



Photos: **Don Wilton** making a celebratory speech; **BHAC CEO Kira Bourke** joining the women in dance; **Joseph Diddo** and the fabulous bunggul team.

10 years of Seafood, Spirit and Strength

On 16 September, we came together to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the hardworking Bawinanga Fisheries team and honour the life and achievements of **Don Manjeriju Wilton**, the first holder of the Aboriginal coastal fishing licence. Since 2015, Don, alongside **Stuart Yirawara Ankin**, **Jimmy Olsen**, and many others, helped build a thriving fishing enterprise that now supplies fresh, local seafood to Maningrida, Ramingining and beyond. The event was a beautiful tribute to a decade of dedication, training, and leadership that has created jobs and healthy food options for our community.

A big thank you to everyone who made the day special - from the speakers and supporters, to the **bunggul team led by Joseph Diddo** and the **Ripple Effect Band**! And the amazing **Ye Ya shed crew** that worked tirelessly on making sure everyone was fed and everything was there and working, as part of the CDP workforce Development Program funded by the NIAA.

BAWINANGA HOMELANDS ABORIGINAL CORPORATION



BHAC NEWSLETTER

Issue 9 - September 2025



Congratulations to **James Woods**, with his second term as **the Mayor of West Arnhem**, and **Jacqueline Phillips** as **the Deputy Mayor** – both of them are also Directors of Bawinanga! **Mayor James Woods** said, “It is an honour to be re-elected as Mayor of West Arnhem Regional Council. I look forward to working closely with my fellow Councillors, our communities and stakeholders to build on our strengths and create positive opportunities across the region.”

Also congratulations to **Councillors Joseph Diddo** and **Jermaine Namanurki** of Maningrida Ward!

To get in touch, send us an email to executive.officer@bawinanga.org.au or call 8979 6500



We're excited to welcome several new faces to the BHAC Housing and Homelands team. **Phillip Allan** joins us as Operations Manager – Housing and Construction, bringing extensive experience in construction, maintenance, and project delivery across both metropolitan and regional environments. Working alongside Phillip, **Robynne Collier** brings strong administrative and operational expertise, with a proven background in building administration and coordinating works across multiple industries.



Also joining the team are **Jesse Robertson**, our new Homelands & Town Projects Coordinator, and **Joel Lester**, Housing, Municipal & Essential Services (HMES) Lead. Both bring solid hands-on carpentry and building experience, complementing the team's focus on practical, community-driven construction solutions.

SAFE PROUD PEOPLE CONNECTED TO COUNTRY THROUGH SONG LINE

Homelands Update – Grading & Maintenance Wrap-Up

Grading across our homelands went smoothly in September, with only a few trips left by the end of the month. The grader had been working its way back from the Manmoyi road — thanks to everyone who slowed down and passed safely!

Our Homelands Maintenance team was also out and about, busy with HMES work to maintain our Homelands houses. They fixed up windows, doors, lights, and fans — all the essentials that make a big difference. A 20 000 litres' water tank suddenly exploded at Ji-Balbal, bursting at the seams — and a new 25000 litres' tank was promptly delivered and installed, to ensure the community has access to water. The team spent time across the Blythe River area, starting with Yilan, Ji-Marda, Ji-Malawa, Merwinbi, Gamardi, and Wurdeja. After that, they headed over to the western homelands and worked their way back toward the centre.

It was great to catch up with residents and friends along the way — thank you for the warm welcomes!



Photos: exploded and new water tanks at Ji-BalBal; Housing and Homelands Team – they are making all the difference!