



MG CORPORATION

ANNUAL
REPORT

2019/2020

STRONG COUNTRY | STRONG CULTURE | STRONG FUTURE

“ This is stony country - when I walk across this country where the creeks and the floodwaters have been there are lots of rocks and little stones. Lots of these stones are beautiful coloured ones. We call them gerany. ”



This [original] painting also tells another story. It is a corroboree story given to the artist by her father describing the boundary of the stony Miriuwung country as well as a representation of her traditional country at WoorrooWoorrem. The artist walked this country when she was a child learning culture from her parents. As this story was given to the artist she passes it on to her children and grandchildren.

Phyllis Ningamarra, traditional owner and artist of the MG Corporation logo

Please note: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people should be aware that this report may contain images or names of deceased persons.

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© Artwork by Phyllis Ningamarra. The artist retains the right to use the artwork as she sees fit.

Cover photo: Cotton crop being harvested on Goomig Lot 16.

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OVERVIEW

Lot 16 Goomig

MG Corporation was established in 2006 to receive and manage the benefits transferred under the Ord Final Agreement to MG people, who are recognised under Australian law as holding native title over large areas in the North of Western Australia's East Kimberley region.

The OFA provides a broad package of measures to create a platform for future partnerships between MG people, the State Government, industry and developers for the benefit of the MG community and the wider East Kimberley region.

MG Corporation is committed to building a sustainable economic future for MG people beyond the life of the OFA by continuing to work with government and local stakeholders to achieve its commercial objectives.

MG Corporation's priority is to leverage economic opportunities to provide increased social benefits to MG people whilst protecting and promoting their culture and heritage.



THEME AREAS

Economy:

Creating our future

To facilitate a vibrant local economy that enjoys sustainable business development and investment through a skilled and diverse workforce.

Organisation:

Developing our capacity

To strengthen the capacity of MG Corporation and MG people to serve and contribute to meeting the needs of the community and members and deliver positive outcomes in partnership with the community, and business and government bodies.

Community:

The way we want to live together

To promote a healthy and supportive community and deliver culturally appropriate services and facilities that are available and accessible to all residents and members.

Built environment:

Shaping our surroundings

To plan for the future development of the community and its members in ways which actively value the culture and the character of our community and provide access for all.

Natural environment:

It begins with each of us

To ensure that the natural environment is protected for future generations and managed in a culturally sensitive and appropriate manner.

OUR VISION

Achieving a healthy, wealthy and culturally strong MG community.

OUR MISSION

To build a strong economic and social base for MG people that protects and enhances MG culture and heritage.

OUR VALUES

A strong community

MG Corporation will strengthen the capacity and resilience of its community through partnerships with community, business, government and non-government sector groups in pursuing positive social, economic and environmental outcomes.

Excellence

The MG Corporation board of directors and staff will strive for innovation, continuous improvement and long-term success in management and leadership practices, strategic planning and the performance of new technology and systems.

Accountability

MG Corporation is accountable to its members and will conduct its affairs openly, in consultation with its community and with integrity and honesty, while reflecting the highest level of democratic governance and administration.

Fairness and equity

MG Corporation recognises and values the needs of different sectors and groups within its community and works in partnership with volunteers, community agencies and state and commonwealth departments to ensure needs are addressed in a planned and timely manner.

CRITICAL PRIORITIES

Cultural

Protect and enhance MG culture and heritage.

Economic

Develop economic activities and income streams using the organisation's physical and financial capital through the PBCs, the trusts and other partnerships and initiatives.

Social

Support and facilitate improvements in MG community through investment in partnership arrangements with local, State and Federal Governments, non-government organisations, industry and community agencies.

Organisational

Develop a strong, sustainable and economically viable MG Corporation focusing on core business.

MESSAGE FROM EXECUTIVE CHAIR

Introduction

I am happy to present this report as executive chairman of MG Corporation during this very difficult year.

The introduction of COVID-19 to Western Australia significantly threatened the future of Miriwoong and Gajerrong (MG) people. If this extremely contagious virus had spread into our community, it would have devastated the health of our many vulnerable people, including the sick, isolated and elderly, and destroyed our livelihoods.

It was through this crisis that we saw the best in our people. The MG Corporation Board was proud to see our community come together and unite to prevent the introduction and spread of COVID-19.

Despite the challenges of a global pandemic, MG Corporation has continued to grow and prosper on behalf of our members. This year has seen us make great strides towards economic independence, as we are granted more of our land and use this land for productive purposes – including community housing, livestock enterprises and broadacre cotton farming.

Our success with both government and business shows that our strategy to have our voice heard is working, and on behalf of the board we are proud to represent our people and the East Kimberley region, and will continue to ensure we are respected as the Traditional Owners of this land – the Miriwoong and Gajerrong country.

COVID-19

Following the outbreak of COVID-19 in Western Australia, the State Government made an enforceable State Government Direction about Remote Aboriginal Communities. The message was clear: to stay safe, people needed to go back to their communities and stay there.

In response, MG Corporation went out to our communities and assessed their preparedness for the virus, and what needed to be done to make those living areas safe and healthy.

Over 15 communities were visited by MG representatives during the height of the pandemic, and this included our own MGC Building and Maintenance (MGCBM) assessing community requirements for safe, secure and healthy housing.

MG Corporation then secured emergency relief funding to assist with community needs for supplies and infrastructure through Lotterywest. We also kept our members informed about COVID-19 and provided assistance to MG people to get back to their communities.

Throughout this time, the MG people respected the laws and directives from government and worked together to ensure their individual safety, and to protect the health of the entire community.

Working with government

MG Corporation is represented across some of the most crucial government decision-making bodies.

We are members of the State Welfare Emergency Committee (SWEC) – an advisory group of organisations which are working together to meet the emergency welfare needs from COVID-19. As co-chair of the SWEC, I have been able to ensure the social welfare and interests of MG people as well as all West Australians are represented throughout the pandemic. This has included emergency accommodation, food and provisions, personal support services, and financial assistance distributed by state agencies and NGOs.

I continue to serve on the Northern Australia Indigenous Reference Group, a role I have held since its inception in December 2017. This group supports and advises the Australian Government to ensure its plans for northern development provide tangible and ongoing benefits to MG people and the Kimberley region as a whole.



Hon Minister Ken Wyatt AM, MP & Lawford Benning (NAIRG Meeting)

MESSAGE FROM EXECUTIVE CHAIR

Continued

Strategic direction

The board's highest priorities remain economic development, land management and the achievement of social outcomes for MG people, now and into the future.

Our business and land interests are providing increasing economic returns and I'd like to congratulate the management teams of both MG Cattle Co and MGCBM on their strong financial management and corporate governance.

This year has seen us secure significant swathes of freehold land, and the opportunity to enter our first cotton joint-venture with Cubbie Farming.

By building financially sustainable businesses and enterprises, we will work to secure economic independence for MG people and generate profits from our land without surrendering our native title.

