



ARDS

Aboriginal Resource and Development Services Inc.

Annual Report

2011 - 2012





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cover photo: Eileen O'Connor

Gundjak (Pandanus) - Dhuwa tree

Pandanus sap and leaves are used for medicine, the sap as an ointment for itches and the white inner part of the leaves for sore throats, mouth and skin sores and boils. It can be eaten raw or mixed with water. The white ends of centre stalks are chewed to relieve toothache and can be eaten raw tasting similar to raw cabbage.

The main use however for the pandanus is to weave, mats, baskets, dilly bags etc.

Using thumbnails the leaves are stripped of prickles and the remainder separated into several long strips which are laid in the sun to dry.

The pandanus plant can be split in half with the very centre soaked in cold water for two days to make a green dye, into which the dried leaves can then be soaked.

The fruit of the plant can also be eaten. When the fruit turn orange and ripen (around December) it is split to reveal nuts which are eaten raw.

Who we are and what we do

Through best practice capacity building and adult education, ARDS is working to improve the health and well-being of people living in North East Arnhem Land and beyond. Our award winning programs and resources help people to understand the western health, legal and economic information that impacts on them, and take back control of their lives.

ARDS works in the areas of:

Health

Law, Governance and Economics

Social and Support Systems

Cultural Sustainability

Language

ARDS multi-disciplinary team works with governments and communities, bringing expertise gained from over 25 years of Indigenous community development.

ARDS is dedicated to using our expertise and relationships to help create a healthy and prosperous future for Indigenous Australians.



What makes us different

ARDS develops and delivers programs and resources in partnership with communities and homelands across North East Arnhem Land, Darwin and other parts of the Territory. Our main office is in Darwin with a second office currently being built, and soon to be opened in Nhulunbuy.

Indigenous communities in rural and remote Australia have their own unique characteristics.

That is why ARDS employs a professional team of linguists, translators, multimedia and adult education specialists, and experts in the fields of health, law and economics to develop targeted programs and resources.

Our work is guided by a set of principles developed out of more than 25 years experience in Indigenous development and adult education in the Northern Territory.

Language Many Aboriginal people speak languages other than English at home. Our educators work in people's first language to maximise communication, learning and sharing.

Worldview People see the world in different ways. Adult education needs to start with what people already know and what they want to know.

Two Way Learning The roles of teacher and learner need to be shared equally for adult education to be effective. ARDS educators use a methodology that creates dialogue and mutual exploration of topics. The emphasis is on the process.



From the Board

I write this report as the ARDS Deputy Chairman on behalf of the Chairman, Mr Witiyana Marika and the Board.

There continues to be many excellent new education programs produced on topics like ear health, Centrelink debt and economic literacy. Indigenous communities need this work to be done, particularly using local languages as the key to education.

At the moment the Balanda system is still a foreign system to Yolŋu. ARDS is a tool and a vehicle to help us to learn and understand. We are learning through the programs that ARDS produces and the djama that ARDS does.

The whole idea is to make it easier for Yolŋu to relate and be in a position to make informed decisions about a lot of things. It's really important for Yolŋu that this continuing djama doesn't just happen in a season but is ongoing.

We need to keep our eyes focused on the positive because a lot of things are at stake.

The welfare of our people in areas of health is critically important; we hope that the discovery education and capacity building in all areas can continue, for there is much needed work for Yolŋu people.

As Yolŋu we still have to grapple with many issues and sometimes we find it hard to know how to close the gap. We'd like to see us working together, hand in hand. Yolŋu and balanda, working together. We need to appreciate our differences, respect our differences.

Not for one culture to be above another or take over but to encourage. Then we can be free to decide and to do the djama that is ahead of us, walk together.

The studios in the new Nhulunbuy building have been completed with all new band and recording equipment and we're hoping to see somebody based there and managing the facility, so that it can get up and running and utilised as soon as possible.

As we start to tell people about the facility and how it can be used we are hoping that many people will have access to it. We will be encouraging local bands to record there, all those 'superstars' could be using that facility and making good quality sound recordings. It will also be a place for Yolŋu to learn multimedia and computer djama. Also learning how to work with IT and the facility will be there, hopefully for all Yolŋu to use.

Thank you.



Maratja Dhamarrandji



"As Yolngu we still have to grapple with many issues and sometimes we find it hard to know how to close the gap. We'd like to see us working together, hand in hand. Yolngu and balanda, working together."

- Mr Marajta Dhamarrandji
Deputy Chariman

FROM THE EXECUTIVE TEAM

The ARDS Board welcomed and appointed a new Chairman, Mr Witiyana Markia. ARDS would like to acknowledge and thank Mr Maratja Dhamarrandji for his wisdom and stewardship as the previous Chairman and we are grateful that he has remained on the Board as Deputy Chairman.

This year has seen ARDS continue with its unique work focused on Community Development. We have been able to continue work on existing projects and complete others. We have also been able to secure new funding for some additional projects and initiatives which are detailed in the Annual Report. In particular we would like to acknowledge and thank

The Northern Territory Government through the Department of Housing, Local Government and Regional Services for renewing three years recurrent funding of our Regional Development Grant until 2014.

The Australian Government through the Department of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy for its funding grant for Yolŋu Radio North East Arnhem Land and Darwin.

The Australian Government through the Department of Regional Australia, Local Government, Arts and Sport for its funding grant for our successful application under the National Jobs Package. This grant has assisted us in employing Ms Sylvia Nulpinditj as a full time trainee in Radio and Multimedia.

ARDS has also been networking and spreading the word about our good work. For example this year saw Miriam Yinininba and Emma Murphy attend and present at the Employment Conference in Central Australia hosted by APY Lands Women's Council. They attended because of an invitation by its Chairwomen,

Yanyi Baker. Yanyi is also a member of the ARDS Board. In Melbourne Miriam Yinininba and Mervyn Brown accepted an invitation to be guest speakers at the Parents and Friends Reconciliation Event at Trinity Grammar School, Melbourne.

There have been a small number changes in staff over the year with Lauren Mills joining our team in Family Services having successfully completed the initial stages of ARDS training program.

Yolŋu Radio continues to be a key focus for getting educational programs, news, drama and music into Darwin and North East Arnhem Land. At the same time ARDS realises that it also needs to use new technologies in our educational programs. With that in mind our team will investigate, use and train our staff in current best practice multimedia production to our community development initiatives.

The building of the new office and radio studios at Nhulunbuy are nearing completion and should finally be launched towards the end of the year. Our team is doing the final work installing the broadcasting and recording equipment and fine tuning things such as lighting, sound proofing and air conditioning to make the facilities fully operational.

