



# MG CORPORATION NEWS



## THE YEAR THAT WAS... MGC BUILDING AND MAINTENANCE HAS STELLAR YEAR

**MGCBM enjoyed another successful year, managing to not only assist with MGC's efforts to support the community during the COVID-19 pandemic, but institute safe practices to be able to keep delivering on its commitments in this time.**

Most recently, MGCBM successfully tendered for the East Kimberley College fire remediation project. This \$3.5 million contract is the largest commercial job MGCBM has undertaken to date and is a sign of the increased capacity and reputation achieved in 2020.

This year saw MGCBM successfully complete and deliver its 19th house as part of the North West Aboriginal Housing Fund, with

two more due to be handed over in the next two months and more currently under construction.

In addition, MGCBM was able to complete handover of the new home of Kununurra Neighbourhood House after more than 18 months of work. The new facility will allow the organisation to keep building on years of service and support for the local community, while fostering employment and opportunities in the region.

MGCBM also hired seven new full-time employees this year, all of whom are Indigenous, including five MG people. The company now employs 18 full-time workers, including seven MG people.

## MESSAGE FROM MG CORPORATION

MG Corporation would like to take this opportunity to wish all our community members, partners, stakeholders and staff a wonderful and safe festive season.

Thank you to all who contributed to MGC's success in what was a very challenging year for all.

We look forward to building on our success in 2021 for the benefit of all MG people and our East Kimberley community.





Regional Development Minister Alannah MacTiernan, centre, with MGC representatives Lawford Benning, Carol Hapke and Ted Carlton and Cubbie Farming's Trevor Bass.

# MG CORPORATION RECEIVES TITLES TO TRADITIONAL LAND

**MG Corporation officially received the titles to traditional lands in the East Kimberley from the WA Government in November.**

Goomig Lots 15 and 16, which cover 665 hectares of land earmarked for irrigated agriculture under the Ord East Kimberley Expansion Project, were handed over.

The official signing ceremony was attended by Regional Development Minister Alannah MacTiernan, MGC directors and staff and local community members.

The transfer was part of the native title settlement under the Ord Final Agreement signed in 2006.

MGC Executive Chair Lawford Benning said he was excited to have the land back in the hands of traditional owners.

"It has taken work, patience and cooperation to get to this point, and MG people have shown heart and determination throughout the process," he said.

"We would like to thank our local farmers who have been supportive of us in our striving to achieve mutual benefits, as well as the Honourable Alannah MacTiernan for her strategic leadership, respect and ongoing commitment."

In recognition of her role in this process, Ms MacTiernan was presented with a boab nut engraved by local artist Agnes Armstrong.

Before officially receiving the land, MGC's Joint Venture partner Cubbie Farming planted and harvested its first cotton crop on Lot 16 this year.

Mr Benning said the return of country would allow MGC and Cubbie to develop Lot 15 and build on the success of Lot 16.

"The first crop could be the first step in establishing a substantial agricultural portfolio to benefit MG people," he said.



MGC's office manager Peter Brown and native title officer Freda Chulung with the Minister, who is holding an engraved boab nut.



Alannah MacTiernan and Lawford Benning unveil official documents and a gift from the MG people.

"As a traditional owner, not only are we proud of what's been achieved so far at Goomig, but we are also proud to be part of the farming community in the Ord Valley.

"It honours our spiritual connection to country to know that so many diverse crops which are being produced from MG land will be distributed all over Australia and overseas."

MGC and Cubbie Farming are also working with other organisations in the region to progress plans to establish a cotton gin in the East Kimberley.

# MG CATTLE COMPANY OFF TO SUCCESSFUL START

The MGCC had a strong 2020, with the value of cattle increasing significantly. The organisation also successfully completed its final cattle muster for the year, despite a delay due to COVID-19.

The muster began on Maxwell Plains and Bell Springs in July and took about four weeks to complete, with about 97 per cent of the cattle on Yardangarrl captured.

Of the 2690 cattle purchased by MGCC in 2019, 1600 MGCC females were returned to the lake country, 578 were sold and delivered to Katherine and 217 spay heifers were sent to Kilty Station.

Based on these results, MGCC achieved a very strong return for a start-up pastoral company in its first year.

MGC Executive Chair Lawford Benning was on country for the final muster of the year and was encouraged by the results of the hard work of MG people working MG land at Yardangarrl and Maxwell Plains.

MGCC is a joint venture between MG Corporation and Jack Burton's Northern Pastoral Management.



*MGCC cattle make a water crossing during the mid-year muster.*

# 100+ JOBS INITIATIVE SUCCEEDS AGAINST THE ODDS

In what was a difficult year, the 100+ Jobs Initiative continued to deliver results for MG people under the leadership of manager Keith Pitt, who took over the job midway through the year.

The success of the program, which assists marginalised people to gain employment, was recognised with a 12-month funding extension commitment from the Commonwealth in June.

Since the program commenced in 2018, the 100+ Jobs Initiative team has managed to secure employment for 97 participants, with 35 of those achieving the 26-week milestone.

Approximately 25 participants are still employed to date.

The 100+ Jobs initiative currently has 121 active participants, including 92 in Kununurra and 29 in Halls Creek.

Its participants have been employed in a wide variety of industries including aged care, construction, Aboriginal corporations, traffic management, plumbing and mining.

The COVID-19 pandemic has had an impact on many businesses across the East Kimberley and as a result, employment opportunities have been limited.

The Australian Government's announcement of the stimulus package also affected the jobseeker market with a significant downturn in participant interaction. Over time, more participants have re-engaged with the 100+ Jobs Program which has resulted in more employment outcomes.



This year, three participants secured apprenticeships with MGC Building and Maintenance, with another working his way towards an apprenticeship in the new year. Another participant started as a casual labourer with a local plumbing business and has recently commenced a plumbing apprenticeship.

The 100+ Jobs Initiative also assisted participants with training in Traffic Management, White Card and Civil Construction.

It currently has eight participants who have completed their first two weeks of an Agriculture Skill Set at North Regional TAFE as part of a new Agriculture Employment Program.

Training will recommence in February 2021 for three weeks. Participants will

then transition into one month's work experience with local farmers and continue to build their skills within the industry.

Once they have successfully completed work experience, each participant is eligible to be offered full-time employment.

This training has been developed in partnership with East Kimberley Job Pathways and Kimberley Group Training and is considered a host agreement under the Community Development Program.

The 100+ Jobs Initiative team are looking forward to more opportunities arising in 2021.



**MG CORPORATION**  
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