Board of Directors: Wambirbirr Ganambarr; Dipililja Bukulatjpi; Biritjalawuy Gondarra; Maratja Dhamarrandji; Peter Jones; Gawura Wanambi (missing: Elizabeth Gurimana Bukulatjpi).



# TALKING WITH STAFF

: Zowie Batjan Bromot



***"Hi my name is Zowie Batjan Bromot, I'm from Wallaby Beach (Birritjimi). I have three girls and I work at Yolŋu Radio and have my own show every Wednesday 2pm called Batjan show. I love working at Yolŋu Radio, it's fun and I'm loving the music. I chose Batjan because that's my skin name. I love putting music in my live shows, sharing and doing news, updating weather and doing tides and loving the old stories and funny stories. Also learning and listening to my leaders crying, that is, how to sing the ladies Manikay. It reminds me about my grandmother; I can hear her voice and remember our memories...."***

Zowie has been working hard learning and applying herself in her role as Radio Producer for Yolŋu Radio. She produces her own radio show and helps to engineer other people's shows, as well

as conducting interviews and work on the radio programming. Zowie has also been taking over the airways live, with updates on the weather and local happenings. Her ability to communicate well in English and Yolŋu Matha is helping everyone here in Nhulunbuy, and her natural leadership ability is helping the Yolŋu and Balanda staff alike.

The Batjan show airs Wednesdays 2pm and repeated 6pm Saturdays on Yolŋu Radio.

Zowie's talent and versatility was further revealed in her role as the lead actor in the Women's Health Film, Milly which is documented in this report.



**"I can hear her voice and remember our memories.."**





# HEALTH

ARDS' Top End Smoke-Free Spaces personnel with Miwatj Health's Tobacco Action worker team.

## Top End Smoke-Free Spaces

ARDS' Top-End Smoke Free Spaces project has launched in Arnhem Land.

The Top-End Smoke Free Spaces project is funded through a Federal Department of Health 'Tackling Indigenous Smoking' Innovation grant and is a collaboration between ARDS, ALPA and James Cook University.

This innovative cross-cultural health promotion campaign aims to assist households in three Northern Territory Indigenous communities to reduce the impact of smoking by promoting the creation of smoke free spaces.

ARDS launched the project in January 2017 at Ramingining, northeast Arnhem Land, after receiving approval from senior Yolŋu clan leaders.

Since then, we have visited over 60 houses, many of which have had multiple visits. Yolŋu and Balanda (non-Indigenous) facilitators have been sitting down with householders and engaging in dialogues about smoke and smoking.

During these visits, we listen to householders' stories about smoke and *ŋarali'* (tobacco) in Yolŋu law and history, including previous and existing Yolŋu regulation for smoking. We also tell a series of stories that provide information about Western understandings of physiology (how smoke enters

our bloodstream) and about Balanda law/regulation for tobacco, including smoke free spaces.

This deeper story about smoking – compared to, for example, the 'surface' story about specific health impacts of smoking – is new to many householders. In houses where there are no rules or weak rules about smoking inside, these interactions aim to support the authority of the householder and spark their thinking about making a household rule about smoking.

We have spoken with numerous Ramingining households who already have smoke-free rules in their homes prior. For some, this rule is strongly enforced, and in others it is weaker.

In those houses with weak or no rules, our dialogues are having an impact. Numerous householders are attempting to create a new smoking rule, or strengthen an existing weak rule, following our engagement with them. For these houses, ARDS offers signs they can post on their doors to support the new rule. The signs say *Barrku Buny'tjurr* – 'Smoke away, smoke at a distance'. There is strong interest in these signs.

In the new financial year, the Ramingining phase of the project will conclude. At the same time we will commence in our second focus community,



Gapuwiyak. Later in 2017, we will begin visiting householders in a third community in Arnhem Land. Our approaches in these communities will benefit from a range of significant learnings that have emerged from our experiences in Ramingining.

This project is also fostering dialogue among other organisations working in the field of remote tobacco harms reduction. In March, ARDS facilitated a workshop to bring together other practitioners in this space, including the Department of Health, NT Heart Foundation, Miwatj Health, James Cook University, and the Arnhem Land Progress Association (ALPA).

Following this successful seminar, ARDS delivered a workshop to Miwatj Health's *Yaka Njarali* Tobacco Action worker team. Over three days in late June, ARDS' Top-End Smoke Free Spaces personnel shared learnings, storylines from the project so far and facilitated a range of professional development activities to strengthen the ability of new and experienced Miwatj staff to engage in dialogues about smoking.

**Feedback:** *"I've seen these (non-smoking) signs before but I didn't know the deep story, now I understand it and the importance of it. Now my family will believe this Barrku Buny'tjurr story when I tell them about it. I'm going to use this story and these posters to tell my family, 'smoke outside'"*.

Householder, Ramingining in relation to 'Smoke Free Spaces Project'

**Below left:** Ramingining man Trevor Djarrgaykay with a Barrku Buny'tjurr sign, to reinforce his 'no smoking inside' rule.

**Below:** Type of leaf used by Yolngu in past times as a substitute for njarali', due to the cessation of trade with the Macassans.

**Bottom:** Two members of our Ramingining team, Howard Amery and Sylvia Many'tjurrpuy, with ARDS Board member Matthew Dhulumburrk.







## Women's Health Film - Milly: part 1 & part 2

The Women's Health Team – Joy Bulkanhawuy and Emma Murphy – were very pleased to wrap up the 2016-17 year by finishing our women's health films: Milly Part 1 & 2. These films came together after 12 months of face-to-face education, with women of all ages but especially young women. We spent time talking to Yolŋu women, and Balanda health workers, in Darwin, Ramingining, Yurrwi, Galiwin'ku and Nhulunbuy area. Hearing young women's questions, and seeing how eager to learn they were, inspired us to make a lasting resource that others working in this important field could use.

A lot of time went into talking through how such a sensitive topic could be put into a film – in a way that brings together both Yolŋu and Balanda knowledge and ways of sharing this story.

By late 2016 we had a concept we were pleased with, and the first half of 2017 has been spent working with Melbourne production company *Yarn* (an independent production company that excels at character based storytelling, working across film, television, advertising and digital) to plan, film, edit and finalise the two films, as well as a resource kit to be used in clinics, schools, women's safe houses and elsewhere.

We were so lucky to have the support of the Birritjimi/Wallaby Beach community, where lots of the actors in the film live and where we spent a lot of time filming and talking.

The women in the film are so talented and were incredibly patient during the long (and sometimes very wet!) days of filming.

On completion of the films, the ARDS Women's Health Team joined by director Katrina Channells (YARN) began by showing the films to the talented women from Birritjimi/Wallaby Beach who were our actors. They loved it, and joined us the following day for the official launch at Buku-Larrngay Mulka Art Centre.

About 40 people, Yolŋu and Balanda, women and children, came to the beautiful auditorium at the Art Centre. It was wonderful to see that people really liked the films and thought they were beautiful, but also recognised the important message they hold. People told us they thought the films would be very useful to Yolŋu women, teachers and health workers who talk to women about health issues.

We look forward to sending this new resource out to communities over the next few months and hope that it is a useful tool and enjoyable celebration of some important stories for and about women.







### Feedback for Women's Health Film - Milly

I had the pleasure of viewing 'Milly' with a group of more than twenty Yolŋu women in Ramingining during a morning at Families as First Teachers. I have worked in over 13 intervention communities around the Territory over the last two years and have not seen women anywhere engage as positively with any resource.

