



ARDS

Aboriginal Resource and Development Services (Aboriginal Corporation)



Annual Report 2014 - 2015

2014-15 Annual Report Theme Rajan (Paperbark)

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

This year we look at Rajan.

Other Yolŋu names include barrukala rakala and ŋarinydjalk.

It's Moiety* is Yirritja...

Common names: Weeping paperbark, Cajeput Tree
Botanic name: *Melaleuca leucadendra*

Rajan has many uses -

Rajan is used in preparation of ŋatha (food). For example, after the cycad fruit has been washed in a stream to remove toxins, the nuts are then removed, ground down and laid out onto pieces of the Rajan which are folded and tied at both ends with dharrangulk (bush string). After a big fire the ashes are pushed aside and the paperbark parcel placed on the bare sand, covered with more hot sand and then covered with the hot ashes. Around five or six hours later the bread is removed from the sand and left to cool. The paperbark not only protects the food from burning but also keeps the bread clean. This can stay good to eat for four or five months.

Rajan is used in healing and cleansing ceremonies. (wan'tjurr d̄ilthan) A fire is made and burnt down to ashes. Rocks are placed on top of the ashes and then strands of long grass from the swamp are laid on top of the stones. Water is poured across the grass to form steam. The person to be healed or cleansed is placed upon the grass and completely covered in strips of Rajan. Smoke and steam from the Rajan are known to have medicinal qualities.

Rajan is also used for funeral ceremonies. When there is a bāpurru (burial ceremony) a small hut with a rajan roof is built to house the coffin. Each clan and tribe within the Yirritja moiety* has a specific name for this shelter. When the ceremony is complete and the coffin has gone, the shelter is burnt to the ground. Yolŋu move away from this area until such time as all evidence of the shelter has gone.

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 Yirritja or Dhuwa. In addition each bāpurru and ringitj, and their respective membership, are classified as being either Yirritja or Dhuwa. 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 Yirritja and Dhuwa descent groups.





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ARDS Board of Directors: Back Row - George Pascoe, Peter Jones, Maratja Dhamarrandji
Front row - Dhängal-2 Gurruwiwi, Dhängal-1 Gurruwiwi, Yanyi Bandicha, Birtjalawuy Gondarra



From The Chair

This is a good experience for me being Chairperson of ARDS and I have seen many things happening for ARDS in the last 12 months.

Earlier this year at the Uniting Church Northern Synod meeting I was happy to report that the ARDS Board members and CEO Chris Marshall were working well together.

I first met Chris when he worked for APY and I was very happy when he agreed to be CEO for ARDS because he is a good leader and good at talking with people. I am thankful to Chris for what has done for ARDS over the past 12 months.

In September last year Gaynguru Studios (home of Yolngu Radio) in Nhulunbuy was opened by the

Prime Minister Mr Abbott. I am sure we will see great things coming out of Gaynguru Studios in the future.

It is important for our young people to learn new things and having Yolngu Radio is a way ARDS can reach them.

ARDS is something separate and ARDS is here for other people to see. We look forward to possibility of ARDS working more with Central Australian people, having people from the Centre working and learning from ARDS educators and ARDS educators working and learning from Centre people. We would also like to investigate the idea of video and radio happening in the Centre as we work together.

In June this year our new ARDS office in Darwin was opened by Hon Bess Price (MLA) and Senator Nigel Scullion. It was very good to have so many people attend the opening and to see the new ARDS office, to know that ARDS is growing and continuing to stand for our people.

We are thankful to the NT Government and the Dept of Prime Minister and Cabinet for their continued financial support of Yolngu Radio.

It is important that ARDS continues to grow and continues to get better and better both on the inside and the outside, working and growing together.

Yanyi Bandicha
ARDS Chairperson



From the CEO

The financial year 2014/15 was a productive year for ARDS – a year during which we sought to revitalise and energise the organisation, consistent with the brief given by the ARDS Management Committee at the time of my commencement in early 2014.

In the 2014 Annual Report it was acknowledged that ARDS had reached a point where its ongoing relevance and viability were in question and that, if it was to survive and thrive, its operational capacity, governance arrangements, organisational culture, corporate image and external engagement strategies would all need to be addressed.

The task of renewing and revitalising ARDS, in close consultation with the Yolŋu leadership of the organisation and with Uniting Church leaders has subsequently been embarked on by senior management.

Corporate Restructure

On 28 August 2014 ARDS was registered as an Aboriginal Corporation by the Commonwealth Registrar coming under the regulatory oversight

of ORIC (the Office of the Registrar of Indigenous Corporations). At that time ARDS ceased to be incorporated under the NT Associations Act. The process of switching its incorporation arrangements and revising its corporate status provided the opportunity to substantially transform ARDS' governance structure, so that the new constitution (referred to as a 'Rule Book' in the CATSI Act) has the following elements:

- A Board with 7 Indigenous Directors appointed by the NRCC (Northern Regional Council of Congress).
- A specialist director, appointed by the Indigenous Directors on the recommendation of the General Secretary of the Northern Synod for their expertise in law, governance, finance or administration
- A membership confined only to the Directors themselves and one corporate member, being the Uniting Church Northern Synod.

The new Board, appointed from the four ministry areas of NRCC, comprises five Directors from East Arnhem (three from Galiwin'ku, and one each from Ramingining and the Miwatj region), one from West Arnhem and one from the APY Lands. The office bearers are Ms Yanyi Bandicha (Chairperson) and Dhänggal-1 Gurruwiwi (Deputy Chairperson). The General Secretary (Peter Jones) sits on the Board as Specialist Director. The Board is a highly competent and effective governing body.

Relocation of Yolŋu Radio and Official Opening of Gaynuru Studios

In September 2014 Yolŋu Radio was relocated from Darwin back to Nhulunbuy – from Larrakia land to Yolŋu land – a more appropriate location, at which it is now possible to make the radio station more interactive, more engaged with Yolŋu community events and with more Yolŋu involvement.

Prime Minister Tony Abbott opened our new studio building in Nhulunbuy on September 14 and the following day the Minister for Indigenous Affairs, Nigel Scullion, attended ARDS 40th anniversary celebration and the launch of Yolŋu Radio in the new studio building.

Gaynuru Studios now houses a recording studio and radio broadcasting facilities and, with the relocation of our Yolŋu Radio Manager, Gaia Osborne, to Nhulunbuy early in 2015 we are well on the way to making it a very “happening place”.

New Office Premises for ARDS

In January ARDS staff moved out of the Stuart Highway office and into new premises in Winnellie, purchased by the NRCC. While NRCC retains ownership of the building, it has been given to ARDS for rent-free use in perpetuity.

The new premises were officially opened on Friday 19 June by Ministers Nigel Scullion (Commonwealth Government) and Bess Price (NT Government). It is a substantial improvement on the previous office space and provides ARDS with the opportunity to expand.

