

LAYNHA NEWSLETTER



08 8939 1800



reception@laynhapuy.com.au



laynhapuy.com.au

Become a Laynha member

Laynha currently has more than 640 members.

If you are a Yolŋu person over 18 and live in a Laynhapuy homeland community, you may be eligible to become a member.

Come in to our Yirrkala office or call us to find out more.

UPCOMING EVENTS

➤ **Laynha AGM - Dhälinybuy**
Thursday 13 November 2025
For more info contact,
reception@laynhapuy.com.au

➤ **Board Meeting - Yirrkala**
Friday 14 November 2025
For more info contact,
reception@laynhapuy.com.au



Message from the Chair

I begin by acknowledging and paying my respects to the Rirratjingu Traditional Owners, on whose land we operate. I also acknowledge and pay my respects to the Laynhapuy, Djalkiripuyngu and Miyarrkapuyngu Traditional Owners, on whose land we deliver services across the homelands.

This quarter has brought celebration, remembrance and change. We acknowledge the strength of our people, the resilience of our traditions, and the vision that has guided us for decades.

It has been a timely reminder that **our land and waters both fresh and salt is important to the Yolŋu people as it is from the land and the waters that our identity, our language, our kinship system, song and dance cycles and ceremonies comes from.**

LAYNHAPUY HOMELANDS ABORIGINAL CORPORATION

Free Call: 1800 133 244
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A highlight this quarter was our 50th Years of the Homelands Movement celebration. It was a special and important day, bringing together Yolŋu, Laynha school and Aboriginal corporation employees, important stakeholders of the homelands, sponsors and friends to recognise the vision and courage of those who founded the movement. Our Laynha Homeland School students also had a unique opportunity to learn about culture and connection to Country. This celebration was a reminder of our shared history and a moment to look forward with optimism to the next 50 years of Laynhapuy and the homelands.

I thank Rio Tinto and the National Indigenous Australians Agency for helping to fund the event, to Sodexo for catering for over 300 attendees, and to our many partners including MAF, NEAL, Nhulunbuy Civil, Rirratjingu, CDU and Nhulunbuy Fishing Club for all your contributions.

This quarter has seen 3 houses handed over to Gäṅgaṅ residents, through the Homelands Housing Investment Program (HHIP). This projects completion has not only provided new homes, but security for families. We are also delighted with the recently approved HHIP funding for Bäniyala and Garrthalala, and we thank the Northern Territory Government and all partners for their ongoing support with this program.

Our Bush Uni vision continues to take shape, with work advancing towards strengthening learning opportunities on Country for future generations.

We acknowledge the sad occasions of loss this quarter. Laynhapuy continues to contribute to funerals across the homelands, supporting families in their time of need.

I also take this opportunity to remind all of the importance of safe driving while on homelands roads. Your care and attention help keep our communities safe.

Finally, congratulations to Dr John Kelly for being named the 2025 NT Rural Generalist Medical Educator of the Year. This award recognises his dedication to improving health outcomes in remote communities and the positive, lasting impact he continues to make on the homelands.

It's an honour for me to continue working for LHAC and Homelands, we still have a big task ahead of us and as Chair for LHAC working with Board and CEO and the management we will continue the good work we do.

God Bless bukmak.

Yananymul Mununggurr

Chairperson - Laynhapuy Homelands Aboriginal Corporation



Yananymul speaking at the 50th Celebration of the Homelands Movement in Garrthalala, September.



House hand over day in Gäṅgaṅ, early Oct 2025.



2025 NT Rural Generalist Medical Educator of the Year, Dr John Kelly. This photo was taken in 2019 with Yali Mununggurr, the Health worker at Dhälinybuy at the time.



Message from the CEO

NAIDOC was a great event with Laynha having a professional photographer to take family photos, children colouring and buggie rides around the oval courtesy of the Rangers.

I visited the LAGANT office in Darwin to meet with Director of Infrastructure and CEO to discuss the road conditions and current contract within our homelands. To date, we have seen little outcome from the meeting. Laynha, and aligned local organisations, wrote letters to ministers to try and return the roads contract to local operators but again this has not been successful. Laynha will continue to pursue options to oversee the work in homelands. We know the important of homeland roads for all residents, staff and contracts that use them daily.

We welcomed Minister Steve Edgington for a whirlwind tour of our homelands. Visits to Garrthalala and Gängan showcased the hard work of Laynha, our Yolngu employees and the strong culture and connection of our residents to their homelands. These were important messages to ensure ongoing funding and focus from government on the homelands needs. Laynha also co-hosted a dinner in Gove with CDU allowing the minister an opportunity to discuss the strategy of state funding and answer questions specific to the region.