Not only was the film itself stunning in its cinematography, but it was also stimulating and captivating for the audience. As a dramatic text, the film prompted thought provoking, insightful and productive discussions around the complications within the plot. The messages sat well with everyone who viewed the film and even more importantly, the women continued to talk about the film and messages well after we had watched it together. This highlights the connection women felt to the content and the fabulously effective portrayal of the messages.

As a non-Indigenous health professional, I am so pleased to be able to use this resource in the future. I am involved in healthy lifestyle modification programs with many women of various ages in most communities I service. Often we come together as a group to prepare a healthy meal, exercise while the food is cooking and discuss health related topics. As the groups are community lead, Women's Business is a topic we are often approached about having. Older women hope we can discuss physical transitions with younger women and impress upon them the importance of self-respect. This is a challenging task and I have never seen a resource as appropriately portrayed as 'Milly' - respectful and appropriate with beautiful analogies.

"As one of the women sitting beside me responded when I commented on the beauty of the story, 'Of course it's beautiful. We are women, and it is a beautiful story we have'".

Alexandra Bruggisser, Accredited Exercise Physiologist servicing Ramingining Community and Outstations.





**Opposite page: Top left:** Emma & Bulkanhawuy. **Top right:** Skye Davies & Zowie Bromot. **Bottom:** The crew arrives.

**This page: Top left:** Filming a scene from Milly. **Top right:** Zowie Bromot with resource material that was developed to accompany the film. **Above:** Milly' Premier in Ramingining Art Centre.

**“Many thanks, I feel very privileged to have been there and had the opportunity to sit in on your presentation. I was impressed at the time but when I thought about it later, I was even more impressed.**

**The film was very well done and in a way that was non-threatening but very positively informative and empowering. The poster is excellent and the narrative bring it all together is brilliant”.**

Credentialed Diabetes Nurse Educator after watching Women’s Health Films, ‘Milly parts 1 & 2’.

**“Thank you for the relevant resources meeting the needs of Yolŋu women. The videos were very appropriate and relevant to the target audience. The FaFT mothers were easily able to identify with the characters in the videos and their stories. The aligning resources in the book will be really supportive for teachers and assistant teachers”.**

FaFT educator Ramingining School after watching Women’s Health Films, ‘Milly parts 1 & 2’.





## Volatile Substance Abuse (VSA)

### Community Education Program

The Northern Territory Government engaged ARDS to assist in the urgent response to the emergent issue of young people including children sniffing Aviation Fuel (AvGas), in remote northeast Arnhem Land communities in early 2017.

The Northern Territory Government recognises ARDS unique position of being well-placed to act as a communication conduit between Yolŋu clan leaders and community members and Government to bring increased understanding of the risks associated with volatile substance abuse and the lasting impacts of lead poisoning and also in increasing the Governments understanding of what Yolŋu leaders see as the root causes of

young people seeking to engage in this harmful behaviours and the solutions they see as required to overcome volatile substance abuse.

ARDS has been undertaking this work through two key activities The first is through production of audio resources via Yolŋu Radio and online platforms. The second is through community consultations in the form of one-on-one dialogue with mala leaders in Yurrwi, Galiwin'ku and Gapuwiyak conducted in Yolŋu Matha by senior ARDS educators, Howard Amery and Bryan Macdonald.

Following the completion of the radio production and consultations a short educational film resource will also be produced.





# LAW, GOVERNANCE & ECONOMICS

## Targeted Community Legal Education in Ramanginiṅ.

### ARDS teaming up with NAAJA thanks to NT Law Society's Public Purposes Trust

ARDS and NAAJA are very happy to be funded by the NT Law Society's Public Purposes Trust to run a pilot project at Ramanginiṅ. This project aimed to address the massive gap in understandings between Yolḁu people and the mainstream legal system which is considered alien.

ARDS' Cross-Cultural Communication Experience, and NAAJA's Legal expertise were combined to conduct targeted Community Legal Education before and after court for Ramanginiṅ's April and June sittings. Before court, we conducted focussed workshops about the Balanda legal process, roles and responsibilities as well as unpacking some of the commonly misunderstood legal terms and concepts. After court, we followed up with individuals to ensure understanding of their outcome.

These sessions were conducted in Plain English and Yolḁu matha with the help of the " Dhuwal Wäyukpuy Rom Dhäruk Mala ga Mayali' " (Legal Dictionary: English – Yolḁu Matha), and Plain English Legal Dictionary. These resources are a result of previous collaboration between ARDS and NAAJA with funding again from the NT Law Society's Public Purposes Trust.

The feedback we received during and after these sessions has been incredible. Many Yolḁu and their families have expressed great relief at understanding the court process, and what their outcomes meant in real terms.

We are very excited to have continued and extended these relationships while implementing these powerful resources in a meaningful way. We are now writing up the methodology, outcomes and learnings from the project while seeking to continue working between worlds in the law and justice space.





# TALKING WITH STAFF

: Daniel Balawurr Hick



*Before working with us here in Darwin, Daniel trained on the job with Yolŋu Radio Rirrakay Mala as a lighting technician and sound engineer. He worked as a studio assistant at Gaynuru Studios, working on a number of ARDS projects and radio programs. Daniel worked operating the light system at the Garma Festival, Media Festival and the Yarrapay Festival. Now in Darwin, Daniel has been working with our linguist Hannah on a recording project as well as assisting on other projects and producing his radio show Bala G Hour - The Message.*

***'Bala G Hour is a chance for me to share music that has a meaning. I love finding new upcoming artists that deserve some recognition and time in the spotlight. The music I play has a bigger message, it's not just about the beat, it's about the lyrics and finding the meaning within it'.***

*Bala G Hour - The Message hour is from 4pm-5pm on Thursdays and repeated Saturdays at 8pm on Yolŋu Radio. Listen out for artists like Yothu Yindi and discover new artists you may not have ever heard before.*



**"I love finding new upcoming artists that deserve some recognition and time in the spotlight."**



# SOCIAL & SUPPORT SERVICES

## Gambling

### Developing Pokies Problem Gambling Literacy for Yolŋu

A ground-breaking new series of Yolŋu Matha radio programs unpacks the confusing and problematic world of gambling.

'Nhaliy dhu Yolŋuy yutjuwaḷakum mari beŋur pokiesŋur?' ('Finding a pathway to reduce harms caused by pokies') is a 12-part series, available online and playing on Yolŋu Radio.

The programs, presented in Djambarrpuyŋu language, aim to reduce confusion about gambling and problems associated with it – in particular, with pokies – and stimulate dialogue towards Yolŋu-led responses.

ARDS facilitators worked with Yolŋu consultants in Darwin over 12 months, developing storylines that explore the 'deep story' about gambling and pokies.

Poker machines are the leading cause of problem gambling in Australia, to which Indigenous Australians are particularly vulnerable. Gambling has an important history in Arnhem Land, being introduced by Macassan traders hundreds of years ago through dopulu (card games).

Over 2.5hrs, the programs unpack how pokies and the gambling industry work. The programs build on – and sometimes reframe – existing Yolŋu concepts

relevant to gambling and addiction, and broader Yolŋu ideas about the way to live lawfully in the world.

These programs drew on the expertise of numerous Yolŋu consultants. As a result, the programs are underpinned by Yolŋu worldview, and are Yolŋu-led in terms of both problematisation and problem solving.

To our knowledge, it is the most comprehensive resource about gambling to ever have been produced for and by Yolŋu.

