

wunan®

Choose your future



Annual Report

2021-2022

Wunan is a not-for-profit Aboriginal organisation based in the East Kimberley region of Western Australia.

Its purpose is to ensure that Aboriginal people in the East Kimberley enjoy the capabilities and opportunities they need to make positive choices that lead to independent and fulfilling lives.

Essentially, to have dreams and a real chance of achieving them.

Since its inception in 1997, Wunan has developed many successful partnerships. These allow us to deliver a wide range of innovative programs to Aboriginal people, focusing on our strategic priorities of education, employment, housing, health, welfare reform, governance and leadership.

We thank the many organisations that have supported Wunan during 2021-2022. They have made it possible for us to continue working hard to achieve our goals. Wunan is always looking for new partners and sponsors. For more information about how you or your organisation can support Wunan's work, please contact our CEO on 08 9168 3881.



Acknowledgement of Country

The Wunan Foundation respectfully acknowledges the Elders and Traditional Owners in those regions, towns and cities where our staff operate (Kununurra, Wyndham, Halls Creek, Broome, Perth, Melbourne and Sydney). Specifically we wish to recognise the Miriwoong, Gajerrong, Gija, Balangarra, Yurriyangem Taam, Gooring, Malarngowem, Koonjie Elvire, Purnululu, Ngarrawanji, Uunguu, Wilinggin, Gajirrabeng, Gooniyandi Kija, Walmajarri Kwini, Jaru, Tjurabalan groups, Yawuru, Whadjuk Nyoongar, and the Boon Wurrang and Woiwurrung (Wurundjeri) people of the Kulin Nation.

Please note: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people should be aware that this document may contain images or names of deceased persons in photographs or printed material.

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*Annual Report prepared by Market Creations
Annual Report written by Charlotte Dickie*

Introduction

Note from the Executive Chair Ian Trust

On behalf of Wunan Foundation, I am pleased to present to you our annual report for the 2021-2022 financial year, a year characterised by both transformation and challenge.

The challenge lies not just in the complexity of our work, but in Wunan's social responsibility to successfully contribute to social and economic outcomes which enable, encourage and reward individuals and communities to take responsibility to change their lives.

In 2022 we saw the government abolish the Cashless Debit Card, a system that quarantines 80% of a participant's income on a bankcard that can't be used to buy alcohol or withdraw cash.

Since its implementation in 2016, Wunan Foundation has strongly advocated for the Cashless Debit Card trial in the East Kimberley, and worked closely with the Federal Government on the final plan that was rolled out.

Wunan Foundation, and other Aboriginal leaders worked together, making tough decisions, backed by government policy, in order to make necessary change. Wunan Foundation maintains belief it's a model that could have driven reform across the country.

During its trial, we saw the number of Aboriginal families affected by alcohol, drugs and gambling reduced within the first two months of its implementation. Wunan's Financial Services Hub monitored statistics relating to emergency relief funds accessed during the trial, stating relief reduced overall due to clients not purchasing alcohol, drugs or gambling products.

Our Financial Services Hub is now monitoring the rise in emergency access to funds, with more than 77% of people in the East Kimberley opting off the card in less than two months after its cancellation.



Over the years there have been a plethora of inquiries undertaken, reports written and recommendations made which attempt to address the crisis faced by Aboriginal people in the East Kimberley.

Significant amounts of government funds are spent providing a variety of programs and services to address the complex and interrelated risk factors which may contribute to the social fabric of the region.

Since the abolishment of the card, the rising rates of alcohol and drug abuse, and domestic violence in the East Kimberley clearly confirm this.

Many programs and services offered, including the Cashless Debit Card trial, have not been significantly evaluated, so their effectiveness is unknown.

In order to take responsibility, we must work together to ensure that there are support systems in place for those opting off the Cashless Debit Card.

Wunan Foundation implemented a new program in 2022, Journey to Empowerment, aimed at supporting participants and recipients of the card on a journey from welfare to self-reliance, empowerment and employment.

We are also looking at alternative ways to support individuals and families who may need it, including opting in for voluntary income management, like the Pama Platform.

We are currently in discussion with Cape York Partnership, a Queensland-based Aboriginal organisation, to explore introducing the Pama

Platform to the Kimberley, a web-based app helping users take control of their money, enhancing saving goals, and managing day-to-day life.

Wunan is leading vital reform with the launch of the Stronger ACCOs, Stronger Families Project in 2022, a national project empowering Aboriginal-led organisations to have a greater role in delivering child and family services across Australia.

This program will give us the opportunity to strengthen genuine partnerships between local organisations and communities, and build capability for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and support organisations to establish shared decision making.

Additionally, I am the National Chairperson for Empowered Communities, alongside leaders from Australia, working together with government and corporate Australia to inform how Aboriginal policies and programs are designed and delivered.

I am also an active member of Australia's Referendum Working Group joining people from across the country including representatives from land councils, local governments and community controlled organisations to work with Government on the next steps to a referendum to enshrine an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice in the Constitution.

In 2023, Australians will have their say in a referendum on whether to update the Constitution to include an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice to Parliament. I see the Voice as an opportunity for Indigenous voices to be heard.

I acknowledge and thank my fellow Board members for their commitment, and express gratitude to Phil Sillifant, who concluded his Board term over the last financial year. I express gratitude to Prue Jenkins, Wunan Foundation's Chief Executive Officer, our executive and management employees and their teams for their continued passion, and recognition of their efforts throughout the year.

Ian Trust

**Executive Chairperson
of Wunan Foundation**



Message from the Chief Executive Officer Prue Jenkins



I am pleased to share the 2022 Annual Report with the communities we serve, our partners in business, our funders, and Wunan employees.

Wunan has a proud history of working with Aboriginal people and communities to create a social and economic culture which enables, encourages and rewards individuals, families and communities to create meaningful, long-lasting change to their lives.

Wunan's suite of programs is categorised under four strategic priorities: social reform, service provision, leveraging enterprise and preparing for growth. Our five pillars include health, employment, housing, education and leadership.

During the reporting period, Wunan experienced exponential growth in each of its strategic areas, and was a successful recipient of many eligible grant submissions, indicating the enthusiasm and support for the high quality work of the organisation.

Wunan's focus on social reform in 2021 and 2022 is in response to the needs of our people and clients and provides a clear strategy for change.

In 2022, Wunan put into practice three new pilot programs; Journey to Empowerment, Swimming the River on Horseback and Stronger ACCOs, Stronger Families.

