



ANNUAL REPORT

2022 - 2023

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CEO REPORT

Many thanks to our directors for their ongoing support and our staff for their commitment and dedication often through trying circumstances. Sincere appreciation also to our supporters and funding partners. Your support enables Wanta to work with young people and families in remote communities in the Northern Territory.

I am pleased to present the CEO's Report for Wanta Aboriginal Corporation for the fiscal year 2022-2023. It has been a transformative year for our organization as we continued to work with young people in remote communities in the NT to advance our mission of improved school attendance, student engagement and job readiness.

We have remained committed to helping the young people and communities that we work with. Several initiatives were undertaken to enhance the education and job readiness for the young people in communities that Wanta has a presence in. One notable achievement is the Wanta Bagai Barista run by kids from Ngukurr school. It is now a fledgling café in the remote community of Ngukurr.

Providing fun, engaging and educational activities for kids in remote communities remains at the core of our mission. This year, we have organized numerous sporting events, educational workshops, and reward trips to encourage educational growth and resilience. Additionally, support was also provided to older community members in Yuendumu in the form of a bus services through our Xtra Mile Social Enterprise project.

While celebrating our successes, it is essential to acknowledge the challenges faced during the year. Apart from the challenges of isolation faced by our staff, one significant challenge was the flash floods in Kalkarindji at the start of 2023. The whole community of Kalkarindji was evacuated to Darwin and Wanta staff had to improvise to work with the kids from their temporary base at the Centre for

National Resilience in Howard Springs, Darwin. We responded proactively by providing our staff with the support they needed. This enabled our Kalkarindji staff to continue to assist the kids from Kalkarindji attend school in Darwin and have fun activities in the afternoon for the three months that they were in Darwin.

Looking ahead, Wanta Aboriginal Corporation is poised for continued growth in the youth space while providing positive impacts on the lives of the young people in the remote communities that we work in. We are planning on introducing more social enterprise projects for school kids, especially in remote communities in Central Australia, while reinforcing our commitment to the well-being and prosperity of the young people in the remote communities in the NT that Wanta has a presence in.

In closing, I extend my gratitude to the dedicated staff of Wanta, our board directors, our funding partners, our partner schools, and the young people and families in the remote communities that we work in. You have all contributed to the success of Wanta Aboriginal Corporation in the past year. I am confident that our collective efforts will pave the way for more support and opportunities for the young people in the remote communities that we work in.

Thank you all for your continued support.

Henly Taka
CEO

A big thank you to those who have helped Wanta in one way or another in the past year.

OUR BOARD



Trish Lechleitner
Yuendumu
Chairperson



Troy Ratara
Ntaria



Linda Anderson
Papunya



Esau Nelson
Ariparra



Tristan Tasman
Kalkaringi



Ian Gumbala
Ngukurr



Liam Patrick
Lajamanu



Rob Spence
Specialist Non-Indigenous Director



Matt Smith
Specialist Non-Indigenous Director



Karl Hampton
- Walpiri

ABOUT WANTA

Wanta Aboriginal Corporation is a not-for-profit organisation working in remote Indigenous communities in the Northern Territory to engage, empower and develop young people to fulfill their fullest potential.

Wanta works in seven remote Indigenous communities across the top-end and central desert regions of the Northern Territory.

WHAT WE DO

Wanta was established in the remote Indigenous community of Yuendumu in 2013. Through its success and adoption to target ongoing needs the program has evolved to spread through seven indigenous communities in the Northern Territory. Our staff work with Indigenous children and young people to enhance engagement, development, school attendance, training and employment opportunities.

SPORT AND RECREATION

Wanta provides a range of sport development clinics, competitions and coaching workshops to engage young people in healthy lifestyles. Wanta also provide safe recreation spaces for young people in Academy rooms in each of the eight communities we work in.

CULTURE AND LANGUAGE

Wanta provides cultural and learning on Country programs, connecting young people to culture. This includes education in traditional cooking, hunting and life skill practices and bush camps to learn stories from elders and Traditional Owners in language.

ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION

Wanta provides a range of alternative education programs to meet service gaps in life skills to be able to provide youth with knowledge to make positive life choices. This includes, driver education, alcohol and drugs, cybersafety and emotional wellbeing and resilience.

SOCIAL ENTERPRISE

Wanta provides education and the opportunity for youth to set up their own businesses. This program provides youth with numeracy, literacy, interpersonal and digital skills in a practical learning environment. The aim is to establish sustainable training and employment opportunities for youth.

JOB READY

Wanta provides a Job Ready program to provide youth with essential documentation, identification and skills to be able to enter employment. This includes obtaining birth certificates, OCHRE cards, setting up bank accounts, superannuation and tax education.

TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT

Wanta provides youth and Indigenous staff with training and employment opportunities. This includes gaining certifications in CPR, First Aid, Mental Health First Aid, Rhythm2Recovery, Conflict Resolution and more! Wanta also focuses on providing youth employment opportunities in the Wanta team.

