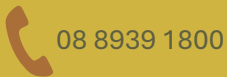


# LAYNHA NEWSLETTER



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

- **Midawarr Day Out**  
Surf Club  
6 May 2026
- **Laynhapuy Board Meeting**  
Yirrkala office  
12 - 14 May 2026
- **Laynhapuy IPA Dedication**  
Dhālinybuy  
12 - 14 May 2026
- **Dhaḍalal' Festival**  
10 - 12 June 2026  
Gāngan



LAYNHAPUY HOMELANDS ABORIGINAL CORPORATION

Free Call: 1800 133 244  
laynhapuy.com.au



# Update on Cyclone Narelle

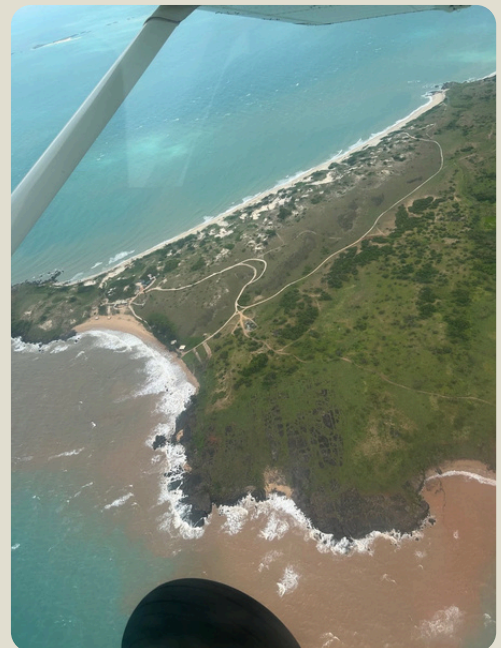
Laynhapuy Homelands Association worked closely with residents, staff, government agencies and partners to prepare for and respond to Cyclone Narelle.

As a precaution, more than 100 residents from Bäniyala, Gäṅgaṅ, Bäḷma and Rurrangala were safely evacuated before the cyclone's arrival. The evacuation was completed in just five hours thanks to the outstanding efforts of local community leaders, Laynha staff, NT Government agencies, MAF, schools, rangers and volunteers.

Following the cyclone, welfare checks were coordinated across homelands with support from MAF and Police. Contact was made with residents in Gäṅgaṅ and Waṅḍawuy, confirming everyone was safe, although some property damage and power outages were reported.

Recovery efforts are now underway, with repairs to essential services, damage assessments and the gradual return of evacuated residents to their homelands. Yirralka Rangers and community members have also been working hard to reopen access roads, including the road into Garrthalala.

Laynha thanks everyone involved for their teamwork, resilience and commitment to keeping homeland communities safe throughout the Cyclone Narelle response.



# Updates from Departments

## HOMELAND SERVICES

The Homeland Services team has been working across Laynhapuy homelands to support recovery efforts following Cyclone Narelle.

Key activities have included coordinating clean up operations, supporting the safe return of residents to previously evacuated homelands, and assessing community infrastructure after the cyclone. Teams have also continued the important work of making homelands safe for residents returning home.

Recovery work remains ongoing, with crews clearing and reopening access roads to homelands that were cut off by flooding, fallen trees and storm damage.

In addition, the team celebrated a significant housing milestone, with three additional properties in Gāngan completed through the Homeland Housing Improvement Program (HHIP), helping to improve living conditions for homeland families.



## YIRRALKA RANGERS

The Rangers spent a lot of time cleaning up access roads and clearing them for other services post Cyclone Narelle.



## HEALTH

### Art Therapy

Art Teachers Kathryn and Phoebe visited the homelands of Rurrangala, Bäniyala, Waṇḍawuy, Gäṅgaṅ and Dhälinybuy in January during the school holidays. They brought with them curtains, t-shirts, bags and travel pillows to paint and decorate, as well as jewellery making kits and dress ups.

This was a really relaxing activity to do in the homelands during the quiet times of the school holidays. Young people and old people all got involved in doing art work and jewellery making, and everyone had something to take home at the end of the day.

Thank you to Kathryn and Phoebe! We are really looking forward to seeing them come back again at Gäṅgaṅ Dhaḍala! festival in June!

### MHFA Training in Garrthalala

Mental Health First Aid Training was conducting in Garrthalala in February.



### I-Asist Training

Laynha staff from the Social and Emotional Wellbeing team undertook suicide prevention training in collaboration with Yolḷu staff from ARDS in February. This was a 3 day training designed for First Nations staff, and delivered by Tricia Maling from Anglicare, who travelled to Nhulunbuy to do the training. I-Asist training involved case studies, theory, role plays, and also translation of the key themes and central questions into the different Yolḷu dialects of the staff attending. Through role-plays in both English and Yolḷu dialects, Laynha staff practised what it would be like to speak to a Yolḷu person who is thinking about suicide, and how to provide immediate support, validation of their story, safety planning and referrals.

The most important lesson for the staff was to sit down with the person, really listen to their story and make them feel heard, and then look for positive things in their story that can become the foundations of a safety plan. This might be something the person is looking forward to, or a strong person they have in their life. From the moment of finding this positive foundation, you can start to make a safety plan with that person to keep them out of danger, and towards improved wellbeing.

Laynha Yolḷu staff were really engaged in this training, and especially appreciated the opportunity to learn alongside ARDS Yolḷu staff. They discussed a range situations that have happened in their different communities around East Arnhem Land. Tricia created space for a lot of the conversations to take place in Yolḷu languages, which fostered positive learning, sharing and improved confidence for the staff. We hope to do another training with Tricia in the future because everyone learnt a lot and really appreciated her expertise and her style of teaching.



# Dhalinybuy SEWB Music Program



## CORPORATE

### New induction model

Laynha implemented a new induction model to better improve process implementation through all of our staff.

It included a detailed understand of each business unit, key systems, key contacts and cultural understanding.



### Working with Housing for Homelands

A new community-led housing pilot is underway at Gurrumuru, bringing together Laynhapuy Homelands Aboriginal Corporation and Housing for Homelands to design and build culturally appropriate, climate responsive homes on Yolŋu homelands.

Supported by private philanthropic funding, the project aims to replace ageing and overcrowded housing with homes that reflect Yolŋu culture, support life on Country, and respond to local climate conditions. Traditional Owners and community leaders have been involved from the beginning, ensuring Yolŋu knowledge, priorities and ways of living guide the design process.

Senior Dhalwanju leader Yumitjin Wunurjmurra said homelands are essential for keeping culture strong, while Laynhapuy Chair Yananmul Munungurr welcomed the project as an important step towards delivering new housing for homeland families.

The pilot will also explore opportunities for training, employment and future housing models that can be expanded across other Yolŋu homelands.



### Laynha's Women's Day Lunch

Laynha wrapped up a successful Women's Month with a special International Women's Day Lunch, bringing the community together to celebrate and recognise the many inspiring women across East Arnhem Land.

The event featured guest speakers Selena Uibo MLA and Sharon Winsor (Indigiearth), who shared their experiences and inspired attendees through stories of leadership and achievement.

Thanks to the generosity of participants and supporters, the event raised more than \$2,500 for MAF's Rapid Response Program.

Laynha extends its sincere thanks to funding partners Rio Tinto Gove, Nhulunbuy Corporation and the Northern Territory Government, as well as event donors, local businesses, suppliers and volunteers who helped make the day a success.

The celebration also marked the conclusion of Laynha's "Marching with Strong Women" campaign, which highlighted the stories, strength and contributions of women across the region throughout March.

