



# Annual Report

2023/2024

[www.wanta.org.au](http://www.wanta.org.au)



## CEO's Report

This past year has been great for Wanta, and I want to extend a big word of 'Thank you' to our Board members, dedicated staff, funding partners, stakeholders, and community members for their remarkable support.

Throughout the year, Wanta has successfully implemented a variety of beneficial programs aimed at children and youth in the remote Indigenous communities of Yuendumu, Ntaria, Arlparra, Ngukur, Kalkarindji, and Lajamanu. I especially appreciate our Board members for their unwavering commitment to representing these communities during our quarterly meetings. Their participation in the meetings is crucial in ensuring that our programs effectively serve young people in the communities, while also fulfilling our governance responsibilities as outlined by ORIC.

The Brighter Futures program has been a cornerstone of our initiatives, offering exceptional training and educational opportunities for youth in these communities. One notable example that we are using as a model for future programs is our Bagai Barista café, which provides practical, hands-on learning experiences and skill development for young people in Ngukurr.

Our Stronger Communities for Children (SCfC) program continues to have a positive impact on the lives of young people in Ntaria, thanks to the strong support from the Local Community Board (LCB) which is comprised of respected elders and community members. Their involvement is vital in tailoring the SCfC program to meet the community's needs.

Additionally, you will find details in this report about the reward trips that Wanta staff and students from various communities took to Melbourne and Sydney. For many students, these journeys were eye-opening experiences, as they had never travelled outside the Northern Territory (NT).

I want express my sincere gratitude to the organisations, government agencies, and stakeholders that have supported our work, including the National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA), Central Land Council (CLC), Granite Mine Affected Areas Aboriginal Corporation (GMAAAC), Future Generation Global (FGG), Foundation for Regional and Rural Renewal (FRRR), and the Northern Territory Government, through the Department of Health. The financial assistance from these entities is instrumental in enabling Wanta to carry out our work in the remote communities.

I also want to acknowledge the principals and teachers in all the schools within the communities that we serve. Your support and collaborative spirit greatly enhances our work and helps us achieve our program delivery goals.

In closing, I extend my appreciation on behalf of Wanta to everyone who has contributed to our organisation in any capacity this year. Your collective efforts make a significant difference in the lives of young people that we serve, and we look forward to continuing this important work together.

**Mr. Henly Taka**

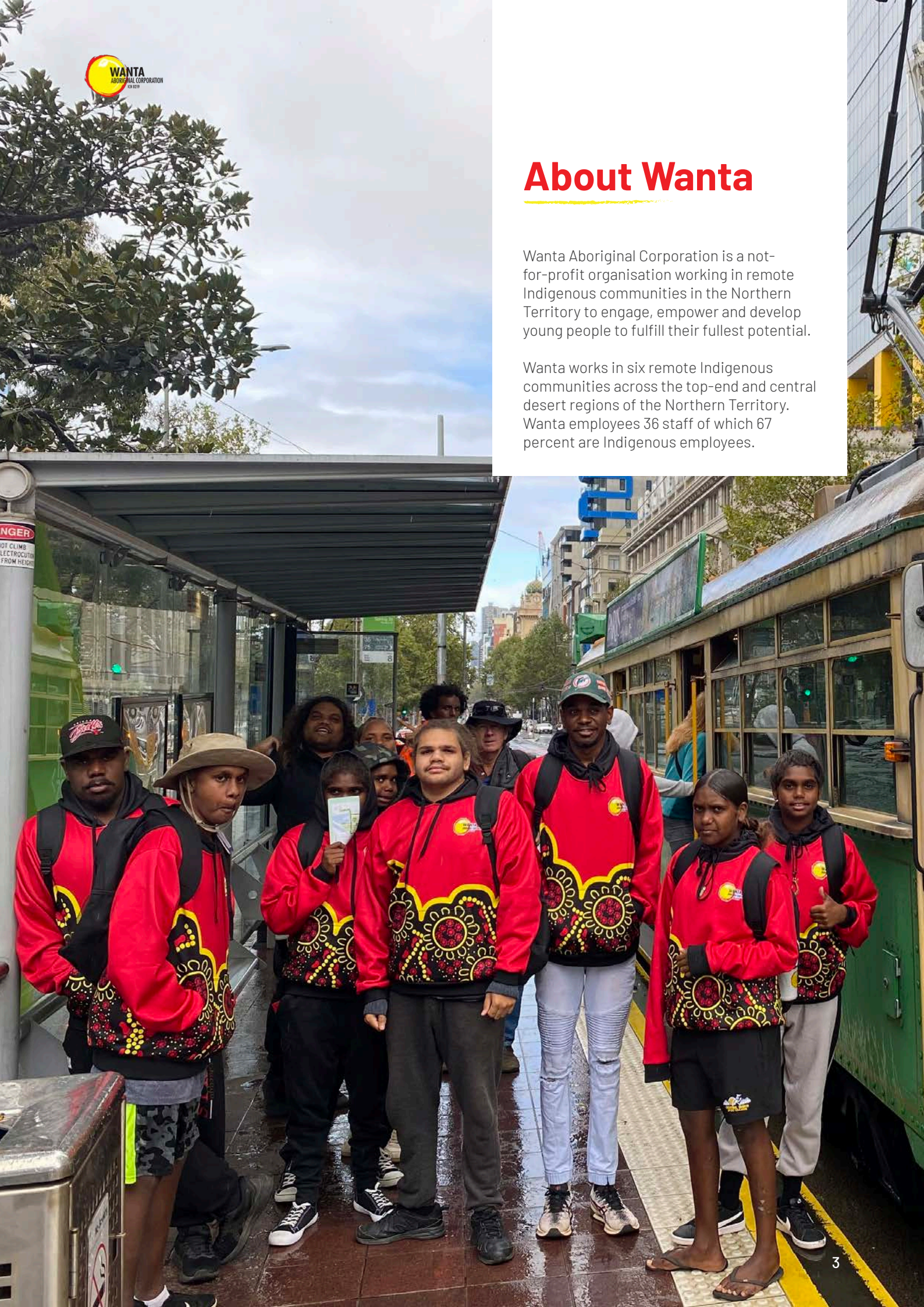
CEO



## 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 six remote Indigenous communities across the top-end and central desert regions of the Northern Territory. Wanta employs 36 staff of which 67 percent are Indigenous employees.