Each program is aimed at driving long-term social and economic outcomes for Aboriginal people locally and nationally.

Journey to Empowerment is an intensive wrap-around program aimed at supporting Cashless Debit Card recipients to move from welfare into employment, and has flourished under the leadership of Program Manager David Cox, with the support of Impact Partners and Social Ventures Australia.

Swimming the River on Horseback was a successful collaboration between Wunan Foundation and Horsepower Training, and was delivered successfully to youth-at-risk, working intensively with young weaner cattle and horses, to enhance engagement, create behavioural change and strengthen personal relationships between frontline support workers and youth-at-risk of offending.

I would like to thank our Board and management team and staff for their commitment throughout the year, and their contribution to the many achievements outlined in the annual report, to which they were fundamental in executing.

Sincerely,

Prue Jenkins
CEO of Wunan Foundation

Navigating the Future:

Our Board of Directors



Ian Trust
Executive Chair



James Elliott
Director since 2014



Tom Birch
Director since 2002



Michael Ashforth
Director since 2018



Troy Zafer
Director since 2019



Jean O'Reeri
Director since 2019



Phil Sillifant
Director since 2021

Navigating the Future:

Our Board of Directors

The Wunan Foundation board of directors consists of a diverse group of individuals with extensive experience and skills. The board members have backgrounds in various fields such as business, commerce, investment, corporate governance and Aboriginal affairs, and they bring a wealth of knowledge and expertise to the organization. Many of the directors have held senior executive positions in the private and public sectors, and have experience working with Indigenous communities.

Additionally, the board members possess strong leadership, strategic planning, and financial management skills, which enable them to guide the Wunan Foundation in achieving its mission of empowering Indigenous people in the East Kimberley region of Western Australia.

Ian Trust

Executive Chair

Ian Trust, a Kija man, is the Chairperson of the Wunan Foundation and a prominent advocate for Aboriginal independence. He has been a key driver of Wunan's strategy to establish a strong economic base, which enables the delivery of sustainable programs to assist Aboriginal people of the East Kimberley in creating better lives and a positive future for themselves.

Ian is also actively involved with several national and regional organisations, including Empowered Communities, the Indigenous Land Corporation, and Kimberley Development Commission, all working towards achieving Aboriginal independence. Furthermore, Ian is committed to supporting and developing emerging Aboriginal leaders in the East Kimberley, recognising that strong leadership from within the Aboriginal community is crucial to driving and maintaining development strategies and ensuring that Aboriginal people achieve their full potential.

James Elliott

Director since 2014

James Elliott is the Deputy Chairperson of Wunan Foundation and a project specialist with extensive experience in addressing challenges in Aboriginal health, housing, education, sporting, and community liaison. He has a hands-on approach and a broad knowledge of Aboriginal communities in Western Australia.

He sees his role as a Director on the Wunan Board as an ideal way to work with a group of like-minded individuals to achieve something

special. He is passionate about providing meaningful advice and leadership on behalf of his people.

With his expertise in guiding stakeholders through change processes, James drives operations to deliver projects within budget and timeline. He is an effective communicator and a team player committed to achieving ambitious outcomes. James and his wife Tracey founded Wunan's Dural Education Excellence Program.

Tom Birch

Director since 2002

Tom Birch, a Traditional Owner of Balangarra in the Wyndham region, is fluent in English and Kriol. He has dedicated his life to advancing the Native Title rights of his people and enhancing the economic prospects of Aboriginal communities in the Kimberley region.

He sees poor educational and employment outcomes as the key issues impacting Aboriginal people and works to encourage personal responsibility, educational solutions and reward for effort.

Tom has worked in the Kimberley pastoral industry and has held various community leadership roles, including former Wunan Foundation Chairperson (2002-2007), Deputy Chairman of the Kimberley Land Council (KLC), Director of the Kimberley Language Resource Centre (KLRC), Director of the Kimberley Aboriginal Law and Culture Centre (KALACC), and formerly a Director of the Wunan ATSIC Regional Council.

Michael Ashforth

Director since 2018

Michael Ashforth is a highly accomplished professional with over 30 years of experience in law, investment banking and corporate advisory. He has played a key role in some of the country's largest and most complex mergers and acquisitions, representing both local and offshore clients. Michael's career has included stints as a partner at Freehills, one of Australia's largest law firms, as well as a Managing Director at Gresham Partners, one of the country's leading independent corporate advisory firms. He has also served as an Executive Director at Macquarie Capital and as the Executive Chairman of AMB Holdings, the holding company for Angela Bennett's corporate interests. In addition, Michael has held directorships with several private and publicly listed companies, and he was a Member of the Australian Takeovers Panel for nine years.

Troy Zafer

Director since 2019

Troy Zafer is a successful entrepreneur and business leader with over 23 years of experience in the Advertising and Technology industries in Australia and the UK. He is the Managing Partner of ZAC Creative, an award-winning advertising production company that has produced TV ads and online videos for many of the world's leading brands.

In addition to his work with ZAC Creative, Troy is also the Co-Founder, CEO of Aura Buy Invest Donate Pty Ltd, an innovative platform that allows users to invest in property and donate a portion of their profits to charity. He is also the director and co-founder of the Wunan Foundation, a not-for-profit organization dedicated to helping Indigenous Australians achieve economic independence.

Troy's passion for social justice and equality is reflected in his work with the Wunan Foundation, where he has helped to develop programs that provide education, training, and employment opportunities to Indigenous communities. He has also worked with Ian Trust to produce videos such as 'Swimming The River' and 'Pathway To Empowerment' that highlight the struggles and triumphs of Indigenous Australians. Troy is a respected figure in the business community, known for his creativity, leadership, and commitment to making a positive difference in the world.

Jean O'Reeri

Director since 2019

Jean O'Reeri is a proud Wilinggin woman from Karunjie Station on the Gibb River Road. She has called Wyndham in the East Kimberley region her home since the 1960s. For over 20 years, Jean worked as an Aboriginal teaching assistant, primarily with pre-primary aged children at St. Joseph's School in Wyndham.

In addition to her work in education, Jean has been an active member of her community. She has served as a director for Ngnowar Aerwah Aboriginal Corporation, an organisation that provides alcohol and drug treatment and rehabilitation programs to members of the community. Jean is also a current director of Binarri Binyja Yarrawoo (BBY), and a member of the Wyndham advisory group, where she continues to lend her voice and support to important community initiatives. Through her work and dedication to her community, Jean O'Reeri has become a respected and beloved member of the East Kimberley region.

