



**ARDS**

Aboriginal Resource and Development Services Inc.

**Annual Report  
2012 - 2013**

## Cover Photo

### Cycad armstrongii - Dingu

When Cycad fruit turn brown they are collected, placed into a dilly bag (the green fruit are extremely toxic), taken back to the camp and laid out in the sun, until completely dried. The nuts are cracked and the seeds put back into a dilly bag (a number of these are generally done at one time). The dilly bag is tied up with string and taken to a flowing stream. A hole is dug close to the bank and the bag covered with something (eg. a log) heavy enough to hold it down so that the bag is not washed away, but the water is continually flowing over it.

This needs to be in flowing water for at least 2 weeks to completely remove all toxins.

When removed from the water the nuts are ground and the excess water and waste put to one side. The mixture is ground until it has become similar in texture to brown flour. It is then laid out onto pieces of paperbark which is tied at both ends, folded and tied up with dharrangulk (\*bush string) A big fire is built and when it has died down to the ashes, 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 5 or 6 hours later the bread is removed from the sand and left to cool. The paperbark not only protects from burning but also keeps the bread clean. This can stay good to eat for 4 or 5 months.

The excess which has been put to one side is not discarded, but can be cooked up in a pan and eaten immediately while waiting for the main bread to cook.

\*Made from the root of the Red flowering Kurrajong

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# Who we are and what we do

Through best practice capacity building and adult education, ARDS is working to improve the health and well-being of people living in north-east Arnhem Land and beyond.

Our award winning programs and resources help people to understand the health, legal and economic information of mainstream culture that impacts on them, and to take back control of their lives.

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

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

**Language** Many Aboriginal people speak languages other than English as their primary mode of communication. Our educators work in people's first language to maximise communication, learning and sharing.

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

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

# What makes us different

ARDS develops and delivers programs and resources in partnership with communities and homelands across north-east Arnhem Land, Darwin and other parts of the Territory. We have offices in Darwin and Nhulunbuy.

Indigenous communities in rural and remote Australia have their own unique characteristics. That is why ARDS employs a professional team of linguists, translators, multimedia and adult education specialists, and experts in the fields of health, law and economics to develop targeted programs and resources.

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

# From the Chair

This year we said goodbye to Executive Officer Paul Bubb, wishing him well and thanking him for his contribution to ARDS, subsequently welcoming Howard Amery back into ARDS and into the position of Executive Officer. Howard has a long history with ARDS and with the Yolŋu people. We value his return and look forward to working together as a team with the ARDS Board and sub-committee.

This year we have begun a series of governance training meetings, looking at parallels in Yolŋu and Balanda culture. This is proving to be a real 'eye opener', keeping us on our toes. Without *djugu* (legally binding contract) business doesn't run. This is the same in both Balanda and Yolŋu culture.

As we Yolŋu, learn and understand more about Balanda culture we see that finding common ground is not only possible but vital, so that we can work together and recognise one another, our laws and our statutes. We must each see where we're coming from in order to close the gap; we must recognise and respect our differences. The Government policy of 'one size fits all' doesn't work in our communities, because each community is different. Negotiations by means of dialogue together, using interpreters and language, will take time; Rome wasn't built in a day! We need to be working together for a long time.

The land has supported, nourished and sustained us for thousands of years and Yolŋu leaders need to be leaders with a heart for people and the land and not be controlled by self-interest. They need to think big and be inclusive, cutting-edge thinkers so we can have a future. Our Yolŋu leaders need to be resourced to be leaders, because at the moment people in community are feeling suppressed. There are too many people wearing too many hats, too many distractions and our leaders feeling disempowered. How can we get back on track?

We are humans, Yolŋu people of this land; we are people with a destiny and a purpose. We've got our plans. We know how to look after country, our land, and our people.

When Balanda come to tell us what to do without listening to us we feel caught, our spirits are not free. People should be able to be free to open up and share their deeper thoughts and aspirations.

We are people with law, *gurrutu* (relationship), respect. The Bible says 'treat others as you would like to be treated' don't stand on top and disempower. Come with respect, dialogue and work together. Make plans together collaboratively, not trying to put something over each other. Become a listener.

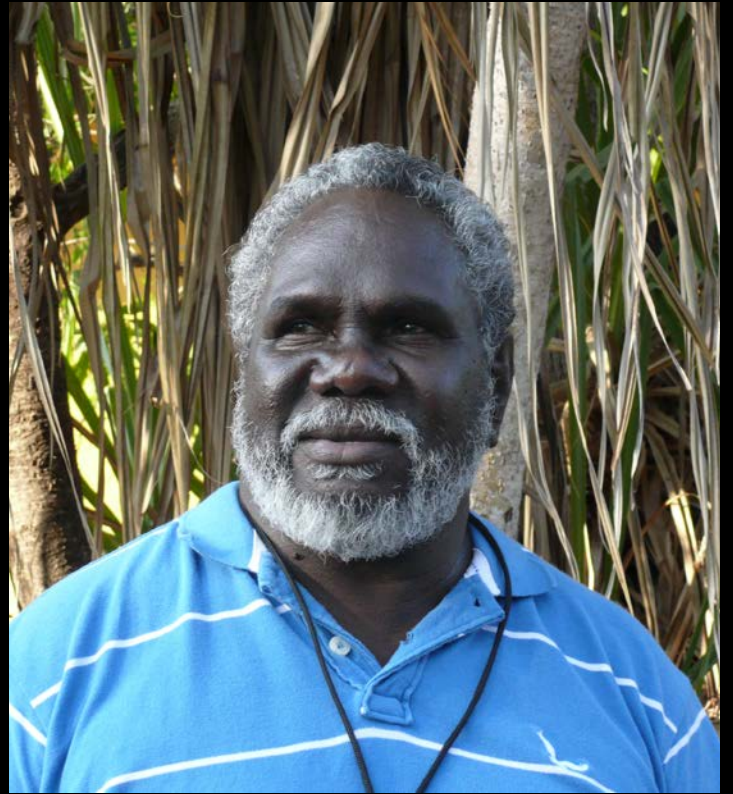
The people of this land are like its capital investment. We are here with a purpose and must find that purpose. We have been stigmatised but there is great potential, and opportunity must be given for Yolŋu to rise up, to use their gifts and be counted. We can make a difference in our world. How do we encourage and nurture this potential? How do we get the best of both worlds, an authentic Australia? Laws shouldn't be greedy but balanced, to keep the land healthy.

