

WANTA

Annual
Report
2019/20



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About Wanta

Wanta Aboriginal Corporation tackles the significant gap in education outcomes between Indigenous and non-Indigenous students. Wanta has worked diligently over the past five years to ensure our work is meaningful and does contribute towards reducing this gap.

Wanta works across eight communities in the Northern Territory, and employs over 30 staff, of which over 65% are local Indigenous workers.

Our staff work tirelessly in challenging situations to ensure:

- increased school attendance in remote communities; and that
- students have clear employment pathways by providing links to vocational education opportunities;
- provide various sport and recreation opportunities that encourage a healthy lifestyle and a safer community;
- promote on country and cultural learning; and
- create local indigenous employment through our programs and nurture our staff to reach their full potential.



What we do

The Wanta Academy program

The Wanta Academy program was established in October 2013 with the first Academy opening in the remote community of Yuendumu in Central Australia. As a result of its success, Wanta has opened a further seven Academies spread throughout the Northern Territory in the communities of Ntaria, Arlparra, Lajamanu, Kalkarinji, Ngukurr, Papunya and Gapuwiyak.

Our staff work with upper primary and secondary students to increase school attendance, improve educational outcomes and youth transition to vocational opportunities. We do this through the provision of sport, recreation and cultural activities.

> Activities

- Provide various activities including sport, bush trips, cultural activities, arts and craft, music, health and nutrition.
- Operate an Academy room before, during and after school.

> Employment Pathway

- Provide vocational education opportunities through the development of practical skills.

> Cultural Engagement

- Facilitate bush trips and cultural site visits and ensure Elder contribution and participation.

> Reward Trips

- Provide reward trips as a regular incentive for students to increase school attendance and increase retention rates.

> Local Employment

- Provide local employment in every program.
- Ensure indigenous staff make up at least 50% of employees across the entire organisation.

> Social Enterprise Development

- Facilitate economic opportunities to improve social and economic participation, which is linked to better health and education outcomes.

Remote Schools Attendance Strategy (RSAS)

The Remote School Attendance Strategy (RSAS) is a Federal Government initiative that was implemented in 2014 to increase school attendance in remote communities by working with families and children to help them overcome barriers for attending school on a regular basis.

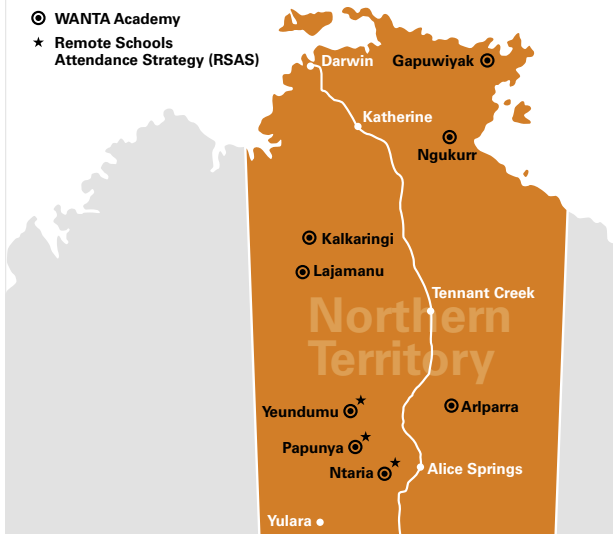
Wanta manages three Remote School Attendance Strategies (RSAS) in Yuendumu, Ntaria and Papunya in Central Australia.

The Remote School Attendance Strategy employs local staff to work with schools, families, parents, and community organisations to ensure all children attend school every day.

Getting children to school is the Government's number one priority for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and their families. That's because going to school and being at school every day gives every child the best chance in life.

Where we operate

- ⊙ WANTA Academy
- ★ Remote Schools Attendance Strategy (RSAS)



Wanta works with 1233 kids across all our programs (Academies and RSAS):

| | | | |
|-----------------|----------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Yuendumu School | Ntaria School | Papunya School | Arlparra School |
| 202 | 144 | 136 | 184 |
| Lajamanu School | Ngukurr School | Kalkaringi School | Gapuwiyak School |
| 161 | 223 | 138 | 45 |



Lajamanu kids perform a guard of honour for Melbourne Demons

Our four Top End communities – Lajamanu, Kalkaringi, Ngukurr and Gapuwiyak descended on Darwin to battle it out on the sporting field at the annual Top End Region Wanta Cup. Teams enthusiastically competed in basketball, soccer and various relays. Our Warlpiri communities pulled off a clean sweep across the board- with Lajamanu (following Yuendumu's Central Australian Wanta Cup success) winning the tournament. Congratulations to all players and teams – especially Lajamanu on a fantastic win.

Students selected to attend the Top End Region Wanta Cup were chosen based on strong school attendance and good behaviour.

A clear highlight for all four Wanta teams was performing the guard of honour for the Melbourne Demons before they played the Adelaide Crows at TIO stadium. The Demons also took the time to attend the Wanta Cup, talk to the kids and cheer on the teams. The Melbourne players were fantastic taking the time to get to know the kids, they have all gone home with priceless memories!

