



LAYNHAPUY HOMELANDS ABORIGINAL CORPORATION

NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2025

Welcome to the 2nd edition of the Yirralka Newsletter. We are in the process of expanding the newsletter it to talk about all the amazing work that Laynhapuy Homelands Aboriginal Corporation does. This edition includes some stories from the broader organisation and over the coming editions more program areas will share stories about the diverse work we all do.



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

It has been a mixed start to 2025. We have experienced significant sadness with the loss of lives but celebrated some significant wins for Laynha. Our Gangan HHIP project is now entering the individual house construction phase and winning grants over \$2M for smaller homeland communities, including stores, solar hot water systems and ceremonial hut.

At a board level, we are working hard to advocate for the homelands, working with NLC and meeting Ministers. With a looming election, the risk of entering "caretaker" mode is imminent and so the executive team have been working with a sense of urgency to submit over \$30M in new grants and source philanthropic partnerships.

This hive of activity will ensure continuity of revenue and activity for Laynha during an election and the post-election honeymoon period. We are waiting to see who wins the federal seat and this will enable Laynha to build a more strategic plan for 2026 onward.



Laynha will be working on it's brand this year, by amplifying itself, Laynha will be in a better position to receive funds, look at partnerships and migrate towards more entrepreneurial activities. You may have already noticed this with Laynha hosting International Womens Day and seeing myself and Glenda Abraham (CEO) as speakers at the upcoming 5th National Indigenous Empowerment Summit.

I co-hosted a Garrthalala planning day with Bulpunu which covered all areas of the community needs and was attended by Laynha business units and guests from Laynha school and NEAL. This is an idea that I would like to see happen across all homelands.



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR CONTINUED

I had the pleasure of joining the executive team at their Strategic Planning Offsite. The executives unpacked the vision, values and cultural alignments as well as designing business continuity plans, risk frameworks and performance measures.

Finally, the board has approved a financial stress test to better understand the money story, how we are spending money, how we invest money and building resilience for Laynha post mine closure.

Personally, I am enjoying my new role as a grandmother and fully recovered from my early year health scares. Barayuwa continues to act as the Vice Chair and active participant in homeland meetings. He has also been unwell but getting the respite and care he needs for his full recovery.

Despite the difficult start, I believe 2025 will hold great things for Laynha.

Sincerely

Yananymul Mununggurr



CEO UPDATE/GENERAL NEWS

Laynha continues to focus on homeland deliverables with the re-instatement of the Money Management program and forging new relationships with Royal Flying Doctors, entering formal MOUs with NEAL, CDU, Anglicare and Djalkiripuyngu Aboriginal Corporation.

The primary health team have increased their outreach to 5 days per week and utilising more digital means, such as video conference, to connect with Health Workers in the homelands. We have seen nearly 17 Yolngu employees complete their Cert III in Youth Services and 23 Youth attended the Wandawuy "No Violence" campaign supported the SEWB team in early January.

Our CDP participants in Gangan attained their White Card and Power Tools training in readiness for work in their homeland housing project.

You will see several Laynha assets going up for auction soon, stay tuned, you may like to purchase one of our cars.

We have also been working on cultural engagement, including some fun employee activities such as the Valentines Day competition, International Women's Day and sharing information on cultural celebrations such as Chinese New Year.



Youth Program participants with Robyn Stockton

We are currently in process of hiring a new Human Resource Manager who will be based in Yirrkala.

A new Audit and Risk Committee has been established to support the board with managing and understanding its financial position, internal controls, compliance, and risks for Laynha. The committee members are Naypirri Billy Gumana, Araluen Maymuru, and Graham Symons. The committee will meet immediately before each broader board meeting to review and provide assurance on matters relating to the board, the committee has no formal delegation of voting for outcomes.



Gangan CDP training for White Card



Planting Jack fruit and Moringa trees as part of community garden concept by the Barrkira family

CEO UPDATE/GENERAL NEWS CONTINUED

The bilingual committee was resolved in February. This committee is part of the Laynha Enterprise Agreement and will assess employee eligibility in line with the bilingual allowance. The committee members are Yananymul Mununggurr and Araluen Maymuru. Yinimala Gumana has been nominated as delegate if either committee member is unable to attend. I encourage you to speak with your manager or the listed committee members on the process of application and consideration for the committee. We are aiming to host the full bilingual committee meeting in Mid-April.

