

Annual Report

2018–2019



ARDS
ABORIGINAL
CORPORATION

CREATIVE MEDIA & COMMUNICATION SPECIALISTS



Our Board: (L to R) Gawura Wanambi (Chair), Gurimaŋu Bukuŋatjpi, Biritjalawuy Gondarra, Haloti Kailahi (CEO), Dipililŋa Marika Bukuŋatjpi, Warmbirrirr Ganambarr and Freddy Ganambar (Absent: Isobel Lamilami).

About ARDS

We are an Indigenous corporation and for over forty years we have been working with Indigenous communities, government agencies and other bodies in the Northern Territory to build understanding across cultures. Our skilled cultural and language consultants are uniquely placed to listen to Indigenous voices, understand their aspirations and the challenges they experience.

Our vision is for Indigenous people to be able to engage on equal terms with the wider Australian society, its organisations and systems. We “span the gap” that often exists between mainstream services and the information they typically share, and the information Indigenous communities want and need.

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From the Chair



Hi everyone. My name is Gawura Wanambi, I am a Marranju man and my mälk is Gamarran. I am from Raymangirr, in the Arnhem Bay region.

I've been working here at ARDS in Darwin for two years, as a cross-cultural facilitator and as a director. I recently became the Chair of ARDS' board. I have been involved in many projects in that time. These include language work, like the *Buku-watthunawuy Nininyju Rom* (Ancient Languages, New Sounds) project, and documenting my Marranju language.

I have participated in education projects on-air and in-community, on subjects like gambling, Avgas, and many others. I have also represented ARDS at several conferences and meetings with Government and other organisations.

ARDS is there for Yolŋu. The foundation of ARDS came from Yolŋu leaders at Galiwin'ku, Yirrkala, Milingimbi and Croker Island. They wanted the organisation to support Yolŋu people, through translation, education, and so on. I don't want that foundation to disappear. There are so many changes that happen – governments change, policy changes, management changes – but the vision that was placed there by Yolŋu people, for Yolŋu people, should remain the same.

We want to continue the legacy of those leaders, of walking side-by-side with Balanda. Yolŋu have the word *räl-manapanmirr*. It is when two people get together and do something together. Instead of one side using their own skills, and the other side is not invited into that (*räl-gāna*). That's not the way. The only way we can get together as Yolŋu and Balanda is by *räl-manapanmirr* – where both sides are working together as equals.

Going forwards, I look forward to seeing more Yolŋu working at ARDS, both senior people with a good understanding of culture, of language, of law, as well as younger people who can work with them and learn from them.

We will continue doing our important work, which is all about educating Yolŋu people in Yolŋu Matha, and supporting Yolŋu people. For example, ARDS is part of the NT Government's new Local Decision Making policy in North-east Arnhem Land. Through this, ARDS is working with other organisations to help move power from Government people in Darwin or Canberra and share it with Yolŋu communities and organisations.

We are also doing more work to help Balanda understand Yolŋu people, such as our new Cultural Competency Training program. The Yolŋu world is very different to the Balanda world, and people working with Yolŋu need to get to know this and how to work with Yolŋu people.

**Yow, gululu bukmak.
Ŋarra yäku Gawura Wanambi,
ŋarra Marranju. Mälk ŋarraku
Gamarran. Ŋarraku wäŋa
dhuwal Raymangirr.**

It has been a difficult year for our Board, with the passing of a long serving Board member and the illness of other Board members, including our previous Chair. It is important therefore that the Board's effort be recognised and commended and I would like to thank our Board for their tireless support, encouragement and wisdom.

Tribute to Baŋadi

It was with great sadness that we learned of the passing of Baŋadi, our long serving and highly respected ARDS Aboriginal Corporation Board member from Ramingining. He was a much loved member of the ARDS team and a dear friend to many throughout Arnhem Land and beyond.

A senior Yirritja elder, Baŋadi was an expert in the Aboriginal customary law of Arnhem Land, and as the Djungaya, the traditional ceremonial caretaker, he used his knowledge of ceremonies and laws to ensure that Yolŋu and Balanda understood and respected them. He knew this was an important step towards building a better working relationship between Yolŋu and Balanda and better outcomes for Yolŋu.

Baŋadi's long connection with ARDS began in the 1970s, working on a range of projects and was appointed to the ARDS Board in 2014. He continued to work with ARDS for many years, helping staff and consultants on culture, protocols and vital background knowledge of the community. Baŋadi was providing his expertise to the ARDS Smoke Free Spaces project at the time of his passing and the success of Smoke Free Spaces in Ramingining can be directly linked to his pivotal role in the project.

Baŋadi was also a dancer, a teacher, a husband, a father, and the patriarch of a large family. He believed that when Yolŋu worked together they could achieve anything.

His country and his people are stronger for his presence.