Our Board

The original Wanta Board consisted of Yuendumu community members only (being the first Academy), however as our programs and reach through the Northern Territory has expanded, so has the need to strengthen our Governance arrangements. We have done this by identifying and electing local Board representatives from every community we operate in.

In 2019/20 we added a Member/Director from Alparra, Ntaria, Kalkaringi and Ngukurr, and have been really encouraged by the interest shown and the talent added to our Board.

At the November 2020 AGM two additional representative from Papunya and Lajamanu were elected to the Board.

Our Board of Directors:



Troy Ratara
Ntaria Member/
Director

Troy is the Chairperson of the Ntaria School council and has worked at the School for many years. Troy is recognised as a Traditional Owner for the Ntaria land trust, is a Ntaria School Board member, and is on the board of directors for FaFT, Tjuwanpa Outstation Resource Centre and the Ntaria Supermarket.



Tristan Tasman
Kalkaringi Member/
Director

Tristan Tasman is a Warlpiri man who grew up in Lajamanu and now lives in Kalkaringi with his Gurindji wife and kids. Tristan played Football in Darwin for the Buffalo's and has a very strong reputation in community for his footballing abilities and for being a positive role model. Tristan has worked in the mines for four years and is now living back in Kalkaringi working as an Assistant Teacher with Grade 4/5 at the Kalkaringi School. Tristan is strongly focused on helping future generations of his community.



Ian Gumbala
Ngukurr Member/
Director

Ian Gumbala is a retired schoolteacher. Originally from the Galiwinku community but now living in Ngukurr, Ian has worked with the Federal Department of Families, Housing and Community Services in the Community Engagement Division and Katherine Regional Health. Ian is also a Director for Yugul Mangi Development Aboriginal Corporation.



Esau Nelson
Arlparra Member/
Director

Esau Nelson is from the homeland of Soapy Bore in Utopia. He is currently an Assistant Teacher at Arlparra High School and previously worked as a School Engagement Officer and Assistant Teacher at Soapy Bore Primary School. The school is on his land and he is a local representative for Arlparra in Utopia. Esau is the Chairperson for the Urupuntja Aboriginal Corporation, is a member of the School council and sits on the board for the Arlparra Store.



Trish Lechleitner
Yuendumu Member/
Director

Trish worked as a RSAS Supervisor with Wanta for many years and was a highly valued member of the team. Trish has also worked at the Yuendumu Child and Family Centre for many years and more recently has joined the Yuendumu School as an Assistant Teacher. Trish was Wanta's first Member / Director when we were incorporated in 2015 and we really value having Trish as part of the Board.



Cynthia Wheeler
Yuendumu Member/
Director

Cynthia is a proud Warlpiri woman, and is currently the Chairperson for both the Warlpiri Education and Training Trust (WETT) Advisory Committee as well as the Granites Mine Affected Areas Aboriginal Corporation (GMAAAC) Committee. Both are very coveted and well-respected roles within community. Cynthia also works as an Assistant Teacher in the Yuendumu School, and has been a Member / Director of Wanta for two years.



Matthew Smith
Non-Indigenous
specialist Director

Matthew was the CEO of Wanta Aboriginal Corporation between 2015 and 2020. Matthew has worked with remote Indigenous communities in various roles for fifteen years and is currently working in Economic Development for Traditional Owners working for Gelganyem Limited based in Kununurra, WA.

Wanta's Alcohol Education program



Wanta entered into a partnership with [DrinkWise](#) around delivering Alcohol Education sessions.

DrinkWise have been providing us with appropriate videos and content to facilitate alcohol education sessions, and our staff have been facilitating 3–4 sessions with students each term. The main topics of discussion include:

- What the effects of alcohol are on young people, particularly Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder and the developing teenage brain.
- What is a healthy choice regarding drinking and how to encourage this with each other.
- Dealing with peer pressure.
- Who the kids can trust and what support networks exist in their community.

We have had a great response from students who have actively engaged in the sessions and are keen to learn more and discuss their thoughts and experiences.

CEO's report

The CEO report this year is bittersweet for myself as I resigned as CEO at the end of this financial year. I am very pleased to announce that Demian Coates has stepped into the role after spending two years in our Ntaria program.

Despite the challenges of COVID-19 – all of our programs continued to deliver services and engage with students and families, which is something we are very proud of. Our community-based staff were very committed to the program during this challenging time which is a testament to their care for the families they work with.

We have also increased our educational programming across alcohol awareness, learner driving and health to deliver a more rounded program for the students. The pilot program of the travelling movie cinema has also been very well received by communities across the NT and is an exciting new project for Wanta moving forward.

As is the case with every year of operations, I would like to personally thank our Corporate Sponsors; Simpson Constructions, Juremont, Sayer Jones, DrinkWise and the Sunshine Foundation for their on-going support. I would also like to thank the Northern Territory Department of Health, GMAAAC and the National Indigenous Australians Agency for their continued support and guidance.