Phil Sillifant

Director since 2021

Phil Sillifant is a Noongar man with family ties across the South West of Western Australia.

Phil began his career in the finance industry, working for seven years on projects across merchants, commercial deposits and mortgage fraud operations, before turning his attention towards Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community work.

Phil has more than 15 years of experience working with Aboriginal groups and communities on training, employment, community, business strategy and economic development projects.

In his current role as Bunnings Indigenous Business Lead, Phil leads the business in its meaningful engagement of Indigenous business customers, suppliers, and partners. Phil leverages his industry experience, relationship management skills and MBA education to benefit the community and business sector.

Strategic Projects

Stronger ACCOs, Stronger Families: Strengthening Relationships, Families, and Communities



The Stronger ACCOs, Stronger Families project was established in June 2022 to enable Aboriginal Controlled Community Organisations (ACCOs) to play a greater role in delivering child and family services across Australia.

The program, funded by the Department of Social Services, is a national project aimed at empowering ACCOs to form strong relationships with existing Communities for Children Facilitating Partners (CfC FP), Home Service Interaction Program for Parents and Youngers (HIPPY) programs to deliver culturally secure services, enable learning for life and build empowerment for Aboriginal families.

The project aligns with the National Agreement on Closing the Gap to promote equity for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and support Aboriginal organisations to strengthen and establish formal partnerships and shared decision-making.

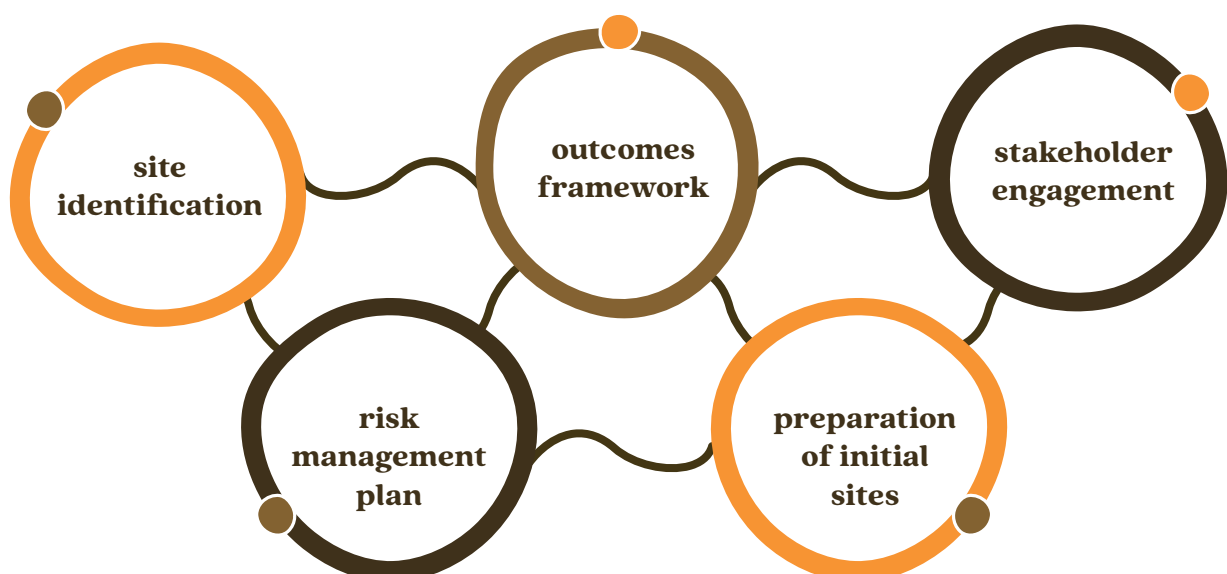
Six initial project sites across Australia will be

selected to take part in a Leading Regions

trial of the project, where Wunan will work in partnership with local ACCOs, non-Indigenous organisations, and families and communities to build and strengthen service delivery partnerships.

Through increasing the number and improving the quality of partnerships between ACCOs and non-Indigenous providers, the project aims to achieve better outcomes in life for Aboriginal children and families and greater self-determination for First Nations communities across Australia

The Stronger ACCOs, Stronger family which aims to empower Indigenous communities and provide them with greater control over the services that affect their lives. ACCOs work to improve the social, cultural, and economic well-being of Indigenous Australians, and they often collaborate with government agencies and other organizations to achieve their goals.



Journey to Empowerment:

A Strategy for Transitioning into Sustainable Employment

The Journey to Empowerment Program is an intensive program offering welfare recipients the opportunity to develop life skills, gain employment and education opportunities, and build positive relationships with their families and communities.

The program is designed to empower recipients of welfare to take control of their own lives offering a holistic approach including a focus on the individual's health and wellbeing and becoming positive role models within their communities. The program includes activities such as cultural mentorship, job training, paid work experience and transition to work opportunities.

The Journey to Empowerment program hosted two successful commitment ceremonies for participants in 2022, and has engaged more than

a dozen host employers to work with program participants, engaging them in the workplace.

"The Wunan team will be there to support the program participants. The bottom line is it's really about the individual making a personal responsibility. We want people to select themselves to step forward and say we want to give this a go," said Ian Trust.

The aim of the program is to help Aboriginal people on welfare to overcome the challenges they face and to build a brighter future for themselves, their families, and their communities.

The funding is part of the \$30 million Jobs Fund and job ready initiative to strengthen local support services in Cashless Debit Card communities.

“

Journey to Empowerment is a new program aimed at providing work readiness and providing intensive support for participants on their journey to creating a new life for themselves and their families.” Ian Trust, Executive Chair, Wunan Foundation



Swimming the River on Horseback:

Our Young People, Our Community, Swimming the River on Horseback Together

“ We have three jobs. Keeping kids alive, out of jail and chasing their hopes and dreams.

The wet season in Kununurra brings its own energy – erratic, electrifying, and unpredictable – where anything goes. The air is thick and humid, however laden with possibility.

Amidst recent waves of disturbance, a result of the region's youth crime epidemic in 2022, the local Rodeo Grounds became a haven of equanimity, for youth-at-risk of offending.

At the base of the Sleeping Buddha, a resting rock formation cradling the Kununurra township, youth and frontline workers gathered at dusk, for the Swimming the River on Horseback program.