ARDS' hope is that it will provide the ability for Yolŋu to develop their own informed responses to the problems they see arising from gambling.

'Nhaliy dhu Yolŋuy yutjuwaḷakum mari beŋur pokiesŋur?' is currently being broadcasted on Yolŋu Radio to Darwin and surrounding areas, northeast Arnhem Land communities and homelands. It is also available online at ARDS/Yolŋu Radio's Soundcloud page at: <https://soundcloud.com/ards-2/sets/pokies-story>.

*This project was sponsored by Northern Territory Government, through its Community Benefit Fund – Gambling Amelioration Grants.*



Above: Howard Amery, Andrew Pascoe & Gawura Wanambi.



## Family Violence Prevention Education

### Family Violence Prevention Education Continues:

Yinin and Dave have continued ARDS' Family Violence Prevention Education project throughout the past 12 months with week-long series' at Gapuwiyak, Yirrkala and Gunyanjara, Milinjibi and Ramanginj. The team facilitated workshops with men's, women's and mixed groups of Yolŋu who had lots to input into the sessions. We've been really impressed by the strong engagement and the way these groups have grappled with this complex and often personal issue.

Using the Cycle of Seasons / Cycle of Violence Radio play and poster, we facilitated discussion about Yolŋu family and social values, problems that arise, and where solutions lie. We talked about the roles and responsibilities imbedded in gurrutu (kinship), and the way these play out for relationships. We talked about the principles of preparing for and becoming a parent and where support can be found.

We then move on to investigate how interpersonal and social problems enter the picture, what the causes are, and how we can work through them. Finally we talked about issues of violence and what the consequences are from both a Yolŋu world view and from a mainstream legal perspective. We were very happy to have NAAJA Community Legal Educators come to answer questions about how Balanda law deals with domestic violence.

Our final field trips for this project are planned for Galiwin'ku, Gapuwiyak and Yirrkala/Gunyanjara during the 2017/18 financial year. However we are very keen to look for ongoing funding to continue this work, in response to the overwhelming feedback about the program from Yolŋu participants.



**Above:** The Cycle of Seasons / Cycle of Violence poster.

**Top Right:** ARDS team members Dave Suttle & Yirrininba Dhurrkay.

**Right:** CDEP Participants Ramanginj.





## Language & Cultural Sustainability

### Translation Services

Over the last year, ARDS has assisted with a wide range of translation requests. Some of these jobs have been many pages of detailed information, others have been short informative flyers or multimedia segments. Yinin Dhurrkay, Mayalil Marika and casual Yolŋu language consultants have been involved in this translation teamwork.

We were pleased to translate information for pre- and post-surgical patients (Gove District Hospital) and Aged Care Clients (Laynhapuy Homelands). For these resources, we also recorded audio files so that people can hear this important content. In our roles as translators, we recognise that there is no substitute for meaningful consultations involving Yolŋu patients, health professionals and Aboriginal interpreters.

We collaborated with the Northern Land Council to prepare vital information for community consultations about land leases in northeast Arnhem Land. Aboriginal Interpreters were able to use these source documents to assist those consultations. We have also translated some information for clients about the NDIS, Anglicare and MyGov accounts. In another job with NAAJA, Sylvia and Hannah used a similar process to produce a series of four in-depth radio programs about the Australian Constitution, constitutional referendums, and recognition of Australia's First Peoples.

This year, ARDS language services have been engaged for a number of film projects, including Westwind: Djalu's legacy, and a documentary about the life of Dr G Yunupingu. In each project, our team of Yolŋu translators have brought sensitivity and insight to the process. Together we have established some good methods to translate Yolŋu footage into English subtitles.

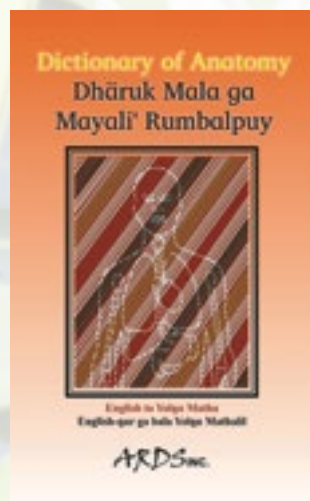
### From Paper to Sound – Building Bridges in Health and Criminal Law

ARDS was successful in our application to Indigenous Languages and the Arts (ILA, Department of Communications and the Arts) to produce Yolŋu language audio from ARDS Dictionary resources. These medical and legal resources were difficult to access and distribute when Yolŋu literacy rates vary so much. Health clinics, legal organisations and the Aboriginal Interpreter Service supported our application. In future, these audio materials will assist patients, professionals and interpreters to communicate important information more effectively.

This year, a team of at least five studio operators and seven language consultants have recorded more than 150 entries from the ARDS Dictionary of Anatomy and Pathology (Djambarrpuyŋu).

This project has created opportunities for Yolŋu people starting or re-entering work and all project participants have grown knowledge and skills in recording, editing and reading. In Darwin, Daniel Guruguru Hick has shown leadership and initiative in recruiting readers to the project, and developing workflows to suit the whole team in both locations. In Nhulunbuy, Faye Mayalil Marika has brought significant experience in reading, recording and translation into this project. Stuart Yiwarr McGrath is a trainee Aboriginal Health Practitioner who joined our team as a confident Djambarrpuyŋu speaker and reader. Through this project, Yiwarr has been pleased to learn ways to talk about medical terminology in Yolŋu Matha. For other participants, this is their first opportunity to practice reading Djambarrpuyŋu and English in the workplace. When the Dictionary of Anatomy recordings are complete, our teams will begin to record entries from the Dictionary of Criminal Law (Djambarrpuyŋu).

We are grateful to receive new ILA funding to prepare a Digital Dictionary App, which will be an excellent destination for the many files we've recorded in 2016-17, also with newly translated work in other clan languages.







Above: Recording Gumatj Milkarri (Crying Songs) at Galiwin'ku.

### Ancient Languages, New Sounds

Over 20 years, speakers of more than 20 Yolŋu clan languages have recorded language, stories and songs at ARDS. This work is known affectionately as the 'Gurranyaj' project – reflecting the 'original' way that Yolŋu elders speak. These languages are inextricably bound with country, traditional music, kinship and continuing traditions. Young artists often draw from this rich palette of languages and sounds to compose new songs.

At the end of 2016, we were pleased to receive funding from the Indigenous Languages and the Arts (ILA, Department of Communications and the Arts) to build our work in language documentation and contemporary music performance. We have held language and song workshops in 3 remote communities. Elders and younger Yolŋu clan members came together to record traditional songs (manikay and milkarri) and stories to accompany them. Together, we have been documenting language and lyrics from these recordings.

Over many years, thousands of words have been documented. This work has given a depth of meaning to many ARDS projects in northeast Arnhem. ARDS CEO Jo Ward comments,

***"This project is significant because it honours Yolŋu leaders and language workers from the past. Sadly, their knowledge and contribution has often gone unrecognised. We thank them for what they have shared with this generation. By combining ancient knowledge and stories with contemporary music we hope this project will excite both the elders and the children of the future in northeast Arnhem."***

In February, we celebrated 'International Mother Language Day' at our first workshop in Nhulunbuy. Yolŋu Radio broadcast special programs from workshop sessions. We were thrilled to have input from experienced workshop facilitator, Emma Murphy. Abbey Bulpulmarra Guyula also joined our team for this workshop, and it was great to consider and compare languages with people from five different clans!

