

Western Desert News

March 2026

Strong Culture, Strong People

CEO UPDATE

JYAC 2025 – What We Achieved This Year
2025 has been a big year for JYAC.

At the start of the year, we looked closely at how the organisation was working. We saw that some things needed to improve, like planning, governance, finances and communication. Over the year, we worked hard to fix these areas and build a stronger organisation for Martu.

Better Planning and Direction

In 2025, JYAC worked to have a clear plan.

- A Strategic Plan was developed and approved
- A yearly operational plan is now in place
- Work has started on a 5-year plan
- The rule book and governance documents have been reviewed

This means JYAC now has a clear direction and knows what it is working towards.

Stronger Governance (How JYAC is Run)

We made improvements to how the Board works:

- Clear rules and processes for meetings and decisions
- New ways to appoint directors that are fair and transparent
- Training for Board members at each meeting
- A calendar so the Board stays on track

This helps make sure decisions are made properly and in the best interests of Martu.



Jobs and Work on Country

JYAC supported Martu to work on Country:

- \$1.5 million paid to Martu for ranger and heritage work
- Expansion of the Ranger Program, including Women Rangers
- Better safety and travel processes for people working on Country
- Progress on Wedgefield upgrades and new arts centres for Well 33, Punmu and Jigalong.

This means more jobs, more skills, and stronger connection to Country.

Stronger Finances

JYAC is now in a much better financial position:

- Improved from a loss to a \$1 million surplus
- Secured \$12.7 million in funding
- Reduced unpaid debts
- Put in place better budgeting and financial systems

This helps make sure JYAC is stable and can plan for the future.

Better Relationships

We worked to improve relationships with community and partners:

- Meetings and Wangka held in places across the determination areas and places where Martu live.
- Stronger relationships with companies like Rio Tinto, Greatland and Antipa
- Better communication with members and funders

There is still more work to do, but relationships are improving.

Supporting Staff

We made changes to support staff and improve the workplace:

- New staff structure
- New roles filled (heritage and ranger positions)
- New HR systems and policies
- Introduction of an Employee Assistance Program

This helps staff do their jobs better and feel supported.

Looking to the Future

JYAC has started building new opportunities:

- Work on economic development projects
- New programs like the Greatland Drive Program
- Looking at ideas like Martu Made
- Planning for long-term income and jobs



What This Means

At the start of 2025, there were challenges.

By the end of 2025:

- JYAC has a clear plan
- The Board is working in a stronger way
- Finances are much better
- More jobs and programs are happening
- Relationships are improving

There is still more work to do, but JYAC is now on a stronger path.

Looking Ahead to 2026

In 2026, JYAC will focus on:

- Better communication with members with visits to all Martu locations in the Pilbara and the Kimberley regions and regular newsletters.
- Delivering Ranger and Heritage programs
- Growing jobs and programs
- Building long-term financial strength

Final Message

2025 was a year of change and hard work.

JYAC is now stronger and better prepared to support Martu people, protect Country, and build opportunities for the future.

Palya, Rebecca



Martu Charitable Trust



Education \$3,000

- School uniforms, books / stationery
- School, TAFE and other tuition Fees
- Boarding fees
- Excursions
- School lunch
- Computer/tablet
- Day care costs
- Birth certificates & photo ID cards
- School camps & holiday programs
- \$1,000 for students graduating Yr 12
- One-off payment of \$2,000 for students graduating from either a Certificate III or higher TAFE course or university degree
- \$1,000 for a Martu person completing their first-year anniversary with their employer



Medical \$2,000

- Dental
- Optical
- Preventative medicine
- Prescriptions
- Medical equipment
- Travel and accommodation when attending medical appointments
- Preventative health i.e., gym memberships, healthy eating programs and exercise equipment
- White Goods e.g. Fridge or washing machine



Funeral Costs \$12,000

- Funeral or reburial services
- Transporting a deceased person's body for burial
- Casket
- Flowers
- Printing
- Advertising
- Blankets – up to 100 blankets per funeral
- Food for sorry camps and wakes - limited to \$1500 per funeral.