This year we changed the approach to our Garma presence with information boards across all the business units of Laynha and supporting Yolngu sign up the stolen wages class action. The outcome has been great in raising awareness of the size, and diversity of Laynha work. Subsequently we received a combination of philanthropic investment including financial and altursim.

A major milestone was celebrated in Garrthalala through the anniversary of 50th Homelands Movement. In support of the Chairs comments, I also want to thank everyone involved and the extra efforts to make the event so successful. We will use learnings from this homeland event to help coordinate upcoming Dhadalal Festival in Gängan in 2026.

Yananymul and I hosted a workshop in conjunction with AHNT and welcomed many homeland CEO's and senior executives to our Yirrkala office to discuss state strategies in transitioning housing to Aboriginal community control. More consultations and work is underway to see this transition happen, we look forward to more engagement in 2026 with AHNT and other homelands on this topic.

We signed an MOU with Housing for Homelands, a philanthropic organisation, to partner in the construction of a new house in one of our homelands. The initial phase of investigation into suitable sites and community consultation commenced. A final report on the selected homelands will be tabled to the board in November for approval. This is a great outcome for Laynha and residents who will be able to work independently of government funding and have more control over culturally correct design and construction methods.

Barayuwa and I attended the annual Police Memorable day in Nhulunbuy and paid respect to the service people that lost their lives and to those that risk their lives every day to help keep our region safe. The event resulted in Barayuwa getting a cameo in a Police recruitment video.

Finally, we had NTG and our contractors in homelands. The first was part of housing audit being a final inspection for occupants to return to their homes in Gängan and the second was scoping for the work planned in Bäniyala and Garrthalala. Laynha has been awarded \$8.8M for capital works to refurbish houses. We aim to commence work in 2026, pending final plans, budgets, contractor availability, and the weather.

Glenda Abraham CEO

Visiting homelands with
Minister Edgington.



Garma Festival with Yananymul, Barayuwa, Yinimala and Member for Arnhem Selena Uiibo.



50 Years of the Homelands Movement

In September we held a celebration with over 300 attendees from many different homelands, coming together to mark a very important milestone - 50 years of the Homelands Movement.

This movement, led by Yolŋu families and Elders, supports people returning to their homelands, caring for Country, maintaining culture and strengthening community connections.



The celebrations began the night before the ceremony, with the Andrew Gurruwiwi Band performing. The Homelands Song, was a real hit that had everyone, especially the kids singing and dancing under the stars. Campers rose early as more people arrived throughout the morning. Many reconnecting, sharing stories and preparing for a special day ahead.



Garrthalala was brimming with people, as traffic controllers worked tirelessly to manage the flow of planes and cars arriving for the event.



The ceremony itself was a memorable celebration. Shonica, the MC of the event and Bulpunu, MC of the Yolŋu panel, did an incredible job guiding the events. The day included singing and dancing, engaging all attendees and took place over looking the sea.

TO's, educators, politicians, Yolŋu youth, and many others connected to Homelands told their stories and passed on the importance of the movement, especially explaining it to the school kids present.



Our two MC's Bulpunu and Shonica, who kept the day running smoothly.



Laynha Operations and CDP crews worked tirelessly for weeks, setting up shade shelters, tents and transporting gear. They worked throughout the event cooking BBQ's, setting up and packing down. The event couldn't have happened without these teams.



Thank you to all those who contributed; those who shared stories, performed, volunteered, provided funding and came together to mark this milestone.

As we look to the next 50 years, Laynhapuy remains committed to building on this legacy.



Laynha Awards

In August, we proudly celebrated our dedicated team through the Laynha Service and Values Awards.

The Service Awards recognised staff who have devoted between 5 and 35 years to Laynhapuy, and in doing so continue to support the homelands and Yolŋu families. Having so many staff reach long term tenure milestones is a proud moment for Laynha. It identifies an important continuity in staff that work with the homelands to delivery personable support and care.

Service Awardees

5 YEARS

- Bobby Wunungmurra
- Bucko Geary
- Gamala Wendy Mununggurr

10 YEARS

- Nat Atkinson
- Thomas Marrkula
- Daisy Mununggurr
- Bandibandi Wunungmurra
- Gamanarra Shane Wunungmurra

15 YEARS

- Louise Maymuru

25 YEARS

- Brian Gumana

35 YEARS

- Jon Rika



The Values Awards recognise staff who have made an outstanding contribution to Laynha by embodying and upholding the core values of our corporation in their daily work.

The Awardees were from various departments, highlighting that Laynha employees all across the board are going above and beyond. It was a great day to acknowledge and thank these employees; their contribution hasn't gone unnoticed and their dedication to servicing the homelands is incredibly admirable.