It is important for our children to be educated in both Yolŋu Matha and English because we know that bilingual education really works. Yolŋu people should be supported and bilingual education should be available from preschool right through into University. It needs to be recognised, as *matha* (language) is attached to everything.

Likewise our homelands must be supported. This is where *raypirri* (discipline) happens. There are less distractions there, allowing people to think about important things, keeping Yolŋu people and Yolŋu culture alive and healthy.

In the community where there are lots of distractions it's hard to focus on important issues. The lead singer of Yothu Yindi said in his songs, 'making money is one thing, but better to be building bridges!'

-Maratja Dhamarrandji



*"We must appreciate and see our differences as a gift from God the Creator, become a blessing to each other. When we can see that truly happening, then justice prevails"*

# From the Executive Officer

Next year ARDS turns 40! giving us much cause to celebrate its many achievements, but also to reflect deeply on our future direction if we are to truly serve the needs and interests of Indigenous people.

As an Aboriginal organisation, ARDS occupies a unique place amongst the many other NGO's who are also seeking to support Indigenous people in the 'Top End'. Within the north-east Arnhem Land context, ARDS seeks to recognise and understand the cultural knowledge base of Yolŋu people and uses Yolŋu language to design, plan and implement specialised education programs to advance their inter-cultural learning and understandings. Our 'Discovery Education' methodology allows people to participate in the construction of their own learning, empowering them to engage with local structures and organisations and also with aspects of wider Australian society, from which they have been previously excluded.

Despite our many years of high quality work, ARDS needs to continue developing its 'listening' capacity and capabilities, to know the struggles and aspirations of Yolŋu people in north-east Arnhem, so that we are confident that what we are hearing, is what is really going on. This is not easy for ARDS, because we no longer have community workers and educators living in Arnhem Land communities, as we did in the '70's and 80's. This means that we must rely primarily on Yolŋu who are *ŋayaŋu-ARDSmirr* (i.e. have ARDS' interests at heart). We need Yolŋu people who are interested in how they can support ARDS, as well as how ARDS can support and partner with them, so a more equal partnership can be developed, each learning from and supporting each other.

A major focus for the year ahead is the task of better equipping our Indigenous Board to better understand the governance requirements and responsibilities they, as '*rom-djāgamirr*' (lit. caretakers of the law), have for setting ARDS' future directions and priorities in a sustainable and targeted way. As all our Indigenous Board members currently reside in north-east Arnhem Land, this is a major undertaking which we remain committed to, with the assistance of funding from FaHCSIA.

A further requirement for ARDS' future well-being is finding new office premises in Darwin, as our current premises at Winnellie are very cramped and inadequate for even our current staffing needs. To do the work ARDS is called to do, ARDS needs to grow bigger and develop greater financial capacity and flexibility, and a major priority is acquiring a purpose-

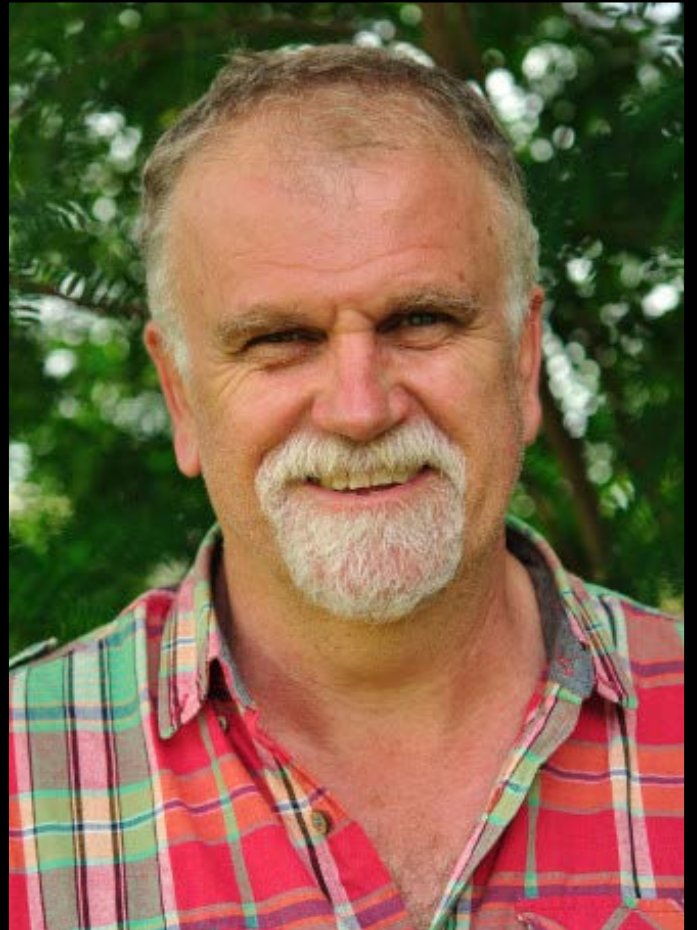
built administration building/office which caters for the growth needs of our Education, Language and Multimedia teams (including the expanding needs of Yolŋu Radio). Plans and negotiations for a new location are now well-advanced and so it is our considered hope that this next 12 months will see this building project realised.

This year saw the completion of the new ARDS recording studio at Nhulunbuy marked by the employment of a part-time Studio Co-ordinator in June, Paul "Ava" Hayes. Ava will work with other members of the Multimedia team to grow our on-the-ground presence in the Miwatj region of north-east Arnhem Land. It is our hope that we will see many emerging Yolŋu music bands and other young people using and learning about new technologies that are vital to their future. In addition, we will continue to work at improving Yolŋu Radio as a 24/7 provider of music, community service announcements, and good quality educational information. In the mix is the challenge of developing a regular radio news service, in language, so that the people of north-east Arnhem Land can develop an increasing interest in current affairs at a regional and national level.

On the financial front, ARDS continues to struggle to obtain sufficient contracts from both Commonwealth and NT Governments to maintain current staffing levels, which we readily acknowledge are not sufficient to meet the educational needs and aspirations held by members of the ARDS Board and wider Yolŋu population. ARDS continues to be well-served by its Administration team and in particular by our CFO Mervyn Brown, who has a long and intimate knowledge of our corporate history, current contracts and reporting requirements, and future growth needs.

As directed by the ARDS Board, we continue to look for ways to be involved in community education in other regions of the Top End and Central Australia where our historical roots have been. Currently we are involved in the provision of health education and developing radio programs for the West Kimberley region.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my thanks to ARDS Board Members for their commitment and support and particularly to our chairperson Maratja Dhamarrandji, also to the ARDS staff for their energy and commitment to ARDS ethos, values and methodology and their contributions in helping ARDS grow to become a stronger organisation.