Under the leadership of Demian and the Executive Management Team, I am very confident that Wanta will continue to successfully deliver meaningful programs to students across the NT.



Matt Smith
Former CEO

I have felt extremely privileged to be able to work for Wanta over the past two years, based in the Central Desert Community of Ntaria. In my time with Wanta I have worked with incredible organisations and community members who all have the same goal, to help make a positive change for the communities they work with.

I understand that the undertaking of this position will come with both challenges and triumphs and I am looking forward to working with each community our organisation serves. A large part of the role will be gaining a better understanding of what voids in service Wanta can fill within each community as every community is different. Wanta has a challenging role of fulfilling our funding mandates while also incorporating individual Community needs to ensure our programs remain relevant, engaging and most importantly create lasting change.

I would like to thank Wanta's amazing staff, I am humbled to lead such a diverse team of people so committed to creating lasting change in the Territory. Thank you for your dedication in delivering our programs successfully. I would also like to recognise our Corporate Sponsors, Government Funders, donators and supporters, as every little bit helps to ensure we are providing lifelong skills for young indigenous students to allow them to reach their full potential.

Lastly, I would like to thank the Wanta Board of Directors for their continued support and hard work, we are very fortunate to work with such a committed Board. This continued support has had life-changing impact on the communities we work in and youth we work with. Your involvement and generosity are greatly appreciated and we look forward to continuing to enrich as many students lives as we can, this year and into the future.



Demian Coates
Incoming CEO

Junior Rangers trip to Malukulani



Nine high school girls from Kalkaringi were invited on a “Back on Country” trip to Malukulani as part of the Kunpulu Junior Ranger program. This program forms a fantastic link between the Gurindji Rangers, Kalkaringi School, and Wanta, offering high school students’ insight and experience into the role and knowledge of the Rangers, and their impact in community.

The three-day trip consisted of plenty of fishing, swimming, uno, bush walking, bird spotting, hair braiding, and storytelling. The Junior Rangers learnt from the best in listening for, seeing, and identifying bird species, taking surveys, and discovering their scientific names with the Rangers.

We were incredibly lucky to have some incredible food cooked for us, including oxtail and kidney soup, roo tail with baked bush potatoes. The Junior Rangers particularly enjoyed cooking up the turtles and fish they had caught, which were happily shared and devoured over a few games of uno under torch light.

The girls loved asking Yamba and Rainbow (two of the rangers) to tell them stories of the demons and old men that roamed these parts of the land.

A huge thank you to the Traditional Owners of the land for granting us permission to go to Malukulani, and the Rangers for their expertise, advice, and stories (and great feeds!).

Our programs by location

The Wanta programs are designed with local communities to provide the greatest benefit to students.

Gapuwiyak Academy

Gapuwiyak is a Yolngu community located in North-east Arnhem Land, 872km from Darwin. The Gapuwiyak Academy has been operational since October 2017.

This year the Gapuwiyak Academy has continued to work strongly and collaboratively with middle year and senior students. Additionally, Wanta was sub-contracted to assist ALPA running the Remote School Attendance Strategy.

The Gapuwiyak Academy has continued to deliver a range of programs in the Gapuwiyak School focusing on the engagement of middle level and senior students, including:

- Sport and health education, particularly around Alcohol Education
- Whole of school sport carnivals and various sport activities delivered in the homelands.
- Other Sport activities, the most popular being volleyball, skateboarding, netball, football, basketball and track & field events.

Gapuwiyak Director Mahra Villis between July – December 2019 continued to provide 1:1 art therapy sessions for students with behavioral imbalances. These sessions provide students with a safe and

Key statistics during 2019/20:

Average number of sporting activities per week:

6

Average number of academy room sessions per week:

16

Wanta/Wanta supported trips:

10

supportive environment away from any outside influences or shame, and promote healthy expression of emotion and thoughts.

Between January - June 2020, our new Academy Director Liz Maneveldt excelled at establishing relationships with the students by engaging the children through on country learning and bush trips. The Gapuwiyak Academy explored the landscape at least once a week to look for and cook bush tucker and hear stories from elders who were able to pass on their knowledge to the future leaders of the community.

Wanta was subcontracted to assist with engagement of senior students with the Remote School Attendance Strategy program. Our role was to contribute to regular Governance Committee meetings, provide operational and strategic insights to school engagement issues, and support the development of a Community Attendance Plan.

The Gapuwiyak Academy is funded through the Sunshine Foundation, ALPA and Corporate support.



Lajamanu Academy

Lajamanu is a Warlpiri community located 557km from Katherine and 890km from Darwin. The Lajamanu Academy opened in January 2016 and is well entrenched in the School and community.

The Lajamanu Academy continues to operate a large variety of activities and organised sport that engage students in the Academy program. During the COVID-19 Pandemic students were still able to participate in program activities and had access to the ever-popular Academy room.

