

Expo generates high praise for strategy and leadership



MC Aaron Hubert leads the questions of panel members at the Q&A session. Photo: Ngaarda Media.

The second Yindjibarndi Expo held at the Ganalili centre in Ieramagadu (Roebourne) generated widespread support for the 'community, culture and commerce' (3Cs) approach.

The event drew attendance from community members, senior government and corporate leaders, and Yindjibarndi executives, who took part in a Q&A session which discussed the Yindjibarndi 3C model and future prospects.

This year's event was bigger and better than last year's inaugural Expo as it featured impressive displays by key cultural groups: Juluwarlu, Cheeditha and Mayarrinyjbang. Juluwarlu also provided lunch for the more than 150 guests—kangaroo pies, damper and stew.

Key partners such as Woodside, Rio Tinto, Ngarluma Yindjibarndi Foundation Ltd (NYFL) provided powerful endorsements of the approach taken by the community in developing and implementing its "3C" approach.

Yindjibarndi businesses provided evidence of measurable benefits to community, such as the Ganalili transitional housing project, Yurra's expansion to more than 420 employees and the direct benefits to community from Yindjibarndi Energy Corporation's (YEC) heritage and environmental projects for its solar and wind farms on Yindjibarndi Ngurra. (Continued on Page 2.)

**CULTURAL WARNING:
THIS EDITION CONTAINS THE
NAME OF A DECEASED PERSON**

CEO UPDATE

It was heartening to see so many community members and our partners come together at the Ganalili Centre in Ieramagadu for the second Yindjibarndi Expo.

We want to run these events every year because they enable us to inform our members on how we are tracking. We can show, for example how the formation of Yurra—our first peg in the ground from a business perspective —started 11 years ago with four employees and now has 400 plus. The Ganalili housing project shows how we can deliver not only an impressive project that left the Housing Minister "gobsmacked", but a meaningful pathway where members can gain employment and become a role model to their family.

The second purpose is to bring our partners together so they can interact with each other in terms where we are with our 3C circular economy. The Yindjibarndi model around the 3Cs is to create businesses that look after our own business as well.

We've been on this journey for 10 years. Cont. I'm again looking forward to see what this event looks like next year and what it looks like in 10 years time. Cont. p.2.

Yindjibarndi executives provided practical examples of how the group provides a circular model that generates income for each member of the group and the community.

Yindjibarndi Energy Corporation (YEC) CEO said that even though the business had only been operating for 12 months, it had been engaging Yindjibarndi businesses and community members for its environmental and heritage surveys.

Simon Taylor, CEO of the Pilbara Development Commission, told the gathering how Yindjibarndi was leading the drive into clean energy generation and was in a perfect position to take advantage of these opportunities.

“First Nations and Yindjibarndi is a fantastic example with this have a massive competitive advantage in terms of land access, and we’re seeing that play out with Yindjibarndi and some of the other First Nations groups,” he said.

The exchanges between the panel and MC Aaron Hubert were robust. At one point Mr Hubert reminded the Karratha City Council staff that they had packed up and abandoned the community. “We’ve got to remember too that long ago the Shire had packed up and left Roebourne, left us with nothing, so it is good to see you coming back”. Mr Hubert was referring to work on the Roebourne “streetscape” which was about to commence. The Council’s director of development services, Lee Reddell, told the gathering of a plan to re-open the former Shire offices for use by Council rangers.



YNL CEO Michael Woodley speaking about the Yindjibarndi strategy with representatives from group businesses.

CEO UPDATE (from p.1)

Everything that we do is first and foremost is for and on behalf of the Yindjibarndi Nation. All businesses established by the nation, is to benefit the Yindjibarndi community. That is how we put together our operational structured and our model focusing on Community, Culture and Commercial. The Yindjibarndi energy project is something quite unique. We took an idea of wanting to start a renewable energy project and by putting in place the right team/strategy and staying true to our vision. We now consider ourselves leading a First Nation renewable energy project. We’ve kind of saw the future early and the potentials of establishing a renewable project on Ngurra, which goes back

to the leaders of our community who continued to see what can be possible. Our journey starts now is we are to be considered as a leader for Industry and Government who views renewables as a key component to how they must change to support the emission targets of climate change. Credit also must go towards our Yindjibarndi businesses partners and leaders who works tirelessly every day to being forward the projects for the Yindjibarndi Nation. I ask all Yindjibarndi members to be a part of this journey and not to waste time by feeling unworthy, as you are recognised and valued under the 3C Nation building model.