"...we continue to look for ways to be involved in community education in other regions of the Top End and Central Australia where our historical roots have been"

## Talking with ARDS staff



*"ARDS is giving education to my people about sickness and disease, about the land and government policies and housing. Yolngu Radio is very good, it's easy to press the button and have the message out there."*

## Keith Djiniyini - 2

An avid Yolngu Radio listener, Keith Djiniyini - 2 Dhamarrandji (Gamarran) contacted ARDS last year with a story he wanted to tell on radio about diabetes. This has led to Keith working with the ARDS educators on a number of projects with hopefully many more to come.

Keith Djiniyini - 2, a Djambarrpuyngu man was born and lives on Elcho Island, his homeland being Durruyurtjurr.

As a young boy Keith worked many places including the DCA (Department of Civil Aviation) in Darwin, working on the motor vehicles that belonged to the airport. In his teens Keith worked for 5 years in Yirrkala, resulting in him gaining his mechanics licence. From Yirrkala he headed down to Alice Springs where he spent the next 10 years laying bricks and building houses. On arriving home in Galiwin'ku (Elcho Island) he found himself working with contractors building the airport, the barge landing and constructing roads.

Finally a job in the office of Galiwin'ku Council took him out of the sun and eventually into the role of Council Chairman, a position he held for 8 years.

Keith's life has been full and varied and over the years has included numerous and wide-ranging accomplishments including Chairman of both the football and basketball associations. He is also a musician who writes and plays his own songs while actively encouraging and inspiring young up-and-coming Yolngu musicians.

*"ARDS is giving education to my people about sickness and disease, about the land and government policies and housing. Yolngu Radio is very good, it's easy to press the button and have the message out there"*



# Health

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

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

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



## Health Literacy

Funded by the Australian Department of Health and Ageing

ARDS educators targeted the Yolŋu population in Milingimbi, Ramingining, Galiwin'ku and surrounding homeland centres conducting face-to-face education at each camp and many of the houses within each community.

During 17 education sessions and in discussion with clinic staff it was identified that there are low numbers of men seeking health checks. Audio education programs for this period were developed in response to this identified need. ARDS produced a set of 4 programs - Men's Health Check, exploring some of the underlying issues about why people don't get health checks, providing an in-depth explanation of the different aspects of the health check. This assists to demystify what health checks are and why they are being done.

The second set of 3 programs; Blood Pressure Story was developed to complement the health check programs, and deliver in-depth information about the difficult concept of blood pressure.

Unfortunately ARDS has been unable to continue the much sought after female sexual health education this year, and is looking for a new female educator to undertake appropriate training. It is hoped 2013 - 2014 will see the return of our focus in the delivery of in-depth sexual health education with men and women in gender-segregated groups.

In early 2013 it became apparent that petrol sniffing had become a renewed problem in some communities and the correlation between petrol sniffing and increased rates of STI's (as described in the literature) has lead ARDS educators to identify this as a priority area to focus on.

In Milingimbi alone 12 education sessions were undertaken with 25 people. Those who took part were keen to hear in-depth biomedical information about petrol sniffing in their own language and explained in a meaningful way, along with exploring reasons why children sniff petrol. This also allowed Yolŋu participants to critically discuss the foundational role of family in supporting (or not supporting) children to grow up strong, healthy and disciplined.

A comment from a young man who had previously been a petrol sniffer.

*"That was a good story. It helped me to understand and now I can help others by sharing this story with them"* (translated from the original Yolŋu matha).

*"One woman came to talk to us about petrol sniffing before, but that was in English and hard to understand. This story now is really meaningful for us and we can understand."*  
(translated from the original Yolŋu matha)

*"This story is opening up my mind"* (translated from the original Yolŋu matha).

From these sessions on petrol sniffing, 4 new audio education programs were recorded.

In total for this project 11 new programs were recorded for broadcast on Yolŋu Radio and podcast on the ARDS website.

## Ear Health Campaign

Funded by I and G Pty Ltd an Australian Government Initiative

Twenty radio programs were created including 7 short educational messages on preventing ear disease. Child care and Families as First Teachers (FaFT) centres were the ideal location to conduct many education sessions, working with a captive and interested audience of young mothers. People were keen and enthusiastic to hear this in-depth education delivered in a meaningful way in their own language. One set of programs describes the anatomy of the ear and how it functions.

*"You've managed to do what very few people can do - engage the mothers for a long time"*

- Non-Indigenous teacher at FaFT

*"Really good for us to hear that story."* - A young mother involved in the education sessions

A second set of programs looks at our immune system in the context of ear disease and how our immune system learns to recognise bacteria that cause disease so that our white blood cells can kill them quickly when detected. These discussions also cover the immune system in infants and the benefits of breast milk in helping babies to fight infection.

*"This is a really great story to hear. I can't wait to hear that on the radio. Why don't they tell us this 'dhuḏi dhäwv' (deeper story) at the clinic?"*

- Yolŋu consultant involved in recording after she shared the story about our immune system with family members.

## Diabetes Education Programs

With the demand from a clan leader in Galiwin'ku, an ARDS Yolŋu consultant and the clan leader shared their life story around diabetes.

Confusions of treatments and self-management to prevent diabetes are demonstrated with culturally practical analogies.

### Looking Forward

ARDS is looking to strengthen existing relationships and build new ones throughout north-east Arnhem Land and beyond, to continue the important work being carried out by the ARDS educators.

# Law, Governance and Economics

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



## English-Yolŋu Matha Legal Dictionary

Funded by the Australian Department of Regional Australia, Local Government, Arts & Sport

Work continues on the translation of more than 100 legal terms commonly used within the criminal justice legal system. Building on the success of the ARDS Dictionary of Anatomy / ***Dhāruk Mala ga Mayali' Rumbalpu***, a team of lawyers working with ARDS linguists have developed a plain English front translation divided into 11 sections that references the breadth of legal terms commonly used by the courts and police. Extensively cross-referenced, each section is introduced by sketching a familiar legal scenario where the relevant terms are initially encountered before being subsequently defined in more detail. A critical element in the success of the translation process is the acknowledgement that Yolŋu people are required to live under two systems of law, their traditional law to which they have assented and mainstream Australian law which is essentially 'foreign' and very poorly understood. Knowledge of the basic principles and operating rules for both systems of law is vital to people's safety, basic well-being and empowerment, especially for the younger generation who are often caught between two worlds. Much within each of the legal systems, when properly explained, has strong parallels with the other system and it is exciting to see people's eyes and minds opened when these are revealed. Thus it is often the case that a more in-depth knowledge of one legal system can provide particular insight and greater appreciation of the other.