In May, we worked with families in Galiwin'ku. This workshop gave Djimbuluku Dhurrkay (former ARDS employee) an opportunity to return to language work after a long period away. Several funerals were happening at that time in Galiwin'ku, but Djimbuluku and Gäyalŋa Gurruwiwi organised recording sessions and other work around the family ceremonies.





Above: Images from 'International Mother Language Day' held at Gaynjuru Studios Nhulunbuy.

In June, we spent one week in Gapuwiyak. Gawura Wanambi facilitated the first part of this workshop, and his niece Wutpurrju continued the language work and facilitation. In Darwin, Gawura has continued work with Marraju material, and Yirrinba Dhurrkay has worked with Wangurri recordings.

In recording and transcribing songs and stories, some participants have located their own personal names or names of close family. Younger members of families have learned about areas and place names that define clan territories or travels. People are often learning clan-specific terms for plants,

wildlife and natural features. Other more abstract terms like 'knowledge' also emerge from the different clan songlines and stories. Importantly, these languages and songs also describe inter-clan relationships and governance.

Bananaki shares, ***"I have discovered two of my own names here, in this work, and now I am learning how to sing these crying songs. One name is here in this women's song, and I've heard another name in this Galiku song, so these two songs connect me to my paternal and maternal ancestry through my two given names. How about that!"*** (Ms Bananaki Yunupingu, workshop participant, Galiwin'ku).



Above: Recording Guyula manikay at Galiwin'ku.



Repatriation has been one of the most immediately rewarding aspects of this project as we have returned old and new recordings to families in remote communities and Darwin. Andrew Grimes and Gäyalŋa Gurruwiwi have edited and mastered audio recordings as soon as possible so that participants can hear and receive those files onto their phones or devices to keep and/or share. We have also burned a small number of CD's and USB sticks for the few families that have not had a smart device.

Over the years, our radio, multimedia and language teams have recorded a great quantity of audio and film in Yolŋu clan languages. For example: The footage and transcriptions and translations from the 'Songlines on Screen' production of Nambi did not all end up in the short film, but they are of great value to Wägilak speakers and artists.

Andrew Grimes and Andrew Gäyalŋa have been preparing songs and stories from this project for broadcast on Yolŋu Radio and album production. It is excellent that Yolŋu audiences in Darwin, remote communities and homelands can hear songs and stories via radio or streaming. In the next year, contemporary musicians will record their new music drawing from traditional songs and stories. We look forward to releasing two albums in the new year.

## Interesting figures from Ancient Languages, New Sounds

- 40+ people
- 11 Yolŋu clan groups represented
- 8 clan languages recorded
- 9 traditional manikay and milkarri songs recorded
- 10 accompanying stories recorded
- 50 pages of language notes from Yolŋu language workers
- 2 contemporary songs written
- 50 family photos laminated and sent home
- 5 facebook posts in Yolŋu languages
- 15 smart devices (+ shares)



Above: Recording at Gapuwiyak.





Above: Recording at Gapuwiyak.



Above & top: Recording at Galiwin'ku.



# COMMERCIAL CONTRACTS

## Outback Spirit Tours

ARDS has continued the delivery of its contractual responsibilities to facilitate Welcome to Country ceremonies for the participants in Outback Spirit Tours twelve day Arnhem Land Wilderness Adventure Tour.

The Tour commences in Nhulunbuy every second day from the beginning of May through to mid-September.

The Welcome to Country comprises a one hour morning event at a beachfront location near Nhulunbuy, involving several yidaki players including internationally-renowned yidaki player Djalu Gurruwiwi, several songmen and male and female dancers.

A common feature of the event is the often full participation of the tour participants when invited to join in the dancing towards the end of each ceremony.

During the current financial year ARDS completed the facilitation of the Welcome to Country ceremonies for the 2016 Tour season and commenced the facilitation of the performances for the 2017 Tour season.

An ARDS facilitated Women's Healing activity was added to the Tour program soon after the commencement of the 2017 Tour season. Delivered at a beachfront location near Yirrkala by four and sometimes five Yolju women, the activity has proven to be an outstanding addition to the first day of the Tour. The joy of the Yolju women in sharing their healing knowledge scarcely surpasses the joy of the Tour participants in their experience of the activity, with many participants keenly exposing those parts of their body that require additional healing.

At the end of the current financial year negotiations are already well advanced for ARDS facilitation of the Welcome to Country ceremonies and the Women's Healing activities for the 2018 Tour season.

During the course of the 2017 Tour Season, ARDS expects to make payments in excess of \$160,000 to the Welcome to Country performers and women healers.







**Feedback about the Welcome to Country Ceremony:**

**'The Tour participants are still rating our opening and the Welcome to Country performances and the Women's Healing experience as the best part of their Tour. It has the strongest cultural content of the whole Tour and everyone is so happy with what we are doing.'**

Outback Spirit Tours host, Barbara Talbot.

**'Thank you, you have completely changed my perspective of Aboriginal culture, these people are so beautiful.'**

General comments from Tour participants.

**'I've worked for the company for 25 years and this has got to be the best Welcome to Country I've ever seen, anywhere.'**

Coach driver.

**'We have certainly conducted this project: 'Physically; Spiritually; Right Way; Respect each other'**

Djalu Gurruwiwi, the 87 year old Gälpu Clan Leader and Songman.







Above: Daniel Wunungmurra explaining the new meterbox to Timothy Dhurrkay Gurunja in Galiwin'ku.

## Power & Water

### Community Engagement for New Prepaid Meterboxes

Household power is a crucial well-being issue for remote communities. In the past year, ARDS has been travelling to numerous Arnhem Land communities to provide information and education about new meterboxes that change the way power is accessed and paid for.

Power and Water Corporation is replacing power-card meters throughout the Territory, with new prepaid meterboxes that work by electronic transfer at the point of sale. Power and Water engaged ARDS to explain how the new meters work to Galiwin'ku, Ramanginj, Gapuwiyak, Ngukurr, Numbulwar and homelands surrounding these communities.

We first developed a Yolŋu Matha storyline with consultants in Darwin, which explained the new way to access and pay for power, and the reasons for the meterboxes' introduction. This provided the basis for a Plain English script which was used in Ngukurr and Numbulwar.

In each community, we hired local people as co-facilitators, to ensure we engaged residents as clearly and effectively as possible. We reached as many residents as we could by presenting to local groups and at public places, such as outside the local shop. In each community, we visited prior, during and post-installation of the new meterboxes, to support the community's queries and concerns at each step of the process.

ARDS shared comprehensive learnings to Power and Water about the community engagement process for this project, with the aim of supporting

better engagement approaches in other remote communities throughout the Top End.

ARDS also supported PowerWater in completing a water efficiency community engagement project in Ngukurr, in April and June. This work included a combination of community engagement and leak inspections, in order to reduce water loss in Ngukurr.

The following people played an integral part in diminishing people's concerns and confusion about the meterbox and its installation:

- Yirrininba Dhurrkay (Darwin)
- Wapiriny Gurruwiwi (Darwin)
- Joy Bulkanhawuy (Darwin)
- Daniel Gonawuy Wunungmurra (Galiwin'ku)
- Nancy Gondarra (Galiwin'ku)
- Dorothy Wiliyawuy (Ramanginj)
- Justine Gawinygawiny (Ramanginj)
- Sylvia Many'tjurrpuy (Ramanginj)
- Keith Yilkari (Ramanginj)
- Joyce Walikurr Wunungmurra (Gapuwiyak)
- Brian Ganambarr (Gapuwiyak)
- Samantha Wunungmurra (Gapuwiyak)
- Glenda Robertson (Ngukurr)
- Sammy Ponto (Ngukurr)
- Jimmy Nundhirribala (Numbulwar).

