

BNTAC

AUGUST
EDITION

NEWSLETTER

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When reading this publication
and sharing it with family and
friends, please be mindful that
it may contain images and/ or
names of people who have
since passed away.

***We acknowledge our Elders past, present and emerging
who set the foundations for the future***

Thanharru & welcome to the August issue of the BNTAC News

In this edition we:

- *Share highlights from the 2025 Karijini Experience*
- *Provide updates on the latest BNTAC activities*
- *Native Title and Elders Council updates*
- *News on renewable energy readiness, community events, and a whole lot more!*

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Message from the Chair

Paula White

THANHARRU,

As we move through 2025 at a rapid pace, it is remarkable to reflect on how much has already been achieved.

As part of the ongoing AMOD process, BNTAC and BHP have been working together to modernise the 2015 Comprehensive Agreement. This is a big job, and while we've made solid progress, it's going to take more time to get the final agreement right.

In the meantime, we've negotiated an Interim Agreement — a stepping stone that allows us to start delivering some benefits to Banjima people now, rather than waiting another year.

At the upcoming Special General Meeting on Saturday, 16 August 2025 at the WACA Grounds in East Perth, BNTAC members will be asked to vote on whether to support the Interim Agreement. A handbook has been developed to help explain the journey so far and what the agreement includes — I encourage all members to read it before the meeting.

This meeting will be followed by a Banjima Common Law Holder Authorisation Meeting.

This is a key step forward in progressing the Wittenoom litigation and ensuring the community is informed about the process.

NAIDOC 2025

This year's NAIDOC theme - The Next Generation: Strength, Vision & Legacy - really hit home. It reminded us how important it is to honour those who came before us, support our communities now, and lift up the next generation of leaders and culture keepers. I want to thank everyone who showed up, shared stories, and celebrated throughout the week. It was a proud and powerful week for Banjima.

I look forward to seeing Members at the Special General Meeting on Saturday 16th August 2025.

Paula White
BNTAC Chair





Message from the CEO Ed Armstrong

THANHARRU,

Since our last edition, we've been very busy. Earlier this year, we ran the Trustee Selection Meeting, delivered another incredible Karijini Experience, and caught up with many of the members at our recent roadshows for the Special General Meeting.

TRUSTEE SELECTION MEETING

Thank you to everyone who attended the Trustee Selection Meeting on Saturday 15 February at the WACA in East Perth. While AET were selected as the preferred trustee, they didn't reach the 75% threshold to be appointed for a term of three years. As a result, AET are rolled over for one more year until 30 June 2026.

KARIJINI EXPERIENCE

The Karijini Experience was once again a huge highlight for Banjima this year. It is important and special to see so many Banjima families come together and celebrate Banjima culture — a proud moment for everyone involved. It was a privilege to be there, and we appreciate your thoughts on how we can make next year's event even better. A big thank you to all the Banjima families and the Karijini Experience committee for their hard work,

passion and dedication in bringing this special event to life.

WITTENOOM

Yurlu | Country the launch of this beautiful and impactful film is supporting the decision to seek the clean-up of Wittenoom. BNTAC is exploring legal action to seek remediation to stop the ongoing spread of the asbestos tailings. This action will also explore native title compensation for the damage caused by the old asbestos mines and tailings, but first, we need permission from Banjima Common Law Holders to commence a compensation claim.

Following the August Special General Meeting, we will convene a Common Law Holder meeting, to seek endorsement to lodge the claim and represent Banjima through the legal process.

As always, we appreciate your ongoing support and encourage you to stay engaged with BNTAC for the latest community development updates and other opportunities. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact our team at admin@bntac.org.au.

Ed Armstrong
BNTAC CEO



KARIJINI EXPERIENCE 2025

MORE THAN AN EVENT

From 11–14 April 2025, Banjima Elders, families, and visitors gathered for the Karijini Experience - a weekend full of culture, connection, and community under the Pilbara sky.

It was a chance to reconnect with family, share stories, and give visitors a deeper look into the strong relationship between Banjima people and their Country.

KEEPING CULTURE STRONG

Across the weekend, Elders shared stories, songs, language, and knowledge with the younger generations. These moments of learning and connection were at the heart of Karijini.

COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTIONS

Banjima members participated in various aspects of the event, including the opening ceremony, cultural activities, and storytelling. Their involvement contributed to the overall experience and reflected the community's strong sense of connection.

WHAT WAS ON

There was something for everyone, with events that brought people closer to culture, Country, and each other, these included:

- *Welcome to Country* – A powerful opening led by Banjima Elders.
- *Live Music & Dance* – Featuring Thelma Plum, Nathan Lamont, The Baker Brothers and more.
- *Bush Tucker & Guided Walks* – Exploring native foods, traditional medicines, and the deep stories of the land.
- *Cultural Workshops* – Weaving, bush craft, painting and language sessions for all ages.
- *Storytelling* – Stories shared by Traditional Owners.

It was a special few days filled with learning, and connection — and a great reminder of why coming together on Country matters so much.























GETTING RENEWABLE ENERGY READY

Government, industry and mining companies are slowly making the transition to clean and renewable energy to reduce cost and reduce emissions that contribute to climate change.

BNTAC is working to ensure that Country is protected and Banjima people can participate in and benefit from Australia's clean energy boom.

Renewable energy provides an affordable and secure source of energy for day-to-day living and can also reduce the damage to the environment caused by fossil fuels. The transition to renewable energy also brings with it jobs and economic opportunities.

BNTAC has researched the risks and opportunities presented by renewable energy projects on Banjima Country. We know RTIO and BHP would like to build solar farms and battery energy storage systems (BESS) as part of their decarbonisation (emission reduction) strategy. BNTAC has developed a business case for participating in the development and delivery of solar farms and BESS projects. This is one of the reasons BNTAC recently established Banjima Pty Ltd (BPL) as a commercial entity to enable Banjima to have an ownership stake in big projects on Country. We want to ensure Banjima benefit from assets on Banjima Country.

BNTAC was recently successful in securing a Clean Energy Future Fund (CEFF) grant of \$2.5 million from State Government to undertake the research and development of a renewable energy zone on Banjima Country. Under the umbrella of Banjima Proprietary Limited, we are working with our potential renewable energy customers: RTIO and BHP, to explore if/how we can use the CEFF grant to co-create a solar farm project that supplies energy on commercial terms.

In coming months, we will be sharing information to build Banjima's understanding of renewable energy and how you may benefit at home and/or in business. In the meantime, we encourage you to conduct your own learning exercise.

FIRST NATIONS CLEAN ENERGY NETWORK

Other renewable activity across the Pilbara includes the Pilbara Energy Transition Plan. This is the WA Government's strategy for progressing decarbonisation by facilitating more common-use transmission infrastructure. The proposed transmission network will require engagement of 32 Pilbara Traditional Owner Groups, including Banjima: Pilbara Energy Transition Plan.

The First Nations Clean Energy Network advocates for opportunities for Australian First Nations participation in clean energy projects work to address the barriers to clean, affordable and reliable power, securing good jobs and strong economies. This network also advise First Nations communities and business enterprises seeking to set up medium to large scale export-focused clean energy projects.

**CHECK OUT THE
FIRST NATIONS CLEAN
ENERGY NETWORK**



NATIVE TITLE UPDATE

Over recent months, BNTAC has continued its work to protect Banjima cultural heritage while engaging with mining companies operating across Banjima Country. Through on-Country consultations, heritage assessments, and long-term planning discussions, BNTAC is ensuring that community voices are central to decision-making about land, water, and cultural sites.

CARING FOR WEELLI WOLLI CREEK WITH RTIO

Banjima and Nyarparli Traditional Owners recently met with Rio Tinto on Country along Weelli Wolli Creek to discuss the health of the spring and surrounding water systems. With water flows expected to decrease due to the Gabion discharge, these discussions focused on identifying ways to manage the changes and protect the site into the future.

PROGRESS AND COMMITMENTS FROM BHP

The Heritage Advisory Committee (HAC) joined BHP on Country as part of the company's planning for its 10-Year Mine Plan at South Flank and Mining Area C (MAC). BHP also presented the first draft of its Integrated Management Plan, which outlines an ambitious goal: to restore the culturally significant Flat Rock Springs to its pre-mining condition. The plan is still in early stages and will require at least another year of development before the HAC can properly evaluate its feasibility.

BHP has also committed to no below-ground water mining at Minister North—a step taken to protect Yandi Gorge, an area of significant cultural value to Banjima people.

CULTURAL DISCOVERY AT MULGA DOWNS

At the Proposed Mulga Downs project, BNTAC and Hancock Prospecting made a remarkable discovery:

a 45,000-year-old rock shelter and a series of rock art panels, uncovered during heritage surveys. These findings highlight the importance of thorough cultural assessments before any ground is disturbed. While Hancock is still exploring the future of the project, BNTAC has raised serious concerns around water use and environmental impact. Discussions are ongoing, and the BNTAC Board will determine whether to support the proposal before it is brought to the community for a final decision.

LAMB CREEK PROJECT MOVES AHEAD

After being approved by the Banjima community in 2017, the Lamb Creek project—led by Mineral Resources Limited (MRL)—is finally moving forward. Contracts have now been finalised, with iron ore production expected to commence in early 2026. This is a smaller-scale project, expected to produce around 30 million tonnes over a 5–6 year period.

FORTESCUE

FMG continues to apply for exploration licences across Banjima Country—many of which have already been granted by the Department of Mines, Petroleum and Energy. BNTAC is working on getting better engagement with Fortescue to ensure Banjima concerns are considered.



ELDERS COUNCIL

The Banjima Elders Council recently convened to provide cultural guidance to BNTAC and the Board.

The meeting focused on several key areas, including providing advice to the board on membership applications and to support fair and culturally appropriate decision-making. The Elders also gave input into updating the BNTAC membership application form to assist in the membership application process.

In addition, Elders shared their perspectives on a range of broader cultural and community matters, helping to guide BNTAC's work in line with Banjima lore, culture and Country.

BNTAC is grateful to the Elders for their time, wisdom and continued leadership in supporting strong governance and community connection.



Pictured above: Slim Parker, Archie Tucker, Angus Smith, Sandra Cox, Marshall Smith, Eva Black, Charles Smith, Timothy Parker and Naydene Robinson (Senior).

YURLU | COUNTRY

Yurlu | Country is a moving and powerful film that follows the late M. Parker's mission to heal Banjima Country from the devastating asbestos damage at Wittenoom - the largest contaminated site in the Southern Hemisphere.

The film premiered to a full house at the Sydney Film Festival, with Mr Parker's family in attendance. Since then, it's gone on to win the Impact Award at New Zealand's Doc Edge Festival, and will soon screen at the Melbourne International Film Festival, CinefestOZ in Busselton & Broome and Darwin International Film Festival.

Ahead of its national release expected late this year, BNTAC was proud to give members an exclusive first look with private screenings held in Perth and Karratha.

"ONE OF THE MOST COMPELLING STORIES IN AUSTRALIA AT THE MOMENT"

- PETER GARRETT, MIDNIGHT OIL



Watch the Trailer
of Yurlu | Country

Sydney Film Festival
Post-Screening



Pictured above: Renira Parker, Marjorie Hughes, Carmel Parker, Johnnell Parker and Coreen Parker.



Pictured above is Latisha Ranger, Sandra Cox and Shanece Gilbert



FUN FACTS:

- Jugari disturbance footprint: ~4,000 ha
- Seed required: 24,000 kg (6 kg/ha) = weight of 15 Toyota Hilux
- Current production: 2M seeds sown/ha → ~26M seeds established/ha

EMPOWERING LAND AND COMMUNITY

BANJIMA LAND REHABILITATION PARTNERSHIP (BLRP) – SUPPORTING COUNTRY & COMMUNITY

Now in its third year, the Banjima Land Rehabilitation Partnership (BLRP) between Banjima and BHP continues to provide valuable opportunities for Banjima trainees to actively contribute to the rehabilitation of Country. To date, 29 trainees have joined the program, with six successfully completing accredited training and ten moving into employment. This program provides a positive and profound impact on Banjima members and community through employment and training pathways.

BLRP trainees and technicians have played a vital role in Project Buru from its inception and are now engaged in the ongoing monitoring and maintenance of the Seed Propagation Area. Their dedication is instrumental in ensuring the success of this initiative.

PROJECT GROW – ADDRESSING TOPSOIL CHALLENGES

Project Grow, a key rehabilitation partnership, is working to address the challenge of insufficient topsoil stockpiles required for the final closure of BHP's Jugari mine. In April 2024, Okane Consultants were engaged to design a trial aimed at optimizing growth media compositions.

The trial is testing different soil compositions, ranging from 100% topsoil to a mix of 20% topsoil and 80% waste rock. Currently, twelve 40m x 40m plots have been constructed, with growth media, seed mixes, irrigation, and fertilizer provisions now in place.

Next steps for the project include continuous monitoring and analysis of plant growth, which will help inform future land closure designs and ensure long-term sustainability.

By integrating Project Grow, these initiatives are collectively paving the way for improved rehabilitation practices, enhanced environmental outcomes, and stronger employment pathways for Banjima people.



FIREARMS ACT 2024: WHAT BANJIMA COMMON LAW HOLDERS NEED TO KNOW



Banjima people now need formal hunting permission before applying for a firearms license.



BNTAC is now an authorised person to provide permission to hunt on Banjima determined land.

What This Means

Registered Banjima people (Banjima Common Law Holders) **who are applying for a firearms license have been provided a standard hunting permission by BNTAC in its role as an authorised person.**

Hunting permission is a key requirement, but **not the only criteria for getting a firearms license** under the Firearms Act 2024.

All applicants must also meet WAPOL's requirements for security, storage, safety training, and the full application process.

While BNTAC has provided the hunting permission for Banjima Common Law Holders, **each Banjima person remains responsible for understanding the Firearms Act 2024 and lodging their own license application.**

Key Reminders

The permission to hunt granted by BNTAC is only one part of the process to secure a firearms license.

Land access permissions remain unchanged — please continue to contact the relevant landholder as usual.

WA Police will decide whether a person is fit to hold a firearms license based on a range of factors.

Next steps

All firearm license applications and renewals must now be completed online:

<https://firearms.police.wa.gov.au>

Read the Firearms Act 2024 and register for the portal. **For help, call WAPOL**

1300 171 011 or email

licensing@police.wa.gov.au.

Permission to hunt on Banjima Country is required for a firearms license.

BNTAC has provided these permissions directly to WAPOL.

Important Information

Call WAPOL: 1300 171 011

Email: licensing@police.wa.gov.au

Portal: <https://firearms.police.wa.gov.au>

For any queries call BNTAC on 9216 9888

CELEBRATING BANJIMA GRADUATES



Pictured above: Dionne Cox, Lauren Molloy-Roberts (BHP, GM), Eliza Shaw, Paula White (BNTAC Chairperson), Austin Taylor and Daniel Colbung (BHP)

Banjima Native Title Aboriginal Corporation (BNTAC) proudly congratulates Dionne Cox, Eliza Shaw, and Austin Taylor on completing the Banjima Land Rehabilitation Partnership program.

BNTAC Chairperson Paula White attended the 2025 graduation event to celebrate this important milestone alongside the graduates and program partners.

The Banjima Land Rehabilitation Partnership, delivered in collaboration with BHP, is a meaningful initiative that brings together Banjima Traditional Owners and BHP to support land conservation, re-vegetation, and caring for Country. It also creates

valuable employment and training opportunities for Banjima People.

BNTAC Chairperson Paula White acknowledged the achievement, saying, “It’s encouraging to see Banjima People leading the way in land care and cultural responsibility. Programs like this are vital in supporting long-term environmental outcomes and empowering our community through development and employment pathways.”

BNTAC looks forward to the continued success of the partnership and the strong role Banjima Traditional Owners play in protecting and restoring Country for future generations.



KANINDA SHINES AT MELBOURNE FASHION FESTIVAL, SHOWCASING PILBARA-INSPIRED ELEGANCE



Kaninda, the Pilbara-inspired fashion brand led by proud Banjima woman Lilla Gagliano, made a striking impression at the Melbourne Fashion Festival's Back in Blak runway. Kaninda showcased elegant bias-cut dresses and coordinated sets, embodying both strength and fluidity—just like the landscapes of Banjima Country.

Kaninda showcased its latest collection at the Melbourne Fashion Festival's "Back in Blak" runway. This event celebrates Indigenous designers and their contributions to contemporary fashion. The collection was well-received, highlighting Kaninda's commitment to blending traditional elements with modern design.

Lilla's designs are known for their unique appeal, reflecting her Indigenous background while resonating with a broader audience. The brand offers a range of clothing suitable for various adventures, from camping and swimming in secret waterholes to hiking or enjoying modern comforts in town. This versatility embodies the essence of the Pilbara lifestyle, making Kaninda's pieces "good enough for the bush."

Through Kaninda, Lilla continues to celebrate her heritage, bringing the stories and spirit of the Pilbara to the forefront of Australian fashion.

RIO TINTO CAREERS INFO SESSION HELD AT BNTAC – SUPPORTING BANJIMA MEMBERS INTO EMPLOYMENT



BNTAC recently hosted Rio Tinto's Indigenous Career & Talent Team for an informative session aimed at supporting Banjima members looking for employment opportunities with Rio Tinto. The session provided valuable insights into career pathways, the recruitment process, and practical strategies for job applications.

If you missed the session but would like more information, please **call 9216 9888** for further details on upcoming opportunities.

"IT WAS GREAT TO HEAR DIRECTLY FROM RIO TINTO ABOUT WHAT THEY'RE LOOKING FOR IN JOB APPLICATIONS. IT REALLY HELPED ME FEEL MORE CONFIDENT ABOUT APPLYING."

WHAT'S IN IT FOR YOU?

Resume writing and application tips to strengthen job submissions

Interview preparation strategies to help candidates feel confident
Insights into Rio Tinto's recruitment campaigns and processes

A supportive and culturally safe space for members





NAIDOC WEEK 2025: STRENGTH, VISION & LEGACY

This year's NAIDOC theme, The Next Generation: Strength, Vision & Legacy, was all about honouring the past, supporting the present, and preparing those who will carry culture forward.

We want to thank the incredible Banjima community for coming together to celebrate and honour Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people throughout the week.

From 6-13 July, communities across the country marked 50 years of NAIDOC - a proud milestone celebrating culture, history, and achievement.

On Wednesday 9 July, we were lucky to have Eva Black join us at the BNTAC office for a NAIDOC morning tea. Eva shared some of her story with the team, and it was a privilege to listen and connect with her experiences and reflections.

Some of the team also traveled to Peedamulla for their NAIDOC celebration, which was beautifully opened with a traditional Barlgabi ceremony. A big thank you to everyone at Peedamulla for the warm welcome and for putting together such a meaningful celebration - it was very special.

Banjima community joined the Perth NAIDOC celebrations.

A big thank you to Noongar Elder Uncle Ben Taylor and Jayden for the warm Welcome to Country. We also acknowledge and thank the dedicated Banjima members who ran workshops, represented community, and took the time to connect with others on the day.

It was a meaningful week — a reminder of the work we've done, and the work still to come, to support culture, connection, and community.



Thank you to Noongar Elder Uncle Ben Taylor and Jayden for welcoming us to your Country.



ELDER EVA BLACK
MET WITH
THE BNTAC TEAM
FOR NAIDOC WEEK



PEEDAMULLA
NAIDOC
CELEBRATIONS



BNTAC ATTENDS 2025 AIATSIS SUMMIT IN DARWIN

BNTAC Board members, BNTAC CEO and our Executive – Strategic Projects recently attended the 2025 AIATSIS Summit on Larrakia Country in Darwin. This year's theme, "Voices of Empowerment: Strengthening Our Future," brought together Indigenous leaders, community members, and international delegates to share knowledge and celebrate achievements.

The BNTAC team presented a paper 'strengthening our future through equitable partnerships'. This was done in a panel session where the panel explored the benefits of successfully modernising outdated and unconscionable mining agreements to better reflect the contemporary needs and aspirations of traditional owners. The session was very well attended, demonstrating the important leadership role of Banjima people in the Pilbara.

The summit featured the first-ever AIATSIS Summit Awards, recognising excellence in sustainability, culture, innovation, and youth leadership.

Aunty Pat Anderson delivered a powerful keynote on the importance of succession planning and supporting the next generation of First Nations leaders.

OTHER HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDED:

- International delegates from Guatemala, Mexico and the U.S. fostering global Indigenous collaboration
 - A session on Fire to Flourish, showcasing how First Nations knowledge supports community resilience
 - The popular AIATSIS Indigenous Art Market
- A strong focus on community-led development and yarning as tools for lasting change

BNTAC is proud to have taken part in this important event and looks forward to applying the insights gained to continue strengthening Banjima community outcomes.





HONOURING LEADERSHIP AND INNOVATION AT THE 2025 LOWITJA INSTITUTE CONFERENCE

BNTAC Board members and CEO were proud to be part of the 4th International Indigenous Health and Wellbeing Conference, hosted by the Lowitja Institute on Kaurna Country, South Australia. The

conference brought together over 1,300 delegates, including community leaders, researchers, health experts, and international guests, all working towards better health outcomes for First Nations peoples.



A highlight of the event was the 2025 Lowitja Institute Awards, presented at a special gala ceremony recognising Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leadership in community-led health, research, and innovation. The awards form part of the Institute's broader mission as Australia's national community-controlled health research body.



Do you have a Banjima
Business and want to
spread the word? Let us
know at [communications@
bntac.org.au](mailto:communications@bntac.org.au)