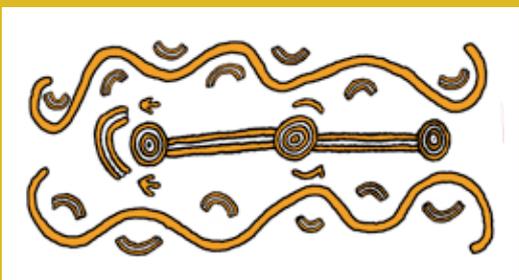
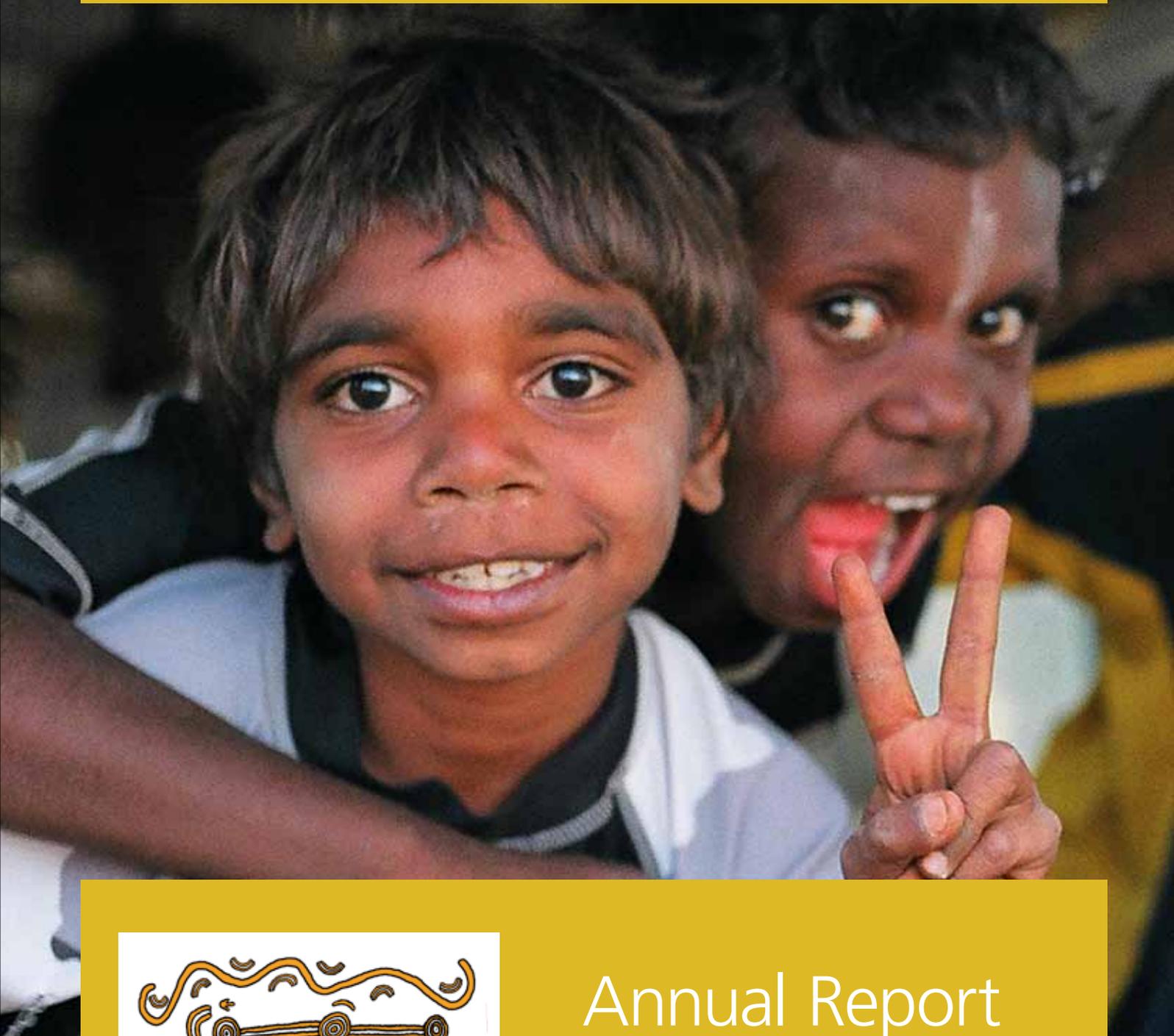


