

BAWINANGA HOMELANDS ABORIGINAL CORPORATION



BHAC NEWSLETTER

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MANINGRIDA ARTS AND CULTURE - SO MANY INCREDIBLE ACHIEVEMENTS THIS MONTH!

CONGRATULATIONS TO OWEN YALANDJA for winning the 2025 Telstra NATSIAA Wandjuk Marika Memorial 3D Award for his work **Ngalgodjek Yawkyawk**.

“This story is very old. That old man [my father, Crusoe Kuningbal], when he was alive, told that story to me about the yawkyawk spirits women called Ngalkodjek who live in the billabong on my Country. When they walk down from the bush, they follow a set path that belongs to them, and they walk along calling out”
– Owen Yalandja



CONGRATULATIONS TO LUCY YARAWANGA for winning the 2025 Telstra NATSIAA Bark Painting Award for her painting **Bawaliba and Ngalyod**. This is Lucy's first time winning this prestigious award, and we could not be more proud.

“I didn't get these things from nowhere. I had them in my mind from when I was eight or nine years old. My mother was telling me that story. I don't think of myself as a perfect woman or artist, no. I'm just painting.”
– Lucy Yarawanga



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Photos: Stephanie and Joyce delivering their presentations; Valda Bokmakarray testing a brand-new helicopter and enjoying the conference; all-team memory photo – Ranger and Board Women together!

Stephanie King from ALFA NT and **Joyce Bohme** of the Djelk Rangers lit up the stage at the Wafa Conference in Perth on 27 August, sharing their powerful insights on the theme “*Indigenous Women Stepping Up: Empowering the Next Generation in Arnhem Land Fire Management.*” Their talk was both inspirational and energising, highlighting the vital role Indigenous women play in caring for Country through fire management. With warmth and wisdom, they spoke about leadership, cultural knowledge, and the importance of mentoring young women to carry forward these traditions.

Joining them in support were Ranger women **Noreen Wurrkidj**, **Nathalia Illigangan** and **Ashleah Nulla** along with two female directors of Bawinanga—**Cynthia Brown** and **Valda Bokmakarray**. The group brought tropical Top End energy to a surprisingly chilly Perth, embracing the cold with good humour. It was a fun and empowering moment for women in the fire management industry—and a reminder that strong leadership can thrive in any climate!



A Finalist in this year's Telstra NATSIAA was last year's Wandjuk Marika 3D Sculpture Award winner **Obed Namirrkki** for his work **Kunkurra**, The painting depicts Kunkurra, the spiralling wind that is associated with several sites in the Kardbam clan estate. On one level, this painting can be interpreted as a depiction of the kinds of mini-cyclones common during the wet season in Arnhem Land, where the artist lives. We are delighted to see the next generation of Kuninjku artists achieve high recognition for their work.

Arts worker **Ricky Ankin** proudly graduated from ANKA's Arts Worker Extension Program (AWEP) at Parliament House in Darwin. This outstanding program supports remote Aboriginal arts workers to grow their skills and gain valuable experience in the broader arts industry. We are incredibly proud of Ricky for everything he has achieved through this journey and for the professional knowledge and skills he brings to strengthen Maningrida Arts & Culture.



We're excited to welcome **Ben Hargreaves** as the new Land and Sea Djelk Indigenous Protected Area (IPA) Coordinator! In this role, Ben will be working closely with Traditional Owners and the Djelk Rangers to help meet the standards set by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN). That means supporting the team to protect the cultural and biodiversity values of the Djelk IPA—making sure Country stays strong for future generations!

Ben grew up on a livestock farm in a mountainous

part of England where he always enjoyed working with animals. He worked for many different organisations in Europe, Africa and Australia. Here in the Top End he has previously worked as Coordinator with the Jawoyn Rangers, the Wagiman Rangers and the Numburindi Rangers.

Outside of work Ben has many interests, but most of all he is a passionate rock climber and mountaineer. Ben loves to go out with TO's and Rangers onto their beautiful country and learn about the landscape, the plants and animals.

SAFE PROUD PEOPLE CONNECTED TO COUNTRY THROUGH SONG LINE

Babbarra would like to celebrate a very successful Darwin Aboriginal Art Fair. Arts workers **Josephine James and Abigail Namundja** attended the Art Fair and did well with the sales and the installation. They both learned to use a drill and to hang artwork. All the scarves from India looked beautiful draped over bamboo. We had some new colours of **Sonia Namarnyilk's Yawkyawk** – Jess and Liz were on site helping out.

It was great to invite young **Lucielle Ikara** to Darwin this year. She came to support her grandma, **Lucy Yarrowanga**. **Cindy Rostron** took home the National Indigenous Fashion Award for Young Achiever and her Dad **Victor Rostron**, a Bawinanga Director, performed a beautiful song with Cindy, to the delight of everyone present.

Babbarra are looking forward to a busy September with Lurra Festival and some training at the Batchelor Institute.



Photos: Cindy and Victor Rostron receiving the award; Babbarra stall at DAAF, Josephine James and Abigail Namundja, Yawkyawk design by Sonia Namarnyilk