Values Awardees

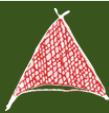
CHOICE Gemma Hansen

SAFETY Bandarr Wirrpanda & Brendon Marika

COLLABORATION Xephina Nunggurmajbarr & Ash Ayres

EMPOWERMENT Marrpalawuy Marika & Charlie Wanambi

TRUSTWORTHINESS Jon Rika & Rachel Godley



Updates from Departments

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Bush Uni

Semester 1 at Garrthalala Bush Uni was full of learning, community and celebration.

13 students joined the program, studying Micro-credential 1: Marrparanj (Yolŋu health and wellbeing) and Micro-credential 2: Leadership in Business, guided by our cultural teachers and grounded in on-Country learning.

The semester was capped off with a special graduation ceremony, where family, Elders and community gathered to celebrate our students' achievements. Of the 13 students, 6 proudly graduated - an incredible milestone for both them and the Bush Uni community.

The day was a strong reminder of the power of Yolŋu-led education and the bright futures our students are building.

Social Emotional Wellbeing & Youth

The SEWB Music Program held its first workshop in Dhälinybuy from the 1st - 2nd of October, the start of this new community driven music initiative.

The first evening featured a community jamming session, with dinner provided for kids and families. It was a great opportunity to connect and talk about the kinds of music people, young and old wanted to learn and eventually use in songwriting within their community.

On the second day, a smaller group of young participants (and a few enthusiastic spectators) worked closely with professional musicians to build on their existing skills. Playing alongside experienced artists helps participants develop confidence and technique. It also allows Andy, the program's musician and facilitator, to assess skill levels and tailor each participant's learning pathway.

Upcoming workshops will be held in:

- Garrthalala: 15–16 October
- Waṇḍawuy: 29–30 October
- Gäṅgaṇ: 19–20 November

The next step for the SEWB Music Program is to secure additional funding to enable more regular community visits, ideally reaching one community every week. This will help the program connect with more participants and continue strengthening musical skills and wellbeing across homelands.



HEALTH

RFDS Dental Visit

From 16–26 September, Bāniyala was fortunate to host the RFDS dental team for a two-week visit, delivering much-needed dental care on homelands. During this time, the team completed 64 dental consultations, including screenings, cleans, extractions and fillings, with most patients receiving around an hour of treatment.

This visit was made possible through the huge effort of many staff, partners and community members who supported logistics, transport, accommodation, administration and on-the-ground clinic operations. A special thank you to our dedicated RFDS dental team for their tireless work, often with long days and minimal breaks, to ensure everyone who needed care was seen.

Thank you to Bāniyala community for their welcome, including hosting Yolŋu from surrounding homelands. Feedback from community was overwhelmingly positive, with many expressing how grateful they were to receive high-quality dental care close to home.



Big Award for Dr John Kelly

We're delighted to share that Dr John Kelly has been recognised as the 2025 Northern Territory Rural Generalist Medical Educator of the Year by the Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine. This award celebrates exceptional commitment to medical education and support for rural and remote healthcare training.

John has been a dedicated member of our team at Laynhapuy for many years, generously sharing his knowledge and expertise to help us all deliver high-quality care across the region. His humble approach, passion for teaching, and support for colleagues make this recognition especially well-deserved.

Congratulations, John! We are incredibly grateful for your ongoing contribution to our team and the communities we serve.

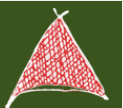


Vets

During September 2025, the EARC veterinary team visited several homelands to provide essential animal health services:

- Bāniyala Homeland (2 September 2025)
 - 2 desexing surgeries completed
 - 3 dogs euthanised
 - Many community members were away attending funerals
- Gāṅgaṅ Homeland (23–24 September 2025)
 - 10 desexing surgeries completed
 - 26 parasite treatments provided
 - 15 feral cats euthanised
- Dhālinybuy Homeland (30 September 2025)
 - 7 desexing surgeries completed
 - 23 parasite treatments provided

These visits support animal health, community wellbeing and responsible pet management across the homelands.



Midawarr Day

A big thank you to the Laynhapuy and Remote on Country NDIS/Aged Care team for supporting 20 homelands clients to attend Midawarr. It took 10 dedicated staff working together to make this trip possible. Two charter planes enabled clients from Baniyala, Wandawuy, and Nindjiya to attend, with others already in Yirrkala. After the event, ROCS completed two return car trips to safely get clients home, while five staff vehicles assisted with transport across communities.

Homelands represented included Nindjiya (4), Baniyala (4), Wandawuy (3), Dhälinybuy (2), Gäṅgaṅ (3), Gurkawuy (2), and Lamiwuy (2), meaning around 60% of our homelands Aged Care and NDIS clients were able to attend. A special congratulations to two Aged Care clients who won raffle prizes!