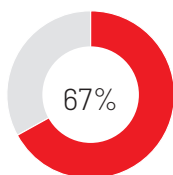


WHERE WE OPERATE

Wanta has established programs in Arlparra, Kalkaringi, Lajamanu, Ngukurr, Ntaria, Papunya, Wugularr and Yuendumu.



OUR STAFF



Wanta employ 36 staff across eight remote Indigenous communities in the Northern Territory. 67% of our staff members are Indigenous employees who are from the eight communities that we work in.

Executive Team

Henly Taka
CEO

Ruth Arnel
Finance and
Communications
Manager

Neil Mackenzie
Regional
Manager –
Central Australia

Prav Kalaivanan
Regional
Manager –
Northern Region

Brooke Klarenbeek
Finance Manager

Arlparra

Zac Murfet
Academy Director

Esau Nelson
Academy officer

Kalkarindji

Max Collier
Director

Keenan Barry
Engagment Officer

Keanu Roy
Engagment Officer

Lajamanu

Simon Blake
Director

Liam Patrick
Engagement Officer

Ngukurr

Will Georgiou
Director

Indi Drendel
Director

Chanel Hudleston
Sports Academy Officer

Anton Rami
Sports Academy Officer

Papunya

Henly Taka
 General Manager
 - RSAS and
 Sports Academy

Garrard Anderson
 School Attendance
 officer

Patrick Minor
 School Attendance
 Officer

Ntaria

**Natasha
 Bennett**
 RSAS Manager

Ellie Simmons
 Kids & Youth Club
 Manager

Taren Williams
 SCfC Coordinator

Tenille Rickard
 SCfC
 Coordinator

**Catherine
 Motekarinja**
 RSAS Supervisor

Baydon Ngalkin
 RSAS Officer

Benji Kenny
 RSAS Officer

Eleanor Robinja
 Young Womens
 Room Officer

Evelyn Conway
 Young Womens
 Room Officer

Wugularr

Rhonda Curnow
 Sports Academy
 Director

Yuendumu

**Claire
 Leichleitner**
 RSAS Manager

Neil Mackenzie
 Social Enterprise
 Manager

Kira Briscoe
 RSAS
 Supervisor

Pristina Briscoe
 Sports Academy
 Director

Serita Ross
 RSAS
 Supervisor

Lorraine Brown
 RSAS
 Supervisor

Tyrone Spencer
 RSAS Supervisor

Jerry Patrick
 RSAS Supervisor

Rosita Marshall
 RSAS Officer

Shawnika Brown
 RSAS Officer

Delilah Wheeler
 RSAS Officer

Carlos Ross
 RSAS Officer

Mickaela Lankin
 RSAS Officer

Veronica Williams
 RSAS Officer

Barbara Lechleitner
 Sports Academy
 Officer

Seravina Poulson
 Sports Academy
 Officer

**Donisha
 Granites**

Sports Academy
 Officer

Tianna Ross
 Sports Academy
 Officer

**Robert
 Robertson**
 Xtra Mile Driver

Cedric Egan
 Xtra Mile Driver

2022 - 2023 OVERVIEW

Despite significant challenges at the start of 2023 such as the flash floods in Kalkarindji and a significant delay in the release of our RSAS funding Wanta's youth engagement and social enterprise continued to deliver to deliver all our programs in all the remote communities that we work in.

ARLPARRA

Arlparra is an Alwayarr community located in the Utopia homelands approximately 249km northeast of Alice Springs. The Arlparra Academy was established in October 2016 and is funded by NIAA.

It has been a great 12 months for Wanta in Arlparra, with plenty going on as always! Trying to provide consistency in an environment that is constantly changing and shifting makes every day interesting, providing a fantastic combination of challenge and fun.

The core of the Wanta program has been the daily activities centered around student engagement. Pickups and drop-offs with the Wanta troopy, going between the spread-out homelands, often constitutes a large part of the morning and afternoon. Utopia is unique in the fact that it is comprised of separate homelands in all different directions from the main community (Arlparra), and our best effort is made to reach every student that is interested in coming to school. Given there's no reception in most of the homelands, there's no way to know who is around without going out there to check.

Wanta runs daily sport at Arlparra High School, both during lunchtime and recess and during dedicated sports sessions each day. It's one of the kids' favourite parts of the day and is a great way for them to connect with each other, with the Wanta staff and feel positive about school whilst building valuable skills. We also use the 'Academy Room' - the science room converted into a hangout space. Between the pool table, the PlayStation, the iPads, the couches, and the other things we have going on, it's a safe and fun space for the kids to unwind at the end of the day and enjoy time at school in an environment in which they can relax and have fun.