As at 30 June 2015 the building improvements – expansion and renovation - to make the new Winnellie premises capable of meeting ARDS’ operational needs into the future had still not been completed, but were well underway.

Staffing Restructure

The departure in December 2014 of long-serving finance/admin staff was part of a restructuring of financial management and administrative support arrangements at ARDS.

The main elements of the new arrangements are:

- Increased financial management capacity in-house
- External accounting support sourced locally – from Barry Hansen Chartered Accountants
- New and improved accounting software active from 1 July 2015

These changes have the effect of providing stronger financial management support for ARDS going forward, with locally-based financial reporting and monitoring of ARDS’ project and other finances.

Funding Stability

The Commonwealth funding of Indigenous assistance programs is currently subject to a completely new

regime, the Indigenous Advancement Strategy, and ARDS, along with every other Indigenous organisation in the country, has had to negotiate its way through this challenging funding environment. This has been difficult and has not delivered any new funding as hoped.

Fortunately we were able to negotiate significant new project funding from the Office of Township Leasing and the NT Power and Water Corporation – funding that provided important operational activity for ARDS in what would otherwise have been a tough year. In addition, other project funding was obtained from sources such as the Aboriginal Benefit Account, the Law Society of the NT, Screen Australia, and the NT Department of Community Services – all of which resulted in the total income for the year being greater than it had been for several years.

Completing the Brief

Given that I came to ARDS in February 2014 with a ‘change management’ brief, it is important to note that at the end of 2014/15 the change process was considered to be substantially completed, with steps underway to recruit a new CEO.

In Summary

A process of renewing ARDS has commenced which retains and builds upon the ARDS methodology, core values and Christian commitment that have constituted its foundation over the past 40 years. It has been a privilege for me to work with an organisation that I have long admired – an organisation that “punches above its weight” and that receives high praise for the excellence of so much of what it does – in language, in development education and in radio/media. I have no doubt that ARDS will continue to contribute to the confidence, empowerment and cultural integrity of the Indigenous people with whom it works.



Chris Marshall
CEO (Outgoing)





hunting, ceremonies, listening to stories and just having fun. I feel so privileged to have known many of the great old leaders who still inspire so many today. This experience gave me a unique perspective of understanding and living in three cultures, each with very distinct languages and world views.

I worked for the Australian Government in Indigenous Affairs in Nhulunbuy for 12 years before moving to Darwin and joining ARDS in April 2015. This was a very challenging and educational opportunity, learning about the politics of Indigenous programs funding across the different levels of government, and working with Indigenous organisations in the areas of employment and families and childrens programs, and governance. It was here I learned another language; 'Canberra Matha'!

Talking with ARDS Staff

Erika Saffi

I am a first generation Australian of North Italian heritage, and raised in a Yolŋu community in East Arnhem. My family migrated to Australia in the 1950's and settled in Adelaide. My parents were a bit adventurous and we travelled around and ended up at Galiwin'ku in 1972 where my father worked as a carpenter. It was a great place to grow up, no TV or shopping malls or junk food. I spent most of my time with Yolŋu family,

"We are learning at the same time, we are imparting knowledge together and to each other"

Working with ARDS for me is an opportunity to use my unique life experience and relationships to contribute to positive change for Yolŋu, and Balanda working with Yolŋu, through the sharing of knowledge in a language and context that is known and familiar, drawing parallels between the two cultures, and building on common foundations. We are learning at the same time, we are imparting knowledge together and to each other.

Gunyanjara Nursery RJCP participants with Community Development Education Coordinator Erika Saffi





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 Yolngu 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 health services can be understood and utilised.





ARDS Team members Dr Jamie Mapleson and Bertie Warrnga Ashley holding a health session using microscopes

Health Literacy

ARDS is expanding its presence in Northeast Arnhem Land. ARDS health specialist, Dr Jamie Mapleson, is now based in Raminginij in order to enhance our ability to interact with remote communities in Northeast Arnhem Land.

Sexual Health and Blood Borne Viruses

In the past year, Dr Mapleson has delivered over 20 in-depth sessions, with over 300 Yolŋu participants of various ages and genders.

These included 22 sessions focusing on microscope literacy, germ theory of disease, Sexually Transmitted Illnesses (STI), HIV and Hepatitis B and C; and two discovery sessions in Darwin, focussing on sexual interactions and relationships, and Yolŋu men's ceremony.

These sessions also formed the basis of a series of six radio programs, reaching approximately 20 communities in Northeast Arnhem Land and Darwin via ARDS Yolŋu Radio.

The series explored Chlamydia, Gonorrhoea, Syphilis, Hepatitis B and HIV/AIDS, using data from the six monthly surveillance reports published by the Department of Health in the NT Disease Control Bulletin.

ARDS is also continuing to build a team of local Yolŋu to work alongside Dr Mapleson, in order to build on our successful approach that enables Yolŋu people to make making informed decisions about their sexual health and overall health and wellbeing.

Laynhapuy Health Diabetes Patient Information

ARDS was asked at the beginning of 2015 to provide information to patients with diabetes across the Laynhapuy Homelands, in conjunction with Laynhapuy Health & Community Services.

Commencing in March 2015, Dr. Mapleson has delivered in-depth patient information to diabetes patients and the wider homelands population regarding diabetes, chronic disease and nutrition.

This has involved working in Yolŋu languages to with patients and their families, to explore:

- the biomedical story about our pancreas and diabetes
- learning about nutrition: bush foods, shop foods, healthier alternatives
- learning about the role of exercise and hunting for diabetes
- comparing different diabetes pathways

Through this project we have combined 'classroom' learning with practical implementation. For instance, we have visited local shops to compare healthier food alternatives, and hunted and collected bush foods while sharing knowledge of how to cook them. In doing so we have begun exploring opportunities to develop a Yolŋu approach to tackling diabetes.



Law Governance & Economics

ARDS 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.





ARDS Project Officer Vince Mithen with MEP Participants at Gumatj Corporation

MEP Capacity Building Workshops

ARDS is responding to a need voiced by many Yolŋu to understand the changing work and training environment.

ARDS was engaged by Miwatj Employment and Participation (MEP), which delivers the CDP (formerly RJCP) program in Northeast Arnhem Land, to work with RJCP participants to develop better understanding about the RJCP and work.

ARDS believes successfully engaging Yolŋu in employment requires extensive exploration of what work means using a 'both ways' approach, from both Yolŋu and Balanda contexts.

Foundational Western concepts usually accepted as 'common knowledge and values' are often foreign to Yolŋu, and result in confusion and frustration. A major misconception is the value or motivation of people to seek out and retain gainful employment in a mainstream context.

Our 16 MEP workshops, held in Nhulunbuy, Gunyajarra, Yirrkala and Gapuwiyak, were designed to explore the 'deeper meaning' of work – unpacking Balanda and Yolŋu concepts relating to work and 'jobs', pay and money, 'employers' and 'business', and Australian law and government systems.