## OUR BOARD

The Wanta board has at least one representative from each of the communities that Wanta operates in



**Trish Lechleitner**  
Yuendumu  
*Chairperson*



**Troy Ratara**  
Ntaria



**Linda Anderson**  
Papunya



**Esau Nelson**  
Artparra



**Tristan Tasman**  
Kalkaringi



**Ian Gumbala**  
Ngukurr



**Liam Patrick**  
Lajamanu



**Rob Spence**  
Specialist  
Non-Indigenous Director



**Matt Smith**  
Specialist  
Non-Indigenous Director



**Karl Hampton**  
Yuendumu

# WHAT WE DO

The Wanta board has at least one representative from each of the communities that Wanta operates in

## 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.

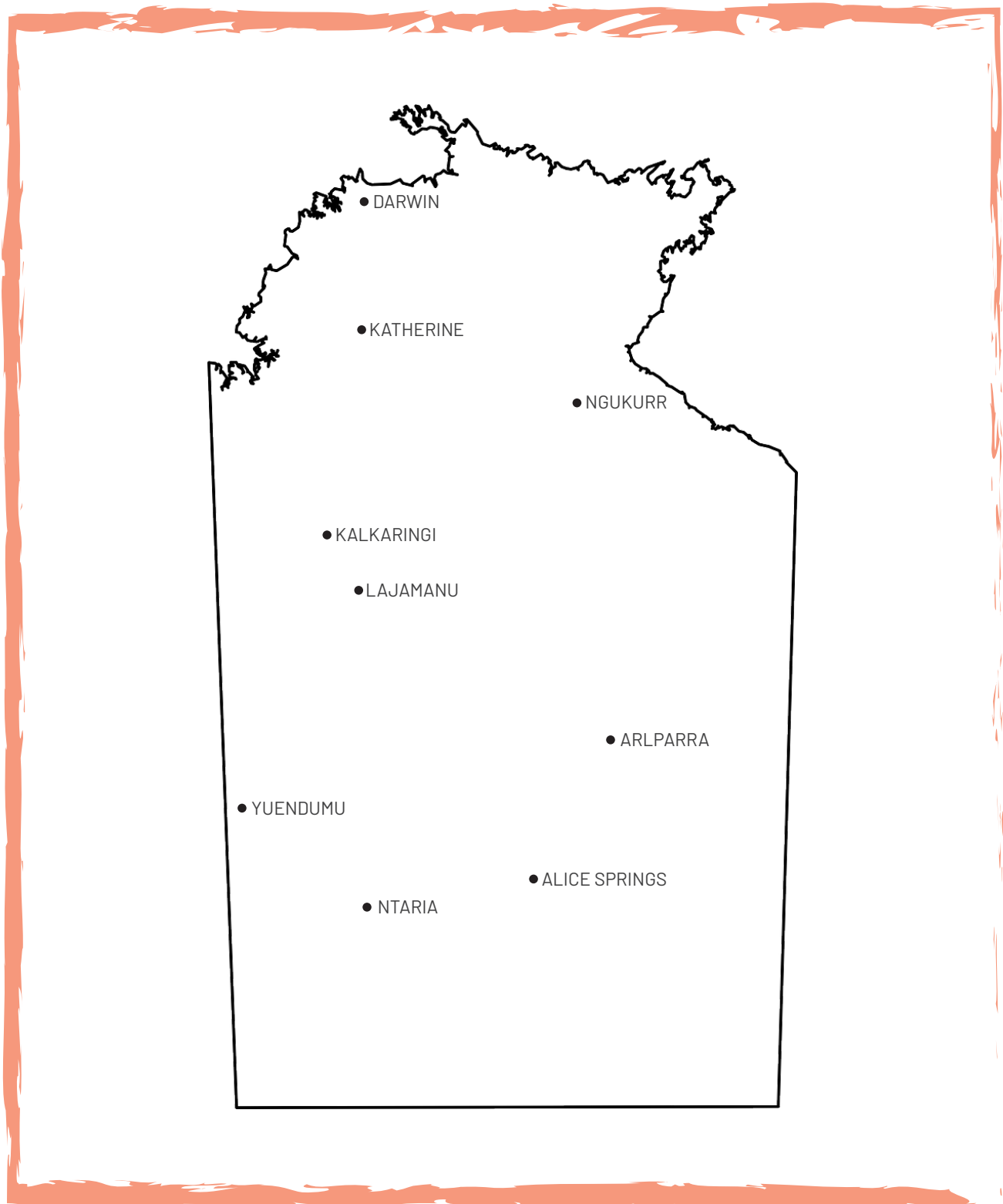
## TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT

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.



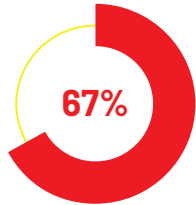
# WHERE WE OPERATE

Wanta currently has established programs running in Arlparra, Kalkarindji, Lajamanu, Ngukurr, Ntaria and Yuendumu.