Under my leadership with support from my fellow directors, the reporting period has seen significant progress in achieving our economic and social objectives for MG Corporation and MG people. It has also seen a substantial improvement in native title representation and a broader appreciation from third parties of the role that MG people play in protecting and managing our country.

Social outcomes

Through vigorous negotiations and conversations with the government MG Corporation has seen the planned transfer of the Target 120 early intervention program for vulnerable families in our community. This program provides mentoring and social activities for our young people, including dinners, overnight camping and organised sport.

We believe local people are best placed to support our vulnerable young people, and we are working with the Department of Communities to secure funding to manage aspects of this program ourselves.

MG Corporation continues to negotiate to advocate towards self-management extending to the provision of government housing. We are currently on a local sub-committee to help guide the build and upkeep of these homes so that they better meet the needs of our community.

MG Corporation continues to be a member of the Kimberley Suicide Prevention Working Group, which provides advice on appropriate services in support of the suicide prevention trial in the Kimberley region.

As a member of the Aboriginal Police Advisory Forum (APAF), I am involved in trying to improve understanding and knowledge of MG people among police and the wider WA community. APAF enables police and Aboriginal leaders to discuss ways to reduce Indigenous incarceration rates and improve social outcomes for our community.

MG Corporation will continue to use our positions with other organisations and on other boards to better represent MG people and Aboriginal people generally on economic and social issues, as well as the broader East Kimberley community.

It is important to our leadership that local representation is meaningful and reflects the true wishes of MG people and not the individual. We will continue to listen to our people to make sure that they are truly represented by our organisation.

Contribution of the Garralyel

As a board, we continue to listen to our elders and meet regularly with the Garralyel to make sure they are happy with the strategic direction and nature of our leadership.

We would also like to use this opportunity to offer the board's condolences to the elders we have sadly lost through the year and their families. The cultural integrity of our elders past and present has provided us with the guidance required to secure the rewards this community is now reaping. We are proud to follow them and to maintain their legacy by transferring Aboriginal knowledge to our young people through our cultural practices.

MG Corporation

I appreciate the support and leadership of my fellow directors as we provide stewardship to help MG Corporation thrive through the many opportunities we work to secure.

On behalf of the entire board, I would also like to thank MGC employees for their tireless work. I recognise it is a challenging job, and you should recognise that our community appreciates everything you do to provide assistance.

MG Corporation board of directors also extends its gratitude and appreciation to our home town of Kununurra, especially neighbouring farmers, our local partners and businesses.

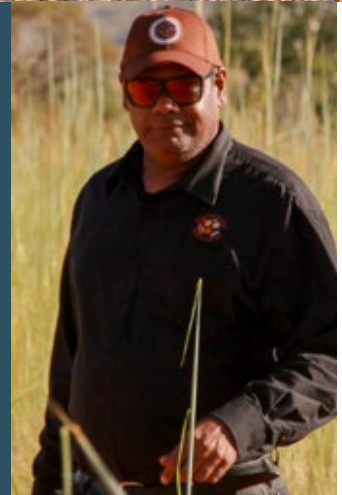
Finally, I thank my members for supporting our ambitious social and economic goals. I look forward to another year of success.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Lawford Benning

Lawford has been the Executive Chair of MG Corporation since April 2018. He is the Chair of all MG subsidiary entities, as well as both MG PBCs and the Joint Management Committee for Reserve 31165.

Born and raised in Kununurra, Lawford is a well-known member of the local community, having held senior positions with a number of local Aboriginal organisations. He is an inaugural member of the Indigenous Reference Group, advising the Australian Government on the development of Northern Australia, and the Aboriginal Police Advisory Forum, providing high-level policy advice to WA Police on behalf of Aboriginal people.



Donald 'Duck' Chulung

Donald was appointed as a director of MG Corporation in May 2017. He also holds director positions with MG Community Foundation and MG Cattle Co. Donald has previously served a number of terms as a director of MG Corporation. Duck is a well-known Kununurra businessman who has played a critical role in the Ord East-Kimberley Expansion Project, providing dry and wet plant hire and Aboriginal labour hire services to local contractors.

Donald was awarded Person of the Year in 2011 as part of the East Kimberley Aboriginal Achievement Awards.



Ted Carlton

Ted was appointed as a director of MG Corporation in May 2017. He also holds director positions on MG Community Foundation and the MG PBCs. Ted has extensive corporate governance experience, having held a number of senior roles with various Aboriginal organisations and government bodies, including the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission.

Born on Carlton Hill Station, Ted spent his youth working in the Kimberley on stock camps and has an in-depth understanding of the region's native title and heritage values. He is currently working as a tour guide for Waringarri Arts. Ted has a Bachelor of Applied Science from Curtin University and is a qualified alcohol counsellor.



Carol Hapke

Carol was appointed to the MG Corporation board of directors in May 2019. Carol is a local woman with strong family connections throughout the region who actively participates in preserving and upholding traditional law and culture, having been an integral part of the MG native title determinations.

She brings extensive grass roots community liaison experience and highly developed project management and coordination skills to the role of directors, having held positions with the MG PBCs and the MG Dawang Land Trust in the past as well as employment roles with Kununurra Waringarri Aboriginal Corporation and Gawooleng Yawoodeng Aboriginal Corporation.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Rowena Griffiths

Rowena was appointed to the MG Corporation board of directors in May 2019. Rowena was born and raised in Kununurra and has lived in the Mud Springs community her whole life. She took the position at MG Corporation to help MG people and be a voice for their future.

Rowena also has a wealth of experience in governance and community development, having been a Dawang Council Representative at MG for many years and having held roles with the Gelganyem Investment group.



Tom Stephens

Tom Stephens was appointed as an independent director with MG Corporation in May 2017. He is also an independent director for MG Dawang Land Trust. Tom has extensive corporate governance experience and currently holds a number of board positions, including as independent director of IBN Corporation Pty Ltd and Western Desert Lands Aboriginal Corporation.

Tom served as a member of parliament from 1982 to 2013, representing the Kimberley and Pilbara regions and awarded an Order of Australia in 2014 in recognition of his contribution to politics and Indigenous affairs.

David Mack

David Mack was appointed as an independent director of MG Corporation in January 2018. He is also an independent director with MG Community Foundation Trust, MGCBM and MG Cattle Co. David holds a Bachelor of Commerce and is a qualified Chartered Accountant. In recognition of his outstanding achievements and contributions to his profession, David was awarded a Fellowship with Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand.

David has extensive commercial experience and has advised in relation to the acquisition of over 200 commercial enterprises. David was the founding partner of Mack & Co Chartered Accountants and is currently a Partner and Financial Advisor of Plummers Industries Pty Ltd. In addition to his accounting, tax and business administration expertise, David is well versed in property development, having developed over 750 residential premises.



GENERAL MANAGER REPORT

MG Corporation is building momentum.

This year, MG Corporation made real progress in a number of focus areas and industries.