Warlpiri Youth Development Aboriginal Corporation
Mt Theo Program



Annual Report
08/09

Contents



Page 04	Committee
Page 06	Managers Report
Page 10	Mt Theo Outstation
Page 12	Youth Programs
Page 13	Yuendumu
Page 14	Willowra
Page 15	Nyirrpi
Page 16	Lajamanu
Page 17	WETT Youth & Media Project
Page 18	Jaru Pirrjirdi (Strong Voices) Youth Development Program
Page 21	Warra-Warra Kanyi Counselling and Mentoring Service
Page 24	Yuendumu Swimming Pool
Page 25	Mechanical Training Workshop
Page 26	Melbourne's Warlpiri Warrior
Page 29	Talking Story
Page 30	Media
Page 31	Partners
Page 32	Staff
Page 33	Financial Report

Committee

A committee of 62 elected Aboriginal people from Yuendumu community manages the Mt Theo Program. Committee members represent all family groups and organisations. Associate members may be drawn from Nyirрпи, Willowra and Lajamanu community members.

Executive:

Thomas Rice Chairperson
Jean Brown Chairperson, Traditional Owner
Robbie Walit Treasurer
Serena Shannon Executive Member
Donovan Rice Executive Member
Ned Hargraves Executive member
Larissa Granites Executive Member
Connie Walit Executive member

Committee:

Alan Dickson
Albert Wilson
Audrey Brown
Barbara Martin
Bethany Langdon (Jaru)
Caleb Hargraves
Cecily Granites
Charro Watson (Jaru)
Cherylyn Granites (Jaru)
Connie Walit
Donovan Rice (Executive Member)
Enid Gallagher (Executive Member)
Gina Spencer (Jaru)
Judith Hargraves
Katrina Brown
J Nungarrayi Egan
Larissa Granites (Executive Member) (Jaru)
Lawrence White (Jaru)
Michael Wayne (Jaru)
Ned Hargraves (Executive Member)
Nellie Wayne
Neville Poulson
Otto Sims
Ratasha Watson (Jaru)
Riley Oldfield
Robbie Walit (Treasurer)
Ruby Williams
Sebastian Watson
Serena Shannon (Executive Member)
Shaun Brown (Jaru)
Shaun Watson
Shaun Wilson (Jaru)
Sherman Spencer (Jaru)
Steven Marshall
Thomas Rice (Chairperson)
Thomas Watson
Valeria Martin
ASSOCIATE MEMBER (Willowra)
Teddy Long

Traditional Owners:

Carson Brown
Cecil Johnson
Charlotte Langdon
Coral Gallagher
Dennis Williams
Ernest Brown
Glenys Brown
Gracie Johnson
Jean Brown (Chairperson)
Jimmy Langdon
Johnny Miller
Johnny Williams
Joylene Langdon
Liddy Walker
Louanna Williams
Margarina Miller
Mary Ross
Ormay Gallagher
Pamela Sampson
Perry Langdon
Rex Forrest
Scotty (Clifford) Brown
Warren Williams
Warwick Williams

Manager's Report



This year Mt Theo Program has continued to consolidate and develop sound, effective programs caring for young Warlpiri men and women. Providing services in 4 Warlpiri communities realises a long held Committee dream of being able to look after young men and women from all across the Warlpiri region. Our success continues to attract demands for our comprehensive range of services, with particular attention to preventative projects, alternatives to incarceration, and a focus on young people dealing with issues other than substance misuse.

The Outreach Program, providing services in Willowra, Nyirripi and Lajamanu remains largely funded through community funds provided by The Warlpiri Education Training Trust (WETT), administered by the Kurra Aboriginal Corporation. Kurra is a body of Warlpiri entrusted with allocating royalty funding in the Warlpiri Lands. This year we were able to fulfil our commitment to Kurra when we became operational in Lajamanu. The Program provides a strong focus on media training by our partners PAW Media. Yuendumu remains the support hub for these outreach activities.

Consistency of youth activities in Willowra, Nyirripi and Lajamanu improved significantly this year after employing appropriate and enthusiastic staff. Community members are committed to the program and work as casual workers and volunteers, substantially enhancing the scope and value of activities. Local Youth Committees provide direction, and ensure community priorities are considered in program activities.

The Mt Theo Outstation remains a powerful diversionary initiative with 32% of total clients this year referred by the Department of Community Corrections, 46% by Police and 22% were family/self referred. From a total of 35 clients cared for at Mt Theo, only one Yuendumu young man had been sniffing petrol, and no incidents were recorded in Willowra, Nyirripi or Lajamanu. The remaining 34 clients were diversionary - 40% cannabis related, 20% alcohol related, 14.9% domestic/family violence and 68.5% breaking in/stealing. Clients often present with more than one issue.