# WHERE WE OPERATE



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

## EXECUTIVE TEAM

**Henly Taka**  
CEO

**Ruth Arnel**  
Finance and  
Communications Manager

**Prav Kalaivanan**  
Regional Manager –  
Northern Region

**Brooke Klarenbeek**  
Finance Manager

### ARLPARRA

**Zac Murfet**  
Academy Director

**Shadrach Nelson**  
Engagement Officer

**Penelope Long**  
Engagement Officer

### KALKARINDJI

**Keenan Barry**  
Engagement Officer

**Keanu Roy**  
Engagement Officer

**Daniel Law**  
Engagement Officer

### LAJAMANU

**Blake Romaker**  
Director

**Liam Patrick**  
Engagement Officer

**Mervyn Rose**  
Engagement Officer

### NGUKURR

**Indi Drendel**  
Director

**Anton Rami**  
Sports Academy Officer

**Chanel Hudleston**  
Sports Academy Officer



### NTARIA

**Taren Williams**  
SCfC Coordinator

**Ellie Simmons**  
SCFC Youth Engagement  
Program Director

**Evelyn Conway**  
Young Womens Room Officer

**Jenna Kilgallon**  
SCFC Program Officer

**Evelyn Conway**  
Engagement Officer

**Katherine Moketarinja**  
Engagement Officer

**Valerie Moketarinja**  
Engagement Officer

**Baydon Ngalkin**  
Engagement Officer

## YUENDUMU

### Neil Mackenzie

Social Enterprise Manager

### Gina Spencer

Youth Program Officer

### Kesha Lechleitner

Youth Program Officer

### Sebastian Watson

Youth Program Officer

### Claire Lechleitner

Youth Program Manager

### Hamish Dickson

Youth Program Officer

### Kira Briscoe

Youth Program Officer

### Sylvanna Davis

Youth Program Officer

### Angie Kelly

Youth Program Officer

### Hamish Dickson

Youth Program Officer

### Kurshia Woods

Youth Program Officer

### Barbara Lechleitner

Youth Program Officer

### Jessica Marshall

Youth Program Officer

### Nicole Daniels

Youth Program Officer

### Fred Williams

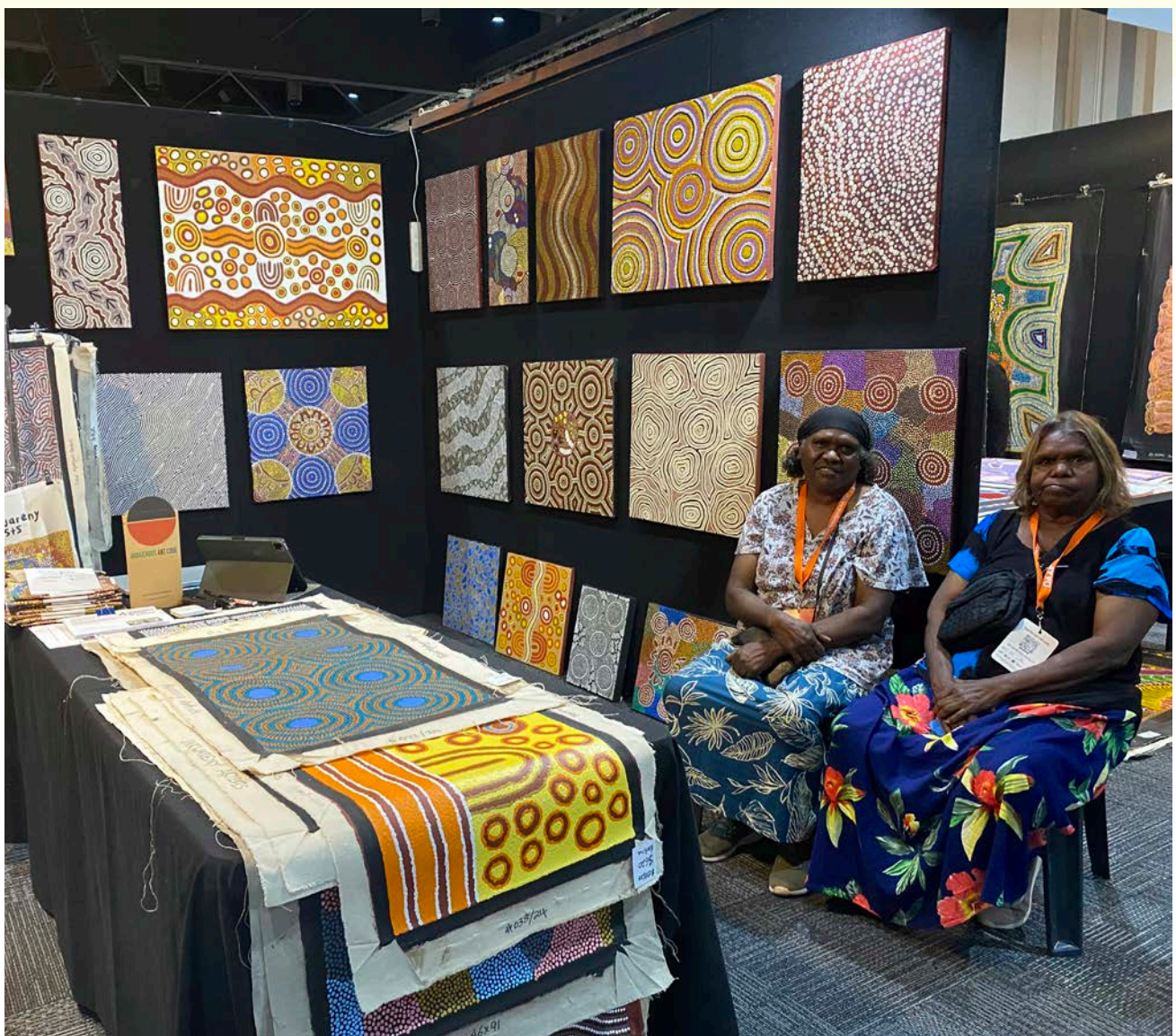
Youth Program Officer

### Jordan Granites

Youth Program Officer

### Pristina Briscoe

Youth Program Officer





## 2023 - 2024 OVERVIEW

Despite some challenges with staff recruitment and mechanical issues with vehicles due to the rough remote roads, Wanta's youth engagement and social enterprise continued to deliver all our programs in all the remote communities in the NT 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's been another exciting year for Wanta in Arlparra! Wanta continues to be a key part of the school and broader community, engaging with students through a range of activities to encourage school attendance and engagement. We've seen the exciting addition of two new employees, Shadrach Nelson and Penelope Long! Both are great young-guns, and it's wonderful to have them on board. Shadrach in particular has taken part in some of our bigger trips, and it's been excellent to have him on the Wanta team.

One of the highlights this year was a trip - in conjunction with Arlparra High School - to Darwin for the National Indigenous Tennis Carnival. It was a huge few days, with the students playing lots of tennis, exploring Darwin city and getting to meet Tennis great Evonne Goolagong Cawley! For many of our students it was their first time flying and first time seeing the ocean - it was an enormous but incredibly rich few days!

Another big event on the Wanta calendar was the trip to Melbourne with 6 fellas from Soapy Bore. These fellas had done a great job in attending school and bringing their best, and it was fantastic to celebrate that with a super fun-packed time in Melbourne. Among other things we went to watch an AFL game at the MCG (80,000+ people!), Luna Park, see the fairy penguins at Phillip Island, surf at Urbn Surf the surf park, Melbourne Zoo, Eureka Skydeck and a magic show. The team looked great in their custom hoodies and they did very well to survive Melbourne in the middle of winter!

Wanta has continued to provide local after-school bush trips, as well as health sessions, the Wanta hangout space at school and daily sport. Wanta has also provided trips into Alice Springs for footy events, and assisted with a camp to Alice Springs for the girls class.

With a stronger team and more big ideas, Wanta in Arlparra is pumped for the year ahead!