We've also had an increase in our regular health sessions, which has been a really positive experience. We have covered topics such as

cyber safety, nutrition, sleep, and positive lifestyle choices. The kids engage well and have taken on some of the key messages.

In the first part of 2023, we have made a focus on having consistent after school trips. This is something that the kids have enormous excitement for and is a great incentive for them to consistently attend school. Some of our trips have been to the shop 'Redgum' for some snacks, about 30mins away by troopy (or longer if you blow a tyre on the way!). Other great trips have been to some of the waterholes around Utopia - some stunning scenery and a swim, combined with a bit of a road trip on either end is something the kids always come back from laughing and full of joy. A bit of a hunt whilst there adds a bit of excitement too! We've had visits from the great folks at AFLNT, who come out and spend the whole day running footy clinics with the kids, to the kids' absolute delight. We've also had a visit from TennisNT, which for a lot of kids was their first experience playing tennis. The kids love sport here more than almost anything and given the extremely limited access they have to different sports, moments like these are very special! We've also had a visit from the Golf Club in Alice Springs - whilst it's quite a different sport to get used to, the kids love having a good swing of the driver on the footy oval.

Some of the bigger events in the past year have included a Wanta footy camp in Alice Springs, combined with the AFL match in Alice Springs in 2022. We played footy, went to the movies, and before the AFL game the kids were able to stand on the oval forming a guard of honour for the Melbourne Demons players, and one of our lucky students even got to run out alongside one of the players! It was a highlight for all involved.

One senior high school student, with the assistance of Wanta, attended an Indigenous athletics camp, Raise The Bar, in October 2022. The week-long camp saw the student get to see many the top



athletics training coaches and facilities in Darwin, as well as tours and workshops run by Charles Darwin University. Students in remote communities rarely have exposure to further study opportunities and to see first-hand what a university has to offer, and so this was an exciting opportunity for this particular student. They returned with a lot of new insight, memories, and friends! After being accompanied by the Wanta staff member in 2022, in 2023 the same student, along with another student from Arlparra, were able to attend together without the Wanta staffer. Given the challenges of flying and navigating the camp without an adult from their community,

this was a huge effort by both the students and an enormous sign of independence and growth. Wanta is really excited for both of these students and very proud of what they've been able to accomplish. Along with other footy and swimming trips, there have been some great opportunities for students to explore different areas of life and stay connected with school.

Wanta continues to be an important part of the Arlparra School community, and there's a lot of anticipation for what's to come in the future!

KALKARINDJI

Kalkarindji is a Gurindji community located 466km southwest of Katherine. The Kalkaringi Academy was opened in October 2017 and is funded by NIAA.

The Wanta Academy program in Kalkarindji received a timely 2-year extension of our contract by NIAA. The contract allowed Wanta to co-design a senior school engagement program that meets the needs of kids and young people from Kalkarindji and Daguragu.

We received the funding quite late and needed to commence recruitment and get the program operational as soon as possible. We hit 2023 with a flying start securing a program director - Max Collier - plus a consultant onboard as well to consult the stakeholders for design of the senior school engagement program.

The consultant commenced his work meeting with community stakeholders and held a very insightful first session with the Kalkaringi school council getting off to a strong start with the co design of the program.

Max Collier landed in Kalkarindji ready to start term 1, 2023. Three weeks down the track the whole community of Kalkarindji was in an emergency due to massive flash flooding. The Northern Territory government with support from the Federal government evacuated the entire Kalkarindji community and relocate them Howard Springs in Darwin.

Calling Howard Springs home for the next 3 months Wanta staff continued support the community by delivering the program while adapting to the circumstances. Wanta staff ensured that senior students were attending school in Darwin. Wanta assisted the NT Education department to help transport senior school students to Nightcliff High School to provide the kids continued access to education. After school Wanta staff collaborated with other service providers provide activities such

as AFL, Basketball, movie nights etc for students at the centre of national resilience facility. The three-month months away from Kalkarindji was a very difficult and challenging time for everyone as the community was feeling lost being displaced from home for an extended period. The around the clock care for parents and young people at the Centre for National Resilience proved challenging for many service provider staff and Wanta staff were no exception. Wanta staff did a great job with the support of the regional manager and the organisation. Unlike other service providers, Wanta staff returned to Kalkarindji after 3 months when the government gave the green light for residents to return.

Students from Kalkarindji successfully tackled the Jatbula trail. We had 10 students split between Kalkarindji and Ngukurr who have completed the Jatbula trail which is a phenomenal achievement. This trip was awarded to our best high school attenders. 6-day hike which was full of ups and downs and brought on many challenges along the way. Students battled the heat, and the weight of the back packs but still made an average walk of 10km each day. The challenges of doing this hike brought everyone together. Wanta staff and the students the students had the opportunity to improve friendships and build trust and resilience. To top things off, each night at every camp spot there was a swim hole for everyone to enjoy! Congratulations to the Wanta staff and students who completed this incredible task and made the most of the opportunity.