In the meantime ARDS will be required to move from its current location on the Stuart Highway at Winnellie in Darwin to new premises at a new location. Currently negotiations are ongoing with the support of the Uniting Church Northern Synod to finalise this relocation.

We would like to express our thanks to the staff, board members and contributors to ARDS over the year. With their support we can continue to build an organisation that reflects and meets the needs of Indigenous people in the Northern Territory.



Paul Bubb



Mervyn Brown



"We would like to express our thanks to the staff, board members and contributors to ARDS over the year. With their support we can continue to build an organisation that reflects and meets the needs of Indigenous people in the Northern Territory"

- Paul Bubb and Mervyn Brown

Sylvia Nulpinditj

Born in Milingimbi, Sylvia and her family came to Darwin for a change of lifestyle and to have their children educated in mainstream education. After attending literacy and numeracy programs with STEPS she was encouraged to take part in a course for indigenous mentoring which lead her to working firstly in a voluntary capacity and finally a paid part time position with Ironbark Employment Darwin, supporting the Indigenous Employment Program. In 2011 ARDS was looking for Yolŋu to be the voices for a series of radio plays, Sylvia was recommended as one who is confident and capable and would possibly enjoy the challenge which she did.

Through her involvement with the plays, Sylvia became interested in the work that ARDS does and on their completion, she began permanent part time employment working with ARDS in Yolŋu Radio.

In order to become familiar with ARDS methodology, Sylvia began listening to ARDS educational programs on a variety of subjects while also rechecking the quality and relevance of older programs, both for sound and content.

"I've been learning a lot, with a lot of people talking on every topic, whether its health, environment, history, Yolŋu culture, tax, Centrelink debt, Government, whatever we don't understand, it's all there. Sometimes it can be tiring because I have to sit through many programs and sometimes it can be fun because I hear families talking on the radio and they mispronounce. It sounds funny and I have to giggle".

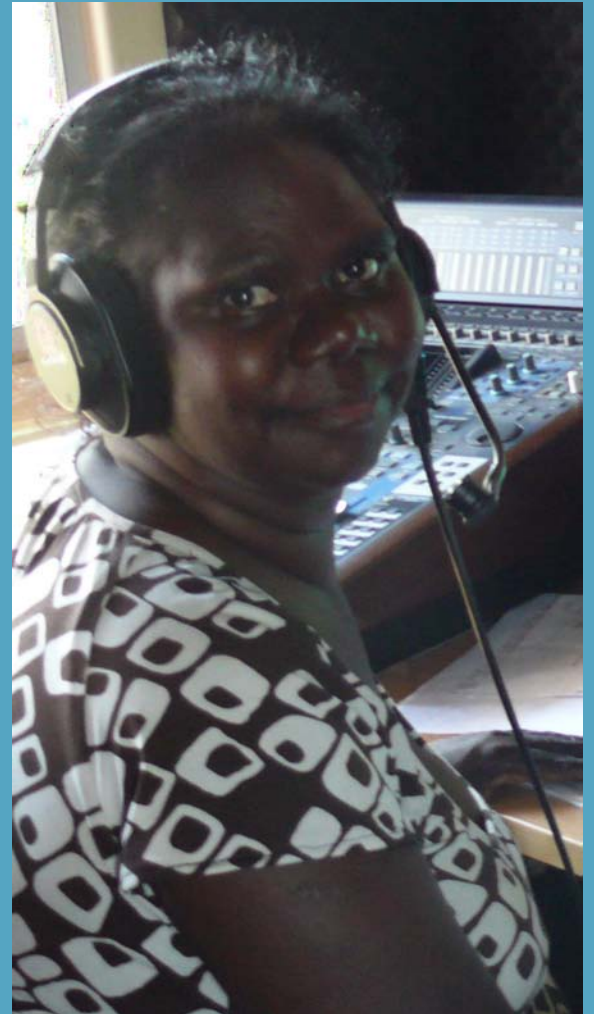
This organisation help Yolŋu community in a lot of djama resources that a lot of Yolŋu community are lacking. People who work here in ARDS have a passion to help Yolŋu, because you have to have some sort of passion for the right djama. It's so educational for me".

An enthusiastic student Sylvia has been the voice for many community announcements and sponsorship messages and is also receiving training to record and edit programs for Yolŋu Radio.

"Working here at ARDS has made me expand my ideas about things, about living and increasing my skills. The staff here they're pretty amazing people, they're comfortable people and very very supportive, a good team to work with, kind and understanding people. I probably wouldn't want to work anywhere else.

Programs that are being produced here at ARDS are very educational and we Yolŋu should be listening to them, taking their advice and sharing with other people around us. ARDS is a keen passionate organisation to help Yolŋu. Even when organisations and governments change, ARDS keep their promises they don't change".

Talking with ARDS Staff



"Working here at ARDS has made me expand my ideas about things, about living and increasing my skills"

Health

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' life expectancy is 10 years less than other Australians. The high rates of chronic and infectious diseases show us that a lot more needs to be done to close the health gap.

ARDS education gives Yolŋu people the tools they need to understand mainstream health information and services, and take back control of their lives.

Most western biomedical concepts and words have never been translated into Indigenous languages. ARDS develops programs and resources that bridge this communication gap so that information and services can be understood and used.

Highlights

- ARDS educator Dr Jamie Mapleson invited to speak at the National Rural Leadership Development Seminar held in Victor Harbour SA
- Dr Jamie Mapleson attended training course on the newly developed 'Young Men's Community Health Education Program'(YMCHEP)
- ARDS staff attended and recorded at the Back to the Roots (suicide prevention) Seminar in Nhulunbuy
- Produced and broadcast 19 new health audio education programs
- Increased level of understanding for Yolŋu regarding bio-medical STI



Sexual Health Literacy

funded by Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing

In January 2010 ARDS began trialling a new strategy to improve the effectiveness of education on sexual health in the Yolŋu population. This year, ARDS educators have conducted face-to-face education sessions at every house and camp in the Milingimbi, Ramingining communities and surrounding homeland centres. ARDS methodology utilises the systems of teaching in Yolŋu society of elders to younger people as the most effective means of knowledge transference. However as current statistics show that almost all the indigenous diagnoses of STI occur in teenage to middle aged people, ARDS has had to look at delivering messages directly with younger Yolŋu generations. The Health team began looking at social behaviours of young males in communities to identify possible causations and consequences of cultural and sexual misbehaviour.

30 community education sessions on blood borne viruses issues were held in Milingimbi, Darwin and Ramingining.

ARDS educators looked at how medicine is absorbed into the body and how this affects the viruses it targets. A series of programs discuss three types of medicines (topical, drip, oral) the aim being, to address a question raised by community stakeholders, "How does oral medicine travel from our stomach and reach disease?"