Tribute to our two recently passed staff members

Dear birrinmal and ŋalirrimun

Your lifetime's contribution and dedication to Yolŋu rights (human, land, ceremony, language and many more) inspired all ARDS staff in the past and present. As clan elders and senior community educators you left such invaluable knowledge, of our organisation and history, and a legacy that we will be sure to nurture. What we are missing the most now though is your big smiles and laughs in the office and studio. Ma' marrkapmirr manda, napurr ga dhuwal buku-gurruapan.

Finally, a message to Yolŋu people: We want and need your feedback about what we are doing. The board wants to know how the community sees what has been there that has been helpful, on the radio or in face-to-face education. The board is listening and our decisions will shape the direction of ARDS and Yolŋu Radio.

Manymak, bilin ga djutjutjna.

That's all, thank you and see you soon.



It is important therefore that the Board's effort be recognised and commended and I would like to thank our Board for their tireless support, encouragement and wisdom.

From the CEO



I am pleased to present the 2018/19 ARDS Annual Report. As the General Secretary of the Northern Synod of the Uniting Church in Australia, I have acted as CEO of ARDS Aboriginal Corporation since the departure of the former CEO Johanna Ward.

Prior to this I played an active role in ARDS as a Board member and I am impressed by the quality and quantity of the work ARDS does on a small budget.

We continue to deliver a broad range of quality services and products that are making a positive difference to Aboriginal people across the Top End.

A cornerstone of our work over the last forty five years has been recording and preserving languages and songlines, and we continue to win national recognition for our projects. Our album *Buku-watthunawuy Nininyju Rom - Ancient Languages New Sounds*, containing clan languages and songs, won the National Indigenous Music Awards (NIMA) "Traditional Music Award of the Year". The *Gurraŋay Matha on Radio* program, where elders explain Yolŋu Matha words and their importance to Yolŋu people and culture, was nominated in the "Excellence in Indigenous Broadcasting" category for the 2019 CBAA National Awards. *Njambi* won "Best Short Documentary" at the 2018 First Nations Media Awards, while the ARDS produced film *Wata Burrmalala (Cyclone Culture)* was nominated in the "Best Language/Culture Production" category. This year we started working with locals on Croker Island to record and save Iwaidja and Marrku, two critically endangered languages, and Yolŋu Radio enjoys an enviable reputation as a producer of high-quality radio programs.

Primary health care is also a priority for the ARDS Board. Using our experience and expertise we were involved in a number of important health related projects throughout the year. In "Harmony for Health", we used music to break down barriers with Aboriginal people of no fixed address in the Darwin area affected by alcohol misuse. We worked on tackling family violence, and partnered with Miwatj Health and ALPA to develop an NDIS Yolŋu facilitators guide. One project for which we have received a lot of positive public feedback is the *Rumbalpu Dhäwu Dictionary of Anatomy* app, which is helping Yolŋu and medical professionals work together better to improve health outcomes.

We continue to explore potential appropriate commercial activities that will reduce our reliance on Government funding. We recently signed an agreement with the Northern Territory Government to develop Cultural Competency Training (CCT) on a fee per student basis for all NTG staff working in northeast Arnhem Land. We also continue to work with the tourist operator Outback Spirit to perform Welcome to Country bunguls (song and dance) throughout the dry season.

I would like to express my appreciation to the continuing support of the Australian and Northern Territory governments. It is gratifying to see their belief in the work we do.

Team members based in our Winnellie and Nhulunbuy offices – as well as in communities across the Top End – are committed to achieving the Board's goals and ensuring that Indigenous people have the support and tools needed to engage on equal terms with the wider Australian society. And thank you to our contractors Nexia Edwards Marshall and Keogh Bay Consulting for their ongoing dedication and enthusiasm.

Our Board continues to be a highly competent and effective governing body which remains the backbone of ARDS. It is Board members' authority and respect in communities and homelands throughout the Top End that allows ARDS to build on long standing relationships to provide and produce such high-quality services and resources.

Haloti Kailahi

Tribute to Johanna Ward

It was with great regret that we announced the departure of our CEO Johanna Ward. After four intense years of developmental work with ARDS, Jo decided it was time for her next challenge.

We will miss Jo's passion for improving the lives and culture of Yolŋu people. She made many friends here at ARDS and throughout Arnhem Land and her legacy will be that she leaves ARDS in a more financially and culturally sustainable position.

Jo's list of achievements at ARDS is long and impressive. With her knack for spotting talented people who are the perfect fit for ARDS, Jo built a highly capable team that work well together and complement each other's skills.

Under Jo's leadership, ARDS gained a reputation for producing quality material, and our history of success at national awards ceremonies is the envy of organisations far larger than ours.

Jo led the development of our Cultural Competency Training (CCT) business, with the signing of an agreement with the Northern Territory Government to supply training to Northern Territory Government staff based in, or visiting, northeast Arnhem Land. The regular income from CCT will finally allow ARDS to become more financially independent of Government funding, something that we have been seeking for many years.

As a result of Jo's enthusiasm and hard work, ARDS is becoming increasingly relevant in east Arnhem Land, which can be seen through our involvement in the Local Decision Making process. She has built a strong foundation for ARDS' future growth and to fulfil our vision of Indigenous people engaging on equal terms with the wider Australian society.