After our Wanta Kalkarindji director Max Collier returned to Melbourne to be close to family, Wanta now has two local staff from Kalkarindi who are running the program. Keanu Roy and Keenan Barry are leading the Kalkarindji program by conducting the school pick-ups, facilitating alternative education workshops, and providing engaging recreational activities with the aim to increase high school attendance. We will continue to share our achievements in Kalkarindji through the Wanta blog and social media platforms.

LAJAMANU

Lajamanu is a Walpiri community located 557km southwest of Katherine. The Lajamanu Academy was established in January 2016 and its program is funded by GMAAAC and Stronger Communities for Children (SCfC).

The Wanta Lajamanu Sports Academy continued to deliver for students and the broader community in 2022 - 2023. The Sports Academy program continued to engage students and their families to get the kids to school. Wanta director Simon Blake and local coordinator Liam Patrick actively picked up over 300 students to attend school. These pick-ups are mainly targeted at the middle and senior students.

The number of activities delivered in 2022 - 2023 were;

10 turkey nest trips/4-mile trips

40 games of basketball/AFL

10 nutrition sessions in the academy room

300 times academy room has been opened for Lajamanu students.

10 Friday night community cook ups funded through SCfC provided by Wanta to the community. That is over 1000 meals.

20 bikes riding sessions after school. This is a very popular activity in engaging students.

Reward trips

Kununurra 10-day expedition and 5-day canoeing expedition. Students canoed, enjoyed a lake argyle boat cruise, and did wakeboarding.

Katherine BMX day

Katherine gorge full day kayak trip

Roller skating and Katherine YMCA

Students were selected to attend these trips and activities based on their good or improved school

attendance and engagement. Lajamanu students are generally very engaged in the open country outdoors. They show great interest and eagerness to learn while outdoors. Our Wanta director Simon Blake did a marvellous job in delivering programs that were highly regarded by both the students and community.

The departure of Simon Blake has left a huge void on the program and the community. We wish Simon Blake all the best on his new adventure and thank him for his contribution to Wanta Aboriginal Corporation.

After many years of operating as Sports Academy program Lajamanu, Wanta saw the need to progress and to show adapt to the needs of the community. Wanta regional manager Praveen kalaivanan, Simon Blake and Liam Patrick presented the new Brighter futures program model to the GMAAAC committee. The committee were very receptive to the program adaption by Wanta, and they were happy to continue to support Wanta. As a sign of that, the committee doubled its funding support for another 2 years with a new budget over a million dollars.

The Brighter futures program is now progressing well and will deliver a social enterprise program and employment pathways for students whilst also delivering alternative education workshops. Wanta kickstarted this program at the beginning of 2023 by helping Lajamanu school start up Tanami Treats café. This social enterprise project aims to give students work experience to achieve work qualifications to work in hospitality. The plan is to have the kids transition into work with the community shop and the new commercial café being built in Lajamanu. Our local staff Liam Patrick and Mervyn Rose have team up in 2023 to delivering our brighter futures program. Liam has entered the big rivers first circle training program. Through this training Liam is learning to improve his knowledge around board governance and how decisions and resolutions are passed. Liam has also stepped into the chairmanship role with the Lajamanu the school council after to undergoing this training. Big congratulations to Liam Patrick. Liam and Mervyn will work together with our new director when he comes on board.

NGUKURR

Ngukurr is a remote community on the banks of the Roper River located approximately 300km east of Katherine. The Ngukurr Academy was established in May of 2017. The Ngukurr Academy is funded by NIAA.

WANTA's Ngukurr Academy is crushing it with their epic program aimed at boosting school attendance, student behaviour, and their attitude towards learning. The Academy Room is the perfect escape from traditional classrooms, where students come to dive into engaging topics like Cyber Safety Awareness, Respectful Relationships and Drug and Alcohol Education. Once they're done with the serious stuff, they can unwind and have a blast playing pool, table tennis, video games or getting creative with arts and crafts. Plus, the room is open before and after school so students can keep the fun going! The WANTA program also includes sports activities, such as AusKick, and thrilling trips outside of the community. With over 900 sessions and 15,000 visits from students in the last year, Anton and Chanel have been instrumental as the local staff members facilitating and assisting with many of these sessions inspiring the students.

It's been a caffeine-fuelled year for us at Bagai Barista Cafe, Wanta Ngukurr Academy's Social Enterprise Project, with more than 20 students in on the action! The cafe has been a hub of creativity and learning, with students getting their hands dirty in everything from crafting logos and menus to making hard decisions about when and how the cafe should run. The kids and Wanta staff have hustled to create business plans, ordered an epic shipping container to house the cafe, and even poured hearts and souls into working hard in 40-degree heat to concrete the container's slab.

Come June 2023, the container was plunk onto its brand-new home. Our student baristas have churned out over 3000 delicious coffees and hot chocolates, all hand-delivered with love.