Looking to achieve comprehensible story lines for radio, another series of discussions involved the differences between Asymptomatic and Symptomatic disease, focusing particularly on Chlamydia.

"Now I understand clearly what is asymptomatic disease. They keep silent, but cold war is still happening in our body and someday it will outbreak." (translated from original Yolŋu Matha)

From these workshops the health team recorded 12 new audio education programs for broadcast on Yolŋu Radio and podcast on the ARDS website.

Also, to cater to community demands, discovery education research commenced on the female side as a foundation to doing education sessions with Yolŋu women to identify outstanding issues of community.

Ear Health Education

funded by I&G Pty Ltd an Australian Government Initiative

A new project designed to build upon ARDS previous work on ear health covering the anatomy of the ear including the outer, middle and inner ear. Sessions covered how sound travels through the eardrum before being sent through to a nerve in the brain and lead on to how germs travel through the Eustachian tube to the middle ear where they cause Middle Ear Disease (Otitis media). How to recognise the different symptoms of Middle Ear Disease was also discussed. The outcome of these sessions produced 4 new audio education programs for broadcast on Yolŋu radio and podcast on the ARDS website

Diabetes education programs

ARDS has previously produced audio programs on diabetes from a biomedical and clinical perspective, however subsequent to the demand of a clan leader from Galiwin'ku, an ARDS Yolŋu consultant and the clan leader shared their experiences relating to living and managing life with diabetes. Confusion about treatments and self-management to prevent diabetes are demonstrated with culturally practical analogies.

Conferences, ARDS Professional Development and more

- At the National Rural Leadership Development Seminar held in Victor Harbour SA, ARDS educator Dr Jamie Mapleson addressed health students, explaining about the work that ARDS does. He spoke about the cultural divide between remote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who don't speak English as a first language and the non-indigenous population and what's involved in achieving effective cross-cultural communication. 'It was inspiring to see young future leaders coming together and being proactive in responding to identified challenges'.
- Poster presentation of ARDS Sexual Health Project at the Australasian Sexual Health Conference in Canberra.
- In early May 2012 four ARDS staff members, Gaia Osborne, Yirriŋinba Dhurrkay, Dr Jamie Mapleson and Joy Bulkanhawuy attended 'Djalkiriga rom Yolŋu gunga'yunamirri; Back to the Roots Conference in Nhulunbuy. The Conference was hosted by the GalupaMarŋarr Suicide Prevention Group in collaboration with the Wesley Mission. The conference was attended by Yolŋu from all over Arnhem Land as well as a range of community service providers. It was delivered in English and Yolŋu Matha. ARDS sponsored the event through the recording of the conference and also used the conference as a platform for interviewing a number of elders and Yolŋu service providers for the purpose of developing a series of radio programs and short educational messages on suicide prevention. This project was funded by GPNNT which has now become Medicare Local NT.
- Dr Jamie Mapleson attended two day training course on the newly developed Young Men's Community Health Education Program (YMCHEP) learning about this new tool developed specifically for talking about men's health issues with young Aboriginal men.
- Originally from Zimbabwe, Newcastle University medical student Hildah Nhandara, chose to undertake her health equity placement with ARDS. During her four week stay she learnt much about the inequities facing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders, allowing her to place these inequities into specific patient and disease contexts that she has seen elsewhere. She also learnt much about different worldviews and cultures that people can have based on their background, and the importance of language in meaningful cross-cultural communication.

LOOKING FORWARD

- In the year ahead ARDS is hoping to secure funding to support the East Arnhem Scabies Control Program with patient and community education about scabies, with a particular focus on crusted scabies. Scabies is a major health concern and endemic in North-East Arnhem Land. The scabies mite burrows just below the surface of the skin, breaking the skin in the process and allowing for easy entry of bacteria which cause disease such as skin sores, rheumatic heart disease and kidney disease.
- We are excited by the prospect of doing some more education and radio programs about chronic disease and the challenging topic of cognitive development. We will look to link these back to our early childhood experiences, for which there is growing evidence that our experiences in early life play a major role in shaping our physical and cognitive development and shaping our lifetime risk for chronic disease.
- ARDS will continue to provide education to communities through our Sexual Health Literacy project, through which we have been linking germ theory of disease with transmission of STI's and the use of condoms. We hope to deliver this and other relevant education to women in communities by the recruitment of an additional female educator.



Law Governance and Economics

ARDS education harnesses the power of language to help Aboriginal people take part in mainstream legal, governance and economic systems. We find and record terms in Yolŋu languages as well as making English words and concepts accessible to people whose first language is not English. Our focus is on facilitating a two way dialogue between cultures.

Highlights

- **North Australian Aboriginal Justice Agency (NAAJA) and the Aboriginal Interpreter Service (AIS) assisting ARDS in the production of the Legal Dictionary.**
- **8 new audio education programs looking at traditional and current marriage system issues produced for broadcast on Yolŋu radio and podcast on the ARDS website.**
- **22 new audio education programs around economic literacy produced for broadcast on Yolŋu radio and podcast on the ARDS website.**



Family Violence Education Programs

Funded by the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs

Eight new audio programs were produced looking at traditional and current marriage system issues, equal rights between men and women and information about balanda support services including education regarding Australian Law surrounding domestic violence issues.

These audio education programs, produced in Yolŋu Matha and utilizing Yolŋu world view aim to promote traditional systems that help protect against violence and strengthen family structures. One Yolŋu listener said “From telling these stories about traditional Yolŋu families, in the early days - how they lived peacefully, co-operated, helped each other - we hope to keep young people in touch with the strength of their law and culture. Today there are so many new influences and challenges - alcohol, health issues, confusion - but maybe through hearing these old stories, young people in trouble can find a good path, so they don't need to resort to fighting and violence, so they can feel strong and proud.”

Community Support for Yolŋu Radio

funded by the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Aboriginal Affairs

This project is to develop audio education programs on economic literacy related to banking, the social welfare system and new government policies etc. Yolŋu have great experience and understanding of economy through ongoing inter-clan trading (eg. rituals & ritual objects) and also historical seasonal trading with foreign industries (eg. Chinese and Macassan) Yolŋu are very capable of describing economy using their languages and analogies. Through discussions between ARDS Yolŋu educators, ARDS non-Yolŋu community educators and project participants, existing knowledge of Yolŋu economy is ascertained.

From these discussions ARDS produced 22 audio education programs, on the topics of Centrelink Debt, Traditional Credit Union (TCU), Arnhem Land Progress Association (ALPA) and ATMs. The Centrelink debt system and bank fee structures are quite new topics to most Yolŋu and considerable time was needed to uncover and create culturally comprehensible explanations, about the concept and consequence of Centrelink debt. Confusion about how TCU functions and its transaction fees had lead to a loss of confidence with banks. Due to the complex, specialised nature of the topics, ARDS engaged subject matter experts: a Welfare Rights Solicitor from the North Australian Aboriginal Justice Agency (NAAJA) and CEO from the Traditional Credit Union. The time taken to produce these programs has resulted in programs that are meaningful to Yolŋu, with culturally comprehensible terms, expressions and metaphors.