Thank you to all involved for their crucial support in delivering these projects.





## NLC Training

### NLC Women Rangers - Leadership Training

A tailored two day training course was delivered to a group of NLC Women Rangers.

The course was designed to build the participants confidence and leadership skills.

The program helped women to identify all the areas in their lives where they are in leadership roles and how the skills they already have can be transferred into the workplace.

The women participated in a number of group activities, explored the difference gender makes in the approach to leadership and improving communication and assertiveness.

The facilitators were Sharyn Derschow and ARDS CEO Johanna Ward.

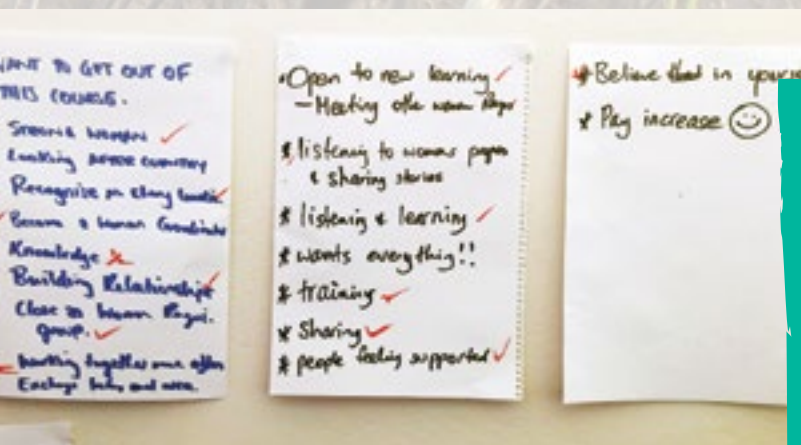
**Sharyn** is a Martu and Banjima woman from the Pilbara region of Western Australia. Sharyn has strong Yijbarndi links by marriage and is a fluent speaker of Yijbarndi, spoken in the Pilbara by people in the region around Roebourne.

**Pictured right:** Facilitators Sharyn Derschow (left) and Johanna Ward (right).

**Johanna** has worked in a range of roles within the context of Indigenous community development as manager in Arnhem Land including community and government leadership roles.

She has had senior roles with the Australian government (ICC Manager, Nhulunbuy) Remote Indigenous communities and in mining as HR and Community Relations Manager at Rio Tinto Alcan in Weipa. Prior to commencing with ARDS as CEO, she worked with BHP Iron Ore and was responsible for supporting the Indigenous Employment strategy, including the design and implementation of the Indigenous mentoring program and other organisational capacity building programs.

Jo has qualifications in Counselling and a long-standing interest in the personal and professional development.



### Feedback from participants:

*“the course helped me to learn about and become a stronger woman”*

*“I really found the discussion on balancing home and work very useful”*

*“I would have liked the program to go longer!”*



# RADIO & CREATIVE MEDIA



## Film Production

### MM16: Burrmalala Rom – Cyclone Knowledge and Practice

*Burrmalala Rom – Waljampirri Dhukarr* is a documentary-style film that explores, celebrates and strengthens the capacity of Yolŋu to prepare for, survive and recover from the impacts of tropical cyclones - an ongoing meteorological reality of life in Arnhem Land.

This project was jointly funded by the Australian and Northern Territory Governments Community Recovery Fund under Category C of the Commonwealth-State Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements.

In early 2015, the Yolŋu communities of Galiwin'ku, Milinjibi, Ramanginj and many smaller homelands across northeast Arnhem Land were hit by two cyclones just four weeks apart. For many, this was the first direct experience of the breathtaking and destructive power, the response, recovery and rebuilding.

For countless generations, deep cultural knowledge and practices have equipped Yolŋu to thrive in the cyclone-prone environment of northeast Arnhem Land. Today, mainstream weather-warning agencies and disaster response/recovery services provide resources which further support the capacity of Yolŋu to live with and survive the impacts of tropical cyclones.

This film explores the past, present and future, affirming the strengths of Yolŋu to prepare for and cope with the impacts of cyclones, while uncovering new opportunities for collaboration between Yolŋu communities and mainstream weather-warning and disaster response services.

**Top:** Burrmalala dances in Yurrwi.

**Right:** Burrmalala Songmen in Yurrwi.

Tapping into foundational Yolŋu law, ceremony and knowledge around *burrmalala* (cyclones), this project is driven and owned by the families and communities who contribute their knowledge, stories and experiences to it. Yolŋu from Gupapuyŋu clan have been incredibly generous to share *manikay* (songlines), *bungul* (ceremony) and *dhāwu* (story) about *burrmalala* (cyclone). Burrmalala relates to some very serious and sacred business for Gupapuyŋu and is therefore a very personal subject. However we have been honoured to get many important stories that can be put in the public domain and can help the world understand how Yolŋu relate to this powerful phenomenon.

We have also conducted interviews with Yolŋu from other clans who have stories about the ways that Yolŋu used to prepare for, shelter from and recover after cyclones. At the same time, we have been engaging with the Bureau of Meteorology to tell a meaningful story about the way the balanda (mainstream) world relates to cyclones.





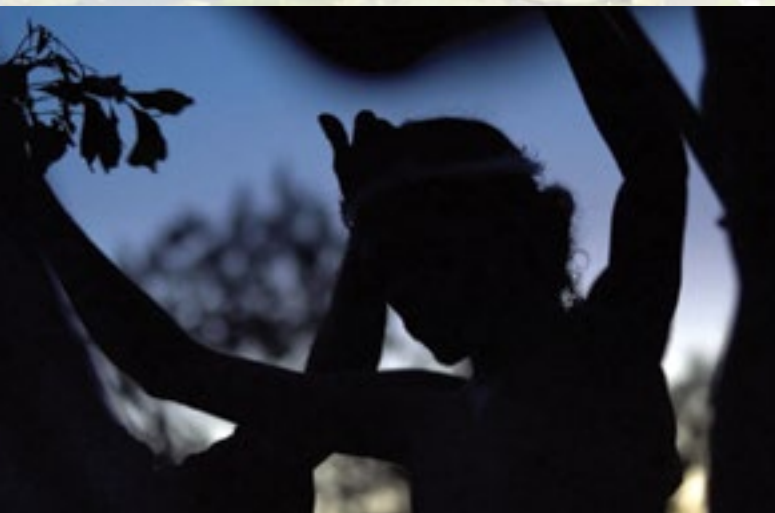
## SBS / NITV - Songlines On Screen – Nambi

ARDS mourns loss of lawman and story teller for Nambi film for Songlines on Screen.

Everyone at ARDS, along with many others across Arnhem Land and beyond, have been mourning the loss of a very important old man who passed away in Gapuwiyak in January this year.

The senior Wägilak lawman was very well known across Arnhem Land and beyond and was respected as a lawman, songman, story holder and clan leader.

Last year ARDS had the great privilege of working with him and many close family to make a film about the songlines that connect the Wägilak clan with the country at Nilipidji and the stone (Nambi) found in the area that is used for spear heads. The film is in the final stages of post-production, but it won't be released for public viewing for a year or two at the request of family. Our thoughts are with all family – Wägilak, yothu-yindi, māri-gutharra, as well as with all those who knew this very special old man.