Together, the ARDS team and participants discovered considerable knowledge gaps and assumptions from both sides, reflected in questions such as, "Why does the government change all the time, and change its policies and programs all the time?" ; "Why do we have Centrelink?" ; "Where does money come from?" and, "Why can't government or businesses just give everyone jobs?" These are concepts that for Yolŋu, are foundational governance, law and economic principles that do not change in their law, and which cause considerable frustration and confusion relating to government rules and responsibilities.

By providing deeper understanding on both sides, the workshops allowed RJCP participants to develop new knowledge to navigate the complexities of the welfare system and employment.

Yolŋu perspective

What does it mean to work and be valued for working? We discovered this concept was a knowledge gap for Yolŋu participants in this project. This led us to the Yolŋu Matha word worr' ('sweat') with which we explored the concept of 'sweating' (worr'yun) or working for your payment.



Talking with ARDS Staff

Vince Mithen

My name's Vincent Mithen and I grew up on Wiradjuri country in the south-east of Australia. I have Anglo-Irish heritage and come from a family of eight. Family is very important to me and I love playing music and being outside, in the bush.

My partner, Esther, is a social worker and we moved to Darwin in early 2015. Before this I spent 10 years living in Melbourne, supporting people with diverse abilities to improve their mental health and well-being. This work has also taken me to the NPY lands in Central Australia, where I've spent some time with Anangu peoples. My Napipi-mirringu (father-in-law) worked for ARDS back in the 1980's. He and his wife lived in Miliŋinbi for two years, where they were adopted by Yolŋu family. My gurruṯu connection comes through them, and through Esther.

Social justice has always been important to me and motivates me to be a part of de-colonising processes of community development, and to work towards cross-cultural communication that is respectful and effective.

"I really value the people and the collaborative working environment at ARDS"

I really value the people and the collaborative working environment at ARDS. I'm very appreciative of the opportunity to learn more about Indigenous cultures and languages and, in turn, my own culture and language. I feel lucky to be a part of ARDS and hope to be here for a long time to come.

Some of the ARDS Team visiting our Nhulunbuy Office: Dr Jamie Mapleson, Vince Mithen, Erika Saffi and Howard Amery



Community Support for Yolŋu Radio

ARDS collaborated with local experts and organisations to produce a number of Yolŋu Radio programs/podcasts on topics including renewable energy; ŋambi (flint stone); and bilingual education. These are topics that communities have told ARDS they need more information about.

One series of programs explored 'renewable energy', 'hybrid' energy systems and plans for energy production in East Arnhem Land. After exploring these topics, the focus changed to traditional stories about ŋambi (flint stone) because our Yolŋu staff wanted to know what solar panels are made from. Yolŋu and Balanda educators interviewed a Yolŋu man from the Wagilag clan who holds the ŋambi story.

Other programs investigated the history and practice of bilingual education in north-east Arnhem Land, through interviews with Yolŋu and Balanda bilingual educators. Yolŋu are often confused by media stories about bilingual education, which are often presented through unfamiliar terminology and conceptual frameworks that do not exist in a Yolŋu worldview.

These programs have been airing regularly on Yolŋu Radio and are also available as podcasts on the ARDS website. They were developed with subject matter experts and then workshopped through face-to-face discovery education sessions between ARDS community educators and Yolŋu staff employed for this project. Through this

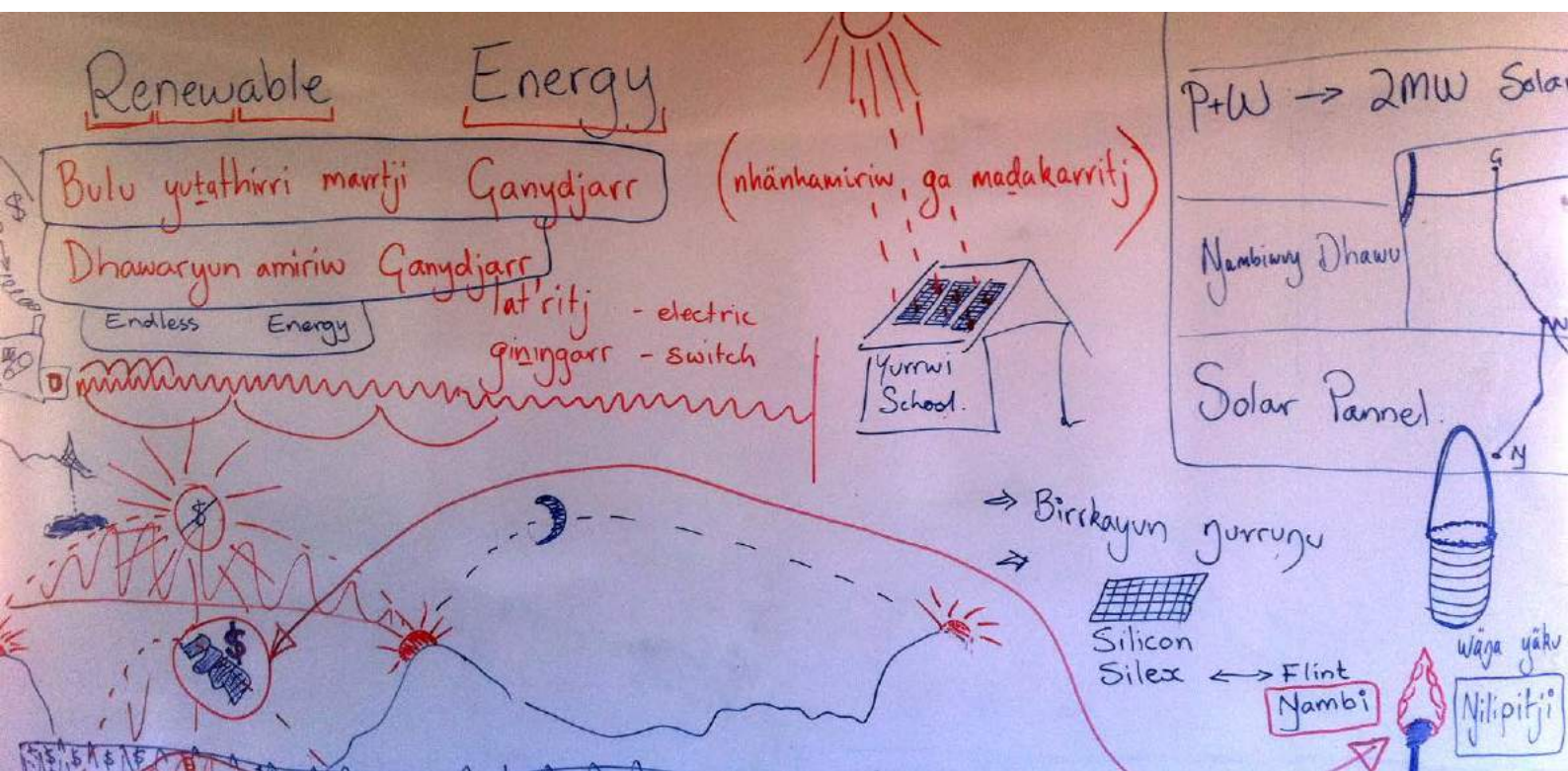
process, we were able to present new information about these important subjects in Yolŋu Matha through a Yolŋu worldview.