This year our new Academy Director, Simon Blake, engaged the students to refurbish the current Lajamanu Academy Room; the students were very involved and even painted a new mural across the walls. The newly styled Academy room continues to be a space where students feel safe and have a sense of pride and ownership.

Reward trips allow us to build relationships with students and create positive associations with school. Throughout the year the Lajamanu Academy has facilitated sixteen reward Trips. The friendly rivalry between the Lajamanu Academy and neighbouring Kalkaringi Academy prevails and the response from both Community and students has been extremely positive.

For the third year in a row the Lajamanu Academy won the Top End Region Wanta Cup. These interschool sports days and trips have become a strong aspect of the Lajamanu Academy and we will continue to facilitate and encourage kids to take part in these events while aiming to reengage many students with their education.

Key statistics during 2019/20:

Average number of sporting activities per week:

15

Local staff employed:

4

Average number of academy room sessions per week:

14.7

Wanta/Wanta supported trips:

16

The Lajamanu Academy coordinates a large number of bush trips each term. This year the students learnt how to paddle canoes and kayaks safely in the water. These events are growing in popularity and we are looking to expand this program further with the involvement of other service providers and local Traditional Owners.

Four Academy officers were employed throughout the year– Liam Patrick, Dalveon Donnelly, Montana Matthews and Kealyn Kelly. Local staff have been invaluable to the delivery of the Academy program and continue to go above and beyond for the Academy and their Community.

The Lajamanu Academy is currently implementing new avenues of education such as: Mental and Physical Health Education and the Learner Driver Program, which will create additional opportunities for the future of our students.

The Lajamanu Academy is funded by the Granites Mine Aboriginal Affected Area Corporation and the Federal Government's Stronger Communities for Children program.



Ngukurr Academy

Ngukurr is a remote community on the banks of the Roper River located approximately 300km from Katherine. The Ngukurr Academy has been operational since May of 2017 and has gone from strength to strength.

The Ngukurr Academy program continues to be a pivotal program within community and operates numerous activities that encourage good behaviour and school attendance. This year we have seen an increase in participation and engagement rates from the previous year. The Academy has delivered over 19 sporting sessions and an average of 20 Academy room sessions each week.

Our Academy Director Leigh Stabryla has brought a range of new skill sets to the program, including, swimming, running, and music lessons. After-School sport sessions include the newly created Wanta Running Group that aims to improve each student as an individual runner and cultivate positive attitudes towards training and recovery. Wanta also coordinates swimming lessons at the pool with students so that each child becomes a more confident and able swimmer.

The Academy facilitated a 'Bike Maintenance Program' on an excursion to Katherine to work with a specialized bicycle mechanic to learn basic bike maintenance. The Ngukurr Academy now runs a bike riding group in the evenings and teaches students the importance of basic road safety, cycling etiquette and the best way to ride in a group.

Every Wednesday evening the Academy offers an Auskick session at the local football oval. In addition to these afterschool sessions the Ngukurr Academy provides in school support for sport and music.

The Ngukurr Academy is currently working on introducing Drumbeat within these sessions to develop social and emotional learning. These programs continue to be a very positive incentive to increase school attendance and behaviour.

Key statistics during 2019/20:

Average number of sporting activities per week:

19

Local staff employed:

6

Average number of academy room sessions per week:

20

Wanta/Wanta supported trips:

5

Other exciting initiatives with our Ngukurr Academy include:

- Learner Driver Education, our staff facilitate Learner Driver sessions every week, preparing the students for their Learner Driver tests with Drive Safe NT. This program has been met with a great response, excitement and success.
- 'Read Write Inc' program. These sessions are aimed at developing the reading and literacy skills of our students. The goal is to incorporate these sessions into the Social Enterprise Education that the Ngukurr Academy will be offering to help build better employment pathways for the students' future.
- Bush trips and cultural trips, which continue to be popular among all Academy students. The Academy has coordinated multiple bush trips as well as 5 trips to Katherine and Mataranka. One of the favourite bush trips is to go fishing at local water holes and by the Roper River.
- Participation in the Top End Region Wanta cup event this year in Katherine. The event brought three Wanta Academies together to spend the weekend exploring the Katherine region visiting Edith Falls where the students enjoyed swimming and building new friendships with the other Academy students.

Ngukurr has had a number of local staff to support the delivery of programs throughout the year. This year we have been able to put local staff members Anton Rami and Chanel Huddelston through their AFL Foundation Coaching (Auskick), this was very rewarding and a great achievement for them to complete.

The Ngukurr Academy program is funded by National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA).

Kalkaringi Academy

Kalkaringi is a Gurindji community located 466km from Katherine and 779km from Darwin. The Kalkaringi Academy opened in October 2017 and is a strong and valued asset to the school and community.

This year Wanta recruited a new Academy Director, Ellie Simmons, who has settled into Kalkaringi well and has already established strong relationships within the community. Despite the challenges with COVID-19 Wanta has continued to operate collaboratively with the Kalkaringi School and its pandemic plan.