The next Laynha Board Meeting will be held on the 15th and 16th May in the NIAA building in Nhulunbuy.

It's always great to remind staff of the people that work tirelessly behind the scenes making sure we receive our fortnightly pays, that our accounts are in order, the grants are acquitted, and our bills are paid. If you don't know, there is a small, yet powerful team of people based in Darwin who make this happen daily. They have just expanded the team with two new recruits. In addition, the most known faces from our finance team are Aaron and Harpreet located in our Yirrkala office.



Left to right: Alex, Amod, Alisha, Arcnyd (Arc), Kate and Harpreet...noticeably missing is camera shy Aaron

Internally, we are introducing Laynha Value Awards. This is an opportunity for staff and external stakeholders to nominate great employees that are living our vision and values. The awards will be decided by the executive team and the Chair and developed twice a year as part of the service awards. To help us decide on worthy winners, please send an email to values@laynhapuy.com.au with the following information:



Employee Name

What they did that was so great! A short description of what you observed, their behaviour.

What value it represented, below are our current values and a definition to help you decide:

Safety: making people around them feel culturally, physically, and emotionally OK. Following policies and process. Identifying a risk, reporting a hazard, being proactive. Speaking up and providing feedback.

Choice: being fair in their opinion and considering both sides of a story. Taking the time to educate other so they can make better decisions for themselves. Providing a voice on the organisation's direction, steering strategy.

Collaboration: working with other departments and other external service providers. Having a meeting agenda and being prepared to input to maximise joint outcomes. Not working in silo. Helping everyone be energised and engaged at the office.

Trustworthiness: doing what you say you do. Not letting your peers and others down by not turning up when expected or missing a deadline. Taking ownership of your actions. Keeping confidential information.

Empowerment: helping other be themselves at work by not judging. Helping people find the answer so they can learn be self-sufficient. Enabling people to get "stuff done" rather than blocking.



A SPOTLIGHT ON OUR NEWEST DIRECTOR

ARALUEN MAYMURU

My background and career

I was born in Nhulunbuy and raised in several different homelands before settling in at Barraratjipi and Djarrakpi.

Education is important to me and my family, I attended a few schools including Nhulunbuy Primary, Yirrkala, Katherine school of the Air and Port Macquarie High School which led me to Sydney Dance School.

When I returned to Yirrkala I started my career in the Dhanbul community as a CDEP participant for the womens centre. Then changed to direction for more creativity as a Print Artist at Buku Larrnggay before moving into the space of Mulka.

I spent 12 years working in Territory Families as a Remote Family Support Worker and then moved back to Yirrkala, working as a School Liaison Officer. I transitioned from working with young people to older, taking a position with Laynhapuy Aged Care as a Support Worker. Ultimately, I wanted to have a role that enabled me to return to my homeland, protect my homeland and ensure the future of my homelands so I became a Yirrkala Ranger.

Why did I become a Director?

I really needed a helping hand and perhaps a push to self-nominate to become a director. Once I considered it, I realised I was enthusiastic about making a difference and the role of director could do that. I wanted to use my life skills, education, and experience to be a better leader, a role model to other women and learn new skills. I also thought it was important to have a new voice on the board, a different perspective, speak up and advocate for our families in the homeland.

What does being a female leader mean to you?

It's about finding your squad. It's about learning you are the driver of you. It requires self-care and being authentic. Every leader (regardless of gender) needs to remain open to new ideas and opinions, and to be honest. My personal experiences make me human and balancing culture with gender at a board or as a leader is about finding that balance. Respecting myself, elders and all people is an important role of a leader, we are just trying to make sense of and make our way in a messy world.

What do I do in my spare time?

I love hunting and fishing, gardening and just being in my homeland.



SEA COUNTRY PROGRAM

February was full of highlights for the Sea Country Program. We conducted joint compliance patrols with NT Fisheries in timing with the EARE Barra Competition.

Three Fisheries officers along with Yirralka Rangers Inspectors conducted compliance patrols in the Laynhapuy IPA focusing on Cato River and Peter John River in Arnhem Bay along with Dholuwuy and Myaoola Bay in the Blue Mud Bay successfully and with great response from recreational anglers.