With every bean, our students have learned the ins and outs of being a barista from brewing the perfect cup to running the show.

Ngukurr has been incredibly fortunate to have facilitated or assisted with 10 trips between the beginning of Term 3 2022 and the end of Term 2 2023. These excursions included reward trips to Katherine, where students had the opportunity try their hand at canoeing on Katherine Gorge, meet

with local MP Selena Uibo at her Katherine office, bust a move roller skating at the YMCA, visit the Try-A-Trade Fair, swim at the hot springs, and play volleyball and badminton with town locals at the indoor sports centre.

Wanta Ngukurr stepped up and escorted four Ngukurr student leaders to the Northern Territory Learning Commission conference in Katherine. The school leaders made their voices heard and joined forces with other schools from the Big Rivers Region to tackle the needs of Ngukurr School, brainstorming ways to help address those needs and conquer future challenges. Wanta Ngukurr staff also organized bush trips, both local and further afield, including a visit to Minyerri and a six-day hike along the Jatbula trail, in which Wanta staff and students from students Kalkarindji joined as well. The hike on the Jatbula trail was an epic adventure that saw students who had never before gone hiking, with all their belongings on their backs, having the time of their lives. Additionally, Wanta Academy at Ngukurr had many local excursions, including swimming, playing basketball and AFL for inter-school sports with other community schools, and trips around the community to assist the Learning on Country team.

Getting students ready for life beyond school is a big focus for the Wanta Ngukurr Academy. Our staff have been able to equip majority of our year 9-12 students with important documents such as Birth Certificates, USI's, Tax File Numbers and 6 students their Learner Licenses and 7 Ochre Cards.

Thanks to our Wanta Academy in Ngukurr, students we have had an awesome year, and we can't wait to grow bigger and better and offer these incredible students even more adventures and life skills.



NTARIA

Ntaria is a Western Arrernte community located 125km southwest of Alice Springs. The Ntaria Academy started in April 2018. The Ntaria Young Women's Room is funded by NIAA through the Stronger Communities for Children (SCfC) program and the RSAS program is funded by NIAA.

Ntaria is a Western Arrernte community located 125km southwest of Alice Springs and has had Wanta programs operating in the community since April 2018. The Ntaria Programs, including Remote Schools Attendance Strategy (RSAS), a Young Women's Room, Kids and Youth Club, and an Alternative Education Animation project, are funded by NIAA and the Northern Territory Department of Health.

Across the various programs in Ntaria, nine staff are employed, seven of which are local Western Arrernte men and women, to deliver the diverse range of activities and projects which strive to improve school attendance and engagement, and student well-being.

The RSAS program, funded by NIAA, provides daily school bus services around the local community and to the numerous outstations to get children to and from school. More than 600 school bus pickups have been provided in the last year, reducing barriers to school attendance and engagement. The RSAS supervisors also provide daily support in the classrooms at Ntaria School for students and teachers, and further activities such as camps, reward trips, and sports activities are also provided to encourage student attendance, behaviour, and well-being.

The Young Women's Room, also funded by NIAA, is a safe and welcoming space located in Ntaria School which is there to support the school attendance, well-being, hygiene, and happiness of girls and women from ten years of age. An afterschool program in this space sees the delivery of activities including arts and crafts, cooking and nutrition, women's business and health, self-care, sports, and bush trips to engage the girls in school and

encourage trying new things, self-expression, and making healthy choices. The Ntaria women who supervise the space are key in supporting the students through tough times, ensuring women and girls can access the shower, cooking, and laundry facilities, as well as required hygiene products, all while being culturally sensitive and appropriate. A highlight of the program this year has been the working with the Hermannsburg Potters whereby the young women have engaged in workshops led by Western Arrernte female potters in language twice per term, moulding, firing and painting their own pots which are now on display in the Pottery!

The NIAA funded Kids and Youth Club strives to support the engagement of young people in school, as well as the development and support of their social and emotional wellbeing, creativity, understanding of important alternative education topics, and trying new experiences. A Boys Club is open after school three times per week for young boys and men to try activities like arts and crafts, computer skills, cooking, and bike riding. Additionally, numerous workshops are delivered within the school covering education on important topics such as Alcohol and Drug education, cybersafety, mental health, respectful relationships (LoveBites), cooking and nutrition, and music therapy (Rhythm2Recovery).

The Alternative Education Animation Project, funded by the Northern Territory Department of Health, with support from Ntaria SCfC (NIAA), has seen the beginnings of the creation of two cartoons that will educate viewers on the key topics of mental health and well-being, and suicide prevention in English, Western Arrernte, and Warlpiri. Wanta has worked closely with Melbourne-based animation developers, Viskatoons, and local Western Arrernte and Warlpiri community members to create culturally appropriate story lines and scripts which are now ready to be translated and recorded in those two indigenous languages, as well as English. The individuals involved in this are excited to see the final product of two animations in three languages (English, Western Arrernte, and Warlpiri) by the end of 2023!

