

WUTHATHI NEWS

UPDATES FROM THE STAFF AND DIRECTORS



Image supplied courtesy of Kerry Trapnell

A short note from the Editor: Welcome readers – this Newsletter is the first following a period in which the Wuthathi Aboriginal Corporation has been finding its’ legs since our Land Determination and the imbedding of grant funding. The last Newsletter was in February 2017. It is our plan to make this Newsletter at least a bi-monthly event. We take the opportunity of also welcoming Wuthathi People who also have a role in our sister native title body corporate in Bromley Aboriginal Corporation. The small number of staff (and executive officers) we have in place in our Cairns CBD Office (*see address etc on the footer below*) will be asked to regularly report their progress/status of projects in each subsequent edition hereafter. Our roles are to lobby for the establishment of real jobs for Wuthathi People on Wuthathi Land. Some future roles may require training and if so, then that’s just what we will also lobby for. As a consequence, we intend to use this Newsletter to advertise for future positions, and we’ll be posting this Newsletter and subsequent editions to our website (*still in construction*).

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Grants Officer Report:

My role started as a casual employee in the role of Coordinator on the 1st of Nov 2017. When I started our office was bare with a faulty air conditioning system. Now our Office has working air-conditioning, it has furniture, a telephone and fax system and a WiFi computer system. We have a combination of desktop and laptops. I am happy to report that our current situation has vastly improved and it's down to us all working cooperatively. Our Board has been active in their wishes to advance this corporation to be independent financially, and in that regard, WAC has been vocal in their lobbying efforts to have our own pbc (prescribed body corporate) funding be funded directly through the Dept. of The Prime Minister and Cabinet.

A summary of grants completed to date are:

1. An expression of interest lodged by Christina Shepherd to The Dept of Environment and Heritage Protection on the 9th of November 2017;
2. A full application (after the above was processed and an invitation to apply was received) was done and submitted on the 16th of February 2017. This was for 4 positions – Land and Sea Rangers;
3. A full grant application to the Gambling Community Benefit Fund for an Office vehicle;
4. A full application to the Dept. of The Prime Minister & Cabinet for prescribed body corporate funding has been 99% completed. This is subject to the Board's approval for the budget component proposal;
5. A full application for the preparation of a 'Country Plan' prepared by the Centre for Appropriate Technology (CAT). This strategy was long proposed last year but was resurrected by the Corporate Secretary by way of working cooperatively with CAT. Their Team Leader Mr Andre Grant submitted the funding application on March 19, 2018.

Whilst I now fill the role of Grants Officer, I continue to carry out Coordinator duties as directed by our Corporate secretary.

Bill Watson.
Grants Officer.

Finance Officer Report:

I have only just recently come onboard with the Wuthathi Aboriginal Corporation (commenced 26th March 2018) in the capacity of Finance Officer. The primary intent of this new position is to assist the Corporation in growing its' internal financial management capacity to a level where the Corporation can demonstrate to various Government funding bodies that it can operate effectively and efficiently under its own banner.

The first step in this process is to take on the in-house operation and management of the Corporation's MYOB accounting software program, and ultimately, sever the existing practice of having the Corporation's funds managed by external agencies and/or bodies. This includes the day-to-day operation of the processing of accounts, pay-roll, etc., establishing internal operating procedures, and training staff to use the system.

Given the current support of the Corporation's Executive and senior staff, I'm positive a satisfactory outcome will be achieved.

Jeff Shallies
Finance Officer



A meeting with the Shadow Minister for the Environment – Mr Tony Burke.

Pictured from left: Keron Murray, Chair Johnson Chippendale, Tony Burke, Bill Watson, Angie Deemal Warren, Jeff Shallies.

Mr. Tony Burke MP visited the Cairns Office on April 12th 2018. The Chairperson Johnson Chippendale and the Corporate Secretary Christabel Warren thanked Mr. Burke for visiting and explaining Labour's plan for traditional owners to have the final say (hold the pen) regarding any Cape York World Heritage Listing, should Labour be successful in winning government at the next election. Mr. Burke reiterated that his view of any future listing consideration, should be driven by the traditional owners of country.

Updates:

- WAC has now joined up with Employsure (HR & Workplace Relations Specialists) to ensure our employee contracts, workplace safety, and associated practices are keeping pace with the required legislation.
- WAC has just sourced three new sets of Insurance cover to ensure our renewals due 1st July 2018 are fully compliant.
- WAC has recently completed the process of applying for not-for-profit and charitable benevolent status which when completed will allow WAC to seek deductible gift recipient status from the Australian Tax Office. If approved, this will allow WAC to seek philanthropic funding for a range of economic development activities in their quest to establish jobs for Wuthathi People on Wuthathi Land.
- Members are encouraged to email for any enquiries to: administrator@wuthathi.com