The significant rise in cannabis related diversion illustrates a developing community commitment to deal with the cannabis problem, rather than necessarily an increase in use. The majority of clients diverted to Mt Theo for breaking in or stealing were under 16, demonstrating the strong process of early intervention.

The Jaru Pirrjirdi (Strong Voices) Program remains at the heart of growing up young men and women to take their place in the community. The Jaru members are emerging as mentors and youth leaders, working on community development projects that help create positive futures for both individuals and the community. A natural outcome of strong personal development has been 26 young people employed in a range of community organisations, a 61% increase since last financial year, and another 58 engaged in meaningful pathways in the community, up by 35%.

Members of Jaru Pirrjirdi continue to run all activities in the Yuendumu Youth Program. This year 97 workers provided over 4800 hours of varied activities. Jaru Night Club attracts an average of 28 men and women between 16 and 25 years old. A variety of activities are offered, including those promoting literacy, numeracy, youth development, educational and vocational activities. As a result of participation in Night Club, and case-management, 29 young men and women re-enrolled in secondary education.



One of our more famous Jaru Pirrjirdi graduates, Liam Jurrah, set the AFL world alight this year with his freakish talent when he made his senior debut with the Melbourne Football Club. More importantly, he has become a hero to old and young alike in Warlpiri country. A proud young Warlpiri man, he speaks strong and clear about his pride and love of his country and his people. He has shown remarkable maturity and resilience in leaving his country to follow his dreams, and to represent the Warlpiri nation in Melbourne. It is impossible to measure the enormous impact of his success, his pride and his dignity on our mob.

The Mt Theo Diesel Mechanics Training Workshop continues to attract young men for pre-vocational training, with a view to enrolling in Cert 111 Heavy Vehicle Mechanics. The workshop has a dual function as a diversionary strategy, and the means to provide appropriate local training for local jobs. Apart from a number of supportive individuals, the workshop has never received funding. We are happy to report that in 2008-2009 the Workshop generated enough income to operate effectively and pay salaries.

A clear highlight of the year was the opening of the Yuendumu Community Swimming Pool on 27 October 2008. Five long and agonising years in the planning were vindicated when our smiling young people jumped into the pool for the first time. Ministers Jenny Macklin and Karl Hampton, Mt Theo Chairpersons Thomas Jangala Rice and Jean Napanangka Brown, members of the Kantor family and the lifeguards all cut the ribbon. The large crowd of politicians, community members from all over the Warlpiri region, and journalists, were not disappointed by the celebration. Six Jaru Pirrjirdi men and women received their bronze medallions and lifeguard qualifications and now work in the Pool. An ongoing program of training ensures not only a good source of workers, but increased safety for community swimmers.



A beneficial partnership continues with Newmont Asia Pacific (Tanami Operations), facilitated by Paul Davis, Community Relations Coordinator. This year Newmont provided funding for Jaru Pirrjirdi trainees, and pool operations. They also supplied us with protective clothing for the workshop, and sheets, blankets and clothing for outstation clients. Paul consistently assists with strong business and strategic mentoring, and is our advocate in many forums to which we would not normally have access.

An exciting development this year was the implementation of the Warra-Warra Kanyi Counselling and Mentoring Program. In 2008 we were approached by FAHCSIA Mental Health Branch, to discuss the PHaMS (Personal Helpers and Mentors Strategy). Inspired by the remarkable outcomes of the Jaru Pirrjirdi mentoring project, we were already providing the services they had identified as best practice. We assisted PHaMS to develop a remote strategic response to mental health treatment and services and the Mt Theo Program is the first remote PHaMS project to have been funded.

Warra-Warra Kanyi aims to provide community based counselling and mentoring. This service was developed by, and delivered in and for, Warlpiri communities to address ongoing risk issues. It delivers its services in partnership with the Mt Theo Outstation and Jaru Pirrjirdi, providing regular counselling and mentoring support to the clients of the Outstation to complement the cultural rehabilitation facilitated by elders there. The majority (roughly 70%) of the counselling and mentoring work done by Warra-Warra Kanyi occurs in Yuendumu community. Several years of experience and Warlpiri expertise have led to the development of a unique and comprehensive model of preventative/educative measures, early intervention approaches, crisis response, and individual counselling and mentoring support.

