

## Rirratjingu Aboriginal Corporation

Annual Report 2023 - 2024



Featured on our front cover for the 2024 Annual Report is RAC director Yalmay Yunupingu. Our 2024 Senior Australian of the Year.

#### Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander readers are advised that the following report may contain images and names of people who have died.

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# **Our Mission**

#### Our Mission is to stand firm and to stand together for our people:

To remain the rock that is one voice together with a shared resolve to shape a future for our families and generations to come so they can live equally in a world of economic certainty and social wellbeing.

Our Mission is inspired by the Rock which remains immovable against the tide, the storms and the winds of change.

#### The words of our forefathers remain in our minds:

"Be firm and strong for the land, and the strength of your solidarity will sustain you in your cause. Our country (land and sea) will exist forever. It must be protected so that it will remain the same, so that it can be seen in the same way that the elders saw it in the past."

(Roy Dadayŋa Marika - 1990 on behalf of the elders).

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# **Our Vision**

Our Vision is a future where our people stand together in a world of harmony, prosperity, and opportunity. A world where our traditional cultural values remain our heartbeat, the wisdom from our forefathers our map, and a new generation of our people are standing strong and standing equal. Our Vision is guided by that of our forefathers.

They have inspired us to work diligently:



TO HOLD TIGHTLY TO OUR **CULTURE AND TRADITION** 



TO PROTECT AND CARE FOR OUR PEOPLE

2

TO BE FIRM AND STRONG FOR OUR LAND AND OUR CULTURE



**TO STAY UNITED** AND STAND TALL

# **Our Values**

The following values sit at the heart of our work. They guide our service delivery.

- 1) Outstanding governance will epitomise our approach.
- 2) The highest ethical standards will remain central to our work.
- 3) Open and inclusive management will highlight our operations.
- 4) Yolngu culture will remain at the forefront of our minds and as a guide to our work.
- 5) A responsive and accountable approach to our members, our community and key stakeholders will remain at the core of our activities.



# **Our Foundation**

The Rirratjingu Aboriginal Corporation was **founded in 1984** by the late Dadayna 'Roy' Marika: MBE and Father of Indigenous Land Rights in Australia.

We wear our logo with pride – The mighty Rock 'Mandula' which is replicated as Roy's resting place.



# **Chairman's Report**

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### It came as a special honour and privilege to be elected once again by my fellow directors into the position of chairman at the 2023 Annual General Meeting.

My thanks to Mandaka Marika who capably acted as chairman for the twelve (12) months leading into the 2023 Annual General Meeting.

I accept the position as chairman with enormous pride and acknowledgement of the responsibilities that come with being the chairman of one of Australia's largest Indigenous corporations.

Evident from our Annual Reports over recent years is that the Rirratjingu Aboriginal Corporation continues to grow and evolve at a rapid rate. 2023 – 2024 has been no different. We have celebrated a number of key milestones. We have continued our progress through new commercial initiatives. And we have grown further our member support services.

For us, the elected representatives of RAC, our mandate remains twofold:

First, continue to build our Future Fund (Future Fund Charitable Payments Reserve – FFCPR) for the benefit of those generations that follow us and; secondly, to support the needs of our members today.

This year we celebrate our 40th year anniversary. While October will witness the official month of



celebration, we took opportunity in June to host our official stakeholder celebrations at the Walkabout Lodge in Nhulunbuy. A very special night providing opportunity to share our journey with a large contingent of friends of RAC and other stakeholders.

Our journey has provided many challenges over the 40 years since inauguration in 1984. We have been equal to the challenge, like the Rock that adorns our logo.

#### "Even though you crash upon me and your patterns are left on me, I will stand firm for you as the day draws to an end..."

Today, our corporation is an example of what can be achieved with courage and dedication.

This last year we witnessed the launch of our career pathway program with the centrepiece the Barawun Centre. Our successful submission to the National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA) for our innovative education, employment, training and micro business program will enable us to support our members and the broader Yolngu community through their career pathway choices.

2023 – 2024 saw the completion of our \$10 million, fully tenanted, Rirratjingu Business Centre together with the adjacent Yanawal high quality 14 short-term accommodation units.

We celebrated the significant upgrades and commercial outcomes for our jointly owned Yirrkala store. With funding support from the Northern Land Council (NLC), NIAA and Yirrkala Enterprises our investment of over \$1.5m has expanded the range of services provided by the store. In June we also celebrate the long-awaited opening of the new diesel fuel facility located at the Yirrkala store that will service the Yirrkala Community.

Our Rirratjingu family has a long history of high achievers and distinguished people. I am excited to acknowledge many of these in our theme for this 2023 – 2024 Annual Report. This year, two of our current directors continued this long line of awards with Yalmay Yunupingu, awarded Senior Australian of the Year and Witiyana Marika awarded NT Local Hero.

The Northern Territory Indigenous Business Network (NTIBN) acknowledged our work and excellence with RAC the winners of the Best Blak Community Controlled Organisation. Our result as finalist for the NT Blak Business of the Year was also a meritorious outcome reflecting the growth and success of our corporation.

Adding to the NTIBN Blak Awards this last year were our NT Chamber of Commerce awards as:

- Winner Excellence in Business Not for Profit
- Winner Excellence in Business in Best Event/ Business Collaboration (for Yarrapay)

At a governance level our Emerging Leaders program has witnessed the graduation of both Ishmael Marika and Djay Marika onto the board of RAC. Both continue to contribute to our director meetings, and it is encouraging to see the value of their past participation in our Emerging leaders program.

Our corporation continues to grow. Our recent internal compliance review reminded us how much has changed over the past six years.

While there were numerous areas of progress reflecting the director's increased emphasis on governance and management, I was reminded of the many member-based initiatives we have introduced.

In 2018 there was no clear strategy to build a future fund. Through our Future Fund Charitable Payments Reserve (FFCPR) we have addressed this issue and secured greater certainty for future generations. To add security around these future funds we have locked in access to this fund through our constitution.

Charitable payments, referred to as distributions, were provided only to the eight sitting directors as representatives of their families. These critical support funds are now distributed evenly across all adult full members.

In 2018 there was no secured future fund charitable payments reserve. This future fund, established to support future generations, is now secured in our revised and updated constitution.

In 2018 there was no emerging leaders' program and there was no consistent and structured governance training.

Our previous exaggerated focus on football is now balanced against a broad range of community initiatives.

Revenue has continued to grow over our last financial year reaching \$26 million for the 2023 – 2024 period.

With growth comes change. We have been challenged to put enough human resources on the ground. This has kept pressure on existing staff and my thanks to them for the amazing contribution they continue to make. This coming year will witness further growth within our team and I trust the new key positions will spread the load as we enter another year of anticipated growth.

This recent year we have laid the foundation for some significant community based infrastructure projects. Pending the completion of arbitration and the support of Rio Tinto we are optimistic that these important projects will provide a positive impact for our members and the broader community. As a funding source for these infrastructure projects, we will soon receive monies associated with S19 leases which have been held by the NLC pending the finalisation of arbitration. These funds will become recurrent and continue to provide the capital for us to service members through essential community infrastructure. Policy guidelines and the addition of this special initiative into our constitutional objectives will ensure proper governance.

Our constitutional obligation to members remains a core focus for us and we have continued to invest significantly in support where it meets the charitable purpose provisions of relieving poverty, destitution, misfortune, disadvantage, distress, dispossession and suffering and the promotion of health, education, housing, employment and welfare for our members.

This last year our culture and community budget, tailored to supporting our members, was \$2 Million (including charitable payments). This represented approximately 26.5% of our overall expenditure for the year and reflects the emphasis we have on supporting our members today.

As Chair, I am proud to stand behind this continuing commitment to members. Employment opportunities, education, retaining and celebrating our culture and building our future will remain front and centre as we move forward.

The progress made by our corporation in recent years has been the result of the diligence and courage of our RAC board. Our team has an enormous responsibility and remain front and centre as we carefully consider our way forward.

Our three special advisors are so much a part of the growth and success of our corporation over recent years. Their guidance and willingness to work closely with directors has strengthened our capacity as a team. They remain an integral part of our pathway forward.

My special thanks to staff that have remained loyal and resilient and have continued to deliver throughout this last year. It has been a huge year.

Thanks also to directors and their families. Our year has been busy and you are frequently called upon to attend meetings and represent the corporation.

Thank you!

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Chair Wanyubi Marika

# **CEO Report**



### The past year has been an incredible chapter in the ongoing success story of the Rirratjingu Aboriginal Corporation (RAC). It has been another year of rapid growth and development.

We have continued to lay strong foundations for future generations. Our commitment to our people and their future has guided every decision we have made and remained at the heart of everything we do.

This year we celebrated a special milestone for the corporation with our 40th year anniversary. While technically our anniversary date is on the 17th of October we started celebrations early with a gala dinner in June.

The anniversary dinner was a momentous occasion, bringing together members, staff and stakeholders to celebrate the achievements of the past four decades. It was an opportunity to honour our past while keeping our eyes firmly on the future, knowing that the work we do today will pave the way for future generations.

One of the standout accomplishments this year was the completion of our Rirratjingu Business Centre (RBC), a project that started as a bold vision and is now a fully operational facility. The RBC symbolises our commitment to fostering economic growth in the region.

Adjacent to our RBC sit the completed Yanawal Accommodation Units. With high occupancy rates and glowing feedback from guests the units have provided much needed short-term accommodation for visitors and business professionals. In doing so they are boosting the region's infrastructure and demonstrating our ability to meet local demand.

We again celebrated culture and community in hosting another Yarrapay Festival. This Festival has become a real highlight and continues to grow in popularity, attracting a wider range of participants each year. The festival not only celebrates our rich Indigenous culture but also strengthens the bonds within our community and with the broader region. It is a testament to the enduring strength and vibrancy of our cultural heritage.

Our commercial ventures have had a particularly strong year. They not only support our ongoing projects but also allow us to reinvest in new opportunities for growth. Our focus is on diversification and exploring new commercial opportunities that will ensure RAC's long term sustainability and success. By developing strong partnerships and expanding into new industries we are laying the groundwork for future ventures that will continue to benefit both our community and the broader region.

Our goal is not only to sustain our commercial success but also to drive meaningful economic growth, creating employment and development opportunities for future generations.

The launch of the Rirratjingu Career Pathway Program (CPP) in June was a special day. We have wanted to establish initiatives to address employment pathways for our people. Our innovative CPP was designed to improve life opportunities for our people which come with a good job and a good education.

This initiative will provide tailored case management to help individuals in our community develop their careers. We believe this program will be a game changer for many, offering the guidance, support, and opportunities needed to succeed in the workforce. It aligns perfectly with our mission of creating opportunities and empowering our people, and we eagerly anticipate the positive impact it will have.

One of the major challenges we continue to tackle is the housing infrastructure shortage in the region. We recognise that adequate housing is essential, not just for the wellbeing of our community, but also for the region's broader economic success. RAC is taking a leadership role in addressing this issue by working on housing projects that will provide much needed accommodation requirements for the area. These projects will create employment opportunities and stimulate economic growth, further cementing RAC's role as a driving force in the region's development.

Our focus on social and cultural programs continues to be a cornerstone of RAC's mission. While our





commercial activities are crucial to our sustainability, it is our work in supporting the cultural and social needs of our community that defines who we are. This year, we have continued our focus on social programs, including initiatives aimed at promoting health, education, and cultural preservation. These programs enable us to give back in meaningful ways, ensuring that our people thrive not just economically but culturally and socially.

It is an exciting time to be part of a great team focused on building a stronger future for Rirratjingu members. I am honoured to continue this important work alongside a passionate board of directors who strive to keep the RAC mission at the forefront of their decisions – "stand firm and stand together for our people". (Roy Dadaynga Marika)

Our success would not be possible without the unwavering dedication of our board of directors, advisors, our incredible staff, and our supportive partners. Every person involved with RAC plays a crucial role in our success, from those on the ground to those making strategic decisions for the future.

I am continually inspired by the passion and commitment of our team, and I extend my deepest gratitude to everyone who has contributed to RAC's achievements this year.

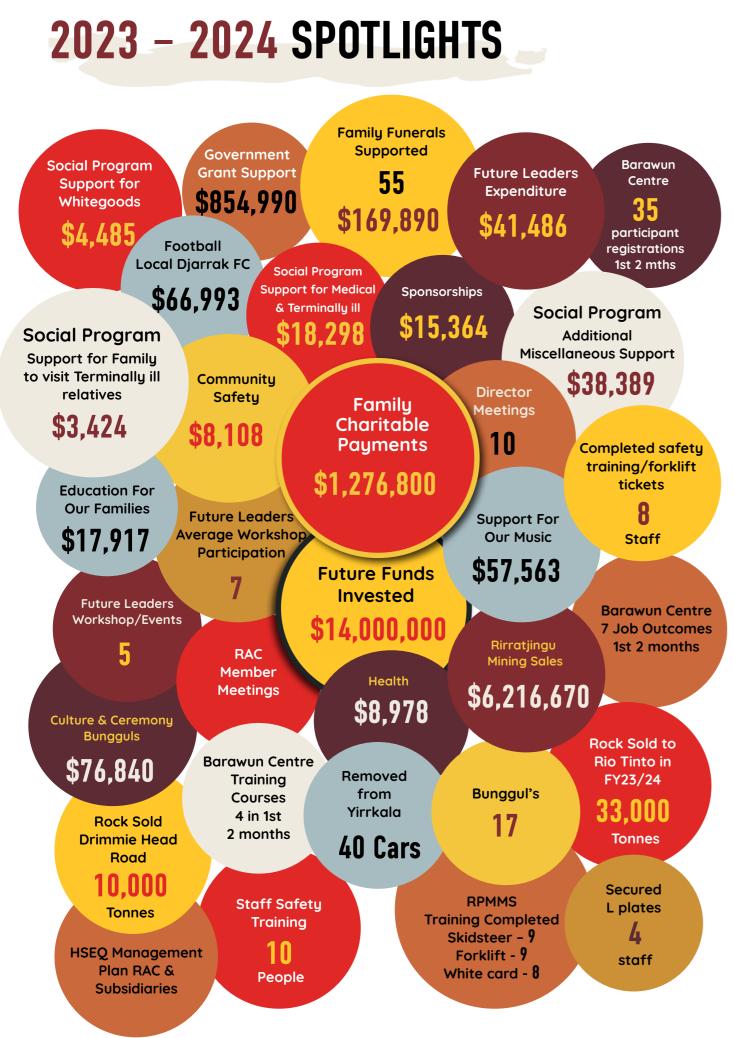
As we look ahead to the coming year, we are filled with optimism. The challenges of the past year have only strengthened our resolve, and the opportunities on the horizon are plentiful. From the launch of new programs to the expansion of our commercial ventures, there is so much to look forward to.

Together, we will continue to build on our success, creating a future where RAC remains a powerful force for good in the lives of our people.

Thank you all for your dedication and support, and I look forward to another year of progress and achievement.

Rhian

CEO Rhian Oliver





# **2024 HIGHLIGHTS**

## **Yirrkala Bark Petitions**

The Yirrkala Bark Petitions are a series of four (4) petitions created by the Yolngu people in the early 1960s, seeking compensation and recognition of traditional lands on the Gove Peninsula in North-East Arnhem Land.

In the heart of Arnhem Land, the spirit of the Rirratjingu people has always been intertwined with the land, the sea, and their ancestral stories. Among these tales, one speaks of a sacred petition, a symbol of hope and resilience, that journeyed far and wide before finally returning to its rightful place.

Our 2023 Annual Report featured the sixty year (60) celebration of the 1963 Yirrkala Bark Petitions. It was a time of quiet reflection on the enormous achievements made since this iconic moment in Australia's history.

Formally presented for display in old Parliament House in 1977, two (2) of the Bark Petitions were moved to the new Parliament House in 1988. Until this day they continue to make a statement adorning the corridors of parliament house.

But the story does not end here.

While our story featured the two (2) original Bark Petitions, there were indeed four (4). Two (2) of the Bark Petitions were reportedly kept by two (2) different politicians and have spent the past six (6) decades in different places across the country.

While the third Bark Petition was donated to the National Museum of Australia by the Bryant family the fourth Bark Petition remained missing. Recent times has witnessed the discovery and emotional return to country of the fourth and final missing Bark Petition.

This invaluable piece of Aboriginal heritage, which remained unaccounted for since 1963, was finally discovered and returned to its traditional owners. It had spent the past 29 years hanging in the Kimberley home of Joan McKie.

The story of its journey is fascinating and well captured in an article by reporter Tallulah Bieundurry, from ABC News Kimberley who explains;

Ms McKie was the first wife of Stan Davey, who worked as the secretary of the Federal Council for Aboriginal Advancement at the time the petitions were put to parliament.

Mr Davey came into the possession of the painting while working with former minister for Indigenous

Affairs, Gordon Bryant. Mr Bryant, of course, was one of the two politicians who each retained the third and fourth Bark Petitions.

Now in the possession of Mr Davey it was eventually transferred to his estranged wife following a marriage breakup. It would then follow Ms McKie for 49 years after their marriage ended and after travelling between Melbourne and Brisbane. It would spend the past 29 years on the wall of her Derby home in the far north of Western Australia.

Ms McKie felt it was time to give the historical document back to the Yolngu people. And so, this iconic piece of Australian history, has now journeyed From Derby, through Adelaide for conservation work and back home to Yirrkala.

The Rirratjingu Aboriginal Corporation are grateful for the work of Professor Clare Wright, a historian at La



Trobe University, for her research in tracking the fourth petition to Derby and uncovering the amazing journey of our fourth Bark Petition. This work has led to its repatriation home to Yirrkala.

We share Professor Wright's words as recorded in the Tallulah Bieundurry article:

#### "It took me a long time to figure out how Derby became connected to this story and how the final fourth missing petition got here," she said.

Today, we rest in the knowledge that of the original four (4) Yirrkala Bark Petitions, two (2) sit in Parliament house, one adorns the walls of the National Museum of Australia in Canberra, and the fourth one has been returned home after sixty years traversing the country.

Story with thanks to Tallulah Bieundurry, in ABC Kimberley. https://www.abc.net.au/news/2022-11-24/bark-petition-artefact-truth-tellina-returned-toyolngu-people

An acknowledgement to Clare Wright, Professor of History, La Trobe University whose extensive research has assisted in filling in some of the gaps. A shout out to her forthcoming book on the history of the Yirrkala Bark Petitions, the third instalment of her Democracy Trilogy, to be published in 2024.

## **Historical Note - Our story began!**

The story began in the early 1960s, a time when the Yolngu people of Yirrkala were grappling with the encroachment of mining companies on their land. The Australian Government, hungry for the wealth hidden beneath the red earth, had granted mining leases without consulting the traditional owners.

The Yolngu leaders, led by the Rirratjingu clan, knew they had to act. They decided to craft a petition unlike any before, one that would speak in both the language of their people and the language of the colonizers.

This petition, known as the Yirrkala Bark Petition, was etched onto bark, combining traditional Yolngu designs with the words of the Australian legal system. It was a powerful statement, asserting their unbroken connection to the land and demanding recognition of their rights.

In 1963, the petition was sent to the Australian Parliament, where it was received but largely ignored. Despite this, the petition sparked a movement, laying the groundwork for future land rights campaigns.

But the story of the petition does not end with its arrival in Canberra. Over the next five decades, the petition travelled across the country, passed from one hand to another, displayed in museums and galleries, and discussed in classrooms and courts. It became a symbol of the struggle for Indigenous rights, but it also became separated from the community that had given birth to it.

For years, the Rirratjingu people watched as their sacred petition became a relic, an artifact to be studied rather than a living document of their ongoing struggle. They knew that the petition's journey was not complete until it returned home,



The return of the missing fourth Bark Petition - A mystery solved.





- to the very land that had inspired its creation.
- In 2022, after nearly sixty (60) years of wandering, the petition began its long-awaited journey back to Yirrkala. The return was marked by a ceremonial event attended by elders, community members, and representatives from across the country. The Rirratjingu leaders spoke of the petition's significance, not just as a historical document, but as a living testament to their enduring connection to the land.
- As the petition was handed back to the traditional owners, a sense of completion filled the air. The bark, weathered by time yet still strong, was once again in the hands of the people who had created it. The Rirratjingu elders placed it in a special place within their community, where it would be preserved not as an artifact, but as a symbol of their ongoing fight for justice and recognition.
- The return of the petition marked the closing of one chapter and the beginning of another. It was a reminder that while the fight for land rights had begun many decades ago, it was far from over. The Rirratjingu people, with the spirit of their ancestors and the strength of their culture, continue to stand firm in their connection to the land, just as their ancestors had done before them.
- The story of the petition's return is now told alongside the ancient stories of the land. It is a story of resilience, of a people's unwavering commitment to their culture and their rights, and of the deep, unbreakable bond between the Rirratjingu people and the land they call home.

# Happy Anniversary to



Rirratjingu Aboriginal Corporation



The Rirratjingu Aboriginal Corporation Board of Directors and Advisors:

Peter Chilman (Board Special Advisor), Witiyana Marika (Director), Denise Fincham (Board Special Advisor), Djalinda Ulamari (Director), Danny Keep (Board Special Advisor), Djay Marika (Director), Mandaka Marika (Deputy Chair), Rhian Oliver (CEO), Adrian Rota (Secretary), Wanyubi Marika (Chair)

While a few months ahead of ourselves, our 'Team' took the opportunity in June to celebrate a very special occasion. The 40th anniversary of the birth of the Rirratjingu Aboriginal Corporation.

40 YEARS

The 17th of October 1984 was a special day and one that will be celebrated amongst our community. But June gave us the opportunity to share with friends and stakeholders the amazing journey that brings us to where we are today.

The words spoken by our chair, Wanyubi Marika, reminded us that:

"40 years doesn't sound very long when you consider that our people have been around these parts for more than 55,000 years! But it has been a very special 40 years."









A great evening reflecting on forty (40) amazing years



Reflecting on years gone by: Djalinda Ulamari and Denise Fincham





Anniversary entertainment by Yirrmal Marika and Witiyana Marika

## Looking Back



The Rirratjingu Aboriginal Corporation was founded in 1984 by our late father, Dadaynga 'Roy' Marika (MBE). The Father of Indigenous Land Rights in Australia.

The corporation was established to manage the affairs of our people, particularly as they relate to our lands and mining royalties associated with the use of our lands. We have over the forty (40) years carried a huge responsibility for our people. Not just yesterday and today but a responsibility for the many generations to come. Cautious and responsible governance and hard work over many years brings us to where we are today. A day I feel we can celebrate the journey over forty (40) years. It has not always been easy but with resolve and patience we can reflect back on our history with a sense of achievement and satisfaction.