MGCBM was a model of consistency delivering outcomes for clients during the COVID-19 pandemic; the deal with Cubbie Farming resulted in a promising start to our cotton venture; and a new organisational structure has MG Corporation set up to keep working to achieve its stated purpose in serving MG people and creating opportunities for the wider East Kimberley.

Key highlights for the year include:

Economic

- Signing documents granting freehold interest of Goomig Lots 15 and 16 to MG Corporation.
- The planting of a cotton crop on Goomig Lot 16 as part of a joint venture with Cubbie Farming.
- Significant financial gains from MG Cattle Co, with the cattle values reaching almost twice purchase prices.
- Sole vesting of Reserve 31165 being completed after a five-year negotiation.
- MGCBM successfully delivering six houses in Kununurra as part of the NWAHF.
- MGCBM successfully completing and handing over the new Kununurra Neighbourhood House facility.
- MGCBM receiving numerous awards for its achievements in Aboriginal employment and training.
- Working with SWEK to determine future opportunities exclusively for MG Corporation.
- The signing of an MOU with KAI, Cubbie and ORDCO on bringing a cotton gin to the Ord valley.
- Working towards the signing of an MOU based on the Ord East Bank opportunity.

- Representation at Indigenous Reference Groups shaping the future of Northern Australia.
- Travelling to Vietnam to meet with the head of TH Group in Hanoi.

Social

- Providing support and guidance to MG people during the COVID-19 pandemic, including securing Lotterywest funding for this purpose, assisting people living in remote communities at the State Government's request with a dedicated driver, and carrying out a community audit on the living conditions of remote communities with MGCBM.
- Achieving outstanding results with the 100+ Jobs Initiative, with more than 250 participants, 77 people employed in Kununurra and 16 in Halls Creek.
- Securing another 12 months of funding for the 100+ Jobs Initiative.
- Continuing to support higher education of MG people through the Tertiary Scholarships program.
- Continuing to work with KWAC on social issues affecting MG people in the area.

Governance

- MG Corporation implemented a revised organisational structure to take the business forward. This included realigning responsibilities, leading to the appointment of finance manager Joseph Smith and administration officer Yvonne Van Der Weer.
- MG Corporation was also given a clean audit outcome for the reporting period by auditors.

Events

- MG Corporation participated in many events throughout the year before these were delayed due to



the COVID-19 pandemic, including playing a central role in NAIDOC Week 2019 and hosting Lands and Aboriginal Affairs Minister Ben Wyatt for the return of Reserve 31165 to the control of MG people.

- MG Corporation representatives attended many events, including the Kimberley Economic Forum, a series of AGMs and the PBC Collaborative Forum and Compensation Workshop and the NACRA field walk.
- The organisation also hosted a number of key stakeholders on MG country during the reporting period at various events, including Alannah MacTiernan, Minister for Regional Development, Agriculture and Food, and Ports; Peter Tinley, Minister for Housing, Fisheries; Veterans Issues, and Asian Engagement; Ben Wyatt, Treasurer, Minister for Finance, Lands, and Aboriginal Affairs; WA Police Commissioner Chris Dawson; Director General of Communities Michelle Andrews; Director General of Education Lisa Rodgers; PCYC president Geoff Stooke; and WA Police Aboriginal Affairs superintendent Brian Wilkinson.

In closing, I'd like to thank our directors, staff and community members for welcoming me to MG Corporation this year. This reporting period has been shaped by the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, but the resilience and teamwork of everyone at MG Corporation has allowed it to continue to pursue its mission, vision and values despite these challenges.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

MG Corporation has continued the implementation of its economic development agenda. There has been a sustained focus on agricultural, pastoral and land development opportunities. Whilst MG Corporation has invested significantly in many exciting projects, it maintains its low-risk appetite to ensure the business assets are protected.



Existing Portfolio

Property management responsibilities have continued for the organisation throughout the year with respect to the premises at Bandicoot Drive, Woollybutt Place, Eucalyptus Close and three residential properties on Kurrajong Street. MG Corporation's property portfolio also includes premises on Pindan Avenue, Ironwood Drive, Coleus Close and Kentia Way that it manages itself.

MG Agriculture

During the reporting period, MG Corporation continued its work to establish and expand financially viable agriculture projects on MG land.

To further these efforts, MG Corporation representatives took up several opportunities to attend events and travel to meet with potential industry partners.

In July 2019, MG Corporation attended the Northern Australia Crop Research Alliance field walk to learn about the 2019 grains program for the region, which included maize, chickpea, soybean, mungbean, quinoa, sesame and chia.

NACRA is a partnership formed in 2015 by Ord River District Cooperative (ORDCO), Kimberley Agricultural Investments (KAI) and The Chia Company to combine and lead research and development efforts in the Ord Valley.

The field walk also provided an opportunity for MG Corporation to learn more about cotton trials in the region, which proved valuable later in the reporting period when the first cotton crop was planted on MG land.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



COTTON CROP

In December 2019, MG Corporation signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with cotton giant Cubbie Farming following an Expression of Interest process.

Cubbie runs the largest irrigated cotton farm in the southern hemisphere at Cubbie Station in Queensland.

The MoU set the framework for the organisations to conduct cotton growing trials on Goomig Lots 15 and 16, with the first crop being planted on Goomig Lot 16 in February 2020 as part of a joint venture between MGC and Cubbie.

The planting is the first step in MG Corporation's commitment to exploring agriculture as an employment and training pathway for the future.

The crop was hindered by an ex-tropical cyclone in February and required replanting, which delayed the maturity of the crop by 30 days.

At the end of the reporting period, all capital works had been completed and Lot 16 was fully operational as a standalone irrigation farm, developed according to best practices.

Pest and weeds were controlled with minimal impact to the crop and favourable fruit setting and boll maturity were observed, despite cool weather.

Cubbie expected a harvest to be underway in late August to early September, at which point it would be sent to a Queensland cotton gin for processing.

Following the success of this and other trials, MG Corporation partnered with the Ord River District Co-operative (ORDCO) and Kimberley Agricultural Investment

(KAI) to explore establishing a cotton processing facility in Kununurra.

This would prevent cotton being sent thousands of miles interstate for processing.

The State Government supported the proposal by awarding ORDCO a \$100,000 Value Add Agribusiness Investment Attraction Fund grant, which ORDCO matched.

The grant money and ORDCO's investment will be used to develop a comprehensive business case and governance arrangements for the gin.

The project partners also made an Expression of Interest call to other local farmers and industry stakeholders, which resulted in 13 additional interested parties indicating a willingness to explore the opportunity further.



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



Director Carol Hapke, Chair Lawford Benning, Madame Chair Thai Huong



Madame Chair Thai Huong, Chair Lawford Benning

VIETNAM VISIT

In August 2019, MG Corporation made history when MG Corporation Executive Chair Lawford Benning and director Carol Hapke visited Hanoi in Vietnam to discuss business opportunities for the East Kimberley with the head of TH Group, Madame Chair Thai Huong.