The Wanta Academy room remained open for sessions before, during and after school, however all sessions were capped at 20 children to adhere to social distancing efforts. Even with strong health standards the Academy Room was open for more than 18 hours per week servicing over 600 kids.

The program has continued with morning pickups for a targeted group of senior students with great success collecting an average of 18 students per week.

The Academy partnered with a number of different organisations throughout the year to help achieve outcomes in Mental and Physical Health, Hygiene and Employment Pathways this included Life Education, Drinkwise, SafeNT and Drumbeat.

Due to the success of the Drumbeat program last year, the Academy has expanded the program and is now working with more classes to deliver this specialised social and emotional learning.

Key statistics during 2019/20:

Average number of sporting activities per week:

10

Average number of academy room sessions per week:

15

Wanta/Wanta supported trips:

10

The Kalkaringi Academy has continued to run great initiatives such as:

- Community sporting events
- Footy and Basketball Competitions with the Lajamanu Academy
- Top End Region Wanta Cup in Katherine
- Leaner Driver program as part of the Academy Employment Pathways and two of the Academy Students obtained their Provisional Licenses. This program has had more uptakes in the last year and will continue to run in the future.
- Resume writing workshops were held and Ochre Cards obtained for a number of the students that will hopefully deliver employment opportunities in the future.

The Wanta Academy has begun delivering courses on Social Enterprise and getting the older students involved in what change they can create in their own community while creating their own job opportunities, this planning and implementation will continue into next year.

The Kalkaringi Academy is funded by the Northern Territory Department of Health, the Kalkaringi School and through Corporate donors.



Yuendumu Academy

Yuendumu is a Warlpiri community located 293km from Alice Springs. The Yuendumu Academy was the first Wanta program established and has been running since 2013.

The Yuendumu Academy has continued to focus on engaging upper primary, middle and senior students into the schooling system. The Yuendumu Academy employs a team of local staff as Academy Officers to support the program. Throughout 2019/20 we recruited and trained five local staff which helped the program continue to grow in its capacity and strength and make real in-roads towards school engagement.

Additionally, we had two Community Engagement Managers employed who oversaw Girls and Boys engagement throughout the year.

Each week, the Yuendumu team delivers a breakfast program, supports in class learning, facilitates sporting activities and academy room sessions, after-school activities, bush trips/cultural education with elders and a Social Enterprise curriculum tailored to the senior students. In addition to the weekly activities, the team also engages students through reward trips, sporting activities and interstate trips for high attendance and/or improved school attendance.

The Yuendumu Academy room was upgraded at the start of 2020 with a complete make-over including fake grass on the ground, new furniture, a play station with games and pool tables. The kids loved it! They also received new Wanta Academy polos and new sets of sport Guernsey's for sporting events.

The Academy Manager and Officers assist with and facilitate various sporting activities each week, these are held either before, during or after school and include football, basketball and games such as dodgeball or relays. On an average week, our Academy provides sport activities to anywhere between 120-180 kids.

Key statistics during 2019/20:

Average number of sporting activities per week:

11

Local staff employed:

5

Average number of academy room sessions per week:

18

Wanta/Wanta supported trips:

10

Breakfasts provided to students:

2,400

Throughout the pandemic, the Academy worked with the Yuendumu School to deliver all activities as per the School's Pandemic plan which required social distancing measures, this led to alternate activities being provided such as individual fitness exercises or pool table competitions.

Ten local rewards trips were undertaken before the pandemic restrictions came into effect, which unfortunately meant we were unable to arrange any further trips. Students were taken to Alice Springs, Yuendumu Hill, Papunya and Yuelamu.

Academy staff also attended a full day of training on Social Enterprise development, learning about the benefits of Social Enterprise Schools and how it would work in Yuendumu. The day was full of information, open discussions and amazing stories from across the country about young entrepreneurs. Since the training, students have been exploring vocabulary to give them a deeper understanding of what a Social Enterprise is and how it fits in the world of businesses and charities. This program will empower students with the opportunity to develop skills and knowledge to become job creators rather than just job seekers. This is important, particularly for students in remote settings where job opportunities and career paths are limited.

The Yuendumu Academy is funded through the Granites Mines Aboriginal Affected Area Corporation, with contributions from the Yuendumu School.

Arlparra Academy

Arlparra is an Alwayarr community located in the Utopia homelands approximately 249km from Alice Springs. The Arlparra Academy opened in October 2016 and has continued to achieve great results in community.

Key statistics during 2019/20:

Average number of sporting activities per week:

10

Local staff employed:

2

Average number of academy room sessions per week:

9

Wanta/Wanta supported trips:

20

School pick-ups per week:

50

Wanta's Arlparra Academy has maintained a strong and consistent approach to achieving the desired outcomes in the community. The Arlparra Academy has continued to focus on daily sporting activities, bush trips, cultural engagement, and has introduced a new focus around social enterprise development.

The Arlparra Academy offers a wide range of engaging school sport sessions to help increase school attendance and improve behaviour. Student uptake has been impressive and as a result the Academy held extra sporting sessions after school to meet the demand of the community.