MICHAEL WOODLEY

Surveys establish foundation for energy projects on Ngurra

Yindjibarndi businesses and community members have earned more than \$700,000 over the past year alone from engagements with Yindjibarndi Energy Corporation to survey Ngurra and carry out other activities to support for its plans to build solar and wind farms.

The work has involved women and men working on surveys of flora and fauna, and of the ancient heritage that is a testament to more than 50,000 years of continuous occupation on Yindjibarndi Ngurra. YEC has also engaged Yurra and Yindjibarndi Water as part of its preparatory works.

Yindjibarndi Nation News joined a survey in July on the proposed site of the Jinbi solar farm. The heritage work was managed by Echoes AHS and involved about a dozen Yindjibarndi people.

The Jinbi project, located about an hour's drive south of Karratha, will be built on 527 hectares of the Yindjibarndi Exclusive Native Title Possession area. It will involve up to 200 Megawatts (MW) of solar arrays; • provision for a large scale 375 Megawatt hour Battery Energy Storage System (BESS); • internal access roads; • transmission lines and substations; • other associated hardware and infrastructure.

The figure of \$700,000 was confirmed by YEC CEO Craig Ricato at the Yindjibarndi Expo in August, as he discussed the direct benefits that these projects can generate. YEC's purchases of Yindjibarndi services is likely to reach \$1 million by the end of this year.

The heritage surveys involve a line of about five or six people walking in a line across sections of Ngurra. When they identify possible artefacts, these are brought to the attention of the consultant archaeologists.

The team leader Chad Callaway held a meeting of the Yindjibarndi at the conclusion of the survey and sought views on how much



Glen Lee examines an artefact discovered during the July 2024 survey for the Jinbi solar project. Photo: Ngaarda Media

protection should be given to various sites that have been identified.

He outlined how the group had found grinding patches, pebble mouse mounds, scatter of artefacts, rock art and bailer shells which have been traded from the coast. He then asked the group about the rock art site, and Charley McDonald recommended a 50m barrier should go around it; the granite boulders, 20m.

Mr Callaway said the group had also identified a fairly major water course and he said: "That is something we will come back and do."

He recommended that they salvage the artefacts and put protection zones around where they found the bailer shell.

Mr Callaway then asked what the group considered to be the spiritual and heritage significance of the area.

Hayden Woodley explained how his great-grandfather, Woodley King, came to this place after initiation.

ABOUT YNN

Yindjibarndi Nation News—Ngarda Wangka, is published by Yindjibarndi Nation Ltd, a project delivery business established by the Yindjibarndi PBCs to deliver community, cultural and commercial projects for the community. To find out more, go to www.yindjibarndi.com.au

To get in touch, email enquiries@yindjibarndi.org.au

Colin Derrell said: "I feel happy coming out here".



The area where the Jinbi solar project will be built.
Photo: Ngaarda Media.

Charley McDonald said: "The evidence we found proved they came regularly here and stayed for a while. It wasn't one-off". He adds that the bailer shells are evidence of trade with coastal people.

YEC will ensure that all areas that are identified as important places during the surveys are protected and remain accessible by Yindjibarndi people.

Last December, a group of Yindjibarndi women led a survey of flora and fauna in the area where the projects will be built.

The YEC projects are the most advanced of any First Nations renewable energy projects in Western Australia. In April, the National Native Title Tribunal registered the Indigenous Land Use Agreement for the Yindjibarndi Renewable Energy Project (YREP ILUA). This provides Native Title consents for the development of large-scale renewable energy projects on Yindjibarndi Ngurra.



Yindjibarndi men walk a line on the Junbi site in search of artefacts, July 2024. Photo: Ngaarda Media.