PAPUNYA

Papunya is a Luritja community located 240km northwest of Alice Springs. The RSAS program is funded by NIAA.

Wanta delivered the Remote School attendance Strategy (RSAS) program in Papunya for the last time in 2023. Wanta has delivered the RSAS program in Papunya for almost 5 years from 2019 till mid 2023. Even though school attendance in Papunya can often be a challenge due to various factors, the Wanta RSAS team has delivered the program every school day during the entire period.

As in the past years, in 2022 – 2023 school kids were picked up for school within the community as well as from four outstations near the community.

Kids that live in the four outstations of Ulumbaru, Black Water, 3 Mile and 5 Mile rely on Wanta to pick them up for school and drop them off in the afternoon after school. Kids within Papunya are also picked for school which sometimes can be in the form of Wanta staff visiting the kids house multiple times.

Wanta also runs breakfast program in the breakfast/activities room within the Papunya school grounds. Kids that come late to school were provided breakfast in the Wanta breakfast room. Students normally have milk and wheatbix with a hot cup of Milo before they went to class.

During school Wanta ran sports activities and kids also had fun activities in the Wanta Academy room inside the school grounds. There were activities in the Wanta Academy room both during school and after school. Activities included arts & crafts, pool table and video sessions on AOD supplied by DrinkWise and had fun and educational activities in the Wanta Academy room.

At the end of every term Wanta in partnership with Papunya school took students with good and improved school attendance into Alice Springs for a day of fun. Papunya school kids visited the Alice Springs Desert Park, Alice Springs Reptile Centre and had a swim at the Alice Springs Aquatic and Leisure Centre.

Wanta also provided adult education sessions for young men and women in the community. The education sessions were mainly regarding Alcohol and Other Drugs (AOD) and how to avoid issues like driving under the influence and doing the right thing.

Wanta also organised a family fun day for the Papunya community. There was a number of sporting activities for the kids, and a barbeque for the whole community. The day was capped off by a live concert by DMP band of Solomon Islands. The theme of the Family Fun Day was: 'The whole community can have fun without alcohol'.



YUENDUMU

Yuendumu is a Walpiri community located 293km northwest of Alice Springs. The Yuendumu Academy was the first Wanta program established and has been running since 2013 and is funded by GMAAAC and NIAA.

2022_23 was a big year for the Wanta family in Yuendumu, with many of our youth engagement activities taking place in sometimes challenging circumstances, and so we are very proud of what was achieved in Yuendumu.

Wanta staff did bush trips where the children played cricket, buried their feet in the sand and had kangaroo tails, salads, and potatoes for lunch so they could build that necessary energy. Our Wanta Drop-in space routinely opened through the week to give the children and young people of Yuendumu somewhere to chill after school. They would play pool, watch movies, get involved with arts and crafts or even engage with some education programs such as Drinkwise, knowing all the time this space is a safe place to be.

Food is provided every afternoon, with the Wanta staff encouraging the children to help with cooking and preparing meals in the kitchen thus helping to develop their general life skills. We have recently made creamy chicken pasta, spaghetti bolognese, ham & cheese toasties and many more nutritious meals, every one of them being eaten through to the very last piece.

We love to collaborate with other organisations, whether from inside Yuendumu or from elsewhere. Red Dust, for example, had a couple of visits during the year, with a range of sports, music and arts activities being conducted from within the Wanta space and/or in conjunction with Wanta staff. The

children were able to create their own masterpieces in rocks, hats and t-shirts as well as enjoying games of basketball, drawing, and talking about what they like and who they are.

Even during times of significant challenge when, for example, other youth engagement providers were unable to deliver programs, Wanta always ensured something was provided for the children. We never backed away from contributing positively to community benefit.

Wanta continued to provide a Remote Student Attendance Strategy service in Yuendumu up until 30th June 2023. We worked closely with the principal and teachers to get children and young people to Yuendumu School, to understand why the students might not have been attending and to work with the families to help everyone understand why education was so important, so it was unfortunate when this program ended for Wanta. Despite this, we still worked hard on youth engagement in so many other ways.

As well as the positive role we play directly with the children and young people of Yuendumu, we also work constantly to develop our staff. During the year, we had team members undertake a range of courses including Mental Health First Aid, Safe Yarn, Dangerous Substances, and Sexual Health & Blood Borne Viruses, all of which benefit the staff as individuals but also work towards a better, safer, and healthier community.

So, while there have been challenges, the team has tackled them head on, and remained focused on delivering positive outcomes for the young people and children of Yuendumu.

WUGULARR

Wugularr is a Jawoyn community located approximately 112km east of

Katherine. The Wugularr Academy was established in February 2021 and is funded by the Department of Health.