The program, delivered by Horsepower Training, with the support of Wunan Foundation, focused on building trusting personal relationships between frontline support workers and youth-at-risk of offending.

The program draws on the parallels between the stockmanship skills required to work young weaner cattle, and the skills required to work with a group of youth-at-risk.

The three-week intensive program provided a platform for connection between youth and frontline support workers to get in the dirt and explore the principles of stockmanship, and worked toward building support structures around each participating young person to sustain positive change.

The initiative was deemed critical to addressing the unresolved social and emotional wellbeing issues that many Aboriginal youth in Kununurra face. Youth justice issues are interwoven with a range of social and emotional wellbeing issues, mental distress, anger, self-harm and school truancy. Both issues are now 'front of mind' for the government and community.

The program name, 'Swimming the River on Horseback' has a significant meaning.

Wunan's metaphor, 'Swimming the River' is used to describe what Aboriginal people need to do to become purposeful, self-reliant participants in society. While swimming the stream, they need to avoid life obstacles (crocodiles) such as alcohol abuse, passive welfare and contact with the legal system to reach the opportunities which lie on the other side of the river.

The program will be followed by systematic and robust evaluation, so that lessons learnt are captured and the project can be replicated in the future.

The program was hugely successful thanks to the many stakeholders involved. A huge and sincere thank you to Carlton Hill Station managers Andrew and Brooke for supplying and carting their beautiful cattle for the workshops, Steve Burke of Horsepower Training for working with our young people and introducing them to the principles of working livestock, and our wonderful role models Houston Purdie and Steele Curtin of Glen Hill Cattle Company, Lexine Mourambine of Nyamba Buru Yawaru.

The program received significant support from Tanya, Kara, Marcia and Terry at the MG Corp T120 program, our wonderful Police Officers Jarrod, Sarah, Nick, Lauren and Carly, our terrific horse team, Kristie, Anthea and Kasey, Mike Keighley from Far Out Adventures, the fantastic Youth Justice, DCP and Department of Education staff, Vicky and Ross for capturing the moments so perfectly, NIAA staff, and Green Collar for their generous sponsorship.

Wunan directors and employees, including the Lily Lagoon Resort team, provided on-going support and were critical to the program's success.

The program is supported thanks to KCAF (Kimberley Community Action Fund) Grants Program and the State Government, with on-going funding in 2023.



Commercial Enterprises

Wunan Health & Wellbeing Centre:

A Pioneering Aboriginal-Owned Practice

Wunan Health & Well-Being Centre is the only Aboriginal-owned private medical practice in the East Kimberley Region. The practice provides a range of high quality primary healthcare services for the residents of Kununurra, Wyndham, Halls Creek and extended communities.

Wunan Health is staffed by both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal practitioners who work together to provide a holistic approach to health care that addresses the physical needs of its patients.

The clinic offers a wide range of services including primary care, chronic disease management, and mental health support. Additionally, the practice is committed to educating the community about health and wellness, and is the lead agency for headspace Kununurra, and the Disability Advocacy Program.

2022 brought about many challenges, including COVID-19, which reached its peak in the East Kimberley in early March 2022. Wunan Health adapted its visiting procedures, and appointments were made available over the phone or through video conferencing, to keep our community and GPs safe.

While the pandemic may have spurred on this technological revolution out of necessity, it also opened new avenues of healthcare for our community and allowed our locum doctors to provide quality care from afar.

Throughout the year, Wunan Health also hosted vaccination clinics to help combat the spread of Covid-19 and the flu. The practice administered the vaccine to community members and delivered strong messaging around vaccinations, and the importance of protecting themselves, their loved ones and the community as a whole.



Percentage of
Aboriginal staff

30%

Total number
of patients

4060

Total visits

14,465

Total new
patients

560

Number of
Aboriginal Doctors

2



Number of
flu clinics

6

Total vaccines
given

3776

Number of
Indigenous Health Care
Professionals Employed

4

Total telehealth/
phone appointments

1292

Wunan's Disability Advocacy Program

Breaking Barriers

The Disability Advocacy Program works to promote the rights and improve the quality of life for individuals with disabilities in the East Kimberley. Specific activities and services provided by our program include:

- Providing information and resources to individuals with disabilities and their families
- Advocating for policy and legislative changes to improve the lives of individuals with disabilities
- Offering support and assistance with navigating the disability benefits system
- Offering training and education on disability rights and related topics
- Providing peer support and mentoring for individuals with disabilities.

During the reporting period the Disability Advocacy Program held four workshops, held six information sessions and supported more than 60 ATSI (Australian Institute for Aboriginal

and Torres Strait Islander clients). Our outreach extends to Kalumburu, Wyndham and Balgo, with the hope of also recruiting disability advocates in Halls Creek.

Wunan receives funding from the WA Department of Communities for two disability programs, Independent Advocacy and East Kimberley Disability Advocacy which commenced in mid-2021. A new tender was awarded by the Department of Communities for the WA State Disability Advocacy Program (Independent Advocacy) which commenced on 1 July 2022.

The 2021-2022 year started with the impact of COVID-19 affecting all people's lives across Western Australia, as well as staffing changes. Our team has been agile in responding to broad changes that have had impacts on our clients and our advocacy.

Our networks and collaborative approach have continued to empower people living with disability to have control over their lives and be involved in their East Kimberley communities.



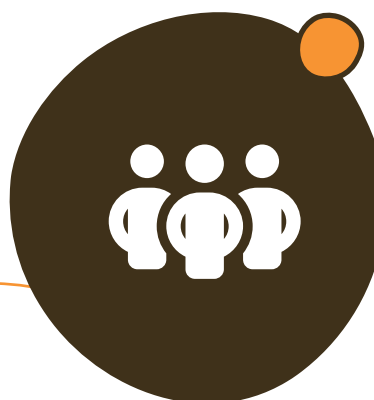
4
Workshops



6
Information Sessions



60
ATSI clients
supported



Disability Advocates
located in
Kununurra, Kalumburu,
Wyndham, Balgo



New headspace Facility:

Bringing Mental Health Services to the Kununurra Community

headspace Kununurra opened its doors in September 2022, offering support to young people with mental health, physical health (including sexual health), alcohol and drug related services, as well as work and study support.

The centre was established to support young people in the East Kimberley – the culmination of extensive consultation with local community and stakeholders to help shape priorities for the new service and ensure it complements existing youth services in Kununurra in a way that works for young people.