"This is the right story now (ŋambi), it's never changed, young people need to know this story" – Yolŋu clan leader who recorded the ŋambi story (translated from the original Yolŋu Matha).

"These are big English words, Yolŋu need to learn what these words really mean" – Yolŋu staff member working on the renewable energy story (translated from the original Yolŋu Matha).

"It was really good to find out about the process for bilingual education. This is a really good learning pathway for the community, parents and teachers, helping each other to learn" – Yolŋu staff member involved in the production (translated from the original Yolŋu Matha).

Our discovery education process leads us to unexpected places. Our series on renewable energy was sparked by an inquiry from Miliŋinbi residents wondering what the solar panels being installed on their school roof were. This led us to ŋambi, or 'flint stone' – a big story for Yolŋu, related to sacred songlines and ceremonies – because the material used in solar panels to convert the sun's rays to energy is silicon (deriving from the Latin silex meaning 'flint'). Hence our investigation of a Western dhäwu (story) led us to a Yolŋu dhäwu through the real application of bala-räliyunhamirr (two-way teaching and learning).





Yolŋu Energy Efficiency Workers - Malcolm Wanambi Gala Gala, Len Ganbilpil Dhamarrandji, Joyce Wunungmurra, Djinipidi Wunungmurra and Jodie Wanambi, with ARDS' Joy Bulkanahawuy and Dave Suttle in Gapuwiyak

Power and Water Training

ARDS was invited to play a central role in the delivery of the Dharray Manymakkun Pawaw Ga Gapuw project ('Caring for Power and Water in a Good Way'), among a consortium of organisations including Power and Water Corporation, the Centre for Appropriate Technology, Northern Territory Government, Charles Darwin University, Indigenous Essential Services and East Arnhem Regional Council.

The Dharray Manymakkun Pawaw Ga Gapuw pilot project in north-east Arnhem Land is part of a national Low Income Energy Efficiency Project. The goal is that Yolŋu will be better informed to make choices about how they use energy, and save money on their power cards.

Since February 2015, ARDS educators have trained Yolŋu in Raminginij, Milinjinbi, Gapuwiyak, Galiwin'ku, Yirrkala and Gunyanjara to become Yolŋu Energy Efficiency Workers. The workers and ARDS educators engaged in a process of discovery education around the story of electricity – what it is, how it's produced, and how various appliances use electricity – and water.

Those workers were then able to explain the story to all Yolŋu in the community that want to be part of the project, and install new power-saving retrofits for those who are interested.

The Yolŋu Energy Efficiency Workers are currently doing that djäma (work), with ARDS conducting further training until the end of 2015.

What does efficiency mean?

The western concept of power, and understanding how it is converted into electricity, is an abstract concept from a Yolŋu perspective. So explaining the concept of 'energy efficiency' required lots of discussion.

Through our conversations, ARDS discovered some concepts in Yolŋu Matha that created a better understanding, such as:

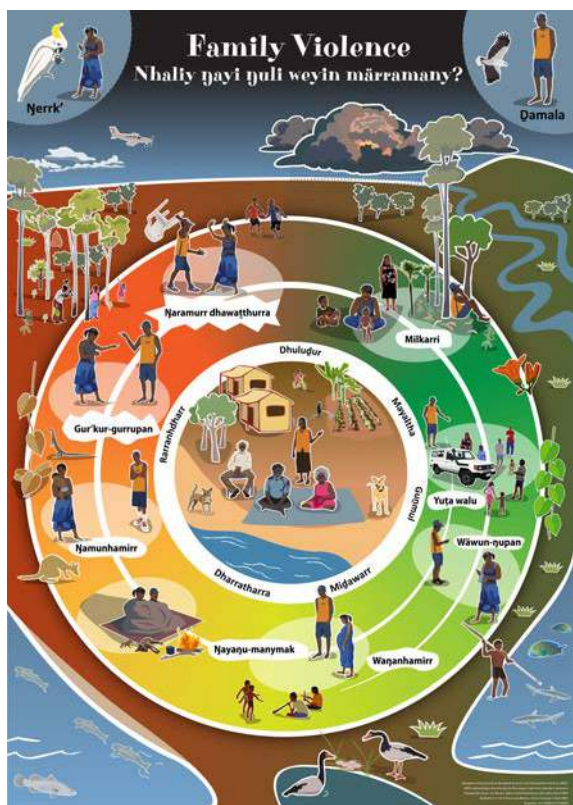
- makarr-däl – literally "strong thighs" – meaning a solid/unbreakable base
- yaka wanaŋa-đumurr – not overly greedy/constantly wanting more
- ŋoy-däl – literally a strong/hard/disciplined inner self – an expression used to describe old people who could move through the bush and live on very little or even without food through drought times
- weyinŋumirri – to last a long time.



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.





Family Violence

ARDS' poster and radio play (mentioned in ARDS previous Annual Report) exploring the cycle of family violence from a Yolŋu perspective has been extremely well-received.

Over the financial year, we have sought to introduce the resources to leaders in Yolŋu speaking communities and a large number of service providers. We have conducted meetings with over 50 organisations in Arnhem Land and Darwin: from local women's, health and family services, local police and night patrols, to local, state and federal government authorities and non-profit organisations. A copy of the resource was given to all of these stakeholders.

In addition, ARDS' staff presented the resources to an interstate and international audience at the World Indigenous Domestic Violence Conference in Cairns.

Feedback from these meetings have given us great confidence in the resource's effectiveness in stimulating meaningful conversations. This is the basis from which we hope to use the resource as a dialogic education tool in regards to issues surrounding family violence.

In particular, Yolŋu we talked to expressed excitement about the fact that they could instantly engage with the story and concepts and relate it all to their experience, therefore giving them something tangible to work with in dealing with this issue.

Non-Yolŋu professionals were also excited, and many expressed elation that there is now an in-depth resource in the people's language to deal with such a serious and pressing issue.

"Yolŋu will be able to understand this. We have to talk about this so we can stop these stories" – Yolŋu woman, Galiwin'ku (translated from Yolŋu Matha)

"We have been waiting for something like this" – Yolŋu woman, Galiwin'ku (translated from Yolŋu Matha)

"This is the way we can start to talk about this – because it is made using Yolŋu knowledge and a Yolŋu tongue – so it speaks to Yolŋu ears and Yolŋu mind" – Yolŋu woman, Galiwin'ku (translated from Yolŋu Matha)

Community Statement to Prevent Family Violence at Galiwin'ku

Extending our involvement in promoting stronger families, ARDS has been working with clans in Galiwin'ku to develop a community statement to prevent family violence.