Wanta's Wugularr program provides a youth space at Wugularr School. This space is open before school, at recess, lunch and afterschool as an incentive to improve school attendance. The space provides students with a safe and relaxing space at school to hang out, boasting pool tables, table tennis tables, PlayStations and arts and crafts.

The Wanta space also provides a learning environment for students to partake in alternative education programs, including alcohol and other drug education, cyber-safety, cooking and nutrition and job ready program.

An amazing success of Wugularr's Wanta program is the social enterprise Beswick Burgers which

has been set up at the Wanta space. Beswick Burgers provides students with practical education in the areas of hospitality, business, finance, marketing, customer service and numeracy. Beswick Burgers successfully launched three community events providing students with experience in all facets of setting up a business.

Wanta also collaborated with E.O.N Foundation to provide senior students with food hygiene and kitchen safety lessons. This is an extension of Wanta's cooking and nutrition program which teaches young people key life skills.

Wanta's Wugularr program is looking forward to focusing on its successful Job Ready program by providing youth with certifications to assist them in obtaining employment both within Wugularr and further afield. This includes obtaining key identification and documentation for young people and obtaining certifications in food hygiene, white cards, OCHRE cards and driving licenses.





Stronger Communities for Children (SCfC)

Wanta is the Facilitating Partner for Stronger Communities for Children

(SCfC), funded by NIAA in Ntaria. SCfC program funded eight community designed programs throughout 2021- 2022. The Local Community Board made up of seven Arrernte members approved the programs.

The SCfC project has subcontracted programs to Ntaria School, MacYouth and Wanta to implement eight programs. The project employs eight Indigenous Arrernte employees to provide programming in Ntaria.

SCfC funded Ntaria School to employ two Families as First Teachers (FaFT) to provide early education in community. This enables the early learning centre to be able to provide culturally appropriate education in language in Ntaria. SCfC funded Ntaria School to provide swimming lessons to Ntaria school children in Alice Springs throughout 2021-2022. As there is no community pool located in Ntaria it provides children and youth to learn to swim to improve safety when accessing waterholes and rivers around Ntaria. SCfC funded Ntaria School to provide the opportunity for students to compete in the AFL NT U/12 Thunders competition in Alice Springs.

SCfC continued to fund the Young Women's Program, which is contracted to Wanta throughout 2021- 2022, enabling senior female students to have access to a safe, supportive, and educational space at

Ntaria school to encourage school attendance. SCfC funded Wanta to facilitate the Kids and Youth Club which provides children and youth aged 5 -24 a safe space in community to partake in after school recreational activities, sports, arts and alternative education. The space also supports a job ready program which successfully employed a 17 year old Arrernte fella to work in the space in 2022.

SCfC funded Wanta to coordinate and implement the new Community Training Program in Ntaria. This program provided eight certified training courses for any Ntaria community member. This included CPR, First Aid, Bronze Medallion, 4WD, Love Bites, Rhythm2Recovery, Mandatory Reporting and Trauma Informed Practice.

SCfC funded MacYouth SCfC to provide school holidays programs throughout 2022. This included a range of sport and recreation program for children and youth.

SCfC also funded the Crank it Up Bike program and Blackdoll role models.

YUENDUMU SOCIAL ENTERPRISE PROJECT

The Yuendumu Social Enterprise Project supports Warlpiri community members living in Yuendumu to develop businesses and employment opportunities in community. This project is supported by CLC, GMAAAC and NIAA.

The idea behind the initiative is to create Local employment opportunities for Aboriginal people by assisting them to establish their own businesses within Yuendumu and the nearby region.

The Social Enterprise Unit helps people to think about business ideas and assists them to do all the necessary things to get their own business off the ground. This may include developing business plans, getting the business registered and/or finding the necessary finance. The programs currently being supported by Wanta's Social Enterprise Unit include:



XTRA MILE TRANSPORT

The creation and subsequent operation of Xtra Mile Transport Services by Warlpiri man Robert Robertson, under the auspice of Wanta, means community members have gained more options and greater flexibility when it comes to transportation. Whether that is for attending health clinics in Alice Springs, making it to funerals and sorry business in other communities or perhaps even to community sports carnivals, local Yuendumu people have been gaining the benefit of Robbie's vision and passion.

The long term aim of this project is for a fully owned and operated Indigenous business, providing training and employment opportunities for Warlpiri people and allowing money to stay within community.

THE WARLPIRI PROJECT

Wanta is the auspicing partner, but for which the primary incentive, beyond businesses and jobs, will include: the establishment of a Warlpiri Cultural

Authority and Cultural Centre; repatriation of artefacts to Yuendumu; building of a museum-standard keeping place; revival and engagement with Warlpiri culture; promotion of reconciliation and mutual respect; and addressing disadvantage in Aboriginal communities.

