

LAYNHAPUY HOMELANDS ABORIGINAL CORPORATION

Newsletter - June 2025

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

It has been a busy few months since my last update. In April, together with some of the Laynha staff, attended the Aboriginal Housing NT – Service Provider Forum. We had the opportunity to give a presentation on Laynhapuy's work in the region. It was a good opportunity to hear from and talk to others from the Homeland Services sector.

The Hon Minister Steve Edgington attended and spoke to attendees, and we continue to seek an opportunity to work closely with the Government to improve housing delivery in the region.

Key themes from the forum:

- Shared challenges for service delivery include insecure funding, employment pathways, cost of doing works.
- Calls for strategic goal settings as a sector
- Strong appetite for new operational ideas to increase efficiency and outcomes.

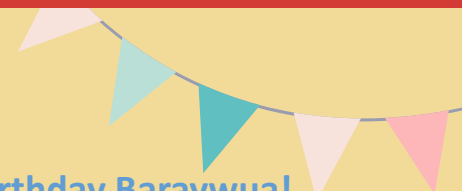


Due to weather over April the homelands have been struggling with access. It was the wettest April on record and this is what made it hard to deliver Laynha's essential services.

Thanks to CEO and staff who worked hard to make arrangements for supplies to homelands. There is a need to provide a further plan ahead as weather is unpredictable and the roads have not been good this year.



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR CONTINUED



Happy Birthday Baraywua!

In May we held a surprise birthday celebration for one of our Board members - Barayuwa Mununggurr's. We were able to enjoy some cake with the Laynha Executive Team and staff, invited guests and other residents in the beautiful grounds of the Yutjuwala Djiwarr Flexible Aged Care.



Sincerely
Yananymul Mununggurr

I also want to thank the Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF) team who have been a key support to us, prioritising essential fuel and food delivery. [You can read MAF's story on their website.](#) Our story and challenges were highlighted by the NT News and ABC and the news made it all the way to the United Kingdom. It is good to see our story highlighted around the world and people can see the challenges we face.

We have seen significant fighting in Yirrkala which has resulted in some families feeling unsafe, physical and emotional wellbeing being impacted and property damage. We need to focus on reducing violence and create a peaceful place for everyone.

Sadly, our initiative of "BBQ in the Beat", which was focused on uniting the community, was impacted due to the escalating events in Yirrkala. We are aiming to re-host the event with NT Police and all community members as soon as practical.

In addition to Yirrkala collaboration with NT Police, Laynha was awarded a grant to help fund a community event focused on the role of men as fathers and husbands and living in a bi-cultural world. Work with SEWB and other community leaders, elders and board will commence soon to address family violence and utilise the grant.

CEO UPDATE / GENERAL NEWS

The Laynha Board Meeting was held on 15th and 16th May in Nhulunbuy. We spent time reviewing outcomes of the Board Skills Self-Assessment and also underwent Financial Management Training, in partnership with our Auditors – PKF Merit. The Audit and Risk Committee met for the first time and thanks to Araluen Maymuru for Chairing the meeting.

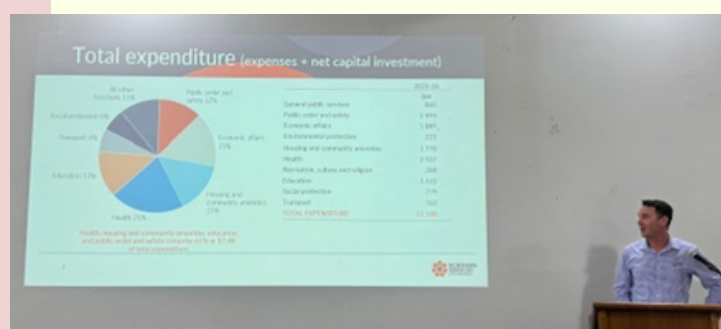
We continue to forge new partnerships that will help support our homelands, entering into formal MOU's with WUNA, Housing for Homelands, and Kurdiji Aboriginal Corporation.

The Board also approved engaging Jordy Bowman to assist in the consultation of a new Laynha 5-year strategic plan. Jordy and her team will commence this work later in 2025, visit homelands for consultation and seek feedback from multiple stakeholders.