Our consultation process has been extremely thorough. We have engaged, in language, with leaders from all 15 bāpurru (clan groups) – following Yolŋu social structures to find a common stance and dhāwu (story) by the people of Galiwin'ku in regards to family violence. Two ARDS educators – a Yolŋu woman and Balanda man – have led the consultation process, providing opportunities to engage around multiple cultural and gender perspectives.

As the project progresses, very common threads are emerging that indicate we will find a shared articulation of the complexity of the issue, and a shared perspective of where Yolŋu see solutions for the whole of the community.

Development of the statement is planned for completion in early 2016.



Language and Cultural Sustainability

Good communication is critical to the success of all programs and projects and to effective capacity building and education. It is therefore important that the language used between individuals and groups is mutually understood so that all communication can be two-way and dialogical. ARDS programs and resources work between English and Yolŋu languages to make better communication possible. The development of practical and contemporary resources, enabling Yolŋu to bridge the divide between Yolŋu and Balanda worlds, has continued to be a strong focus for the Language team in the last 12 months.





Legal Dictionary

August 2014 saw the online publishing of the interim bilingual Legal Dictionary in Djambarrpuyŋu and English on the ARDS website, complete with 150 entries. This publication was launched in May 2015 by the working project partnership of ARDS, AIS and NAAJA and posted on both the AIS and ARDS websites. In addition to this, work has continued on translation of the 298 legal terms in Djambarrpuyŋu and an electronic copy is anticipated for completion and launch in September 2015. These resources are available at www.ards.com.au/pages/language.

Since then, work on this project has continued in 2015 with a focus on developing a separate

Plain English Legal Dictionary of 298 criminal law terms with illustrations and extensive cross-referencing that can be used by practitioners who work in the legal profession, as well as fulfilling its original purpose of serving as a 'front translation' for Yolŋu and other indigenous languages in the Territory.

ARDS is thankful to the NT Law Society Public Purposes Trust for their provision of funding support to enable this important translation work to continue, with the development of two quality publications to aid community legal education, it is anticipated that this will be a strong feature of ARDS education work in the next financial year.





Governance and Language

In August, Yolŋu members of the Management Committee of ARDS Inc, were assisted to understand what was being asked of them in helping ARDS to change incorporation arrangements and become an Aboriginal Corporation under ORIC. This involved facilitation in Yolŋu Matha of information from ORIC staff and the ARDS' CEO concerning the proposed new governance arrangements and requirements of a new Constitution, especially regarding the responsibilities of the new Yolŋu Board members as Directors. Some new Yolŋu terms around issues of governance and management emerged and were entered into the ARDS Yolŋu Matha database.

Translation Service

The Language Team have continued to respond to translation requests for a range of purposes, including local government signage, subtitling of videos and film scripts, and several health brochures. Requests are variously received for development of both Djambarrpuyŋu and Gumatj texts.

Looking Forward

We are aiming for an online publication date of September for the English–Yolŋu Legal Dictionary and subsequent use of this resource by ARDS staff in several Arnhem Land communities through funded community legal education programs. In addition, we plan to seek feedback from Yolŋu users over a two year period to obtain suggestions for improvement and review of the Legal Dictionary.

With the recent success that ARDS has enjoyed in developing innovative dictionaries of a professional standard in the fields of anatomy and criminal law, it may be an opportune time to seek funding that enables consolidation of our previous linguistic research and cognitive mapping in the areas of economics and small business. The scope of such a project will be discussed with both the ARDS Board and various government departments so that the project is both manageable and relevant to Yolŋu needs.

Talking with ARDS Staff

Josephine Gurruwurru

Before coming to ARDS, I was working at Bagot Health Clinic doing basic administration, but to me it didn't feel like a Yolngu organisation. It is a clinic for all indigenous and I wanted to do more for Yolngu people. Working with ARDS I feel comfortable with the people talking not only English but also Yolngu Matha, which makes me feel like I can talk about anything and do much more for my people.

"I feel that my people have a good future because of organisations like ARDS, here they give Yolngu people a fair go"

This feels more like home, and I feel that my people have a good future because of organisations like ARDS, here they give Yolngu people a fair go. The ARDS board members are Yolngu which makes me believe that ARDS is running in both ways, not just through the western way of thinking but also through Yolngu rom (Law). Plus I like working in the media with Yolngu Radio, as a presenter on the Wakal Show. Wakal means fun or joke, in my show it means



fun and social. The Wakal show is aimed at the youth in the communities of Arnhem Land. I spread a good message that's social, interesting and positive for the youth, through music, sports, health and other issues, I run my show mainly for social events, to inform the Yolngu people about community events and to keep the youth interested in learning new things.

I look forward to the future, I feel that ARDS has done so much for Yolngu people and is going to continue to help and encourage our people to a better future.

Yolngu Radio presenter Josephine Gurruwurru catching up with the Bärä Band during their tour





Radio and Creative Media

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





Yolŋu Radio

It has been a big year for Yolŋu Radio with many exciting changes, challenges and successes. In September 2014, the Yolŋu Radio transmission hub returned to Nhulunbuy after four years of being based in Darwin. This coincided with the official opening of our Gayŋuru Studios in Nhulunbuy and the celebration of ARDS' 40th birthday.

Gayŋuru Studios was officially opened by Prime Minister Tony Abbott and the Minister for Indigenous Affairs Nigel Scullion, with the first live studio interview being the Prime Minister interviewed by presenter Yirriŋinba Dhurrkay. Since then, things have progressed a long way!

Radio programming and content development

In January ARDS welcomed Josephine Gurruwurru Baker to the team, to commence a new youth and community arts orientated weekly program 'The Wakal Show'.

Our second regular weekly show commenced a few months later - 'The Dhäwu Dhäwu Show' presented by Sylvia Nulpinditj. This is a chat show that explores a number of key issues affecting Yolŋu people, drawing on ARDS' wealth of educational content produced over the years, used in fresh new ways for today's context.

2014/15 has seen a lot of economic development content developed, including two large series produced and broadcast in partner with Why Warriors, with financial support from the NT

Government. It is available online.

Other new radio series have included the topics of Leasing, Hepatitis, personal stories about overcoming depression and anxiety and the Yolŋu Nations Assembly - all current issues facing Yolŋu people. Also produced over the year is a range of short messages have been broadcast covering employment, health, law, community activities, roadworks, cyclones, school attendance and many other topics.

Another new initiative of 2014/15 is commencement of the 'Yolŋu Jobs Board', a multi-platform community service initiative that aims to directly increase Yolŋu employment and local economic development in NE Arnhem Land. This initiative is supported by the Northern Territory Government.

