

MG CORPORATION News

BUMPER EDITION

August 2018

PREPARATIONS UNDERWAY FOR FARMING AT GOOMIG

Following years of negotiation to achieve the outcomes anticipated by the Ord Final Agreement, MG Corporation will shortly acquire land and commence farming operations at Goomig.

MG Corporation will acquire the freehold interest in Lots 15 and 16 at Goomig as part of its OFA entitlements. Remaining lots within the Goomig Farming Area are already let by the State to Chinese-owned Kimberley Agricultural Investments Pty Ltd (**KAI**). MG Corporation and KAI will enter into a Water, Environmental Management and Infrastructure Agreement in order to manage the joint management obligations at Goomig.

In order to prepare for farming, MG Corporation directors and staff attended a site visit on 25 July 2018 to look at the MG lots and to discuss potential farming options with KAI General Manager, Jim Engelke. Representatives from MG Corporation also attended the annual NACRA (Northern Australia Crop Research Alliance) field walk on 17 July 2018 to look at local agricultural trials and consider the potential of specific crops in the region, including chia, quinoa, legumes, chickpeas, mung beans, soy beans, plantago, maize, safflower and cotton.

In readiness for its farming activities MG Corporation is in the process of applying for member of ORDCO (Ord River District Cooperative) and OIC (Ord Irrigation Cooperative) in order to become part of the local agricultural community and work in collaboration with both Ord Stage 1 and Ord Stage 2 farmers. MG Corporation engaging in agricultural activities has been a long outstanding objective of the OFA and represents a remarkable achievement for MG people in terms of participating in the predominant local industry as stakeholders, rather than bystanders.



PREMIER MARK MCGOWAN VISITS MG COUNTRY

MG Corporation hosted a private meeting with the Premier during his visit to Kununurra on 12 July 2018. The Premier was accompanied by Member for the Kimberley, Josie Farrer, and the retiring Chief Justice and Lieutenant Government of Western Australia, Wayne Martin.

The meeting presented a wonderful opportunity for MG Corporation to introduce its Youth Wellness Initiative to the VIP guests; a program to divert Aboriginal children away from detention by providing alternative pathways in the justice system. In order to demonstrate their support for the Initiative, a number of local stakeholders also attended the meeting including: Shire President, Dave Menzel; Shire CEO, Karl Askew; President of the Kununurra Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Jill Williams; Inspector Greg Crofts from the WA Police Force; and CEO of Kununurra Waringarri Aboriginal Corporation, Des Hill.



At the meeting, MG Corporation identified that the Garrjang Village site at East Lily Creek would be an ideal facility to house the Youth Wellness program's MG Empowerment Centre as a safe space for children, young people and their families to stay in. The Premier changed his schedule for the day in order to visit the site with Ms. Farrer, Mr. Martin and MG representatives to ascertain its suitability for the proposal.

Following the Premier's visit to MG Corporation, the Youth Wellness Initiative made the front page of the Kimberley Echo, with confirmation that the Premier is looking into the proposal. Mr. McGowan confirmed that he has organised meetings with the Department of Justice and the Department of Communities to examine the ideas put forward by MG Corporation. MG Corporation has also been separately contacted by the retiring Chief Justice with his support for the Youth Wellness Initiative and confirmation that he has passed details of the program to the President of the Children's Court in Western Australia, Judge Julie Wager.



Prior to meeting with MG Corporation, the group visited MGC Building and Maintenance's site at Bluegrass Avenue to speak to apprentices about their work and witness first-hand their impressive progress on work packages under the North West Aboriginal Fund. The Premier expressed his happiness at seeing local Aboriginal people working on their own country, building homes for local Aboriginal families and of seeing the apprentices' real pride in their work.

MGC BUILDING AND MAINTENANCE WELCOMES NEW APPRENTICE



MGCBM demonstrates continued success with apprentices as part of an initiative to extend its trade training portfolio into areas other than carpentry.

Franklin Greddon commenced his plastering apprenticeship with MGCBM at the end of July 2018. He is pictured at another of MGCBM's construction projects under the North West Aboriginal Housing Fund at Zamia Link, with MGCBM's Indigenous tradesman Darren Purcell.

The two workmen have hanged gyprock sheeting and are about to commence flushing/finishing the project, ready for painting and tiling.

MGCBM's phenomenal progress on the panel for the North West Aboriginal Housing fund has been noted by the State, with MGCBM projects coming in on time and on budget.

MG REPRESENTATIVES WELCOME WA GOVERNOR KIM BEAZLEY

Within the ranges of the majestic Mirima Park, representatives from MG met with Governor Kim Beazley to welcome him to MG country and discuss social and economic issues affecting MG people.

Members of the MG Garralyel gave a traditional welcome to Governor Beazley and his party, performing a smoking muntha and also telling their stories about the traditional and cultural uses of the country in the past. MG elders were also able to tell old droving and mustering tales from their station days.

Following the welcome, MG Corporation staff and directors sat with the Governor and his advisors to discuss the current status of the Ord Final Agreement, MG's agricultural aspirations and its economic development agenda. A key message from the meeting was that MG Corporation must receive its land entitlements under the OFA from the State before it will be economically sustainable.

MG's Executive Chair, Lawford Benning, provided an overview of MG Corporation's Youth Wellness Initiative and answered questions from the Governor about education in the region and how best to manage schooling programs to introduce a more cultural agenda. Button Jones also answered questions from the Governor about transferring cultural traditional knowledge to youngsters and ensuring that MG traditions, stories and songs live on into the future.



MG MEETINGS

The MG meetings are as follows:

Monday 20 August 2018

MG Dawang Land Trust
MG Community Foundation
MGCBM

Tuesday 21 August 2018

MG Corporation

Wednesday 22 August 2018

Dawang Council

Monday 27 August 2018

MG PBCs

MG HOSTS US CONSUL

On 26 July 2018, MG Corporation brought local Aboriginal Corporations together to meet with US Consul Rachel Cooke and discuss common issues.

Ms. Cooke was keen to hear about local social and economic initiatives lead by MG organisations and was met by representatives from MG Corporation, KWAC, BBY, Waringarri Media, and Waringarri Arts.

At the end of the meeting, Ms. Cooke presented MG Corporation with a beautiful photographic book showing some of America's Parks.



MG TAKES PART IN NAIDOC WEEK



MG people welcomed people to their country, including the Premier and Member for the Kimberley, to take part in 2018 NAIDOC celebrations, recognising Indigenous women and the essential role that they play at all levels of the community. The Mirima dancers started the show with a bang and convinced the Premier himself to join them for a jig. MG Corporation helped to organise NAIDOC events throughout the week as part of the local committee and sponsored an MG prize at the ball.



Photo: Sarah Duguid



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