GET YOUR FREE HEALTH CHECKUP

Do you know you can get a free 715 annual health checkup from an AMS or bulk billing service? These checkups are specially designed for Aboriginal people. CEO Michael Woodley says he has struggled in the past with getting a checkup, but says we owe it to our family members to do so.

"As we helplessly witness family members of our community sadly passing due symptoms that could have been prevented, we unwittingly realise that we could also be on that same path. I have stepped up to face my fears so that I can be in control of any situation that may require me to change my lifestyle and improve on my own health and wellbeing. I want to urge other men, women and younger people to do the same."

Rangers' work recognised with new funding, IPA

The Yindjibarndi Rangers are expanding their work on Ngurra after having gained state and national recognition and the formation of an Indigenous Protected Area (IPA).

The Yindjibarndi Rangers were awarded \$2.2m contract from the State government's Aboriginal Ranger Program, the single biggest grant in the latest round. The funding will be used over two years to support programs in the areas of youth, cultural tourism and climate action on the Ngurrawaana homeland.

In addition, Rio Tinto has pledged \$8 million over five years under the Pilbara Conservation Project. The money will fund Traditional Owner rangers to conduct important biodiversity work, such as weed control and fire management, to protect iconic areas including Millstream Chichester National Park and Karijini National Park.

Implementation of the funding is currently being finalised.



Charley McDonald while working on a heritage survey in 2024.
Photo Ngaarda Media.

The Yindjibarndi Ngurra will also form one of 12 new Indigenous Protected Areas (IPAs) that will receive a portion of the \$14.6 million investment from the Federal government.

IPAs are areas of land and sea Country managed by First Nations groups, which help deliver better nature protections and good local jobs.

Charley McDonald joined the Rangers just under a year ago after working for FMG. He says he's found the best job in the world and would "not want to do anything else", even though the salary is lower.

"I don't think I'll ever go back to mining," he says. "I have got a more important job now looking after country.

Mr McDonald says the work he has done so far involves setting up cameras to monitor wildlife, such as quolls and pebble mice, along with the numbers of feral animals.

The work also allows Rangers to discover new parts of Ngurra that many of them have never seen before. "There's a pool over there that these guys have never seen before. It's an important place—part of the songlines," he explains.

Mr McDonald is also joined by Yindjibarndi man Simon Lockyer who also previously worked at FMG.

Mr McDonald says he's interested in the variety of work that the Rangers can do, and he's enthusiastic about the plan to start emu farming at Ngurrawaana.

One of the challenges for the Rangers is to find Yindjibarndi women who want to get involved. Late last year, two female rangers were caught up in a wild fire that cut across the Tom Price highway. The two had to join a convoy in order to safely evacuate the area.

VALE Mr MACK

Community members from around the Pilbara and beyond converged on Ieramagadu to farewell senior Yindjibarndi man and ranger Mr Mack, who passed away at the age of 56.

Mr Mack, the son of senior lawman Long Mack (dec), passed away suddenly in early July. He is survived by his partner Carroline Fazeldean, six children, and one grandchild. One child pre-deceased him.

Mr Mack was a respected and highly valued member of the Yindjibarndi Ranger team and carried out important environmental and heritage work for many years. Fellow rangers expressed their thanks for the knowledge he had shared with them.

EXPO 2024

The second Yindjibarndi Expo was held on August 22 on the Ganalili lawn in Ieramagadu (Roebourne). It attracted a wide range of community members along with students from the Roebourne District High School and the Northwest TAFE. All of the Yindjibarndi businesses, along with cultural organisations, were represented. Participants were able to find out job and training opportunities, and how these businesses operate.



Ngarluma woman Melanie O'Donoghue conducts the official welcome to country. Photo: Ngaarda Media



YNL CEO Michael Woodley sets the scene for the day with some opening remarks. Photo: Ngaarda Media



Students from Roebourne high school learn about renewable energy at the YEC stand. Photo: YNL



Yurra staff Jo and Bon carry out some early morning work to get the site ready for the day. Photo: YNL



Juluwarlu's Yellow Bus made an impressive appearance, featuring stories about culture and Yindjibarndi legends. Photo: Jessica Allan.