With a focus on early intervention, our team works with young people to provide support at a crucial time in their lives – to help get them back on track and strengthen their ability to manage their mental health.

The establishment of headspace Kununurra was driven by a collaboration between Wunan Health, Boab Health, and WA Country Health Services. Consultations highlighted the energy, commitment and initiative local stakeholders have shown over many years in their efforts to build a youth wellbeing hub in Kununurra.

Stakeholders were unanimous in the belief that sustainable change requires the growth of incumbent capability and capacity and, as such, expressed a high level of commitment to the consultation process and the identification

of locally appropriate design and service integration opportunities.

Wunan's headspace Kununurra Manager said culturally relevant tools, as well as greater involvement of Aboriginal people in the design and delivery of mental health services in Kununurra was vital.

“headspace provides a culturally safe service that is dedicated to the young people of Kununurra. Since opening in September, we've seen a progressive increase in service access each week by Aboriginal young people utilising headspace Kununurra for support with social and emotional wellbeing, sexual and physical health, drug and alcohol support, and vocational education support.”

Active collaboration has benefits for stakeholders, community, government agencies and organisations alike. Given the synergies between headspace Kununurra and the Kimberley Youth Alcohol and Other Drug Service, East Kimberley Job Pathways, WA Primary Health Alliance joined its consultation activities with the WA Mental Health Commission.

“

Our service recognises that a young person's wellbeing is influenced by the social determinants of health, and other factors relating to trauma and poverty, and works to not only support the social, emotional and cultural wellbeing of the individual, but the whole community.

*Clinical Director, Wunan Health (Lead Agency),
Stephanie Trust*



Low Medical Withdrawal Unit:

A Safe and Supportive Facility for Substance Dependence Recovery

Wunan Foundation is under contract negotiation for the service provision of a Kimberley Alcohol and Other Drug Services - Low Medical Withdrawal Beds by the Mental Health Commission in 2021.

The Low Medical Withdrawal Unit is working toward the establishment of a new facility that will provide 24/7 services to clients. It will be equipped with six beds and located on land adjacent to the Wunan Health and Well-Being Centre. During the first year of its five-year contract, the facility will primarily serve clients living in Kununurra and surrounding regions, but will expand to serve the entire Kimberley region in the second year. Nevertheless, referrals from the entire region will be accepted immediately.

The public domain lacks comprehensive information on service models for Aboriginal young people with Alcohol and Other Drugs (AOD) and co-occurring issues in regional and remote areas. This issue is acknowledged by the Mental Health Commission in 2020. Despite the government's emphasis on evidence-based programs and services, there is a need for more information on effective models in these contexts. Wunan's model has the potential to contribute to filling this gap and inform government policy and implementation in this area.



Lily Lagoon Resort

Gerloowoorng Baliboong

Nganjilb-gerring Dawang

Empowering Indigenous Futures: An Aboriginal-Owned and Operated Resort Offering Training and Growth Opportunities

The opening of Lily Lagoon Resort represents a major milestone for Wunan Foundation. Aboriginal-owned and operated, the resort has been established with a clear purpose in mind to provide training and employment opportunities in the fields of hospitality, tourism, administration and housekeeping.

This not only offers a pathway for the local community to develop new skills and build careers, but it also provides a platform for the rich cultural heritage of the area to be showcased to the world. With its stunning location at the heart of Kununurra, Lily Lagoon Resort is set to become a destination in its own right, offering visitors a unique experience that celebrates the region's history, culture and natural beauty.

The rebranding of Lily Lagoon Resort was completed prior to the opening of the resort in April 2022. The Mirima Dawang Woorlab-gerring Language Centre approved the translation of the name into the Miriwoong language, and the new logo was thoughtfully designed by renowned local Waringarri artist Jan Griffiths.

The logo depicts a Jacana bird on water lilies, reflecting the natural beauty of the resort. The staff were actively involved in the rebranding process, ensuring that the resort's new identity

accurately represents its unique offerings and cultural heritage.

In 2022, The Lily Lagoon Resort restaurant offered a unique dining experience with its carefully crafted menu featuring Australian native foods. The bush flavors introduced through the menu aimed to educate both locals and tourists visiting Kununurra.

The menu featured a range of delicious dishes such as kangaroo skewers with desert raisin relish, barramundi gijon's with wild lime and pepper leaf mayo, kangaroo arancini, and poached prawns with mango mayo.

Don Hancey, Mark Attard, Tourism WA, and East Kimberley Job Pathways supported Lily Lagoon Resort to run a successful workshop as part of the Wunan Jobs and Skills Project under the Tourism WA Jina Aboriginal Tourism Action to plan to train our Aboriginal staff.

Lily Lagoon Resort launched its new outdoor cafe, Lily Cafe, in mid-2022, offering guests a beautiful dining experience in a brand new outdoor area. The cafe was open for breakfast and dinner during the dry season, allowing diners to enjoy delicious meals in a tranquil and picturesque setting surrounded by lush greenery and the tranquil lagoon.



Lily Lagoon
Resort | Kununurra,
Western Australia

Accommodation | Dining | Caravan Park





iBase Indigenous Business Accounting Services:

Expert Bookkeeping for Aboriginal Organisations

Ibase is Wunan Foundation's accounting and bookkeeping service designed specifically for Aboriginal businesses. With its knowledgeable and culturally sound employees, it provides an effective and efficient bookkeeping solution for Aboriginal organisations to manage their finances.

Whether our clients need assistance with financial statements, payroll, or tax preparation, Ibase is there to support our fellow Indigenous businesses. With its focus on supporting the unique needs of Kimberley Aboriginal organisations, iBase is a trusted subsidiary of Wunan that is dedicated to helping businesses grow and succeed.

iBase made the decision to relocate its team from Kununurra to Perth in 2022. The move better meets the needs of clients, many of

whom maintain Perth based offices. The transition was successful, as the entire team was able to smoothly adjust to their new environment and continue delivering terrific results for its clients across the Kimberley. The move has also opened up new opportunities for the subsidiary and its staff, further propelling its position as Western Australia's leading Indigenous business and accounting services.



iBase currently supports 18 corporations with accounting and book-keeping services



Commercial Enterprises

Indigenous Career Empowerment:

Jobs and Skills Centre in Kununurra

In 2022, Wunan secured the contract with the Department of Training and Workforce Development to continue crucial career and Aboriginal support services in Kununurra. The contract will run for an initial period of three years, with two options to extend for another two years.

