



**NEWSLETTER ISSUE 4**

Dear members, traditional owners and other interested people,

My name is Peter McQuoid and on 17 August 2019 the Registrar of Indigenous Corporations, Selwyn Button, appointed me as the special administrator for Yinhawangka Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC (YAC).

This is the fourth and final newsletter as the special administrator for YAC. In this issue I want to tell you about what we have achieved during the special administration.

**End of special administration**

The special administration will end as planned on Friday 21 February 2020.

In my first newsletter I described the three stages of a special administration. I am pleased to tell you that stages one, two and three have now been completed.

ACTION	STATUS
1 Take control of the assets, including land, and find out if the corporation can recover, financially.	Complete
2 Restore good operational order.	Complete
3 Prepare the corporation for return to members' control as soon as possible.	Complete

**Information meeting and handover celebration**

I will hold a final information meeting to tell you about the outcomes of the special administration. Notice of this meeting has previously been sent to all members.

This meeting will also be a time to celebrate the handing back of the corporation to community control.

**DATE: Wednesday 19 February 2020**

**TIME: 4.00pm**

**VENUE: Ashburton Hall,  
 Ashburton Avenue  
 Paraburdoo  
 (next to IGA)**

Light refreshments will be provided.

All members and interested people are warmly invited to attend. Michael Strecker from the Office of the Registrar of Indigenous Corporations will also be there to answer your questions. This will be a great opportunity for community to get together, have a yarn and celebrate the handing back of YAC to member control.



## YAC board

I am pleased to advise the following people have all consented to become YAC directors. The appointment of the directors will take effect from Friday 21 February 2020. At the first board meeting with the new directors they will elect a chairperson. The directors will decide how long that person will be the chair ie just for that meeting or at every meeting over a certain period of time.

### Member directors:

Jardunha

- Aaron Martin
- Ronwyn James

Minatangunha

- Churchill Jones
- Colletta Cooke

Thurantajinha & Wilga

- Halloway Smirke
- Robyn Tommy

### Specialist non-member directors:

- Frank Parriman
- Daryl Smith

All directors will be paid the same annual fee of \$30,000. This fee will be paid in equal monthly instalments in arrears. Directors must attend board meetings. If a director fails to attend a meeting for any reason the director is not entitled to be paid the fee for the month in which the meeting fell that they failed to attend.

I extend my sincere thanks to the incoming directors all of whom have assisted me with the special administration process.

## Rule book

Changes to the rule book, which were discussed with the advisory group, are summarised below. The Registrar will register the new rule book just before the end of the special administration.

There are several administrative or formatting type changes to the rule book. Only changes of significance are detailed below:

### Old rule 6.1.2 (c) – deleted

*...has signed the Yinhawangka People Community Ratification Deed...*

While this clause is no longer a requirement for membership of the corporation, people must sign the **Yinhawangka People Community Ratification Deed** if they want to be included on the **register of Yinhawangka beneficiaries** maintained by the trustees of the Yinhawangka Trust.

### Old rule 9.2.2 – addition

*A person is not eligible to become a director if the person:*

- a) is a full-time employee of the corporation, or*
- b) was a director of the corporation at the time it was placed under special administration on 16 May 2019. These people are not eligible to be appointed as a director for a period of four years from Friday, 21 February 2020.*

### Old rule 9.2.4 – addition

*Not more than one person from each immediate family and not more than two persons from each of the Yinhawangka apical ancestors is/are eligible to be a director at any one time.*

*Immediate family means any person related in any of the following ways: grandfather, grandmother, father, mother, husband, wife, defacto, son, daughter, sister, brother or step- children*

### Old rule 9.5 – addition

*Both member and specialist directors appointed during the special administration period which commenced on 16 May 2019 will be appointed until the 2021 AGM. At the 2021 AGM half of the directors' appointments will expire. The directors will decide by resolution at a directors meeting prior to the 2021 AGM as to which directors will be standing down. They will be eligible to be re-elected. The remaining directors' appointments will expire at the 2022 AGM. All new directors appointed at the 2021 AGM will be appointed for a term of two years. The AGM minutes must record the term of each director appointed.*

### Old rule 9.10 – addition

*A director may be paid a salary or sitting fees for work as a director. All directors including office holders will be entitled to the same rate of salary or sitting fees. The director salaries or sitting fees shall be determined by the members in a general meeting with assistance from an experienced independent professional reviewing director salaries and sitting fees every two years to ensure it is in line with industry standards, the actual work conducted by directors and similar corporations with similar objects.*

The new rule book will come into force when the Registrar approves it.