Yurra employee Taryn Milroy, left, with his aunty Marion Cheedy, a senior broadcaster with Ngaarda Media. Photo: Ngaarda Media.



Juluwarlu Group CEO Lorraine Coppin oversaw an extensive display, and food preparation, by her group. Photo: Ngaarda Media.



Elders from Mayarrinyjbangu AC display their artwork. Photo: Jessica Allen.

Partners Q&A session



Members of the partners panel, l to r: Lee Redden, GM Karratha City Council, Sharon Reynolds, Woodside, Simon Taylor, Pilbara Development Commission, Kevin Michel, MLA Sean-Paul Stephens, NYFL. Inset, MC Aaron Hubert. Inset, master of ceremonies Aaron Hubert. Photos: Ngaarda Media

The Partners Q&A panel covered a wide range of challenging and important topics for community and the Yindjibarndi group. The master of ceremonies (MC), YCCL chair Aaron Hubert, challenged speakers on what they most want to achieve in working with First Nations communities, and how they ensured that staff and senior executives understood the culture of the communities they worked with.

WORKING WITH YURRA

“Working through challenges, celebrating success”

“What we have seen with Yurra is really each level of the organisation working together, really forming relationships, working together, celebrating success, having difficult conversations, challenging conversations when we’re not having success, but not being nervous of those, just working through challenges and then celebrating success again.”

**TOBY ELLIS, GM FACILITIES,
RIO TINTO IRON ORE**

PROJECT DELIVERY

“The Minister was gobsmacked”

“As you can see the accommodation next to you is one of our great testaments that we have done. It was an honour and privilege to work with Michael [Woodley] as well as Yurra on this project. I had the opportunity of going with the Minister, and I was really blown away when we walked through these houses with Michael and the Minister and the group from Yurra, the Minister was gobsmacked and he said I can’t believe you guys were able to buildI told Tim [Clune] give the Minister your card, we need to build more.”

**KEVIN MICHEL MLA, MEMBER
FOR THE PILBARA**

Partners Q&A session continued.

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

"An onion ring approach"

"Woodside applies a bit of an onion ring approach. The first preference is to local Aboriginal businesses then it's to local businesses, state businesses, national businesses. So that's the approach that they apply through our supply chain team. and the other initiative which I mentioned was actually looking at the scopes of work that are being awarded and seeing where we might be able to carve out certain pieces of work."

CULTURAL AWARENESS

"It's not just set and forget"

"Woodside has a minimum mandatory commitment that all of its employees need to undertake at least one formal cultural awareness training every year. So it's not just set and forget, you do it once and you know you don't have to ever repeat it. We make sure that it that we're doing that continuous learning. [We have] initiatives like CEO to CEO meetings where our decision makers hear directly around the issue and matters that need addressing in communities."

**SHARON REYNOLDS, SENIOR MANAGER
INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS, WOODSIDE**

SUPPORTING IERAMAGADU

"What is this story with Roebourne?"

"We'd really like to change the dynamic around how we work in Roebourne and try to get ideas about what the community wants to see in Roebourne. We don't really have a set idea of how we want that to work in Roebourne, because we want to go out to community and talk to everyone around 'What is this story with Roebourne, how do we help to tell that, and how do we help to translate that into different kinds of activities or assets across the community."

LEE REDDELL, DIRECTOR, DEVELOPMENT SERVICES, KARRATHA CITY COUNCIL

WOMEN AND THE ARTS

"Those women play a role in supporting their communities"

"We have done a lot of work through the cultural and creative strategy previously, currently working on an initiative called the Aboriginal visual arts initiative [formally known as the WA Aboriginal Art Centre Infrastructure and Resourcing] with AACHWA [the Aboriginal Arts Centre Hub of Western Australia]. That is about understanding what the infrastructure needs are of regional Aboriginal arts centres and also what some of the capacity needs are in terms of building commercial capacity. We are aware that industry plays a disproportionate role in community, particularly with women, and those women play a role in supporting their communities. We know there is more domestic demand for Aboriginal art than currently the supply meets, and we know there's this massive untapped global market."