## Kalkarindji

**Kalkarindji is a Gurindji community located 466km southwest of Katherine. The Kalkarindji Brighter Futures program started as the Kalkaringi Sports Academy and was opened in October 2017 and is funded by NIAA.**

Over the past 12 months, the Brighter Futures Kalkaringi program has experienced significant growth and achievements, particularly in social enterprise development, vocational education, and community empowerment. The program has had a positive impact for the local Indigenous staff and created opportunities for the youth of Kalkarindji and Daguragu.

### **Vocational Education and Social Enterprise Development**

One of the key successes this year has been the completion of Certificate I in Retail by several senior students from Kalkarindji School, facilitated by ALPA. This certification equips students with essential job-ready skills while also contributing critical credits toward their Northern Territory Certificate of Education and Training (NTCET). Completing this certificate significantly increases their chances of graduating and opens pathways to future employment and vocational opportunities within the community and elsewhere. The collaboration between Wanta Aboriginal Corporation and Kalkarindji School has been instrumental in this success, ensuring students are well-prepared for the next steps in their education and work lives.

Additionally, the program has introduced social enterprise projects designed to provide students with practical work experience. The Kalkarindji Pop-Up Retail Spaces, including a café and a barbershop, have given students hands-on experience in managing and operating small businesses. These enterprises not only teach critical life skills such as customer service and financial literacy but also foster a sense of ownership and pride in their work. By engaging students in these real-world business ventures, the program enhances their employability and contributes to the broader economic development of the community.

### **Sports and Community Engagement**

Sports has played a key role this year in building community spirit and engaging the youth. One of the highlights was when Kalkarindji students visited Lajamanu to participate in a much-anticipated football match. The friendly competition between the two communities was a great success, bringing together youth and families in an atmosphere of camaraderie and sportsmanship.

Additionally, AFL NT hosted a major football event in Katherine, where Kalkarindji students proudly participated. A standout moment was when Keethan Barry was selected by the Hawthorn Football Club to engage in their development program. This opportunity showcases Keethan's talent and dedication, creating a pathway for him to potentially pursue a professional football career. His selection by Hawthorn is a major achievement for both him and the Kalkarindji community, highlighting the importance of sport in youth development.

### **Building Indigenous Leadership: A 100% Indigenous-Run Program**

One of the most significant accomplishments this year is that the Brighter Futures Kalkarindji program is now entirely staffed and operated by local Indigenous community members. This aligns with the organisation's mission to foster local leadership and sustainability.

The addition of Daniel Law as a new staff member further strengthens the team, joining respected leaders Keanu Roy and Keenan Barry. These three men are pillars of the community, admired for their leadership, guidance, and deep connections with the youth. Their dedication has created a supportive and nurturing environment where young people can thrive.

This year, Keanu Roy and Keenan Barry also completed their bronze medallion accreditation, a challenging qualification that required them to complete a 400 metre swim test along with training in water rescue, first aid, and survival skills. This accomplishment demonstrates their perseverance and commitment, equipping them with the skills needed to safely lead water-based activities, which are an important part of community life. Their achievement ensures that the youth can participate in these activities with confidence and safety, knowing they are in capable hands.