Prior to the national census taking place in 2011, ARDS produced a 13 minute program delivered by one of the census staff at Galiwin'ku, around the purpose of the census and explained the terminologies of 'numeration' and 'confidential'. It was explained that by filling out the census form Yolŋu have the opportunity to express their needs (housing, hospital road construction etc) and that in order for Government to meet the needs of it is important for Government to know how many people live in different areas so that they can cater for their needs

ARDS legal team created 6 radio advertisements and 4 audio education programs on alcohol related topics . These programs are currently broadcasting on Yolŋu radio have been uploaded to the ARDS website.

Legal Dictionary

funded by Dept. of Environment Water Heritage and the Arts

This project is researching and recording legal terms to create a legal dictionary of approximately 100 words. It will be a topical dictionary with definitions of entries clustered around particular topics and for each English entry, there will be a corresponding definition in Djambarrpuyŋu, an example sentence and corresponding pictures or diagrams.

The production of the dictionary received a boost when two lawyers from NAAJA agreed to assist with legal knowledge, ensuring clarity and accuracy of legal terminology. The Aboriginal Interpreter Service (AIS) are also enthusiastic in their support of this project and have provided assistance by way of a linguist.

Some of the difficulty in producing a legal dictionary for Yolŋu is in translating “legal speak” into Plain English, especially as the legal system is so pedantic about language.

Still to be refined, an example of a work in progress: [The words in bold are other entries in the dictionary].

Legal Speak:

Affidavit: A written statement for a court case made by a person who has sworn on **oath** or **affirmed** that the contents of the statement are true. It is a **criminal offence** to knowingly make a false **affidavit**.

Plain English:

Sometimes a judge will allow a witness to write his story on paper instead of telling it in court. Someone will write the story on paper and the witness will sign his name on that paper. That paper is called an **affidavit**. When the witness signs that paper, he is saying “My story is true.” If the witness has lied in that story and signed his name, he has broken the law and it is a **criminal offence**

Women and Work

funded by the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs

ARDS Educators held Workshops with local women in Galiwin’ku focusing on identifying and exploring participants’ knowledge gaps in relation to the local employment economies.

The Yolŋu women who participated in the workshops expressed deep confusion about the role and/or existence of the various employment services available to job-seekers in Galiwin’ku.

ARDS educators found that there was very little real understanding of the federal government’s changes to CDEP which lead to anxiety and uncertainty among families of CDEP participants.

Frustration was also expressed at the amount of training available to Yolŋu at Galiwin’ku which is not targeted/tied to post-training employment leading some women to express the view that Yolŋu are trapped in the endless cycle of training and CDEP.

Broadly aware of the “Closing the Gap” initiative, there was confusion and frustration at the pace and volume of new government documents and strategies being released - from Local Implementation Plans to the recent Indigenous Economic Development Strategy 2011 -2018. Such documents being conceptually complex, require much time and cross language, cross cultural expertise to explore and explain with Yolŋu.

The community would greatly benefit from an ongoing commitment to providing up-to-date information in the people’s language, on the changing economic and employment landscape.

National census radio program

Prior to the National Census taking place in 2011, ARDS produced a 13 minute program delivered by one of the Census staff at Galiwin'ku and an ARDS Yolŋu staff member. They discussed the purpose of the Census and explained the terminologies of 'numeration' and 'confidential'. It was explained that by filling out the Census form, Yolŋu have the opportunity to express their needs (housing, hospital, road construction etc) and that it is important for Government to know how many people live in different areas so that they can cater for those needs.

LOOKING FORWARD

- ARDS will be seeking new and continuing partnerships with government and other organisations to extend the work of our team in these important areas. This year ARDS (Yolŋu Radio) began broadcasting the National Indigenous News 3 times per day 5 days per week however ARDS is hoping to source funding to provide a more localised broadcast that will keep Yolŋu up to date with general news and current government policies which directly affects them.
- By applying existing Yolŋu knowledge, ARDS will endeavour to update Yolŋu people with the latest affairs that might have impact on their lives (eg. carbon tax, new Centrelink rules)



Talking with ARDS Staff



"I realise that even if I spend another 30 years living with Yolŋu I wouldn't even come close to understanding the depth and scientific nature of their culture"

Lauren Mills

Coming originally from NSW to help with a Land Rights festival, Lauren has been in the Territory for 6 years. She developed an interest in working with and learning more about local indigenous culture and people and subsequently found work with the Batchelor Institute. Lauren worked for just under four years in an administration position which allowed her to utilise her multimedia skills, working in the media department helping to organise events and working for the Bachelor of Education Degree, where she did online training facilitation for the teacher program. Working with women from Central Australia and from North East Arnhem Land, Lauren became aware of many differences within aboriginal traditions throughout the Territory, and was keen to learn and gain a deeper understanding. While at Batchelor Institute Lauren was adopted into a Yolŋu family and this began her relationship building and the journey into a greater understanding of Yolŋu life and culture.

Lauren joined the ARDS team in 2011 into the position of Family Services Community Worker with the desire to assist Yolŋu living in Darwin who require support in accessing services such as Housing, Centrelink, Health etc. Lauren has found that by working with Yolŋu she has gained a deeper understanding of Yolŋu culture which has caused her to look at her own belief system and in turn given her a profound understanding of her own heritage and cultural background.

Lauren works closely with Joy Bulkanhawuy who Lauren refers to as her 'cultural teacher'.

"Joy is ARDS Family Services Yolŋu worker and interpreter. Joy acts as a bridge between my understanding of the services I'm helping clients to access, and the client's understanding of what those services are for, and also what they need to provide to those services to gain their help".

"Using the methodology of going from the unknown to the known allows Joy and myself to take time with our clients and with our colleagues both Yolŋu and Balanda, to find out what we know about our differences of cultures, then to realise just how big that gap is and the best ways to achieve an understanding for all of us, and the most positive outcome possible.

I realise that even if I spend another 30 years living with Yolŋu I wouldn't even come close to understanding the depth and scientific nature of their culture. It's so complex and I'm only a baby on the path but I look forward to further learning and building stronger relationships with my adopted family and new family members as I work more closely with the Yolŋu community here in Darwin".

Social and Support Systems

Health and wellbeing is about getting the right support. ARDS programs and resources build on the strengths of Indigenous families and kinship support systems and gives them the tools to understand and access external services.