The TH Group is known internationally for ground-breaking achievements in the dairy industry, while also producing natural and organic products.

MG Corporation has received interest from TH Group in working together on MG land to create training and employment for local people while pursuing economic growth opportunities.

While on this trip, the MG Corporation representatives met with Australian Ambassador to Vietnam Robyn Mudie and senior embassy officials.

This visit marked the first time representatives of any Aboriginal group visited the embassy, making it a significant milestone for MG people and a boost to their international standing.

MG CATTLE COMPANY

MG Corporation's joint venture partnership with Jack Burton's Northern Pastoral Management has moved into an exciting phase. The formation of the MG Cattle Company is now official and the 50,000 hectares at Yardangarrl is now hosting the grazing cattle. There are about 3,000 head of cattle under the control of the MG Cattle Co, which we will see develop into a much larger herd over time.

The value of the cattle has significantly increased since they were purchased, and we are looking forward to the first muster later in the year. The land in and around the lake is deemed to be some of the best grazing land in the Kimberley so the prospects for a successful pastoral venture looks very bright.

In October 2019, the MG Cattle Company (MGCC) assisted the Department of Fire and Emergency Services and the local bushfire brigade with the management of three major bushfires on MG country.

A key objective of the MG Cattle Company is to engage as many Traditional Owner employees and businesses as possible.



MGC Cattle on Yardangarrl

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

HEMP

Agribusiness consultancy Agknowledge was tasked with evaluating the commercial development of industrial hemp (IH) in the Ord River Irrigation Area (ORIA). The priority was to compile information and create a decision support matrix to guide MG Corporation in considering the feasibility of participating in establishing a long-term, viable and sustainable IH industry.

The consultants completed a desktop study of the current information in the rapidly growing IH industry in March 2020.

Based on the evaluation of the commercial development of industrial hemp in the Ord River Irrigation Area (ORIA), Agknowledge recommend MG Corporation not proceed with further investment in Industrial Hemp until at least three years of field trials have been completed with suitable seed, further industry development and collaboration across northern Australia is underway.

OFA ENTITLEMENTS

As in previous years, MG Corporation has spent the reporting period working with appropriate State Government departments in order to achieve the aspirations of the OFA and, in particular, acquire the land entitlements for MG people anticipated under that agreement.

MG Corporation continues to work with the State Government and third-party developers to encourage the agricultural development of land at Knox, Mantinea and Ord West Bank. It has also been working with local growers and the OIC to develop Ord East Bank.



Chair Lawford Benning & Director Duck Chulung

MGC BUILDING AND MAINTENANCE

MGCBM continued to build on its success in previous reporting periods, with the current reporting period marked by the successful delivery of ongoing and new projects despite the COVID-19 pandemic, improvements to work culture and successful tendering for new work.



Corbin Dryden, Lauchy French, Malik Kennedy, Franklin Greddon



Will Quale, Darnell Thaiday, Corbin Dryden



Darnell Thaiday, Corbin Dryden, Will Quale

NORTH WEST ABORIGINAL HOUSING FUND

MGCBM has continued to deliver on its multi-year contract with the NWAHF, with six houses being completed and handed over during the reporting period.

In April 2018, MGCBM was contracted to deliver at least 26 of a total of 50 houses in the East Kimberley.

MGCBM takes special effort to provide opportunities for Aboriginal apprentices and trainees to be employed and trained alongside experienced tradespeople.

The reporting period has seen a number of significant milestones reached in the project, including reaching double figures in houses delivered in September 2019.

MGCBM completed two houses at 27 Leichhardt Street and received praise for its professionalism, excellent training results and leadership approach.

Despite the challenges presented by COVID-19, MGCBM was able to hand over a further three houses in May 2020, which were located at 11 Nauclea Way, and 15 and 16 Argentea Avenue.

Construction was underway on a further eight houses at the end of the reporting period, and MGCBM is on track to complete the contract on schedule.

MGC BUILDING AND MAINTENANCE



Neighbourhood House – play ground



KUNUNURRA NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE (KNH)

MGCBM was proud to complete and hand over a new community centre during the reporting period to serve as a home for KNH.

The project was completed in two stages after MGCBM broke ground in April 2019.

Work was well underway on Stage One when Stage Two funding was awarded in August 2019.

Stage Two funding allowed for the building of a storage shed and further work on the Toy and Puzzle Library.

The first stage moved to the fit-out phase in September 2019 and construction on Stage Two began in the same month.

The keys to the finished centre were handed over to KNH in April 2020, almost exactly a year after construction began, but the official opening was delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The finished KNH 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.

The majority of the work on the new KNH was carried out by Indigenous apprentices and local tradespeople.

The facility was funded through Lotterywest, a Regional Economic Development grant, community sponsorships, donations and fundraising efforts.



Darryl Howard, Maria Chan, Mark Phillips, Dean Baker

JIYLINUM PROJECT

The Jiylinum Project in the Northern Territory was completed and handed over to the Jiylinum Aboriginal Corporation in January 2020.

The project comprised two residential dwellings with painting studios and visitor cabins, providing essential infrastructure to Jiylinum.

With more than 80 per cent of MGCBM workers on this project being Aboriginal, it was a great example of communities supporting each other.

The contract to deliver the Jiylinum Project was signed in January 2019 and gave MGCBM an opportunity to obtain Northern Territory building licences and extend its reach beyond the Kimberley and Western Australia.

MGC BUILDING AND MAINTENANCE

APPRENTICES

MGCBM added three Indigenous apprentices and one Indigenous trainee during the period.

Of these, Joseph Gerrard, Malik Kennedy and Vincent Kennedy are all MG people.

Award-winning MGCBM employee Brendan Nelson completed his carpentry and joinery qualifications through the company's direct employment scheme in December 2019.

For more than two years, Brendan sharpened his skills on a variety of MGCBM projects, including building houses for the North West Aboriginal Housing Fund project, assisting with the construction of Kununurra Neighbourhood House and various maintenance jobs.

In addition, Brendan was named Best Direct Indentured Apprentice at the 2019 Master Builders-Bankwest Building Excellence Awards and was a finalist for Best Indigenous Building & Construction Apprentice.

After completing his apprenticeship, Brendan took on more responsibility within MGCBM, particularly on the Jilyinum Project, where he acted as main carpenter.



Curt McCartney, Alex Ripps, Dean Baker



Corbin Dryden, Dean Baker, Malik Kennedy, Brendan Nelson, Paul Cross



Corbin Dryden, Vincent Kennedy, Malik Kennedy, Brendan Nelson, Chris Griffith, Paul Cross

AWARDS

MGCBM's hard work was recognised with several awards during the reporting period.

In August 2019, MGCBM was named the region's top employment and training provider for 2019 at the East Kimberley Aboriginal Awards.

The award was a tribute to MGCBM's work providing Indigenous apprentices with the greatest opportunity for training and employment success.