### **Collaboration with Katherine West Health Board (KWHB) and Kalkarindji School**

An essential component of the program's success has been the ongoing collaboration with the Katherine West Health Board (KWHB). This partnership has been instrumental in delivering educational workshops and providing culturally relevant health and well-being support to the youth. Over the past year, high school students have participated in bush trips organized in collaboration with KWHB, where they engaged in educational sessions focused on alcohol and other drugs (AOD) awareness and respectful relationships.

These day bush trips provide valuable education in a safe, culturally appropriate environment, allowing students to connect with their heritage while learning important life skills. The trips are a key component of the holistic approach taken by the Brighter Futures program to ensure the well-being of Gurindji youth.

### **Strong Partnerships and Future Collaborations**

The program's success is also attributed to the strong partnerships formed with community stakeholders. The Brighter Futures program has developed a strong relationship with the Gurindji Aboriginal Corporation, and Wanta's work has been incorporated into their Local Decision-Making (LDM) framework. Together, we continue to build a bright future for Gurindji youth by focusing on culturally appropriate education, employment pathways, and community engagement. This partnership reflects the shared vision of empowering young people and strengthening local leadership, ensuring the community remains central to decision-making and program delivery.

As we look forward to the next 12 months, the Brighter Futures Kalkarindji program is well-positioned for continued success. The expansion of social enterprise initiatives and continued support for students through vocational education will provide even more opportunities for the youth of Kalkarindji. With strong Indigenous leadership and continued collaboration with partners like the Gurindji Aboriginal Corporation and Katherine West Health Board, we are confident that we can continue creating lasting positive change for Gurindji youth.





## Key data

Wanta spaced opened

**650**

times

**6,600**

visits from students.

An average of

**183**

participants in the Wanta space per week

**4x**

day bush trips

- Student Pick-ups:
  - **550+** student pick-ups successfully completed covering over **2000** kms of driving just within Kalkaridji and Daguragu
- Stand out attendance Improvements:
  - **Marley Newman:** Attendance increased from **7.5%** to **69%**
  - **Keithan Barry:** Attendance improved from **30%** to **63%**
- Vocational Education:
  - Certificate I in Retail completed by senior students, contributing to their NTCET credit points and future employability.
- Staff Training:
  - Bronze Medallion Accreditation completed by Keanu Roy and Keenan Barry, enhancing their leadership and ability to conduct water-based activities safely.
  - First Aid training



## Lajamanu

Lajamanu is a Walpiri community located 557km southwest of Katherine. The Lajamanu Brighter Futures program (then known as the Wanta Lajamanu Sports Academy) was established in January 2016 and its program is funded by the Granite Mine Affected Areas Aboriginal Corporation (GMAAAC).

The Wanta Brighter Futures program in Lajamanu continues to make significant strides in empowering young individuals through various initiatives. The program's focus on social enterprise, job readiness, recreation, and alternative education is yielding positive results, fostering a sense of purpose and belonging among the youth.

The Tanami Treats Cafe, a shining example of social enterprise, provides students with valuable work experience and essential life skills. The cafe demonstrates our strong relationship with Lajamanu school and ensures that students receive a well-rounded education that prepares them for future employment opportunities. The Job Readiness program further equips students with the necessary skills and qualifications to enter the workforce. Students have gained identification documents such as birth certificates, Tax file numbers, and Working With Children cards (Ochre cards). Additionally, Wanta supported students to obtain a Cert II in Hospitality at school with many also earning their food handlers' certificate.

Recreation and engagement activities play a vital role in the program, fostering positive relationships and promoting personal growth. The Wanta Youth Space provides a safe and fun environment for students to engage in various activities, while events like the football tournament and the Michael Long Cup Trial showcase the impact of community partnerships. Students went on trips to Darwin, Nitmiluk National Park, and many local bush trips as a reward for their engagement in the Brighter Futures program and good school attendance.

Alternative education initiatives, such as nutrition lessons and Alcohol & Other Drugs (AOD) education, are making a positive impact on students' lives. The nutrition lessons, a favourite among students, involve cooking healthy meals and exploring baking alternatives for celebrations. The AOD education program takes a harm reduction approach, teaching students to make informed decisions to keep themselves and their family safe around alcohol and other drugs. The success of these programs is attributed to the dedication of the students, the collaborative spirit of Wanta and Lajamanu School, and the strong engagement of local staff.

Our staff have been busy as well! Our three local staff have earned their Bronze Medallion awards, First Aid & CPR certificates, and Food Handlers Certificates.

The Brighter Futures program in Lajamanu is a beacon of hope, empowering young individuals to reach their full potential. The program's holistic approach, combining education, work experience, recreation, and cultural engagement, is creating a brighter future for the youth of Lajamanu. The dedication of the Wanta team, Lajamanu School, and the community is truly commendable, and their efforts are making a lasting impact on the lives of these young individuals.



## 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.**

We have had many success stories within the Ngukurr WANTA Program over the last year and shared some remarkable experiences with our program participants. One of highlights from this year are all the mornings, playtimes and after school hours spent in the WANTA Room based at Ngukurr School. This space serves as a communal space to socialise and relax. During these times we play games on the TV, have pool table tournaments, watch a movie, have fun playing basketball, enjoy a barbeque or just sit and chat. These are the times where we form meaningful connections and get to know our program participants better.

In addition to having fun, WANTA Ngukurr staff also facilitate sessions in the Academy Room that focus on essential life topics. These sessions cover critical subjects including Drugs and Alcohol where, using resources supplied by DrinkWise, we discuss the impacts of AOD on the body & mind, relationships and in the community in general. Other topics include CyberSafety where kids learning about becoming more aware of what they do, say and post online, while Road Safety sessions, using DriveSafe Modules help kids become more informed on road issues in the Northern Territory and includes getting eligible students access to obtaining their learner licences.

