



*November 2024*

*Issue 03*

# NEWSLETTER

**Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporation**





## YYNAC CEO John Patrick Kerr

Welcome to the Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporation Newsletter, where we will provide you with updates on what's going on behind the scenes, upcoming events, announcements and business opportunities.

In this, our third edition, we will share with you:

- CEO UPDATE
- ADMINISTRATION UPDATE - BOARD OF DIRECTORS
- ULUNJA FARM
- COUNCIL OF ELDERS
- NAIDOC WEEK - DHARNYA DAY - IN PICTURES
- DHARNYA CENTRE - SOFT LAUNCH
- DHARNYA IS BACK!
- EDUCATION - ON COUNTRY
- DHARNYA BUILD UPDATE
- WOKA BITJA - COUNTRY FIRE
- OUR GROWTH - Come work with us!
- CULTURAL HERITAGE UNIT
- AGM NOTICE
- FUTURE ASPIRATIONS
- BECOME A MEMBER
- FOLLOW US!

## Message from our CEO

*Dear Members,*

*As we move forward into an exciting new chapter for Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporation, I want to take a moment to reflect on our journey and share my thoughts on the future that lies ahead.*

*Over the past few months, we've experienced tremendous growth. Our successes are a testament to the dedication, hard work, and innovative spirit that has been brought to the table. This growth has set the foundation for us to explore new opportunities, expand our horizons, and continue to lead with purpose and passion.*

*As we embrace these new beginnings, I'm incredibly optimistic about what we can achieve together. We are entering a period where we can truly make a difference, not only for our mob but especially within our family groups.*

*In the coming months, you'll see new initiatives, projects, and partnerships that will challenge us to grow even further. I encourage each of you to remain curious, stay engaged, and support one another as we forge ahead. Together, we are building something remarkable, and I am grateful to be on this path with you all.*

*Thank you for your commitment and belief in our shared vision. Let's continue to inspire, innovate, and build the future we all believe in.*

*With gratitude and excitement for what lies ahead.*

# ADMINISTRATION UPDATE

Our names are Jack James and Paula Smith and we are from the firm Rodgers Reidy. On 15 November 2023, the Registrar of Indigenous Corporations appointed us as the special administrators of Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporation (YYNAC).

## End of Special Administration

We are pleased to advise that the special administration ends on Friday 9 August 2024. At this time YYNAC returns to member control under the stewardship of a new board of directors.

## New Rule Book

As previously advised, we worked with the advisory group on proposed changes to rule book to strengthen corporate governance. We also sought feedback from community members by publishing a full copy of the draft rule book on the ORIC website and holding an information meeting to discuss the proposed changes on Saturday, 20 July 2024.

We were pleased to receive feedback and good suggestions from members.

We also had ORIC check the proposed new rule book to ensure it is in line with the CATSI Act. We made some further (minor) amendments based on ORIC's feedback. We have listened to all comments received and have now finalised the new rule book and lodged it with ORIC for registration. The final rule book will be available in the corporation's documents in the Register of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Corporations at [oric.gov.au](http://oric.gov.au) (see above on how to access documents). It will also be uploaded onto the YYNAC website.

## New Board of Directors

Based on nominations received, we have appointed the following people as directors:

### Name

Robert (Bobby) Nichols - Chairperson

Janet Bromley - Deputy Chairperson

Angela Singh

Ronald Briggs

Trent Nelson

Neville Atkinson



## Post Administration

ORIC will monitor the governance and management of YYNAC after the special administration ends. The Registrar will write to the new board about this.

We wish to thank the advisory group, staff and stakeholders for their support and assistance during the special administration. We wish YYNAC, its staff and board and members the very best for the future. Regards, Paula and Jack



# Ulunja – Manuka Honey Farm

*It has been a hive of activity (pardon the pun!) at the Ulunja farm since October 2nd. The planting of the balance of the seedlings commenced with up to 12 staff and casuals working at any given time until mid-December. This would bring the farm to full capacity in planting 90,000 seedlings in a 76ha area, making it the largest high-grade Manuka Honey farm in the world, according to our off-take partner, Gather By. We are excited to announce that the new pipeline project has been completed and operational, allowing the farm to be fully independent with the water supply in time for summer. Thinking even further ahead, we have now placed an order to purchase high-security (HS) water from the NSW market.*



**Drone Footage: Nick Buzza**



**A well deserved staff BBQ out at Ulunja!**

***In the next twelve months, we will see these specially propagated tea-tree plants flowering. These flowers will produce high-grade nectar for bees to harvest in 2026! Very busy bees they will be!***



# COUNCIL OF ELDERS – Winton Wetlands

Our Council of Elders enjoyed a day at the beautiful Winton Wetlands for their October meeting. Big thanks to Nikki James for hosting us for the day with a Welcome to Country, Smoking Ceremony, Morning Tea, and Guided walk along the Lotjpatj Natjan Danak Sculpture Walk, followed by a delicious lunch at the Mokoan Cafe.