After the compliance patrols, the Yirralka Rangers rolled straight into training for their Coxswains Grade 2 Near Coastal qualifications delivered by RTO INLOC. The Rangers completed elements of shipboard safety, survival at sea simulations in the Nhulunbuy Town Pool, ship's husbandry, rope work, man overboard procedures and some good time at the helm as part of the practical components of the course.



Sea Country uniforms finally arrived, and they look great! All thanks to Jodie for designing and ordering the uniforms. So, keep an eye for the fresh new threads in blue.



WEED MANAGEMENT

Yirralka staff have been focussing heavily on weed control work during late February and March. Jake and Peter provided staff with training in how to use our 3 new Quik Spray units and then got quickly into spraying work. The spray units were funded through our fire program revenue.

Weather has been perfect but hot for spraying with visits to Gapuwiyak, Burrum, Gāngan, Bāniyala, Buymarr, Garrthalala, Bukudal and Gurkawuy so far this season. We also undertook a big weed mapping activity so we know where to focus our efforts.

In February the Gamba Grass eradication team from the NLC visited us and shared knowledge on identifying the grass and support they can offer Yirralka. Gamba is a very tall grass that once established changes the way fire burns across Country – burning up to 2 times a year and making fires hotter. We are lucky to only find 6 Gamba plants in the Laynha IPA this year. We will continue to work with the Gamba Grass eradication team to monitor Gamba Grass in our region.

NEW RAZORBACKS IN ACTION

Yirralka's 3 new Razorback ride on slashers have been in action across the homelands over the last 2 months. From cutting grass around houses, to making fire breaks and clearing vegetation from airstrips the new slashers are very popular. These were purchased using our fire program revenue.



JAMES OUR JAWUN SECONDEE

In March James Hall joined Yirralka for a 5 week secondment from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. He is working on a project that will help us plan out Ranger program infrastructure in the homelands and set a direction for upgrades over the coming 10 years. He has been talking with a lot of staff, partners and leaders about their visions about what infrastructure we need. The Plan will be tabled to the Laynha Board and Ward Mala for their feedback.

SAVANNAH FIRE FORUM

In February, a facilitator and four of our junior Rangers travelled to Darwin to attend the 2025 Savannah fire forum at the Darwin Convention Centre. Yoitjing Burarrwaja, Vernon Wunungmurra, Mikayla Mununggurr and Mirratjpi Marika participated in a smoking ceremony, attended various presentations from groups from the Kimberley, Cape York and Arnhem Land as well as the Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) and North Australia Fire Information (NAFI). We also went on a field trip to see the new fire drone in action and to see the impacts of Gamba Grass on fire.

Some interesting things we learnt were the weather predictions for the year that is coming and the last couple of years. There is a big chance that 2025 wet season will be a big one. We also learnt that NAFI have a new program that will let us visualise the fire scars when we open the NAFI app. This will allow us to better respond to fire in the Laynhapuy IPA.

On the last day the Rangers participated in different workshops discussing successes and challenges we face as ranger groups in managing fire and how we can improve. The young rangers learned about the effort that goes into the burning season and saw firsthand how proud other groups are of the great work they deliver.



We are excited to train up and support our junior Rangers to be part of our 2025 fire program and to seeing them grow into amazing rangers!

Leading into the coming months our fire program project lead will travel with Lanydjana Mununggurr around to homelands to conduct the 2025 fire consultations for the up and coming fire season.





WARD MALA MEETING 2025



Planning is underway for our 2025 Ward Mala meeting. This year we are organising with the Laynhapuy Homelands School and Laynha Youth Program to support a youth forum. It will bring together senior school students and other young people in Homelands to talk about their thoughts, worries and aspirations for Homelands and caring for Country. They will be able to share these back with the Ward Mala and also get a valuable opportunity to listen to Homeland leaders. The meeting will take place from the 3rd to the 5th of June.

LAYNHAPUY IPA BOUNDARY CHANGES

In December 2024 Laynhapuy finished consultation on our Stage 2 IPA Boundary expansion. This has been a big project starting in late 2022 led strongly by Yinimala and Lachy. Big thanks to Frances Morphy for doing the independent consultation of 215 Traditional Owners and Tomasso Piva from the NLC for his support for this process. We travelled to Gapuwiyak, Galiwinku, Groote, Numbulwar, Ramingining and throughout the Laynha homelands.