The program goes beyond just the WANTA Academy Room when we get to organise and facilitate enriching and memorable trips and experiences for our participants. Some highlight trips have been participating in the National Indigenous Tennis Carnival in Darwin where students got to not only learn how to play a new sport but be involved in cultural activities and meet other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students from across Australia. Memorable

bush trips to nearby areas of Minyerri and Burrunju were facilitated by WANTA in collaboration with the Ngukurr School Learning on Country program. These immersive trips allowed students to explore and learn in a natural setting. We learnt some local language, looked at historical rock art, swam in lovely swimming spots, spotted baby crocodiles when we weren't swimming and developed our skills in cooking on the fire. We cherish these times we get to spend out bush with our participants as they teach us so much when they are on Country.

We all love to play footy, so we always have to make sure that we get to play whenever we can! This year we have taken two separate AFL trips, one for the AFL Pink Gala Day with the girls hosted by Emmaus College from Melbourne and another for the Hawthorn NGA Cup with some young fellas hosted by AFLNT.

To thank our students for all their hard work at school and with WANTA, we hosted a party for the Ngukurr high school students. Students and community members were able to get dressed up and have a fun night together. This wouldn't have been possible without support from the Happy Boxes Project who provided us with dresses as well as goodie bags for our female students and MyCDP for supplying the boys with some nice shirts as well as providing help in doing hair and makeup. Their support allowed us to also provide hygiene sessions for our female identifying participants for which in conclusion they were presented with the bags that contained essential items such as shampoo, conditioner, soap, toothpaste as well as some other fun little bits.

Our biggest highlight of the year has to be our exciting social enterprise project, Bagai Barista. Bagai Barista is a small cafe based out of a shipping container on the fence line of Ngukurr School and provides senior students with the opportunity to learn through doing. In this case taking coffee orders, making all different kinds of coffees, hot chocolates and more as well as delivering them to the right customer. This project started as a school based project that predominantly supplied coffees to school staff, but the students thought it would be more meaningful for them if they could share their skills with the whole community, and that's exactly what they have done!

Open daily from 8:30am-10:30am students are actively involved in every aspect of running the cafe. They handle morning set-up, arrange seatings, prepare coffee machines for service, maintain cleanliness and follow closing procedures. They take orders, calculate prices accurately and ensure change is given correctly. Students are knowledgeable in

each drink offered and ask customers about their sugar preferences and readily offering extras such as flavouring or alternative milk options. They deliver the drinks with pride using their fantastic customer service skills, and we can't stop hearing about how delicious the coffees are from our regular and one time visitors.

Not only are the students the welcoming faces of the cafe, but they also drive its success, designing menus, brainstorming ideas for improved efficiency and proposing ideas for future developments. We are looking forward to Bagai Barista getting bigger and better and becoming a source of community pride for Ngukurr as a whole. Bagai Barista wouldn't be possible without the help from our supporters at Ngukurr School, National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA), Yugul Mangi Aboriginal Development Corporation, the Foundation for Rural & Regional Renewal (FRRR) and the NT Department of Industry, Tourism and Trade.







### 2023-2024 WANTA Space Attendance averages

#### 1. Before School Entrances:

- Average of 7 students per day.
- Approximately 1,400 visits from participants in the mornings before school.

#### 2. Recess (Play 1, 10:30am-10:50am):

- Play 1 for primary school students from Ngkurr school
- Average of around 11 students per day.
- During 2023-2024 we had approximately 2,200 entrances from primary school participants.

#### 3. Lunch (Play 2, 12:50pm-1:10pm)

- Play 2 for high school students from Ngukurr School.
- Average of 9 students per day.
- During 2023-2024 we had approximately 1,800 entrances from high school participants.

#### 4. Afterschool:

- All aged students are welcome.
- Average of 7 students per day.
- During 2023-2024 we had approximately 1,400 participants into the WANTA space after school.

#### 5. Workshop Participation:

- Average of 6 participants per workshop session.
- These workshops are our in-class sessions but also the facilitation of our Bagai Barista social enterprise cafe.
- We had approximately 1200 workshop participants during 2023 - 2024, with bulk of the attendance coming from kids' participation in the Bagai Barista cafe.

## Ntaria

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 for 2023-24 have included the Young Women's Room, Kids and Youth Club, the Melbourne Interstate Trip, an Alternative Education Animation project, and the development of Lot 57, a future community youth space and staff accommodation.

The Ntaria Stronger Communities for Children (SCfC) Local Community Board's vision is to have programs in Ntaria that support young people's health, wellbeing, school attendance and engagement, and life opportunities to allow them to grow up strong, healthy, and confident. In 2023-24, Wanta has continued to deliver a diverse daily program run by five employees, four being local Western Arrernte men and women, that are well-respected by community, loved by the kids, and kicking all of these goals!

A highlight of the 2023-24 year for Ntaria was Wanta's delivery of the first Ntaria **Interstate Trip** with the top attenders from the Ntaria high school heading to Melbourne for their Easter holiday. The aim of this trip was to incentivise and reward school attendance and engagement, and provide these students with diverse, memorable experiences in music, arts, culture, and sport. From surfing, visiting Melbourne Zoo, watching Wicked, to being guards of honour for the Melbourne

Demons at the MCG, the trip was jam-packed and nothing short of memorable. The school, families, and students are super keen for one every year given the success of this!