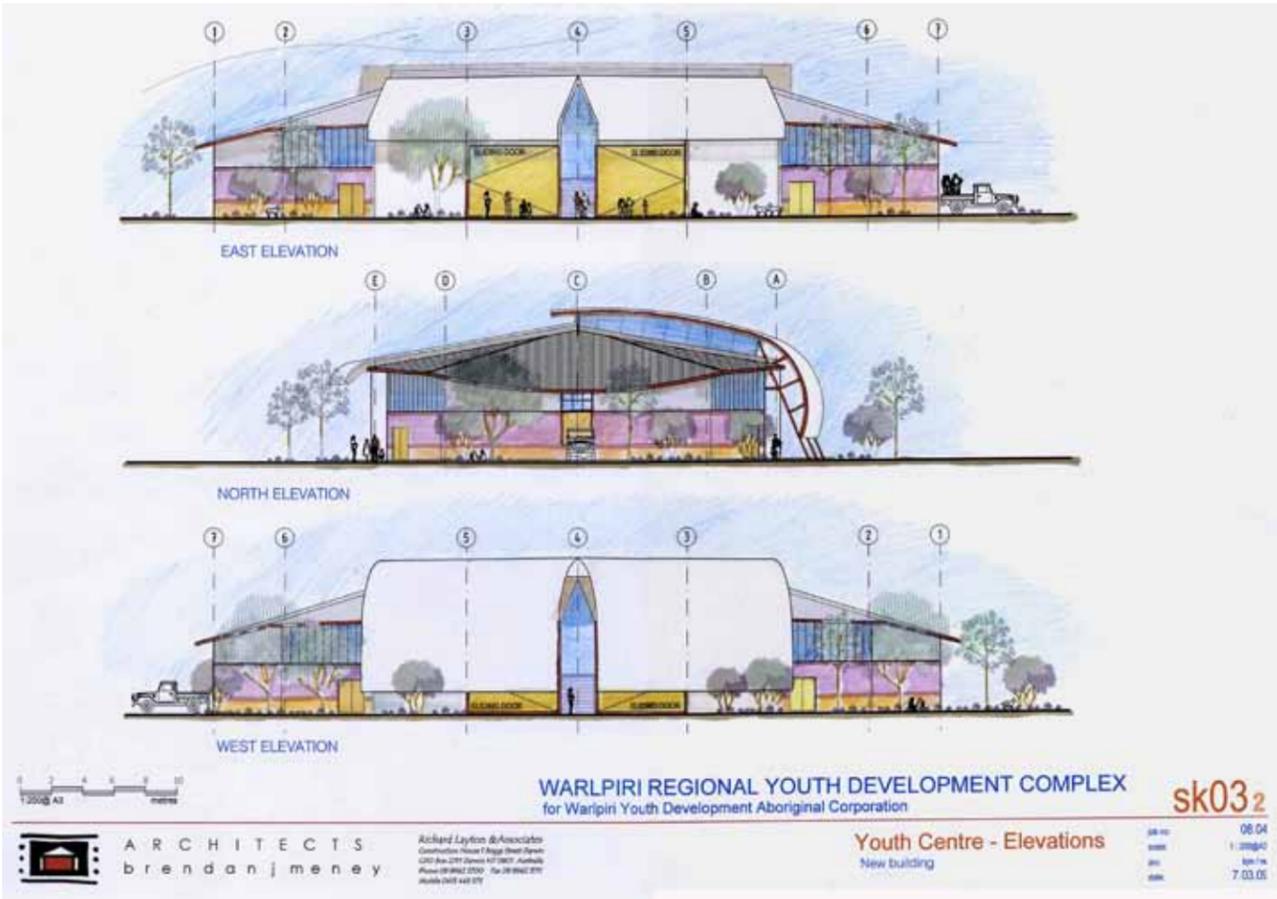
Along with the four other service elements of the Mt Theo Program, Warra Warra Kanyi forms a strong, comprehensive network of care in which no young Warlpiri person struggles with personal difficulty alone. Warra-Warra Kanyi is featured in this Report.



Another significant achievement this year was the commencement of a building program to replace the dilapidated youth centre, and our too small office space. Stage 1, funded by FAHCSIA through the CAPSSU (Central Australian Petrol Sniffing Strategy Unit) will be completed in October 2009. The complex has been designed as an administrative hub for WYDAC across the region, as well as providing a youth training and counselling facility that will be accessed by all communities. Included in the site (opposite the Yuendumu Swimming Pool), is a central community space for sport, recreation and training, with facilities for all ages such as a landscaped playground, BBQs for community use, and an outdoor stage area for concerts and meetings.