There are many afterschool activities on offer for the Arlparra Academy, in addition to sports the most common include visits to local waterholes and landmarks, as well as the always popular Academy room. As a result of COVID-19 and the inability to travel, we were able to run more local bush trips which are a very popular way to engage students.

This year the Arlparra boys expressed an interest in health and physical fitness therefore gym and boxing sessions have been introduced, these sessions have taught the boys problem solving skills, trust and precision all while focusing on their health and nutrition.

The Arlparra Girls have focussed on self-esteem and self-worth. Sessions included mindfulness, gratitude journals and how these mindsets can improve our overall mental health and ability to perform our best at school and in sport. The Arlparra Academy strives to ensure that each activity enables students to feel comfortable, have fun, and include an aspect of cultural education where applicable.

The Arlparra Academy has begun to create one of Wanta's first Social Enterprise's. With the help of experienced elders and community members, students have been going on bush trips to create and design spears and shields. Once carved and painted, the Arlparra Academy is planning to sell the items and put the profit back into equipment for the Academy. This activity alone has increased participation numbers particularly with male students.

The Arlparra Academy has been developing a new cultural engagement program with the Australian Institute of Sport (AIS). This program links Australian Olympic athletes with communities in an interactive way that allows the athlete, students and parents in the community to share their experiences. This has resulted in students in Arlparra trying new sports, expanding their comfort zones and gaining a better understanding of the life skills needed to reach the successes of professional athletes. In return, the athletes learn about the local Indigenous culture and have a first hand experience of life in a remote community.

Two Academy Officers were employed throughout the year, Clayton Hunter and Ethan Jones. The local staff have shown great initiative in program sessions and have worked hard to develop their own skill sets.

The Arlparra Academy is funded by the National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA).

Remote School Attendance Strategy

The Remote School Attendance Strategy (RSAS) is a community-focused strategy. Wanta is contracted by the National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA) to deliver the RSAS program in Yuendumu, Ntaria and Papunya in Central Australia.

Wanta employs teams of local people who are passionate about helping kids in their Community.

School attendance teams work closely with teachers, parents and the community to develop a community plan to identify ways to ensure all children in the community attend school every day.

— Yuendumu

Despite various challenges this year, the Yuendumu RSAS Team has, as much as possible, delivered activities in line with the Community Attendance Plan. Key deliverables include the daily bus run and the Breakfast Program. The breakfast room remains a cornerstone of the program and helps to get kids to school early and provides them with a consistent start to their school day. RSAS staff provide a healthy range of breakfast items and also enable the kids to play games and interact with each other in a friendly setting. Parents are also welcome to attend, this gives staff an opportunity to discuss and connect with community members in an informal setting.

The RSAS staff ran consistent youth engagement activities during school hours and after school programs to create stronger connections with the Secondary students.

To increase Family engagement this year the RSAS staff began a Walking Bus run on Tuesday and Thursday mornings, which allowed staff to identify disengaged families and create reengagement plans in collaboration with these families.

This year's success is due to the RSAS staff attendance and continued employment of RSAS staff, with two employees having now worked with Wanta for 6 years and another staff member being employed for four years. While there have been many distractions this year – the team have shown great dedication to the program and have been willing to try new initiatives such as the Walking bus and big breakfast cook ups in partnership with other stakeholders. We have also employed three staff under 20 who are very keen to work and support the students.

Ntaria

The RSAS program based in Ntaria has seen a steady increase of enrolments and student attendance over the last year. The Ntaria School data details that enrolments had almost doubled from the end of the school year in 2018 to the beginning of the school year in 2020. The attendance percentage for the targeted RSAS demographic of years 1-10 had also increased to 67%.

These increases have been due to working closely with our Governance Committee and other community stakeholders. The Ntaria RSAS program employs local individuals that are held in high regard within the community and their role in local cultural events. The RSAS Team conducts daily morning bus pick-ups and works with families to encourage all school age children to attend school. We also have an Outstation Bus run that transports school children and employees of different community organisations. Local RSAS Staff

have also been integrated into all aspects of school activities such as assisting teachers with classroom learning, running organised sport during all school recess and lunch breaks as well as after school sport and activities and hosting numerous community events.

Unfortunately, because of the 2020 Pandemic Health restrictions the Ntaria RSAS team was limited to the amount of afterschool activities and community events that they were able to run. Additionally, fear of COVID-19 within the community and sorry business meant that many families relocated to their remote outstation homes, which were too far to be included within the outstation bus run or culturally inappropriate for children to attend school and this has had a negative impact on student attendance.

Papunya

All RSAS programs delivered in Papunya have been in accordance with the Community Attendance Plan. The programs involve; student pick-ups and drop offs, the breakfast program, rewards and prizes for improved school attendance, targeted boys/girls' programs, youth engagement, family engagement, culture and language projects, and supporting community events. The RSAS program in Papunya was delivered every school day, throughout 2019/20. Core components of the program involves transporting students from four outstations as well as the main community, in school sport sessions and educational programs, as well as after school sport sessions and activities.