The **Young Women's Room**, funded by NIAA, continues to provide a safe and welcoming space in Ntaria School which is there to support the school attendance, wellbeing, education, hygiene, and happiness of girls and women aged 10 years and older. Cooking, health sessions, arts and crafts, self-care and hygiene, sports, workshops with community stakeholders and leaders, and trips, are delivered each week at recess, lunchtime, and as part of the after-school program and are supporting these girls to grow up to be confident, well-rounded, healthy, proud indigenous women.







The NIAA funded **Kids and Youth Club** continued again this year and included activity delivery within the school each day and the provision of a youth space for boys to compliment the Young Women's Room's after school activities. The delivery of alternative education workshops at school, including Love Bites (respectful relationships), DrumBeat (music therapy), cooking and nutrition, health, alcohol education, cybersafety, social and emotional wellbeing and trips, supports students in years 4-9 to have a greater understanding on numerous topics, allowing them to make more informed, safe choices in their lives. The variety of activities also supports in incentivising student engagement at school, and giving them a wealth of diverse experiences as part of their schooling experience. The Boys Club gives boys and young fellas a safe, friendly space to go after school to try activities like art, sports, computer skills, cooking, and bike riding.

The **Alternative Education Animation Project**, funded by the Northern Territory Department of Health, with support from Ntaria SCfC (NIAA), was concluded this year too! Animations on mental health and wellbeing, and suicide prevention have been developed over the last two years in both Western Arrernte and Warlpiri (with English subtitles). Their development was a process of working closely with Melbourne-based animation developers, Viskatoon, and consulting with community members for character design, story line, language translation and final approval. It will be very exciting to use these as part of our education sessions with youth, as well as rolling them out to Ntaria, Yuendumu, and Lajamanu programs and beyond!

Ntaria continues to have lots of exciting things in the pipeline for 2024-25! The continued progress on the Youth Space that is being built opposite the school will provide a great space to engage and educate disengaged youth and deliver out-of-school activities from! Wanta's relationship with the Hermannsburg Potters continues to flourish too, with big ideas of joint exhibitions and selling pots in Alice Springs on the horizon! We can't wait to see what's next!

## 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. Wanta currently operates a Youth program and a Social Enterprise program in Yuendumu.

### Yuendumu Youth Program

In the past year the Wanta Youth Program has had some exciting programs for its participants. Some of the notable activities are a trip to Sydney, a careers expo, the 'Making Yuendumu Beautiful' artwork project, trips to country, and the daily activities in the Wanta drop-in space.

The making Yuendumu beautiful project involved kids doing beautiful paintings to display around community. They were led by a very talented artist who spent some time in community working with the kids.

Yuendumu Wanta staff collaborated with Central Desert Regional Council to host a job ready Careers Expo. It was the first careers expo staged in six years. The careers expo was very useful and relevant for seniors students and youth in community, some of which have been disengaged from school for an extended period. It was great to see stakeholders in community get together for the big day to showcase to the youth what jobs are available in the community.

The Wanta staff regularly do trips to country/bush trips with kids. The trips involve Wanta staff and kids driving to the bush outside of community. During these trips the kids learn how to collect bush medicine and learn what the bush medicines are for and how they are applied. Wanta staff also have a yarn with kids during the trip about the dangers and Alcohol and other drugs (AOD) and about making right choices. Kids and staff also cook kangaroo tails and other delicacies during the bush trips.

The Wanta kids drop-in centre in Yuendumu open in the afternoon during weekdays and sometimes on weekends. At the drop-in centre kids watch play games, watch movies, do screen-printing and other arts and crafts. Kids also watch AOD awareness videos supplied by DrinkWise which feature Indigenous AFL stars, movie actors and musicians.





# Yuendumu Social Enterprise Project

## – 2023/24

Sitting proudly in the remote Southern Tanami Desert region of Central Australia, the incredible communities of Yuendumu and Yuelamu have worked closely with Wanta to build exciting social enterprises that seek to empower and uplift both of these communities in a way that offers both sustainable developments along with cultural preservation. While this can be a significant challenge in itself, our journey over the past year reflects both the resilience of these innovative people and the impact of our collaborative efforts.

Wanta's Social Enterprise Project was established with the ongoing and significant support of the National Indigenous Australians Agency, Granites Mine Affected Area Aboriginal Corporation and Central Land Council, and with a clear vision to create opportunities for economic growth while honouring and integrating the rich cultural heritage of these communities.

The ideas for each of the social enterprises came from the communities themselves, with Wanta then walking hand in hand with the business initiators to offer the support they need to make those dreams happen.

Xtra Mile Transport has developed a bus charter service that has grown substantially across the 2023/24 year. The transport offering, initially proposed by local Warlpiri man Robbie Robertson, was always designed for the Yuendumu community to attend funerals, sorry business, cultural and sporting events, etc, and that has been a growing success story. With a new, fit for purpose, 4x4 bus and a specially built trailer, both designed to deal with the rugged Central Australian roads, Xtra Mile is now offering a safe, reliable and much needed service for appreciative community members.

Milpingi Campground is the initiative of a local Yuendumu family, as Traditional Owners of land along Tanami Road, approximately 180kms NW of Yuendumu. The proposed campground is being developed, in stages, as a means of providing economic benefits for both the family and the community of Yuendumu, whilst also being able to offer both safe travel options and cultural education for people travelling in this extremely remote part of Australia. As the rugged and beautiful Tanami region opens up to tourism, particularly with the gradual sealing of the road between Alice Springs and Halls Creek, this innovative social enterprise seeks to grasp and enhance those primary objectives of economic growth opportunities and retention of cultural heritage. Not only will the campground be a safe place for travellers to rest, but Indigenous tourism offerings will be provided that offer learnings of a rich, local cultural history that will not be available anywhere else as a genuine, first hand experience.