This is achieved through MGCBM's direct employment model, under which apprentices are employed by the organisation itself, rather than through a group training scheme.

Unlike group schemes, the model provides apprentices with long-term job security and features a unique mentoring system to manage cultural challenges.

MGCBM was again recognised at the East Kimberley Small Business Awards (EKSBA) in May 2020, where it received the 2020 Business with 11-20 Employees award and the 2020 Aboriginal Business award.

The EKSBA are presented by the East Kimberley Chamber of Commerce and Industry, which was unable to present the awards and the scheduled gala event due to COVID-19 but instead met with each recipient to present personalised award plates.

MGC BUILDING AND MAINTENANCE

EMPLOYMENT

At the end of the reporting period, MGCBM employed 16 full-time employees, including six Indigenous employees and five MG employees.

MGCBM hired seven new employees during the reporting period.

TENDERED PROJECTS

MGCBM successfully tendered for several jobs during the period, including work on a Lake Maintenance project for \$120,000 and a small demolition at Kununurra EKJP for \$24,500.

At the end of the reporting period, MGCBM also put in a tender for the East Kimberley College fire remediation project for \$3.5 million, the Shire of East Kimberley footpath tender for \$1.5 million and the WA Health nurses' quarters demolition and was awaiting the outcomes.

OTHER BUSINESS

During the reporting period, MGCBM made several purchases to improve its capacity, including a Toyota Husky Mini Loader, an ASV tracked skid steer loader, a 4-in-1 bucket, a Hilux ute and a Ford ute, which was purchased for use by MG carpenter Corbin Dryden.

In addition, MGCBM employed Employsure to help it become fully OHS compliant by the end of the reporting period and started the process of becoming prequalified to Level 2 with the WA Department of Finance.



Darnell Thaiday, William Quale, Corbin Dryden



Darnell Thaiday, Corbin Dryden, William Quale



Darnell Thaiday, Corbin Dryden, William Quale

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS



Darnell Thaiday, William Quale, Corbin Dryden

During the reporting period, MG Corporation representatives participated in a number of events in its role as an advocate for MG people.

In September 2019, MG Corporation staff and directors visited Derby to discuss economic development in the region and engage with key stakeholders at the Kimberley Economic Forum.

WA Treasurer Ben Wyatt made special mention of MG Corporation's impressive development agenda at the event, which was also attended by numerous Federal MPs, including Melissa Price, Member for Durack and Defence Industry Minister Senator Dean Smith, the Chief Government Whip in the Senate; and Madeleine King, Member for Brand and shadow trade minister.

At the event's gala dinner, Lawford Benning joined his father Eric and brother Richard on stage for a special musical performance.

In October 2019, more than 30 MG representatives, including MG PBC directors, joined about 150 people from all over the Kimberley at Home Valley for a three-day Annual General Meeting for a number of organisations.

Over three days, AGMs were held for the Kimberley Land Council, Kimberley Aboriginal Law and Cultural Centre, Aarnja and the Kimberley Language Resource Centre.

Each of the organisations gave a presentation on issues affecting their group over the past financial year, as

well as financial updates, membership applications and success stories. There were also a number of information sessions on topics of interest to the attendees.

Each night, there were celebrations and cultural performances by groups from Kununurra, Bidyadanga and Mowanjum, many of which were led by the MG mob.

In November 2019, MG Corporation and the MG PBCs held their own Annual General Meeting.

Mr Benning ensured that the business of the meeting was attended to, all meeting agenda items were considered and resolutions were passed. Paula Cooney from Kununurra Account Services presented financial reports and advised attendees that the MG Group had received another clear audit.

In December 2019, MG Corporation representatives attended and presented at the PBC Collaborative Forum and Compensation Workshop.

The Forum was organised by the Kimberley Land Council and the National Native Title Council and ran over two days.

PBC representatives were also given the opportunity to discuss the common issues facing PBCs.

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS



Chair Lawford Benning performing at gala dinner



Agnes Armstrong with juniors



Chair Lawford Benning performing at gala dinner

CULTURE

In July 2019, MG Corporation once again played a central role in celebrating NAIDOC Week in Kununurra.

The week's festivities kicked off with a march and flag raising ceremony and an open community day at White Gum Park.

MG Corporation Director Teddy Carlton delivered the opening speech, which included a welcome to country and addressed the 2019 theme for NAIDOC of Voice. Treaty. Truth.

Mr Carlton's comments focused on the need to work together for a shared future and painted a picture of the many natural features in the region, from chubby Boabs to cool rivers.

MG Corporation was also directly involved with Australia Day celebrations hosted by the Shire of Wyndham – East Kimberley in January 2020.

MG Corporation and MG PBCs director Ted Carlton welcomed visitors to MG country and called for a celebration of being Australian and working together.

He cited his days working on cattle stations in the 1960s and 70s as an example of collaboration to strive towards.

"We were droving cattle, shaking hands, and wrestling bullocks in the stock camps – gardiya and blackfellas," Ted said.

"Working together is not new to us."

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS



ADVOCACY

During the period, MG Corporation continued its advocacy work with governments at the state and federal level on behalf of MG people.

MG Corporate executive chair Lawford Benning represented MG people as part of three Indigenous Reference Group events across the reporting period.

The first was a Northern Australia Indigenous Reference Group meeting held in Karratha in July 2019, which was attended by Federal Minister for Indigenous Affairs Ken Wyatt.

The NAIRG was given updates from the North Australia Infrastructure Facility, GeoScience Australia, the Mayor of Karratha, Regional Development Australia and local Traditional Owners, with a focus on the tourism sector.

In December 2019, Mr Benning attended a meeting of the Indigenous Reference Group at the Ministerial Forum on Northern Development in Katherine in the Northern Territory.

The forum was chaired by then-Federal Minister for Resources and Northern Australia Matthew Canavan

and focused on the next phase of the northern development agenda, and strategies to increase economic engagement by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people across the north.

Ministers also launched the Northern Australia Indigenous Development Accord to drive a coordinated approach to improving economic development going forwards.

In January 2020, Mr Benning participated in the Indigenous Reference Group for the Ministerial Forum on Northern Development via teleconference.

The IRG continued to develop a new five-year plan for northern Australia in collaboration with the Federal Government to address areas not covered in the White Paper, such as practical measures to support Indigenous economic outcomes in northern Australia.

IRG members received an update on strategic engagement activities undertaken since the last meeting in Katherine in December 2019 and had the opportunity to review and provide comment on IRG project

work, in addition to discussing the IRG's strategic vision, forward agenda and future messaging.

In August 2019, MG Corporation met with a delegation from WA Police and government departments to discuss a plan to work alongside MG people to improve outcomes for those living in the East Kimberley.

The delegation included Commissioner of Police, Chris Dawson; the Director General of Communities, Michelle Andrews; the Director General of Education, Lisa Rodgers; PCYC president Geoff Stooke and WA Police Aboriginal Affairs superintendent Brian Wilkinson.

Other points of discussion included how the departments could create appropriate job opportunities for local people and how the introduction of the PCYC could enhance the good work already being done in the community.

Some issues facing Kununurra were also raised, including the problems caused by kids on the street, and what to do about children who were not participating in or attending school.

SOCIAL INITIATIVES



Standing - Ethan Petherick, Billy-Joe Dann-Gerrard, Natthanyal Hunter (NRT), Callan Hatchman (previous Manager), Ernie Johnson (NRT)
Sitting - Leslie Major, Joseph Gerrard, Nathaniel Arthur, Shaun Bradshaw, Ezekiel Percy, Myles Percy, Lazarus Edwards



Jamien Webster



Darnell Thaiday

100+ JOBS INITIATIVE

During the reporting period, MG Corporation worked in partnership with Binarrri-binyja yarrawoo Aboriginal Corporation, as well as other organisations in the East Kimberley, towards gaining employment for over 100 marginalised Aboriginal people in the region.

The 100+ Jobs Initiative had more than 250 participants registered from Wyndham to Halls Creek. Of those, 16 were employed in Halls Creek and another 77 employed in Kununurra. Some of these employment opportunities included apprenticeships in the building and construction industry, Legal Aid, aged care, Aboriginal corporations and government departments.

At the end of the reporting period, the 100+ Jobs Initiative was developing an Agriculture Employment Strategic Plan in consultation with the National Indigenous Australians Agency, the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, Kimberley Land Council, East Kimberley Job Pathways, East Kimberley College and Kimberley

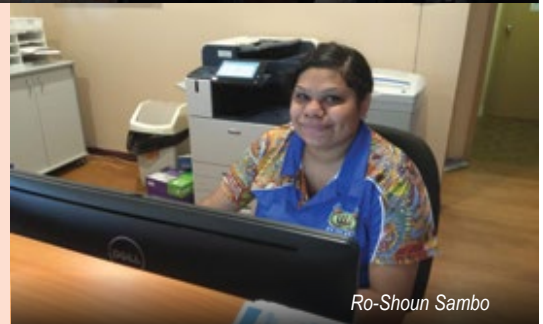
Group Training. The primary purpose of the AESP will be to provide employment opportunities in the agriculture sector to local Indigenous people in the East Kimberley.

Participants have attended information and registration sessions with Indigenous Employment Project to complete work over the border at the Keep River, while others were engaged in the “I am Ready” pre-employment program at North Regional TAFE. These participants got to experience a range of different courses over a ten-week period, whilst becoming job ready.

In May 2019, the 100+ Jobs Initiative received a funding extension from the Federal Government to allow it to run for an additional 12 months.

The program’s focus will shift towards younger Indigenous people and will partner with organisations to assist Year 11 and 12 students with finding work placement with the potential to transition into traineeships or apprenticeships.

This round of funding was received by the National Indigenous Australians Agency.



Ro-Shoun Sambo



SOCIAL INITIATIVES



Wendy Casey and Marvin Ward



TERTIARY SCHOLARSHIPS

MG Corporation has offered tertiary scholarships since 2014 to help MG people interested in obtaining a tertiary education minimise education-related costs, including those that come from living away from home.

The scholarships are structured so that students are still eligible for other opportunities for support like ABSTUDY and require recipients to return to Kununurra to work in a role directly related to their studies each year.

Scholarship spotlight: Kirsty McLean

MG Tertiary Scholar Kirsty McLean continues to pursue a medical degree with the support of MG Corporation.

Kirsty completed her first year in a clinical setting during the reporting period, which she said strengthened her resolve to continue study and eventually return to work in Kununurra.

In addition to completing another year of study, Kirsty was a finalist for the Shell Aboriginal STEM Student of the Year Award at the Premier's Science Awards.

Kirsty was also able to attend the Australia Indigenous Doctors' Association conference in Darwin, where she was able to practice using laparoscopic surgery tools.

In 2020, Kirsty began her rural clinical year in Derby.

Kirsty's example is already inspiring other MG people to pursue tertiary education, with her sister enrolling in an Indigenous pre-medicine and health sciences enabling course at Curtin University.

Other Recipients

In addition to Kirsty McLean, the following nine MG people received tertiary scholarships in the reporting period:

- Alicia McLean: Bachelor of Psychology at Curtin University, WA
- Chloe Hartley: Bachelor of Social Work at Flinders University, SA
- Jett Hill: Cert 3 in Community Service at TAFE
- Lucilla Martin: Bachelor of Applied Science at Curtin University, WA
- Mary Baird: Cert 4 in Leadership and Management at TAFE
- Merle Carter: Bachelor of Business Administration at Curtin University, WA
- Natalie Rogers: Cert 4 in Leadership and Management at Notre Dame, Broome
- Terri Lee Lynch: Bachelor of Applied Science at Curtin University, WA
- Vanessa Lynch: Bachelor of Applied Science at Curtin University, WA

OFAT

MG Corporation has continued working with KWAC to successfully deliver the One Family At a Time program.



Kirsty McLean



MG COMMUNITY FOUNDATION TRUST

The MG CFT has continued to manage the investment assets of the MG people, overseeing the professional management of the portfolio and authorising distributions for the trust's cultural and charitable objectives.

Portfolio

The MG CFT portfolio recorded a moderate loss of -\$469,260, which equates to an investment loss of -2.36%.

At 30 June 2020, the CFT held a total of just under \$19M in funds, spread across a range of asset classes with a focus on Australian investments.

Distribution

In September 2019, the MG Community Foundation Trust made distributions to MG community members.

Each year, a percentage of the MG Community Foundation's profits are distributed to the MG community for charitable purposes.

MG Corporation arranges and holds meetings with each of the 16 MG Dawang (family or estate) groups to determine how best to distribute the money and to whom.

The MG Corporation staff involved in this process deserve credit for managing the meetings and necessary financial paperwork to allow these distributions to be carried out smoothly.

Each Dawang group receives only a modest financial benefit, but the broad distribution of this funding throughout the Kununurra community supports local businesses, the local economy and sustains local jobs.

MG Corporation would like to thank all of the local businesses who supported it and worked with MG people during the process to ensure swift and efficient payments to benefit the entire community.

The CFT directors agreed in June 2020 to distribute up to \$910,000 of the income for the 2019-2020 financial year.