The new services commenced in July 2022 and aim to support the community in Kununurra by providing them with the necessary resources and skills for their future success.

The Kununurra Jobs and Skills Centre welcomes clients from the far north Western Australian East Kimberley region and is located at North Regional TAFE's Kununurra campus on Coolibah Drive between the two local schools.

Our dedicated staff have extensive knowledge of the local communities, industries and stakeholders. Our services are also supported by North Regional TAFE who have extensive connections and knowledge of the region.

Our Jobs and Skills Centre is a one stop shop where the team is ready to support jobseekers, employers and industry.

We can provide free services to support you such as:

- help with resumés, job applications, training and career advice, and connecting job seekers to employers; and
- support to businesses by advertising vacancies free of charge, promoting career events, access to trainee and apprenticeship information and advice on workforce development.

Premier Mark McGowan and Education and Training Minister Sue Ellery officially launched the Jobs and Skills Centre (JSC) in Kununurra in 2022 - the 17th in Western Australia's network of centers - providing specialist training and career advice to job seekers and young people across the State. It was a pleasure to welcome Hon. Mark McGowan and Sue Ellery to Kununurra.





The KEEP Program

Empowering Young Aboriginal People from the Kimberley through Education and Opportunities

Wunan Foundation's KEEP (Kimberley Education and Employment Program) is designed to provide young Aboriginal people from the Kimberley region with access to a top-notch education and a range of extracurricular activities. The program aims to create a supportive environment that fosters personal growth and academic success.

In 2021, the KEEP program saw a 100% graduation success rate, showcasing its effectiveness in helping young people achieve their goals and reach their full potential. Wunan Foundation is committed to improving educational outcomes for young people and the KEEP program is a testament to their dedication and hard work in making a positive impact in the lives of those they serve.

2022 was also a thrilling year for the Kimberley Education Excellence Program (KEEP) with two exceptional students, Shaqirah Akune and Shaquanda Kitchener, graduating from Belmont City College as Year 12 students. Their families were able to attend their graduation ceremony and witness the growth and achievements these young women have accomplished.

KEEP is proud of their success and as we look ahead to the future, we are eager to see what opportunities and accomplishments await Shaqirah and Shaquanda, and we wish them the best of luck in their next steps.

We would like to take a moment to recognize and acknowledge the dedication and hard work of Lew Penny and Kaz Penny, who have been integral members of the KEEP program for over five years. Lew, a Nyoongar man from Perth, and Kaz, a Palawa woman from Tasmania, bring unique perspectives and cultural experiences that enrich the program. Their contributions have been invaluable and we are grateful for their ongoing commitment to the success of the KEEP program. Thank you Lew and Kaz!



KEEP is the only boarding house in Perth that runs like a family home. We know that this approach helps students feel safe and supported while they are under our care."

Lew and Kaz Penny



The Wunan Foundation is actively seeking the participation of businesses and individuals interested in supporting the KEEP scholarship program by providing financial assistance to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students to help them complete their secondary education and pursue a higher education."

Program Manager, Kristy Brittain



The scholarship funds could be utilised for various educational expenses, including tutoring, textbooks, computer equipment, school uniforms, and transportation to and from school. By partnering with the Wunan Foundation, businesses and individuals have the opportunity to make a positive impact in the lives of young Indigenous students and help them achieve their educational goals. For more information, please contact KEEP@wunan.org.au.

Burralluba Yura Ngurra

A Safe and Affordable Accommodation for Aboriginal Workers in Halls Creek

Burralluba Yura Ngurra provides safe, supported and affordable accommodation for Aboriginal people in Halls Creek. The hostel is managed by Wunan Foundation with funding from The Department of Communities.

Located 10 km outside of the town of Halls Creek, the hostel provides its residents with a beautiful place to stay and a range of facilities to excel in their employment or training endeavors. The hostel provides accommodation for residents in the form of single and family units and offers a number of support services to improve the lives of its residents.

The monthly BBQ sessions at Burralluba hostel in 2022 have become a staple for residents to come together and catch up on any Wunan

news. Not only do they provide a platform for updates from stakeholders, but also a chance to learn more about various programs and initiatives.

We are delighted to welcome our new Accommodation Manager, Kristy Brittain, who has taken the time to introduce herself to residents and share updates about new staffing. Kristy also spoke briefly about her interest in increasing residents' knowledge about their housing options in the region, highlighting the importance of informed decision-making. These BBQ sessions are a great opportunity for everyone to come together, learn, and have fun.

“

I am very thankful that my kids and I had a safe and comfortable place to stay at Burralluba Hostel. If I'm back in Halls Creek working, I will definitely apply to stay there again.”

Former Resident



Pathways to Home Ownership

Building Futures

The Wunan Foundation's Pathways to Home Ownership Program is an initiative aimed at promoting and facilitating home ownership among eligible Aboriginal participants. Funded by the National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA), this program has been designed to offer a range of services and support to individuals and families looking to take the first steps towards homeownership.

Home ownership can provide many benefits for Aboriginal people, including increased stability, financial security, and a sense of pride and belonging. Owning a home can provide a safe and stable environment for families and children, and can help to build wealth and assets over time.

Additionally, home ownership can promote cultural connection and strengthen community ties, as it provides a place for families to gather, share their traditions and values, and pass them down to future generations.

By becoming homeowners, our clients can gain more control over their living spaces and create a sense of place that supports their long-term well-being and prosperity.

The program has been successful thus far thanks to Tanya Hill and her team, and the contract has been extended until June 2023, giving participants more time to take advantage of the support and resources on offer.

The Pathways to Home Ownership Program was successful in achieving its goals in 2022. The program led to the purchase of three residential properties and the completion of five home loan applications, demonstrating the impact on individuals and families looking to become homeowners.

The team provided support to people by developing 10 financial plans and visiting the towns of Halls Creek and Wyndham on a monthly basis. The team also engaged with the community by conducting 5 workshops, further highlighting the program's commitment to helping people achieve their dream of homeownership.



Wunan's Effective Driver Training Programs

Navigating the Road to Safe and Successful Driving

One of our key initiatives is our Driver Training Program, which helps young people in the region who do not have access to a vehicle or supervising driver to get their driver's license. The programs match these learners with fully-licensed mentors who guide and assist them in their driving practice.