We wish her the best in her future role and we want her to know that she will always have friends at ARDS.

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We continue to deliver a broad range of quality services and products that are making a positive difference to Aboriginal people across the Top End.



Teachers from Mamaruni School in Milingimbi held a workshop on increasing Iwaidja literacy in the classroom.

Language and Cultural Sustainability

Minjilang Language and Culture Project

The Minjilang Language and Culture Project is being delivered at Minjilang, Croker Island, in close collaboration with Mamaruni School. The ancestral language of Croker Island, Marra, is no longer spoken, and only a handful of older adults can understand it nowadays. Iwaidja is another historical language of Croker Island, and is endangered because its speaker base is slowly declining, and younger people are shifting towards other Indigenous languages, such as Kinwinjku and Mawng.

The Project Steering Committee, led by ARDS Board Member Isobel Lamilami and Ronnie Waraludj, have been encouraging activities such as the preparation of Iwaidja language materials and children's books for use in the classroom, the recording of traditional songs and stories, including "Djurtbirrk"; traditional love songs young men sing to whom they were courting, and the training of Indigenous teaching assistants.

Ancient Languages New Skills

ARDS' work to document traditional Yolŋu clan languages continued in 2018-2019. This period began with a big surprise when the album released under Ancient Languages, New Sounds, received a NIMA!

Since that Award, our teams have worked in Galiwin'ku and Nhulunbuy to encourage and train emerging language workers. Bananaki Yunupinju worked in both places to record and transcribe her family's traditional women's songs. Djimbuluku Dhurrkay worked with more experienced Yolŋu Radio producers like Yirrininba Dhurrkay to record a series of programs spotlighting some of the most endangered words in Yolŋu clan languages. Michael Hunter's growing skills in studio operation and editing were a huge asset to the *Gurrany Matha on Radio* series, which was later nominated for a Community Broadcasting Association of Australia (CBAA) Award!

ARDS Chair Gawura Wamambi has continued to record words, grammar and audio of his own Marranju language and his son Adam Gulungulk has also joined in this intergenerational project. Senior ARDS facilitator Joy Bulkanhawuy connected with assistant teachers and primary classes at Shepherdson College in Galiwin'ku to share a traditional story about *Badurru*, the Milky Way, ceremony and ancient trading relationships. The children illustrated the story in March and this beautiful book was printed by Batchelor Institute Press in June. Sadly, the Djambarrpuynju elder who recorded this story many years ago passed away very soon after the book arrived in print. We honour her family and her memory and we hope that this very special story is treasured by many younger Yolŋu relatives for many years to come.

With thanks to funding from the Australian Government's Indigenous Languages and the Arts (ILA) program, our teams are continuing the work with Ancient Languages projects, producing an album of Yirritja songlines and stories to follow up the success of the Dhuwa collection in *Buku-watthunawuy Nininyŋu Rom*.

“ARDS' work to document traditional Yolŋu clan languages continued in 2018-2019.

ARDS' language work nationally recognised

On 11 August 2018, the *Buku-watthunawuy Nininyŋu Rom* album received a National Indigenous Music Award (NIMA) for Traditional Music. Gawura Wamambi, Yirrininba Dhurrkay, Joy Bulkanhawuy and Andrew Grimes received the award on behalf of all the artists and producers.

Joy and Yirrininba gave the following acceptance speeches:

"Narra ga buku-gurrupan bukmak ŋayi yolŋuny malany wanha ŋayi ga nhina, wāŋaŋur wāŋaŋur wāŋaŋur buku-ŋiw'maram, dhārukku ga romgu ŋilimurrŋ, ŋunhi ŋayi ga ŋorra ga marŋgithirr ŋilimurr ga bukmak. Ga dhuwali album ŋayi ga dhawatthun djamarrkuŋiw' bukmakku marŋgithinyaraw limurrŋ yalalanaw walalan. Thank you."

"I honour all of the Yolŋu people around the Aboriginal communities for our languages and traditions, which are the very foundations of our learning and knowledge. This album came out especially for our children and for their education in future. Thank you."

Joy Bulkanhawuy

"I would like to thank those people who were involved in this project. Many of the people won't make it here tonight. I am very, very happy for all of us to be involved, especially the producers. There were four or five different clans from each community that were involved in this project. And we didn't know we could make it this far. So I would like to appreciate those people who are not with us tonight."

Yirrininba Dhurrkay

Small Contracts

Over the last twelve months, our language team has completed a number of fee-for-service jobs for a wide range of clients.



Our teams workshopped written and audio resources for the Northern Land Council's consultations in Yolŋu homelands.



Mayalil translated and recorded Gumatj voiceovers for the East Arnhem Regional Council's campaign about local by-laws.



We consulted on Plain English resources for early childhood assessments through the University of Melbourne's ASQ-Trak developmental screening tool.



Our emerging language workers produced a written brochure in Djambarrpuynju about Occupational Therapy for a private clinic visiting Arnhem Land.