*For further information on Winton Wetlands  
[www.wintonwetlands.org.au/sculpturewalk/](http://www.wintonwetlands.org.au/sculpturewalk/)*

*Artwork: Youth of the Yorta Yorta People – Turtle – Jack Ansemli – Box Gum, wood burning*

*Dhuma nhanha woka biganga (wise woman of the land possum skin cloak)  
Threahna Hamm – Steel, rubber, solar led lights*



# DHARNYA

*In pictures*



*Even with the Dharnya site being under redevelopment, it didn't stop us from celebrating our famous NAIDOC Dharnya Family Day.*



# FAMILY DAY

*in pictures*



*With over 1000 attending, it was our biggest yet! A huge thank-you to all our staff, volunteers, stallholders, dancers, singers, and community for making the day such a success. \*Incredible sand artwork by Ralph Hume*





*Always Was*





*Always Will Be*



# DHARNYA CENTRE SOFT LAUNCH

In September, we held our Dharnya Centre Soft Launch, which included a beautiful roast lunch delivered by Roving Roast to our Council of Elders, Board of Directors, and YYNAC Staff. This was an opportunity for all to see the Dharnya Centre 're-opened,' with staff moved in and a quick update on what we are working on and getting ready to offer. In the afternoon we had a site tour of the new build and finished the day with a cruise down the river on the Kingfisher.



*Thanks to our Council of Elders, Board of Directors and dedicated Yorta Yorta Staff and Yorta Yorta PV Rangers for joining us in helping celebrate this milestone. We look forward to sharing it with you all.*





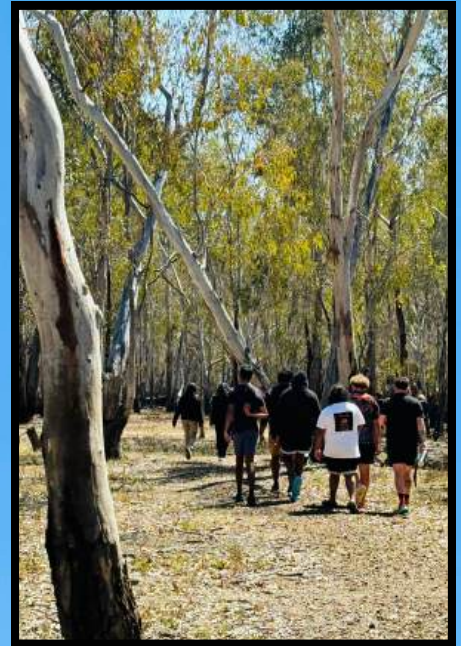
# DHARNYA IS BACK!

*Dharnya has been brought back to life with our Dharnya Centre staff finally moving in.*



# ON COUNTRY

Since our Soft Launch in September, the Dharnya Centre team has been very busy offering a range of different experiences, including Guided Kingfisher Cruises, Guided Yamyabuk Trail Walks, Morning Teas and Lunches, Staff Training and, Full Day on Country Education Sessions.





# A PLACE FOR US

With the pre-cast walls for the Dharnya Meeting Place, the building will come along in leaps and bounds over the coming weeks.

Later this week, the supporting steel will commence being erected; see the adjoining pre-cast walls all tied in together and the overall size and shape of the Meeting Place coming to life. This will then see the roofing works able to commence.

This is an exciting time for all here at the Dharnya Centre and the YYNAC to watch the hard work over the past many years coming to fruition. We look forward to capturing the building coming together with many photos and videos over the coming weeks.



*Drone Footage: Nick Buzza*

## OPENING IN 2025!



# WOKA BITJA

Yorta Yorta Nation conducted a Cultural Burn at the Rumbalara Common in Mooroopna with the assistance of DEECA Hume Forest Fire Management. This cultural fire was nominated a number of years ago; however, subsequent flooding has meant this burn has not gotten going until now. Mick Bourke is coordinating this burn with the assistance of Woka Walla and members of the Whole of Country team. The burn aims to address the build-up of leaf material and regenerate the landscape by encouraging native plants to regenerate with fire and smoke.



The Yorta Yorta representative are wearing their new navy-blue Cultural Fire Uniforms, which are distinct from the fire management green uniforms.







# Cultural Heritage Unit

The **Cultural Heritage Unit (CHU)** plays a pivotal role in safeguarding and promoting the rich cultural heritage of the Yorta Yorta people. As a Registered Aboriginal Party (RAP) Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporation (YYNAC) is entrusted with managing and protecting Aboriginal cultural heritage within our traditional lands.

Over the past few months, CHU has continued to grow, welcoming new members to the team with a combination of 9 full-time and casual staff working across Yorta Yorta country. Each addition brings a range of skills and experience as we actively collaborate with various stakeholders to ensure the protection and promotion of Yorta Yorta Cultural Heritage.

**Our recent growth is only the beginning!**

We are actively recruiting to bring more passionate people on board.

**Current vacancies:**

Archaeologist Advisor  
Senior Scar Tree Specialist –  
Traditional Owner position  
Junior Scar Tree Specialist –  
Traditional Owner position  
CHU Casuals

If you would like further information on any of the above positions, please contact:

[hrmanager@yynac.com.au](mailto:hrmanager@yynac.com.au)

**Cultural Heritage is of utmost importance to the Yorta Yorta Nation. The unit assists in protecting, promoting and preserving Yorta Yorta Cultural Heritage.**



# Our Growth

*In keeping with our theme for the last 12 months, we are happy to report 17 new staff have started in 2024. Of these staff 12 are Yorta Yorta staff, with all age groups from 18 to 55 covered. An intake of school leavers is now training to be client service (CS) specialists in anticipation of the Dharnya Centre opening in 2025. It is also pleasing that the new staff are spread among Woka Walla, Cultural Heritage Unit, Ulunja Farm, Dharnya Centre, the Whole of Country team and the Barmah Office.*



*We have run out of space at the Barmah Office, so we are actively looking at options, including expanded office and warehouse spaces in Shepparton and a space in Echuca or Moama for a future depot.*

**Please keep sending us your resumes to [hrmanager@yynac.com.au](mailto:hrmanager@yynac.com.au) to express your interest in working with us in Echuca, Barmah and Shepparton, as we will have opportunities in all those locations in 2025.**



# BECOME A MEMBER

The Yorta Yorta Nation is comprised of peoples with undeniable bloodlines to the Original Ancestors of the land of the Yorta Yorta Nation.  
A person that is eligible to apply for membership must be an individual who is at least 18-years old and a descendant of any of the following family groups.

*Aaron Atkinson and Louisa Frost*

*Ada Cooper*

*Alf Morgan*

*Anabella Howard*

*Baggot Morgan and Lizzie Walker*

*Edgar Atkinson*

*Elizabeth Atkinson*

*Fred and Sarah Walker*

*Jack Cooper*

*Jenny and George Charles*

*John Atkinson and Emma Murri*

*Maggie Stone*

*Maggie Toodle*

*Robert Cooper*

*Tommy McCrae*

*William Cooper*

*Contact [reception@ynac.com.au](mailto:reception@ynac.com.au)*

***Want to become a member?  
We have new membership forms available.***



# AGM NOTICE



Following our member's mail-out please see the notice for Yorta Yorta Nations Aboriginal Corporations Annual General Meeting.

**Saturday, November 30th**

**11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.**

**Yenbena Training Centre, 2-8 Schier Street Barmah**

For further information contact:  
[reception@yynac.com.au](mailto:reception@yynac.com.au) or 03 5832 0222

## Family Groups

***Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporation's vision for next year will be developing opportunities for Yorta Yorta people.***

- A culturally safe space to yarn with family.
- To enhance family knowledge, share the history of our great ancestors with stories, photos and family trees.
- Embrace your connection to country.
- A time to come together to yarn about family group aspirations (utilize beautiful spaces such as Dharnya Interpretive Centre to bring the family groups together.)
- Plan for more family events on country.
- Deliver cultural knowledge to the young people in their family groups and bring back the Youth Council!
- Strengthen our family groups so we can continue to protect Yorta Yorta's Cultural identity and country.



# Don't want to miss a thing!

Follow us on our socials, where we will provide you with updates on what's going on behind the scenes, as well as upcoming events, announcements, and employment opportunities.

**FOLLOW  
US!**



@yortayortanation  
aboriginalcorporation



@yortayortanation



@yortayortanation

[www.yynac.com.au](http://www.yynac.com.au)



TIKTOK  
COMING  
SOON!

LOOKING FOR WORK?

SEND YOUR CV

[hrmanager@yynac.com.au](mailto:hrmanager@yynac.com.au)

## Snail Mail

As we have many returned letters, can you please inform family members who have changed address since becoming a member.

You can update their address by contacting [reception@yynac.com.au](mailto:reception@yynac.com.au)



New beginnings everywhere  
*at Dharnya!*



**"Gaka yawal Ngulla - Yenbena Yorta Yorta Woka"**  
**Come walk with us, the people on Yorta Yorta Country**

Website: [WWW.YYNAC.COM.AU](http://WWW.YYNAC.COM.AU)

CONTACT NUMBER: 03 5832 0222

Barmah Head Office, 35 Schier Street, Vic 3564