## SBS / NITV - Our Stories

### - *Biyarrmak Nāthiliŋuwuy Dhawu*

Two short films have been produced for SBS-NITV's program 'Our Stories' to be screened mid-2018.

#### *Biyarrmak Nāthiliŋuwuy Dhāwu - Mission Days:*

The Yolŋu art of Comedic Storytelling comes to life, with the story of the 'mission days' as told by renown storyteller Andrew Minyapa Gurruwiwi in a contemporary Yolŋu setting in and around Yirrkala and Birritjimi.



#### *Biyarrmak Nāthiliŋuwuy Dhāwu - Macassan Traders:*

The Yolŋu art of Comedic Storytelling comes to life through the story of first contact with Macassan Traders, as told by renowned storyteller Wiṭyana Marika.







Above left: Sylvia Nulpinditj receives her award for 'Best New Show – Talks' at the 2016 CBAA Community Broadcasting Awards.



Above Right: The GAFL Grand Final.

## Yolŋu Radio

This was a big year for Yolŋu Radio with a number of developments and achievements.

The level of regular weekly program production increased immensely in line with the growing skills and capacity of Yolŋu Radio's team of Yolŋu presenters and producers.

### Regular Weekly Programs include:

- **Dhāwu Dhāwu Show – presented by Sylvia Nulpinditj.** In October the Dhāwu Dhāwu Show, a talk show which covers a wide range of topics relevant to residents of remote communities, was awarded 'Best New Show – Talks' at the 2016 CBAA Community Broadcasting Awards. This program by senior Yolŋu Radio presenter/producer Sylvia was a finalist alongside some of the biggest names in community broadcasting.
- **The Andrew Gurruwiwi Show** was also a finalist in the CBAA awards for '**Best New Shows – Music**', recognising the high quality production and value of this regular weekly music and events program.
- As we know, north east Arnhem Land loves AFL Football on both a local and a national level and Yolŋu Radio has been very happy to introduce **The Yolŋu Radio Footy Show** presented by Nick from Gove AFL and Larry Gurruwiwi. The Footy show features interviews with a wide range of AFL personalities on a regional, Territory and national front.
- **The Burwo Show** – This show also saw a successful second year of production by Jean Gurruwiwi, Roberta Dhurrkay primarily, as well as Caitlyn Burarrwaŋa, Rachael Gurruwiwi and Zowie Bromot. These presenters gather traditional and community news stories and present them each week along with a selection of Yolŋu songs both traditional and contemporary.

- **The Beyarmak Show** – Laughter is medicine they say and everyone needs a good dose of laughter fairly regularly. The Beyarmak Show features funny stories with a range of Yolŋu comedians, brilliant story tellers and others with a comedic tale to tell.
- **The Message with Bala G** – produced and presented by Guruguru Hick, The message is about using music as a tool to share insight and positive living messages to young people across our listenership.
- **The Badjan Show, Tides and weather and Request hour** with Zowie Bromot – Zowie joined the Yolŋu Radio team during the year and quickly launched into live production sharing music, news and information live out of Gayŋuru Studios in Nhulunbuy.
- **Our Hour** – presented by the Young Fathers Talking Group. In partnership with Laynhapuy Homeland Association and their 'Young Fathers Talking Group' Our Hour shares positive discussion for and by young Yolŋu men.

### Other production highlights

- Yolŋu Radio commenced a **Homeland News** program supported by the Community Broadcasting Foundation aimed at sharing good news stories across homelands and communities. This is an exciting yet challenging development as the team grows strong abilities in community journalism and news presentation styles.
- There have been a range of programs featuring interviews with Yolŋu professionals and **economic development** focussed programming highlighting opportunities and achievements for the region.
- Interviews with both MLA's in Arnhem Land, Independent member for Nhulunbuy Yinjiya Mark



Guyula and Labor's member for Arnhem, Selena Uibo, share insight into the 2017/18 budget for the NT to give listeners more of an understanding of how the budget is agreed on.

- **Outside Broadcasting** – A number of events including Garma Festival, Yirrkala's Yarrapay Festival, Ramingining's Bak'bididi Festival, Maningrida's Lurra Festival, GAFL Football Grand Final and Cyclone Carnival, Official, opening of the Nhulunbuy Boarding School facility, coverage of Miwatj health 40th Anniversary at Yirrkala and Galiwin'ku and more. The outside broadcasts are received very well and have contributed a lot to raising the profile, awareness and engagement on Yolŋu Radio with our primary audience.
- **In-depth Education Production - Gambling.** ARDS received funding via the Community Benefit Fund to produce audio resources in Yolŋu Languages with the aim to reduce confusion about gambling and problems associated with it - in particular, with pokies - and stimulate dialogue towards Yolŋu-led responses and a 12 part educational series on gambling was produced.
- As part of the Dhäwu Dhäwu Show - Sylvia Nulpinditj worked with lawyers from NAAJA to produce a 5 part series on **understanding constitutional recognition**.

### Programming

In response to feedback from our audience, the Yolŋu Radio weekly program schedule has continued to change significantly as we strive to continually improve in meeting our audiences evolving needs and working with technology and software to ensure these needs can be met as efficiently as possible. The program reflects feedback from young people, elders, leaders, board members, staff members and their families, organisations and clients to ensure the best possible flow and logical programming to reflect the listening habits and media needs of 4 generations.

### Technology and facilities

This year has seen some major improvements to the Yolŋu Radio studio and production facilities through the completion of a project funded by ABA for Yolŋu Radio and Gaynjuru Studio Upgrades. This included major improvements in the following areas:

- Outside Broadcasting equipment
- Studio Broadcasting including a new broadcasting console, system and associated equipment that connects all studio spaces and maximises capacity for use in live and pre-recorded production.

- Improvements to sound treatment of studio spaces
- Improvement, repairs and maintenance to various parts of the studio and facilities including power safety and reliability mechanisms.

### Improvements to Yolŋu Radio access

This year saw the installation of Yolŋu Radio's FM transmission in Darwin's primary broadcast facility. Yolŋu Radio successfully commenced FM broadcasting in Darwin in June on **88.9FM** which allows much greater access and quality of sound. Across Arnhem Land all transmission is FM based and a large contingency of our listenership connect to Yolŋu Radio via the FM receivers in their mobile phones. It is now possible for our Darwin audience to tune in this way as well, with more cars having FM receivers than AM these days. ARDS thanks the ABA for support in achieving this long awaited transition to FM transmission in Darwin.

There are other ways that our access has improved over the course of the year, including being added to IRCA's **Indigitube** streaming services alongside other remote Indigenous broadcast groups across the country.

ARDS gratefully accepted the opportunity for development of the **Yolŋu Radio App** for streaming on Apple and Android platforms provided by peak body, Indigenous Remote Communications Association (IRCA).

ARDS has also been utilising the online audio platform Soundcloud to further share and promote Yolŋu Radio programs, where listeners can catch up on weekly programs on demand and access a range of featured educational series that can be downloaded as podcasts.

**Listener Feedback: "We love it! We listen to it all the time driving around picking up clients."**

Larrakia Nation community support worker talking about Yolŋu Radio

**"Let me say one very important thing: all the other sources are in English. They use so many technical or academic words. It's very difficult for us – meaningless. I'm telling you, that ARDS Yolŋu Radio is the only place you'll hear it all in Yolŋu language. For example, meteorologists use totally unfamiliar language. On Yolŋu Radio, we hear it all in Yolŋu language: the location of the cyclone's eye, its reach, when it could hit. Yolŋu Radio tells us everything... all in Yolŋu language. This is the primary purpose of Yolŋu Radio."**

Wan'kal Gondarra





Above: Recording Gälpu Yothu Yindi Gospel at Gaynjuru Studios.