I encourage you to participate in Board decisions by speaking with your Ward representatives. We often have guests and observers attend meetings, with consent of Chair, we welcome fresh voices to the table to participate in the homelands future.

Laynha continues its focus on homeland deliverables and the challenges of the rain in April did not stop our services delivery. My thanks go to the Laynha team for their coordinated emergency response once it became apparent the Central Arnhem Road was impassable, as well as the local businesses who answered our calls for assistance, particularly MAF, Baku Arts, NT News, ABC, GEMCO, Nautilus, NT Police, Anindilyakwa, and MIWATJ. The Northern Territory Government provided a \$212,600 emergency relief grant which was fully expensed over three weeks on flights, food, health care, water and fuel, to assist with the emergency response, which was very challenging, and not within the remit of our usual services.

Laynha has received significant grants over the past few months and created over 30 new roles across the Gove Peninsula, including homelands.



CEO UPDATE / GENERAL NEWS

I've been attending a number of networking and forums, AHNT Conference, Business at Sunset, NTG Treasury, and delivered a virtual presentation on WISE principles at the 5th National Indigenous Empowerment Summit. We also had a stand and panel session at Impact North in May. The idea is to amplifying Laynha in the world, with the aim to create awareness:

- Attract investors and funding partners
- Tell the great stories of work you and our members do
- Educate on the size and scope of the organisation
- Stay informed to help in the strategic and operational decisions
- Build supports because we can't do this alone



The remainder of the calendar year will be targeting grants to create more employment, and education as well support economic development (particularly as an extension to services offered at the Café).

The organisation has been undergoing constant review and change. You may have seen new faces and roles created across the organisation.

As Laynha evolves, the organisation will need to remain agile and pivot to meet the new demands of a modern era and balance the past.

LAYNHA RULE BOOK



Laynha has now received confirmation of its updated Rule Book. The changes were agreed at the 2024 AGM.

A copy of the new rule book will soon be published on the Laynha website. In the meantime, a copy can be provided at the Laynhapuy offices or on the ORIC Register.

Become a Member of Laynhapuy.

Laynha currently has over 640 members. If you are over 18 and a Yolngu person who is recognised as having a custodianship or residency right in the Laynhapuy homeland communities, in accordance with Yolngu tradition, you may be eligible to become a member.

Applications forms are available at the Laynha office. The application form is in the Rule Book.



NOMINATIONS

LAYNHA VALUES AWARDS

Laynha Values Award



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, nominate via the QR code or 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.*

LAYNHA VALUES

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.*



PEOPLE SPOTLIGHT: HR MANAGER DEBBIE LITCHFIELD

What is your background and career:

I am originally from Melbourne and raised in the regional Victorian towns of Shepparton and Wodonga, I've dedicated nearly 20 years to the Victorian Government, holding senior roles in business management and human resources. My later career began in the Victorian Prison System, where I worked for 14 years overseeing operational and HR functions. I later contributed to the Victorian Inspectorate—supporting oversight agencies such as IBAC, the Ombudsman, and the Chief Examiner—and then moved into a business management role at the Environmental Protection Authority.

In 2022, I relocated to Darwin and became the Chief People Officer at Larrakia Nation Aboriginal Corporation, where I led HR strategy within a culturally rich and community-focused organisation. I now continue my work at Layna, bringing a deep commitment to people-focused leadership, positive workplace culture, and organisational growth.

Outside of work, I've been married to my husband Jack for 47 years, and we're proud parents of three adult children. Our sons, Scott and Bryce, live in Victoria with their families, while our daughter Ashton, a teacher in the remote community of Kalkarindji since 2018, lives there with her partner and their six-month-old baby Jamari. These strong regional and remote connections continue to shape my values and outlook.

Do you follow a sporting group?

Outside of my professional life, I come from a very sporting and competitive family. I played both netball and basketball and maintained my passion by coaching representative teams in both sports over many years. Coaching at junior and senior levels not only sharpened my leadership skills but also taught me invaluable lessons in communication and conflict resolution, particularly in navigating the challenges of “ugly parent syndrome.” And if you ever want to talk footy, I'm always up for a chat. I'm a passionate, lifelong supporter of the Melbourne Football Club and have been a proud member for nearly 30 years. I try to get to as many games as I can each year to cheer on my beloved Dees.