We produced audio messages for the Top End Health Services' Patient Travel answering machines in four Yolŋu languages.



We worked with RMIT on a radio documentary called *Disconnect* about the internet in remote communities. To hear *Disconnect*, tune in on podcasts.apple.com/au/podcast/disconnect/id1473568047



In 2018-19, we worked with ARDS to produce interviews for a radio documentary about the internet in remote Aboriginal communities. ARDS coordinated, recorded and delivered interviews in language as well as providing English translations. We are so grateful for ARDS' work in facilitating our engagement with Yolŋu in North Eastern Arnhem Land.

Associate Professor Ellie Rennie, RMIT

Health Promotion

Harmony for Health

The Northern Territory Primary Health Network (NT PHN) engaged ARDS to deliver Harmony for Health, a twelve-week two part pilot program for up to 20 participants delivered at Darwin's Bagot community.

The target participants were Aboriginal people based in the long grass or of no fixed address in the Darwin area who were affected by alcohol misuse and were musicians (traditional or contemporary) or wanted to be involved in music. People from across Arnhem Land down to Daly River were involved in the program.

The first part was a music and cultural program used as a diversionary tool, fostering engagement in positive healthy music activities and cultural responsibility through music.

The second part provided education in Indigenous languages and plain English about overcoming issues with alcohol and other health education as well as increasing the understanding and subsequent effectiveness of the services of primary service providers.

This project improved the communication and outcomes between primary health providers and long grasser clients. Our Aboriginal support workers also assisted individual participants to access services.

Understanding the NDIS: Facilitators guide

Continuing our work with Miwatj Health and ALPA to improve Yolŋu understanding of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS), we developed the *Dharanjanaraw dhiyak NDIS-ku: wanakanharaw ga dhukarrwu manymakku* (Understanding the NDIS: Facilitators guide).

The Facilitators guide was designed for both Yolŋu workers involved in the implementation of the NDIS, and the broader community who are or may be NDIS participants, and their families. The guide contains educational storylines, outlining the approach for each topic area covered in the workshops, a wordlist of key disability terms and a meaning based translation into Yolŋu Matha languages Djambarrpuyŋu and Gumatj and a meaning based translation of NDIS specific terms into Djambarrpuyŋu.

The Facilitators Guide has been well received by healthworkers and patients alike.

Rumbalpu Dhäwu Dictionary of Anatomy app

Following requests from Yolŋu people, ARDS team members developed a new multi-lingual Yolŋu Matha-Plain English Dictionary of Anatomy app to help Yolŋu and non-Indigenous health workers improve health for Yolŋu.

The *Rumbalpu Dhäwu Dictionary of Anatomy* app contains over 200 audio and text definitions, pictures of anatomical parts, and associated pathologies and procedures in four different languages; Dhuwal, Dhanu, Dhuwala and Plain English. It has password-protected men's health and women's health sections, a picture finder, an alphabetical list finder and a category finder.

The app can be used by medical professionals, interpreters, clients, and friends of those trying to understand and access mainstream health care. The audio content will enable health professionals to play entries to their clients in their clients' first languages, and make the content accessible to those Yolŋu-matha speakers who don't read in their languages.

The app was funded through the Australian Government Department of Communications and the Arts' Indigenous Languages and Arts (ILA) program.

Water Efficiency Engagement

ARDS continued to support Power and Water's Water Efficiency Engagement in Milingimbi, Ngukurr, Wurrumiyanga and Amanbidji throughout the year.

A highlight was working with the Crocodile Island Rangers and Yolŋu staff at Milingimbi School to develop lesson plans focussed on Yolŋu concepts about gapu (water). Milingimbi locals are keen for students to learn about Yolŋu traditional knowledge at school, along with mainstream Western knowledge. We aimed to support this through the hot topic of water conservation.

Crocodile Island Rangers Rosetta Wayatja and Solodi Buthunguliwuy helped ARDS facilitate workshops with the school's Yolŋu teaching staff and students, and took Junior Rangers on a learning on country excursion focused on learning about water from senior Yolŋu women.

From these activities, ARDS has designed lessons for classrooms. The Gapupuy Dhäwu (Water Stories) lessons will help teachers discuss Yolŋu words, history and connections to water with students. They also use interviews recorded by ARDS in Milingimbi with senior residents.

The resource is currently being finalised for use at Milingimbi School in 2020.