Yuelamu Art Centre (Inkwareny Artists) is an enterprise that only commenced during the 2023/24 year, and is currently looking at incorporation so as it can be fully owned and operated by members of this amazing community. Already, in this short space of time, the Inkwareny Artists have exhibited and sold their art at fairs and exhibitions both in the Northern Territory and beyond. With an Art Centre Manager having been employed, and a permanent Art Centre being designed for construction, the artists of this small but vibrant community are showing how, with assistance from Wanta, the local Anmatyerr culture can thrive and be showcased to a much wider world, while the concepts of economic independence and empowerment become



## Sydney Rewards Trip

With assistance from the local Yuendumu GMAAAC Committee an amazing trip to Sydney was organised for 12 of community's youth all of whom had displayed good behaviour and good attendance at school for the year prior. Supporting these great young people were 4 of our Wanta yapa staff, all managing to have a new and exciting set of experiences, each very different from the everyday activities in Yuendumu.

Our trip also gained incredible support from the Sydney-based Sio Ratu Foundation who provided not only accommodation in the lovely coastal suburb of Maroubra, but offered direct assistance and advice that lead us down the activity paths of:

- Learning to surf the rolling waves of the iconic Bondi Beach while also getting to meet the lifeguards in the 'Bondi Rescue' tower. The smiles associated with this activity were probably the biggest of the whole trip, and that really says something!
- Entry to Taronga Zoo included getting up close and personal to never before seen animals, and even getting our own special viewing (and patting) of some incredibly cute and playful fur seals and a slightly less cute python!

- A trip up to the spectacular Blue Mountains, catching the world's steepest train down into the Jamison Valley, where the Three Sisters towered above us, and then jumping on the Sky Way for a completely different perspective of a physical environment that is so different to our Tanami Desert landscape
- Climbing the Sydney Harbour Bridge with its challenging 'walk' and with its stunning outlook that took in the boats and ferries way down below going about their business on the smooth blue waters, the towering city skyline and the amazing Opera House that suddenly became real and not just something we see on a picture postcard.
- GWS Giants may not have been everyone's team, but it was an opportunity to learn about the players, see their facilities and to dream that one day some of us might even pull on their colours

Beyond those incredible activities, it was the people, the food, the noise, the continual movement and colour, and the memories of a different world that will help propel us into a future full of learning and experience.



# Financial Report

## The overall result for the year was

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 (ORIC) website.

Income	2024	2023
Grants	2,787,530	3,683,837
Services Provided	52,779	52,779
Other Income	345,317	325,389
Interest Received	589	403
Total	3,186,215	4,027,775

Expenses	2024	2023
Employee Costs	1,966,753	2,084,958
Accountancy & Administration	49,026	174,420
Depreciation & Ammortisation	194,954	149,629
Travel Expenses	157,457	35,352
Motor Vehicle Expenses	258,540	232,698
Other Operating Expenses	881,576	884,936
Total	3,508,306	3,561,993
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	(322,091)	456,782
Total Comprehensive Income	(322,091)	456,782

Current Assets	2024	2023
Cash and equivalent cash assets	1,056,058	1,572,238
Trade and other receivables	167,053	118,965
Total	1,223,111	1,691,203

Non-current assets	2024	2023
Vehicles	785,043	692,105
Right of use assets	53,612	107,740
Total	838,655	799,845
Total Assets	2,061,766	2,491,048

Current Liabilities	2024	2023
Trade & other payables	93,199	219,343
Employee Provisions	158,750	73,523
Lease Liabilities	18,100	46,478
Other	53,196	55,226
Total	776,007	875,360

Non-Current Liabilities	2024	2023
Provisions	19,771	0
Lease Liabilities	40,202	67,810
Total Liabilities	835,980	943,171
Net Assets	1,225,786	1,547,877

Members Funds	2024	2023
Retained Earnings	1,225,786	1,547,877

Cashflows from Operating Activities	2024	2023
Payments to suppliers	(4,066,163)	(3,757,943)
Receipts from customers / funding bodies	3,865,357	4,954,469
Net cash provided by operating activities	(200,806)	1,196,526

ACTIVITIES	2024	2023
Interest received	589	403
Payment for fixed assets	(296,615)	(413,185)
Cash received for sale of assets	34,779	14,877
Net cash used in investing activities	(261,247)	(397,905)
Activities		
Repayment of lease liabilities	(54,128)	(57,223)
Loans repaid	-	-
Net increase (decrease) in cash held		
Net increase (decrease) in cash held	(516,181)	741,397
Cash at beginning of the year	1,572,238	830,841
Cash at the end of the year	1,056,058	1,572,238



## OUR SUPPORTERS

---

Wanta Aboriginal Corporation is a not-for-profit and we rely entirely on the generous support of the Government, philanthropic agencies, corporate partners and the community. We would like to extend our sincere thanks to our supporters who enable us to do the work that we do in remote Indigenous communities across the Northern Territory.

**DrinkWise.****Future  
Generation  
Global**  
INVESTMENT & SOCIAL RETURNSGranites Mine Affected Area Aboriginal Corporation  
**GMAAAC**  
**National Indigenous  
Australians Agency****NORTHERN  
TERRITORY  
GOVERNMENT**  
Department of  
**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


✉ [admin@wantaac.org](mailto:admin@wantaac.org)

☎ 0422 672 492

67 Bath Street  
Alice Springs  
NT 0870  
PO Box 8309  
Alice Springs  
NT 0871

## Follow Us

 [Wanta AC](#)

 [wanta\\_aboriginal\\_corporation](#)

 [www.wanta.org.au](http://www.wanta.org.au)