Highlights

- **Our case workers supported 58 Indigenous clients and their families from remote communities living in the Darwin region to understand and access essential support services.**
- **Welcomed Lauren Mills into the position of Community Worker**
- **Produced 2 radio programs on Raypirri (Discipline) and Risk**



Yirrkala Child Safety Multimedia Project

Funded by NAPCAN

Two audio education programs were produced for broadcast on Yolŋu radio and podcast on the ARDS website, aimed at delivering cultural messages for young parents around 'raypirri'(discipline)



Historically, Yolŋu cultural and daily discipline was vigorously alive in Yirrkala. Not only through parents but also mother's mother (märi), mother's brother (ŋapipi) and father's sister (bäpa-mukul) all played significant roles in educating younger generations on what Yolŋu law (rom) is and on Yolŋu identity. These days there are a lot of distractions affecting Yolŋu (elders and younger generation) such as drugs, alcohol, music, DVDs and video games. Young Yolŋu living at Yirrkala struggle to live between two cultures, Yolŋu and non Yolŋu. Yolŋu living in the Lanhapuy homelands differ from those in central community. Having far less distractions they have acquired at a young age, the knowledge of foundation law (djalkiri), clan affiliation (likan) and clan songs (manikay) and when they come to Yirrkala their behaviour differs from those living at Yirrkala. The most powerful tool for young Yolŋu is to acquire firstly, a strong foundation of knowledge as Yolŋu (djalkiri), then move to the mainstream education and society.



Family Resource Centre

Funded by NT Department of Children and Families

This program supports Yolŋu individuals and families in the Darwin area to engage with a range of services. Our case workers assist clients to deal with issues such as housing, courts and legal issues, social benefits and primary health care.

The three main areas for ARDS Community Workers this report have been assistance with issues relating to issues of

- Housing - Issues of overcrowding , neighbourhood complaints and homelessness.
- Centrelink - assisting Yolŋu to understand Centrelink decisions regarding payments and changing payment types
- Hospital - Interpreting medical diagnosis and providing support after diagnosis for quality of care and life after treatment.

LOOKING FORWARD

The language barrier continues to be a major factor for Yolŋu living in Darwin and ARDS Family Service Community Workers endeavour to stay informed of changing legislation and to pass on relevant information to clients as soon as possible.

Family Services will continue to focus on building and strengthening networks with other service providers working with Aboriginal clients.



Cultural Sustainability

Indigenous knowledge is the foundation for a strong future.

ARDS is working to support the development, transmission and preservation of Yolŋu knowledge systems using new technologies.

Highlights

- **Acquisition from AIATSIS of Kay Quisenberry archival recordings of various clan groups' song lines, including Gälpu, Dätiwuy and Gumatj, and an ancestral story (Djaŋg'kaw) from early 1970's at Galiwin'ku. Under Yolŋu cultural authorities and consultants, we have begun editing the audio recordings to prepare them for airplay on Yolŋu Radio. The song lines and the ancestral story will also be available in CD format to be distributed to Yolŋu on request.**
- **ARDS recorded and digitalised 9 song cycles (manikay) and 3 oral stories.**



Strong Traditions Strong New Ways

funded by Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts

ARDS works with Yolŋu clans to record, distribute and broadcast traditional stories, song cycles and proverbs from North East Arnhem Land. Recording with Yolŋu elders in communities and homelands reinforces the role of elders as teachers of younger generations.

To promote linguistic diversity and sustainability in Eastern Arnhem Land, ARDS has focused on recording and broadcasting in as many languages as possible across the region.

By broadcasting this traditional material on ARDS Yolŋu Radio 24 hours a day and 7 days a week, recordings are put into circulation among 40 plus clan groups of Eastern Arnhem Land. This allows for the widespread sharing of traditional knowledge including song-cycles, stories and proverbs. This promotes the considerable exchange of intellectual capital between communities and organisations across Eastern Arnhem Land and Darwin/Palmerston regions.

With enormous support from Yolŋu, ARDS has recorded and digitised 9 song cycles and three oral stories which are currently playing on Yolŋu Radio.

Reaching further, with the intention of engaging more Indigenous people from different regions as well as non-Indigenous listeners Yolŋu Radio plays a variety of traditional music from places such as Belyuen, Croker Island, Beswik, Gunbalanya, Maningrida and the Numbulwar region.

Looking forward

Strong traditions will focus on recording song cycles that represent the full diversity of Yolŋu clans.

ARDS has seen a greater involvement of Yolŋu stakeholders in communities and homelands in digital recording and editing. The near future vision of this project is that ARDS Yolŋu staff and Yolŋu community stakeholders take project initiatives and responsibilities. With the recent completion of the Nhulunbuy studios, the team is excited at the prospect of being able to train more Yolŋu in recording, sound editing, mastering, uploads to Yolŋu Radio and archiving.



Language

Language is at the heart of effective capacity building and education. ARDS programs and resources work between English and Yolŋu languages to make real communication possible. Our linguists work to support the development of high quality resources across all areas of ARDS education.

Gurranay matha Revitalisation

funded by Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts

Gurranay matha is the academic, technical and conceptual language of the Yolŋu clan groups. It holds in it the best terminology for instruction and teaching in the areas of health, law, economics and governance. This project aims to record Gurranay Matha, to promote its use in teaching and learning now and in future generations.



Dhanu Djanu Revitalisation

funded by Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts

Work is continuing on documenting endangered Yolŋu languages with dictionaries being developed in several Dhanu/Djanu languages including Warramiri, Wanguri, Gälpu, Golumala and Daymil. With the Warramiri Dictionary nearing completion ARDS wishes to gratefully acknowledge volunteer Jenny Shield, for her dedication and persistence in wrestling with the computer program to make this an interactive dictionary that owners of the Warramiri language can continue to use and develop. The Gälpu dictionary although having about 1000 words entered still requires much work and the Daymil and Golumala which are closely related to the Gälpu language are still in the very early stages.

Looking forward

Completion of the Warramiri Dictionary and ongoing language discoveries as we continue to document endangered Yolŋu languages



Examples of Wangurri Dictionary entries

Dirrun

vit-neu

- Return

Djambarrpuyŋu: roŋiyirr
Dirrun yawungu nhan ga banhalaya
ŋaya dhäwum warranthun.

‘He returned yesterday and then I got the story.’

Darpa

n

- Tree

Djambarrpuyŋu: dharpa
Darpam malany gäyum yana
bunbu malany bayaŋun.

‘The timber houses are gone.’