At Gayŋuru Studios Yolŋu employees and a number of CDP participants and other interested community members have been developing their skills for live broadcasting and radio production. This has brought a stream of new voices, ideas and energy to the airwaves, reinvigorating and strengthening Yolŋu Radio's presence across the region.

This broadcasting team has been preparing for live studio broadcasting and also outside broadcasting with the plans to commence coverage of live events and broadcasting from a range of remote locations to bring Yolŋu Radio to our audience and build input and interaction with the service.

Cyclones, emergency broadcasting and transmission

In February north-east Arnhem Land was struck by Category 4 severe tropical Cyclone Lam, which devastated communities and homelands on the northern coast of central Arnhem Land. Two weeks after cyclone Lam, Category 2 Cyclone Nathan tore through the Laynhapuy homelands from the gulf through to Galiwin'ku causing widespread damage to homelands and also to Yolŋu Radio transmission equipment.

During these two cyclones, Yolŋu Radio staff worked tirelessly to ensure that residents could access up to date cyclone information in Yolŋu Matha through as wide an array of platforms as possible – radio, webstreaming, online platforms such as Facebook and Soundcloud and also offering over the phone advice to those who could not access other streams.

Following this, the Yolŋu Radio maintenance team has been working hard to get all sites repaired and back on air, with improved features to ensure better transmission quality should a cyclone strike again. Restoration works to transmission equipment has been supported through emergency funds provided by the Australian Government's Indigenous Broadcasting Program and also by ABA through the Yolŋu Radio Networks Upgrade project.

The upgrades project has seen radio installations added at Rorrowuy and Dhälinybuy increasing the separate homeland installations to a total of 15. The transition to FM in Darwin has been progressing and is on track for completion in late 2015. This is an exciting prospect and will greatly improve audio quality and access across the Darwin area.





Gayjuru Studios

2015 saw the first release from ARDS' state of the art studio facilities in Nhulunbuy, titled Dhapirrk Rirrakay. This is a collection of songs by Bärra West Wind (Birritjimi) and Crazy J (Raminginjin). Dhapirrk Rirrakay was officially launched at WOMAdelaide Festival 2015, with the performance of Bärra West Wind featuring Gotye. The album has been well received with good sales and both featured acts have been building strong audiences across the region. The album has been toured across the Top End from Nhulunbuy to Mataranka, from Darwin to Maningrida and beyond thanks to assistance from the Australia Council of the Arts. This has built the profile of the studios and led to a strong interest from a growing number of talented musicians across the region wanting to engage the production services of ARDS' upcoming record label.

The record label is currently in development with assistance from the Department of Business. The record label aims to provide pathways for Yolŋu musicians to record their music and build their music industry and business skills to further their ability to create income from music. This will also assist in the strong demand for fresh new Yolŋu music as expressed by Yolŋu Radio listeners, including new high quality recordings of traditional song cycles and stories.

Another music activity from the Gayjuru studios team this year has been music workshops with the homeland schools. This has been very well received with studio coordinator, Ava Hayes and casual employee and multi-instrumentalist Marimanuk Gurruwiwi delivering classroom workshops. This has been possible thanks to assistance from the Northern Territory





A look to the year ahead

Here are a few highlights of activities Yolngu Radio plans to achieve in the coming year.

Gaynuru Studios - Nhulunbuy

- Yolngu Radio Rirrakay Mala (Sound Crew) to commence at Garma 2015 – growing the capacity of a Yolngu event production/ sound services team for the region.
- Yolngu Radio Outside Broadcast activities to commence at Garma 2015 followed by broadcasts from homelands, community events and festivals across the region.
- Complete development of the Yolngu Radio record label.

Programming and content development

- Commencement of a more structured program schedule tailored to different music tastes, age ranges and educational content topics
- An increase of live content via Gaynuru Studios and the completion and fit out of the new Darwin studio in Winnellie



- An audit of existing content including revision and addition of a great range of traditional song cycles recorded by ARDS and by the Mulka project
- Production of a range of in-depth radio programs that discuss current issues faced by Yolŋu communities
- New Yolŋu broadcasters and producers trained, confident and generating fresh new content
- An audit of ARDS' audio material as a part of the Archiving project supported by ABA

Transmission

- Completion of the shift to FM transmission in Darwin
- ADSL transmission trial in Galiwin'ku and Raminginŋ to improve transmission quality and reliability in severe weather events



Power and Water Project

Feedback from Yolŋu participants -

"I expected we would just learn about giningarr (power points and appliances), but it's really good to learn the dhudi dhäwu (the deeper story), mirithirr interesting"

"First time to hear this story"

"It was good to have two-way teaching, bala-räliyunmirr (both ways), rä-manapanmirr (teamwork)"

"It's good to do the training and learn in people's first language – so Yolŋu can clearly understand. When it's in English only, it's hard for people and some people can't understand"

"Lap-maram mulkurr, wakeup call/ opening up our minds"

"The counting and numbers is really hard – Yolŋu think in a different way"

"ŋapaki ŋuli lakaram dhäwu yurr dhudi-dhäwu bäyŋu (Europeans usually tell a story but don't tell the full/ deeper story). But this dhäwu is good, in language, and even though it is hard because we can't see power, we can understand this dhäwu because it's in language and the dhudi-dhäwu (deep, foundation story)"

"It's good we're hearing this story, this meaningful story, and we can share this with our families"

"It's good to be doing this work in language, so we can all understand, we can all learn the deeper story"

"Just now I've learnt about the Yolŋu word for value"

"It's good that we're learning this story, and it's good that we're teaching you more language, and we're learning gurranyay matha (academic Yolŋu language) from a balanda! (non-indigenous person)"
- Yolŋu project participants

"A participant said that Yolŋu know about using ganydjarr, (power) but this is the first time she's heard where it comes from" - ARDS Educator

Yolŋu Radio Feedback

"I recognise your voice from the radio. I usually listen to Yolŋu Radio in the car."
-Yolŋu Male from Raminginŋi

"I've heard you on the radio. I've been listening to Yolŋu Radio through my phone, learning dhäwu about health, all sorts of information. Manymak dhäwu." (Young man, Raminginŋi - feedback given to health educator)

"We want to hear education programs about fracking because people don't know what it is" - Yolŋu Rangers from Yirrkala

"A lady from Rio Tinto we interviewed, told me recently that Yolŋu said they stayed informed of news through Yolŋu Radio" - ARDS Studio Coordinator

"This station does a lot of those good things in terms of communicating, and communicating just such a very very important part of not only governance but of society as we have seen today" - Nigel Scullion, Yolŋu Radio Gaynuru Studio opening, Nhulunbuy

"It's great that Yolŋu culture is being preserved through modern methods in a radio station like this, broadcasting in Yolŋu Matha is a very important part of that" - Prime Minister Tony Abbott

"LOVE this radio and miss it in NSW" - Via Facebook - (we happily informed her about online streaming in response)



Talking with ARDS Staff

Andrew Grimes

I came on board with ARDS in September 2014 to assist with the coordination of moving Yolŋu Radio back out to Nhulunbuy, the launch of Gaynuru Studio's and various other multimedia projects.