SIMON TAYLOR, CEO, PILBARA DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

LEADERSHIP

“Strong community leadership is essential”

“I point to Yindjibarndi quite often in my conversations with government and others in terms of the importance of leadership, having strong community leadership is essential for that challenge. Sharon said one of the things that is important for Woodside to help deliver meaningful change is clarity, having First Nations people and leaders in organisations that can deliver the clarity of what the vision is for the community in this complex environment is so essential, so I take my hat off to the Traditional Owner leaders especially those here today.”

SEAN-PAUL STEPHENS, CEO, NYFL



The panel sessions were broadcast live by Ngaarda Media.
Photo: Ngaarda Media.

YINDJIBARNDI Q&A SESSION

The Yindjibarndi Q&A panel session involved senior executives from the major businesses within the group—Yindjibarndi Energy Corporation, Yindjibarndi Water, Yurra, and Cedrent Enterprises. The executives explained how the group was strongly positioned to take advantages of the economic boom in the Pilbara region and how this would ensure that benefits flowed back to the group and to community members.



Some of the audience during the panel sessions, Photo Ngaarda Media

RENEWABLE ENERGY

“Those companies are going to decarbonise”.

“Realistically what is driving renewables energy is industry. The Pilbara is a great example of that. Some of the biggest companies in the world are here and they operate in and around Yindjibarndi ngurra. Those companies have made commitments globally--to their shareholders and their customers--that they are going to decarbonise. Groups like Rio Tinto, BHP, and Woodside, they are spending a lot of money on how to electrify, and that is the opportunity that Yindjibarndi saw. We describe ourself to the public as an Indigenous-led renewable energy business. I sincerely believe that because we wouldn't be here if it wasn't for the leadership of the Yindjibarndi saying 'we want to get involved in large-scale renewable energy'.”

CRAIG RICATO, CEO, YINDJIBARNDI ENERGY CORPORATION

TRADITIONAL CULTURE

“We are semi-traditional people”

“You have touched on something that is very important in community development terms. You have got to get out of your environment. You have got to remember we are semi-traditional people. We still speak our language, we still hold our traditional values. When we interact with the general society, we have got our society and we have got the general society, where we overlap it is where all this stuff happens. It is an exchange of values. You have touched on a few important principles in terms of how you engage with Indigenous communities and people.”

AARON HUBERT, CHAIRMAN, YCCL

THE YINDJIBARNDI BUSINESS GROUP

“We have a family of businesses”

“We are in a really good position because we have a family of businesses. So in the next 10 years, we all help each other, each business is helping each other. Now our competitors don’t have that, it is them by themselves, operating by themselves. So I think the real strength that comes from that commercial side of the Yindjibarndi Nation, is exactly how each of these different organisations help each other, help each other grow. And 10 years from now the Yindjibarndi business will be crazy.”

DAN WALMSLEY, GM, CEDRENT ENTERPRISES



Dan Walmsley at the recent Supply Nation event. Cedrent Enterprises was a finalist in the Registered Supplier of the Year at this year's Supply Nation – Supplier Diversity Awards. Photo: Cedrent

Project Updates

Housing

Establishing a community-controlled housing organisation

Yindjibarndi Nation is committed to establishing an Aboriginal Community Housing Organisation (ACHO) to access available funding opportunities from State and Commonwealth government programs.

This need for an ACHO was discussed at a meeting between YNL staff and the Housing Minister John Carey in early 2024. Establishing an ACHO will enable YNL to access funds for more initiatives like the Ganalili Transitional Housing program.

YNL will provide consultancy support to complete essential tasks that will inform decision-making regarding the establishment and operation of the ACHO. These areas of

focus will be detailed in a formal proposal, along with our recommended approach and anticipated costs for YNL review and consideration.

Key outcomes of this work comprise:

- Completing and documenting strategic plans for the development and execution of the ACHO.
- Finalising projected budget estimates for the startup phase and ACHO implementation.
- Drafting operational policies and procedures necessary to support the ACHO.
- Outlining the WA government accreditation process and essential areas related to social and affordable housing.