This focus is captured in our constitutional objectives and has remained central to our purpose since 1984:

#### The charitable purposes of relieving the poverty, destitution, misfortune, disadvantage, distress, dispossession and suffering and to promote the health, education, housing, employment and welfare of the Members.

Today we deliver numerous culture, community and social programs for the benefit of our people. Our culture and community team are a vital part of our organisation delivering services to members.

Our Charitable payments, our Social Program, our Funeral Fund, our Emerging Leaders Program and our Career Pathway enterprise are just some of the important initiatives we have in place to support members.

A Focus from the Beginning:

Our focus has remained to **close the gap.** To create opportunities for our people, delivering services that positively impact living standards, employment participation, education outcomes and improved welfare, health and social standards. "As we celebrate the 40 years in the life of the Rirratjingu Aboriginal Corporation, we do so with an enormous sense

Thanks, from the Chair, Wanyubi Marika

**Looking Forward** 

and indeed another 400 years.

A MESSAGE ON THE NIGHT

is our priority.

June 2024

For several years we have acknowledged

Aboriginal Corporation is still providing

essential services for another 40 years.

The words of our Chair, Wanyubi Marika and our

Patron, Bakamumu Marika, have remained consistent.

Our planning and commitment to a sustainable future

our responsibility to ensure the Rirratjingu

To stand here today in the knowledge of what we have achieved and to share this moment with you all on behalf of our members, directors and staff is very satisfying.

of pride and satisfaction.

To also do it on behalf of all those that have established the foundation upon which we have built, our forefathers, is very special. It is with thanks to the energy and resolve of these people that we celebrate this milestone. Without their vision we would not be where we are today.

We look forward to a future where we can continue to meet the needs of our people.

We look forward to a future where we can continue to play a leadership role across the region in matters of social and economic prosperity for the benefit of our entire community."

A BANNER



There is no better representation of our focus on this than through our Future Fund Charitable Payments Reserve (FFCPR). This reserve, embedded within our constitution, is designed to prepare us for a future without mining royalties. A future that enables us to continue our work in providing support to our members.



## Barawun Centre Launch



The Rirratjingu Aboriginal Corporation mission is to support our people today and into the future.

In pursuit of this mission, we are increasingly working to assist our people to close the gap across a range of socio-economic targets

that have an impact on life outcomes.

Front and centre among these key indicators are employment participation, career opportunities and education outcomes. These key drivers are the foundation to building better lives.



#### Rirratjingu Career Pathway Program

Education and training are fundamental to changing the lives of our children and their children. A job, real employment, creates purpose, it gives respect, and it acts as a role model for those watching on.

These are essential drivers providing a foundation to creating opportunity and building better lives.

#### Another Major Step Forward

In recent times we have established some great initiatives designed to close the gap through improved living standards and life opportunities. Examples include:

- Our Emerging Leaders Program: Designed to grow our future leaders across areas of governance, financial literacy, the world of work and walking in two worlds.
- 2. Our Rirratjingu Property Management and Maintenance Services (RPMMS) program provides the foundation for employment and training opportunities.
- 3. **Our Social Program** includes initiatives around health, music, culture and sport.
- 4. **Our Culture and Community Team** play an enormous role in supporting our people.

In June 2024 we took another major leap forward with our launch of the Barawun Centre, the heartbeat of our innovative Career Pathway Program. This employment, education, training and micro business initiative has been designed to support career pathways for Yolngu people across East Arnhem.



Bakamumu Marika AM, Patron of RAC, completing the honours at the official opening of the Barawun Centre.

For many years we have recognised the challenges for Yolngu around participation in employment, education and training. We have wanted to establish initiatives to address these challenges because we know that a pathway to improved living standards and to improved life opportunities comes with a good job and a good education.







#### A Missing Piece of the Puzzle

We were continually reminded of our corporate mission which emphasises our shared resolve to shape a future for our families and generations to come. **'So, they can live equally in a world of** *economic certainty and social well-being.*'

For many Yolngu, the pathway to employment or education can be confusing. Many are unsure where to turn, who to speak too. For many the step, in the absence of one-to-one support and guidance, has simply been too big.

The missing link has been the support of someone ready to listen, to understand each individual's career interests. Someone to provide guidance, to open doors and to work together, step by step along the career pathway.

**"Today that changes"** were the words spoken by our Chair, Wanyubi Marika, at the launch of our Career Pathway Program and the opening of our Barawun Centre in June 2024.

"This Centre will contribute the missing piece of the puzzle. It will provide a soft and inviting landing spot for Yolngu who wish to start a conversation about their dream job, their career goals."



Djayminy Marika and Rakrakpuy Marika, Barawun Centre mentors

#### Not Just Another Employment Program

Our Career Pathway program will deliver an individually tailored case management approach based on support and encouragement. From the moment someone chooses to walk through the door and throughout their entire career pathway.

Our service delivery model is based on providing a comfortable landing place for those ready to take the step forward with their career. If someone is ready to start a career conversation, we are ready to support them. An individual's career pathway might be education, it might be employment, training or even micro business opportunities they want to explore.

## The energy, the motivation and the aspiration are driven by the participant.

Since the launch, our team of four (4) including our Career Pathway Mentors, Project Manager and Project Coordinator have been dedicating their time to removing career roadblocks and opening the doors that each participant in the program needs to progress their career pathway.

Complementing those seeking support to progress their career pathway, our program is also focused on working alongside employers. We refer to preparing jobseekers for employment as our supply side and the demand side we refer to as working with employers to meet their employment needs.

Support and understanding directed at both the demand and supply side are fundamental too our service delivery model. By supporting employers through post placement support and better understanding their needs we can ensure jobs are sustainable.

There has never been a better time to launch our Career Pathway Program. We will work alongside other employment providers, employers, education and training providers and the community. Together, we can make a real difference – together we can see a future of equal opportunity.



White Card Training through the Arnhem Land Progress Aboriginal Corporation (ALPA)



Miwatj training new staff in the Dhawu **Cultural Facilitator roles.** 









Wilisoni Lotu and Djayminy Marika working on a Project Monitoring Plan

### **Outstanding Results - First Two Months**

The results from our Centre in just the first two months have exceeded all expectations.



- $\checkmark$  7 participants placed into <u>jobs</u> in first two months.
- 4 training courses have been delivered in first two months.
- 182 training and <u>education</u> sessions attended.
- 21 days the Centre has been booked for training.
- 11 Community stakeholders have expressed interest
  - in booking/using the facility.



Wanyubi Marika, **Chairman RAC** 

### Special words from our Chair

For many years we have recognised the challenges for Yolngu around participation in employment, education and training. We have wanted to establish initiatives to address these challenges because we know that a pathway to improved living standards and to improved life opportunities comes with a good job and a good education.

Education and training are keys to changing the lives of our children and their children. A job, real employment, creates purpose, it gives respect, and it acts as a role model for those watching on. For many Yolngu, the pathway to employment or education can be confusing. Many are unsure where to turn, who to speak too. For many the step, in the absence of one-to-one support and guidance, has simply been too big.

For many the missing link has been the support of someone ready to listen, to understand each individual's career interests. Someone to provide guidance, to open doors and to work together, step by step along the career pathway.

With the launch of the centrepiece of our career pathway program, the Barawun Centre (Career Pathway), we now have the missing piece of the puzzle. It will provide a soft and inviting landing spot for Yolngu who wish to start a conversation about their dream job, their career goals.

place to go.

### Supply Side - Demand Side - A new approach!

We refer to preparing jobseekers for employment as our supply side -and the demand side we refer to as working with employers to meet their employment needs.

Support and understanding through the demand and supply side are fundamental too our service delivery model. By supporting employers through post placement support and better understanding their needs we can ensure jobs are sustainable.

> Our special thanks to the Australian Commonwealth Government for their support in establishing our innovative Career Pathway Program

A job, some special training, perhaps an education pathway or even those with a business idea. Our Career Pathway Centre is now the

#### Our acknowledgement is given to the Australian Commonwealth Government for supporting our unique service delivery model.

RAC, and our subsidiaries, expect to create hundreds of employment and training opportunities over the next few years. We will also provide lots of opportunities for local contractors to grow their businesses.

Our expectations are that these local contractors will work with us to deliver employment and career pathways. It is our intention to work alongside other employment providers, employers, education and training providers and the community to achieve sustainable career outcomes.

# **RAC - Best Blak Community Controlled** Organisation

The Rirratiingu Aboriginal Corporation Board has again taken out the prize as the Best Blak Community Controlled Organisation. Building on our success in 2023 we were honoured to again be recognised for our achievements.

The Best Blak Community-Controlled Organisation Award honours Indigenous-led organisations that exemplify community-driven governance, leadership, and service delivery to improve the well-being and empowerment of Indigenous peoples.

As a corporation we have always taken pride in our strong governance, regional leadership and our community driven focus. While we have taken great steps through our various commercial initiatives it is our community that sits at the heart of what we are about.

In recent years we have implemented numerous programs to address the needs and priorities of our community, investing over \$2.5 million dollars through our charitable programs (funeral funds, social programs, employment initiatives etc.) in the 2023 -2024 period. A glance at some of these reveals:

The RAC **Social Program** ensures an annual budget is set aside to address issues such as poverty, sickness, destitution, helplessness, distress, suffering and misfortune.

The RAC **Charitable Payment** Program provides the entire RAC membership (full members) with financial support for the relief of poverty and to promote welfare amongst members.

The RAC Culture and Community Division was strengthened in recent years to deliver increased support to members.

The RAC Funeral Fund was established in recent years to assist members in relation to their social and

cultural interests, including in relation to funerals and other ceremonies.

The RAC Emerging Leaders Program objective is to progress the leadership capacity of suitable Rirratjingu people who have demonstrated the potential to become community leaders. This may include the transition into employment, directorships and other leadership positions within RAC or the community in general.

The RAC Career Pathway Program is a multi-milliondollar initiative launched on the 1st of July 2024 to deliver a concentrated focus on employment, training, education, and micro-business pathways for Indigenous people across the region.

The RAC Infrastructure Fund is set to launch with member approval in June of 2024. Several million dollars of funds to be received will be set aside to progress critical community infrastructure as prioritised by members.

As a corporation we are well governed by our experienced board and special advisors. Our direction and our priorities are well established through our triennial strategic planning and annual operational planning.

Our strategic and operational planning remain the centrepiece of operations, the map defining our future goals. Our mission has clear purpose, our vision reflects our aspiration and while our priorities are reassessed in our three-year planning cycle, they remain connected to our broader purpose.

We will conclude our current three-year (3) strategic planning cycle in June 2025. At present Priorities 1 - 4 are focused on 'Creating a Sustainable Future' and priorities 5 - 8 are focused on 'Empowering our People'



# **The Special Night**



It was an honour for us to be selected as finalists for the NT Blak Business of the Year and for the Best Blak Community Controlled Organisation 2024.

We were represented by Chairman - Wanyubi Marika, Deputy Chairman Mandaka Marika, and Director and Cultural Ambassador Witiyana Marika. Our team were dressed to impress and accompanied by Culture and Community Manager, Kate Spinks.

The Blak Business Awards is the premier social event of the year and an opportunity to showcase the success of Northern Territory Blak Businesses. The awards recognise the leadership, contribution and impact Indigenous businesses are creating in the Territory.

Rirratjingu were honoured to compete against many amazing businesses across the Territory.

The Best Blak Community Controlled Organisation Award acknowledges and celebrates Indigenous corporations that have made significant contributions to building more socially cohesive communities in their respective regions. These awards recognise advocacy efforts and emphasise the importance of fostering community partnerships to drive positive change.

Mandaka, Wanyubi and Witiyana accepted the award on behalf of the Board, with all of them giving powerful and passionate speeches.

#### A word on the Northern Territory Indigenous Business Network (NTIBN)

The Northern Territory Indigenous Business Network (NTIBN) has been operating in the Northern Territory (NT) for over 10 years as a consortium and peak body representing NT Indigenous businesses.

#### NTIBN MISSION

To increase the economic participation and social prosperity of Indigenous Australians by encouraging, supporting, empowering and building the capacity of Indigenous businesses.



- NTIBN are 100% Indigenous owned and are recognised as the peak and preferred certifying authority in the NT.
- NTIBN is at the forefront of Aboriginal economic development, putting Aboriginal businesses in the driver's seat of economic self-determination while unlocking the NT's rich and grand Aboriginal estate.
- NTIBN organizes a diverse range of local and national events that draw attendees from various locations.
- The BLAK BUSINESS Awards is a prestigious social event that occurs annually and serves as a platform to showcase the accomplishments of Northern Territory's Blak Businesses. It also provides an opportunity for our members to interact and network with colleagues, patrons, allies, and corporate partners.









Yalmay Yunupingu and Prime Minister, Anthony Albanese

# **Rirratjingu on the National Stage**

Featured on our front cover for the 2024 Annual Report is RAC director Yalmay Yunupingu. Our 2024 Senior Australian of the Year.

#### Celebrating our 2024 Senior Australian of the Year

This year we celebrated the recognition of Yalmay Yunupingu's receipt as the 2024 Senior Australian of the Year. Gentle, generous and dedicated - Yalmay has touched many lives throughout our community and her national recognition is well deserved for a life devoted to preserving our culture.

The Senior Australian of the Year Award commenced in 1999, in the International Year of Older Persons, and recognises those Australians aged 60 and over who continue to achieve and contribute to our great country.

Joining Yalmay as nominees for the 2024 award were distinguished people from across the nation including:

- Ebenezer Banful OAM (ACT) a dedicated volunteer and multiculturalism advocate
- Glenys Oogjes (VIC) who has been instrumental in shaping Australian animal welfare
- John Ward (NSW) who has devoted his life to providing medical care for disadvantaged and ageing Australians
- Reverend Robyn and Reverend Dr Lindsay Burch (QLD) - from the Gold Coast who are founders of the food charity Havafeed Relief
- Sister Meredith Evans (SA) a Sister of Mercu known for her contributions to education and community service
- Charlie Bass (WA) an innovator and founder of the Centre of Entrepreneurial Research and Innovation
- Reverend James Colville AM (TAS) the founder of Tasmanian housing non-profit Colony 47.



In winning the award, Yalmay was recognised for her work over 40 years teaching at Yirrkala Bilingual School and in particular her pivotal role in preserving Yolngu language and culture through the development of a bilingual education system within the school.

Known as the "mother of the school," Yalmay's work has impacted generations of students.

Yalmay's contributions to bilingual education have been widely recognized, including her receiving a "Teacher of Excellence" award in 2005 and becoming an Honorary Fellow at Charles Darwin University.

Despite her retirement, Yalmay continues to educate and inspire younger generations, emphasizing the importance of cultural preservation. She stands as a role model within our community and across our nation.

Yalmay began her career by translating children's books, including Dr. Seuss, into Yolngu Matha, and worked alongside her late husband, Madawuy Yunipingu, a member of the band Yothu Yindi, to strengthen Indigenous language and cultural education.

Witiyana was acknowledged for his dedication to Retiring her role with the school in March 2023, preserving and sharing our Rirratjingu culture through Yalmay has remained deeply involved in our music, film, and education. As a leader and director community, and continues to contribute in many ways of our corporation Witiyana is acknowledged for his including as a director of our corporation. Her wisdom cultural leadership, both in our community and the is well received within the board room. wider Australian public.

Yalmay is today, a driving force behind the Rirratjingu Healing Centre. An initiative supporting culture and traditional healing practices.



Flying high above Parliament House, Canberra.

#### Witiyana Marika: Our 2024 Northern Territory Local Hero

Rirratjingu Aboriginal Corporation director and cultural ambassador, Witiyana Marika, was celebrated this year as the 2024 Northern Territory Local Hero.

Witiyana is a respected Rirratjingu elder, musician, actor and filmmaker. He is best known as a founding member of the iconic rock band Yothu Yindi, which brought Yolngu music and cultural traditions to the global stage.

Beyond his music career, Witiyana has also made significant contributions to film, most notably as a coproducer and cultural advisor for High Ground (2020), a film addressing the history of colonial violence against Indigenous Australians.

As a senior cultural leader within our Rirratjingu community, Witiyana has been instrumental in teaching Yolngu songlines and ceremonies. He also uses his platform to promote truth-telling about Australia's colonial past, advocating for a greater understanding of Indigenous history.

As a senior Dirritay and Dhalgarra (ceremonial leader) and a teacher of sonalines and ceremonies for our Rirratjingu clan, Witiyana is known for being generous and inclusive with his cultural knowledge and continuing the practice of Yolngu Nation Cycle and Rom (lore).

Witiyana continues to inspire and educate our new generations about Yolngu culture and history.



Eva Lawler, Former Chief Minister of the Northern Territory, congratulates Witiyana Marika on his 2024 Local Hero of the Year for the Northern Territory award.

# Proud Regional Winners - Chamber of Commerce NT



Photo of the nights celebrations: Kate Spinks, Witiyana Marika, Denise Fincham, Gurrumin Marika, Wanyubi Marika, Mandaka Marika and CEO Rhian Oliver

### 2023 – 2024 witnessed more recognition for our corporation courtesy of the Chamber of Commerce NT Regional Award night.

The Rirratjingu Aboriginal Corporation were awarded as Chamber of Commerce NT, regional winners for the following categories:

### Excellence in Business in Best Event/Business Collaboration (Yarrapay Festival 2023) Regional

Awards: Excellence in Business – Not for Profit

#### About the Awards

The Chamber of Commerce NT has a series of excellence awards that are open to any individual, or organisation, across the NT who provide services to customers.

Both the Regional and the Territory wide Awards are designed to acknowledge exemplary customer service in both the private and public sectors.

The Awards are a unique opportunity to highlight the standout contributions of those who have made a significant impact in their regions and to recognise their excellence across the entire Northern Territory.

The Rirratjingu Aboriginal Corporation was again recognised as **Regional Winner** for our Excellence in Business in Best Event in association with our increasingly iconic Yarrapay Festival.

We were also acknowledged as **Regional Winner** of the Excellence in Business – Not for Profit Award.

We take enormous pride in our organisation. High standards of governance and great leadership form the basis of our service delivery. We have a carefully designed and planned approach, much like our ancestors who have always looked ahead, always working towards a stronger, healthier, more secure future.



Our recent Chamber Awards are continued demonstration of our commitment to best practice across areas including community engagement, corporate branding and commercial leadership.

#### **Our Community Engagement:**

Community engagement sits at the heart of RAC's approach. This engagement is not limited to Rirratjingu members.

For the Region of East Arnhem to thrive in a transitioning economy RAC acknowledge the importance of ongoing community engagement. In doing so, RAC continue to take a leadership approach to economic, social and community initiatives through consultation and action.

We are proud to again receive acknowledgement of our work as regional winners.

### **Our Corporate Brand:**

The Rirratjingu Aboriginal Corporation brand is recognised across Australia.

As the 'Father of Land Rights', courtesy of the famous 1963 Yirrkala Bark Petitions the corporation's reputation sits on the national stage.

The long list of famous Rirratjingu people over the years has supported the Rirratjingu brand. This last year witnessed two RAC Directors receiving national accolades through the Australia Day Awards. Yalmay Yunupingu was awarded the Senior Australian of the Year (National) while Witiyana Marika received the Award as Local Hero (State).

The RAC brand is a nationally respected brand.

### **Our Commercial Leadership:**

Recognising the scale of commercial opportunities, RAC has established strategic partnership with corporations like CGL (50% partner Rirratjingu Fuel), Sitzler (49% partner Rirratjingu Project Management). These examples recognise the willingness of RAC to partner with others who are experts in their field. These partnerships in addition to the specialist advisor support and the continued engagement of Directors in learning, have been major factors in placing RAC as leaders in their field of operations.

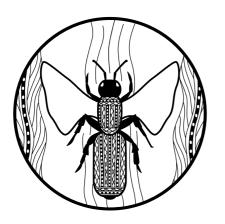
### **Our Community Engagement:**

Our vision is guided by our forefathers. They have inspired us to work diligently for the benefit of our community, to hold tightly our culture and tradition and to be firm and strong for our land and our culture.

We are acknowledged as a corporation achieving enormous commercial success without losing sight of our core purpose. That purpose is all about our community focus and the wellbeing of our members.

### A word on the Chamber of Commerce NT

Established in 1957 the Chamber of Commerce NT is the largest employer association in the Northern Territory. An independent, not-for-profit and nongovernment body - our membership and offices span the Territory.



# YANAWAL units

# Yanawal Short Stay Accommodation Units

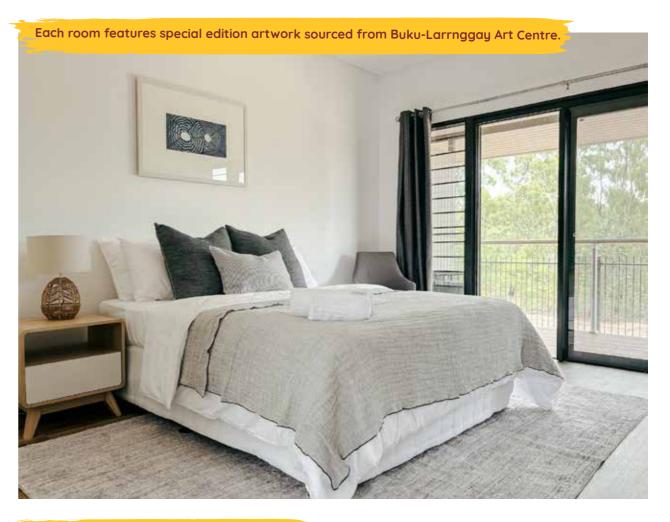
Rirratjingu Investments has invested in the construction of 15 high quality short-term accommodation units. The facility, known as the Yanawal Units, were constructed on the land of the Rirratjingu Business Centre.

The units will support businesses needing to accommodate visiting contractors and others travelling through the region.

Much like our adjacent Rirratjingu Business Centre, the units were launched in June 2024 and will contribute to the region's accommodation facilities into the future. The Yanawal Units offer both convenience and charm. They are in a prime location from which to easily explore Nhulunbuy and beyond.

Yanawal guests are ensured an indulgent and comfortable stay with luxurious bedding that promises a restful night's sleep, complemented by Indigenous-owned bath products by Groote Eylandt's Bush Medijina.

Each unit is adorned with limited edition Rirratjingu art.





# 2024 Launch of the Rirratjingu Business Centre



The words of our Chair, Wanyubi Marika:

"Today, we celebrate not only the bricks and mortar that make up this building but also the connections and relationships that will flourish within these walls. This is more than just a place of work; it is a hub of creativity, collaboration, and community."

Wanyubi Marika (June 2024)

The recent year has witnessed extraordinary growth for RAC with commercial initiatives set to deliver sustainability post mining. Not least among the exciting projects was the completion of our \$10 million dollar Rirratjingu Business Centre (RBC).