End of Life \$2,000

- Up to \$2,000, per beneficiary; each financial year.
- Any air and/or bus travel is to be paid on invoice.
- Mileage will be paid in accordance with Australian Taxation Office (ATO) rates.
- Up to 10 family members to be approved for each unwell beneficiary.



Senior Hardship \$1,000

- White Goods e.g. Fridge or washing machine
- Essential Household Furniture
- Vehicle repairs & Maintenance
- Vehicle registration cost

If you have any queries, please contact Mutual Trust on (08) 9230 7755.

Completed forms and supporting documents can be sent to Mutual Trust by Email: Martu@mutualtrust.com.au

Funeral Costs

The Trustee Advisory Committee (TAC) have amended the policy as of the 09 March 2026 to include all Martu People. What does this mean? Martu People that pass away and have not registered with JYAC family can request assistance for burial expenses. Mutual Trust will work with the TAC to establish the persons connection to Martu People.

Lore and Culture

The funding is managed by the following communities and is available for all Martu People.

Funding can only be accessed if you are travelling for lore, it cannot be accessed at any other time or for any other reason.

All community contacts are the only persons who can confirm you will be travelling for lore. Make sure you have spoken to them first before you go to the Community Stores or Roadhouses to get purchase orders approved.

Be respectful of all Community Stores and their staff when requesting assistance. The staff all have a responsibility to make sure your trust money is spent properly.

What you need to know about Funeral arrangements

When signing paperwork (contract) for the services of a funeral/burial it is good to make sure that you understand what you are agreeing to and the costs and what is included for a loved one's funeral.

Funeral Directors are extremely helpful in providing services for all burial related matters you can shop around for blankets, flowers, memorial booklets and any other items you may wish to purchase for the funeral. If you buy some things in your community the money stays in community!

Funeral directors must be transparent with their pricing and not make incorrect or misleading statements and not offer unfair contract terms. See www.consumerprotection.wa.gov.au/funerals

Blankets and flowers can be purchased from the following places:

• Community shops such as Parnngurr, Punmu, Nullagine, Jigalong

• MAAC (Nullagine)

• Hedland Emporium (Port Hedland)

• Littlewood Fashions (Mirrabooka)

• Urban Rampage (Port Hedland and Newman)

• Outback Funeral Services

BHP IMPACT TOGETHER COMMUNITY PARTNER WORKSHOP

JYAC recently attended the BHP Impact Together Community Partner Workshop, which brought together key partners to share updates on BHP's social investment strategy and strengthen collaboration across the region. The workshop focused on co-design, storytelling, and measuring impact, with valuable insights shared through partner showcases and panel discussions featuring organisations working across the Pilbara and Western Australia.

JYAC participated in the workshop alongside partners including BHP, PAMS, KJ, Creating Communities, the Shire of East Pilbara, and the Town of Port Hedland. The sessions provided practical opportunities to explore new approaches to co-designing programs, improving impact measurement, and developing strong, sustainable funding submissions. JYAC gained valuable knowledge to support Martu-led priorities and continue delivering projects that create positive outcomes for community and ngurra.



WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A DIRECTOR

Our organisation is run by a Board of Directors.

Directors are members who are chosen to help guide the organisation and make important decisions for the future.

What does a Director do?

A Director's job is to:

- look after the organisation and make sure it is run properly
- make decisions that are fair and in the best interests of all members
- help plan for the future of our people, programs and Country
- read meeting papers and be prepared before meetings
- attend Board meetings and be part of discussions and decisions
- represent all Martu people – not just their own family or community
- follow the law and the organisation's Rule Book

Being a Director is an important responsibility.

Directors must act honestly, listen to members, and work together as a team for the good of everyone.

Who can become a Director?

You can nominate if you:

- are a member of the organisation
- meet the rules in the Rule Book
- are willing to attend meetings, read papers, and take on the responsibility

We will be calling for people wanting to put their hand up in August 2026.

Why this matters

Strong Directors help create a strong future for Martu people.

If you care about our people, our Country, and our organisation, you may want to think about nominating for the Board.

Your voice and leadership are important!

WHY A STRONG RULE BOOK MATTERS FOR OUR RNTBC

Every Aboriginal corporation has a Rule Book.

The Rule Book explains:

- how the organisation works
- how decisions are made
- how members and Directors must act
- For an RNTBC that holds native title, having a strong and current Rule Book is very important.

⚠ If the Rule Book Is Outdated

Problems can occur such as:

- Confusion about who makes decisions
- Disputes between families or groups
- Issues with meetings or elections
- Legal or compliance risks

Keeping the Rule Book updated helps keep the organisation stable, fair and strong.

What a Strong Rule Book Covers

A good Rule Book clearly explains:

- Membership – who the members are
- Directors – how they are chosen and their roles
- Meetings & voting – including AGMs
- Financial rules – how money is used and reported
- Native title decisions – how Traditional Owners are heard
- Conflict of interest rules
- How the Rule Book can be changed

These rules protect all Martu people.

Looking Ahead

JYAC is currently reviewing the Rule Book.

Proposed changes will be shared with members over the coming months.

Any changes will need to be approved by members at a Special General Meeting (SGM).

Strong rules help build a strong future for Martu people and Martu Country.

Why the Rule Book Must Be Up to Date

The law that governs Aboriginal corporations is the CATSI Act.

Our Rule Book must align with this law so that:

The organisation is legally compliant

Decisions are fair and valid

Members' rights are protected

Money and programs are managed properly

Partners and funders can trust the organisation

What Should NOT Be in the Rule Book

The Rule Book should not include:

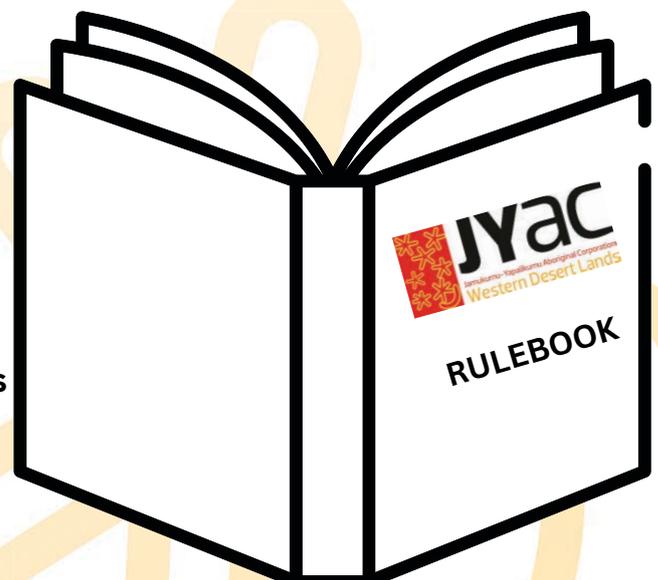
Rules that go against the CATSI Act

Rules that favour one family or group

Decisions that should be made case-by-case

Details that change often (these belong in policies)

The Rule Book should stay clear, fair and focused on governance.



Future AGM & Director Elections

Creating greater opportunity for Martu voices to be heard

Choosing our Directors is one of the most important ways Martu people have a say in the future of our organisation.

In the past, it hasn't always been easy for everyone to take part in elections – especially for those living on Country, in town, or far away.

That's why we are proposing a move to a hybrid election process in the future.

What is a hybrid election?

A hybrid election provides safe and fair ways to vote, including:

- **Voting in person at the AGM**
- **Voting in community before the AGM**
- **Voting by post if you live far away**

This approach helps ensure more Martu voices are heard.

Why this is good for Martu

A hybrid election will:

- **Allow Martu people to vote no matter where they live**
- **Support Elders and families who cannot travel to the AGM**
- **Make the process fair and equal for everyone**
- **Help choose Directors who truly represent all Martu people**
- **Strengthen trust in the organisation and its decisions**

This means the Board will better reflect the whole Martu community, not just people in one place.

Keeping the election fair and strong

Even with different ways to vote, the election will remain:

- **Secret and private**
- **Carefully checked so only members vote**
- **Counted properly with clear results**

These steps protect the voice of every Martu voter.