Fifteen years ago, Warlpiri in Yuendumu gathered for yet another meeting to discuss petrol sniffing. It was hurting not only the young people but the entire community. They knew young people from around the region had passed away from petrol sniffing, and they were afraid. This time the meeting was different. This time they decided enough was enough. They knew no one could save their young people but themselves. They planned, they acted, and began 15 years of hard work, commitment, and love. Today, as this Annual Report illustrates, young Warlpiri men and women of Yuendumu are clear evidence of the necessity and effectiveness of a community-based response to community issues. After 15 years, the core objective of the Mt Theo Program remains strong: the commitment to supporting young people to recognize their personal and cultural strengths, to fulfill their potential as strong leaders and mentors in their communities. The stories shared in this Annual Report inspire us every day: stories of young people making good choices, of a Program growing, fuelled by the dreams of these same young people and their relentless pursuit of opportunities to make the community a better place, of elders who share their time and their stories to make their young people proud of who they are. Finally, I again pay tribute to the exemplary Mt Theo team, dedicated Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal men and women who understand the challenge, and embrace the privilege, of being part of the Mt Theo Story.

Susie Low
CEO, July 2009





Mt Theo Outstation

Established in 1994, the flagship of the Mt Theo Program is still the provision of cultural rehabilitation and strengthening of young people through the care of Warlpiri mentors and elders. This rehabilitation occurs at the remote Outstation, 160km northwest of Yuendumu. The Outstation focuses on young Warlpiri people suffering from the effects of a wide range of personal problems. Alcohol and cannabis misuse, self-harm, domestic/family violence and other criminal or anti-social behavior (such as drink-driving and property damage) have been articulated by the Mt Theo Committee and the Warlpiri community as constituting the most serious issues currently affecting the health and well-being of their young people.

The total of 35 clients cared for at Mt Theo marked a 46% decrease since last year. We have found that as our community-based preventative, diversionary and aftercare projects strengthen, many clients may be cared for appropriately within the community context. Only one Yuendumu young man was referred to Mt Theo for sniffing petrol, and no incidents were recorded in Willowra, Nyirrpi or Lajamanu. The remaining 34 clients were diversionary - 40% cannabis related; 20% alcohol related; 14.9% domestic/family violence and 68.5% breaking in/stealing.

Thirty-two percent of total clients this year were referred by Department of Community Corrections, 46% by Police and 22% were family/self referred.

The significant rise in cannabis related diversion illustrates a developing community commitment to deal with the cannabis problem, rather than an increase in use. The majority of clients diverted to Mt Theo for breaking in or stealing were under 16, demonstrating the strong process of early intervention. Internal service provision to outstation clients through WWK, Jaru mentors and facilitating family visits has strengthened considerably during this period.

All outstation clients typically spend their day in a blend of cultural and recreational activities. Hunting, tracking, cooking traditional foods, traditional painting, fire-making, story-telling, and trips to significant sites provide an environment not only for cultural strengthening, but also a non-threatening forum to engage in discussion about the problems they are working through. They also play football and basketball and participate in workshops that can range from music to health promotion.

One ongoing challenge is to ensure reliable phone communication with the outstation. The remote location means service to these lines can be delayed. Satellite communication is used to ensure regular contact when necessary. Another challenge is ensuring a consistent supply of good quality water from the bore, including regular maintenance of the pump. Negotiations continue with the Central Desert Shire to sink a second bore. Rainwater tanks were installed in the major upgrade in 2007, but to date there has not been sufficient rain to make this a reliable source of drinking water.

All clients are case managed at the Outstation, and on return to the community. Case files are maintained by Mt Theo staff and updated through regular contact with the Outstation, participation in youth activities in the community, and through contact with Jaru Pirrjirdi and Warra-Warra Kanyi mentors. With Youth Workers now in Willowra, Nyirrpi and Lajamanu we can offer better aftercare to clients from those communities. Our experience shows that consistent aftercare assists in strengthening clients to re-engage with their families in a stronger, more positive way.



The distinctive identity of the Mt Theo Outstation within Warlpiri youth culture, and indeed within the broader Warlpiri community, is a significant and contributing factor in the program's ongoing success. Warlpiri youth widely express a perception of Mt Theo as a life-saving place, where young people are safely and appropriately looked after in a 'proper' Warlpiri way. Young people will strongly encourage their at-risk peers to go to Mt Theo as a safe and supported environment for dealing with their problems, and occasionally even refer themselves to Mt Theo for respite care. Furthermore, young people from Yuendumu, regardless of their own personal issues, are enormously proud of the fact that their community has so effectively dealt with a problem as significant and widespread petrol sniffing, and facilitated a healthy, petrol-free youth culture.