We also extend our sincere thanks to the Midawarr organisers for donating \$5,000 towards flight costs and for putting on such an inclusive and welcoming event.



OPERATIONS

We're pleased to share progress on key projects across the homelands in Quarter 1, 2025:

- Gäṅgaṅ HHIP Program: Three houses (House 8, 10 & 12) were successfully handed back to residents on 30 September.



- Gäṅgaṅ Memorial Site Upgrades (\$120K): New infrastructure was installed to improve the memorial site for homeland residents.
- NTG Capital Works Programs Completed:
 - Standalone solar systems installed at Burrum House 1 & 2 (\$282K), Barraratjpi House 7 (\$100K), and Yanjunbi House 6 (\$100K)
 - New septic systems at Dhälinybuy House 2 & 3, and Garrthalala House 3 (\$56K each)
 - New public toilet Relns at Nindjiya and Bunhanjura (\$21K each)
 - New water tank installed at Dhuruputjpi (\$25K)
- Homelands Maintenance:
 - Donydji and Barrkira airstrips graded
 - Washout repairs completed at Nindjiya and Gutjangan airstrips to ensure operational access
- Nindjiya Community Centre Project: Construction commenced on a half basketball court (\$200K)
- HHIP Scoping: Planning has begun for upcoming Garrthalala and Baniyala projects



RANGERS

Garma Festival

The Yirralka Miyalk Rangers actively participated in this year's Garma Festival, held from August 1st to 4th, to celebrate Yolŋu culture and showcase their work. Our merchandise stall featured upcycled marine debris products, hand-printed t-shirts, and bush medicines, achieving record sales of \$30,000. We supported Yolŋu women in the Women's Healing Space, hosted a Bush Medicine workshop with Flinders University, and led a marine debris upcycling workshop, where participants created Garma keyrings from plastic waste.



Saltwater Leadership Program and Graduates

During the week of 29 September, four Yirralka Rangers attended the inaugural Saltwater Leadership Program at Baniyala, a remote community on the shores of Blue Mud Bay. This shared First Nations cultural program, delivered in partnership with the Navy, offered education, connection, respect and understanding.

Grounded in the Navy's longstanding relationship with Yolŋu Elders and community leaders, participants worked together to build and paddle a traditional dugout canoe, a lipa-lipa – across the waters of Blue Mud Bay. Along the way, they engaged with traditional stories, language, land-based learning, and ceremonial practices, while sharing their own experiences.

Congratulations to graduates Sarah, Ringo, Mudiny Mudiny, and Mamida! The program strengthened connections between the Rangers, the Navy, and the community.



Coming soon to Laynhapuy

FINANCIAL WELLNESS HUB

Laynhapuy Homelands Aboriginal Corporation is excited to share that we're setting up a new Hub space for our Community Members. It's a safe, peaceful, and welcoming place for Laynha Community to come together, rest, learn, solve money problems and connect when in town. We're working closely with Elders to choose a Yolŋu name and create a design that reflects Marrparaŋ.

The Hub will offer a range of services and learning opportunities, including Old Geoff's djama (Financial Counselling) and financial literacy education, learning "Who is the tax man?", "What is death money?" and "How to make money last."

It will be a cool, comfortable place to sit, relax, have natha and a drink, and take a break while in town.

On some days we will do Westpac private banking away from the branch. Telstra, will have a service desk to help with SIMs and phone issues. We'll also have drivers available to support Community Members travelling between Yirrkala, town, the airport, and Gunyaŋara. The Laynha Hub team will support Laynhapuy Community Members in Homelands for money management, banking and Bāpurru, and working together with families and Homelands to make sure bukmaŋ is always supported.

Right now, we're laying the foundations, just like digging the hole for the many muk fire for cooking. Getting the kitchen ready, buying computers, printers, setting up the internet, and completing the government reporting djama to show how the Hub grant is helping Laynha Community Members.

We'll share the opening date soon and we look forward to seeing bukmaŋ together in the new Laynha Hub space.

LAYNHA THE NEW PROVIDER FOR RAES ON THE GOVE PENINSULA AND SURROUNDING HOMELANDS

Big news, Laynhapuy is the new service provider for RAES (formally CDP).

Laynha is proud to announce that we are the new Remote Australia Employment Services (RAES) provider for the Gove Peninsula and surrounding homelands!

From Monday 3 November, we'll be delivering the new RAES program in Gove, Yirrkala and homelands through our hubs in Wanḍawuy, Bāniyala, Gāŋgaŋ, and Donydji.

We're looking forward to creating real employment opportunities, co-designed community projects and strong local partnerships. Most importantly, broadening our support for homelands by providing a reliable and impactful service for our participants.