In 2021-22, the Driver Training Programs achieved a record-breaking number of successful Practical Driving Assessment passes, further highlighting the impact and success of the programs. The program's instructors are highly supportive and provide personalized instruction to help participants develop the necessary skills to become confident and safe drivers.

Obtaining a driver's license is a crucial step in achieving success and engagement in both employment and education, and the Driver Training Program in the region realise this important goal. The program gives people the freedom and opportunity that comes with a driver's license and opens up new avenues for education and employment.

In 2022, the pilot funding allowed Wunan to

increase our service across remote communities in the Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley and Shire of Halls Creek. Mentor drivers Lawrence and Doug were able to upgrade vehicles, giving people options for learning to drive in the towns of Kununurra, Halls Creek and Wyndham, as well as in communities across the East Kimberley, including Kalumburu and Balgo.

The Driving and Equity Program supported by the Department of Transport Western Australia, and the Department of Justice provide Aboriginal people who are in the criminal justice system, or in high schools with high attendance level, enrolled to higher studies or in workplace transition with culturally appropriate driver training and education aimed at helping them retain and regain their driver's licence.

“

Having my licence will help with work and family commitments. I'll be able to drop off and pick up my grandkids from school.”

Audrey, Driver Training Program participant



Choose Your Future

Empowering Aboriginal Families

The Choose Your Future program is a unique initiative aimed at empowering Aboriginal families to take control of their children's education and well-being. It is specifically targeted towards families with children aged 4-8 years old who are in their formative years at school.

The program aims to achieve several key objectives, including improving parent participation in their children's educational readiness and well-being, improving student school attendance, improving educational outcomes for students, and improving parent access to relevant services.

One of the key ways that the program seeks to achieve these goals is by building parent capacity through educational sessions. These sessions are designed to equip parents with

the knowledge, skills, and resources needed to support their children's education and well-being.

The Choose Your Future program has exceeded its original goal of 10 Aboriginal students who are either self-referred or referred from Wunan programs. These children will be carefully selected based on their educational needs and the support that they require.

Overall, the Choose Your Future program is an important initiative that has the potential to make a significant positive impact on the lives of Aboriginal families and their children. By empowering parents to take an active role in their children's early education and well-being, the program aims to create a brighter future for the next generation of Aboriginal children.

Remote School Attendance Strategy Scheme

Effective Learning Attendance Strategies

RSAS is a community focused strategy that employs local people to bring together families, schools, communities and other services to design and deliver local solutions to improve school attendance and engagement.

The Remote School Attendance Strategy Program (RSA) is a comprehensive solution aimed at improving school attendance and engagement for students in remote areas. It brings together all key stakeholders, including families, schools, local government, and community organisations, to work together in a whole-of-community approach.

The program employs local people who understand the needs of local families and children to deliver targeted programs and activities that address attendance and engagement issues. RSAS recognises that different families and children have different needs and adapts its services accordingly. The program encourages community-wide involvement and aims to achieve goals for young people through a collaborative effort.

The program is funded by NIAA with funding extended until 31st December 2022.

Wunan Maintenance Services:

Encouraging Social and Economic Participation through Sustainable Maintenance Solutions

Wunan Maintenance Service (WMS) is a Wunan-owned company based in Kununurra that offers a range of property maintenance services. From lawn mowing and yard cleanup to minor property repairs, WMS works with local businesses and property owners to keep their premises looking their best.

What sets WMS apart from other businesses is that it is a social enterprise, which means that its mission is not just about providing quality services, but also about creating sustainable employment opportunities for local Aboriginal people. This makes it not just your regular upkeep service, but also a partner in the community, creating social and economic participation within the Kununurra community.

The team at WMS provides opportunities for trainees and apprentices, and has many years of experience in the local community. They take pride in their work and always strive to deliver the best possible results.

They understand the importance of keeping properties and businesses looking their best, and they do so with a flexible approach, always taking into consideration the specific needs and requests of each client.

Unfortunately, the team recently said goodbye to Cameron Elliott, a valued member who provided many years of service to Wunan Foundation. We are thrilled to welcome Steve Ransley to WMS in 2022. Steve brings with him a wealth of experience and expertise in property maintenance, and his passion for helping others is evident in everything he does. He is a natural leader and a mentor to his employees, always providing guidance and support to help them reach their full potential.

With his dedication and commitment, Steve is a valuable addition to the team, and we are confident that he will play a key role in the continued success of WMS. We are excited to see the positive impact he will have on the team and on the community as a whole.

Early Years and Family Support Services

Building Strong Foundations

Wunan Foundation delivers programs designed to assist parents in their important role as their child's first educators. These programs support parents to help their young children develop healthy learning habits before entering school.

Wunan manages the Child & Parent Centres (CPCs) in Kununurra and Halls Creek in partnership with the WA Department of Education. Research shows that 90 percent of a child's brain develops by the age of three. So the experiences they have during this time impact on their success at school and in later life.

Child & Parent Centres support families as they begin to lay the foundations for their children's development and learning habits. The Kununurra & Halls Creek CPCs offer a range of activities for children and families, including playgroups and school holiday programs for children, health programs in partnership with local organisations, pick up and drop off services, cultural programs and performances, and KindiLink in partnership with local schools. These activities provide opportunities for families and individuals to engage with one another, learn new skills, and access resources that support their health and well-being.

Wunan's HIPPY program is a comprehensive and supportive initiative aimed at providing young children with the best possible start in life. The program is designed for families with preschool-aged children and provides a two-year, home-based curriculum that works with parents to promote early childhood learning and development. With a focus on language, listening skills, and concentration, HIPPY helps children develop essential skills that are essential for success in school and beyond. By encouraging a love of learning, building self-esteem and confidence, HIPPY sets children on a path to lifelong academic and personal success.

In May 2022, Wunan's CPC program in Halls Creek commenced KindiLink, Lilwuns Playgroup, and Community Playgroup sessions. The sessions are designed to provide a supportive and inclusive environment for young children and families to engage in educational and social activities. SNAICC - National Voice for Our Children supports the CPC program as a culturally strong, integrated education and family support service.

The Early Years Local Advisory Committee finalised their strategic plan for the 2022-2023 financial year with the aim of actively working toward their 20 objectives starting from July 1, 2022. This comprehensive plan outlines the committee's vision and goals for improving the early childhood education sector in their local area.