## ARDS Gaynjuru Studios – Rirrakay Label

The ARDS events and music production team, Yolŋu Radio Rirrakay Mala (Sound Crew) based at the Gaynjuru Studios in Nhulunbuy, continues to grow its reputation for high quality service delivery in event production and management. Combined with the delivery of the Yolŋu Radio services, some significant events and music projects have been completed through this time.

### New Gospel Album from Arnhem Land

*Gälpu Yothu Yindi Gospel* by Bärre' West Wind, is the latest contribution from Arnhem Land. It features full productions of original and classic Yolŋu gospel songs, performed by Arnhem Land band, Bärre West Wind. The album includes twelve songs written in Gälpu, Gumatj and Wangurri languages, three Yolŋu clans connected through Yothu Yindi, as 'Child and Mother'.

The album was recorded and produced by ARDS/ Yolŋu Radio at Gaynjuru Studios in Nhulunbuy over the course of a year. Producing the record on Yolŋu country allowed the band to collaborate with the Birritjimi Ladies Choir as well as highly acclaimed traditional songman, Malalakpuy Munyarryun.

*[Copies of the cd can be purchased through iTunes, ARDS online store, or at our studios in Nhulunbuy and Darwin].*

### Milŋiya Djamarrkuŋi' Manikay

Another local music production during the last year was the collaboration with FaFT in Yirrkala and Gunyaŋara, which saw the recording of an album of Children's songs for Yolŋu children. This was launched at the Yirrkala Arts Centre and is being distributed freely via USB.

An increasing number of local musicians and organisations are hiring Gaynjuru Studios and our talented staff to record their music and produce their albums. Over the year we have recorded and produced albums for Harry and the Walkers, Poison Whiskey from Groote Eylandt, Aris and Papa Said and Garrangali Band.

We also provided services to various groups for film projects such as recording narrations and other works. Gaynjuru Studios is becoming a local melting pot of creativity and collaboration, where Yolŋu and non-Yolŋu are sharing their skills and producing together.



Right: Garma Festival : Front - Andrew Gurruwiwi, Djolpa Mckenzie (Wildwater Band) Back - Amboya Nungurrgalu.



## Event Production

This year has seen ARDS' involvement in a wide range of events through the Yolŋu Radio Rirrakay Mala with the season kicking off in early July, with the Inaugural Yarrapay Festival in Yirrkala, a big weekend of music and dance. ARDS provided sound and lighting equipment to the event.

ARDS organised the music program, provided sound and lighting, and ran the Main stage for Yothu Yindi Foundation's prestigious nationally renowned Garma Festival in 2016 ( a 4 day event).

In late September, the annual Chief Minister's Cup Australian Rules Football carnival and the National Indigenous Media Festival (hosted by IRCA and TEABBA) ran back to back in Yirrkala for 8 days. ARDS brought the sound and lighting and managed a huge week of stage production, that saw bands from across the region, as well as artists that are also working in remote media performing at the Roy Marika stage in Yirrkala every night for 7 nights.

The following week the Rirrakay Mala headed to Ramingining, as ARDS produced the Bak'bididi Festival for the second year, working in partnership with community members, ALPA, Bula'bula Arts, East Arnhem Regional Council and the major sponsor, the Northern Territory Government through Arts

NT's Community Festival Fund. Bak'bididi Festival saw a huge weekend of music, cultural and sports activities and celebrated the wealth of talent in Ramingining and across the region.

Again for the second year running, ARDS was proud to be involved in the White Ribbon Dinner in Nhulunbuy and provide Sound and Lighting services. This saw hundreds converge together to encourage an end to domestic violence across our communities.

Throughout the dry season, ARDS has partnered with Rirratjŋu Aboriginal Corporation and Buku-Larrngay Mulka Arts Centre in Yirrkala to provide a monthly community event in Yirrkala promoting healthy activities and celebrating the wealth of local talent.

This year has also seen a project funded by Developing East Arnhem Ltd (DEAL) through their Community Development Fund that has allowed ARDS to purchase lighting, portable staging, a 4WD Truck to transport our event services equipment across Arnhem Land to support community events and to continue to train and employ local people in the specialised area of event services.



**Above left:** Performers at Garma Festival.

**Above right:** National Indigenous Media Festival in Yirrkala.

**Left:** Bak'bididi Festival.





Above: Gawurra Gaykamanu performs at the White Ribbon Event.

Below: Staff with the new truck..



## NEW ARDS/YOLŊU RADIOTRUCK

In early 2017 ARDS was advised that its application to Developing East Arnhem Limited (DEAL), for the purchase of sound and lighting equipment, a portable stage and a large enclosed truck to transport existing and the newly purchased equipment to festivals and celebrations in remote communities in northeast Arnhem Land, had been successful.

Following the purchase of a suitable second hand twin cab truck in Perth, and its delivery to Darwin, the tray of the truck was fitted with a 20 foot container. A feature of the truck was the rear hydraulic lift, enabling heavy sound and lighting equipment, and the portable stage to be safely and efficiently loaded and unloaded.

Whilst in Darwin, prior to be driven out to Nhulunbuy, the container was lined and fitted with air conditioning.

ARDS will be providing the production management, stage management and sound and lighting services for the 2017 GARMA Festival in early August 2017, when the truck is planned to make its first appearance in northeast Arnhem Land, taking in just one trip all of the required equipment to the GARMA site that would have required numerous return troopcarrier and trailer trips to accomplish.



# YOLŊU RADIO FREQUENCIES 2017

Location	FM Frequency	Location	FM Frequency
Bälma	90.1	Gurrumuru	89.5
Bäniyala	89.7	Mäpuru	89.5
Ban'thula	89.1	Matamata	89.7
Darwin	88.9	Milingimbi	102.9
Dhälinybuy	90.3	Mirrnatja	89.7
Dhuruputjpi	88.9	Nadayun	88.9
Donydji	90.3	Nhulunbuy	96.5
Galiwin'ku	102.7	Ramingining	102.5
Gängan	89.3	Rorruwuy	89.3
Gapuwiyak	102.3	Wandawuy	89.1
Garrthalala	89.9	Yirrkala	102.1

THE VOICE OF NORTH-EAST ARNHEM LAND

## SUPPORTERS, DONORS AND SPONSORS

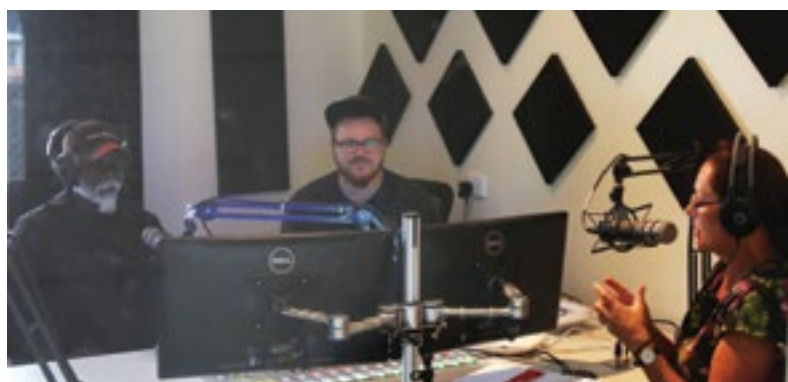
We rely on your help to make a real and lasting contribution to closing the gap for Indigenous Australians. ARDS would like to thank all the individuals, government and non-government organisations that supported our work in 2016-2017.