“ARDS has allowed me to bring all my skills and passions together in one focus”

The chance to work with ARDS Multimedia Department has been rewarding for me. In the past, the work I've done coordinating multimedia projects and my community development work have existed in separate spaces, but the work with ARDS has allowed me to bring all my skills and passions together in one focus. Working with good people has also helped.

I have a Masters in Development Practice from the University of Queensland; though have spent the majority of my professional life in the music industry as a multi-instrumentalist, DJ, and producer, which gave me the privilege of being involved in numerous international tours as well as resulting in me spending five years as the director of Brisbane's Dub Temple Records.

As a community development organisation, ARDS is working in a place and time where few people acknowledge the need or even understand what community development is. That's why my desire is to continue to see ARDS leading by example and continue to grow the space.

Yolŋu Radio is a very powerful tool and is in good hands. Gaynuru Studio's is an amazing space, and opens up a lot of intriguing prospects. I'm excited to see what comes of it.



ARDS Highlights



ARDS 40th Birthday, Gaynuru Studio's official opening, and the return of Yolŋu Radio to Nhulunbuy...

An exciting event over two days, Nhulunbuy came out to help us celebrate. Lots of special guests were in attendance including Prime Minister Tony Abbott and Senator Nigel Scullion, offically opening the building.



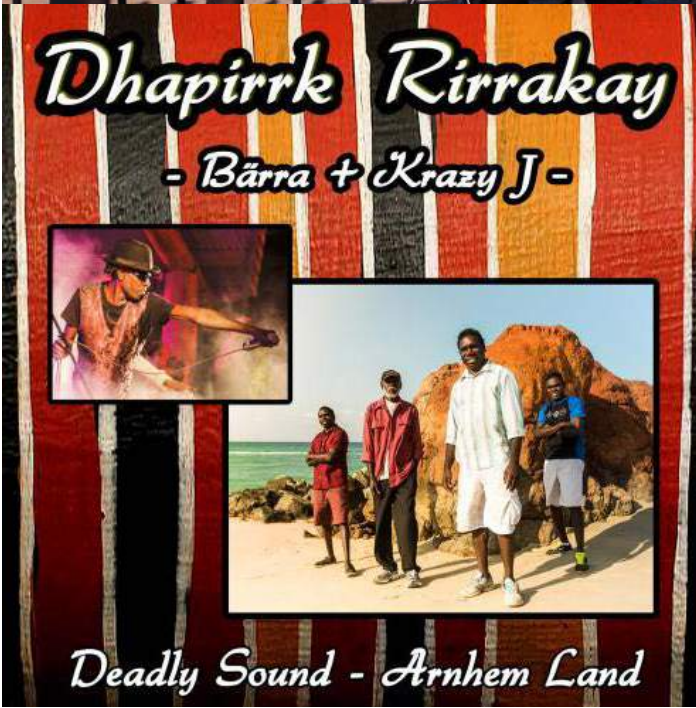




Bärra Band Tour

It has been an exciting year for Bärra West Wind band. Along with Krazy Jay, Bärra shared their love, music and energy with the everyone on a regional tour promoting the Dhapirrk Rirrakay album - recorded in our Nhulunbuy Gayṇuru Studios. The tour included shows at the Darwin Entertainment Centre (Garrmalang Festival), Bagot Community, Batchelor University, Mataranka, Burunga Festival, Garma, Gan Gan, Gapuwiyak, Gunbalanya, Maningrida, Ramingining, Galiwin'ku, Milingimbi and Garrthalala. Bärra Band was also excited to perform at WOMADelaide 2015 alongside internationally reknowned artist Gotye!





Bulunu Milkarri

A story of sky, sea and spirit





Bulunu Milkarri Film

Produced by ARDS as a part of Screen Australia and NITV's 'Songlines on Screen' Initiative. Bulunu Milkarri premiered in Sydney on 9th June at the Sydney Film Festival and received a great response. ARDS Multimedia Officer and Writer/Director Sylvia Nulpinditj and Manager of Multimedia Productions, Gaia Osborne attended the event. The film was shot in the remote homeland of Ban'thula and in Darwin, and focuses on the Bulunu songline belonging to the Djambarrpuyngu clan of the Yolngu Nation of north-east Arnhem Land. Bulunu Milkarri also featured in the ImagineNATIVE film festival in Toronto Canada and received the award for "Best Indigenous Language Production".



Bulunu Milkarri

One woman's journey to learn an endangered songline from remote Arnhem Land that explores cycles of death, life, rain, tears, and the replenishment and abundance of land, sea and spirit, and the quest to ensure this ancient songline is practiced for generations to come.

Writer and Director - **Sylvia Nulpinditj**
 Producer and Co-Writer - **Gaia Osborne**
 Co-producer - **Keith Djiyiyi Wutjara Dhamarrandji**
 Director of Photography - **Torstein Dyrting**

A Djambarrpuyngu story from north east Arnhem Land, Northern Territory, Australia.

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ARDS Winnellie Office official opening

ARDS was excited to celebrate with the Uniting Church NRCC and special guests, the opening of our new office premises. Officially opened by Senator Nigel Scullion and NT Minister Bess Price, the event was a night filled with dance, music and food and ending in a special screening of ARDS latest film production, Bulunu Milkarri.







Yolngu Radio

The voice of north-east Arnhem Land



Location Frequency

Bälma	90.1 FM
Bäniyala	89.7 FM
Ban'thula	89.1 FM
Darwin	88.9 FM
Dhuruputjpi	88.9 FM
Donydji	90.3 FM
Galiwin'ku	102.7 FM
Gängan	89.3 FM
Gapuwiyak	102.3 FM
Garrthalala	89.9 FM
Gurrumuru	89.5 FM
Mäpuru	89.5 FM
Maṭamaṭa	89.7 FM
Milingimbi	102.9 FM
Mirrṇatja	89.7 FM
Dadayun	88.9 FM
Nhulunbuy	96.5 FM
Palmerston	88.9 FM
Ramingining	102.5 FM
Wandawuy	89.1 FM
Yirkala	102.1 FM

Yolngu Radio Freecall
1800 899 769

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 2014 - 2015.