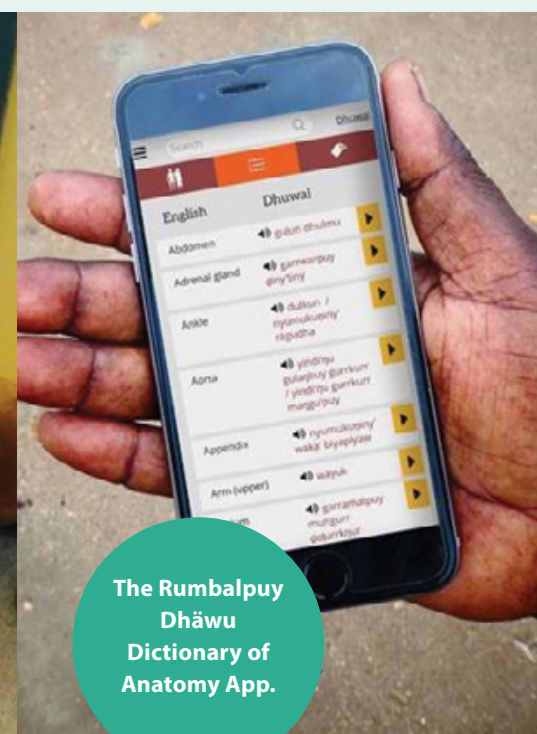
Funding for this project came from the Northern Territory Government's Department of Environment and Natural Resources, and Power and Water Corporation. ARDS would also like to thank the Crocodile Island Rangers and Milingimbi School for their support.



“The Facilitators Guide has been well received by healthworkers and patients alike.”



Our Harmony for Health program improved the communication and outcomes between primary health providers and long grasser clients.



The Rumbalpu Dhäwu Dictionary of Anatomy App.



Crocodile Island Rangers Rosetta Wayatja and Solodi Buthunguliwuy testing groundwater levels on Milingimbi.

Health Promotion

Asbestos Education

ARDS travelled to Galiwin'ku on Elcho Island to provide residents with information about asbestos after concerns were raised when asbestos was found in the soil following Cyclone Lam.

The Northern Territory Government, along with the Northern Land Council and East Arnhem Regional Council, is co-funding an asbestos management plan for Elcho Island. The plan will map where asbestos exists on the island, and ensure there are clear processes for dealing safely with asbestos in the future.

As part of this project, the Government is funding ARDS to provide asbestos education to Yolŋu, through two fieldtrips to Galiwin'ku and a series of Yolŋu Radio programs.

In May, cross-cultural facilitator Dr Jamie Mapleson and local residents James Garawirrtja and Steve Loki Yumbulul shared stories about asbestos with many residents. They talked about what asbestos is, its history, how asbestos causes sickness (and what type of sickness), and the story now, including how the discovery of asbestos in soils has affected housing rebuilds on Elcho Island.

Residents told us “Manymak Jimurr ga warjanhamirr, ga Jimurr dhu marngi-gurruṯan” (It's good for us to be sitting here talking and teaching Yolŋu about this story).

The second trip is planned for 2019/20. Meanwhile, the radio programs will bring this education to Yolŋu throughout north-east Arnhem Land.

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The plan will map where asbestos exists on the island, and ensure there are clear processes for dealing safely with asbestos in the future.



Local facilitators James Garawirrtja and Steve Loki Yumbulul conducting asbestos education with Galiwin'ku residents.



Gawura Wanambi (right) interviews Gurumin Marika and Banul Munyarryun in Dhälinybuy.

Social and Support Services

Yolŋu Gambling Dialogues

ARDS conducted its first fieldtrip for the 'Gambling Dialogues with Yolŋu' project in October, travelling to Dhälinybuy and Wandawuy homelands.

Our goal in visiting these communities was to identify and document Yolŋu leadership models in response to gambling and other issues worrying Yolŋu. This approach is based on the underlying harm minimisation message of the 'Pokies Story' radio series ARDS produced in 2017. That is, that Yolŋu-driven regulation, embedded in *gurrutu* (Yolŋu kinship) and *rom* (Yolŋu law) is central to tackling problem gambling.

Dhälinybuy and Wandawuy are closely connected to clan leaders Djeriny and Daymbalipu. In the 1960s and '70s, these and other leaders prominently tried to unite Yirkala communities against growing problems including gambling and drinking, which had emerged with the Nabalco mine. This also led to the Homelands movement, where clans established small communities on their ancestral estates, away from the issues in Yirkala.

We sought to draw on the legacy of these leaders through the voices of their descendants. We wanted to build on their knowledge to support our engagement with other communities, now that gambling, drinking and other threats to social harmony have indeed become part of everyday life for Yolŋu communities.

Informed by this fieldtrip, the project is continuing with a focus on communities where gambling is prevalent. The interviews recorded on this fieldtrip are currently being broadcasted on Yolŋu Radio, on-air and online.

This project is sponsored by the Northern Territory Government.

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We discussed how to find a peaceful law, a pathway for Yolŋu to live. We talked about alcohol, card-playing and pokies gambling and how they make people addicted; and also where the pathway lies for these addicted people to find their way back to a good, lawful and peaceful existence.

Gawura Wanambi, Lead Project Officer, Yolŋu Gambling Dialogues



Yolŋu Radio's Andrew Gurruwiwi (second from right) and Tanya Yunupingu (right) interviewing performers at the 2019 Garma Festival.