## TCU Banking Literacy

Funded by the NT Department of Business

10 sessions involving 33 people at Milingimbi and 27 people at Galiwin'ku produced 5 radio programs. With much confusion still existing amongst Yolŋu regarding how the banking system functions, ARDS discovery education sessions involved looking at the various bank fees (EFTPOS, monthly accounts, savings account etc.) Also discussed were the pros and cons of Internet & Phone banking plus Debit vs Credit card and how to avoid the risk of high bank fees.

## Community Support for Yolŋu Radio

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

Eighteen new audio programs were produced for Yolŋu Radio and podcast on ARDS website.

Six new audio programs explaining various Centrelink issues were produced for Yolŋu Radio and podcast on the ARDS website. Areas covered included current child care payments and the policy for 'Dad's and Partners', the Disability Support Pension and how to use the Centrelink free call 1800 number.

*"I heard your voice talking about Dad and Partner Pay on the radio. Centrelink is good to give some time off and money for fathers to spend time with baby. But I wonder how many Yolŋu are regularly employed enough to get paid"*- Clan member (translated from original Yolŋu Matha)

Enlisting the expertise of an ASIC commissioner, issues surrounding unclaimed money in bank accounts, super funds and private insurances were explained.

*"Our people from north-east Arnhem Land don't know this thing at all even though such a big amount of money still belongs to us. We need education for our people."* - Clan member (translated from original Yolŋu Matha)

*"This is a good story. I'm sure Yolŋu don't know this story. If Yolŋu Radio play this story more and more in Arnhem Land, our people can catch up on these issues happening in Australia, especially for people living in outstations."* - Clan member (translated from original Yolŋu Matha)

The information in these programs reached as far as western Arnhem Land resulting in community elders successfully lodging a claim for their lost money.

Four new programs on climate change involved talking with a subject matter expert from the Bureau of Meteorology resulting in the following comments.

*"We often hear the words climate change and carbon tax on television, but we don't know what they mean. Now I understand how climate changes and how the greenhouse gas affects our place. I learnt a lot together with ARDS educators, that is why I could understand what they (BOM staff) mentioned in the meeting"*- ARDS Yolŋu consultant (translated from original Yolŋu Matha)

*"This story is with evidence. I didn't know plankton absorb carbon dioxide like trees do. Our people don't know what oysters and juvenile fish eat to grow. Now I understand and I saw the plankton with my own eyes under microscope. That is why I can talk on radio for our people."*

- ARDS Yolŋu consultant (translated from original Yolŋu Matha)

A series of 7 new radio programs was produced to unpack the mystifications of immunisation that confuse a large number of the Yolŋu population.

*"Every year I've got immunisation for flu at clinic, but before I heard this story, I didn't know what the fluid is. I thought that fluid is medicine killing diseases. I knew the purpose of immunisation, but didn't know the fluid itself. People in north-east Arnhem Land, they get vaccination and know why, but don't know what the fluid is."* - Clan member (translated from original Yolŋu matha)

*"The story that I learnt and shared with people this time is great. This story is for everyone, old people, parents, young people and children. It is important for all of us to be educated and gain knowledge. I'm very honoured to be involved in this deeper level story development. I enjoyed a lot to consider how story line makes sense for country people. I assume when they hear this story, they would be surprised."* -

ARDS Yolŋu educator (translated from original Yolŋu Matha)

## Child Product Safety

Following a court case in which a company was fined for distributing unsafe child products, ARDS was approached by the Australian Competition & Consumer Commission (ACCC) to produce a series of Radio Programs addressing child product safety, with particular attention to prams, strollers and baby walkers. The radio series was produced in Yolŋu Matha and broadcast on Yolŋu Radio and through the ACCC website.

We hope that young parents will be better informed about what to look out for in buying a pram or baby walker, the law surrounding these two products and the safety guidelines around their use to ensure their children are safe.

## Jane Chalmers

Jane joined the ARDS team in November 2012 as part of the education team. Jane's background is in health science where she worked as an Advanced Life Support Paramedic in Melbourne. After years of working and living the inner city lifestyle, Jane and her partner decided to make the move to Darwin to discover a different life up North. They enjoyed travelling up the east coast to Cape York then across to Darwin, just in time for the build up!

Having time away from pre-hospital care allowed Jane to consider the benefits of a different approach to health care. Focus shifted to the role of health education and how knowledge about one's health can impact positively on individuals and their families by allowing people to make informed decisions about lifestyle choices and maintenance for good health.

Jane is continually inspired by the richness of cultural practice, connection to land, kinship, language and legal systems of the Yolŋu people. Jane is currently studying a graduate diploma in Indigenous Knowledges at Charles Darwin University. Jane believes that we have much to learn from each other and feels that her work at ARDS, utilising existing methodology and discovery education principles allows for this to occur between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians.

Jane enjoys spending time sitting, listening and learning from Yolŋu about their experiences and worldview around subjects covered at ARDS. "Travelling out to communities across Arnhem Land to meet with people on their traditional land is an incredible experience. Working together, learning from each other. It's a wonderful process to be a part of".

## Talking with ARDS Staff



*"Travelling out to communities across Arnhem Land to meet with people on their traditional land is an incredible experience. Working together, learning from each other. It's a wonderful process to be a part of".*

# 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 Services

Funded by NT Department of Children and Families

The Family Services project concluded on the 30th June 2013.

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

Over the previous 12 months Family Services has assisted Yolŋu families with needs in relation to; Housing, Centrelink, obtaining ID, including Larrakia cards, birth and death certificates, Court, Jail, Children's services, health including patients at RDH, youth services, employment, and funeral arrangements.

Early 2013 saw the team spending a substantial amount of time assisting families with youth who had been incarcerated for illicit substance abuse, petrol and glue.

Becoming aware of an apparent outbreak of petrol sniffing and following several requests for radio education from elders in communities, the Family Services team were able to pass on this information to the ARDS education team, who subsequently began work on face-to-face education and radio programs for this dire need in community.