In order to balance the long-term social and economic needs of the MG people with the short-term financial requirements of MG Corporation, the CFT directors resolved to split the distribution as follows:

- Continuing its policy of supporting the practise of law and culture by the MG people, the CFT contributed \$15,000 for each of the men's, women's and whaling cultural funds (\$45,000 in total plus administrative expenses)
- \$380,000 was distributed to MG Corporation for a distribution to the Dawang groups in a supported distribution model, including \$50,000 for a funeral program
- \$340,000 was distributed to MG Corporation for the payment of administrative and operational expenses

ASSET ALLOCATION

Australian Fixed Income	45%
Australian shares	29%
International shares	13%
Property	9%
Cash	4%

FYTD INVESTMENT PERFORMANCE

Income	\$853,879
Franking credits	\$127,869
Fees	\$157,684
Growth	\$1,293,324



Myra Chulung, Peter Brown, Cassandra Chulung, Wendy Casey, Ted Carlton, Blessings Maruza, Clare Oakes

MG PRESCRIBED BODIES CORPORATE



Agnes Armstrong

The MG PBCs manage MG people's native title rights over their determined areas and protect local Aboriginal heritage. Theirs is a dual role: preserving the past whilst looking to the future. The MG PBCs are now highly experienced in considering and sensitively managing native title and heritage clearance requests, while maximising benefits to MG people.

Future Acts

During the reporting period there has been a lot of interest from third parties wishing to conduct activities on MG land. Through consultation and engagement with Traditional Owners, the PBCs have managed these requests in a timely and professional manner ensuring the maximum in economic and development opportunities.

Whilst this year has seen its challenges and interruptions, the PBCs continued with works in both the private and public sectors. These include Pacific Hydro, Rotary Club, Lake Argyle Adventure Race, Ord Irrigation Co-op, Ceres Farms, Bonaparte Petroleum, and the Water Corporation.

In addition, the PBCs worked in collaboration with local organisations such as Waringarri Arts and Mirima Language Centre to achieve a bi-lingual signage project at the Kununurra Diversion Dam for the first time in history.

The MG PBCs continue to work with organisations such as the Kimberley Land Council, Aboriginal Lands Trust and Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage and KALACC.

Aboriginal Heritage

The MG PBCs continue to stand for Country and the cultural and heritage protection of MG lands through the engagement of site surveys, impact assessment and heritage clearance activities.

Representation

With a strong commitment in ensuring all land matters are dealt with appropriately, the PBCs seek the engagement and guidance of Traditional Owners and knowledge holders, via a process that is in line with traditional law and customs. This also allows for maximum protection and preservation of heritage and culture across all MG lands.

Other

The MG PBCs have shown continued strength around the representation of Native Title. In this reporting year alone, PBC members have participated in a range of consultations relating to its response on government reforms. These sessions were facilitated by the Kimberley Land Council and Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage.

This year the PBCs achieved outcomes that have not been possible in the past and with some added successes in this period, the PBCs remain committed to achieving the outcomes desired by in this field as well as paving the way to a successful and meaningful future for all on MG Country.

CULTURAL AND COMMUNITY LAND

MG Corporation holds the right to the freehold interest in a number of cultural and community lands within the Ord River Irrigation Area, including Community Living Areas, the New Conservation Areas and buffer lands. Cultural and community lands are held by the MG DLT on behalf of MG people. The MG DLT also owns other sites of significance for the protection of Aboriginal heritage and culture in the region.

Land entitlements under the Ord Final Agreement

MG people are entitled to an interest in land at Goomig under the OFA signed in 2006.

MG Corporation has been negotiating the terms of the land interest with the State and key stakeholders for more than five years.

During the reporting period, MG Corporation continued to progress its acquisition of Goomig Lots 15 and 16 by signing an historic suite of documents granting freehold interest in September 2019.

The signing represents a huge achievement by the MG Board of Directors and staff to resolve complex issues ranging from water supply and environmental management to infrastructure maintenance and access rights.

In April 2020, MG Corporation received sole management of R31165 from DWER as part of the OFA.

The return of management of the 125,000ha reserve had been five years in the making.

MG rangers had been jointly managing the land alongside DWER prior to the transfer.



Chair Lawford Benning & Hon Ben Wyatt MLA Treasurer; Minister for Finance; Aboriginal Affairs; Lands



COVID-19 PANDEMIC



When the COVID-19 pandemic hit, MG Corporation was proactive in keeping MG people informed about the virus and how it would affect them.

In March 2020, it used its platform to share information about how to stay safe, who was most vulnerable and the guides to maintaining appropriate physical distancing.

The organisation was quick to close its office and have staff work from home where possible, while keeping MG people involved with MGCBM and MG Cattle Company safely employed with additional protective measures.

MG Corporation and its directors worked with the State Government to source available funding to provide MG people with support, including successfully obtaining Lotterywest grant funding.

In addition, MG Corporation updated members on changes to Centrelink and directed MG people to other local sources of support.

Under the Remote Aboriginal Communities Directions No. 2 issued by the Minister for Emergency Services on March 20, Aboriginal people were required to go back to communities to reduce the risk of exposure to COVID-19.

In May 2020, a team from MG Corporation provided assistance to remote communities while adhering to strict regulations during the crisis.

As part of this, members of MG Corporation and MGCBM visited remote communities to conduct an infrastructure audit, which revealed many were in dire need of building works to make them habitable.

The audit team was also asked to carry out a similar audit of communities around Halls Creek.

The communities in that area had not been audited since the 1980s.

MG Corporation field officer Gerrard Meeway also took on a bigger role to act as a liaison between MGC and people living in communities, providing urgent relief in the form of transport and supplies.

In total, MG Corporation was able to provide \$46,000 in support to the MG community through the Lotterywest grant funding, split between emergency water supply, transportation to communities and collection of emergency supplies, emergency repairs, fuel to run generators and health and safety equipment.



YOORROOYANG DAWANG REGIONAL PARKS COUNCIL

There have been quite a few challenges during the reporting period that the Rangers had to deal with, including the impacts of COVID-19.

There have been some great achievements reached in this period also:

- Gordon Reid and Wayne Winton are to be congratulated on completing 10 years of service.
- Jeremy Moore, David Newry, Edmund Calwatt, William Simon, Wayne Winton and Clay Pert have all completed Certificate 2 in Conservation and Land Management (CLM) and will soon commence Certificate 3.
- The current group of Rangers are now all qualified as firefighter crew members.

Listed below are some of the activities that the MG Joint Management Rangers have participated in or completed during this period.

Chemical handling training:

The Rangers have undertaken training on the correct use and identification of chemicals that are used as part of the annual weed control program. This training has expanded the knowledge of the group regarding chemical handling and use. The Ranger group has a great deal of knowledge of the country they look after and are good at identifying declared weeds and controlling them appropriately.

Remote Area First Aid Training

This year the MG Rangers, R31165 Rangers and other DBCA staff undertook remote first aid training. This course was great and enjoyed by all. What made this course so great was that it was not classroom based and contained lots of real-life scenarios. The group had to assess the emergency and treat the casualties as well. They had to use what they had learnt in the course and correct procedures such as the use of correct bandages and treatment methods. This course really drove home the importance of knowing first aid, not only for in the working environment but having that knowledge to take home and protect loved ones.

Park Maintenance

Park Maintenance is ongoing from year to year. The Rangers have done a fantastic job with improvements to the walk trail in Mirima National Park, carrying out preventative maintenance by stabilising the walk trail with jack matting – a very durable poly sheeting that helps retain and stabilise soil to slow down the process of erosion. The location of the walk trail in Mirima is prone to erosion during big rain events.