The HIPPY and CPC programs hosted an event in 2022 for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children's Day and it was a huge success. The event attracted a large turnout and offered a variety of activities for the children, including a special welcome to country ceremony. The children participated in games, enjoyed delicious food, and were entertained by music from Wunan's trailblazer media vehicle. Parents, elders, and children alike were all brought together for this special event, creating a memorable experience for everyone involved.



Governance and Leadership

Empowering Aboriginal Leadership in the East Kimberley

The aim of the Wunan Governance and Leadership Program is to improve governance, management and operations in Indigenous organisations in the East Kimberley region by providing a customized approach to address their unique needs.

The Governance Program has had a highly successful year in 2022, exceeding its key performance indicators and expanding its outreach. Since its inception, the program has provided top-notch support for governance to organisations in the East Kimberley region, leading to the enhanced capabilities of Indigenous businesses in the region. Furthermore, the program operates with cultural sensitivity, ensuring it provides its services in a manner that is respectful and appropriate.

Additionally, it has proven to be highly responsive, able to quickly assist organisations in crisis situations even in remote areas of the East Kimberley region.

Wunan Foundation, with the support of National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA), has proposed the expansion of the Wunan Governance Program to the West Kimberley region in 2022. The program aims to provide governance support to organizations and communities in the Derby region, including the Fitzroy Valley and the Gibb River Road, as well as those in the Broome region, including the Dampier Peninsula and Bidjardanga to the south. The expansion of the program seeks to address the governance needs of these communities and help them achieve greater self-determination and sustainability.



Financial Hub

Indigenous Financial Advancement

Wunan Foundation's Financial Hub is an initiative aimed at providing financial support and services to Aboriginal people in the East Kimberley. The hub offers a range of services such as financial literacy and training to Aboriginal people. Our goal is to promote economic self-sufficiency and improve financial outcomes for our people.

Wunan's Emergency Relief & Material Aid Program managed by Tanya Hill and her team is designed to provide quick financial assistance to individuals and families facing an immediate crisis and unable to pay their bills. The program has received significant funding from the Department of Social Services, allocated until June 30, 2023.

With the COVID-19 pandemic creating a growing need for emergency relief, the team has been inundated with requests for aid, averaging 26 requests per day. The funds, ranging from \$100

to \$5,000, are used to provide critical support, such as food and shelter for families in the East Kimberley area. In response to the high demand, additional funds were provided under a Deed of Variation to help meet the growing need for emergency relief.

Wunan's financial hub has greatly benefited from the work done by Daniel Savill from Omnimetrix on its governance dashboard. The previous method of using multiple spreadsheets and manual calculations has been replaced by a single system that automatically fills PDFs, resulting in improved accuracy and automated reporting. The team has applied for funding from the Department of Communities to create two apps that will allow for remote work with clients and provide financial education online. This will further enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of the financial hub.

Key Assets

Out of Home Care

Key Assets, Wunan and Ngnowar Aerah Aboriginal Corporation are partnering to deliver the Family Support and Wellbeing Service in Kununurra, Wyndham and surrounding areas. This agreement will ensure that families in the region have access to high-quality support and services that promote their well-being.

The collaboration of these organizations will bring a wealth of experience, skills, and resources to the delivery of these services, and will help to address the specific needs of the local community.

This partnership represents an important step forward in improving the lives of families in Kununurra, Wyndham and surrounding areas and will help to create a brighter future for all those who benefit from these services.



Celebrating Our Culture

Wunan Foundation's 2022 NAIDOC Festivities

Wunan's 2022 NAIDOC celebrations were a resounding success, with a flag raising ceremony setting the tone for a day of fun and community spirit. The event featured a variety of activities, including games and crafts, that were enjoyed by people of all ages.

The highlight of the day was the BBQ and feed, which provided a delicious meal for friends, stakeholders, and community members. The 2022 NAIDOC theme, "Heal Country", was central

to the celebrations and provided a poignant reminder of the importance of caring for the land and each other.

The theme also recognised the ongoing healing that is necessary for Indigenous communities to thrive and the role that Country plays in this process. Overall, Wunan's 2022 NAIDOC celebrations were a celebration of culture, community, and a commitment to healing and caring for one another.

Wunan Media

Wunan Media is an enterprise that aims to empower East Kimberley Aboriginal people by providing training in all aspects of media. The initiative is focused on fostering the growth and development of multimedia, videography, marketing, graphic design, and photography skills among Aboriginal people.

The ultimate goal of Wunan Media is to encourage the community to engage in their own storytelling, and to give them the tools and skills necessary to bring their stories to life. To achieve this, the organisation plans to reach out to corporations for support, and to seek philanthropic funding to help bring the vision to life. With a focus on empowering the East Kimberley Aboriginal community and promoting cultural diversity, Wunan Media is poised to make a significant impact in the First Nations digital industry.



Wunan's hilux converted into a roving karaoke and movie machine for remote Kimberley communities!

Since hitting the road in July this year, the Hilux, dubbed Trailblazer, has visited Halls Creek for a community disco, East Kimberley College for Career Week and Kununurra's rodeo grounds for Wunan's Swimming the River on Horseback – a youth mentoring program! Open Systems Support has been our wonderful IT development partner.

The conversion, undertaken by Kununurra's Wunan Foundation and Boorloo-based (Perth) Open Systems Support, has seen the ute equipped with TV, speakers, lights, mics and telecommunications to bring movies, discos and karaoke nights to remote Kimberley communities.

Wunan Foundation chief executive Prue Jenkins has said communities wanted more access to engaging activities, but struggled due to isolation.

"So when we started to brainstorm ideas on how we can help mitigate this issue of distance and access for services and support for our Aboriginal communities, we got creative and thought why don't we close the gap using what we already use daily," Ms Jenkins said.

Since hitting the road in July this year, the Hilux, dubbed Trailblazer, has visited Halls Creek for a community disco, East Kimberley College for Career Week and Kununurra's rodeo grounds for Wunan's Swimming the River on Horseback - a youth mentoring program.

Open Systems Support managing director Tom Clarkson said the company jumped at the opportunity to bring the idea to life.

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In order for Wunan to continue to achieve its outcomes it relies on a number of funding sources, including government, our own investment income, philanthropic and individual donations. Your support to make a real difference to the Indigenous people living in the East Kimberley is greatly appreciated, and can be made in the following ways:

Credit card donations can be made through our website:

www.wunan.org.au.

Alternatively, cheques and money orders can be forwarded to the address above.

ALL DONATIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE