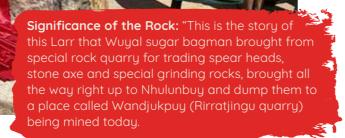
The launch of our fully tenanted \$10 million dollar RBC took place in June 2024 and represented another milestone for our Corporation. With East Arnhem Land businesses looking to prosper, we recognised the need for a business centre in Nhulunbuy. We secured the contract for the old Rio Tinto "Wet Mess" facility and designed the multi million dollar refurbishment.

Today, our Rirratjingu Business Centre, is fully tenanted. It provides another important step in the sustainability of our Corporation and another important commercial asset for our region.

# Official opening of the Rirratjingu Business Centre in June 2024 with the unveiling of the rock and commemorative plaque.









### Aligned with the Regions Priorities

The Rirratjingu Business Centre is closely aligned with our region's priorities. We are committed to supporting the critical infrastructure gaps outlined in the 'Regional Economic Growth Plan 2022 – 2023 (REGP)' and 'A New Journey Together', the Traditional Owners vision for the future.

Both these pieces of work acknowledge the importance of additional commercial infrastructure. Indeed, almost all elements in the Traditional Owners vision and the REGP are unattainable without additional infrastructure.

Today, the RBC is a hub where businesses can thrive. The facilities are now supporting many businesses and organisations in the region. With multiple meeting rooms, conference rooms and shop front leases, the RBC is today providing many companies and organisations with the space to grow.

The business centre boasts solar power, air-conditioning, off-street parking, a common kitchen, and modern bathroom facilities in a prime Nhulunbuy location.





A striking wall sticker in the RAC office featuring the image of a basket weaving by Gurrundul #1 Marawili.

# **NOTABLE RIRRATJINGU PEOPLE**

# They may be passed but their legacy lives on! 🥣

### A Tribute to 55,000 years

As a traditional owner of land on the Gove Peninsula the Rirratjingu people have a deep and sacred connection to country with our fathers, and their fathers, custodians of the land and since time began, some 55,000 years ago.

The land holds a profound spiritual significance with our culture intricately intertwined with our identity, belonging, and way of life.

Our recorded history is but a fraction of time. Thousands of years of leaders have carried our culture and traditions. We owe them a great debt and this recent history of Notable Rirratjingu people would not be complete without an acknowledgement of those many leaders that came before us.

Before recorded history could capture their contribution to the people we are today.

### The Rirratjingu Clan

Our Rirratjingu clan, part of the Yolngu people of North-East Arnhem Land, has a rich history and cultural heritage. We are known for our deep connection to the land, sea, and our ancestral traditions.

Over the years of recorded history the Rirratjingu have produced many notable figures who have made significant contributions to community, the arts, and the broader Australian society.

### We have produced a remarkable array of individuals who have excelled in various fields. from music and art to education and community leadership.

The contributions of our Rirratjingu people have not only enriched Yolngu culture but have also brought greater awareness and appreciation of Indigenous Australian heritage to a global audience. Through their talents and dedication, these notable Rirratjingu people continue to inspire and uplift our community, ensuring that their cultural legacy endures for future generations.

The following persons are only some of the notable characters that have contributed to the Rirratjingu **Aboriginal Corporation and** the Rirratjingu family.

Their legacy is treasured today and always. Their dedication and commitment have seen them acknowledged on a national stage. Today, we celebrate them.



### Dr. B. Marika (AO) Officer of the Order (AO) - former RAC director & Artist (13/10/1954 - 12/07/2021)

Dr. B. Marika, the daughter of Rirratjingu statesman and artist Mawalan 1 Marika, was a great Rirratjingu and nationally acclaimed artist. She came from Yirrkala, the heart of our Rirratjingu community.

Dr. B. Marika pioneered Yolngu women's art in many fields and by the time of her death in July 2021 had left a legacy that expressed her passionate commitment to Yolngu culture, her family, the environment, and sacred places of creation.

Through lyrical lines, colour, mapping in precise formation, and respectful precision she was able to detail the sacred knowledge and creative forces of nature, yet had also taken a key role on fifty boards or advisory groups of state and national art institutions (including the National Gallery of Australia, 2012–2015) as well as environmental management bodies. All this whilst rearing five children, then caring as mother and grandmother to perhaps one hundred more - the future generations of the wider family clan - too often in grief and anxiety for the many tragedies she could not prevent.

#### Referred to on occasions as 'Doctor B' in reference to her honorary from Flinders University in 2018 Dr. Marika was awarded an AO in 2019 and in 2020 was also named the Senior Australian of the Year for the Northern Territory.

Previously her accolades had included the Red Ochre Award of the Australia Council for the Arts as the premier Indigenous artist in the nation. When her own art practice developed it had the site and import of Yalangbara at its core, the most important linocut print being her commissioned Bicentennial print Yelangbara, 1988, in which the pure white reflective sands of the beach dune system reveal the faint tracks of Djanda, the goanna, named by the Djang'kawu.

Painting on bark was eventually to become Dr. Marika's principal medium although she always made prints too. In 2005 she won the national Telstra Bark Painting award at MAGNT with a finely honed, mesmerising abstraction of the sands and journeys at Yalangbara. Another larger version completed in 2007 is illustrated - Yelangbara [Yalangbara], 2007. Her major bark paintings are brilliantly conceived and carefully executed, masterful reveries on song, land, sea and movement.

In 1992 Dr. Marika had built a network and art reputation visiting conferences and board meetings as well as peak bodies including Bangarra Dance Company. She co-ordinated the Arnhem Land performance at the 2000 Sydney Olympics Opening Ceremony.

Dr. Marika was also the pioneer in establishing the Yolngu-controlled Gon Djambutj Healing Centre in Yirrkala. Leading a group of dedicated women Dr. Marika spent many years driving the establishment of the community owned and operated traditional healing enterprise designed to add cultural layers to contemporary Western medicine.





### Djuwalpi Marika

Former RAC Director & Rirratjingu Elder

(9/10/1954 - 7/2/2022)

Djuwalpi Marika was the only son of Mathaman Marika, one of the forefathers of Rirratjingu Aboriginal Corporation. He remained a staunch advocate for Yolngu people encouraging their involvement in governance and control over their own communities and their own destiny.

He played an active leadership role on many Boards representing not only the Rirratjingu Clan but all Yolngu people of East Arnhem Land. He once said, "Our forefathers that fight in the Land Rights, they fight for justice and peace, to have income in their own land, employment & education."

In his early days he wrote a significant part of a book called 'These Stories are like a Healing - Like a Medicine...' He was quoted once as saying:

"These are difficult times, but we are holding onto our visions and dreams for Yirrkala. These dreams and visions have long histories. They were carried for thousands of years by our ancestors. They are now being carried in different ways by different members of our community, by council members, by strong women, by young people, and by children. "Every member of Yirrkala has stories and dreams for this place. We need to listen."

Djuwalpi acted as town clerk of Yirrkala community and was Deputy President of East Arnhem Regional Council advocating the role and responsibilities for local governments in the Closing the Gap - National Partnership Agreement. *"Council is the arm of the people of East Arnhem Land,"* he said.

Djuwalpi was instrumental in seeking the commitment of local government to support the desire of Indigenous Councils to give their communities life outcomes that were equal to those enjoyed by all Australians. He left a legacy and is remembered for his tireless dedication to Rirratjingu.







In 1998 Raymattja gave the Wentworth lecture, in which she said:

"My other name, my deep name, is Gunutjpitt Gunuwanga. This name links me to my land, to my religious aspect of the land. It defines where I come from, who I am ..."

## Raymattja Marika (AM)

Member of the order (AM) Roy Marika's daughter and leading expert of Yolngu customs and languages. (Her image is featured as a mural on Yirrkala Shire Council Facility.)

(c.1959 - 11/5/2008)

**Raymattja Marika** (AM), also known as **Gunutjpitt Gunuwanga**, was a Yolngu leader, scholar, educator, translator, linguist and cultural advocate for Aboriginal Australians. She was a Director of Reconciliation Australia and a member of the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies. She was also a director of the Yothu Yindi Foundation and a participant in the 2020 Summit, which was held in April 2008. Raymattja advocated understanding and reconciliation between Indigenous Australian and Western cultures.

Raymattja Marika was born around 1959, the eldest daughter of Eunice and Roy Marika, prominent leaders in the Indigenous Australian land rights movement. She was also the niece of painter and actor Wandjuk Marika (OBE).

Raymattja was born into the Rirratjingu clan of the Yolngu people, and lived in Yirrkala on the Gove Peninsula in Arnhem Land, Northern Territory. She lost a leg to cancer when she was young. She earned degrees from the Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education and Melbourne.

Raymattja became a scholar, translator, linguist and cultural defender for the rights of Indigenous Australians. Many of her writings appeared in nationwide media, and she lectured throughout Australia. She devoted her professional career to education, and worked to bridge the gap between Australia's Aboriginal peoples, especially her native Yolngu, and the wider English-speaking mainstream society. She taught at Charles Darwin University in Darwin.

Raymattja Marika was considered a leading expert of Yolngu customs and languages in north-east Arnhem Land, including the community of Yirrkala and the Gove Peninsula. She was an expert in the inner workings and history of the Yolngu clan systems of Arnhem Land. She also worked to preserve the traditional storytelling of the Yolngu, often comparing the morals and insights of Yolngu traditions with ideas from the Western world. She and another senior member of her clan compiled a book which told the stories Yolngu song lines in Yolngu Matha along with English translations, published in 1989, and helped researchers to produce written knowledge of her culture.

Raymattja understood the pressures placed on the Yolngu's small language group, called Yolngu Matha, due to bauxite mining in the area, which commenced during the 20th century. She worked as a linguist to prevent the extinction of her people's indigenous languages. Pertaining to the languages of her own clan, **Raymattja understood all fourteen languages of the Rirratjingu clan, and spoke three of these Rirratjingu languages fluently.** 

She later helped to develop a traditional language curriculum for Yolngu children to preserve local languages. Raymattja also focused much of her attention on her native community of Yirrkala. She co-founded the Dhimurru Land Management Aboriginal Corporation, a land management group, in 1992 with her husband, Mununggurritj, and remained the group's cultural adviser for many years.



## Lak Lak Langini Marika

Former RAC Director & Botanist

(30/06/1943 - 17/09/2023)

Lak Lak Marika was considered the most senior lore woman for our Rirratjingu clan, she was the culture and tradition educator and expert in bush medicine and local botany.

One of the highlights of her career was co-writing the book Rirratjingu Ethnobotany: Aboriginal Plant Use from Yirrkala, Arnhem Land, Australia in 1995.

To this day this book is a much sought after piece of literature. Lak Lak once described when working with the Yolngu Sea Country Project:

#### "The flow of water connects different places and is therefore a powerful symbol of connections between people; our kinship connects us to whatever lies in the sea. It holds our family. And everything in the sea is related."

In 2007 after meeting Melbourne University Chancellor, Lak Lak Marika, along with her niece, Rarriwuy Marika, undertook a month-long residency at Trinity College as visiting scholars in increasing knowledge of Indigenous culture.

Lak Lak was also considered a master weaver and colour dyer. In 2017 along with the Mulka Project, Lak Lak developed a video exhibition that weaves together her alchemy, art, and ethnobotany with vibrancy and colour. This collection of knowledge now permanently resides within the Mulka Project's Yolngu owned archives in Yirrkala. Lak Lak was once quoted:

#### "When we're not here the children need to know what to do, they need to learn the culture, what we do, and how we do it. They are our future, the people's future."

Lak Lak served as a Director of the Rirratjingu Aboriginal Corporation and Rirratjingu Investments. She was the senior most figure of the Rirratjingu Clan.

As the ultimate cultural authority of her clan, Lak Lak held the final decision-making power over issues involving land and other clan concerns.

Lak Lak was educated by the missionaries before studying nursing and becoming an Aboriginal Health Worker in 1969. She was later promoted to Chairperson of the NT Health Department overseeing Aboriginal Health Workers across the Territory.

Lak Lak was actively involved in the Rirratjingu Aboriginal Corporation and business entities decision making process. She lived quietly at her homeland on the northern shore of Bremer Island.

Lak Lak remains in our memory as the strong but caring Matriarch of the Rirratjingu clan.



## **Eunice Djerrkngu Marika**

and mother of Witiyana Marika. (1945 - 2022)

Rirratjingu Clan.

Eunice was a highly respected Yolngu elder and celebrated Yolngu artist based in Yirrkala. Her deeply personal paintings portray the story of her conception as the spiritual mermaid, a depiction transposed by the artist into a highly distinctive and contemporary aesthetic. Her work stems from a memory she has from a time before she was born, described by her as an encounter experienced by her father.

"One day, my Dad sees the tail of the mermaid and thinks he has seen a fish, so he walks closer and closer and closer and silently puts the woomera into the spear ready to throw. He throws the spear at the mermaid, but she jumps into the water... Later, when he gets home and lies down and falls into a deep sleep, he sees in his dream the mermaid and realises it was no ordinary fish. It was me! I was telling him in the dream 'That was me dad, don't spear me. Bapa ... It is I, it was not a fish'."

When her father woke from his dream his wife confirmed that she was pregnant, and they understood that the mermaid had been the spirit of their unborn daughter, Eunice Djerrkngu Marika.

Eunice joined the Yirrkala Methodist Choir aged six (6) back in the mission days and sang with her family at church and Sunday school. It was no surprise that Eunice had a wonderful singing voice; she's a member of one of Australia's renowned musical families.

Originally, Eunice and the choir sang only in English, but after her sister Gulumbu Yunupingu and her aunty Mutilnga Burarrwana helped translate many hymns into the Gumatj dialect of Yolngu Matha, they began singing gospel songs in a language many Yolngu people knew better than English.

Eunice became a highly respected gospel singer, sharing her voice and her story with people throughout Arnhem Land. After the translation of many gospel songs into the Gumatj language, Eunice and the Yirrkala Methodist Choir began sending their music across the Top End of the Northern Territory via Yolngu Radio.

#### "It's good for all Yolngu people to hear our language, our songs," E D Marika said.

"By singing hymns in Yolngu Matha, we are ensuring that our language remains strong and helps younger Yolngu learn their language and history."

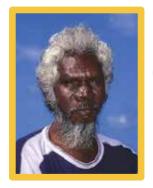
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## highly respected gospel singer. Wife of Roy Dadayuga Marika

Eunice Djerrkngu Marika was the second (2nd) wife for Roy Dadaynga Marika, and she was highly regarded as the matriarch mother for the

#### *"I've been singing since I was a little girl," Eunice said.*

"I joined the Yirrkala Methodist Choir aged 6, back in the mission days, and sang with my family at church and Sunday School."



## Jimmy Barrmula Yunupingu

(1963 - 2018)

Jimmy Barrmula Yunupingu is the son of Dhuwarrwarr Marika and her Gumatj husband, Raymah Yunupingu.

As a child he recalls watching Mawalan 1 painting and telling him stories, although it was mainly his mother who taught him to paint, leaving her indelible stamp on his painting style.

Barrmula grew up in Yirrkala and attended Nhulunbuy High School. Later he studied at Batchelor College south of Darwin and received his Certificate in Broadcasting and Maintenance in BRACS (Broadcasting Remote Area Communication Scheme) in 1994.

#### After his return to Yirrkala, he worked for the local BRACS radio station and undertook a variety of jobs around the community.

Barrmula produced a small number of paintings on the Yalangbara area, for which he had managerial responsibilities through his mother. After a sustained illness following his wife's death, he ceased painting and resided at Dhambaliya (Bremer Island) just north of Nhulunbuy with his mother and other family members.





# **Our Founding Fathers**



### Mawalan 1 Marika

(c. 1908–1967)

Mawalan 1 Marika was a highly influential ceremonial leader, political activist and artist.

He was leader of the Rirratjingu clan when the Yirrkala Mission was established on Rirratjingu clan land in 1936. As a result, he became a pivotal spokesman for his people and negotiator with the non-Indigenous world.

Mawalan 1 saw art as a form of advocacy that could promote a better understanding and appreciation of the Yolngu world. He helped shape the commercial bark painting movement at the mission, especially during the 1950s when there was greater demand for more important religious stories.

#### Mawalan 1 contributed to the remarkable set of 365 crayon drawings for Ronald and Catherine Berndt in 1947, painted large barks for the Art Gallery of New South Wales and in 1956 won a prize in the Leroy-Alcorso textile design competition.

rights struggle.

He was the founder of the Marika artistic dynasty who broke convention by teaching his oldest daughters how to paint along with his sons.

This paved the way for Yolngu women to eventually establish themselves as painters in their own right and his legacy continued through his daughters, Dr B Marika AO and Dhuwarrwarr.



Mathaman Marika, as the next eldest brother, succeeded Mawalan 1 in continuing the Gove land rights struggle in the late 1960s.

He was an important ceremonial man and a distinguished artist who was most prolific from the late 1950s through to his death in 1970. During this time he developed a close friendship with the Melbourne-based art dealer Jim Davidson who became the main agent for his work in the 1960s.

#### During his artistic career, Mathaman developed his own particular style for painting the Djang'kawu's travels to Yalangbara, the Morning Star ceremony, and the Nhulunbuy stories such as Wuyal the Sugarbag Spirit.

He also regularly painted the Wagilag Sisters associated with the site of Marwuyu in central Arnhem Land. The rights to paint this were apparently established early in the 20th century by Mawalan's grandfather with the Manhdalpuy clan during an exchange of ceremonial songs and paintings.

Wagilag story today.



### Wandjuk Djuakan Marika

Order of the British Empire (OBE) - Rirratjingu Elder (1927 - 16/6/1987)

Wandjuk Djuakan Marika was born in 1927 on Bremer Island (Dhambaliya) in the Northern Territory. He was the eldest son of Mawalan 1 Marika and his wife Bamatja, and the brother of Banduk Marika, Dhuwarrwar Marika, Bayngul, and Laklak (all sisters).

He was a member of the Rirratjingu group of the Yolngu people. During childhood, he travelled throughout Arnhem Land by foot and by canoe.

Wandjuk was an Aboriginal Australian painter, actor, composer and Indigenous land rights activist. He was a member of the Rirratjingu clan of the Yolngu people of North-East Arnhem Land.

Through his parents, he learned to respect his country and inherited extensive rights to land through his father, who was a clan leader. His father also taught him how to paint. Wandjuk talked extensively about his father's teaching: "I'm the top man's son because my father is the most important man. We are the sons who know how to make, where to go, where to find the place"

Wandjuk was educated and learned English at the Methodist Overseas Mission at Yirrkala, which was established in 1935. By the age of 18, he had already been through extensive ceremonial training and had learnt a large amount of knowledge about the land and culture.

As an actor, Wandjuk appeared in the films Where the Green Ants Dream (1984) and Initiation (1987). He also appeared in the television miniseries Women of the Sun. He was both actor and composer in Where the Green Ants Dream.

Wandjuk was also the author of The Aboriginal Children's History of Australia. He wrote an autobiography with co-author Jennifer Isaacs entitled Wandjuk Marika: Life Story (1995).

In this book, he intentionally did not include sacred information that could not be known by children, women, and balanda, understanding that this book was for a public audience and it was his responsibility to protect that sacred knowledge.

Wandjuk died in 1987, prior to the book being published, and Isaacs waited the appropriate amount of time (as determined by his community) to publish his work in 1995.

Mawalan 1 also contributed to the Yirrkala church panels and helped send the famous bark petition to the federal government as part of his land

Because of this, Mathaman and his descendants continue to paint the



### Milirrpum Marika

(c. 1923–1983)

Milirrpum was the third oldest brother of the famous generation of Marika leaders that included Mawalan 1 and Mathaman.

Milirrpum was an important ceremonial and community leader at Yirrkala from the 1970s until his death in 1983. He was also a talented and distinctive artist who was most active after 1960 and was represented in a number of group shows during his lifetime.

Stylistically his paintings were very similar to those of his younger brother, Roy Marika. However, due to other commitments and interests, especially in the education area, he was not as prolific an artist as Mawalan 1 or Mathaman, although his work is represented in a number of public Australian collections.

Milirrpum is perhaps best known for his involvement in the landmark case Milirrpum and Others v Nabalco Pty Ltd and the Commonwealth of Australia, 1971, that finally led to the federal government's *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976.* 



## Roy Dadaynga Marika (MBE)

(c. 1925–1993)

Member of the Most Excellent Order of the Brittish Empire (MBE) Roy Marika was the youngest brother of Mawalan 1, Mathaman and Milirrpum. Following the Yolngu law of seniority, he succeeded as the leader of the Rirratjingu clan after the death of his older brother, Milirrpum, in 1970.

#### Roy's involvement in the 'Nabalco case' eventually led to the *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976.* His contribution provided the groundwork for his lifelong fight for Yolngu rights.

Roy was elected president of the Yirrkala Village Council founded by the mission in 1965 and continued on with the replacement Yirrkala Dhanbul Community Association until 1990. He was awarded an MBE for his advocacy for Indigenous rights and community work.

He was also an artist whose graphic style of painting was similar to that of his immediate older brother, Milirrpum. The subjects he painted were the same as those illustrated by other family members about the Thunder Man, Wagilag Sisters and the Djang'kawu Sisters. However, due to his extensive community commitments, Dadaynga was not as prolific as some of his other family members.

# In Our Memories

We are grateful for the vision and resilience of our forefathers, to those that came before us, whose dedication to our future resulted in the establishment of the Rirratjingu Aboriginal Corporation.

This small theme reflects on some of the notable characters that have, in recent recorded years, made significant contributions to the journey that brings us to where we are today.

Their contributions span across various fields, including art, music, education, and environmental stewardship, making them influential figures both within and beyond their community.

While the reputations of these notable people extend to the national stage, there are many others that remain in our memories. They also have laid the foundation for our lives, our customs and the strength of our culture today.



These past leaders stand as a beacon of cultural preservation and advocacy. They have played a pivotal role in the protection and promotion of our rich cultural heritage.

Our leaders today inherit the responsibilities. We remain custodians of ancient stories, songs, and ceremonies that have been passed down through generations.

## But for those past, in our memories you remain. Thank you!

# **CULTURE AND COMMUNITY**

# 

**Djunbiya tree:** Ancient Yolngu song lines tell of spirit people, including Dhanbul and Ganaburra, who would dance under the Djunbiya tree, observing the Morning Star and celebrating daybreak. Dancers would craft Guyulun (pole) and Balamurru (strings) from the materials of the Djunbiya tree and use this sacred object in their song lines.

## Introduction

The constitutional objectives of the Rirratjingu Aboriginal Corporation provide the impetus and focus for our Culture and Community Division.

Objective 3 is all about our people, our community, and our culture. Objective 3.1 states:

".. the charitable purposes of relieving the poverty, destitution, misfortune, disadvantage, distress, dispossession and suffering and to promote the health, education, housing, employment and welfare of the members..."

This primary objective sits behind our Mission. The reason we were established back in 1984 and the reason that drives us forward today:

"... to stand firm and to stand together for our people: To remain the rock that is one voice together with a shared resolve to shape a future for our families and generations to come so they can live equally in a world of economic certainty and social wellbeing."

While recent years has witnessed our exciting commercial achievements as we intensify our efforts to secure the future for our people post mining, our underlying impetus is all about continued support to our members and progressing towards sustainability.



Our Culture and Community Division ensures that while we keep a sharp eye on the future, that we have in place the necessary initiatives for our members today, and tomorrow.

Our commercial motivation is in knowing that with strong investments we can continue to deliver important services and support to members of this generation and generations to come.

So, it is not about money, but rather service and support. As we move forward, we must keep this balanced view. Our commercial activities will give us the means to deliver member benefits for our current generation and those generations to come.

> This section of our Annual Report touches on the work of our Culture and Community team and programs conducted over the last year.

## **Yarrapay Festival**

Yarrapay Festival was back for another year in 2024 and what a wonderful community event it was, attracting over 1500 people across the weekend and showcasing the very best of Yolngu and Australian music, art, dance, and culture at the Roy Marika Stage in Yirrkala.

This year's event was the biggest to date, with a record crowd in attendance and the addition of a new market area featuring stalls from local businesses and a Children Zone by arts group 'The Bait Fridge'.

Friday night focussed on youth and family programming, featuring Gove's up and coming talent and recognising local achievements by the community. The evening started with a basketball competition and football activities hosted by EARC Youth, Sport & Recreation along with Gove AFL.

The music started with performances from Yirrkala and Nhulunbuy high School bands, and then moved onto local artists Wild Honey, The Djoogs, Bo & The Unknown and Diamond Dogs. This first night of entertainment contributed to a celebration of the region and a chance for friends and family to see familiar faces on stage.

Headlining Friday night was the teen prodigy and internet sensation Flewnt & Inkabee from WA who captivated and inspired the audience with their fiery hip-hop. As the sun was setting local children from Yirrkala school held a lantern parade through the festival grounds, honouring and memorialising loved ones who had been lost over the years.

The night finished with a bang, with a dance competition and disco hosted by DJ Voodoo Dred and Lirrina Mununggurr.

On Saturday night Yirrkala was transformed by the beautiful song and dance of East Arnhem Land and a wealth of talent from across the country. The festival was officially launched with a traditional Rirratjingu bunggul at sunset in honour of the festival namesake. Entertainment followed with the music of one of Rirratjingu's leading talents, Yirrmal Marika, who captivated the audience with his powerful voice.

Following Yirrmal's performance we heard from the Andrew Gurruwiwi Band, Drifting Clouds, Dhapanbal, and Slowmango. The entertainment shifted up a gear when we welcomed on stage our very special guests, the 'Three Yolngu Elvis'. The trio featured leaders of Yirrkala community all dressed in their best Elvis costumes playing a range of hits from the King of Rock 'n' Roll himself, Elvis Presley.

For the first time ever, Yarrapay featured a market stall area selling locally crafted clothes, cosmetics, food, and merchandise from producers Yirrkala Rangers Bush Products, Bukaway, Djapirri, and RAC's own Yarrapay merchandise.

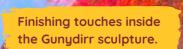
There was also a large Children Zone area hosted by South Australian arts group, The Bait Fridge, featuring a large inflatable Gunydirr (Ant hill) sculpture turned dance party and a range of activities including face painting, screen printing, sports, and more.

ARDS Yolngu Radio also joined this year with a puppet show for children, sharing messages about wellbeing and living a healthy lifestyle. Food was provided by ALPA on Friday night with a free sausage sizzle and also by the Nhulunbuy High School formal committee fundraiser on Saturday night.

All in all, Yarrapay 2024 was a huge success and a fantastic event. We look forward to hosting the festival again in 2025!

turned dance party space for kids.





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nar Mhättarra narrakaya wärgin Wayin Mara dharpan

> Screen printing activities for Festival 🌹 attendees run by The Bait Fridge.

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Con States

A bunggul was performed at dusk to welcome attendees to the event.

## **Music Workshops**

RAC has facilitated several music workshops in Yirrkala throughout the year at both Buku-Larrnggay Mulka Art Centre and at Yirrkala school.

Workshops started with the Yirrkala 'jam sessions', a monthly after-school event at the Art Centre in collaboration with Mulka, ALPA, EARC, and local community.

The workshops were hugely popular, demonstrating the engagement and passion for music in Yirrkala from all age groups. Children and young people played songs by local heroes Yothu Yindi, King Stingray, Warumpi Band etc. The children also learnt how to write new music.

Due to the success of the after-school jam sessions and a lack of a music program at Yirrkala school, RAC were asked by the school if we could run music lessons/workshops during school hours in term 2. Our Culture and Community team, led by our own Adi, along with a group of local Yirrkala musicians and the Clontarf boys stepped up to run fortnightly music lessons and workshops at the school.

Witiyana Marika also joined some of the sessions and used it as an opportunity to speak about his experience as a professional musician and to address issues affecting the community.

- Harden

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

Children utilising the community owned recording studio at the Buku-Larrnggay Mulka Art Centre.

The Roy Marika stage hosts regular jam sessions, music lessons and workshops for people of all ages.





## **Slowmango & The Bait Fridge Workshops**

South Australian arts group The Bait Fridge and band Slowmango ran music and art workshops throughout the 2023 – 2024 year in Yirrkala and among homelands communities. They visited on four (4) occasions in different capacities during the year.

Slowmango & The Bait Fridge are a South Australian arts collective who create and deliver socially engaged performances, workshops, and artistic works across Australia with an inclusive and community driven approach, giving participants the opportunity to explore and interact with a variety of art forms.

With the help of RAC, they were able to visit Yirrkala and surrounding communities multiple times throughout the year, fostering a meaningful connection and ongoing relationship between RAC, Slowmango & The Bait Fridge and the wider community.

The first trip was in August for 'East Arnhem Live', where they ran open access after-school workshops themed around 'Healthy Eating'. Together with children and young people, they wrote and recorded a song 'Nguthan Dalthi (Grow Strong); designed and printed t-shirts; built a large turtle sculpture from ghost nets collected by Dhimurru; painted a large mural; and performed the song at East Arnhem Live.

A smaller group returned to run song writing and music video workshops in the remote homeland of Gangan in October 2023. Adi was there representing our Culture and Community team, together with Arian Pearson from Mulka and Mat and Emmaline from Slowmango & The Bait Fridge. They spent one week with children from Gangan and wrote and recorded the song 'Rarrandharr', about the Yolngu season (October/November).

With support from Festivals Australia and RAC, the group returned in June 2024 to perform and run a Children Zone at Yarrapay Festival and host art and music workshops in the lead up at Yirrkala school. This time the workshops were held in the last week of term during class time and featured a wide range of activities for the children to engage in, including songwriting, mural painting, sewing, arts and crafts, and puppetry.

They were hugely successful and popular with between 50 and 100 children every day engaging in the workshops and a wealth of music and art made.

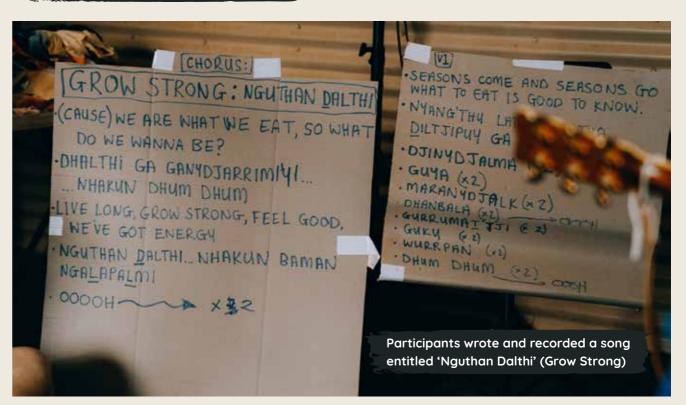
At the festival *The Bait Fridge* ran a children zone near Yirrkala school where they had a huge inflatable Gundirr sculpture (Termite Mound) with a disco dance party inside. There was also facepainting and screen-printing, where children could design their own Yarrapay bags and shirts.

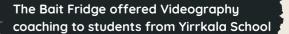
On Friday night *The Bait Fridge* performed the song which they had written with the children during the workshops of the huge Yarrapay crowd night crowd.





of the 2024 Yarrapay Festival program





After-school workshops themed around ' 'Healthy Eating' were held as part of the 2024 East Arnhem Live program.



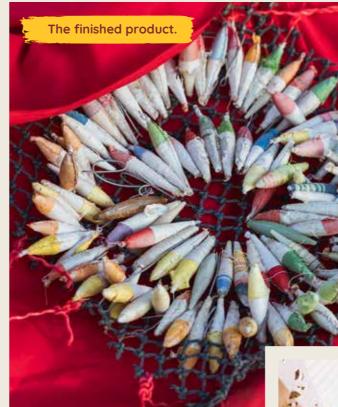




Children utilising the community owned recording studio at the Buku-Larrnggay Mulka Art Centre.













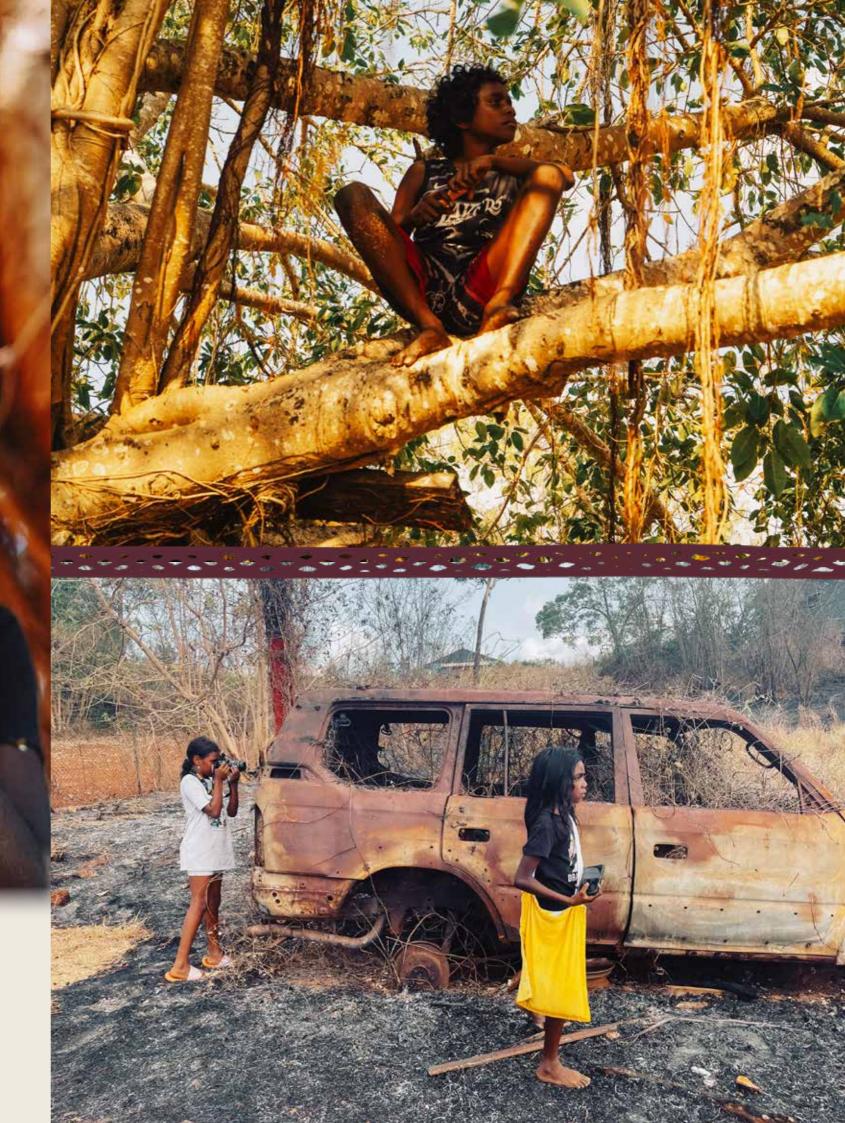
Sorting through collected materials for a future art sculpture.

# **Photography Workshops**

In the October school holidays our Culture and Community team ran a series of photography workshops facilitated by Emmaline Zanelli and Kelly Hussey-Smith, both professional photographers.

The workshops used photography as a tool for children and young people to capture and share stories of their lives and community, championing the stories of the next generation, while learning new skills.

Children and young people were able to learn about photography and photo developing methods using the newest technology, as well as learn the history of photography and learn old methods of photo developing.





# **Emerging Leaders**

The same Emerging Leader's cohort from last year continued into this year to continue to build on their skills and learning. The group has been working on a combination of structured workshops built around a curricular focused on corporate governance and compliance. The program has provided exposure for participants to other environments with the objective to improve awareness of the world around them improve their ability to walk in two worlds.

Outside of the classroom the group has participated in on-country learning with elders, toured RIO sites, participated in event planning, completed suicide prevention training and been guest observers in RAC Board Meetings.

Building on the screen-printing success of last year, the Culture and Community team and Emerging Leaders continued working on screen-printing projects this year. Over 350 t-shirts were printed and sold for Yarrapay Festival using Roy James Marika's designs.

Building on the skill development of last year, Marradathun Marika was interned with the Yarrapay festival team and given responsibility for choosing t-shirts and designs. His responsibilities extended to ordering the t-shirts and associated resources along with training new screen printers on how to use the equipment.

This year our Emerging Leaders were able to follow the screen-printing process from inception,

through the design and creation phase, and through to selling the final product. This project built confidence in their understanding of the process and added to their pride and participation in Yarrapay.

In September 2023 the Emerging Leaders completed another screen printing and event planning project. The Culture and Community team worked with the group in the lead up to 'Suicide Prevention Week' to create designs and phrases designed to spread the message of suicide prevention. This often considered a 'taboo subject' was an important awareness and learning experience for all. Our Culture and Community team along with our Emerging Leaders planned a BBQ event in Yirrkala where they handed out free shirts and tote bags with their designs.

Following on from this, the Emerging Leaders cohort were interested in learning more about suicide prevention and were supported to travel to Cairns in March to take part in Indigenous suicide awareness training with *LivingWorks*.

By weaving together Indigenous knowledge and contemporary suicide prevention strategies, *I-ASIST* equips community members, service providers, and leaders with the skills and knowledge to recognise risks, provide immediate support, and develop culturally responsive approaches to suicide prevention within Indigenous communities.



## Emerging Leaders participate in regular hunting trips throughout the year.







Emerging Leaders completed Indigenous Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training

# Emerging Leaders and **RAC staff**







# in Cairns

# Bunggul

Throughout the year Rirratjingu performed many Buŋgul and Welcome to Country in Yirrkala, Nhulunbuy and across the Northern Territory, proudly continuing Yolngu culture and ceremony with community. Some highlights included:

- Australia Day in Nhulunbuy
- ABC Backroads TV series
- Bark Petition return to the Art Centre
- Wallabies visit to Yirrkala
- Territory Day Event
- Yirrkala Bilingual School 50th Anniversary
- Yarrapay Festival
- NAIDOC Yirrkala Community Event
- Dawurr at Dusk
- East Arnhem Live Music Festival
- East Arnhem Regional Council mural opening
- Midawarr Day event
- Police Remembrance Day
- Jawun Consultation
- Barawun Centre opening
- Yirrkala Fuel station opening
- Rirratjingu Business Centre opening









# **Denise Fincham & Rirratjingu Education Support Fund**

The Denise Fincham & Rirratjingu Education Support Fund was established in 2022.

In recognition of the many years of service that Denise Fincham has given freely to the Rirratjingu People, and the broader East Arnhem Community, the RAC Board has established a special "Education Support Fund".

It was agreed that this Fund would be named the "Denise Fincham & Rirratjingu Education Support Fund" (Fund). This initiative forms part of RAC's overall Charitable, Cultural and Social Program.

The intention of the Fund has been to provide the guidelines for funding support across areas where there arises a gap in funding or where special needs arise.

The objective of this Fund is to support education through financial assistance to local schools which enables them to purchase equipment or supplies designed to benefit the entire school, including current and future students (including Rirratjingu who attend all local schools).

A Fund Committee was established by the board of RAC to manage sponsorships through the Fund. Decisions made in relation to expenditure are made by majority agreement between the Fund Committee Members being the RAC Chairperson, CEO and a third person to be appointed by the RAC Board at the time of the RAC Board confirming the annual budget allocation for this fund.

Some recent projects funded under the Denise Fincham & Rirratijngu Education Support Fund include the donation of a 12 seater Toyota HiAce bus wrapped in a beautiful artwork painted by RAC Chairman Wanyubi Marika; refurbishment of school stage flooring and installation of a new auditorium sound system; installation of new AFL posts on the school oval; front office awning extension; and the purchase of a bank of laptops to support senior students to complete their studies.

## Our new wrap!



Last year we were gifted a piece of art created specifically for Nhulunbuy Primary School.

The bark painting was completed by Chairman of Rirratjingu Aboriginal Corporation. Wanyubi Marika which depicts the journey of the honeybee.

Thanks to Denise Fincham and the Rirratjingu Education Fund, this design has been incorporated on a wrap for our school bus, that was finished this week.

" We wish to extend our deepest thanks to Wanyubi Marika, Denise Fincham and Rirratjingu Aboriginal Corporation for this wonderful addition to our school."

- Nhulunbuy Primary School Facebook Page



It starts as a small child working through the different stage of schooling, gaining employment, and culminating with a job and healthy family life.

> Mandaka Marika, RAC Vice Chair & Wanyubi Marika, RAC Chair & Artist

tong Future

# **INVESTING IN THE SUSTAINABILITY OF OUR REGION - OUR PEOPLE**



While RAC's origins are linked to managing mining royalties for the benefit of our people, we have always been mindful of the fact that the life of these royalties' is finite. Subsequently, we understand that participation in the economy through business and employment is vital for a prosperous future.

Today, RAC manages businesses that have a combined turnover of tens of millions of dollars. These funds benefit both the Rirratjingu people and the wider Northern Territory economy and society.

All our profit is invested back into the community through social, cultural, charitable and employment programs.

Every business decision has a clear purpose; to support our members, today and into the future.

### **Together We Can Prosper**

The future of our community and the region sit at the heart of our commercial emphasis. We recognise that the sustainability of our support to members is directly linked to the continued success of our region.

With both the region and our community dependant on our contribution to the local economy we have acknowledged our responsibility. We are today providing leadership in contributing to the future of our region through commercial activities that support business confidence and grow market opportunities.

Our region has built a solid commercial foundation on the back of the mining industry. That world is coming to an end and with it comes a degree of uncertainty. While our economy is in the formative stages of transition away from mining, we are confident the future holds tremendous opportunity.

The people of the region have established a wide array of local businesses that support a strong commercial hub within Nhulunbuy and across the broader region.

RAC is committed to playing a leadership role in the transition away from our mining centric economy to a diversified economy that supports a diverse range of strong, sustainable businesses. An economy that provides commercial opportunities that generate not only wealth, but a strong economy that delivers employment and training opportunities.

Our Patron, Bakamumu Marika, confirmed our commercial emphasis and our commitment to eliminating whatever uncertainty might deter investment in our region in saying:

*"We are aiming to provide certainty, particularly regarding Nhulunbuy township which is on Rirratjingu traditional land. We understand many Nhulunbuy residents, and business people, are worried about their land tenure after 2030."* 

*"We know we need to keep Gove's businesses and the service providers. We rely on them for our future development. Their sustainability and profitability are in all of our interests."*  Underlining the emphasis of our continuing focus on commercial activities the importance of achieving a balance between looking after our people today, and also establishing investments that provide for the future of our people in the post mining era.

We are acutely aware that the royalties that are received today will soon expire as the mine finishes its life. Therefore, as directors, we have a responsibility to prepare for the mine closure. This means making sure that RAC has sufficient investments to replace royalty receipts.

It is evident from our current and recent annual reports that by investing in the sustainability of our region, by playing our role in supporting the economy that we are contributing to the commercial confidence amongst local businesses and those looking to enter our market.

We already have a strong reputation for business with our fuel and mining operations and we have strong investments in real estate through the Malpi Village Housing Project. These are providing good returns on our investment. In recent times RAC has established a number of additional commercial enterprises all designed to create opportunities today for employment along with social and cultural outcomes while also building upon our strong commercial focus by investing in the region.

Our agenda must provide for our people today but must also ensure we remain firmly focused on our future and sustainability.

As Patron, Bakamumu Marika says:

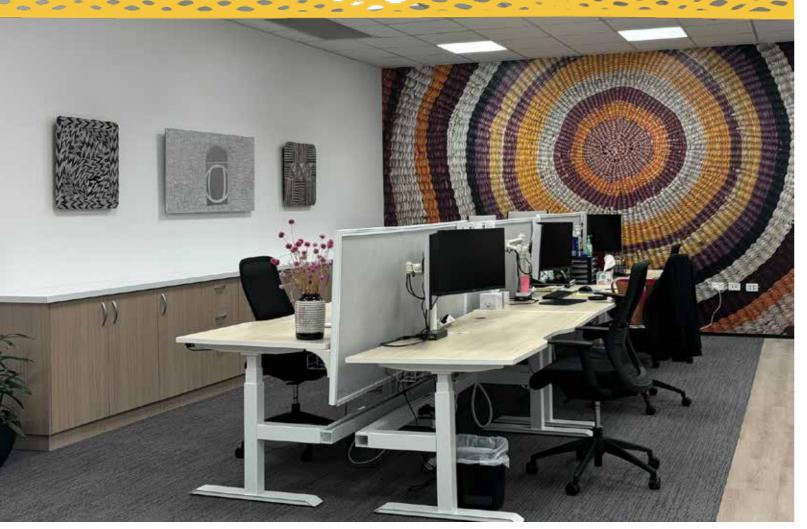
"No one looks after the clan, we look after ourselves."

### A Closer Look at our Commercial Operations

RAC operates several subsidiary corporations. Some of these are wholly owned subsidiaries while others are carefully assembled joint shareholdings with other corporations.

The following pages provide some insight into our various commercial subsidiaries.

# **RIRRATJINGU INVESTMENTS PTY LTD**



Rirratjingu Aboriginal Corporation, through our property investment vehicle Rirratjingu Investments, continues to demonstrate our clear commitment to the long-term success of the region by making substantial investments into both its existing assets as well as developing new property investments within the region.

In 2004, Rirratjingu Aboriginal Corporation established Rirratjingu Investments (formerly Bunuwal Investments). This wholly owned subsidiary was established to provide confidence to the Gove Peninsula community that the Rirratjingu Aboriginal Corporation was here to stay and here to support economic growth.

Our investments in businesses, the property market, and projects have been designed to ensure we play a leadership role in generating sustainable economic growth with a focus on community housing and commercial infrastructure.

With housing infrastructure considered as the most important enabler to ensure a prosperous emerging economy for the region Rirratjingu Investments has a crucial role to play during the post mining economic transition. Through our property investment vehicle Rirratjingu Investments, we continue to demonstrate a clear commitment to the long-term success of the region by making substantial investments into both our existing assets as well as developing new property investments within the region.

#### For us, our approach to the Region and Nhulunbuy is to: "Yolngu ga Napaki" - Make it as good as it can be!

There are several clear examples of our leadership across the region through investments in housing and commercial infrastructure. We strongly support our region's priorities as defined in the Regional Economic Growth Plan 2022 - 2023 (REGP) and A New Journey Together, the Traditional Owners vision for the future. Both these pieces of work acknowledge the importance of additional housing and commercial infrastructure. Indeed, almost all elements in the Traditional Owners vision and the REGP are unattainable without additional infrastructure. Rirratjingu Investments has demonstrated further leadership across the region with the recent completion of our \$10m, fully tenanted, Rirratjingu Business Centre and attached 15 short stay Yanawal Units along with the current \$1m+ refurbishment of the Wallaby Beach Workers Village.

#### **Our Investment Aims**

Rirratjingu Aboriginal Corporation has one overarching purpose - to empower the Yolngu culture and our members every day. Rirratjingu Investments is a vital component in ensuring the Rirratjingu community is financially self-sufficient and RAC can continue to deliver social and cultural benefits to the region.

"Our growing investment and commercial interests are outcomes I feel our forefathers would be proud to acknowledge...We have never been more focused on leveraging our growing capacity to achieve commercial, social, and cultural outcomes. Strong governance has given our members and stakeholders comfort that our Corporation is someone they aspire to do business with."

Bakamumu Marika, RAC Chairman 1984-2021





## **Our Commercial Projects**

#### **Rirratjingu Business Centre**

With Rirratjingu Aboriginal Corporation growing faster than ever before and East Arnhem Land businesses looking to prosper, we recognised the need for a business centre in Nhulunbuy. We secured the contract for the old Rio Tinto "Wet Mess" facility and designed a multi-million dollar refurbishment.

The Rirratjingu Business Centre is now a hub where RAC operations can thrive, and the facilities can support many businesses and organisations in the region. With multiple meeting rooms, conference rooms and shop front leases, the business centre provides many companies and organisations with the space to grow.

## **Our Residential Projects**

Rirratjingu Investments is committed to ensuring Nhulunbuy housing is a priority and sees it as a way for both the community and long-term contracting leases to thrive. A glance at some of our past, current and future housing initiatives include:



### Malpi Village

Malpi Village was the first major investment under the organisation and became Australia's first private housing subdivision on Aboriginal land. RAC recognised that housing and accommodation were in short supply and in high demand when Rio Tinto Alcan upgraded its facilities and created a real estate investment opportunity.

Rirratjingu Investments built 26 properties on Rirratjingu land near central Nhulunbuy. Completed in 2007, the homes were leased to Northern Territory and Commonwealth Government staff on secure, long-term leases. The company's investment has been further enhanced by the subdivision of the estate into individual titles.

In 2020/2021, Rirratjingu Investments spent \$1.4 million dollars to complete a comprehensive refurbishment of Malpi Village.

This refurbishment has helped to facilitate significant long-term leases with various Government agencies, which provides RAC with some financial security.





UNITS

#### Yanawal Units

Rirratjingu Investments have invested in the construction of a 15 unit high quality short-term accommodation facility known as the Yanawal Units on the land of the Rirratjingu Business Centre. The properties will support businesses needing to accommodate visiting contractors and will allow travellers to rent holiday lets from a local business.



# **RIRRATJINGU MINING**

14/20mm granite aggregate from the Gove Blue Metal Quarry - typically used in construction and landscaping.

### In 2008, the Rirratjingu Aboriginal Corporation (RAC) founded Rirratjingu Mining Pty Ltd as a unique 100% Aboriginal owned mining business on the Gove Peninsula.

Based just outside the Nhulunbuy township, Rirratjingu Mining was established to increase Indigenous employment and deliver commercial returns. This subsidiary operates today as a successful blue metal quarry. The company has a contract with Rio Tinto to quarry and crush blue metal rock, which is

Recent years has witnessed a growing customer base for quarry product. Today, Rirratjingu Mining is a major

Further investment has, in recent years, expanded operations and positioned the business to capitalise on the numerous infrastructure projects under consideration across the region such as projected housing and community projects and the upgrading of the Carpentaria Highway.

## Our new 30-metre weighbridge





Aboriginal-owned: empowering Indigenous employment, renewing the Gove Peninsula, and investing in Yolngu culture.



- used in 'on country' rehabilitation, building roads, embankments and various concrete products.
- supplier of raw materials, including blue metal rock, sand and gravel across North-East Arnhem Land.

A notable recent investment has been the replacement of the quarry weighbridge with a new 30-metre weighbridge, providing the sole publicly accessible weighbridge on the Gove Peninsula.

### **Blue Metal Quarry**

Sitting at the heart of Rirratjingu Mining Pty Ltd is the blue metal quarry. Since taking over management, Rirratjingu has taken the non-operational quarry and turned it into a commercial operation that generates millions of dollars each year.

In partnership with our contracted quarry operators, Remote Industries Australia, Rirratjingu Mining continues to invest in plant, equipment, and infrastructure to ensure this successful business prospers.

### A Quarry – A Transformation

Further investments in the quarry over the last year have witnessed its transformation into an industry leading mining enterprise.

In partnership with our contracted quarry operators, Remote Industries Australia, we have invested in new plant, equipment, and infrastructure to ensure operations meet all industry standards and provides the foundation for a successful and prosperous future.

The quarry transformation is evident through the following initiatives and upgrades undertaken over the last three (3) years:

- Completion of new workshop facility.
- Installation of new 100 tonne capacity 30 metre weighbridge.
- Blasted and processed 162,000 tonnes of material
- Purchase of new wheel loader for quarry operations
- Rio Tinto quarry materials supplied 115,500 tonnes for both the Pond 5 project and the Northern Ponds rehab projects
- A1 Civil, supply and delivery of road base and concrete premix to Gapuwiyak
- Kennerly Constructions Gapuwiyak supply of road base to Gapuwiyak
- Aggreko Supply of sand and stabilised sand to the Nhulunbuy Solar Farm

Complementing the blue metal quarry, Rirratjingu Mining also hold the sole lease for white sand mining on the Gove Peninsula.

## The following 'before and after' photos provide a glimpse at the transformation over the last three (3) years.





## Future Plans (Post RIO Tinto)

Thanks to the unwavering dedication and resolve of our Rirratjingu leaders, the Rirratjingu Aboriginal Corporation has evolved into a prominent force within the mining industry on the Gove Peninsula.

The Rirratjingu Mining division has proven to be a profitable enterprise, and all indicators point to ongoing success and growth as the economy transitions post mining. As a wholly Aboriginal owned company, the priorities after Rio Tinto leaves will be to:

- Continue supplying the region with raw materials for infrastructure and development.
- Allocate resources to development initiatives, including infrastructure for roads and water supply, aimed at sustaining the traditional remote lifestyles of clan members.
- Secure contracts with mining investors to expand services.

### Supporting the local Rirratjingu community

Rirratjingu Mining has been proud to be able to support the local community beyond providing essential services and infrastructure. Over the years, the business has been a notable community sponsor with donations including:



- Raw materials to build the Local Speedway Club
- Donate rocks to Arnhem Land Aboriginal communities
- Sand to help maintain the Nhulunbuy Motorcross course
- Rocks for Nhulunbuy Golf club to build a new retaining wall at the front of the clubhouse
- Screened Sand to the Gapan Art Gallery at Garma Festival annually
- Sand for local Indigenous ceremonies
- Rock protection wall for boat ramp at the Yacht Club

## Drawing From the Past, Aspiring to the Future

Rirratjingu Aboriginal Corporation (RAC) stands at the forefront of transformation in the Gove Peninsula. We venture forth as leaders in mining as part of our commercial suite of business activities. We remain confident that our mining arm, with its commercially viable quarry operation, will continue to grow as the principal supplier of the region's rock and sand products.

# RIRRATJINGU PROPERTY MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE SERVICES PTY LTD



Rirratjingu Property Management & Maintenance Services Rirratjingu Property Management and Maintenance Services Pty Ltd (RPMMS) is a 100% owned Rirratjingu Aboriginal Corporation subsidiary.

The company was incorporated on the 5th of March 2020 with the primary purpose to provide maintenance services to the Northern Territory Government for its public housing in Yirrkala.

RPMMS also services and maintains RAC's in-house properties and related infrastructure.

This business arm, whilst being a commercial operation, has a key focus of providing a training environment and employment opportunities for our members. The subsidiary has created a great employment pathway for many within our community.

Today, working closely with our Barawun career pathway initiative, RPMMS adds value in providing entry level skilled work opportunities for Rirratjingu and the broader Yolngu community in East Arnhem.

Since commencing operations and subsequently winning the Northern Territory Government Yirrkala public housing maintenance contract this subsidiary has proven to be the perfect business vehicle to drive RAC's Indigenous employment and training operations.

Today, RPMMS has a large Indigenous crew working alongside qualified trades people performing general maintenance and minor renovations. We expect to see this business expand and continue to provide employment opportunities and pathways to careers.

#### Today, our full and part time works team undertake a variety of projects including:

- Irrigation and hydro-mulching works
- Truck and heavy machinery operations
- Carpentry and associated housing maintenance (130 properties in Yirrkala)
- Weed eradication in the community for all stakeholders





### **Housing Maintenance Services**

Our primary focus at RPMMS is in servicing our Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics (DIPL) contract with the Northern Territory Government. Our housing maintenance services provide a broad range of repairs and maintenance. Everything from blocked drains, dripping taps, electrical issues, gas leaks, replacement of worn-out locks, and more.

Supplementing this work are our 'Yard Maintenance' crew who manage a number of town assets, our own Malpi Village and staff houses.

### **Training Opportunities**

RPMMS provides numerous employment opportunities and career pathway options for Yolngu. Training opportunities are part of every work day.

Examples include:

- Skid steer ticket
- Forklift ticket
- Cert 2 in Rural operations
- White card and First Aid Training
- Chainsaw Training
- Drivers Licences
- Workplace health and safety
- Safe use of chemicals
- List the opportunities to upskill and train

# **RIRRATJINGU FUEL PTY LTD**



If you have ever switched on a light, charged your phone or driven a vehicle on the Territory's Gove Peninsula, then you have likely been a customer of Rirratjingu Fuel Pty Ltd. The company, formerly known as Bunuwal Fuel Pty Ltd, has become an extraordinary role model for Indigenous businesses throughout Australia.

Rirratjingu Fuel demonstrates that Indigenous corporations can transition into being significant players in the commercial world with global competitors including Exxon, Caltex and BP.

In 2012 Rirratjingu Fuel won the supply of fuel contract for Rio Tinto against several of these global competitors. The company celebrated a further significant milestone by entering into an agreement with BP Australia to supply diesel for their Nhulunbuy Service Station.

Today, Rirratjingu Fuel supplies diesel for electricity generation for the Gove Peninsular, including Nhulunbuy and Yirrkala. It also sells directly to third party fuel consumers in bulk, including Laynhapuy Homelands Aboriginal Corporation, who use this fuel for the needs of remote communities and homelands throughout North-East Arnhem Land.

Rirratjingu Fuel is now an established and reliable player in the Australian diesel fuel market. Despite the **Evolution of Rirratjingu Fuel** pending closure of the Rio Tinto refinery and mines, Rirratjingu Fuel is a Joint Venture with Cambridge Gulf Rirratjingu Fuel will continue to supply diesel fuel into Limited (CGL), of Kununurra, Western Australia. the future.

Established in 2012, Rirratjingu Fuel is a proven, reliable and globally recognised fuel supplier importing diesel directly from a regional distribution centre in Singapore.

**Rirratjingu Fuel supplying and delivering fuel accross the Gove peninsular** 



The company supplies more than 50 million litres of diesel fuel to Rio Tinto's operations annually along with many other medium to large businesses in the region including our recently opened 24-hour fuel outlet in Yirrkala and BP Nhulunbuy.

### Between 2012 and 2024 a total of 128 shipments of fuel and over 500 million litres were delivered to customers across the region.

On the back of the transitioning economy over coming years Rirratjingu Fuel is perfectly placed to meet the needs of the Gove peninsular and to provide future projects with supply and delivery services.



# RIRRATJINGU PROJECT MANAGEMENT PTY LTD

# RIRRATJINGU ENTERPRISES PTY LTD





### Rirratjingu Project Management Pty Ltd was incorporated on the 6th March 2023 as a Pty Ltd Company held 51% by RAC and 49% by Sitzler Pty Ltd.

Sitzler Pty Ltd, are recognised nationally as construction specialists with the capability to deliver on the largest of projects. They bring experience, technical capability and a reputation to deliver exceptional results. Rirratjingu Project Management's primary objective is to provide RAC with significantly increased technical capacity, access to required resources and equipment and a much stronger capital base to support our major housing infrastructure aspirations.

Rirratjingu Project Management's secondary objective is to provide project management services to several significant RAC proposed projects.

With the rapid growth of this business the Company has recently opened its own office within the new Rirratjingu Business Centre to service its operating needs. Rirratjingu Enterprises Pty Ltd was established in 2020 to service the needs of Rio Tinto and other commercial businesses in the region.

The company is a 100% owned Rirratjingu Aboriginal Corporation subsidiary.

Rirratjingu Enterprises Pty Ltd principal contract is the provision of hydro mulching and irrigation services to rehabilitate Rio Tinto ponds over a 4 to 6 year period. The company has also established a growing haulage contracting service to various businesses within the region.

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KENWORTH

## Ngarrkuwuy Developments Pty Ltd

Ngarrkuwuy Developments Pty Ltd is a 100% owned Rirratjingu Aboriginal Corporation subsidiary.

The company was incorporated on the 19th of December 2023 with the primary purpose addressing the chronic housing shortage in the region and to meet the requirements of the Northern Territory Governments (NTG) Accelerated Regional Accommodation Program.

Ngarrkuwuy Developments Pty Ltd is testimony to our leadership. As the Traditional Owners of the lands upon which Nhulunbuy sits we acknowledge the chronic shortage of housing infrastructure and the impact this presents in growing our region's economy and supporting the transition from mining.

As a transitioning economy, Nhulunbuy, and the broader region, desperately need additional houses to meet current government, service provider and private sector demand. Ngarrkuwuy Developments Pty Ltd has been established to lay the foundation to substantially address this demand for housing through a range of construction initiatives.

The work of Ngarrkuwuy Developments Pty Ltd will extend beyond addressing the critical shortage of housing. It will stimulate business confidence, retain essential services, accelerate regional economic growth and address Indigenous disadvantage through the creation of extensive employment opportunities.

Socio-economic outcomes will extend beyond the civil subdivision work central to this project through to the construction phase and the subsequent longterm maintenance requirements. The economics of increased commercial activity will flow through all elements of the local economy providing opportunity, building momentum and confidence and contributing to social and community inclusion.

The work of Ngarrkuwuy Developments Pty Ltd is designed to contribute as an essential enabler of future economic opportunity and social and community inclusion in Nhulunbuy and throughout the Gove Peninsula.

By laying the first important steps through the construction of additional housing infrastructure Ngarrkuwuy Developments Pty Ltd, will help address the substantial undersupply of housing which currently presents a barrier to attracting new industry or supporting existing private/non-government sector growth and diversity. Our housing infrastructure initiatives will contribute economically and socially by injecting confidence amongst businesses and throughout the community. This confidence and economic activity will ignite extensive downstream commercial and community benefits.

As part of the planned development through this subsidiary we have also acquired 47,500sqm of undeveloped land at a total cost of \$1.4m which now has full Development Application (DA) approvals for a Stage 1, 54 lot subdivision capable of holding up to 80 dwellings.

## Yirrkala Enterprises Pty Ltd

Yirrkala Enterprises Pty Ltd was incorporated on the 11th of February 2021 as a Pty Ltd Company.

RAC secured the head lease of the Yirrkala store in March 2021 and subsequently sub-leased the Yirrkala store to Northern Australian Management Services via our subsidiary company, Yirrkala Enterprises Pty Ltd.

The reason for appointing Northern Australian Management Services as an investor in the Yirrkala Store was to secure their substantial expertise in the management and operation of remote area community stores.

RAC has taken an initial 25 percent shareholding stake in the company with Northern Australian Management Services holding the remaining 75%.

With an acknowledgement of our growing capability, we have contracted in the option at the end of the first five-year term to increase our shareholding by a further 24% to a total of 49%, then again at the end of year 10 to 75% and finally at year 15 to a 100% ownership.

Yirrkala Enterprises, with the financial support of RAC and various grant funding opportunities, has over the last year invested an additional \$1.7m to improve and expand the operation of the store including a new diesel fuel sale facility for the benefit of the local community.



## An Exciting 'Tomorrow'

RAC have a proud history of creating prosperity and opportunity for the Rirratjingu people. Our record has been shaped by the sons of the Land Rights movement and their commitment to see the community benefit from what is rightfully ours.

This history inspires our future as we look forward to continued sustainable growth, continued social and economic progress in the community and continued recognition of everything achieved in the past.

We will continue to channel our commercial activities into tangible outcomes that benefit the broader community. Our future will see RAC continue to drive further social and economic progress for the local community. It will also see the Rirratjingu continue to stand up for what is right, and advocate for policies

that will improve the lives of not only local Indigenous people, but the wider regional communities.

We have never been better placed to extend our commercial success. The immediate future is exciting with a number of initiatives poised to positively impact the region.

# **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

The Directors of Rirratjingu Aboriginal Corporation are elected by the Members at the Annual General Meeting (AGM).

All Directors are required to undertake governance training prior to their election and to continue to upgrade their governance and finance skills.

The journey or learning is continuous, and each director is regularly engaged in governance training.

### CHAIRPERSON Wanyubi Marika

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON Mandaka Wurrulunga Marika

**DIRECTOR** Guruminbuy Marika

**DIRECTOR** Djayminy Marika

DIRECTOR Ishmael Marika

DIRECTOR Yalmay Yunupingu

**DIRECTOR** Witiyana Marika

**DIRECTOR** Yirrmal Marika

ALTERNATE DIRECTOR Djalinda Ulamari

DIRECTOR (4months) Wuyula (Bruno) Marika

SPECIAL ADVISOR Denise Fincham

SPECIAL ADVISOR Danny Keep

SPECIAL ADVISOR Peter Chilman

> CORPORATE SECRETARY Adrian Rota



# **DIRECTORS & SPECIAL PROFILES**



#### Wanyubi Marika

Chairperson (Elected Chairperson November 2023) **Rirratjingu Aboriginal** Corporation Rirratjingu Mining Pty Ltd Rirratjingu Investments Pty Ltd Rirratjingu Enterprises Pty Ltd Rirratjingu Project Management Ptu Ltd Ngarrkuwuy Developments Pty Ltd Marrin Square Developments Pty Ltd Gunditpuy Accommodation Village Pty Ltd Rirratjingu Propertu Management and Maintenance Services Pty Ltd Director Rirratjingu Fuel Pty Ltd (formerly Bunuwal Fuel Pty Ltd) Wanyubi Marika is a Senior Leader of the Rirratiinau clan. Wanyubi played an integral role in establishing RAC's business and investment activities designed to create wealth and promote opportunity for the

Wanyubi was formerly the RAC Cultural Advisor across all Rirratjingu entities. He has studied Media, Clerical Administration and has an Associate Diploma of Community Management.

region.

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Previously, Wanyubi has been recognised as an artist of national significance. Working mostly in bark painting, larrakitj (hollow log coffins) and wood carving. Wanyubi has delivered exhibitions across the nation.

Wanyubi also established land management programs for Launhapuy Homelands in early 2000 and is a former Chairman of the Buku-Larrnggay Mulka Arts Centre, Yirrkala Committee.



#### Mandaka Wurrulunga Marika

Deputy Chairperson (Chairperson July - November 2023) Rirratjingu Aboriginal Corporation Rirratiinau Minina Ptu I td Rirratjingu Investments Pty Ltd Rirratjingu Enterprises Pty Ltd Rirratjingu Property Management and Maintenance Services Pty Ltd Rirratjingu Project Management Ptu Ltd Ngarrkuwuy Developments Pty I td Marrin Square Developments Pty Ltd Gunditpuy Accommodation Village Pty Ltd

Mandaka Marika is a senior Member of the Rirratjingu clan and the son of the late Dadaynga 'Roy' Marika. He is actively involved across RAC

subsidiary corporations. Mandaka has completed a Land Management course and held employment at Dhimurru Aboriginal Corporation for 30 years. He rose through the ranks as a ranger in 1993 to become the Managing Director.

Mandaka has dedicated his life to caring for the land, of which his father and fellow Yolngu leaders fought. A strong cultural standing ensures Mandaka is a key leader, and often called upon to be a keynote speaker, and conduct Welcome to Country for the Rirratjingu clan and business arms.

Following his recent retirement from Dhimurru, Mandaka was employed as the Yirrkala Community Night Patrol Officer. He recently retired from this position to be available full time as Chairman for RAC.

#### Guruminbuy Marika



Guruminbuy Marika is a respected ceremonial leader of

the Rirratjingu Clan and is the holder of sacred knowledge only known to a select number of men. Guruminbuy has a background in the education sector where he has spent 10 years teaching on homelands. He holds a Certificate III in Teachina. Prior to his teachina role, Guruminbuy worked with YBE and Yirrkala Dhanbul Council where he specialised in civil works particularly earth moving and truck haulage.

Guruminbuy practices his culture and occasionally produces bark paintings and plays and makes Yidaki

A traditional man, Guruminbuy spends time with family and can be found helping his children and arandchildren with traditional pandanus grass harvesting, preparation and weaving.

As an experienced Director, he brings dedication to his governance roles.

#### **Djayminy Marika**



is a man forging his way as a future leader of the Rirratjingu people, traditional owners of lands on the Gove Peninsula. He serves as a Director for the Rirratjingu Aboriginal Corporation.

Djayminy was previously Captain of Djarrak Football Club until injury saw him take a break this year. This footy season Djayminy has continued to support his team from the sideline at every game with his young family.

Djayminy has been hands on in mentoring the next crop of first year senior players. Diauminu has previouslu completed training and gained employment with Rio Tinto

Gove Operations. He now mixes his time between Yirrkala and Barrkira Homeland Djayminy graduated from RAC Emerging Leaders Group in 2022

to make way for a new cohort of up-and-coming leaders.

#### Ishmael Marika



Corporation Ishmael completed aovernance trainina as part of RAC's Emerging Leaders program and was elected as a new Director. He is one of the new generation of talent that will carry forward the responsibility to provide ongoing leadership through his position as a Director of BAC

Ishmael is currently the Creative Director of the Mulka Project based at Buku-Larrnggay Mulka Art Centre in Yirrkala, where he leads a team of staff to produce creative works which have been exhibited around Australia and internationallu

He is a musician, filmmaker, director, and producer whose installations have been exhibited in many of Australia's most important museums, including the Museum of Contemporaru Art in Sydney and the Art Gallery of South Australia in Adelaide. He also hosts guided tours at Buku, sharing the knowledge and history of Yolngu art with visitors from abroad.

In 2016, Ishmael was awarded the NATSIA Youth Award, and the NIMA Traditional Music Award.

He is currently working on a historical documentary about the old Yirrkala Hospital and recently returned from the United States, where he gave lectures at the University of Washington on the history of Yolngu art and contemporary practices.

His other recent works include installations in Melbourne for the RISING Festival and a permanent installation at the National Maritime Museum in Canberra

#### Yalmay Yunupingu



Rirratjingu Corporation Yalmay was elected as a new Director in

2023. Yalmay was the 2024 Senior Australian of the Year. In winning the gward. Yalmau was recognised for her work over 40 years teaching at Yirrkala Bilingual School and in particular her pivotal role in preserving Yolngu language and culture through the development of a bilingual education system within the school.

Known as the "mother of the school," Yalmau's work has impacted generations of students. Her contributions to bilingual education have been widely recognized, including her receiving a "Teacher of Excellence" award in 2005 and becomina an Honoraru Fellow at Charles Darwin University. Retiring from her role with the

school in March 2023, Yalmay has remained deeply involved in our community, and continues to contribute in many ways including. She has been warmly welcomed as a director of our corporation.

#### Witiyana Marika



Rirratjingu Mining Rirratiinau

Investments Pty Ltd Witiyana was elected as a new Director in 2023.

Witiyana has held the important responsibility for many years as and cultural ambassador Witiyana Marika, was celebrated this year as Rirratjingu Aboriginal Corporation Cultural Ambassador

Witiyana was the 2024 Northern Territory Local Hero. He is a respected Rirratjingu elder, musician, actor and filmmaker. He is best known as a founding member of the iconic rock band Yothu Yindi, which brought Yolngu music and cultural traditions to the global stage.

Beyond his music career, Witiyana has also made significant contributions to film, most notably as a co-producer and cultural advisor for High Ground (2020), a film addressing the history of colonial violence against Indigenous Australians.

As a senior cultural leader within our Rirratiinau communitu. Witiyana has been instrumental in teaching Yolngu songlines and ceremonies. He also uses his platform to promote truthtelling about Australia's colonial past, advocating for a greater understanding of Indigenous history.

Witiyana continues to inspire and educate our new generations about Yolngu culture and history.

#### Yirrmal Marika



Yirrmal was elected as a new Director in 2022

Yirrmal is one of our emerging leaders whose responsibility will be to carru forward the responsibility over strong aovernance.

Having completed governance training following his election. Yirrmal is now establishing a pathway into the complex world of business, director responsibilities and corporate governance.

Yirrmal's talent, maturity and strength of character were recognised by his school and within community with his selection for the Leadership Program offered by the Geelona-based Marrma' Rom Two Worlds Foundation, where he completed his education including a Diploma in Music, returning home to Yirrkala in 2016.

Established in 2011, the Marrma' Rom Two Worlds Foundation (translating to 'two worlds, two cultures or two belief sustems') aims to empower the next generation of young men to become role models in their community.

Yirrmal is recognised nationally and internationally as a critically acclaimed singer-songwriter best known for his unapologetic, authentic, and personal storytelling.

In 2015/16, Yirrmal released his first EP - "Youngblood", co-written with the late Archie Roach, Neil Murray and Shane Howard. In 2017, Yirrmal performed with Midnight Oil during their World Circle Tour, and then collaborated with Baker Boy on his album 'Gela'. Yirrmal co-wrote and featured on three of his tracks in 2017-18 including the award winning

"Marryuna" and "Ride" and also on "Somewhere Deep". During 2017 - 2020 Yirrmal spent time with his father Witiyana Marika (co-founder Yothu Yindi) aathering more knowledge and

understanding of the Rirratjingu songlines used in ceremony. Yirrmal's music interests demanded he spend extended periods away from community. In February 2024 he made the decision to appoint former experienced director, Djalinda Ulamari as his alternate director. Djalinda will hold this position until the November 2024 AGM.

#### Dialinda Ulamari



Dialinda Ulamari was first elected to the Board of Rirratjingu Aboriginal Corporation in 1984. She retired at the 2023 AGM but was subsequently appointed by Yirrmal Marika as his alternate director in February 2024.

Djalinda has a Diploma of Teaching specialising in Aboriginal Schools and spent most of her working life in the education sector, including working with the Yirrkala Community Education Centre and Yirrkala Homelands School.

Djalinda's passion for collaborating with school aged children continues as she works as a consultant for Learning on Country, Culture College, and Wellbeing at Yirrkala and Homelands Schools.

#### Wuyula (Bruno) Marika



November 2023) Rirratjingu Aboriginal Corporation Rirratjingu Investments Pty Ltd

Wuuala Marika is a senior member of the Rirratjingu people, traditional owners of lands on the Gove Peninsula.

He is Director of the Rirratjingu Aboriginal Corporation and Rirratjingu investments.

Wuyala is heavily involved with his culture and often plays significant roles for the Rirratjingu Ceremonial Program.

Wuyala currently holds employment at the Yirrkala Nursery where he specialises in native plant regeneration and maintenance duties in nearby Nhulunbuu

#### **Denise Fincham**



Director Rirratjingu Fuel Pty I td

Pty Ltd) Rirratiinau

Investments Pty Ltd

Special Advisor

Rirratjingu Aboriginal Corporation Rirratjingu Mining Pty Ltd

Rirratjingu Enterprises Pty Ltd Rirratjingu Property Management and Maintenance Services Pty Ltd Rirratjingu Project Management Ptu I td

Ngarrkuwuy Developments Pty I td

Marrin Square Developments Pty Ltd

Gunditpuy Accommodation Village Pty Ltd

Denise is a well-respected business identity in North-East Arnhem land and a former NT businesswoman of the year.

Denise founded Gorrkbuy Industrial Supplies (GIS) which she owned and operated until 2008. GIS supplied building materials, housing and logistics to indigenous communities and the Australian Army across the Top End of Australia and East Timor

Denise was a Director of Territory Insurance office (TIO) and a member of the TIO Investment

committee for 10 years. Denise was also the founding Chairman of the East Arnhem Economic Development Committee and long-term member of Regional Development Australia NT and the NT Reconstruction Committee.

Assisting and advocating for Development of NT Indigenous Businesses and community has always been her focus.

Denise's forty-year (40) association with the Rirratjingu people has included her significant contribution to the successful establishment of their businesses and community development.

#### Danny Keep



Special Advisor

Rirratjingu Aboriginal Corporation Rirratjingu Mining Pty Ltd Rirratjingu Investments Ptu

Rirratjingu Enterprises Pty Ltd Rirratjingu Property Management and Maintenance Services Pty Ltd Rirratjingu Project Management Pty Ltd Ngarrkuwuy Developments Pty Ltd Marrin Square Developments Ptu Ltd Gunditpuy Accommodation Village Pty Ltd

Danny is the Managing Director of the highly regarded national consultancy company, Business & Community Pty Ltd. With 30 years' experience in corporate leadership positions Dannu's focus has been to strengthen the management capability and governance of Indigenous Corporations and businesses across Australia.

With extensive business and corporate governance experience including corporate compliance examinations and special administrations Danny has been a first choice consultant to numerous state and territory governments, the Office of the Registrar of Indigenous Corporations, Indigenous Business Australia, the Indiaenous Land Council, AusIndustry and numerous Indigenous corporations throughout Australia.

Dannu is a recipient of the Prime Minister's Centennial Medal, finalist Tasmanian Business Leader of the Year and recipient of various other national awards for his work.

Danny has worked with RAC since 2014 in establishing strong corporate compliance and business principles.

- Master of Business Administration
- Post Graduate Business & Management
- Bachelor of Arts Social Work Honours
- Fellow & Graduate Australian Institute of Company Directors
- Past Fellow Australian Institute of Management
- Past Fellow Australian Institute of Marketing

#### Peter Chilman



Rirratiinau Investments Pty Ltd Rirratjingu Enterprises Pty Ltd Rirratjingu Property Management and Maintenance Services Pty Ltd Rirratjingu Project Management Pty Ltd Ngarrkuwuy Developments Pty Ltd Marrin Square Developments Pty Ltd Gunditpuy Accommodation Village Pty Ltd

Peter has over 35 years' experience in the provision of taxation, audit, advisory and business services whilst a Partner at KPMG Darwin. Notably he was a key leader for KPMG's Indigenous advisory business in the Northern Territory and a member of KPMG's National Indigenous Development and Reconciliation Committee

Peter has led a range of engagements that have required a deep understanding of appropriate cultural communication practices. He has worked directly with a large number of Indigenous businesses to improve their business practices and financial sustainability right across the Top End of Australia.

Since retiring as a Partner of KPMG on 30th June 2015 Peter has continued to operate as a Business Advisor through his own business - Bolero Mentoring Advisory Services. Peter's role as a Special Advisor to the RAC Board and subsidiaries, which commenced in August 2018, resulted in his appointment as the Initial Chair of the Business Development, Finance and the Legal Sub-Committees which have now been consolidated into the single RAC Working Committee.

- Bachelor of Business, Old Institute of Technology 1978
- Past Fellow of Institute of Chartered Accountants Australia
- Past Fellow of the Taxation Institute of Australia
- Past Fellow of the Australian Institute of Management, SA & NT
- Past Member of Australian Institute of Company Director

#### Adrian Rota



Rirratjingu Investments Pty Ltd Rirratjingu Property Management and Maintenance Services Pty Ltd Rirratjingu Project Management Pty Ltd Ngarrkuwuy Developments Pty Ltd Marrin Square Developments Pty Ltd Gunditpuy Accommodation

Village Pty Ltd Adrian's association with RAC and East Arnhem goes back

some 28 years. Moving to the NT from Queensland in 1996 Adrian was initially engaged to facilitate accounting and management support to Maningrida and Elcho Island councils in the capacity of audit, investigation and rebuilding the accounting and management structures of troubled organisations.

His move to Yirrkala saw him occupy the senior management position at Yirrkala Dhanbul Council until Shire amalgamation implementation in mid-2008.

Adrian was instrumental in the establishment of the Rirratjingu Aboriginal Corporation along with other entities within the Bunuwal Group (Yirrkala Dhanbul Aboriginal Corporation, Bunuwal Industrial Pty Ltd, Bunuwal Investments Pty Ltd). Adrian has a history of work in large commercial businesses, finance and administration positions. Adrian has advanced the political and social interest of the Rirratjingu people through numerous roles and varying responsibilities over the years. In recent years Adrian has provided professional company secretarial services to RAC and its subsidiary corporations.

- Associate Diploma of Accounting from Griffith University
- Experience in a commercial accounting and management • Development of various business and government initiatives



CEO, Rhian Oliver with Chairman, Wanyubi Marika



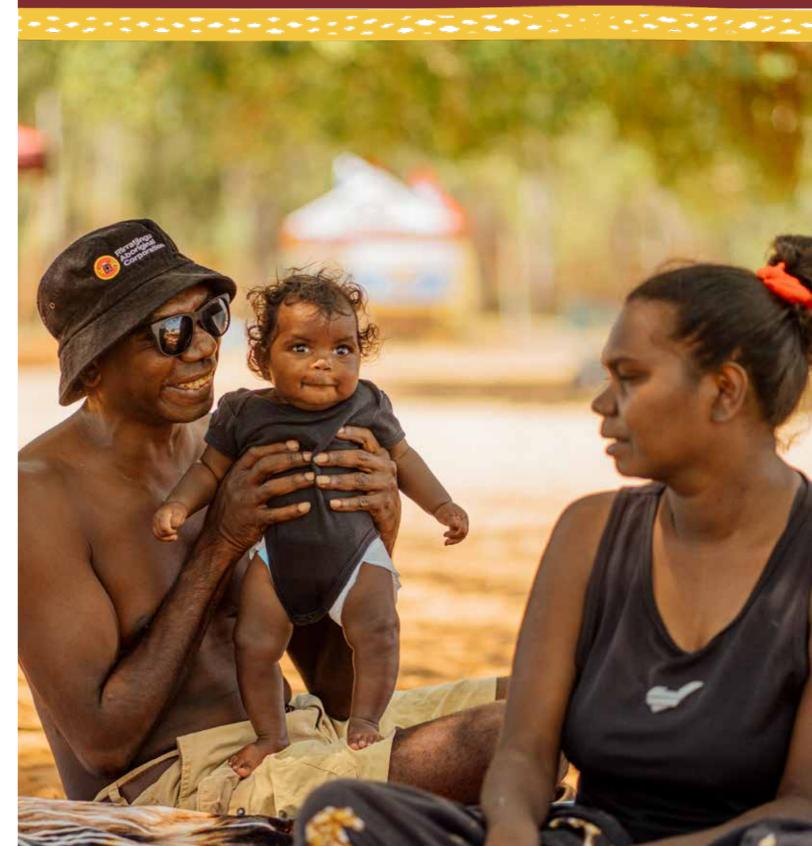
Past Chair, current Deputy Chair Mandaka Marika







## **FINANCIAL STATEMENTS** For The Year Ended 30 June 2024



# Rirratjingu Aboriginal Corporation

Rirratjingu Aboriginal Corporation and its Controlled Entities ABN 21 252 197 750

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## **Rirratjingu Aboriginal Corporation and its Controlled Entities**

ABN 21 252 197 750

General Purpose Financial Report

For the year ended 30 June 2024

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Rimatjingu Aboriginal Corporation and its Controlled Entities ABN 21 252 197 750

## **Directors' Report**

The Directors present their report together with the consolidated financial statements of the Group comprising Rirratiingu Aboriginal Corporation (the Corporation), and its subsidiaries for the financial year ended 30 June 2024 and the auditor's report thereon.

#### 1. Directors

The Directors of the Corporation at any time during or since the end of the financial year are:

Director	Date joined as member	member Date elected/ re-elected/ ceased as Director		Meetings attend
Ishmael Marika	2004	Re-elected 16 November 2023	10	8
Yalmay Yunupingu	2004	Elected 16 November 2023	6	6
Djayminy (Djay) Marika	16 October 1984	17 November 2022	10	10
Wanyubi Marika (Chair)	16 October 1984	17 November 2022	10	10
Guruminbuy (Steven) Marika	16 October 1984	Re-elected16 November 2023	10	9
Mandaka (Sam) Marika	16 October 1984	17 November 2022	10	9
Yirrmal Marika	2004	17 November 2022	10	6
Wuyula (Bruno) Marika	16 October 1984	Ceased 16 November 2023	4	4
Witiyana Marika	2004	Elected 16 November 2023	6	6
		Ceased 16 November 2023		
Djalinda Ulamari	16 October 1984	Elected as the alternate	9	6
20		Director for Yirrmal 31 January		
		2024		

#### 2. Environmental regulation

The Group's operations are not subject to any significant environmental regulations under either Commonwealth or State legislation. However, the Directors believe that the Group has adequate systems in place for the management of its environmental requirements and is not aware of any breach of those environmental requirements as they apply to the Group.

#### 3. Principal activities

The principal activities of the Company during the course of the financial year were to provide charitable monetary and other benefits in accordance with the terms of the RAC Rule Book and the Corporation's Board adopted strategic plan to the Aboriginal people and communities within the North East Arnhem land region and other members not residing in the region, but who have traditional interests in the region.

The principal activities of the Group during the financial year included operating an indigenous-owned mine in East Arnhem, generating rental income from properties, providing haulage services and landscaping operations, and offering property maintenance services in East Arnhem Land. Additionally, the Group engaged in project management of civil and residential construction work through Rirratjingu Project Management Pty Ltd, which was added to the principal activities since the last financial year.

Other than above noted, there were no significant changes in the nature of the activities of the Group during the year.

#### 4. Review of operations and results of those operations

#### Overview of the Group

These consolidated financial statements are general purpose financial statements prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards - Simplified Disclosures.

#### Operating results

The profit of the Group after income tax is \$9,082,145 (2023: \$4,391,954). The Directors are satisfied with the performance and operations of the Group during the financial year.

Rirratjingu Aboriginal Corporation and its Controlled Entities ABN 21 252 197 750

## **Directors' Report**

#### 5. Significant changes in the state of affairs

There were no significant changes in the state of affairs of the Group that occurred during the financial year under review.

#### 6. Dividends

Dividends paid or declared by the Group since the start of the year were \$nil (2023: \$nil).

#### 7. Events subsequent to reporting date

The following items have occurred subsequent to the year-end:

1. holding.

Other than the matter discussed above, no item, transaction, or event of a material and unusual nature has arisen in the interval between the end of the financial year and the date of this report that, in the opinion of the Directors, that is likely to significantly affect the operations of the Group, the results of those operations, or the state of affairs of the Group in future financial years.

#### 8. Likely developments

Information about likely developments in the operations of the Group and the expected results of those operations in future financial years has not been included in this report because disclosure of the information would be likely to result in unreasonable prejudice to the Group.

#### 9. Indemnification and insurance of officers and auditors

#### Indemnifications

Since the end of the previous financial year, the Group has not indemnified or made a relevant agreement for indemnifying against a liability to any person who is or has been an officer or auditor of the Group.

#### Insurance premiums

During the financial year the Group has paid premiums in respect of Directors' and officers' liability and legal expenses for the year ended 30 June 2024. Since the financial year, the Group has paid premiums in respect of such insurance contracts for the year ending 30 June 2025.

#### 10. Proceedings on behalf of the Corporation

There are no current proceedings on behalf of the Corporation.

#### 11. Lead auditor's independence declaration

The Lead auditor's independence declaration is set out on page 5 and forms part of the Directors' report for the financial year ended 30 June 2024.

This report is made out in accordance with a resolution of the Directors:

Wanyubi Marika

Chairman

Mandaka Sam Marika

Dated at 8:30 am this 19th day of NOVEmber 2024.

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RAC and Sitzler established Gonditbuy Pty Ltd subsequent to the financial year end and RAC has 51% ownership



## Lead Auditor's Independence Declaration under Section 339-50 of the Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006

#### To the Directors of Rirratjingu Aboriginal Corporation

I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, in relation to the audit of Rirratjingu Aboriginal Corporation for the financial year ended 30 June 2024 there have been:

- no contraventions of the auditor independence requirements as set out in the Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006 in relation to the audit; and
- ii. no contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.

KPMG

KPMG

Luke Snowdon Partner Darwin 19 November 2024 Rirratjingu Aboriginal Corporation and its Controlled Entities ABN 21 252 197 750

## Consolidated Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income

For the year ended 30 June 2024

#### REVENUE

Sale of goods - Point in time revenue Services income - Over time revenue Royafties - Gove Agreement and Section 64 - Over time revenue Franking credits refundable - Point in time revenue Rental income - Over time revenue Other income - Point in time revenue **TOTAL REVENUE** 

#### EXPENSES

Cost of goods sold Administration expenses Depreciation expense ROU amortisation expense Employee benefits expense Insurance expense Materials and hire costs Social and cultural programs Motor vehicle expenses Legal fees, professional fees, contractors and consultants Property costs Repairs and maintenance Travel and accommodation Fair value decrement on investment property **TOTAL EXPENSES** 

#### PROFIT FROM OPERATIONS

Finance income Finance cost NET FINANCE INCOME

Share on profit of associates, net of tax PROFIT BEFORE INCOME TAX

Income tax expense PROFIT FOR THE YEAR

#### OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

Gain on revaluation of property plant and equipment TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

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The notes on pages 12 to 30 are an integral part of these consolidated financial statements.

	2024	2023
Note	\$	\$
	6,472,872	8,725,771
	7,136,505	6,591,398
4	8,815,227	7,340,714
	948,121	212,744
	2,728,413	1,861,774
	757,640	146,740
	26,858,778	24,879,141
	(6,903,369)	(10,732,633)
	(2,402,605)	(1,309,024)
10	(249,832)	(229,395)
	(54,674)	(31,585)
	(4,147,823)	(2,564,572)
	(406,251)	(310,127)
	(71,398)	(90,790)
	(1,884,805)	(2,358,760)
	(151,611)	(244,365)
	(622,876)	(2,368,919)
	(347,095)	(248,045)
	(914,597)	(437,808)
	(337,208)	(352,006)
9	(767,160)	-
	(19,261,304)	(21,278,029)
	7,597,474	3,601,112
5	2,408,959	1,291,858
5	(54,741)	(151,217)
	2,354,218	1,140,641
	109,576	445,131
	10,061,268	5,186,884
6	(979, 123)	(794,930)
	9,082,145	4,391,954
10	160,000	121
	9,242,145	4,391,954

## **Consolidated Statement of Profit or Loss and Other**

### **Comprehensive Income** For the year ended 30 June 2024

PROFIT ATTRIBUTABLE TO-

PROFILATTRIBUTABLE TO:		
Owners of the Company	9,058,076	4,391,954
Non-controlling interests	24,069	<u> </u>
	9,082,145	4,391,954
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME ATTRIBUTABLE TO:		
Owners of the Company	9,218,076	4,391,954
Non-controlling interests	24,069	-
	9,242,145	4,391,954

Rirratjingu Aboriginal Corporation and its Controlled Entities ABN 21 252 197 750

### **Consolidated Statement of Financial Position** As at 30 June 2024

ASSETS CURRENT ASSETS Cash and cash equivalents Trade and other receivables Inventory Contract asset TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS NON-CURRENT ASSETS

#### Investment property Property, plant and equipment Right-of-use asset Net investment on lease Capital work-in-progress Financial assets Investment in associates Loan receivable Security deposit Other assets

TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS TOTAL ASSETS

#### LIABILITIES

**CURRENT LIABILITIES** Trade and other payables Provisions Lease liabilities Unearned revenue Current tax liabilities Loan payable TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES

#### NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES

Provisions Deferred tax liabilities Lease liabilities Loan payable TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES TOTAL LIABILITIES NET ASSETS

	2024	2023
Note	\$	\$
	6,744,279	5,485,274
7	6,070,820	3,588,989
8	3,343,698	2,416,480
	112,604	-
	16,271,401	11,490,743
9	22,417,426	13,404,170
10	4,658,721	2,875,219
11	64,450	119,175
11	867,545	875,115
	1,748,240	7,756,566
12	14,968,251	13,922,100
13	809,597	700,023
	241,408	70,000
	749,020	645,326
	86,580	25,915
	46,611,238	40,393,609
	62,882,639	51,884,352
14	2,505,809	1,649,128
15	200,875	134,422
11	104,881	120,972
16	516,548	563,964
	788,402	492,037
	390,500	-
	4,507,015	2,960,523
15	191,723	191,723
6	10,352	32,901
11	444,862	485,715
	28,052	400,110
	674,989	710,339
	5,182,004	3,670,862
	57,700,635	48,213,490

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## **Consolidated Statement of Financial Position**

As at 30 June 2024

	2024		2023
	Note	\$	\$
EQUITY			
Share capital		10	10
Reserves	17	49,696,936	39,504,436
Accumulated funds		7,734,620	8,709,044
Non-controlling interest		269,069	-
TOTAL EQUITY		57,700,635	48,213,490

Rimatjingu Aboriginal Corporation and its Controlled Entities ABN 21 252 197 750

## Consolidated Statement of Changes in Equity For the year ended 30 June 2024

BALANCE AT 1 JULY 2022 COMPREHENSIVE INCOME Profit for the year TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME Transfer to reserves BALANCE AT 30 JUNE 2023 COMPREHENSIVE INCOME Profit for the year Other comprehensive income TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME Transfer to reserves Establishment of subsidiary with NCI BALANCE AT 30 JUNE 2024

The notes on pages 12 to 30 are an integral part of these consolidated financial statements...

#### Attributable to owners of the Company

Share capital	Reserves	Accumulated funds	Total	Non- controlling interest	Total equity
\$	\$	\$		\$	\$
10	33,400,000	10,421,526	43,821,536		43,821,536
		4,391,954	4,391,954		4,301,054
		4,391,954	4,391,954		4,391,954
-	6,104,435	(6,104,436)	-	-	
10	39,504,436	8,709,044	48,213,490		48,213,490
		9,058,076	9,058,076	24,069	9,082,145
-	160,000		150,000		160,000
-	160,000	9,053,076	9,218,076	24,069	9,242,145
	10,032,500	(10,032,500)	-		
-	-		-	245,000	245,000
10	49,696,936	7,734,620	57,431,566	269,069	57,700,635

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## **Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows**

For the year ended 30 June 2024

		2024	2023
CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES	Note	\$	\$
Receipts from royalties and sales		26,544,884	25,384,639
Payments to suppliers and employees		(21,004,005)	(21,134,600)
Interest paid		(7,268)	
nterest received		28,213	129,406
income tax paid		(705,307)	(142,378)
NET CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES		4,856,517	4,237,067
CASH FLOW FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Purchases of property, plant and equipment		(1,704,782)	(401,475)
Disposal proceeds of property, plant and equipment		-	7,311
Purchases and improvements to investment property		(2,416,557)	(57,160)
Payments to capital work-in-progress		(1,355,533)	(5,856,395)
Proceeds from sub lease		121,028	113,948
Dividends received		300,000	300,000
Net proceed of financial assets		1,262,700	2,047,615
.oan to associate		(171,408)	
NET CASH FLOWS USED IN INVESTING ACTIVITIES		(3,964,552)	(3,846,156)
CASH FLOW FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES			
Proceeds from loan		250,000	
Capital contribution from non-controlling interest		245,000	
Repayment of finance leases	11	(127,960)	(102,814)
IET CASH FLOWS FROM/(USED IN) FINANCING ACTIVITIES		367,040	(102,814)
NET INCREASE IN CASH HELD		1,259,005	288,097
Cash at beginning of financial year		5,485,274	5,197,177
CASH AT END OF FINANCIAL YEAR		6,744,279	5,485,274

Rirratjingu Aboriginal Corporation and its Controlled Entities ABN 21 252 197 750

## Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements

For the year ended 30 June 2024

#### Note 1 Reporting entity

These consolidated financial statements comprise Rirratjingu Aboriginal Corporation (the Company) and its subsidiaries (together referred to as the 'Group') and are as at and for the year ended 30 June 2024.

The Company is a not-for profit entity.

#### Note 2 Basis of preparation

#### a) Basis of accounting

These consolidated financial statements are general purpose financial statements for distribution to the members and for the purpose of fulfilling the requirements of the *Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006.* They have been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards - Simplified Disclosures made by the Australian Accounting Standards Board and the Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006.

The financial statements were authorised for issue by the Company's Board of Directors on 19 November 2024.

Details of the Company's material accounting policies are included in Note 3. Changes in material accounting policies are described in Note 3.

#### b) Functional and presentation currency

The consolidated financial statements are presented in Australian dollars, which is the Group's functional and presentation currency.

#### c) Use of judgments and estimates

In preparing these consolidated financial statements, management has made judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the application of the Group's accounting policies and the reported amounts of assets, liabilities, income and expenses. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

Estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised prospectively.

Information about critical judgements in applying accounting policies that have the most significant effect on the amounts recognised in the financial statements are included in the material accounting policies.

The most significant estimate and judgement relates to investment property and mining inventory.

#### Note 3 Material accounting policies

#### i. Material accounting policy information

The Group adopted *Disclosure of Accounting Policies: Tier 2 and Other Australian Accounting Standards (Amendments to AASB 1049, 1054 and 1060)* from 1 July 2023. Although the amendments did not result in any changes to the accounting policies themselves, they impacted the accounting policy information disclosed in the consolidated financial statements.

The amendments require the disclosure of 'material', rather than 'significant', accounting policies. The amendments also provide guidance on the application of materiality to disclosure of accounting policies, assisting entities to provide useful, entity-specific accounting policy information that users need to understand other information in the consolidated financial statements.

Management reviewed the accounting policies and made updates to the information disclosed in notes below Material accounting policies (2023: Significant accounting policies) in certain instances in line with the amendments.

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Rirratiingu Aboriginal Corporation and its Controlled Entities ABN 21 252 197 750

## **Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements**

For the year ended 30 June 2024

#### Note 3 Material accounting policies (continued)

A number of other new accounting standards are also effective from 1 July 2023 but they do not have a material effect on the Group's financial statements

Apart from items described above, the Group has consistently applied the following accounting policies to all periods presented in these consolidated financial statements, except if mentioned otherwise.

#### a) Basis of consolidation

#### i. Subsidiaries

Subsidiaries are entities (including special purpose entities) over which the Group has the power to govern the financial and operating policies generally accompanying a shareholding of more than one half of the voting rights. Consolidated financial statements include all subsidiaries from the date that control commences until the date that control ceases. The financial statements of subsidiaries are prepared for the same reporting period as the parent, using consistent accounting policies. All interentity balances and transactions have been eliminated.

The Rirratjingu Aboriginal Corporation (RAC) controls several wholly owned subsidiaries for the entire period presented in their financial statements. These subsidiaries include:

- Rirratjingu Mining Pty Ltd -
- The Miliditipi Trust
- Rirratjingu Enterprises Pty Ltd -
- Rirratjingu Property Management & Maintenance Services Pty Ltd -

Additionally, RAC controls the following subsidiaries from their respective dates of establishment:

- Rirratjingu Project Management Pty Ltd
- Ngarrkuwuy Developments Pty Ltd
- Marrin Square Developments Pty Ltd

These entities are included in the financial statements of RAC from the date on which control commences.

#### ii. Loss of control

When the Group loses control over a subsidiary it derecognises the assets and liabilities of the subsidiary and any related components of equity. Any resulting gain or loss is recognised in profit or loss. The subsidiary is measured at fair value when control is lost.

#### iii. Investments in associates

Associates are those entities in which the Group has significant influence, but not control or joint control over the financial and operating policies.

Interests in associates are accounted for using the equity method. They are initially recognised at cost, which includes transaction costs. Subsequent to the initial recognition, the consolidated financial statements include the Group's share of the profit or loss and OCI of associates, until the date on which significant influence ceases.

The financial statements of the associate are used to apply the equity method. The end of the reporting period of the associate and the Group are identical.

#### iv. Transactions eliminated on consolidation

Intra-group balances and transactions, and any unrealized income and expenses arising from intra- group transactions, are eliminated. Unrealized gains arising from transactions with equity-accounted investees are eliminated against the investment to the extent of the Group's interest in the investee. Unrealized losses are eliminated in the same way as unrealized gains, but only to the extent that there is no evidence of impairment.

Rirratiingu Aboriginal Corporation and its Controlled Entities ABN 21 252 197 750

## Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements

For the year ended 30 June 2024

#### Note 3 Material accounting policies (continued)

#### b) Revenue recognition

To determine whether to recognise revenue, the Group follows a 5-step process:

- Identifying the contract with a customer
- Identifying the performance obligations ii
- ííí Determining the transaction price
- Allocating the transaction price to the performance obligations ív.
- Recognising revenue when/as performance obligation(s) are satisfied. ٧.

Information about the nature and timing of the satisfaction of performance obligations in contracts with customers, including significant payment terms, and the related revenue recognition policies are outlined below. Revenue from sufficiently specific and enforceable contracts will be recognised in accordance with AASB 15 where revenue will be recognised when (or as) the performance obligations are satisfied.

Income which is not subject to an enforceable, sufficiently specific contract is recognised in accordance with AASB 1058 either at a point in time or over time.

Sale of goods - Revenue is recognised at the point of sale.

Rendering of services - Revenue recognised overtime as the services are provided.

Royalty income - Income is recognised overtime, as Rio Tinto obtains benefit from the use of land

Rental income - Rental income is recognised across the lease period. Rental paid in advance is recorded in deferred rental income.

#### c) Goods and services tax (GST)

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office. In these circumstances the GST is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of the asset or as part of an item of expense. Receivables and payables in the Consolidated Statement of Financial Position are shown inclusive of GST. Cash flows are included in the cash flow statement on a gross basis. The GST component of cash flows arising from investing and financing activities which is recoverable from, or payable to, the taxation authority is classified as operating cash flows.

#### d) Financial Instruments

#### Recognition and measurement

Trade receivables and loan receivables issued are initially recognised when they are originated. Financial assets and financial liabilities are recognised on the Group's Consolidated Statement of Financial Position when the Group becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

The Group has the following financial instruments per category:

Financial assets at amortised cost:

i. Trade receivables

Trade receivables are measured at initial recognition at fair value and are subsequently measured at amortised cost

#### ii. Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash on hand and demand deposits, and other short-term highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to a known amount of cash and are subject to insignificant risk of changes in value.

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Rirratjingu Aboriginal Corporation and its Controlled Entities ABN 21 252 197 750

## Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements

For the year ended 30 June 2024

#### Note 3 Material accounting policies (continued)

#### d) Financial instruments (continued)

#### iii. Joint venture

A joint venture is an arrangement in which the Group has joint control, whereby the Group has rights to the net assets of the arrangement, rather than rights to its assets and obligations for its liabilities. Under the equity method of accounting, the Group's share of post-acquisition profits or losses of joint venture is recognised in profit or loss and the entity's share of post-acquisition movements in reserves of associates is recognised in other comprehensive income. The cumulative post-acquisition movements are adjusted against the carrying amount of the investment.

The financial statements of the joint venture are used to apply the equity method. The end of the reporting period of the joint venture and the Group are identical and both use consistent accounting policies.

#### iv. Associate

Investment in associate, the group has significant influence over an associate, whereby the Group has rights to the net assets of the associate. Under the equity method of accounting, the Group's share of post-acquisition profits or losses of the associate is recognised in profit or loss and the entity's share of post-acquisition movements in reserves of associates is recognised in other comprehensive income. The cumulative post-acquisition movements are adjusted against the carrying amount of the investment.

The financial statements of the associate are used to apply the equity method. The end of the reporting period of the associate and the Group are identical and both use consistent accounting policies.

#### Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss (FVTPL)

Financial assets that do not meet the criteria for being measured at amortised cost or Fair Value Through Other Comprehensive Income (FVTOCI) are measured at FVTPL. Specifically

- Investments in equity instruments are classified as at FVTPL, unless the Group designates an equity investment that is neither held for trading nor a contingent consideration arising from a business combination as at FVTOCI on initial recognition.
- Debt instruments that do not meet the amortised cost criteria or the FVTOCI criteria are classified as at FVTPL. In addition, debt instruments that meet either the amortised cost criteria or the FVTOCI criteria may be designated as at FVTPL upon initial recognition if such designation eliminates or significantly reduces a measurement or recognition inconsistency (so called 'accounting mismatch') that would arise from measuring assets or liabilities or recognising the gains and losses on them on different bases.

Financial assets at FVTPL are measured at fair value at the end of each reporting period, with any fair value gains or losses recognised in profit or loss, and any dividend or interest earned on the financial asset is included in the 'Finance income or Finance cost' line item

#### Financial liabilities:

Loans and payables are financial liabilities initially recognised at fair value less any directly attributable transaction costs as represented by the amounts to be paid in the future for goods or services received.

Subsequent to initial recognition, loans and payables are measured at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method.

Rirratjingu Aboriginal Corporation and its Controlled Entities ABN 21 252 197 750

## Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements

For the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 3 Material accounting policies (continued) d) Financial instruments (continued)

#### Derecognition

#### i. Financial assets

The Group derecognises a financial asset when the contractual rights to the cash flows from the financial asset expire, or it transfers the rights to receive the contractual cash flows in a transaction in which substantially all of the risks and rewards of ownership of the financial asset are transferred and no control is retained of the financial asset.

#### ii. Financial liabilities

The Group derecognises a financial liability when its contractual obligations are discharged or cancelled or expire. The Group also derecognises a financial liability when its terms are significantly modified.

#### e) Employee benefits

Employee benefit expenses are recognised for employee benefits such as wages and salaries, annual leave and long service leave in respect of services provided by the employee up to the reporting date. Liabilities for employee benefits are assessed at each reporting date.

#### f) Inventories

Inventories are measured at the lower of cost and net realisable value. The cost of inventories is based on the first-in first-out principle and includes expenditure incurred in acquiring the inventories and other costs incurred in bringing them to their existing location and condition.

Net realisable value is the estimated selling price in the ordinary course of business, less the estimated costs of completion and selling expenses.

#### g) Income tax

Income tax expense comprises current and deferred tax. It is recognised in profit or loss except to the extent that it relates to items directly in equity or in OCI.

#### i. Current tax

Current tax comprises the expected tax payable or receivable on the taxable income or loss for the year and any adjustment to tax payable or receivable in respect of previous years. It is measured using tax rates enacted or substantively enacted at the reporting date. Current tax also includes any tax liability arising from dividends.

#### ii. Deferred tax

Deferred tax is recognised in respect of temporary differences between the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities for financial reporting purposes and the amounts used for taxation purposes. Deferred tax is not recognised for temporary differences on the initial recognition of assets or liabilities in a transaction that is not a business combination and that affects neither accounting nor taxable profit loss.

Deferred tax is measured at the tax rates that are expected to be applied to temporary differences when they reverse, using tax rates enacted or substantively enacted at the reporting date.

The measurement of deferred tax reflects the tax consequences that would follow the manner in which the Group expects, at the reporting date, to recover or settle the carrying amount of its assets and liabilities.

Deferred tax assets and liabilities are offset only if certain criteria are met.

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Rirratijngu Aboriginal Corporation and its Controlled Entities ABN 21 252 197 750

## Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements

For the year ended 30 June 2024

#### Note 3 Material accounting policies (continued)

#### g) Income tax (continued)

#### ii. Deferred tax (continued)

A deferred tax asset is recognised for unused tax losses, tax credits and deductible temporary difference, to the extent that it is probable that future taxable profits will be available against which they can be utilised. Deferred tax assets are reviewed at each reporting date and are reduced to the extent that it is no longer probable that the related tax benefit will be realised.

#### iii. Tax exposures

In determining the amount of current and deferred tax the Group takes into account the impact of uncertain tax positions and whether additional taxes and interest may be due. This assessment relies on estimates and assumptions and may involve a series of judgements about future events. New information may become available that causes the Group to change its judgement regarding the adequacy of existing tax liabilities; such changes to tax liabilities will impact tax expenses in the period that such a determination is made.

#### h) Property, plant and equipment

#### 1. Recognition and measurement

Items of property, plant and equipment, are initially recorded at their cost of acquisition at the date of acquisition. Cost includes incidental cost directly attributable to the acquisition, as well as any provision required in relation to any future dismantling, removal or restoration costs associated with the item of plant and equipment. When parts of an item of plant and equipment have different useful lives, they are accounted for as separate items (major components) of plant and equipment.

Besides property for internal use, which is recorded at fair value, all other property, plant and equipment is recorded at cost less accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses.

#### ii. Subsequent expenditure

Subsequent expenditure is capitalised only when it is probable that the future economic benefits associated with the expenditure will flow to the Group. Ongoing repairs and maintenance is expensed as incurred.

Any gains and losses on disposal of an item of plant and equipment (calculated as the difference between the net proceeds from disposal and the carrying amount of the item) is recognised in profit or loss.

#### iii. Depreciation

All items of plant and equipment have limited useful lives and are depreciated using the diminishing value method. Depreciation expenses are recognised in profit or loss.

Assets are depreciated from the date of acquisition or, in respect of internally constructed assets, from the time an asset is completed and held ready for use.

Depreciation methods, useful lives and residual values are reviewed at each reporting date and adjusted if appropriate.

#### i) Impairment

#### Non-derivative financial assets í.

The Group recognises loss allowances for Expected Credit Losses (ECLs) on financial assets measured at amortised cost.

Loss allowances for trade receivables are always measured at an amount equal to lifetime ECLs. When determining whether the credit risk of a financial asset has increased significantly since initial recognition and when estimating ECLs, the Group considers reasonable and supportable information that is relevant and available without undue cost or effort. This includes both quantitative and qualitative information and analysis, based on historical experience and informed credit assessment and including forward looking information.

Rimatiingu Aboriginal Corporation and its Controlled Entities ABN 21 252 197 750

## Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements

For the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 3 Material accounting policies (continued) i) Impairment (continued)

#### i. Non-derivative financial assets (continued)

The Group assumes that the credit risk on a financial asset has increased significantly if it is still outstanding at the end of the year.

In assessing impairment, the Group uses historical information on the timing of recoveries and the amount of loss incurred, and makes an adjustment if current economic and credit conditions are such that the actual losses are likely to be greater or lesser than suggested by historical trends.

An impairment loss is calculated as the difference between an asset's carrying amount and the value of the estimated future cash flows. Losses are recognised in profit or loss and reflected in an allowance account. When the Group considers that there are no realistic prospects of recovery of the asset, the relevant amounts are written off. If the amount of impairment loss subsequently decreases and the decrease can be related objectively to an event occurring after the impairment was recognised, then the previously recognised impairment loss is reversed through profit or loss.

Financial assets not classified as at fair value through profit or loss are assessed at each reporting date to determine whether there is objective evidence of impairment.

#### ii Non-financial assets

At each reporting date, the Group reviews the carrying amounts of its non-financial assets (other than inventories) to determine whether there is any indication of impairment. If any such indication exists, then the asset's recoverable amount is estimated.

For impairment testing, assets are grouped together into the smallest group of assets that generates cash inflows from continuing use that are largely independent of the cash inflows of other assets.

The recoverable amount of an asset is the greater of its value in use and its fair value less costs to sell.

Value in use is based on the estimated future cash flows, discounted to their present value using a pre-tax discount rate that reflects current market assessments of the time value of money and the risks specific to the asset.

An impairment loss is recognised if the carrying amount of an asset exceeds its recoverable amount.

Impairment losses are recognised in profit or loss. An impairment loss is reversed only to the extent that the asset's carrying amount does not exceed the canying amount that would have been determined, net of depreciation or amortisation, if no impairment loss had been recognised.

#### Note 4 Royalties

Rirratingu Aboriginal Corporation (RAC) is entitled to receive royalties for land used in mining activities performed by Rio Tinto Alcan (RTA) under the Gove Agreement, and section 64 lease revenue from various businesses.

Gove agreement royalties - Over time revenue Section 64 leases - Over time revenue TOTAL ROYALTIES - GOVE AGREEMENT AND SECTION 64 - OV

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
	3,560,598	4,813,618
	5,254,629	2,527,096
VER TIME REVENUE	8,815,227	7,340,714

For the year ended 30 June 2024

	2024	2023	
Note 5 Net finance income	\$	\$	
nterest on term deposit and bank balances	175,565	129,406	
nterest income on net lease investment	71,892	57,142	
Dividend and distribution from financial assets	445,014	441,494	
Inrealised fair value gain on financial assets	1,239,475	663,816	
ains on disposal of financial assets at fair value through profit or loss	477,013	-	
OTAL FINANCE INCOME	2,408,959	1,291,858	
terest on lease liabilities	(47,473)	(35,963)	
iterest expense	(7,268)	-	
oss on disposal of financial assets at fair value through profit or loss	170	(115,254)	
OTAL FINANCE COST	(54,741)	(151,217)	
IET FINANCE INCOME	2,354,218	1,140,641	

#### Note 6 Income tax expenses

	2024	2023
a) Prima facie tax payable on profit (loss) before income tax reconciliation to income tax expense:	\$	\$
Prima facie income tax payable on profit before income tax at 25% (2023 - 25%)	2,515,317	1,296,721
Add/(less) tax effect of non-taxable income	(1,536,194)	(501,791)
INCOME TAX EXPENSE ATTRIBUTABLE TO PROFIT FROM ORDINARY ACTIVITIES	979,123	794,930

b) Movement in deferred tax balances

2024	Balance at 1 July	Recognised in profit or loss	Deferred tax assets	Deferred tax liabilities	Net deferred tax liabilities
Taxlosses	55,581	(42,523)	13,058		13,058
Property, plant and equipment	22,298	(28,168)		(5,870)	(5,870)
Provisions	(110,780)	93,240		(17,540)	(17,540)
	(32,901)	22,549	13,058	(23,410)	(10,352)
2023					
Tax losses	169,813	(114,232)	55,581	-	55,581
Property, plant and equipment	(13,580)	35,878	22,298		22,298
Provisions	65,843	(176,623)	-	(110,780)	(110,780)
	222,076	(254,977)	77,879	(110,780)	(32,901)

The charge for current income tax expense is based on the profit of the Group for the year adjusted for any non-assessable or disallowed items. It is calculated using the tax rates that have been enacted or are substantially enacted by the balance sheet date

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## Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements

For the year ended 30 June 2024

#### Note 6 Income tax expenses (continued)

Deferred taxation is provided using the balance sheet liability method, providing for temporary differences between the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities for financial reporting purposes and the amounts used for taxation purposes. The amount of deferred tax provided is based on the expected manner of realisation or settlement of the carrying amount of assets and liabilities, using tax rates enacted or substantively enacted by the reporting date.