Why this matters for the future

When more Martu people can vote, we create:

- **Stronger leadership**
- **Better decisions for Country and community**
- **An organisation that truly belongs to all Martu people**

Having a say in choosing Directors is part of walking together – strong and fair

Important to note

This process can only happen once the Rulebook changes are in place.

Your voice matters. Your vote matters.



ANTIPA MINYARI MARTU NEGOTIATION COMMITTEE

Martu–Antipa Negotiations Started

This week, JYAC started talks with Antipa Minerals about a new agreement for Martu Country. This agreement is for a new mine in the Minyari Dome area, north of Telfer.

Who is representing Martu?

The JYAC Board has chosen a Martu Negotiation Committee to speak for Martu:

Bruce Booth and Bill Williams
(JYAC Board)

Greg Gardiner and Kenny
Thomas (not at the March
meeting)

Raylene Robinson and Morika
Biljabu

Their job is to work towards
the best deal for all Martu.

Who is Antipa?

Antipa Minerals are a gold and copper exploration and development company.

Antipa have been conducting exploration on Martu Country and surveys with Martu people since 2011.

First meeting

The first meeting was about getting to know each other. Martu representatives spoke about:

- What it means to be Martu
- The importance of culture and lore
- Strong connection to land and water
- Concerns about the impact of mining on country



Martu Negotiations Team

What happens next?

These talks will take a number of months and meetings.

At the end:

- The final agreement will go back to all Common Law Holders
- Martu will have the chance to say yes or no

JYAC will:

- Visit communities in May and August to give updates
- Share updates after each meeting

The Negotiation Committee is supported by:

- JYAC staff
- Economic advisors
- Lawyers

Antipa was represented by the Executive Chairman and supported by their Advisors and Lawyers. Antipa spoke about their company, their people, mining projects and what they wanted to achieve in partnership with Martu.

What is an ILUA?

An ILUA (Indigenous Land Use Agreement) is an agreement about how Martu land will be used.

It is made between:

Martu (native title holders)

A mining company (Antipa)

What is the goal?

The goal is to:

- Protect country and culture
- Make sure Martu agree before things happen
- Set clear rules everyone must follow
- Make sure there are real benefits for Martu people and Antipa

What does an ILUA cover?

An ILUA sets out:

- How Martu and Antipa will work together to make projects happen safely
- What can and can't happen on the land (like mining, roads, airstrips, bores)
- Where people can and can't go
- How cultural sites are protected
- What benefits come back to Martu (jobs, money, training, business)
- How problems will be sorted out

What happens next?

Martu and Antipa meet for the next negotiation meeting on Country in May at Minyari.

In simple words

This is about making sure Martu are heard, country is respected, and our people benefit.



Antipa, JYAC, Martu and Advisors

Why is an ILUA important?

An ILUA helps everyone agree first, instead of arguing later.

It makes sure:

- Agreements are fair, and beneficial for all parties
- Martu and Antipa know their responsibilities to each other
- Martu have a say
- Antipa know what they can/can't do
- People don't come onto country without permission
- Things are done the right way, respecting culture



JYAC, Martu and Advisors

RANGER & HERITAGE UPDATE



The heritage and landscape crew have started the 2026 season. We're not quite at full speed yet, but we're definitely warming up.

So far this year we've rolled out four heritage jobs- two monitoring trips and two environmental surveys. Things are starting to pick up speed though, with another four jobs lined up for March. April's calendar is already looking chokkas with nine jobs booked in, and May is filling up fast too.

If you'd like to be considered for heritage work this year, give the JYAC office a call. We can make sure we've got your latest contact details on file so we can keep you in the loop when jobs come up.

Meanwhile, the Ranger teams have been out on the road, catching up with Martu across the region to talk about plans for the 2026 field season. We've been listening to what people want to see happen on Country- where to visit, who should be involved, and what activities should take place.

So far we've stopped in Hedland, Newman, Warralong, Strelley, Jigalong, Nullagine, Bidadanga, Broome, Fitzroy Crossing and Looma. Thanks to all those yarns, we've got a solid map of what community wants to see happen this season. Now it's time to put the foot down and make it happen!

The first field trip of the year has already hit the road, with a team heading out to Yartutuma to collect camera traps and check for signs of mangkarr.