## **Yinhawangka Enterprises Limited (YEL)**

As mentioned in my last newsletter YEL has run into difficult times with its only enterprise being the Pilbara Medical Centre now permanently closed. I have now settled all of YEL's outstanding creditors (companies YEL owes money too). Final figures are in the process of being prepared however the failure of the medical centre has cost the corporation over one million dollars. I expect the new board will provide members with a detailed report at the next AGM if not before.

I have recommended to the incoming directors that YEL be deregistered. I will leave instructions for the board and CEO on how this may be done. The new board should consider that future business enterprises can easily be run through YAC which will save costs and enable the full board to oversight the operations of future ventures.

YEL was a very costly exercise and has highlighted the need for good governance and proper oversight by boards.

Finally, a reminder to all that Yinhawangka Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC is your corporation, owned and run by the members. I wish the new board and staff all the best with the future.

## **Yinhawangka Rangers**

The Yinhawangka Rangers have had a very busy and successful 2019. The rangers' work is important and varied, and both of our rangers have their level 2 Certificate in Conservation and Land Management and are making great progress towards their level 3 certificate. In September they completed a course on revegetation, in October, maintaining natural areas, and in November, native seed collection.

We expect to increase our ranger team to four in March.

The corporation has purchased two new drones for the rangers to take footage and photos out on country. We look forward to sharing some of these with the community as more spectacular scenery is captured in 2020.



*A drone view of Yinhawangka Rangers HQ on Camp Road, Paraburadoo.*



*Identifying bush tucker and bush medicines are just some of the skills that the Yinhawangka Rangers are learning. Pictured above is a native passionfruit.*



## Rocklea Station Graves

Rocklea Station was home for many Yinhawangka Elders at some point in their lives, and the station graveyard is an important place that was left derelict for a long time. Rio Tinto built a new fence for the site last year. Our rangers, guided in its historical significance by Mr David Cox, have painted it to a high standard.



*Yinhawangka ranger, Allissa Limerick painting recently completed fence work around a burial site on Rocklea Station.*

You can read about Mr Cox's story, and the great and sometimes tragic

stories of station life by other Yinhawangka Elders, in the book *Marlbatharndu Wanggagu* 'Once upon a time in the West'. Contact us if you'd like a digital copy.

## Heritage surveys

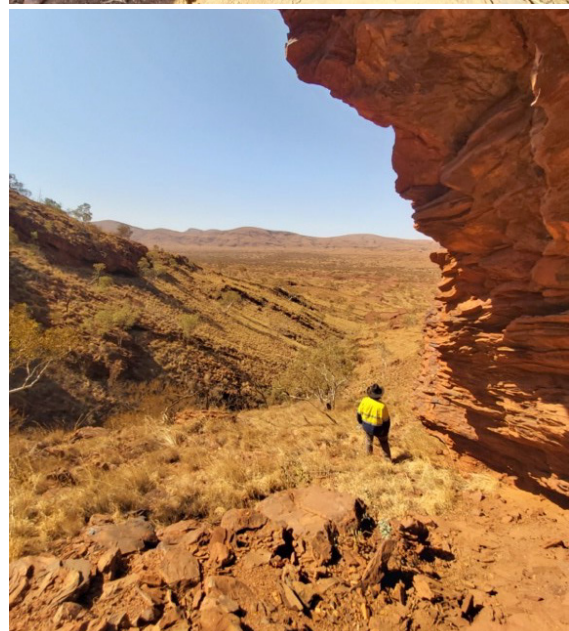
2019 was a busy year for heritage survey work on Yinhawangka country, with 2020 set to be even busier. Survey work is vital to protect, as much as we can, important Yinhawangka places and ancient artefacts.



*Donald Limerick and Eugene Lyndon with grinding stones.*

The first surveys start again this year in March. Anna Tait, the heritage coordinator, is no longer with YAC so the process will be a little different. If you'd like to go on the list of surveyors, you will need to prequalify by sending us a copy of a drug and alcohol screen. For Rio Tinto, these are mandatory every three months. For both Rio Tinto and Fortescue Metals Group, there might be random drug tests on site. If you want to arrange a drug and alcohol screen, we have accounts with Pathwest and Sonic Healthcare. Call one near you, and let us know when you are going in, so we can make sure it's paid for before you get there.

The pictures below are from an Archaeological Salvage survey in the eastern part of the Yinhawangka country, with Yinhawangka surveyors James Cox, Peter Walker, Leroy Cook and Dillon Gallby. They salvaged artefacts and remains of five sites – a grinding base and muller, ochre samples, samples for dating, and they inspected a built structure. One site was systematically salvaged (all artefacts and remains collected) for storage for the moment at West Angeles.