The installation of the jack matting is done by placing the matting on top of the erosion prone areas and then gravel is placed on top of the jack matting, which allows water to flow over the gravel, while the matting holds the gravel in place. By undertaking this work it's unlikely that the Rangers will need to spend large amounts of time re-instating the walk trail after big rains and will in turn allow them to focus their time on other projects.



YOORROOYANG DAWANG REGIONAL PARKS COUNCIL

Stirling Range National Park

On Boxing Day 2019, the Stirling Range National Park (DBCA Albany District) was severely impacted by bushfire. As a result of the fire a large amount of the infrastructure within the park was damaged, once the smoke had settled, there was a large focus on getting the park up and running again. A request was put to the DBCA East Kimberley District for assistance with this. This meant that the both the MG and R31165 Ranger groups had the opportunity to travel from Kununurra via Perth to the Stirling Range National Park.

Once at the park, the Rangers were involved in re-establishing the walk trails in what is rugged and steep terrain. This meant all the burnt and damaged infrastructure had to be removed and new infrastructure brought in, which was all done by hand. The work undertaken by the Rangers was very much appreciated by the DBCA Albany District and a great opportunity for the Rangers to enhance their skills in a different setting, while it gave them the opportunity to meet and share knowledge and experience with other DBCA staff.

Fire Management

Fire management is an ongoing task for all the Rangers. This year, along with assisting with the DBCA annual burn program, the Rangers also assisted the Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley and DFES to undertake prescribed burning operations around Kununurra to assist in protecting the town from late season bushfires.

The Rangers worked in well with the groups and were successful in carrying out the prescribed burns. Some of the burns that were undertaken were to protect valuable infrastructure such as the airport and residences around the edges of town. It was great to see the Rangers putting their skills to work with great confidence.

The Rangers also assisted the DBCA Nature Conservation team by helping with prescribed burns aimed at testing the effects that fire has on controlling invasive weeds.

Other Work

The Rangers take great pride in looking after country and helping the wider community whenever possible. They have assisted the local schools with informative visits and school camps, participated in NAIDOC Week celebrations, and even helped a stranded tourist they came across while undertaking park maintenance work.

The Traditional Owners from the Gibson Desert (Martu) visited Kununurra to find out more about Joint Management and how it might work for them if they were to start their own Ranger program in the Central Desert. The Martu TOs were very impressed by the Joint Management Program running in Kununurra.



RESERVE 31165 JOINT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Reserve 31165 covers 125,000 hectares and is bordered on two sides by Lake Argyle. The Reserve is solely vested with MG Corporation through the Reserve 31165 Joint Management Committee (JMC). The Reserve 31165 ranger program is facilitated by the DBCA through a service level agreement with MG Corporation and funded by the Commonwealth Government through its Working On-Country program.

The R31165 JMC comprises representatives from the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation and each of the four Dawang groups within R31165 namely:

- Bilbildjing
- No name
- Yunurr
- Mandangala

Fire Management

Rangers were actively scheduled on call for over 350 hours this period and attended wildfires at Parry Creek (July), Goose Hill (Sep), Crossing Falls (Oct), Mirima NP (Nov), Sandfire (Dec) and Bell Springs (Dec). Rangers were instrumental in undertaking prescribed burns around town to reduce fuels at the Arboretum, Airport, Kelly's Knob, Emu Creek, and the Ranch between March and May 2020.

In August 2019, the crew was deployed on Argyle Downs Station to undertake a hot burn of the Rubbervine infestation using the helitorch. Three R31165 Rangers and Ops Officer participated in the operation and worked to suppress wildfire hop-overs that breached containment lines. The burn was a success and the R31165 team set up photo monitoring points post burn to monitor changes in vegetation.

Feral Animal Management

Due to very low lake levels, land-bridging out to some of Lake Argyle's Islands enabled a number of reported feral cats to find their way out into the shorebird wading areas. Evidence of predation on bird species was found and Rangers made good effort to begin a cat trapping and monitoring program. A number of cats were spotted at night, and data from camera traps was captured and analysed. This project is ongoing.

Weed Management

The Mimosa pigra search area grew enormously, with usually inundated areas now harbouring the growth of newly detected plants. Rangers carried out seven trips to the Reserve to undertake mimosa control works, as well as a low-level helicopter survey to rule out any outlying areas. Crossing the border during 2020 proved difficult but Rangers stuck to the task and continue to make a significant impact on this eradication program.

R31165 Rangers also worked alongside Nature Conservation staff in the control of Gamba grass and Rubbervine and have carried out Passiflora monitoring works on Lake Argyle in conjunction with CSIRO.

Crocodile Management

All R31165 Rangers continued their weekly patrol and rebaiting of five mobile traps on Lake Kununurra, accruing about 600 hours in the reporting period. No saltwater crocodiles were recorded or trapped during this time. Rangers continue to have a strong presence to mitigate risk and ensure public safety.



RESERVE 31165 JOINT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE



Peter Curtin



Peter Curtin

Education, Training and Development

Tristan Jessell, Peter Curtin and Eugene Park have all completed Cert 3 CLM and have made a strong start on their Cert 4 this year. Rangers are now looking into new areas of budgeting, planning, and managing works and are working more autonomously. The appointment of a new 'in-house' training coordinator has enabled consistent support to Rangers in their professional development. Worthy of mention is the effort put in by Tristan Jessell in obtaining his driver's licence in 2020.

Rangers also partook in a project with the Mirima Language Centre where Elders worked with the crew to construct traditional/contemporary hunting tools to hunt for kangaroo, whilst utilising Miriwoong language to explain and describe elements of the process from start to finish.

School and Youth Engagement

R31165 Rangers continued to engage with East Kimberley College and St Joseph's Catholic Primary School delivering interactive lessons at Mirima around sustainability, healthy ecosystems, and associated threats. Rangers also hosted and mentored young KEFL trainee, Caleb Gerard from EKC two days a week through 2020.

Stirling Range National Park Recovery Efforts

R31165 Rangers Benji Curtin and Eugene Park travelled down south to the Stirling Ranges in February 2020 to assist with recovery efforts after wildfire greatly impacted the area in December 2019. Accompanied by MG Ranger William Simon and Ops Officer Brendan Fox, the team took on the task of repairing the walk trail

on Mt Trio, enduring hot weather, steep rocky terrain, and hard labour. These efforts were appreciated greatly by the District Office in Albany and the local Bluff Knoll community who wanted to see the boys return for a second trip.

Other Activities

Other activities and projects worth mentioning for the period include the team's involvement in the annual turtle monitoring and survey work at 80 mile beach alongside the Nyangumarta Rangers in November 2019 and Wolf Creek facilities upgrade works in June 2020.

A very challenging, yet productive year for the crew with diverse work opportunities and good progress made on the professional development front.



MG CORPORATION

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Incorporated under the Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006