- Australian Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet  
[www.dpmc.gov.au](http://www.dpmc.gov.au)
- Australian Department of Communications and the Arts  
[www.arts.gov.au](http://www.arts.gov.au)
- The Northern Territory Government  
[www.nt.gov.au](http://www.nt.gov.au)
- Australian Department of Health  
[www.health.gov.au](http://www.health.gov.au)
- NT Government Department of Local Government and Community Services - Men's Policy Unit  
[dlgcs.nt.gov.au/office-of-mens-policy](http://dlgcs.nt.gov.au/office-of-mens-policy)
- Power and Water Corporation  
[www.powerwater.com.au](http://www.powerwater.com.au)
- ALPA (The Arnhem Land Progress Aboriginal Corporation)  
[www.alpa.asn.au](http://www.alpa.asn.au)
- Screen Australia  
[www.screenaustralia.gov.au](http://www.screenaustralia.gov.au)
- Miwatj Employment  
[miwatj.com.au/employment](http://miwatj.com.au/employment)
- Australian Government - Indigenous Culture Support  
[arts.gov.au](http://arts.gov.au)
- Laynhapuy Homelands Aboriginal Corporation  
[www.laynhapuy.com.au](http://www.laynhapuy.com.au)
- Australian Government Australia Council for the Arts  
[www.australiacouncil.gov.au](http://www.australiacouncil.gov.au)
- National Indigenous Television (NITV)  
[www.sbs.com.au/nitv](http://www.sbs.com.au/nitv)
- Community Broadcasting Foundation  
[www.cbf.com.au](http://www.cbf.com.au)
- NT Government Department of Local Government and Community Services – Men's Policy Unit  
[dlgcs.nt.gov.au/office-of-mens-policy](http://dlgcs.nt.gov.au/office-of-mens-policy)
- NT Department of Chief Minister  
[dcm.nt.gov.au](http://dcm.nt.gov.au)
- Outback Spirit Tours  
[www.outbackspiritours.com.au](http://www.outbackspiritours.com.au)
- Yothu Yindi Foundation  
[www.yyf.com.au](http://www.yyf.com.au)
- Rirratjingu Aboriginal Corporation  
[www.rirratjingu.com](http://www.rirratjingu.com)
- Public Purposes Trust NT  
[www.lawsocietynt.asn.au](http://www.lawsocietynt.asn.au)





# OUT 'N' ABOUT IN 2016-2017









# FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ending 30 June 2017

**Aboriginal Resource and Development Services Aboriginal Corporation**  
**ABN: 24 609 472 742**

## **Statement Of Profit Or Loss And Other Comprehensive Income For The Year Ended 30 June 2017**

	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>
	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
Revenue	<b>1,967,193</b>	1,776,533
Other income	<b>501,402</b>	511,908
Employee provisions expense	<b>(1,279,307)</b>	(1,281,282)
Depreciation and amortisation expense	<b>(200,793)</b>	(188,138)
Repairs, maintenance and vehicle running expenses	<b>(39,828)</b>	(29,633)
Fuel, light and power expense	<b>(26,824)</b>	(27,588)
Training expense	<b>(15,717)</b>	(21,200)
Audit, legal and consultancy fees	<b>(544,709)</b>	(271,114)
Administration expense	<b>(17,714)</b>	(19,069)
Marketing expenses	<b>(34,690)</b>	(3,843)
Accounting	<b>(152,187)</b>	(123,594)
Banking Fees	<b>(2,631)</b>	(2,607)
Cleaning Fees	<b>(10,416)</b>	(8,671)
Computer software	<b>(15,945)</b>	(36,724)
Equipment - Minor Less than \$5000	<b>(32,494)</b>	(69,628)
Fees - inc. Licence & Broadcasting	<b>(32,162)</b>	(63,863)
Freight & Courier	<b>(3,811)</b>	(16,166)
Hire of Equipment	<b>(64,263)</b>	(24,797)
Insurances	<b>(24,474)</b>	(25,552)
Landline, Mobiles & Internet	<b>(29,283)</b>	(22,249)
Office Expenses	<b>(11,747)</b>	(12,006)
Printing & Stationary	<b>(30,092)</b>	(12,357)
Rates - Water & Council	<b>(10,765)</b>	(10,974)
Rent	<b>(31,588)</b>	(37,117)
Repairs & Maintenance	<b>(51,274)</b>	(48,617)
Repayment of Grant Funding	<b>(15,213)</b>	-
Subscriptions	<b>(13,975)</b>	(11,482)
Travel & Accommodation	<b>(253,920)</b>	(200,985)
Sundry expenses	<b>(20,498)</b>	(20,521)
<b>Net current year surplus   (deficit)</b>	<b>(497,725)</b>	(301,334)
Other comprehensive income		
Total comprehensive income for the year	-	-
Profit / (Loss) attributable to members of the entity	<b>(497,725)</b>	(301,334)
Total comprehensive income attributable to members of the entity	<b>(497,725)</b>	(301,334)



### Assets and Liabilities For The Year Ended 30 June 2017

	2017 \$	2016 \$
<b>ASSETS</b>		
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Cash on hand	195,571	79,906
Accounts receivable and other debtors	300,465	180,408
Financial assets	942,143	1,112,518
Inventories on hand	5,733	5,733
Other current assets	3,168	-
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<b>1,447,081</b>	1,378,566
<b>NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Property, plant and equipment	1,589,988	1,632,862
<b>TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<b>1,589,988</b>	1,632,862
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>3,037,069</b>	3,011,428
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		
Accounts payable and other payables	916,097	390,111
Employee provisions	135,382	138,002
<b>TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>	<b>1,051,479</b>	528,113
<b>NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		
<b>TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>	-	-
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>1,051,479</b>	528,113
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<b>1,985,590</b>	2,483,315
<b>EQUITY</b>		
Retained surplus	1,985,590	2,483,315
<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>	<b>1,985,590</b>	2,483,315



**Report on the Audit of the Financial Report**

**Opinion**

We have audited the financial report of Aboriginal Resource and Development Services Aboriginal Corporation (ARDS) (the Corporation), which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2017, the statement of comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and cash flow statement for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies, and the director's declaration.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial report of Aboriginal Resource and Development Services Aboriginal Corporation (ARDS) is in accordance with the CATSI Act 2006, including:

- (a) giving a true and fair view of the Corporation's financial position as at 30 June 2017 and of its performance for the year then ended; and
- (b) complying with Australian Accounting Standards to the extent described in Note 1.

**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 CATSI 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 CATSI Act 2006, which has been given to the director of the Corporation, would be in the same terms if given to the director 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.

**Emphasis of Matter – Basis of Accounting**

We draw attention to Note 1 to the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared for the purpose of fulfilling the director's financial reporting responsibilities under the CATSI Act 2006. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

**Responsibilities of the Director for the Financial Report**

The director of the Corporation is responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and has determined that the basis of preparation described in Note 1 to the financial report is appropriate to meet the requirements of the CATSI Act 2006 and is appropriate to meet the needs of the members. The director's responsibility also includes such internal control as the director determines 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 director is responsible for assessing the Corporation's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters relating to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the director either intends to liquidate the Corporation or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

**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 judgment 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 director.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the director'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 director 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.

Signed on: 29/11/2017

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PO Box 2747 Palmerston NT 0831  
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