The RSAS program in Papunya currently has four local staff. Wanta assists in the professional development of all staff including completing all necessary paperwork and applications that are required to be employed, this is an added benefit of the RSAS program that can often go without recognition.

There was a marked improvement in school attendance by children in the early year's classes in Papunya school during the first half of 2020. 22 children attended at greater than 80% for this period with 18 of them coming from the two early childhood classes. Also, 32 children (including the 80% or greater group) attending at greater than 70% for the same period. The Papunya school principal thanked the RSAS team and said this was a significant improvement in attendance for quite some time.

Wanta employee's massive achievement



Katherine Moketarinja, who works as a Supervisor in our Remote School Attendance program in Ntaria, has driven the equivalent distance to the circumference of the earth in her commitment to getting local students to school every day. This equals a staggering 40,000 kms per year!

Katherine has been working with the Ntaria school for six years and with Wanta since 2017. Each and every weekday morning, Katherine drives to various outstations to pick up as many students as possible to get them to school, she then returns them home afterwards – that's 4 hours of driving a day!

Katherine is so passionate about getting as many children to school that she also spends time talking with families about the importance of their education. She is an invaluable member of the Wanta team and truly encompasses what we set out to do.

To celebrate this achievement, the Ntaria school held a special assembly followed by a barbecue to honour her achievement. The students enjoyed lots of fun and games on the basketball courts that had been set up for them. It was a really special afternoon for Katherine.

Wanta would like to extend our congratulations to Katherine, what a fantastic achievement – thank you for your dedication and keep up the amazing work!

Our staff



Matthew Smith
CEO

Matthew finished up with Wanta at the end of the 2019/20 financial year after over 5 years of service to Wanta. The Board and the communities he has worked with have benefited from his tireless efforts to provide a brighter future for Indigenous youth living in remote communities.



Clare Smith
Corporate Services
Manager



Praveen Kalaivanan
Regional Manager
(commenced in January 2020)



Jimmy Navie
Regional Manager
(July – December 2019)



Ruth Hanns
Finance Manager

Program staff

Please note that not all staff are pictured, with some preferring not to have their photo on display.

Yuendumu Academy and RSAS



Stephen Mitchell
Yuendumu RSAS
General Manager
(July – December 2019)



Chelsea Mifsud
Yuendumu Community
Engagement Manager Girls



Lachlan McKenzie
Yuendumu Community
Engagement Manager Boys



Pristina Briscoe
Academy Officer and
School Attendance Officer



Serita Ross
School Attendance
Supervisor



Rosita Marshall
School Attendance
Officer



Julie-Anne Rice
School Attendance
Supervisor



Narelle Brown
School Attendance
Officer



Gabrielle Egan
School Attendance
Officer

**Desmond Mayo-Smith, Donisha
Granites, Riley White and Urich Wilson**
(Academy staff not pictured)

**Corina Granites, Joseph Ross,
Maisie Wayne and Geraldine Dixon**
(RSAS staff not pictured)

Papunya RSAS



Henly Taka
Papunya RSAS
General Manager



Valerie Twobob
School Attendance
Supervisor



Jackie McDonald
School Attendance
Officer

**Sharon Burns, Semmena Brogus,
Loretta Morton, Isobel Major and
Gerrard Anderson** *(not pictured)*

Ntaria RSAS



Demian Coates
Ntaria RSAS
General Manager



Benicia Acevedo
Ntaria Community
Engagement Manager



Katherine Moketarinja
School Attendance
Supervisor



Aaron Sharpe
School Attendance
Officer

**Johannas Kantawara and
Stanley Kenny** *(not pictured)*

Arlparra Academy



Natasha Bennett
Arlparra Academy
Director



Ethan Jones
Arlparra Academy
Officer

Clayton Hunter *(not pictured)*

Kalkaringi Academy



Praveen Kalaivanan
Kalkaringi Academy
Director
(July – December 2019)



Ellie Simmons
Kalkaringi Academy
Director
(January – June 2020)

Gapuwiyak Academy



Mahra Willis
Gapuwiyak Academy
Director
(July – December 2019)



Liz Maneveldt
Gapuwiyak Academy
Director
(January – June 2020)

Ngukurr Academy



Leigh Stabryla
Ngukurr Academy
Director

**Anton Rami, Craig Rogers,
Ethan Tapau, Preston Harrison
and Tamar Wurramara** *(not pictured)*

Lajamanu Academy



Bradley Cooper
Academy Director



Simon Blake
Academy Director



Liam Patrick
Academy Officer



Kealyn Kelly
Academy Officer



Our supporters

Wanta Aboriginal Corporation is a not-for-profit that relies entirely on the support of the Government, corporate partners and the community.

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to everyone who continues to support our efforts to provide a brighter future for Indigenous youth living in remote communities.

**Sayer
Jones.**



Juremont



DrinkWise.





Financial report

The overall result for the year was a surplus of \$70,708 compared with a deficit of \$22,757 in 2019.