WELCOME

TO THE TEAM

CAREERS @ LAYNHA

Interested in a career at Laynha?

Come and join the team in supporting the Yolngu people across 30 remote homelands in North-East Arnhem Land



Laynha has the following roles available via direct application to recruitment@laynhapuy.com.au

- Cafe Assistants x 2 (Casual) based at Airport cafe
- Homelands Support Hub Coordinator (Nhulunbuy based)
- Hub Support Officer - Part-time 30 hours per fortnight (Nhulunbuy based)
- Driver/Hub Assistant Officer - Part-time 50 hours per fortnight (Identified Yolngu position - Nhulunbuy based)
- Financial Wellness Support Officers x 3 - Part-time 40 hours fortnight (Nhulunbuy based)
- Financial capability Assistance Workers x 2 - Part-time 60 hours per fortnight (Identified Yolngu positions - based in Nhulunbuy & Homelands)
- Gardening/Labourers x 6 - Part-time 36 hours per fortnight (based in various Homelands)
- Business Support Officer - Part-time 45.6 hours per fortnight (Yirrkala based)

UPCOMING KEY DATES

Keeping you up to date with key events and activities across Laynhapuy!

June	<p>Organisation: AIMS Council Stakeholder Function Social Enterprise Job Summit</p> <p>Community Engagement: Garrthalala Bush Uni – Commencement of Term 1 June 2025 Garrthalala Bush Uni - Commencement of Infrastructure June 2025 Barunga Festival Interschool Athletics Carnival</p> <p>Rangers: Ward Mala, Garrthalala 17 – 19 June</p> <p>Health: Helen Summer Optometry Homeland Visit (23/06/2025 – 27/06/2025) Podiatrist Homeland Visit (23/06/2025 – 27/06/2025)</p>
July	<p>NAIDOC leave All Staff (11 July)</p>
August	<p>Organisation: Garma (1/08/2025 - 4/08/2025) JAMWUN Executive Panel Arnhem Aboriginal Business Council - Management Committee Meeting</p> <p>Health: Teleotology Homeland Visit (11/08/2025 – 15/08/2025) 1 Day 4WD Refresher Driving Course (11/08/2025) 2 Day 4WD Driving Course (12/08/2025-13/08/2025) 1 Day 4WD Refresher Driving Course (23/08/2025) 1 Day 4WD Refresher Driving Course (24/08/2025) 2 Day 4WD Driving Course (25/08/2025-26/08/2025)</p>
September	<p>Organisation: 50TH Homelands Celebration</p> <p>Health: Royal Flying Doctor Service Dental Service Yilpara</p>
October	<p>Organisation: Audit and Risk Committee (10/10/2025) General Board Meeting (13/10/2025 - 14/10/2025)</p> <p>Health: Dr Tracey Westerman Training Yirrkala (27/10/2025 – 30/10/2025)</p>

Laynhapuy Operations update

As a result of ongoing organisational reviews, there has been a change in how homelands projects are managed, and this will see a change to an outsourced model for part of the Homeland Service team.

Recognising Ryan and Rohana

This change does mean Ryan Moroney and Rohana Fullerton left the organisation in late May 2025, and we take this opportunity to thank them for their dedicated work to Laynha and the homelands. They are well respected within the communities they served and within the organisation. I'd like to recognise their efforts in working on new initiatives for homelands, their professionalism, and leading Yolngu training/ employment for the GanGan project.



Mitch Virgin of MV Project Management has been appointed to support the Homelands Services projects.

Mitch has lived in Gove, worked in a variety of remote homelands, and connections within the local, state, and national building sector. Mitch also has connections into Laynha homelands and will have the support of the Community Engagement Manager to engage in local consultations.

We welcome Mitch to the Organisation and with his support we will continue to deliver our extensive infrastructure program to the region.





Despite all the rain, the Laynha Health team has been working to advance homeland health services over the last few months with the support of the Royal Flying Doctors Service and Care Flight

Bringing Oral Health Care to Homelands

Working with RFDS we coordinated dental visits in Gangan. Patients were flown to Gangan from Wandawuy, Gurumuru, Dhalinybuy and Garrthalala.

With a focus on Rheumatic Heart Disease (RHD) patients we aim to deliver Dental Services in the Homelands for the Homelands residents.

The next RFDS visit will be in Baniyala in September 2025.





CARE FLIGHT TRAINING FOR HOMELANDS

Care Flight Remote Trauma Training Course was held in Baniyala on the 03/06/2025. The course was delivered to our Primary Health Care team and residents of Baniyala.

When you live and work hundreds of kilometres from the nearest hospital, knowing what to do in an emergency and having trained and skilled people, can make all the difference in saving a life.

The Remote Trauma Course focuses on typical trauma scenarios experienced in the Territory.

Thanks Care Flight for this valuable training delivered in an inclusive way.

Community Engagement Update

Creating on country training and jobs

The Rjed program will kick off its first round of jobs on 1st July and will create over 20 positions on Homelands. Positions will be up to 30 hours per week and be available to people who are aged 15-24 years of age, who are registered with CDP.

Other age groups will be added to the program later in the year.

Job opportunities include labourers for Building and Construction, Ranger work and Gardening Maintenance crew.



This is a great opportunity for Homelands residents to be offered jobs on country and to be able to receive on the job training.

Laynha Youth Program

Laynha's Youth Services funding through NIAA requires all our youth workers to be enrolled in or completed a Certificate II level training.

A number of graduates recently complete a Certificate II Community Services and they had a great time learning!

The program was run with the support of CDU and ALPA, you can read about our graduates latest training journey on our website.

If you see the graduates in the homelands congratulate them on finishing their studies!

Graduation for CDU graduates will be on 6 November.

Wilirriya Aaron Burarrwanga
Bangulja Janelle Maymuru
Guwatjilil Sarah Wunungmurra
Dhamara Sallyanne Barabara
Marko Garmu
Guruwuy Cilla Ganambarr

Write some words about the training... was it good? Not good? Manymak? Yatj? Tell me!
...dhawu
29 responses

learning new lifestyle
i like cdu because i need
mandatory reporting
because it's important
rachel is the best
manymak
learn new skills
chicken chips
i love it
really to heart
givani rocks
learning new things
interesting
award winning actresses
diversity is best
community development
it was manymak
learning new words
team work
it's funny
court djama

Bush Uni Restarts

After much rain the Dry season is finally here and the Central Arnhem Highway has reopened.

The Gathalala Bush Uni in conjunction with Macquarie University and ANU is swinging into action in its temporary space for the last time as building the new campus is commencing this month too.

A lot of groundwork by the team in establishing our classroom community ready for study to commence on Tuesday 10th June.



Yirralka Rangers Update

The Yirralka Rangers team have been busy across the region undertaking safety training, Gurtha Management, Gamba Grass surveillance and teaching others Yolngu Medicine for Healthy Skin: Rheumatic Heart Disease Prevention.

Some of our projects are highlighted below. See more of the exciting projects Rangers have been working on in the Yirralka Rangers Newsletter on our website.

BUSH PRODUCTS

The team received several bulk orders including a first order from a new retail customer, The Australian Gallery of NSW.

The team has been working hard to fulfil the large orders across various homelands, Dhalinybuy, Gangan and Yirralka.



Images: Flora preparing products in Yirralka, the team repairing an oil still.

Yirralka Rangers continued

Country Concerns

We are working with Macquarie University on a funding application to investigate salt water intrusion into floodplains in Arnhem Bay and Blue Mud Bay. We hope this will support Yolŋu inspired interventions to slow and reverse the flow of salt water into these nyindjiya.



Image: Salt water flowing into Yakutja south of Gängan. This water flows all the way up to Gupalan where it is killing ranan and räkay.

Gamba Grass Surveillance

Yirralka hosted the NLC Gamba grass eradication team and undertook ID training and planning. This included a helicopter flight to historical Gamba sites in the Indigenous Protected Area (IPA). The weed was found near the Guditj turn off, in a gravel pit inside the Dhimurru IPA and one plant at Bälma. Rangers will continue our surveillance of this species once road conditions improve.



Image: Gamba grass at Bälma, likely brought in by an external contractor.