Radio and Creative Media

Yolŋu Radio

Yolŋu Radio continues to play a considerable role in the day to day life of Yolŋu people throughout Arnhem Land, Darwin and Palmerston. Yolŋu Radio presenters and producers keep listeners informed and entertained twenty-four hours a day through our regular programs, including the *Dhawu Dhawu Show*, *Burwu Show*, *Batjan Show* and the *Andrew Gurruwiwi Show*, live broadcasts and broadcasts of traditional song cycles, stories and contemporary music to support cultural and language maintenance.

Some of the key programs we produced this year include two special NAIDOC Week programs on the 2019 NAIDOC Week theme "Treaty, Truth, Justice". Funded through the Australian Government's NAIDOC Week program, Yolŋu Radio reporters spoke with senior Aboriginal figures, such as NT Treaty Commissioner Mick Dodson and NT Minister for Education Selena Uibo, senior Yolŋu elders and long grassers around Darwin about Treaty and what it can mean to Yolŋu and other Aboriginal people.

As a Garma Festival delivery partner, Yolŋu Radio covered forums and key speeches, interviewed VIPs and broadcast the Garma bunguls and musical acts. We also broadcast ARDS Vice-Chair Gawura Wanambi speech at the Garma Economic Development Forum, where he spoke eloquently, addressing how cultural differences in northeast Arnhem Land can lead to misunderstanding between Yolŋu and Balanda.

Yolŋu Radio Outside Broadcasts

Live Broadcasts in the past year include

- Gove AFL Women's and Men's 2018 Grand Finals
- Garma 2018
- Miwatj Health 'World No Tobacco Day', Yirrkala
- Miwatj Health Event, Milingimbi
- Yirrkala Yarrapay Festival



The history of Yolŋu Radio

This past year also saw the passing of Yolŋu elder Tony, who is considered to be the "Father of Yolŋu Radio". His vision of a radio station for Yolŋu people and northeast Arnhem Land and his work to ensure it became a reality has proved a great boon to Yolŋu people.

In the 1970s and 80s, Yolŋu in Ramingining and the homelands learned how to use radio to talk together. Later, we realised that radio was good for community development for homelands and the bigger communities.

So Tony was there to start Yolŋu Radio with ARDS. In 2003 Tony and the Chief Minister Claire Martin turned on Yolŋu Radio! He helped Yolŋu Radio to grow and grow.

Bitjarra ŋayi Tony wanana:

"Bala marrtjina yindithina bitjana ŋunhi radio-nydja nhakuna, ga ŋurru-yirr'yuna ŋunhi nhawinura community development through radio-wu djäma. Because radio-nydja dhuwala balanya nhakuna: wanganydja nhe dhu djäma, ga giningarr nhe dhu wutthun, ga ŋayi dhu ŋula wanhami ŋäma, waŋa nhe dhu ga ŋunhi ŋayiny dhu yolŋuynydja ŋäma nhuna ... nãthilnydja all over Arnhem Land ... Dhiyanynydja bala all over the world, dhiyanynydja bala nhuna dhu ga ŋäma warra, ŋunhi nhe dhu ga waŋa dhuwalatjan ARDS Radio-kurru! Yo, ga dhiyaliyidhi ŋunhi Radio-nydja ŋurru-yirr'yurrunha."

"Then Yolŋu Radio expanded alongside community development work through radio. Radio is like this: you do it all at once. You hit that switch and everyone can listen in. When you speak, people hear. Back then, it was all over Arnhem Land ... Now, it's all over the world. They'll hear you everywhere when you speak on radio! So this is where Yolŋu Radio all began."

Tony recorded many stories in every area: health, legal, government, economic stories, education for everyone. He had good friends in Yolŋu Radio – they were very funny together!

Tony asked many other Yolŋu to record stories and he asked people to call ARDS and request music. He always wanted it to be "Yolŋu Radio" – yolŋuwun ga yolŋuw. He wanted all Yolŋu to "djukurr'mirriyam" Yolŋu Radio-nha, to give it more flavour! He was very proud of Yolŋu Radio.

This year, Yolŋu Radio presenter Sylvia Nulpinditj made a special radio program to thank and honour Tony.

Everyone at ARDS will miss him very much.

Commercial Opportunities

After years of preparation, in early 2019 we signed an agreement with the Northern Territory Government to develop Cultural Competency Training (CCT) for all NTG staff working in northeast Arnhem Land. The training will lead to NTG staff having a better understanding of Yolŋu language and culture and ultimately better outcomes for Yolŋu.

ARDS will be delivering the training on a fee per student basis, which will provide ongoing jobs for Yolŋu people and gives ARDS the chance to invest in a business and reduce our reliance on Government funding. ARDS Board members are working on the content and we have recently completed filming and voiceovers for the online training modules.

Developing East Arnhem Land

ARDS has signed a sponsorship agreement with Developing East Arnhem Land (DEAL) giving DEAL sponsorship rights to events filmed by Yolŋu Radio, including the 2019 Gove AFL Grand Final, up to five Gove AFL matches in 2020 and all festivals broadcast by Yolŋu Radio to the end of 2020.