*"That was really good work, helping Yolŋu, and Lauren had a good gakal for that djäma. It would be good if we could keep doing that djäma." - ARDS Yolŋu Consultant*

In its current form Family Services has been with ARDS since 2002, and has a reputation of assisting and empowering Yolŋu families with tools and support to access mainstream services. ARDS looks to the future where we may run this program again, as the need increases every day.

Family Services had its beginnings born out of the Aboriginal Women's Resource Centre.

The Aboriginal Women's Resource Centre began operation in the 1970's. In the early 1990's it became a 'drop in centre' aimed particularly to assist women, who were living on the street. They were able to access washing machines, use computers to do CVs and apply for jobs or simply leave personal items in a secure place while they went into town. Often there were discussion groups happening around a range of relevant life topics, but principally, it was a safe place to sit and have a cup of tea or coffee.

In order to receive Government funding the Resource Centre needed to be incorporated and this is when ARDS became involved.

Unfortunately over time, the Centre lost some direction thus the NRCC (Northern Regional Council of Congress – Uniting Church) and ARDS Executive Officer sought to revitalise the sense of vision and mission.

A new service agreement began with the Health Department, resulting in 'Family Services' becoming a referral centre and catering for all (no longer just women) Aboriginal people in Darwin. Because ARDS expertise was with the Yolŋu of north-east Arnhem Land, there was a focus on the needs of Yolŋu in Darwin. Family Services changed through the years, as new staff brought with them different areas of expertise, for example dealing predominantly with health issues and legal issues over a number of years. Family Services began with seeing a need and though the Family Services project has concluded, the need

## Family Violence Education Programs

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

Two new audio programs (Balanda Ideas about Marriage Have Changed) were produced wherein the issue of domestic violence was discussed in the context of a long history of changing ideas within society, particularly regarding marriage.

A further two programs (Strong Young Fathers) were recorded by two young fathers in communities to encourage other young fathers to help their wives and children.

According to several Yolŋu consultants, Australian laws regarding domestic and family violence are not embedded in the mind or heart of Yolŋu enough to prevent them from acting unlawfully; *mulkuru rom* (foreign law) needs to be discussed and also shown visually by applying existing cultural knowledge in a practical way.

Following recommendations from Yolŋu, two gender appropriate posters are under construction combining both the Yolŋu understanding of the cycle of seasons and the cycle of violence. These posters are intended to describe each phase of the cycle of violence with images of people, fauna, flora and atmospheric phenomenon according to the Yolŋu cycle of seasons. The posters will be complimented with a radio play delivered by Yolŋu actors demonstrating how violence occurs in a relationship (based on the knowledge of the seasons). This too will be recorded separately for men and women. The aim is not to tell people what to do but to give Yolŋu the opportunity to look, listen and reflect on the appropriateness of their own behaviour. Upon completion, these materials will be widely distributed to community service providers and government agencies with a particular focus on NE Arnhem Land.

## Disability

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

This project Yolŋu Information sharing and clarity of understanding is stage 1 of a program proposed by Motivation Australia consisting of 5 stages called Inclusive Community Development in East Arnhem Land. Five community visits to conduct Discovery Education sessions were carried out in Ramingining, Milingimbi, Galiwin'ku, Gapuwiyak and Darwin and also one workshop in Darwin. This project was a collaborative effort between ARDS and Motivation Australia funded by the FaHCSIA Practical Design Fund.

The aim was to gauge the level of support for a pilot Inclusive Community Development (ICD) project in East Arnhem Land, by meeting with local and regional stakeholders. In addition the team sought to understand how working with an ICD approach could help to achieve the goals of the proposed National Disability Insurance Scheme (now DisabilityCare Australia) in rural, and particularly, remote Australia. If successful the approach could serve as a model for other communities.

# Language and Cultural Sustainability

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

Indigenous knowledge is the foundation for a strong future. ARDS is working to support the development, transmission and preservation of Yolju knowledge systems using new technologies.



## Strong Traditions

Funded by Australian Department of Regional Australia, Local Government, Arts and Sport

To promote linguistic diversity and sustainability in north-east Arnhem Land, ARDS has focused on recording and broadcasting in as many languages as possible across the region. By broadcasting this traditional material on ARDS Yolŋu Radio 24 hours a day and 7 days a week, recordings are put into circulation among 40 plus clan groups of north-east Arnhem Land. This allows for the widespread sharing of traditional knowledge including song lines, stories and proverbs.

### Looking Forward

From July 2013 to June 2014, ARDS will provide Yolŋu with further employment and training at the ARDS Nhulunbuy studio, to become multimedia staff working remotely and independently. It is intended that this will lead to Yolŋu staff implementing the ICS activities within their lands and distributing resources produced to the people living there.

## Gurraŋay Matha & Dhanu Djanu Language Projects

Funded by Australian Department of Regional Australia, Local Government, Arts and Sport

All Yolŋu staff and Yolŋu consultants employed by ARDS are multi-lingual, speaking a range of Yolŋu dialects, including both their own Clan Nation language (i.e. father's language) and their mother's Clan Nation language. During their adult life they have acquired a range of higher level academic language skills and knowledge / Gurraŋay Matha across a range of specialised subject areas such as land management practices, health care, traditional law and political affiliations, philosophy and teaching pedagogies. However the particular skill that each brings to their work at ARDS and which adds value / **miŋurr-gurruŋan** to all the community education work in which ARDS is involved, is their facility in oral English and their ability to reflect on their own life experiences in order to find parallels and discover new insights. It is the job of the ARDS language team to capture and document this knowledge through the creation of wordlists, dictionaries, translated texts and catalogued audio archives. This requires extensive linguistic knowledge and other technical skills by language workers, both Yolŋu and Balanda, collaborating together / **räl-manapanmirr**. The resources developed must be user-friendly for use by the general Yolŋu population and also of sufficient 'semantic depth' to allow access by ARDS educators in the further development of specialised education resources.

# Ava

With the completion of the Nhulunbuy studios, ARDS was looking for a person with qualifications in sound engineering to be the Studio Coordinator and Ava (Paul) Hayes fit the bill perfectly.

I grew up in Brisbane and then lived in and around Bellingen, Gumbayngiirr Country, Northern NSW for about 12 years before moving to the NT. I've always enjoyed music but came into making music and then recording when I was living in Bellingen.

During that time I achieved 3 main things; Finished my Bachelor of Arts majoring in Music Composition and Philosophy;

Joined, managed, recorded an album for and toured an electro ska band called Heart Tribe; Became Vice-President (ongoing) and event organiser of Local M.A.D.E. Incorporated. (Local Music Arts Dance Events and Mentoring and Development Experience)

This was and continues to be, a great organisation to learn skills and work in all ages event management and community development. I still assist from afar with posters, artist bookings, Skype, meetings etc.