Australian Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
<https://www.dpmc.gov.au/>

The Northern Territory Government
<http://www.nt.gov.au/>

Australian Red Cross
<http://www.redcross.org.au/>

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

Power and Water Corporation
<https://www.powerwater.com.au/>

Australian Department of Social Services
<https://www.dss.gov.au/>

Screen Australia
<http://www.screenaustralia.gov.au/>

Miwatj Employment
<http://miwatj.com.au/employment/>

Australian Government - Indigenous Culture Support
<http://arts.gov.au>

Law Society NT
<http://www.lawsocietynt.asn.au/>

Laynhapuy Homelands Aboriginal Corporation
<http://www.laynhapuy.com.au/>

Australian Government Australia Council for the Arts
<http://www.australiacouncil.gov.au/>

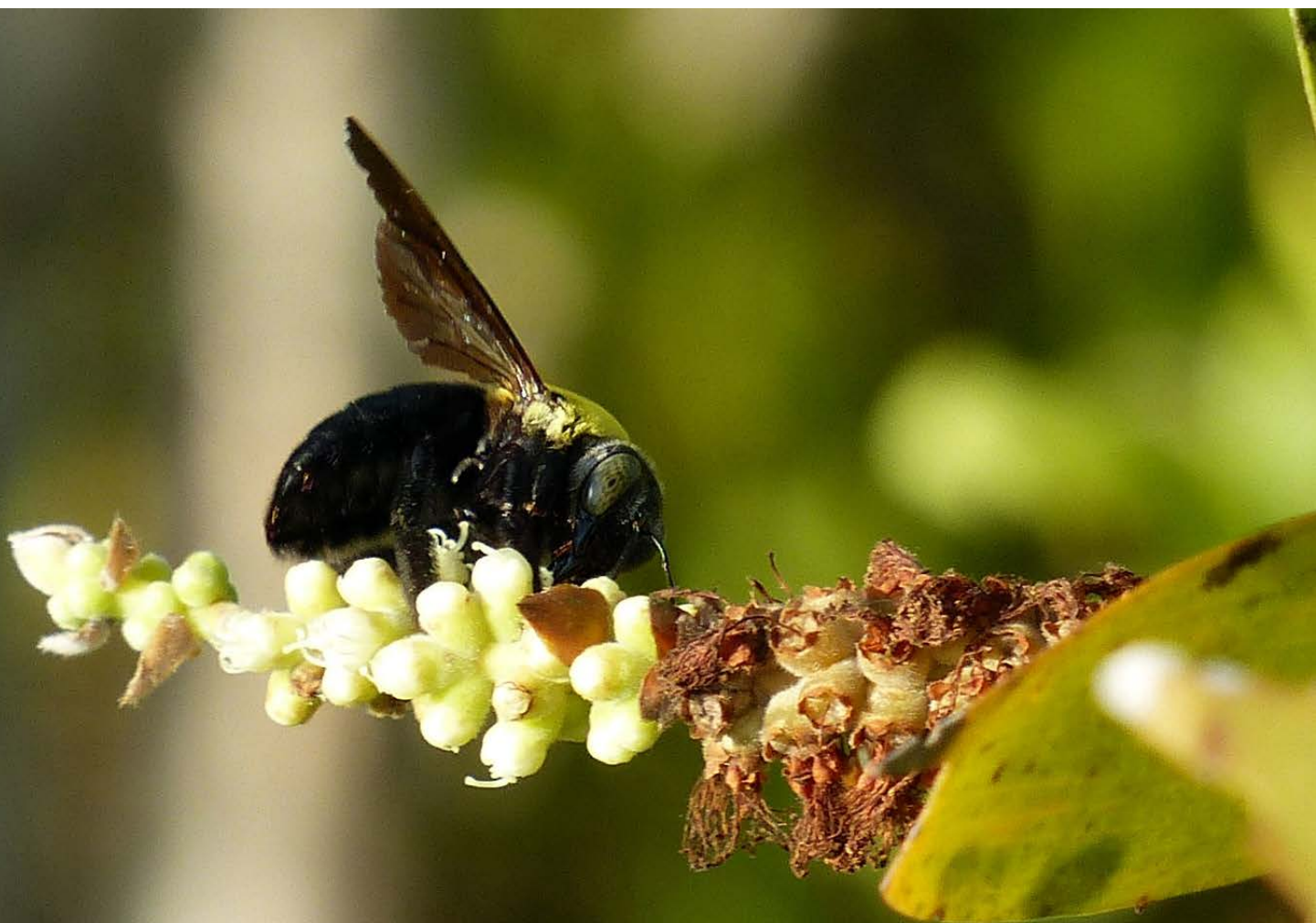
National Indigenous Television (NITV)
<http://www.sbs.com.au/nitv/>

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



Financial Statements

Income	2015 \$	2014 \$
Revenue	2,062,168	1,684,778
Expenditure		
Employee provisions expense	(1,097,954)	(1,024,528)
Depreciation and amortisation expenses	(164,492)	(169,464)
Advertising and promotion expense	(8,174)	(68)
Rental expense	-	-
Publications and information resource expenses	-	-
Sundry expenses	(854,544)	(411,826)
Interest expenses	-	-
Total Expenses	(2,125,164)	1,605,886
Profit/(loss)	(62,996)	78,892



Balance Sheet	2015	2014
	\$	\$
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents	531,828	244,456
Trade and other receivables	174,119	61,266
Inventories	5,733	8,545
Financial assets	1,319,256	1,421,360
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	2,030,935	1,735,627
NON-CURRENT ASSETS		
Property, plant and equipment	1,275,525	1,411,280
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS	1,275,525	1,411,280
TOTAL ASSETS	3,306,461	3,146,907
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Trade and other payables	129,753	111,835
Provisions	76,026	126,533
Other		40,000
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	205,779	238,368
NON-CURRENT LIABILITES		
Unexpended Grants	290,825	40,000
Provisions Long Service Leave	25,208	20,894
TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITES	316,033	60,894
TOTAL LIABILITIES	521,812	299,262
NET ASSETS	2,784,649	2,847,645
EQUITY		
Retained surplus	2,784,649	2,847,645
TOTAL MEMBERS' FUNDS	2,784,649	2,847,645



Independent auditor's report to the members of the Aboriginal Resource and Development Services Aboriginal Corporation

We have audited the accompanying general purpose financial report of Aboriginal Resource and Development Services Aboriginal Corporation (the "Corporation"), which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2015, the statement of comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, a summary of significant accounting policies, other explanatory notes and the director's declaration.

The Responsibility of the Directors for the Financial Report

The Directors of the Corporation are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and the *Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006* and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that is free of material mis-statement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. These Auditing Standards require that we comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on our judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, we consider internal controls relevant to the Corporation's preparation and fair presentation of the financial report 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 controls. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the Directors, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Independence

We are independent of the Corporation, and have met the independence requirements of Australian professional ethical pronouncements.

Opinion

In our opinion,

- (a) the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Aboriginal Resource and Development Services Aboriginal Corporation as of 30 June 2015 and its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with the *Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006* and its Regulations and Australian Accounting Standards;
- (b) We have been provided all information and explanations required for the conduct of the audit;
- (c) Financial records kept by the Corporation were sufficient for the financial statements to be prepared and audited; and
- (d) other records and registers have been kept by the Corporation as required by the *Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006*.



Matthew Kennon
Director

DARWIN
Date: 7/12/2015



ARDS

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Thank you to all staff for their assistance.

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