Unfortunately in December Dhimurru advised that it no longer supported our long standing shared management area (where the Dhimurru IPA and the Stage 2 IPA boundaries overlap). This shared area has been in place since 2016 and supported by 2 Memoranda of Understanding. This area has been removed from our new IPA Boundary.

We are anticipating the Australian Government to dedicate the new boundary in the coming months.



HEALTH EDUCATION SESSION

On Friday, February 28th, the bush product team were invited to run an educational session for the LHAC health team on "Yolngu Medicine for Healthy Skin: Rheumatic Heart Disease Prevention."

The session took place at the bush products shop and was attended by ten Laynha health staff members. The objective of the training was to improve understanding of the plants that can be used to treat various skin conditions. This knowledge empowers staff to connect with clients and patients from the homelands, as well as to recognise the abundance of Yolngu medicines available.

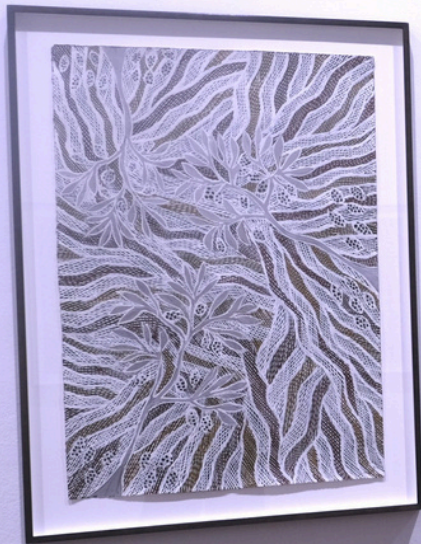
We were thrilled to be invited to deliver this session and hope that everyone found it valuable. It provided an excellent opportunity to encourage broader thinking about integrating more Yolngu healing practices into homeland health services. Engaging conversations emerged throughout the session, and we hope this marks the beginning of many future collaborations of this kind.

DRIVING LESSONS

In February and March, we supported four of our dedicated Miyalk staff in taking driving lessons as they worked towards obtaining their driver's licenses.

Last Thursday Mikayla Mununggurr successfully earned her provisional license, showcasing her hard work and determination. We are proud of her achievement and the progress our team is making towards becoming safer and more confident drivers.





BUSH PRODUCTS SYDNEY TRIP AND EXCITING NEW COLLABORATION – AUSTRALIAN GALLERY OF NSW



Our attendance at the exhibition was encouraged by Buku-Larrnggay to connect with galleries for product stocking and potential workshop collaborations related to Yalmakany's art and ranger work.

During our time in Sydney, we met with the Art Gallery of New South Wales to discuss the upcoming "Yolngu Power" exhibition in June, which will showcase Yolngu artists. We introduced our program and products to the Public Programs and Gallery Shop teams and explored hosting bush medicine workshops during the exhibition. The teams are enthusiastic about this collaboration, and we are awaiting further discussions.

From January 29th to February 3rd, some members of our team had the opportunity to accompany Yalmakany Marawili to Sydney for her first solo art exhibition, representing Buku-Larrnggay Art Centre.

Yalmakany has worked as a miyalk ranger and a cultural advisor for Yirralka Rangers for many years. Her artwork illustrates stories of bush medicine and plants, reflecting her extensive ecological knowledge.

She played a crucial role in developing the bush product program and continues to work with us as a senior mentor and advisor.





LEARNING ON COUNTRY

The Learning on Country team has been out and about with the T-8 classes, helping them learn about this term's focus, miny'tji. For ŋapaki, miny'tji translates to colour or painting, but for Yolŋu, it has a much deeper meaning.

We've supported the students and their teachers in harvesting ŋuwayak (stringybark) for an upcoming activity in which the students will paint their wanjarr (totem) on the finished ŋuwayak.

It's been amazing to watch strong Yolŋu leaders and the Yirralka Rangers from each community lead this activity.



www.laynhapuy.com.au



LAYNHAPUY HOMELANDS ABORIGINAL CORPORATION