My first introduction to the NT and to Arnhem Land as an adult (I had come for a holiday when I was 10 with my parents) was at the **Gurrwiliny** Eclipse Festival where I performed with Jekks & the Priests of Heka and helped where I was needed (mostly on sound of course). It was a great experience and I felt the power of the land and beauty of the people there.

The band leader of Jekks moved to Darwin and lined up a gig there, inviting me to perform again in February.

I came up as much for a holiday as to perform and it turned out that Gaia (ARDS Multimedia Manager) was also performing with us this time. Gaia told me about the position here in Nhulunbuy and I quickly applied.

I also managed to get a position with Nightcliff Seabreeze Festival, taking on the production manager role. This allowed me to stay and attend the job interview.

Now here in Nhulunbuy I hope to connect more with the land and with Yolŋu, create music and lend my technical and community skills to ARDS. My adventures into the homelands have thus far continued to inspire me, as has the beauty of the surrounding environment. Thank you for this opportunity!

# Talking with ARDS Staff



*"Now here in Nhulunbuy I hope to connect more with the land and the Yolŋu, create music and lend my technical and community skills to ARDS"*

# Multimedia and Radio

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



# Yolŋu Radio

Funded by Australian Department of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy

This year was a good year for Yolŋu Radio with all 21 transmitter sites up and running relatively smoothly throughout the year and the few homelands which experienced outages were promptly fixed when weather permitted road access. The transmission equipment at Winnellie has been running consistently and reliably throughout the year since the upgrade of new on-air machines, soundcard and RCS radio software were installed. This upgrade was funded by the Community Broadcasting Foundation equipment grant in 2012.



Efforts continue in working towards seeking ACMA approval for the Yolŋu Radio network upgrades to transition from the low powered open narrowcasting Band in Arnhem Land to a Temporary Community Broadcasting License for all sites as well as the shift to the FM Band in Darwin.

These upgrades will allow for much better coverage across the network. We were incredibly pleased to receive notification that the Aboriginal Benefit Account will fund these upgrades upon ACMA's approval of the new license.

Many new and exciting programs were produced throughout the year on a range of different topics. eg. Men's Health, Immunisation, Suicide Prevention, Child Safety and Climate Change to name but a few.

Throughout the year the Yolŋu Radio team has been working on ensuring a more diverse range of content, including stories from relevant events, current issues, and interviews with a range of people, new and diversified music and a selection of new education programs. Yolŋu Radio is now proudly broadcasting the National Indigenous Radio Service (NIRS) news three times per day and the Yolŋu Radio team are currently working towards producing our own regular news service in Yolŋu Matha.

With the assistance of Indigenous Community Volunteers, ARDS hosted volunteer, Joanna Lester a freelance journalist based in Sydney who works with SBS, ABC, News 24, BBC and others. Joanna worked with radio assistant, Sylvia Nulpinditj, mentoring her in news production and journalism.

The Yolŋu Radio team and the ARDS educators have been building skills in audio production and broadcasting throughout the year. We continually work towards improving the quality and efficiency of production to provide the best possible service for our audience. Two representatives of ARDS also attended IRCA's (Indigenous Remote Communications Assoc.) 2012 Remote Media Festival in Djarinjin, a remote community on the Dampier Peninsular in WA. This was an excellent opportunity to gain some new skills and knowledge relevant to the remote media sector in the workshops and forums, as well as a valuable networking opportunity with other remote media organisations and sector representatives.

This year has seen the completion of the new Nhulunbuy Studio. The studio has been fitted out with a substantial array of industry standard recording equipment and provides exciting opportunities for Nhulunbuy and the wider north-east Arnhem Land community to engage in audio and radio production, without having to travel to Darwin and beyond to access professional recording facilities. ARDS is very excited about increasing our engagement in north-east Arnhem Land. Once again we have a base in Nhulunbuy to better reach out and work alongside members of Yolŋu communities and homelands, for a long and prosperous future together.

## National Indigenous Jobs Package

Funded by the Australian Department of Regional Australia, Local Government, Arts & Sport

With the financial support of the Indigenous Employment Initiative (IEI) Yolŋu Radio staff member Sylvia Nulpinditj continues to become increasingly proficient in areas of media production while also developing her general computer skills. Sylvia has and continues to be a real asset to the ARDS team as she acquires a range of new abilities

Sylvia's skills in audio recording and editing include:

- sound theory
- radio presenting and interviewing
- pre-production research,
- script writing and translation for radio announcements,
- general computer skills



Through these new skills Sylvia now confidently approaches research on a range of topics eg. health, social, entertainment or others, in the lead up to recording and presenting the topic in a radio program or interview. Sylvia's new found abilities, contribute to her ongoing training towards project managing the production of educational content for Yolŋu Radio.

## Suicide Prevention Radio Programs

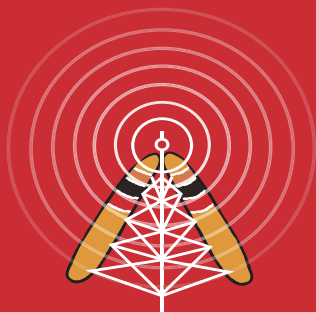
Sponsored by Medicare Local

Following ARDS' attendance and sponsorship of the Suicide Prevention Conference titled '**Djalkiri ga rom Yolŋu gung'a'yunamirri** - Back to the Roots' held in Nhulunbuy in May, 2012, a unique series of radio programs were produced. The programs featured a number of predominately Yolŋu elders speaking up strong about ways to work together to keep their communities safe from suicide. The issue of suicide severely effects many communities across the Top End. ARDS hopes that these programs featuring strong and positive messages from elders about keeping culture, law (rom), discipline (raypirri) and family at the forefront of life, as well as other words of wisdom, has a positive effect on families and individuals across the Yolŋu communities.

## Indigenous Community Volunteers at ARDS

In May 2013, ARDS hosted a volunteer from Indigenous Community Volunteers (ICV). Journalist, Joanna Lester (ABC News 24, SBS, BBC) spent two weeks mentoring Yolŋu Radio Assistant, Sylvia Nulpinditj in journalism and news production. This opportunity for Sylvia was aimed at increasing ARDS' capacity to produce local news delivered in Yolŋu Matha on Yolŋu Radio to provide a relevant news service to our listeners across the Yolŋu Radio network.