We've also got Nominator Training coming up in April:

Newman – 10 April

Hedland – 17 April

If you're a 2026 nominator, get in touch with the JYAC office so we can help organise your travel and make sure you can attend one of the sessions.

Looks like 2026 is gearing up to be a big year, so buckle up!



PROJECTS & GRANTS

Community Art Centres (GRP)

Construction of the new community Art Centres in Punmu, Kunawarritji and Jigalong is progressing well, with all sites currently on track. Major components have now been fabricated, including concrete slabs and structural frames, with roofing, wall cladding, and essential services such as electrical and plumbing partially installed. Work is continuing steadily in the contractor's yard, with regular progress reviews and milestone checks confirming the project remains on schedule.



JYAC is continuing to work closely with community corporations, Martumili and the Shire of East Pilbara to prepare for the handover and long-term management of the centres. The Board also visited the Art Centres this month to see construction progress firsthand. All three centres are expected to be completed and handed over to communities between June and August 2026, providing dedicated spaces to support Martu artists, strengthen culture, and create new opportunities in community.

Disaster Resilience Capacity Building (NEMA)

JYAC has secured funding through the Disaster Ready program to strengthen emergency preparedness across Martu communities. Since December 2025, JYAC has been working with consultant Battleground to plan community consultation trips, which will focus on learning from past extreme weather events and identifying ways to improve how communities prepare for and respond to emergencies.

Consultation visits are scheduled to begin in May 2026, with JYAC preparing to engage with key stakeholders and community members ahead of these trips. The feedback gathered will help shape a clear and practical disaster resilience plan, outlining JYAC's role alongside other organisations to better support communities during future events.

Community Infrastructure Renewal (RPPP)

Planning for the Community Infrastructure Renewal projects in Punmu, Kunawarritji and Parnngurr has progressed well, with community consultation, site visits and concept design work completed. Updated locations for key facilities in Punmu and Kunawarritji have been confirmed through community discussions, and these are now being incorporated into the design and approvals process. This work is helping to ensure projects are practical, well-located and ready for future construction funding.

The project is currently on hold following a pause in the next stage of grant funding, which was intended to support construction-ready planning. JYAC will continue working with communities and partners to finalise key agreements and be ready to move forward once funding resumes. These projects remain an important step toward delivering improved community facilities that support local services, training and long-term development opportunities.

PROJECTS & GRANTS

Groundwater Management

JYAC is progressing a Community Groundwater Management project to better understand and protect drinking water across Martu communities. With funding secured, planning is underway for a targeted water sampling program, which will test groundwater sources in communities and along the Canning Stock Route. Sampling trips are scheduled for May 2026, covering key locations including Kunawarritji, Punmu, Jigalong, Nullagine, Warralong and Strelley, with laboratory testing to focus on water quality, including heavy metals and uranium, in line with national guidelines.

Alongside this work, JYAC is partnering with The Right Water Company to explore the long-term potential of groundwater to support community needs and future economic opportunities. The project will provide important data to guide safe drinking water management, strengthen environmental monitoring, and support planning for a possible Martu-owned water enterprise, helping build greater community control and resilience into the future.

Martuku Jijiku Maya

Term 1 2026 has started positively at Martuku Jijiku Maya, with strong student attendance and engagement across the program. By the end of Week 6, students had attended 29 school days, with two students achieving excellent attendance of 28 and 27 days. There have also been some great academic outcomes, including one student receiving high praise from their teacher for outstanding work on a HASS assessment.

Students have also been supported to take part in a range of activities that build confidence and wellbeing. This includes attending an Army Cadets event, where one student proudly graduated to the next level, and a 4-day leadership camp in Exmouth for a Year 12 student through Clontarf. In addition, students have attended dental check-ups, ensuring their health and wellbeing continue to be supported alongside their education.



DRIVE PROGRAM

Drive Program hits the road!

JYAC is proud to share that the Drive Program is now live. This program charters Indigenous workers to and from the Telfer mine site. It has been made possible through a partnership between JYAC and Greatland, working together to create more opportunities for Martu people.

A big thank you to Vass, who has done an amazing job getting all the paperwork, mine access and approvals sorted so we could step into the charter business world. Because of that work, we were ready to start taking trips when needed. We also welcomed Teiona to the JYAC community as the first driver in the Drive Program. Between Teiona and Vass, the team has already completed around 12 charter trips.

It is still early days and we are taking small steps while we learn and grow. But we are already planning ahead. To expand the Drive Program we will need more drivers. If you are interested in becoming a charter driver, please reach out to JYAC and have a yarn with us. Our goal is to grow the Drive Program so we can support 2 to 3 more mining operators over the next 18 months. If we reach that goal it could mean around 100 trips every month.

The Drive Program shows what can happen when JYAC and Greatland work together with strong ideas and a shared goal to create opportunities for Martu people. This is just one of the initiatives we are rolling out as we make the most of the new space at Wedgefield. There are more exciting plans coming soon.

Let's keep building this together.



If you are interested in becoming a charter driver, please reach out to JYAC and have a wangka with us!

WEDGEFIELD WAREHOUSE

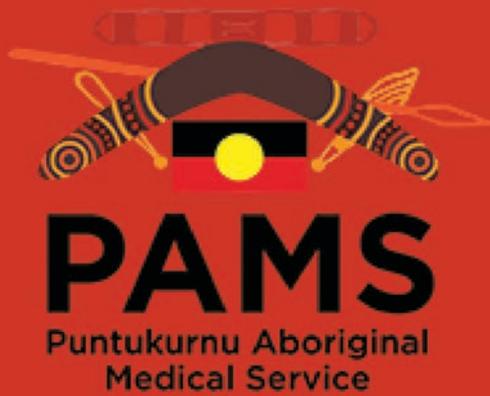
We are pleased to provide an update on the Wedgefield Warehouse, with significant progress now underway as the modular buildings are being installed on site. This marks an important milestone in bringing the facility to life and establishing a strong operational base in the Pilbara. The installation of the modulares will provide essential infrastructure to support day-to-day operations, including workspace, storage, and coordination areas for Ranger teams and staff. Once complete, the warehouse will serve as a central hub to improve the management of equipment, streamline logistics, and strengthen our ability to deliver programs efficiently across the region. We would like to acknowledge and thank our valued partners, Pilbara Development Commission, Lotterywest, and Indigenous Land and Sea Corporation, whose support has been instrumental in progressing this project.

With construction progressing well, we are now preparing for the official Wedgefield Warehouse Launch, scheduled for 22 May. This event will be an opportunity to showcase the new facility, acknowledge the partnerships that have supported its development, and celebrate this important investment in infrastructure for the organisation and the broader Martu community. As we move toward completion, focus will also be placed on implementing systems and processes to ensure the warehouse operates effectively from day one. The Wedgefield Warehouse will play a key role in enhancing operational capacity, supporting teams on Country, and enabling stronger, more coordinated service delivery into the future.



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PAMS UPCOMING EVENTS

27th March – Morning tea @ Martumilli programs team.

30th March – Aqua Slam

April 8th – Warlawuurru Cup

April 9th – SOEP Youth week event

April 10th – Morning tea @ Martumilli programs team.

April 11th – Monthly Kayaking

April 23-25 Boogie Bounce



Men's BBQ
Come Together - Yarn - Share a Feed

Date: **Wednesday 15th April 2026**
Time: **11:30am to 1.00pm**
Location: **Train Park**

Join us for some good food and to meet the new
Community Support Officer.

Please contact on 0475 714 367
pams.comso@puntukurnu.com

Free BBQ - Good Yarns



Bring your mates, brothers, uncles and nephews.



Martumilli

**Morning Tea
Wangka with PAMS**

When: Friday, 24th October
Time: 10am
Where: Martumilli Studio

**Come have some mirrka and learn
about local health services.**



Every second Friday, starting on 24th October



JYAC CAMERA ROLL



Feedback or questions?

If you would like to provide feedback or ask a question, please contact us at admin@jyac.com.au. We love hearing from our members and common law holders.

Level 3, 130 Royal Street, East Perth WA 6004
08 9486 9797 | admin@jyac.com.au

jyac.com.au