Grant income increased by 14% due to the addition of Ntaria Young Women's Place funding and increased funding from the RSAS contracts for Yuendumu and Ntaria. This was offset by a 15% drop in service income due to the timing of funding for the Lajamanu Academy from Life Without Barriers. This funding will be accounted for in 2021.

Overall costs fell by 6 percent mainly due to an 83% reduction in travel costs due to restrictions resulting from COVID-19. This resulted in a drop in the cost per participant across all our programs from \$1,800 to \$1,650, again demonstrating great value for money.

An abridged version of the Financial Report is provided below. The Comprehensive Financial Statements along with the Auditors Report are available on the Office of the Registrar of Indigenous Corporations [website](#).

Statement of Comprehensive Income for the year ended 30 June 2020

| | 2020 \$ | 2019 \$ |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Income | | |
| Grants | 961,506 | 842,646 |
| Services provided | 1,079,173 | 1,266,934 |
| Other income | 94,420 | 61,090 |
| Interest received | 508 | 1,920 |
| | <hr/> 2,135,607 | <hr/> 2,172,590 |
| Expenses | | |
| Employee costs | 1,406,170 | 1,405,753 |
| Accountancy and administration | 108,060 | 103,535 |
| Depreciation and amortisation | 110,985 | 54,449 |
| Travel expenses | 21,894 | 127,685 |
| Motor vehicle expenses | 133,169 | 183,348 |
| Other operating expenses | 284,620 | 320,577 |
| | <hr/> 2,064,898 | <hr/> 2,195,347 |
| Surplus/(deficit) for the year | 70,708 | (22,757) |
| Other comprehensive income | — | — |
| Total Comprehensive Income | <hr/> 70,708 | <hr/> (22,757) |

Summary Statement of Financial Position at 30 June 2020

| Assets | 2020 \$ | 2019 \$ |
|--------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Current Assets | | |
| Cash and cash equivalents | 351,465 | 338,718 |
| Trade and other receivables | 52,028 | 48,291 |
| | <hr/> 403,492 | <hr/> 387,009 |
| Non Current Assets | | |
| Vehicles | 193,409 | 216,399 |
| Right-of-use assets* | 112,787 | – |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| Total Assets | 709,688 | 603,408 |
| Liabilities | | |
| Current Liabilities | | |
| Trade and other payables | 122,381 | 166,780 |
| Employee provisions | 51,177 | 81,898 |
| Lease liabilities* | 62,379 | – |
| | <hr/> 235,937 | <hr/> 248,678 |
| Non-Current Liabilities | | |
| Chattel mortgage | 16,030 | 26,550 |
| Lease liabilities* | 54,283 | – |
| | <hr/> 70,313 | <hr/> 26,550 |
| Total Liabilities | 306,250 | 275,228 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| Net Assets | 403,439 | 328,179 |
| Members Funds | | |
| Retained earnings | <hr/> 403,439 | <hr/> 328,179 |

Statement of Changes in Equity for the year ended 30 June 2020

| | Retained earnings \$ |
|---|-----------------------------|
| Balance at 1 July 2018 | 350,937 |
| Total comprehensive income for the year | (22,757) |
| Balance 30 June 2019 | <hr/> 328,179 |
| Balance 30 June 2019 | 328,179 |
| Total comprehensive income for the year | 70,708 |
| Prior period adjustment | 6,837 |
| Adjustment on adoption of AASB 16* | (2,285) |
| Balance 30 June 2020 | <hr/> 403,439 |

* The lines indicated are in respect of the application of AASB 16 in the current year only.

Statement of Cash Flows for the year ended 30 June 2020

| Cash Flows from Operating Activities | 2020 \$ | 2019 \$ |
|--|-------------|-------------|
| Payments | | |
| Payments to suppliers and employees | (2,244,593) | (2,585,177) |
| Receipts | | |
| Receipts from customers/funding bodies | 2,353,757 | 2,651,492 |
| Net cash provided from operating activities | 109,164 | 66,315 |
| Cash Flows from Investing Activities | | |
| Interest received | 508 | 1,920 |
| Payments for fixed assets | (40,584) | (105,638) |
| Net cash used in investing activities | (40,076) | (103,718) |
| Cash Flows from Financing Activities | | |
| Repayment of lease liabilities* | (45,820) | – |
| Loans repaid | (10,520) | (11,477) |
| Net cash provided (used) by financing activities | (56,340) | (11,477) |
| Net increase (decrease) in cash held | 12,748 | (48,880) |
| Cash at the beginning of the year | 338,718 | 387,598 |
| Cash at the end of the year | 351,465 | 338,718 |

* The lines indicated are in respect of the application of AASB 16 in the current year only.



Contact us

Demian Coates

Chief Executive Officer

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NT 0870

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Alice Springs
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Wanta Aboriginal Corporation acknowledges the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as the first inhabitants of the nation and the traditional custodians of the lands where we live, learn and work. We pay our respects to ancestors and Elders, past, present and emerging.

Follow us



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wanta.org.au