# Yolngu Radio

The voice of north-east Arnhem Land

Yolngu Radio is undergoing a network upgrade in 2013-14 and frequencies will be changing.

Locations	Old frequencies	New frequencies
Bälma	87.8FM	90.1FM
Bäniyala	88.0FM	89.7FM
Ban'thula	87.6FM	89.1FM
Darwin	1530AM	88.9FM
Dhuruputjpi	87.8FM	88.9FM
Donydji	88.0FM	90.3FM
Galiwin'ku	87.6FM	102.7FM
Gängan	87.6FM	89.3FM
Gapuwiyak	87.6FM	102.3FM
Garrthalala	87.6FM	89.9FM
Gurumuru	88.0FM	89.5FM
Mäpuru	88.0FM	89.5FM
Maṭamaṭa	87.6FM	89.7FM
Milingimbi	87.6FM	102.9FM
Mirrṇatja	87.6FM	89.7FM
Ḍaḍayun	88.0FM	88.9FM
Nhulunbuy	87.6FM	96.5FM
Palmerston	1530AM	88.9FM
Ramingining	102.9FM	102.5FM
Wandawuy	88.0FM	89.1FM
Yirrkala	87.6FM	102.1FM

For more information on the changes please call (08) 8984 4174 or freecall on 1800 899 769.



# Sample of New Audio Education Programs



## Silent Ear Disease

- Ear Disease
- Long Term Effects Of Ear Disease
- Helping People With Ear Disease
- Children Can Get Silent Ear Disease

## Ear Disease and our Immune System

- Introduction to Ear Disease and Our Immune System
- White Blood Cells and Ear Disease
- Ear Disease and How Our Immune System Learns
- Ear Disease, Immunity and Our Immune System in Infants
- Ear Disease and Vaccines
- Ways to Help Our Immune System and Stop Ear Disease

## The Immune System

- How We Protect Our Body and Why Our Lymph Nodes Swell
- Developing Immune System
- What is Immunisation?
- How Does Immunisation or Vaccine Strengthen Our Immune System
- Side Effects of Immunisation
- New Immunisation Allowance Policy

## Diabetes

- A Personal Experience of Diabetes

## Mens Health Check

- Introduction and History
- Checking Our Body
- Blood Tests
- Testing Our Blood and Urine

## Blood Pressure

- What is Pressure
- What is High Blood Pressure
- What Causes High Blood Pressure

## Suicide Prevention

- Building Strong Healthy Communities
- Keeping On The Right Path
- Raising Awareness

## Family Support

- Yolŋu Strong Fathers
- Balanda Ideas About Marriage Have Changed

## Child safety

- Prams (3 programs)
- Baby Walkers (2 programs)

## Traditional

- Raypirri Dhukurr (2 programs)
- Milmarra Rom

## Identification

- ID and Safety
- Our Identity
- The Constitution
- Our Rights and Responsibilities Under the Law
- Citizenship and Our Rights

## Centrelink

- Centrelink Ideology
- Dad & Partner Pay
- Disability Support Pension
- Centrelink Free Call - Indigenous Customers

## Unclaimed Money

- What is Unclaimed Money?
- How Do We Search the Unclaimed Money and Claim?

## Climate Change

- Oxygen and Carbon Dioxide
- The Balance of the Air
- Air Pollution
- Greenhouse Gas Effect

## Banking

- TCU ATM Machine Locations

# ARDS out and about

World Indigenous Network Conference  
Darwin NT



In May 2013 Darwin hosted a global conference titled 'The World Indigenous Network (WIN) Land and Sea Management Conference'. It featured delegates from more than 50 Nations around the globe, including a large number of representatives from Arnhem Land and the wider Northern Territory. ARDS was invited to cover the conference along side the National Indigenous Radio Service (NIRS), the WIN Media team and a number of international journalists. ARDS had a team of 7 Yolŋu Radio representatives who conducted interviews with many local and international delegates in both English and Yolŋu Matha to share land and sea management practices and knowledge with listeners across the Yolŋu Radio and NIRS radio networks.



# Gurrwiliny Eclipse Festival

Gurrwiliny NT



Held above Gurrwiliny (The Arafura Swamp) near Ramingining, 'The Gurrwiliny Eclipse Festival' celebrated the total solar eclipse that travelled across Arnhem Land and Far North Queensland on November 14th. The festival celebrated the significance of the total eclipse to the Yolngu clans of Gurrwiliny with the coming together of Sun and Moon, of Dhuwa and Yirritja, of Yolngu and Balanda.

Two ARDS representatives with ARDS support were involved in the production of the festival. That support included producing eye safety messages for radio to encourage safe eclipse viewing across Arnhem Land. ARDS educator Jane Chalmers attended the festival as part of her induction, meeting and learning from Yolngu attending the festival as well as volunteering on the festival's first aid team, with her skills as a paramedic. This unique festival was an excellent example of true cross cultural celebration as all attendees, Balanda and Yolngu learnt and participated together in bungul ceremonies, cultural workshops and the awe-inspiring Eclipse Ceremony.

# National Remote Indigenous Media Festival

Djarindjin and Lombadina WA



In October 2012, Gaia Osborne and Sylvia Nulpinditj attended IRCA's Remote Indigenous Media Festival in the community of Djarindjin on the Dampier Penninsular in WA. The festival included industry forums and professional development workshops. Gaia and Sylvia represented ARDS, learnt a range of new skills in the media workshops and forums and developed some important networks in the industry.



# National Indigenous Music Awards 2012

Darwin NT



The National Indigenous Music Awards (NIMAs) are one of the biggest nights on the Indigenous music calendar each year. In August 2012, three members of the Yolŋu Radio team attended to capture and share the essence of the night with listeners across the Yolŋu Radio network. A number of inspiring interviews were conducted with the stars of the night including artists from Arnhem Land and around the nation.