## Have you heard of Nardoo?

Nardoo is a small freshwater fern. It needs complex processing to be eaten safely, and hasn't been well known as food for Pilbara people in ancient times. But grinding stones discovered at West Angeles—with the help of Yinhawangka people Jimmy Cox, Rhonda Parker, Dillon Galby, Kalwin Dann, Kelsey Condon, Letitia Tommy, Allissa Limerick, Lara Parker and Dillon Galby—were examined carefully at a laboratory in Brisbane, and suggest otherwise. These stones are commonly used for spinifex and wattle seeds, and bush potato, but these stones look like they have been used for nardoo. Future studies of grinding stones will look more carefully for grinding of nardoo.

A scientific paper about the results will soon



be published, by scientists Lynley Wallis and Birgitta Stephenson.

*Nardoo spores*

## NAIDOC week 2019 Art Competition winners

On the 29 November 2019, Roma Butcher had the pleasure of attending assembly at Paraburdoo Primary School to announce the winners of the 2019 NAIDOC Week Art Competition.

A big congratulations to following winners from each grade; Chelsea Simmons (Year 1), Peter Thomson (Year 2), Mason Bostock (Year 3), Hayden Marquand (Year 4), Chanel Taupo (Year 6). A copy of each of the winning entries are displayed at the entrance of the office in Paraburdoo.



Roma Butcher with some of the NAIDOC Art Comp winners with their certificates and prizes.

## Jobs

Rio Tinto has jobs for Yinhawangka people across their business.

There are currently five Aboriginal Training & Support (ATAS) jobs for Yinhawangka, preferably residential.

If you're interested email your resume to [Brian.Charlie@riotinto.com](mailto:Brian.Charlie@riotinto.com). Brian is based in Paraburdoo.

There are only nine Yinhawangka people employed at Rio: four maintainers; one agreements advisor; two operators; one laboratory operator and one trainee.

The key barriers to getting a job are:

- not having a current drivers license
- not responding to emails or phone calls from the recruitment team
- issues found during the pre-employment medical check.

If you would like help with your employment:

- call us on 0409 440 538
- email [yw@yinhawangka.com.au](mailto:yw@yinhawangka.com.au)
- call in to our office at 5/61 McRae Ave Paraburdoo.

If you are unemployed you can get professional help from Tracey at Ashburton Aboriginal Corporation on 9189 1758.



## Trustee

Mutual Trust's appointment as trustee for the Yinhawangka Trust finishes at the end of June this year. This means the Yinhawangka people need to decide who will be the trustee after this date.

To help Yinhawangka people make a good decision, the YAC board would like to review Mutual Trust's performance and consider proposals from other experienced trust managers to perform the role. To do this review we will need to create an appointment committee and employ a consultant to assist.

If the Yinhawangka people, the Decision-Making Committee and Traditional Owners Council all agree to this review, the board of YAC will start the process. After the review work is done the appointment committee will share the review findings with Yinhawangka people so they can use that information to make a decision.

When the meeting is ready to be held, a notice of a meeting needs to be issued. The notice must:

- be issued a month before the meeting is to be held
- state the resolution that Yinhawangka people will be asked to vote on (either to renew Mutual Trust as the trustee or appoint a new trustee)
- be signed by 36 Yinhawangka people
- be given to BHP, Rio Tinto and the current trustee.

For the resolution to pass (decision made) at least 75 per cent of the people attending and voting need to agree to it.

## Keep your details updated

### YAC members, have your contact details changed?

To ensure that we can send important information to you, please let us know if your phone number, email or postal address changes.

### Yinhawangka people, have your bank details changed?

If you are a beneficiary of the Yinhawangka Trust and your bank account details have changed, please notify the trustees:

- call: (08) 9230 7708 or
- email: PerthAdmin@mutualtrust.com.au



## Telephone problems

We are having problems with Telstra and our phone lines aren't working! Until we get them fixed, please use 0409 440 538 to contact our office.

Members, if you need to email us the address to use is [yw@yinhawangka.com.au](mailto:yw@yinhawangka.com.au)

### Special administrator

#### Peter McQuoid

PDM Consultancy

Phone: (07) 3289 2596 or 0435 018 879

[p.mcquoid@pdmc.net.au](mailto:p.mcquoid@pdmc.net.au)



For more about special administrations see [oric.gov.au/special-admins](http://oric.gov.au/special-admins) or call **1800 622 431** (not free from mobiles).