This pride in and respect for Mt Theo among Warlpiri youth does not negate the deterrent or punitive element of spending time at Mt Theo. Being sent to Mt Theo is still very much a punishment in the minds of Warlpiri youth. The 'punishment' of sending a young person to Mt Theo for substance misuse, domestic violence or anti-social and criminal activity constitutes for that young person a community-sanctioned penalty for these behaviours through appropriate and powerful cultural avenues. It has been our experience that the active censure of these behaviours from within the Warlpiri community is the most effective measure for eradicating or positively modifying such behaviours.

The Outstation program is funded by the Department of Health and Aging (Office of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health; Drug Strategy Branch), and the NT Department of Health and Community Services. The Attorney General's Department funds care of Community Corrections clients through CAYLUS.



Youth Programs

Youth Program activities target 4 – 16 year olds, providing diverse and interesting alternatives to substance abuse and other anti-social behaviour. The Mt Theo Model also provides for over 16 year olds to work as casual youth worker trainees where they have the opportunity to gain significant personal and professional development.

Yuendumu

The Youth Program operates seven days a week in Yuendumu, every week of the year and incorporates several activities after school every day and a number of activities every evening. Jaru Pirrjirdi trainees have the opportunity to move into casual, part-time or full-time work in the Program.

There are generally 5-6 youth program activities every day. Allowing for concurrent activities there were over 104 hours of youth program activities for the youth of Yuendumu every week, provided by 97 Jaru Pirrjirdi trainees. Young people returning from Mt Theo Outstation are engaged alongside staff and Jaru Pirrjirdi trainees in running youth activities. This aftercare also provides a natural forum for mentorship by senior Jaru members.



Regular activities this year have included basketball, softball, football, indoor soccer, painting, concerts, discos, IT skills development, pool table and video games, film nights and excursions. Special vacation activities included workshops in graffiti art, multi-media, dance, song writing, music recording, and CD and video production. The Homework Centre is an exciting new initiative to add value to Yuendumu School hours for primary children. It is seen as a younger version of Jaru Night Club for the 5 – 15 age bracket. As part of the youth program, school children come to the Homework Centre 2 afternoons a week. The School provides learning resources and the Youth Worker is assisted by Jaru trainees and Youth Challenge Australia volunteers. This has proved a huge success with younger children with an average daily attendance of 21. Work sheets and games focus on developing numeracy and literacy, handwriting skills, comprehension, geography and culture. Music and art are also offered. Through discussions with their school teachers, we are able to provide meaningful one on one support to kids in areas they are struggling with.

InCite Arts continued to support our dance and music projects, providing guest artists and funding for 2 x 4 week Graffiti art projects and a 2-week Hip Hop project including CD production and concert.

Funded by the Commonwealth Department of Family, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs; Central Desert Shire Sport & Recreation funds; NRETAS, Warlpiri Education Training Trust (WETT); Arts NT; Yuendumu Education Centre; in-kind support from Newmont Mines.



Willowra

The Willowra Youth Program has had a solid year of activities, largely due to long term and committed youth workers.

Despite a period of community unrest, they were able to run regular activities, with a special focus on bush trips as a way of re-engaging the young people, and the entire community. An average of 70 hours per week of activities attracted an average 293 participants. Jukurra Ngurrju (Good Story), the Willowra equivalent of the Jaru Pirrjirdi model is gaining momentum and being recognized as a vital process in strengthening young people.

Some highlights of the year:

- CAAMA music and dance workshop
- construction of a training room for older youth
- construction of a large multi-purpose room to the youth centre
- increase in literacy and numeracy activities
- strong interest in media projects
- planning completed and funding secured for a stand-alone music and media studio



The new training rooms and music studio will provide a good space for focusing on training and future pathways, including WETT media training by PAW Media. The youth workers have also taken on the role to mentor 4 young people through their Child Care Cert 111 studies through World Vision.

Youth Workers David and Rachel Waugh brought considerable skill from a media/arts background. This is reflected in a significant Arts component and in planning projects such as the forthcoming Willowra festival (Purlapa wiri yawulyu wiri), photography projects and films. David also conducts weekly formal media and arts training at the Willowra School.

Funded by the NT Department of Health and Community Services; the Department of Family and Community Services and Indigenous Affairs; Warlpiri Education Training Trust (WETT), CAYLUS, and GMAAAC.



Nyirrpi

Two full-time workers run activities 5 days every week, under the direction of a local youth committee. An average of 38 hours per week of activities attracted an average 178 participants. Former members of the Mt Theo Committee and members of WYDAC, who live in Nyirrpi, guide program strategy and mentor the youth workers.