TANAMI ROAD CAMPGROUND

A Yuendumu family is looking to establish a campground, on the Tanami Rd north of Yuendumu, as a place for travellers to rest, camp and acquire provisions whilst admiring the magnificent scenery and landscape of the surrounding environment and taking the opportunity to absorb themselves into the local culture where possible and appropriate.

FURNITURE STORE

Another project Wanta is assisting with is the establishment of a furniture store owned and operated by a Yuendumu community member, to provide access and affordable home goods for local Yuendumu community members.

WANTA CINEMA TRUCK

The Wanta Cinema Truck has visited over 5 indigenous communities in the Northern Territory in 2022 -2023.

The Wanta movie truck has travelled from the red dirt roads of the central desert to the tropical humid landscapes of the Top End covering over 12,000kms within the Northern Territory. Hosting movie nights with our transformable movie truck Wanta has provided a cinematic experience for remote Indigenous communities. Wanta has done the movie nights in over 20 remote communities.

Wanta's strong Partnership with DrinkWise has continued showcasing health messages around alcohol and other drugs. DrinkWise has provided us with engaging content that showcases influential athletes that addresses and raises awareness and the dangers of alcohol consumption, emphasising why it's important to make the right choices around alcohol. Foetal Alcohol Syndrome Disorder (FASD) was also showcased with a clear message that if "mum drinks the bub drinks".

The movie truck also screened Lifeline videos that provided a supportive message to communities that there is help available in remote communities if you're experiencing mental health challenges. These health messages were displayed on a 5 by 3 metre cinema screen which was visible for the audiences in the remote communities.

Communities visited viewed all health messages from Lifeline and DrinkWise, followed by engaging family friendly movie. The communities are filled with excitement when the Wanta movie truck arrives. The movie nights also provide BBQ's and popcorn for all in attendance enabling the communities an eventful night that they can share with families and friends.



FINANCIAL REPORT

The overall result for the year was a surplus of \$465, 782.

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 Register of Indigenous Corporations website.

Income	2023	2022
Grants	3,683,837	3,330,495
Services Provided	18,146	6,207
Other Income	325,389	110,389
Interest Received	403	278
Total	4,027,775	3,447,369

Expenses	2023	2022
Employee Costs	2,084,958	1,982,000
Accountancy & Administration	174,420	168,457
Depreciation & Ammortisation	149,629	112,615
Travel Expenses	35,352	103,517
Motor Vehicle Expenses	232,698	125,531
Other Operating Expenses	884,936	766,364
Total	3,561,993	3,258,484
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	465,782	188,885
Total Comprehensive Income	465,782	188,885

Current Assets	2023	2022
Cash and equivalent cash assets	1,572,238	830,841
Trade and other receivables	118,965	140,601
Total	1,691,203	971,442

Non-current assets	2023	2022
Property, plant and equipment	692,105	531,846
Right of use assets	107,740	159,610
Total Assets	2,491,048	1,662,898

Current Liabilities	2023	2022
Trade & other payables	219,343	275,114
Employee Provisions	73,523	107,192
Other	55,226	-
Lease Liabilities	46,478	51,097
Contract Liability (unexpended grants)	480,790	33,111
Total Liabilities	875,360	466,514

Non-Current Liabilities	2023	2022
Lease Liabilities	67,810	114,289
Total Liabilities	943,171	580,803
Net Assets	1,547,877	1,082,095

Members Funds	2023	2022
Retained Earnings	1,547,877	1,082,095

Cashflows from Operating Activities	2023	2022
Payments To Suppliers & Employees	(3,757,943)	(3,369,248)
Receipts From Customers / Funding Bodies	4,954,469	3,689,070
Net cash provided by operating activities	1,196,526	319,822

Cash Flows From Investing Activities	2023	2022
Payment For Fixed Assets	(398,308)	(376,083)
Interest Received	403	278
Net Cash Used In Investing Activities	(397,905)	(375,805)

Cash Flows From Financing		
Repayment Of Lease Liabilities	(57,223)	(54,421)
Loans Repaid	-	-
Net cash provided (used) in financing activities	(57,223)	(54,421)
Net Increase (Decrease) In Cash Held	741,397	(110,403)
Cash At Beginning Of The Year	830,841	941,244
Cash At The End Of The Year	1,572,238	830,841

OUR SUPPORTERS

Wanta Aboriginal Corporation is a not-for-profit and we rely entirely on the generous 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 across the Northern Territory.


DrinkWise.

**Future
Generation
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 INVESTMENT & SOCIAL RETURNS


 Granites Mine Affected Area Aboriginal Corporation
GMAAAC

**National Indigenous
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TERRITORY
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Health

Juremont

**Sayer
Jones.**

Sunshine
 SUNSHINE FOUNDATION


Lifeline Saving
 Lives
 Crisis Support. Suicide Prevention.


SIMPSON
 CONSTRUCTION CO.

CONTACT US

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.

Henly Taka

Chief Executive Officer

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