Gaia Osborne

Gaia grew up in the Snowy Mountains in far East Gippsland Victoria and undertook a degree in (BA) International Studies through RMIT University Melbourne. Moving to Darwin in 2006 as a cross-institutional student, Gaia then completed the Yolŋu Studies course along with other indigenous studies at Charles Darwin University. In order to finish her degree, a professional internship with a relevant organisation, using the key knowledge areas focussed on throughout the degree was required. For 10 weeks (2 days per week) Gaia worked in a volunteer capacity with ARDS, learning a range of new skills. "I felt inspired and invigorated from the experience."

During that time it became obvious to ARDS staff and management that Gaia would be a valuable person to have join the ARDS team, consequently after the completion of her 10 weeks, she took up a part time position quickly moving to full time as 'Multimedia Assistant'.

"The skills I have learnt with ARDS so far and the passions I have uncovered throughout the journey of the last two years have been incredible. I came with some (limited and rusty) Yolŋu Matha skills as well as experience and contacts in the music industry as a performer and teacher, cross cultural communication, research, event and project management and strong enthusiasm for learning. I have not stopped learning since the day I set foot in this place."

Upon starting with ARDS Gaia received intensive 'in-house' training in multimedia, radio scheduling software, audio engineering and the ARDS methodology.

"Since day one ARDS has thrown me in the deep end, challenging my ability to absorb information and utilise new skills on the spot. This has been challenging but very rewarding.

This experience has continued through my work as the Yolŋu Radio manager and subsequently Manager of Multimedia Productions. Everyday my skills, knowledge and confidence are growing in project management, budgeting, cross-language communication, radio broadcast and production and the ability to connect with and share these skills with my colleagues around me. I am discovering new passions and further developing existing ones. I am excited about the opportunities that lay ahead and the future of my work with ARDS.

I see that the ARDS methodology understands and takes heed of the need for true communication across language and culture; that the true sharing of knowledge takes time and trust. It is clear that in this fast evolving paradigm in which we are working that this understanding can be cast down the priority list in the name of productivity. My hope is that ARDS as an organisation can continue to maintain the values that underpin the methodology and continue to deliver long lasting education and services to the peoples who need it most."

Talking with ARDS Staff



"I am discovering new passions and further developing existing ones. I am excited about the opportunities that lay ahead and the future of my work with ARDS."

Yolŋu Radio

Yolŋu Radio broadcasts 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to the North East Arnhem Land region, Darwin and Palmerston. With content and languages from across the region, this unique service makes information, music and learning accessible to all.

Highlights

- 50 new audio education programs produced and broadcast
- 4 radio plays funded by NT Dept of Natural Resources, the Environment and Sport
- 30 second advertisement for Yolŋu Radio (produced by ARDS) screening before the feature film at the Deckchair Cinema over an 8 week period
- National Indigenous News played 3 times per day Monday - Friday
- Welcoming Sylvia Nulpinditj as radio and multimedia trainee
- The kitting out of the Nhulunbuy studios
- Indigenous equipment grant \$11,000 for 3 new radio computers from Community Broadcasting Foundation (CBF)
- 6 live interviews with local and national musicians



Radio Plays

Funded by the NT Department of Natural Resources, Environment, Arts and Sport



In January 2012 ARDS completed a series of radio plays (Djetpuy Dhäwu Mala) that weave together traditional Yolŋu storytelling and contemporary theatre technique, illustrated by a rich tapestry of sound effects designed to transport your imagination through the beautiful Top End environment and the emotive landscape of the story. The plays are based around traditional Yolŋu stories about Djet, the Osprey morphing his way into the human character Bamapama, due to a lack of discipline (raypirri) and respect for Yolŋu law and culture (rom). These are traditional stories with strong cultural messages, but are also full of comedy and drama and were highly appreciated by the Yolŋu Radio audience.



The first project of its kind for ARDS, the response was overwhelming and Yolŋu Radio received incredible feedback from both Yolŋu listeners and other interested arts and media organisations around the country. Funded by the Regional Arts Fund and delivered in partnership with the Northern Territory Government, the project employed 4 Yolŋu actors as well as highly acclaimed director Damien Pree, producer Gaia Osborne and sound engineer Lulu Madill. Due to the success of this project, ARDS intends to produce more radio plays in the future.



Nhulunbuy Studio

Funded by the Department of Families, Housing, Local Government and Indigenous Affairs

After a long journey of development, ARDS is very excited to see the Nhulunbuy Studios come to fruition. The Studios are now kitted out with high quality recording software and equipment, effective sound treatment, and a range of instruments suitable to the likes of north east Arnhem Land bands. The studio's have been designed to suit a wide range of needs, operate as an effective training facility and be capable of producing high quality studio recordings. Although there is still some finishing touches and adjustments that will no doubt come with use, it is great to see (and hear) the studio at a fully functioning stage.

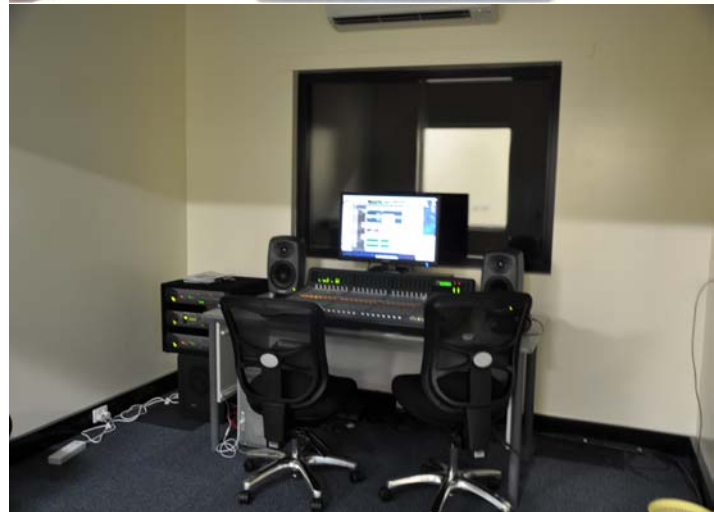
Supporters

- ARDS wishes to acknowledge the support of the Australian Government Department of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy. Without their funding of \$270,000 this year, we could not continue to provide this valuable service to the people of north east Arnhem Land.
- NT Department of Housing, Local Government and Regional Services for maintenance of the radio network.

Looking forward

ARDS looks forward to sourcing a studio coordinator for the Nhulunbuy Studios, training staff on the use of Protocols and the C24 desk, opening up the studios for hire to the musical community of north east Arnhem Land and commencing some exciting new projects that will fully utilise the capacity of this fantastic new facility.

ARDS is intending to upgrade existing transmitter sites across Arnhem Land and install 3 new transmitters. We also plan to cross from an AM broadcast licence to broadcasting in FM in Darwin and look forward to expanding Yolŋu Radio to include other forms of media such as digital technologies and multimedia platforms.