Mayaarrinybangu Aboriginal Corporation

Establishing the Buwarri hub and Buminja campground

Yindjibarndi Nation has been supporting this corporation to establish the Burarri Community Hub in Ieramagadu and the campground on Ngurra at Buminjina. The works completed are as follows:

- Works completed on renovating the hub premises in Ieramagadu, including new fencing, external ablutions renovated.
- Project Manager Position developed and submitted to the committee for endorsement; Engagement of an Accountant to assist with the managing of accounts for Buwarri Hub.
- The Buminjina campground works include presentation of a Management Order for approval by the Minister.

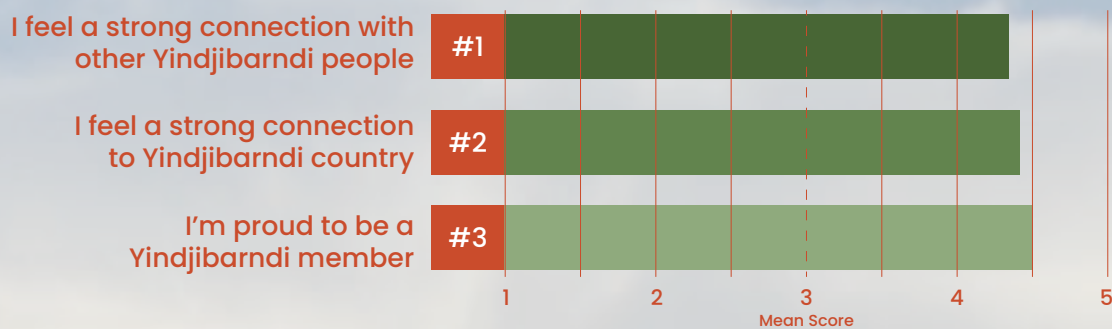


Elder Pansy Sambo paints the outside of the Buwarri hub in Ieramagadu Roebourne.

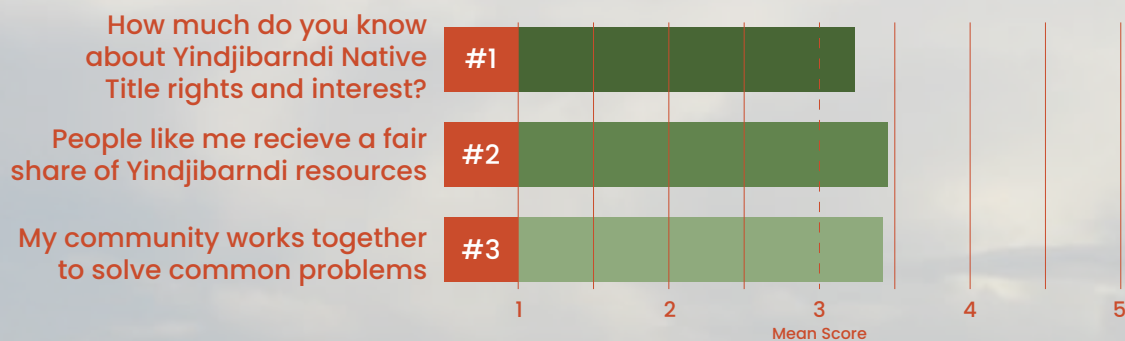
Yindjibarndi Survey in Focus

In 2023 Yindjibarndi Nation Ltd supported a survey of members in order to understand how best to serve the community. Here, we focus on the results of questions about leadership and understanding of the strategy. We group the responses in responses that show strengths, and those that show challenges (or in other words, where we need to improve).

STRENGTHS



CHALLENGES—WHERE WE NEED TO IMPROVE



FMG COURT CASE TO FOCUS ON HERITAGE DESTRUCTION

The Yindjibarndi compensation case against FMG will hear evidence about its destruction of Ngurra in the Federal Court of Australia in mid-October. This marks the final instalment of evidence, and is likely to be the most damning given FMG's tactics of official and unofficial destruction of sites. Evidence for Yindjibarndi will be given by archaeologists Professor Peter Veth and Dr Caroline Bird. Professor Veth has been leading two excavations of Yindjibarndi Ngurra at Bangkangarra, just two kilometres from the Solomon mine. The excavation has uncovered evidence of continuous occupation going back more than 40,000 years.