Outback Spirit Tours

ARDS continues to work with the tourist operator Outback Spirit to organise Welcome to Country bunguls (song and dance) and Bush Medicine Healing experiences for over 1,000 tourists from the start of May to mid-September.

The Welcome to Country ceremony is about one hour long and occurs on a picturesque beach near Nhulunbuy. It contains a host greeting from a senior elder of the Galpu clan, a twenty minute bungul with an explanation, local stories and a question and answer session. Overall, ten Galpu clan members, including yidaki players, songmen and male and female dancers, are involved in the ceremony.

The forty-five minute Bush Medicine Healing experience occurs at Shady Beach near Yirrkala, with a smoking ceremony, a talk on the healing properties of bush medicines and a demonstration of making a healing oil from the leaves of a local bush medicine plant known as Beautyleaf (*Calophyllum inophyllum*).

Local women, led by senior Gumatj elder Eunice Djerrknu Marika, provide the Bush Medicine Healing experience.

For more information on Outback Spirit Tours, check out their website: outbackspirittours.com.au.



ARDS continues to be involved with the popular Outback Spirit Tours.

Law, Governance and Economics

Local Decision Making

ARDS is playing a central role in the development of the northeast Arnhem Land Local Decision Making process. We hosted the signing ceremony for the agreement at our Nhulunbuy office, with the Chief Minister Michael Gunner in attendance as well as representatives from the Australian Government and key Arnhem Land bodies.

The agreement allows Yolŋu people and the NT Government to work towards a full commitment giving Yolŋu people the ability to make decisions on a range of topics including health services, housing, business and tourism. Our team has produced Plain English and Yolŋu Matha resources to discuss what 'Local Decision Making' really means. The big idea is that Yolŋu representatives in the Working Group have an active role in directing the process, engaging Yolŋu language and history to talk about governance and leadership. ARDS' radio programs and power point presentations are helping Balanda and Yolŋu who are involved in this process to understand and engage.

ARDS Vice Chair Gawura Wanambi welcomed visitors to ARDS and spoke of the importance of local decision making for Yolŋu communities to realise their social and economic development aspirations.

“

ARDS is playing a central role in the development of the northeast Arnhem Land Local Decision Making process.

Vice-Chair
Gawura Wanambi
(far right) with Chief
Minister Michael
Gunner (centre) and
representatives from
Arnhem Land based
organisations.



A still from the
award-winning,
ARDS produced
and directed film,
Nambi.



Awards

The great work of ARDS staff throughout the year continues to be recognised with a range of awards coming our way.

The ARDS produced and directed *Nambi* won "Best Short Documentary" at the inaugural First Nations Media Awards held in Sydney in late 2018.

Nambi, which means "flint" in the Wagilak language of southern Arnhem Land, is a valuable item in the Yolŋu economy for its use in spear making and is part of the sacred law for Wagilak people, found in their home country Njilipitji.

Also acknowledged at the First Nations Media Awards was the ARDS produced film, *Wata Burrmalala (Cyclone Culture)*, which was nominated in the "Best Language/Culture Production" category.

The prestigious National Indigenous Music Awards (NIMA) recognised our work on *Buku-watthunawuy Nininyŋu Rom – Ancient Languages New Sounds*, presenting it with the "Traditional Music Award of the year". *Buku-watthunawuy Nininyŋu Rom – Ancient Languages, New Sounds* emerged from a two year ARDS project where a team of fourteen people worked across four Top End communities to record and document clan languages and songs.

Yolŋu Radio continues to enjoy an enviable reputation as a producer of high quality radio programs. The *Gurraŋay Matha on Radio* program, where elders explain a Yolŋu Matha word and its importance to Yolŋu people and culture, was nominated in the "Excellence in Indigenous Broadcasting" category for the 2019 CBAA National Awards.



“

Yolŋu Radio continues to enjoy an enviable reputation as a producer of high quality radio programs.

Finally, one Yolŋu Radio frequency!

Yolŋu Radio is now broadcast on 88.9FM across northeast Arnhem Land, Darwin and Palmerston. This has made it easier for our listeners who know no matter where they are, Yolŋu Radio can be found at the same frequency.

If you are travelling through the region, please tune in to Yolŋu Radio!



Supporters, Donors and Sponsors

We rely on your support 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 2018-2019, including:

National Indigenous Australians Agency niaa.gov.au

Australian Department of Communications and the Arts arts.gov.au

NT Department of Chief Minister dcm.nt.gov.au

Developing East Arnhem Limited (DEAL) developingeastarnhem.com.au

NT Primary Health Network (NT PHN) ntphn.org.au

Laynhapuy Homelands Aboriginal Corporation laynhapuy.com.au

Power and Water Corporation powerwater.com.au

Outback Spirit Tours outbackspirittours.com.au

Yothu Yindi Foundation yyf.com.au

Northern Synod, Uniting Church in Australia ns.uca.org.au

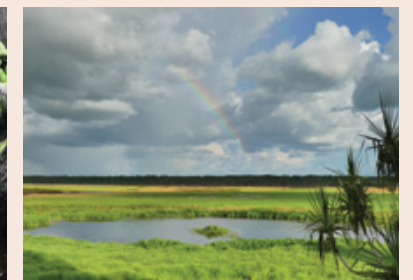
National Indigenous Television (NITV) sbs.com.au/nitv