Sample of new Audio Education Programs



Economic

- Centrelink Debt
- TCU
- TCU Milingimbi
- TCU Galiwin'ku
- TCU ATM Gapuwiyak
- TCU Concept of Privacy
- TCU Protected Account

Ear Health

- Anatomy and Hearing
- Hearing
- Infection
- Signs of Disease

Sexual Health Literacy

- Asymptomatic Aspect of Chlamydia
- Symptomatic and Asymptomatic
- Medicine Absorption

Family safety

- Yolŋu Families Past and Present
- Yolŋu Customary Marriages

Radio Plays

- Djet (immature White Breasted Sea Eagle)
- Hunting Story
- Spear Story
- Billabong Story

live interviews with

- Warren H Williams (Hermannsburg NT)
- Buzz Bidstrup (Jimmy Little Foundation)
- John Bennett (Kimberley WA)
- Jason Durrurrŋu (East Arnhem Land NT)
- Michael Dawu (East Arnhem Land NT)
- Layilayi (East Arnhem Land NT)





Yolngu Radio

Where is Yolngu Radio broadcast?

Darwin	1530 AM
Palmerston	1530 AM
Nhulunbuy	1530 AM
Gutjanan (Bremmer Island)	87.6 FM
Galupa	87.6 FM
Galurru	87.6 FM
Gunyanara	87.6 FM
Gapuwiyak	87.6 FM
Ramingining	102.9 FM
Dangalala (Reny)	102.9 FM
Gatji	102.9 FM
Wulkabumirri	102.9 FM
Yathalamara	102.9 FM
Yirrkala	87.6 FM
Galiwin'ku (Elcho Island)	87.6 FM
Dhambala	87.6 FM
Dayawili	87.6 FM
Dhudupu	87.6 FM
Nikawu	87.6 FM
Milingimbi	87.6 FM
Bodiya	87.6 FM
Gumukgumuk	87.6 FM
Mooroonga Island	87.6 FM
Räpuma	87.6 FM
Dhipirri	87.6 FM
Gan Gan	87.6 FM
Balma	87.6 FM
Donydji	88.0 FM
Yilpara	88.0 FM
Gurrumurru	88.0 FM
Dhuruputji	87.8 FM
Garrathalala	87.6 FM
Mirrnatja	87.6 FM
Ban'thula	87.6 FM
Mapuru	88.0 FM
Matamata	87.6 FM
Dadayun	88.0 FM
Wandawuy	88.0 FM



ARDS staff out and about

NPY Women's Council Kungka Careers Conference



In March 2012, ARDS educators Emma Murphy and Yirrininba Dhurrkay travelled about as far from the saltwater as is possible, to spend a week in red dirt country, camping with over 100 young Anangu women from the APY lands.

The Ngaanyatjarra Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjara (NPY) Women's Council Kungka Careers Conference at Yulara, was an opportunity for Aboriginal women to reflect on the importance of education and pride in their culture and the resulting impact on their lives and careers.

The conference included skills workshops such as singing and bush medicine and also a cooking competition. With the pressures of school and family set aside it was a chance to look at some of the harder issues facing young women, particularly around domestic violence and mental health.

The kungkas (young women) all wanted to hear about differences and similarities between saltwater and desert people, and how Yirrininba came to be brave enough to speak in front of a conference full of strangers! Yirrininba played a great role in bringing the young women out of themselves and talking about issues, even when they felt a bit shy. On the last night she performed a dance from saltwater country which brought tears from some of the audience. For Yirrininba, the opportunity to see Uluru was a precious experience and she sensed both the cultural and spiritual intensity of the rock's presence for her. 'This is the heart of Aboriginal Australia.'

"This is the heart of
Aboriginal Australia"

While the work of the Women's Council and ARDS is very different in many of ways, the trip was an excellent relationship-building exercise and left the two ARDS educators reflecting about ways to take what we do into the red centre.

The gathering was also a great opportunity for Yolngu Radio, with some cross-promotional interviews taking place with Ngaanyatjarra Media and Yirrininba also spent a day with CAAMA in Alice Springs, where she did number of interviews with CAAMA radio presenters. ARDS looks forward to working more with Aboriginal media outlets around the country, as we our share stories and different methodologies.



Trinity Grammar School

In October 2011 two year nine students from Melbourne's Trinity Grammar School, interviewed ARDS Yolŋu staff member Yirrininba Dhurrkay. The college has a program of understanding and promoting a better relationship with their college students and Aboriginal people in Australia. Through this



program they have an annual reconciliation program which includes research, discovery, meetings, field trips and dinners. This also includes bringing a number of students to Arnhem Land each year.

A search of the internet by students revealed the ARDS website, whereupon they contacted ARDS and informed us that they would like to contribute to the work of ARDS. leading to a series of raffles and BBQs which raised \$628.45, a valiant effort.

Following on from this interview ARDS was invited and accordingly spoke (Yirrininba Dhurrkay and Mervyn Brown) at the school's Annual Reconciliation Dinner in May 2012. At the completion of their talk Yirrininba found herself surrounded by excited students and parents, all wanting to talk with her and find out about her life and the community she came from. They were amazed to hear that she spoke so many different languages. Overall this proved to be a very positive experience for Trinity Grammar School and the attending ARDS staff and ARDS are grateful for the interest and generosity of the students and staff of the Trinity Grammar School.



conferences, workshops and professional development

ARDS staff attended the following conferences, training and professional development opportunities during the year;

- Mandatory Reporting and Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (NAPCAN)
- Communities in Control (Our Community/ Catholic Care)
- Mental Health First Aid (Dancing Brolga Consultancy)
- Bridging the Gap Seminar (Why Warriors Pty Ltd)
- Sexual and Reproductive Health (Menzies School of Health Research)
- Introduction to Cancer Care (Royal Darwin Hospital)
- Collision Avoidance, Defensive driver 4 Wheel Drive Operation and Recovery (Skilled Motor Vehicle and Rider Training)
- Introduction to HIV and Hepatitis C Update (Albion Street Centre)
- Out of the Shadows, Into the Spotlight - Chronic Disease, Mental Health Conference (Chronic Diseases Network)
- 16th Annual NT Chronic Diseases Network Conference (Chronic Disease Network)
- AuSIL Annual Conference - Melbourne (UCA Co-Ordinate)
- Work Safely At Heights (Charles Darwin University)
- Audio Engineering - Level 3 (Vandersound Audio Engineering School)



Supporters Donations 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 education and capacity building work in 2011-12

Australian Government Department of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy
<http://www.dbcde.gov.au>

Australian Government Department of Regional Australia, Local Government the Arts and Sport - Office for the Arts
<http://www.arts.gov.au>