# 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 education and capacity building work in 2012-13.

Australian Government Department of Regional Australia, Local Government, Arts and Sport - Office for the Arts  
[www.arts.gov.au](http://www.arts.gov.au)

Australian Government Department of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy  
[www.dbcde.gov.au](http://www.dbcde.gov.au)

Australian Government Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs  
[www.fahcsia.gov.au](http://www.fahcsia.gov.au)

Northern Territory Department of Housing, Local Government and Regional Services  
[www.dhlgrs.nt.gov.au](http://www.dhlgrs.nt.gov.au)

Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing  
[www.health.gov.au](http://www.health.gov.au)

Northern Territory Department of Children and Families  
[www.childrenandfamilies.nt.gov.au](http://www.childrenandfamilies.nt.gov.au)

I&G Pty Ltd (an Australian Government Initiative)  
[www.iandg.com.au](http://www.iandg.com.au)

Northern Territory Department of Business  
[www.dob.nt.gov.au](http://www.dob.nt.gov.au)

Motivation Australia  
[www.motivation.org.au](http://www.motivation.org.au)





**Australian Government**

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**Department of Broadband,  
Communications and the Digital Economy**

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**Indigenous Languages Support**



**Australian Government**

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**Indigenous Culture Support**



**Australian Government**

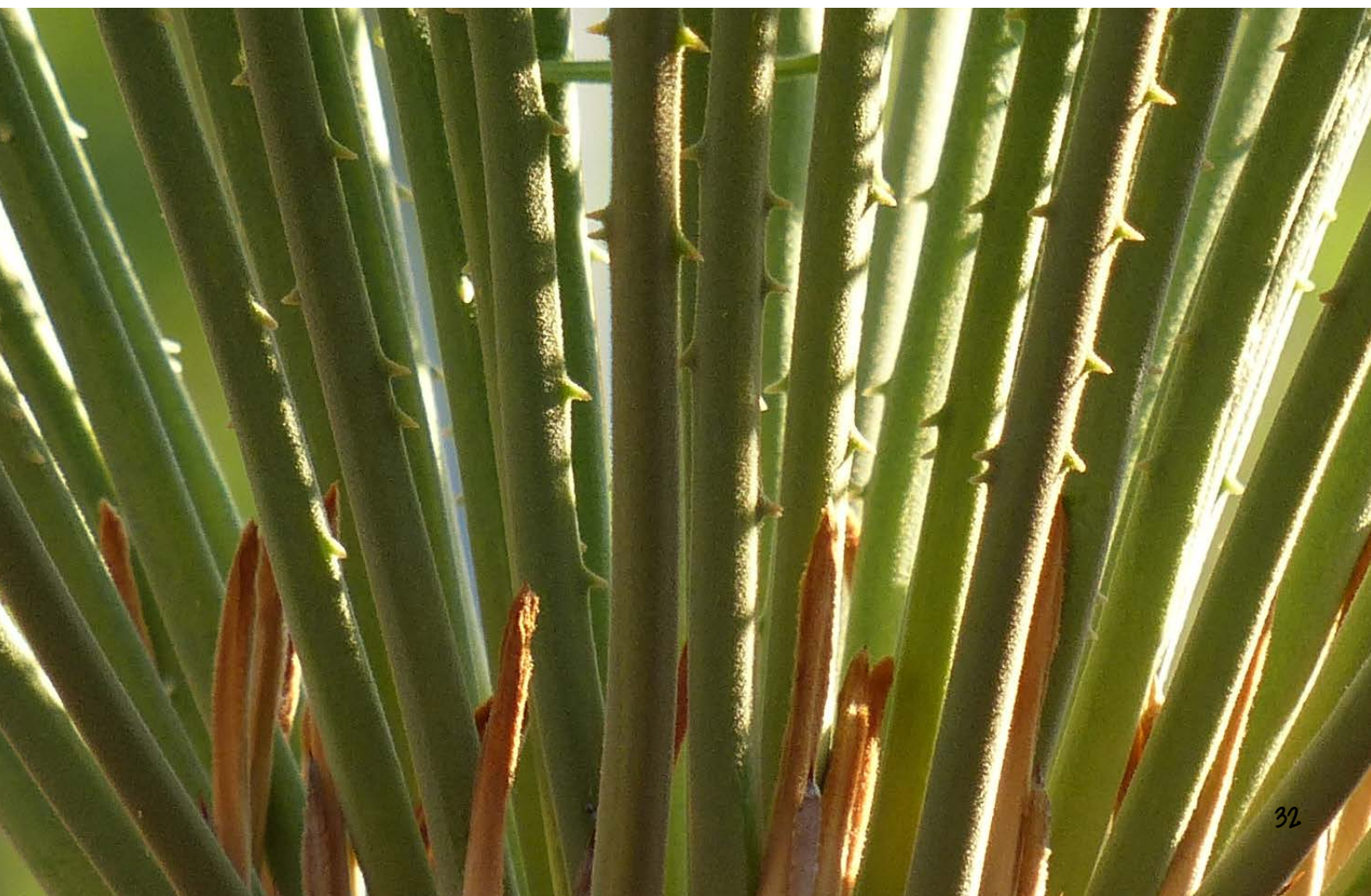
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**Department of Families, Housing,  
Community Services and Indigenous Affairs**



# Financial Statements

Income	2013 \$	2012 \$
Revenue	1,609,679	2,577,934
Expenditure		
Employee benefits expense	1,026,764	983,755
Depreciation and amortisation expenses	152,022	58,997
Advertising	1,089	420
Nhulunbuy property costs	48,537	1,022,862
Computer expenses	36,543	38,995
Insurance	1,100	4,414
Printing and stationery	2,581	4,839
Telephone	18,730	18,269
Transmitter expenses	37,427	80,084
Travel expenses	101,870	80,229
Transfer of building costs to assets register	-	(1,562,097)
Other expenses	86,356	159,218
Total Expenses	1,513,019	889,985
Profit/(loss)	96,660	1,687,949



# Financial Statements (cont.)

Balance Sheet	2013 \$	2012 \$
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	431,933	320,803
Trade and other receivables	15,736	19,415
Inventories	28,497	30,343
Financial assets	1,372,347	1,167,494
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<b>1,848,513</b>	<b>1,538,055</b>
<b>NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Property, plant and equipment	1,523,284	1,579,586
<b>TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<b>1,523,284</b>	<b>1,579,586</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>3,371,797</b>	<b>3,117,642</b>
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		
Trade and other payables	134,602	176,666
Provisions	124,470	152,337
Other	308,572	55,415
<b>TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>	<b>567,644</b>	<b>384,418</b>
<b>NON-CURRENT LIABILITES</b>		
Provisions	35,400	61,130
<b>TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITES</b>	<b>35,400</b>	<b>61,130</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>603,044</b>	<b>445,548</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<b>2,768,753</b>	<b>2,672,093</b>
<b>MEMBERS' FUNDS</b>		
Retained profits	2,768,753	2,672,093
<b>TOTAL MEMBERS' FUNDS</b>	<b>2,768,753</b>	<b>2,672,093</b>



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Thank you to all staff for their assistance