Rio Tinto riotinto.com

Yolŋu Business Enterprises ybe.com.au

Arnhem Land Progress Aboriginal Corporation (ALPA) alpa.asn.au

East Arnhem Regional Council eastarnhem.nt.gov.au



Financial Statements

Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income for the Year Ended 30 June 2019

	Notes	2019 \$	2018 \$
Revenue	2	2,266,836	1,902,322
Other income	2	569,632	731,349
Employees benefits expense		(1,200,934)	(1,199,514)
Depreciation and amortisation expense	3	(159,708)	(209,340)
Motor vehicle expenses	3	(59,599)	(33,550)
Utilities expense		(43,265)	(25,809)
Staff training and development expenses		(7,884)	(13,031)
Audit, legal and consultancy fees		(520,803)	(495,637)
Marketing expenses		(18,146)	(15,849)
Bad and doubtful debts expense		–	(27,498)
Administration expense		(34,777)	(20,182)
Accounting		(152,960)	(186,925)
Banking fees		(2,330)	(2,762)
Cleaning fees		(19,571)	(21,511)
Computer software		(44,525)	(8,455)
Equipment capital		(34,141)	(28,107)
Fees – inc. licence and broadcasting		(35,543)	(35,615)
Freight and courier		(10,064)	(9,080)
Hire of equipment		(21,279)	(10,237)
Insurance		(25,248)	(21,037)
Landlines, mobiles and internet		(25,608)	(26,976)
Office expenses		(19,925)	(19,237)
Rates – water and council		(16,516)	(16,181)
Rent		(59,860)	(80,160)
Repairs and maintenance		(28,583)	(80,877)
Subscriptions		(16,406)	(13,698)
Travel and accommodation		(256,441)	(232,732)
Sundry expenses		7,960	13,105
Current year surplus before tax		14,392	(213,434)
Net current year surplus		14,392	(213,434)
Other comprehensive income		–	–
Total comprehensive income for the year		14,392	(213,434)
Surplus attributable to members of the entity		14,392	(213,434)
Total comprehensive income attributable to members of the entity		14,392	(213,434)

Financial Statements

Assets and Liabilities for the year ended 30 June 2019

	Notes	2019 \$	2018 \$
Assets			
Current assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	4	986,366	808,350
Trade and other receivables	5	390,500	223,320
Total current assets		1,376,866	1,031,670
Non-current assets			
Property, plant and equipment	4	1,260,371	1,420,077
Total non-current assets		1,260,371	1,420,077
Total assets		2,637,237	2,451,747
Liabilities			
Current liabilities			
Trade and other payables	7	794,282	625,956
Employee provisions	8	56,407	53,635
Total current liabilities		850,689	679,591
Non-current liabilities			
Total non-current liabilities		–	–
Total liabilities		850,689	679,591
Net assets		1,786,548	1,772,156
Equity			
Retained surplus		1,786,548	1,772,156
Total equity		1,786,548	1,772,156

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Independent Auditor’s Report

Report on the Audit of the Financial Report

Opinion

We have audited the financial report of Aboriginal Resource and Development Services Aboriginal Corporation (ARDS) (the Corporation), which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2019, the statement of comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and cash flow statement for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies, and the director’s declaration.

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

- (a) giving a true and fair view of the Corporation’s financial position as at 30 June 2019 and of its performance for the year then ended; and
- (b) complying with Australian Accounting Standards to the extent described in Note 1.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor’s Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report section of our report. We are independent of the Corporation in accordance with the auditor independence requirements of the CATSI Act 2006 and the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board’s APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

We confirm that the independence declaration required by the CATSI Act 2006, which has been given to the director of the Corporation, would be in the same terms if given to the director as at the time of this auditor’s report.

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

Emphasis of Matter – Basis of Accounting

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

Responsibilities of the Director for the Financial Report

The director of the Corporation is responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and has determined that the basis of preparation described in Note 1 to the financial report is appropriate to meet the requirements of the CATSI Act 2006 and is appropriate to meet the needs of the members. The director’s responsibility also includes such internal control as the director determines necessary to enable the preparation of a financial report that gives a true and fair view and is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, the director is responsible for assessing the Corporation’s ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters relating to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the director either intends to liquidate the Corporation or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditors Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor’s report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but it is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Corporation’s internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the director.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the director’s use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Corporation’s ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor’s report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor’s report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Corporation to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with the director regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Signed on : 27/11/2019



Bryce D Haigh, Registered Company Auditor
BDH Consulting
7 Crinum Court, Moulden NT 0830





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Thank you to all staff for their assistance

Phone (08) 8984 4174
Fax (08) 8984 4192

PO Box 36921, Winnellie NT 0821

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