NT Department of Housing, Local Government and Regional Services
<http://www.dhlgrs.nt.gov.au>

Department of Health and Ageing
<http://www.health.gov.au>

Australian Government Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs
<http://www.fahcsia.gov.au>

NT Department of Children and Families
<http://www.childrenandfamilies.nt.gov.au>

I & G Pty Ltd (an Australian Government Initiative)
<http://iandg.com.au/>

NAPCAN
<http://www.napcan.org.au>

NT Department of Natural Resources, the Environment and Sport
<http://www.nretas.nt.gov.au>

Community Broadcasting Foundation
<http://www.cbf.com.au>

Finkel Foundation
<http://www.university-directory.eu/Australia/Finkel-Foundation.html>

Students of Trinity Grammar school, Kew, Victoria
<http://www.trinity.vic.edu.au>



Australian Government
 Department of Broadband,
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Australian Government
 Indigenous Languages Support



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www.napcan.org.au

NAPCAN
 PREVENTING CHILD ABUSE

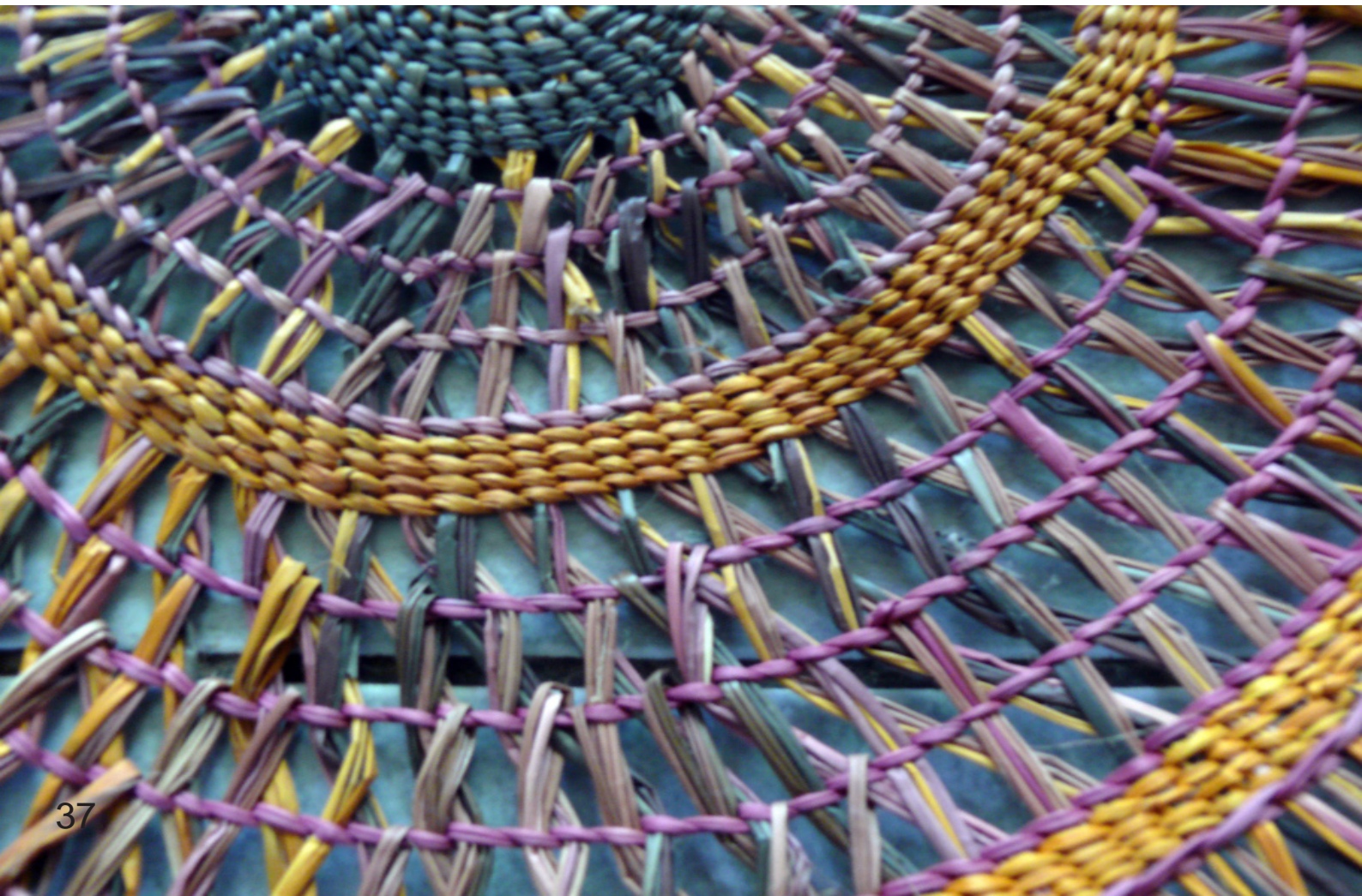


Community Broadcasting Foundation Ltd



Accounts

Income	2012 \$	2011 \$
Revenue	2,577,934	2,055,843
Employee benefits expense	(983,755)	(895,928)
Depreciation and amortisation expenses	(58,997)	(91,754)
Advertising	(420)	(544)
Nhulunbuy property costs	(1,022,862)	(573,829)
Computer expenses	(38,995)	(53,300)
Insurance	(4,414)	(7,742)
Printing and stationery	(4,839)	(4,356)
Telephone	(18,269)	(20,802)
Transmitter expenses	(80,084)	(112,027)
Travel expenses	(80,229)	(88,545)
Transfer of building costs to asset register	(1,562,097)	-
Other expenses	(159,218)	(204,412)
Borrowing costs expense	-	(26)
Profit / (loss)	1,687,949	2,578



Balance Sheet

	2012 \$	2011 \$
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents	320,803	547,122
Trade and other receivables	19,415	17,035
Inventories	30,343	30,703
Financial assets	1,167,494	830,586
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	1,538,055	1,496,127
NON-CURRENT ASSETS		
Property, plant and equipment	1,579,586	70,681
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS	1,579,586	70,681
TOTAL ASSETS	3,117,642	1,496,127
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Trade and other payables	176,666	396,040
Provisions	152,337	64,600
Other	55,415	15,000
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITES	384,418	448,640
NON-CURRENT LIABILITES		
Provisions	61,130	63,343
TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITES	61,130	63,343
TOTAL LIABILITES	445,548	511,983
NET ASSETS	2,672,093	984,144
MEMBERS' FUNDS		
Reserves	-	-
Retained profits	2,672,093	984,144
TOTAL MEMBERS' FUNDS	2,672,093	984,144

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Thankyou to all staff for their assistance.



ARDS

Aboriginal Resource and Development Services Inc.