Deferred tax assets, including those related to temporary tax effects of income tax losses and credits available to be carried forward are recognised only to the extent that it is probable that future taxable profits will be available against which the asset can be utilised. Deferred tax assets are reviewed at each reporting date and are reduced to the extent that it is no longer probable that the related tax benefit will be realised.

Deferred tax relating to items recognised directly in equity is recognised in equity.

Deferred tax is not recognized for the undistributed profits of associates as the Company has control over the dividend policy of its associates and distribution of those profits.

No provision for income tax has been raised for The Miliditjpi Trust and the parent entity, as the Trust and the Company are exempt from income tax under Division 50 of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997.

#### Note 7 Trade and other receivables

Trade debtors
Royalties receivables
Prepayments
Other debtors
TOTAL TRADE AND OTHER RECEIVABLES

Trade receivables are measured at initial recognition at fair value, and are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method, less provision for the expected credit loss.

#### Note 8 Inventory

Work in progress Finished goods TOTAL INVENTORY

2024 consolidated inventory balance represented by Mining Inventory (2023 - Mining and Enterprise Inventories).

Inventories are stated at the lower of cost and net realisable value. Cost comprises all direct materials, direct labour and an appropriate portion of variable and fixed overheads. Fixed overheads are allocated on the basis of normal operating capacity. Costs are assigned to inventories using the weighted average/first-in-first-out basis. Net realisable value is the estimated selling price in the ordinary course of business, less the estimated selling cost of completion and selling expenses.

Effective 1 July 2023 the Rirratjingu Mining Pty Ltd adopted full absorption costing and as a result of blasting that occurred in the current year resulted in costs of \$1,032,886 being capitalised that would have been expensed in previous financial years.

2023	2024
\$	\$
1,239,075	1,848,152
1,158,292	2,739,373
440,482	80,621
751,140	1,402,674
3,588,989	6,070,820

2024	2023
\$	\$
409,218	420,929
2,934,480	1,995,551
3,343,698	2,416,480

For the year ended 30 June 2024

#### Note 8 Inventory (continued)

#### Accounting Estimates and Judgments

The entity has engaged surveyors to measure the quantity of stock on hand at balance date in cubic metres at the quanty. The measurement is an estimate based on the dimensions of stockpiles and cannot confirm exact quantities. Further, the value of the stockpiles is based on tonnes rather than metres. A factor is applied to convert the quantity in metres into tonnes, however actual tonnes will not be known until the stock is weighed as part of the sale process. If there are significant differences between recorded cubic metres and actual cubic metres, or between the recorded conversion factor and actual conversion rates, it could have a material impact on the value of stock on hand as recorded in the consolidated financial statements.

#### Note 9 Investment property

#### Movements in carrying amounts

Movement in the carrying amounts for each investment property between the beginning and the end of the current financial year:

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Opening written down value	13,404,170	13,347,010
Revaluation adjustments	(767,160)	-
Additions	9,780,416	57,160
CLOSING WRITTEN DOWN VALUE	22,417,426	13,404,170

Movement in carrying amounts for each of the investment property was during the year was as follow:

	Opening balance	Fair value gain/(loss)	Additions	Closing balance
	\$	\$	\$	\$
1235 Melville Bay Road, Nhulnbuy NT 0880 - at 2024 valuation	2,910,000	(1,510,000)		1,400,000
1A Aisa Street, Nhulunbuy NT 0880 - at 2024 valuation	385,000	-	-	385,000
1 Binga Binga close, Nhulnbuy NT 0880 - at 2024 valuation	9,357,160	742,840	-	10,100,000
2 Bunuwal Place, Nhulnbuy NT 0880 - at 2024 valuation	400,000	-	-	400,000
Commercial Camp	145,000	1.5	-	145,000
Construction Camp	207,010	-	-	207,010
Rirratjingu Business Centre Accommodation - at cost	( <u>+</u> )	-	3,478,679	3,478,679
Rirratjingu Business Centre - at cost	-		6,301,737	6,301,737
	13,404,170	(767,160)	9,780,416	22,417,426

Investment property, principally comprising of land, buildings and fixed plant and equipment, is held for long-term rental yields and is not occupied by the Group. Investment properties are measured initially at cost, including transaction costs. Subsequent to initial recognition, investment properties are measured at fair value based on external valuations. Gains or losses arising from changes in the fair values of investment properties are recognised in profit or loss in the year in which they arise. Rirratjingu Aboriginal Corporation and its Controlled Entities ABN 21 252 197 750

## Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements

For the year ended 30 June 2024

#### Note 9 Investment property (continued)

The Investment properties were revalued by external valuers in the current year as identified in the table on page 21.

Investment properties are derecognised either when they have been disposed of or when the investment property is permanently withdrawn from use and no future economic benefit is expected from its disposal. Any gains or losses on the retirement of an investment property are recognised in profit or loss in the year of retirement or disposal.

There were no impairment indicators at 30 June 2024.

While this represents the best estimation of fair value at the reporting date, actual sale prices achieved (should the investment properties be sold) may be higher or lower than the most recent valuation. This is particularly relevant in periods of market illiquidity or uncertainty.

#### Accounting estimates and judgments

Investment properties are revalued by external valuers on at least a three-year basis but more often if there are indicators of a material change in value. The assumptions used in the estimations of fair values include expected future market rentals, discount rates, market prices and economic conditions. The reported fair values of investment properties reflect the market conditions at the end of the year. While this represents the best estimation of fair value at the reporting date, actual sale prices achieved (should the investment properties be sold) may be higher or lower than the most recent valuation. This is particularly relevant in periods of market illiquidity or uncertainty.

#### Note 10 Property, plant and equipment

Property for internal use at fair value

Plant and equipment at cost Less accumulated depreciation

Motor vehicle at cost Less accumulated depreciation

Building improvements Less accumulated depreciation

TOTAL PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

2024	2023
\$	\$
1,655,000	1,495,000
1,655,000	1,495,000
1,655,392	995,059
(495,936)	(348,736)
1,159,456	646,323
437,054	305,455
(176,994)	(128,253)
260,060	177,202
1,667,205	606,658
(83,000)	(49,964)
1,584,205	556,694
4,658,721	2,875,219

For the year ended 30 June 2024

#### Note 10 Property, plant and equipment (continued)

#### Movements in carrying amounts

Movement in the carrying amounts for each class of property, plant and equipment between the beginning and the end of the current financial year.

2024	Property for internal use	Plant and equipment	Motor vehicle	Building improvement	Total
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Opening balance	1,495,000	646,323	177,202	556,694	2,875,219
Additions		671,425	126,071	1,075,838	1,873,334
Disposals		-		-	
Depreciation expense	5 <b>.</b> 2	(158,292)	(43,213)	(48,327)	(249,832)
Revaluation	160,000	-	-	-	160,000
CLOSING BALANCE	1,655,000	1,159,456	260,060	1,584,205	4,658,721
2023	Property for internal use	Plant and equipment	Motor vehicle	Building improvement	Total
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Opening balance	1,495,000	526,951	138,962	545,376	2,706,289
Additions	-	257,751	84,232	59,492	401,475
Disposals	-	-	(7,311)	-	(7,311)
Depreciation expense		(138,379)	(38,681)	(48,174)	(225,234)
CLOSING BALANCE	1,495,000	646,323	177,202	556,694	2,875,219

Each class of property plant and equipment is carried at cost or fair value less, where applicable, any accumulated depreciation.

#### Depreciation

The depreciation rates and useful lives used for each class of depreciable assets are:

Class of fixed assets	Depreciation rates	Depreciation basis
Motor vehicle	13.3 - 20%	Diminishing value
Plant and equipment	16.7 - 33%	Diminishing value
Buildings	12.50%	Diminishing value

Gains and losses on disposals are calculated as the difference between the net disposal proceeds and the asset's carrying amount and are included in profit or loss in the year that the item is derecognised.

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## Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements

For the year ended 30 June 2024

#### Note 11 Leases

#### Leases as lessee

During the financial year the Group entered into three motor vehicles and one property lease. Car leases typically run for a period of 3 years. The store lease runs for a period of 12 years with an option to renew the lease after that date. Lease payments are reviewed each year to reflect market rentals.

During the previous financial year the store has been sub-let by the Group.

Information about leases for which the Group is a lessee is presented below.

#### a) Right-of-use assets

Right-of-use assets related to motor vehicles and leased property are presented as right-of-use asset.

Balance at 1 July 2023 Additions to right-of-use assets Depreciation charge for the year BALANCE AT 30 JUNE 2024

#### b) Extension options

The property lease contains an extension option exercisable by the Group near to the end of the contract period. Where practicable, the Group seeks to include the extension option in new leases to provide operational flexibility. The extension options held are exercisable only by the Group and not by the lessors. The Group assesses at lease commencement date whether it is reasonably certain to exercise the extension options. The Group reassesses whether it is reasonably certain to exercise the options if there is a significant event or significant changes in circumstances within its control.

c) Lease liability

Balance at 1 July 2023 Additions to lease liability Interest charge for the year Lease payment Lease remeasurement BALANCE AT 30 JUNE 2024

Current Non-current

Motor vehicle	
\$	
119,175	
2	
(54,725)	
64,450	

Total	Land and buildings	Motor vehicle	
\$	\$	\$	
606,686	485,715	120,971	
	-		
47,473	39,939	7,534	
(127,960)	(67,238)	(60,722)	
23,544	23,544	541	
549,743	481,960	67,783	
2023	2024		
\$	\$		
120,972	104,881		
485,715	444,862		
606,687	549,743		

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For the year ended 30 June 2024

#### Note 11 Leases (continued)

#### d) Future lease payments

The total of future lease payments are disclosed for each of the following periods.

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Less than one year	107,044	127,958
One to five years	284,925	408,560
More than five years	277,762	252,142
	669,731	788,660

#### Leases as a lessor

#### Finance lease

During the financial year, the Group sub-leased the property presented above as part of a right-of-use asset - property, plant and equipment.

#### e) Net investment

The following table sets out a maturity analysis of lease receivables, showing the undiscounted lease payments to be received after the reporting date.

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Less than one year	124,997	121,028
One to five years	499,989	605,140
More than five years	499,989	484,112
TOTAL UNDISCOUNTED LEASE LIABILITY	1,124,975	1,210,280
Unearned finance income	(257,430)	(335, 165)
NET INVESTMENT IN THE LEASE	867,545	875,115

#### Note 12 Financial assets

Rirratjingu Aboriginal Corporation (RAC) initially invested \$13 million in funds managed by Conick Laird and Macquarie on 1 July 2019, various revenues, expenses and financial assets were recorded in the statement of profit and loss and the statement of financial position. Revenues, expenses and assets comprise of the balances below. Interest was earned from bank balances with other institutions. On 12 June 2020 the directors approved a Future Fund Charitable Payments Reserve Policy (FFCPR) to reserve and invest no less than 50% of RAC profits. As of 30 June 2024, the belowfunds are managed by Morgan and Macquarie.

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Fixed term deposits	3,775,038	2,732,811
Equity investments	11,193,213	11,189,289
TOTAL FINANCIAL ASSETS	14,968,251	13,922,100

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## Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements

For the year ended 30 June 2024

#### Note 13 Investments in associates

Rirratjingu Fuel Pty Ltd Yirrkala Enterprises Pty Ltd TOTAL INVESTMENT IN ASSOCIATES

RAC owns a 50% shareholding in Rirratjingu Fuel as such this is treated as a joint venture which is equity accounted in accordance with AASB 128 Investments in Associates and Joint Ventures.

The following table analyses, in aggregate, the carrying amount and share of profit and OCI of these associates.

#### Carrying amount of interests in associates

#### Rirratjingu Fuel Pty Ltd

Opening balance Share of profit from continuing operations Less dividend income CLOSING BALANCE

RAC owns a 25% shareholding in Yirrkala Enterprises as such this is treated as an investment is an associate which is equity accounted in accordance with AASB 128 Investments in Associates and Joint Ventures.

Yirrkala Enterprises Pty Ltd Opening balance Share of profit from continuing operations CLOSING BALANCE

#### Note 14 Trade and other payables

Trade creditors Other payables and accruals TOTAL TRADE AND OTHER PAYABLES

#### Trade creditors and accruals

Trade and other payables are measured initially at fair value and subsequently at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

2024	2023
\$	\$
756,309	607,205
53,288	92,818
809,597	700,023

2024	2023
\$	\$
607,205	469,896
449,104	437,309
(300,000)	(300,000)
756,309	607,205

2024	2022
2024	2023
\$	\$
92,818	89,779
(39,530)	3,039
53,288	92,818
2024	2023
\$	\$
1,815,809	1,535,014
690,000	114,114
2,505,809	1,649,128

For the year ended 30 June 2024

	2024	2023
Note 15 Provisions	\$	\$
PROVISION - CURRENT		
Annual leave	176,427	121,519
Long service leave	24,448	12,903
TOTAL PROVISION - CURRENT	200,875	134,422
PROVISION NON - CURRENT		
Quarry restoration	191,723	191,723
TOTAL PROVISION NON - CURRENT	191,723	191,723

Provision is made for the Group's liability for employee benefits arising from services rendered by employees to balance date. Employee benefits have been measured at the amounts expected to be paid when the liability is settled, plus related on costs.

The Group currently has an obligation to restore a quarry site at Yirrkala back to its original condition per the mining management plan.

	2024	2023
Note 16 Unearned revenue	\$	\$
Grants in advance	397,983	520,098
Rent received in advance	118,565	43,866
TOTAL UNEARNED REVENUE	516,548	563,964

The Group has received a number of grants which remain unspent as of 30 June. Each grant received relates to a specific purpose. Revenue is recognised against funds received in accordance with the revenue policy disclosed above. Unspent funds are classified as unearned revenue.

#### Note 17 Reserves

Effective 12 June 2020, RAC established the Rirratjingu Future Fund Charitable Payments Reserve to allocate funds towards the longer-term support for the well-being of the Rirratjingu People, beyond closure of the current mining activities and royalties ceasing.

#### Note 18 List of subsidiaries and associates

Set out below is a list of material subsidiaries of the Company.

- The Miliditipi Trust, 100% ownership interest (2023: 100%)
- Rirratjingu Mining Pty Ltd, 100% ownership interest (2023: 100%)
- Rirratjingu Enterprises Pty Ltd, 100% ownership interest (2023: 100%)
- Rirratijingu Property Management & Maintenance Services Pty Ltd, 100% ownership interest (2023: 100%)
- Rirratjingu Fuel Pty Ltd, 50% ownership interest (2023: 50%)
- Yirrkala Enterprises Pty Ltd, 25% ownership interest (2023: 25%)
- Rirratjingu Project Management Pty Ltd, 51% ownership interest
- Ngarrkuwuy Developments Pty Ltd, 100% ownership interest
- Marrin Square Developments Pty Ltd, 100% ownership interest

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## **Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements**

For the year ended 30 June 2024

#### Note 19 Financial instruments

#### Accounting classifications

The following table shows the carrying amounts of financial assets and financial liabilities.

FINANCIAL ASSETS MEASURED AT FAIR VALUE THROUGH P Financial assets

FINANCIAL ASSETS MEASURED AT AMORTISED COST Loan receivable Trade receivables\* Cash and cash equivalents Contract asset

FINANCIAL LIABILITIES MEASURED AT AMORTISED COST Unearned revenue Loan payable Trade payables\*

\* Other receivables and payables that are not financial instruments (prepayments and refund liabilities) are not included.

#### Note 20 Commitments

The Corporation did not have any commitments as at 30 June 2024 (2023: \$nil).

#### Note 21 Related parties

#### a) Remuneration and retirement benefits

No Director has received or became entitled to receive a benefit other than sitting fees which is paid based on a per meeting basis. The Chairperson receives a monthly set fee and payment of his telephone account, plus payment for motor vehicle costs.

#### b) Key management personnel compensation

Sitting fees Chairperson's fee

#### c) Payment to members

Directors approved payments (2024: \$1,276,800 and 2023: \$1,200,000) which represent family charitable payments that must be spent in accordance with the RAC Family Payments Policy and RAC rule book.

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
PROFIT OR LOSS		
	14,968,251	13,922,100
	14,968,251	13,922,100
	241,408	70,000
	5,990,199	3,148,507
	6,744,279	5,485,274
	112,604	
	13,088,490	8,703,781
	516,548	563,964
	418,552	-
	1,815,809	1,535,014
	2,750,909	2,098,978

2024	2023
\$	\$
123,772	55,700
120,222	93,300
243,994	149,000

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For the year ended 30 June 2024

#### Note 22 Contingencies

RAC are a party to a an arbitration process in connection with Royalty and Lease rights. RAC are awaiting the outcome of the matter. The financial impacts will be recognised in the financial statements in the future periods when determined.

Other than noted above, there are no material contingencies that will have material impact on the financial position of the Company, or which would lead to a disclosure in the consolidated financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2024.

#### Note 23 Parent entity disclosures

As at, and throughout, the financial year ended 30 June 2024 the parent entity of the Group was Rirratijingu Aboriginal Corporation.

	2024	2023
Results of parent entity		
Profit for the period	8,008,338	987,207
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME	8,008,338	987,207
Financial position of parent entity at year end		
Current assets	8,576,449	13,795,752
Non-current assets	32,303,390	18,887,512
TOTAL ASSETS	40,879,839	32,683,264
Current liabilities	1,223,231	1,046,587
Non-current liabilities	618,280	606,687
TOTAL LIABILITIES	1,841,511	1,653,274
NET ASSETS	39,038,328	31,029,990
Total equity of the parent entity comprising of:		
Share capital	10	10
Accumulated funds	-	518,980
Reserves	39,038,318	30,511,000
TOTAL EQUITY	39,038,328	31,029,990

#### Parent entity guarantees in respect of the debt of its subsidiaries

During the year, Company did not have any bank guarantees on behalf of Rirratjingu Enterprises Pty Ltd.

#### Parent entity capital contingent liabilities

The parent entity did not have any contingent liabilities as at 30 June 2024 (2023: \$nil).

Parent entity capital commitments

The parent entity did not have any contractual commitments as at 30 June 2024 (2023: \$nil).

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## **Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements**

For the year ended 30 June 2024

#### Note 24 Auditors' remuneration

#### AUDIT AND REVIEW SERVICES

Auditors of the Group - KPMG Australia Consolidated group audits of financial statements Consolidated group financial statement preparation assistance

#### Note 25 Subsequent events

The following items have occurred subsequent to the year-end:

1. RAC and Sitzler established Gonditbuy Pty Ltd subsequent to the financial year end and RAC has 51% ownership holding.

Other than the matter discussed above, no item, transaction, or event of a material and unusual nature has arisen in the interval between the end of the financial year and the date of this report that, in the opinion of the Directors, that is likely to significantly affect the operations of the Group, the results of those operations, or the state of affairs of the Group in future financial years.

2024	2023
\$	\$
105,915	80,000
35,000	25,000
140,915	105,000

Rirratjingu Aboriginal Corporation and its Controlled Entities ABN 21 252 197 750

## **Directors' Declaration**

In the opinion of the Directors of Rirratjingu Aboriginal Corporation ('the Company'):

- a) the Company is not publicly accountable;
- b) the consolidated financial statements and notes that as set out on pages 6 to 30 are in accordance with the Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006, including:
- giving a true and fair view of the Company's financial position as at 30 June 2024 and of its performance, for the financial year ended on that date; and
- complying with Australian Accounting Standards Simplified Disclosure Requirements and the Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006; and
- c) There are reasonable grounds to believe that the Company will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Directors made pursuant to the Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006.

On behalf of the Board of Directors:

Dated at 8:30 alm this 19th day of November 2024.

Wanyubi Marik

Chairman

Mandaka Sam Marika Director



## Independent Auditor's Report

#### To the Members of Rirratjingu Aboriginal Corporation

#### Opinion

We have audited the Financial Report of
Rirratjingu Aboriginal Corporation (the
Corporation) and its controlled entities (the
Group).

In our opinion, the accompanying Financial Report of the Corporation is in accordance with the Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006, including:

- giving a true and fair view of the *Group's* financial position as at 30 June 2024 and of its financial performance and its cash flows for the year ended on that date; and
- complying with Australian Accounting Standards - Simplified Disclosures Requirements and the Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Regulations 2017.

#### **Basis for opinion**

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the Financial Report section of our report.

We are independent of the Group in accordance with the *Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006* and the ethical requirements of the *Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including Independence Standards)* (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the Financial Report in Australia. We have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements.

#### Other Information

Other Information is financial and non-financial information in Rirratjingu Aboriginal Corporation's annual reporting which is provided in addition to the Financial Report and the Auditor's Report. The Directors are responsible for the Other Information.

Our opinion on the Financial Report does not cover the Other Information and, accordingly, we do not express an audit opinion or any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

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- The Financial Report comprises:
- Consolidated statement of financial position as at 30 June 2024
- Consolidated statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, Consolidated statement of changes in equity, and Consolidated statement of cash flows for the year then ended
- Notes including a summary of material accounting policies
- Directors' Declaration

The *Group* consists of the Corporation and the entities it controlled at the year-end or from time to time during the financial year.



In connection with our audit of the Financial Report, our responsibility is to read the Other Information. In doing so, we consider whether the Other Information is materially inconsistent with the Financial Report or our knowledge obtained in the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

We are required to report if we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this Other Information, and based on the work we have performed on the Other Information that we obtained prior to the date of this Auditor's Report we have nothing to report.

#### Responsibilities of the Directors for the Financial Report

The Directors are responsible for:

- preparing the Financial Report that gives a true and fair view in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards - Simplified Disclosures and the Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006
- implementing necessary internal control to enable the preparation of a Financial Report that gives a true and fair view and is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error
- assessing the Group and Corporation's ability to continue as a going concern and whether the
  use of the going concern basis of accounting is appropriate. This includes disclosing, as
  applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting
  unless they either intend to liquidate the Group and Corporation or to cease operations, or
  have no realistic alternative but to do so.

#### Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the Financial Report

Our objective is:

- to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the Financial Report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; and
- · to issue an Auditor's Report that includes our opinion.

Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with *Australian Auditing Standards* will always detect a material misstatement when it exists.

Misstatements can arise from fraud or error. They are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the Financial Report.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the Financial Report is located at the Auditing and Assurance Standards Board website at:

http://www.auasb.gov.au/auditors\_responsibilities/ar3.pdf. This description forms part of our Auditor's Report.

KPMG

KPMG

Luke Snowdown

Partner

Darwin

19 November 2024



NTIBN Winner of Best Blak Community Controlled Organisation 2024 NTIBN Finalist of NT Blak Business of the Year 2024





## Rirratjingu Aboriginal Corporation

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