CAYLUS supported the Program by constructing an office, computer room, and storage space in the community hall, a bubbler with cooled, clean water, and fencing.

Regular activities included sports, computers, movie and family nights, arts and craft, and swimming out bush. Activities are based out of the renovated community hall. Bush trips are a vital part of the program, and by far the most popular activity.

Through the WETT Project, we have been able to develop young people's enthusiasm for music and media through daily youth program activities, and 2 x 2 week video production and editing workshops. These workshops were delivered by Anna Cadden, for PAW Media, and the film projects are built on young people's concerns. One film was produced about 'jealous fighting', another on love for country, and another on Gypsy, the adopted community camel. Nyirrpi produced a film about Ethel Creek to record a culturally significant bush trip during which elders passed on culture through dance and storytelling.

A particularly popular workshop this year was 2 weeks of Hip Hop Dance, provided through our partnership with InCite Arts.

The Nyirrpi Youth Program is wholly funded by community funds, through the Warlpiri Education Training Trust (WETT).



Lajamanu

The Lajamanu Youth Program is Mt Theo Program's most recent regional initiative, opening in April 2009. The community were enthusiastic about our arrival and waited patiently while we established housing for workers, a program vehicle, program resources, and a process for working with other agencies in the community. Mt Theo Program transferred two experienced youth workers, Amy Hardy and Kyle Jarvie from Willowra Program to work in Lajamanu. As Mt Theo's most remote service there have been significant challenges in creating a sustainable base and sound practices so far away from the Yuendumu support hub.

We are grateful for the assistance of Jeana Fowler, Central Desert Shire Manager, who, understanding the importance of the youth program, allowed our youth workers to take up residence in a Shire house. Tracey and Norbert Patrick, Shire sport and recreation officers welcomed our workers and immediately worked out good ways of working together. Their presence and willingness to extend their efforts to the benefit of the community has undoubtedly paved the way for the success of our workers implementation phase.

The Lajamanu Youth Program will carry a strong emphasis on multi-media, music and dance, following the tradition of the bi-annual Milpirri celebration. Under the WETT Project, Anna Cadden conducted a 2 week training workshop to coincide with a Warlpiri Rangers bush trip. The resulting production was scripted, filmed, edited and finalized by Lajamanu young people. Two local artists, Shane White and Maxwell Tasman, who have worked for several years with PAW, will work alongside Anna to train other young men and women.

A full program of youth activities is now in place, with a growing team of local Jaru Pirrjirdi trainees. Steve Jampijimpa Patrick, creator of the Milpirri project, and teacher at Lajamanu School, supervises and mentors our youth workers to ensure the needs and wants of the community guide all planning. Over 2009 – 2010 we will be pursuing funds to repair and upgrade the community hall as a suitable base for program activity.

The Lajamanu Youth Program is wholly funded by community funds, through the Warlpiri Education Training Trust (WETT) and Mt Theo Program private donations.



Warlpiri Education and Training Trust (WETT)

Youth and Media Project

This project, begun in 2007, was developed in response to The Kurra Aboriginal Corporation requesting Mt Theo provide youth services with a focus on media training and employment across the Warlpiri region. Kurra is responsible for allocating royalty funding in the Warlpiri Lands through WETT projects. Partnered with PAW Media (aka Warlpiri Media) we have been able to extend youth and media activities in Willowra, Yuendumu and Nyirrpi. This year we fulfilled our commitment by opening in Lajamanu.

The Project aims to support Warlpiri youth to develop their sense of self, family and culture through diversionary programs with a special focus on media.

The model initially focuses on diversionary activities for young people, including sport, recreation and new media. Project-based media workshops focus on process, developing interesting youth and media opportunities for young people as a diversion from anti-social behaviour. Over time media activities move toward the development of employment options and media products for use in the communities involved and the wider community.

Mt Theo Program is excited about the outcomes to date. Youth workers in Willowra, Yuendumu, Nyirrpi and Lajamanu receive ongoing training with PAW Media and several film and music projects are ongoing. This enables our workers on the ground to provide strong follow-up to PAW Media workshops.

This year, PAW Media conducted four media workshops in Yuendumu, Nyirrpi, and Lajamanu on video production and video editing. A total of 60 training days attracted 28 formal trainees and 30 participants. Sixteen films were completed and another 11 are still in production.

In order to showcase the outcomes of the video training program, PAW Media developed a website at www.wettmedia.org.au. The site contains flash based videos of productions from Nyirrpi and Lajamanu, and will be updated as productions are completed. The website banner was developed by Jason Woods, a Jaru Pirrjirdi graduate employed with PAW Media.



Jaru Pirrjirdi (Strong Voices)

The Jaru Pirrjirdi Program is a youth development and leadership program, as well as an aftercare program for 'at risk' youth. It works hand in hand with the Warra-Warra Kanyi Counselling and Mentoring Service to develop strong, empowered, skilled and dedicated young leaders for the community of Yuendumu. The Jaru Pirrjirdi Program creates meaningful and positive futures for young adults aged 16-25, as distinct from the 'diversionary' aims of the Youth Program. The Jaru Pirrjirdi Program is based on a six level progressive structure. These levels represent growing degrees of capacity and responsibility for young Jaru Pirrjirdi members and culminate in potential life and career pathways. There are currently 97 young adults involved with the Jaru Pirrjirdi Program.

Level 1: Youth Program & Jaru Night Club

Activities of the Youth Program are run with the assistance of Jaru trainees. This work provides young adults with meaningful activity and responsibility. There are generally 5-6 youth program activities every day and two workers can be responsible for each activity.

The use of Jaru trainees enables them to grow as leaders in the community who can monitor youth at risk. Jaru trainees are in the best possible position to act as mentors to Yuendumu youth. This involves conflict resolution, family negotiation and counselling on a daily basis. Regular contact facilitates early identification of youth who may be seriously at risk for more significant issues. Furthermore it provides Jaru trainees with a sense of pride and leadership within the community that helps them to overcome their own underlying and unresolved issues.

Jaru Night Club is held 3 nights every week of the school year. Jaru Night Club was created to allow young adults to engage in productive and enjoyable practical learning. Jaru Night Club is not a replacement for secondary education but rather a less formal environment through which young adults can re-access education and participate in an alternative positive set of activities during the evenings.

Jaru Night Club included recreational activities as well as directed practical learning activities such as story writing, mathematics, painting, printmaking, reading, computers, cooking and music. Additionally Jaru Night Club has a practical or project focus in that it may include workshops on issues such as sexual and relationship health, substance misuse forums and dealing with 'government forms'.

Youth Challenge Australia provides 2 volunteers per term to act as tutors. Night Club was held on 77 nights out of a possible 98, with an average nightly attendance of 29.

Level 2: Culture & Projects

Culture

Culture represents an essential element of the Jaru Pirrjirdi Program. It is our experience that those who are culturally strong are most likely to positively engage in the Kardiya (non-Aboriginal) world. Young people become confident, empowered, knowledgeable and feel that they have something of value to offer and share with the world. Jaru culture is accessed in a variety of ways. Extended bush trips were not regular this year due to the serious illness of the Jaru Bush Trip female elder. However, a strong partnership with CLC Warlpiri Rangers provided opportunity for 16 Jaru members to take part in 4 training bush trips, and 4 are now employed with CLC. The program, which provides on the job training in land management, has been well received as a good way to work out bush and meet traditional obligations to country.

In lieu of extended bush trips a number of other initiatives were undertaken. The Jaru male elder conducted 4 trips to Mt Theo to teach cultural aspects such as boomerang making, hunting and stories about specific sites, Youth Program conducted 45 weekly bush excursions, and Mt Theo assisted in 10 culture nights at the school. Weekly day trips for young men were consistent, with the focus of these trips being at risk young men and the facilitation of appropriate mentoring and group discussion regarding issues such as culture, domestic violence, suicide, substance abuse, employment, football and notions of manhood.



Projects

During the course of this year Jaru Pirrjirdi members undertook 23 projects. Project work involves regular work in a wide range of activities. This project work enables the Jaru Pirrjirdi Coordinator to identify the individual interests and aspirations of participants, for which specific training and support can be provided. Of particular note is the almost constant need for external representation of the Jaru program to other communities, organizations and government agencies. This type of project work is an important element in the validation of young people efforts within the Jaru program as well providing opportunities for learning and travel.

A sample of Jaru projects during 2008-2009:

Ongoing/Permanent Projects

Professional development:

Yuendumu Mechanic workshop, Swimming Pool Lifeguards, Warlpiri Rangers

Financial management and security:

Creation of bank accounts, introduction to internet banking, Centrelink processes
Cultural liaison role for new staff/visitors

Sports and Recreation Projects

Yuendumu Sports Weekend – assistance with football, basketball, softball, concerts, BBQs, discos for 4 days (all Jaru)
Jaru Family Night – Basketball competition and BBQ to bring community together and promote recreation for all ages (all Jaru)

Community Summer Football Competition – run by Jaru, scoring, umpiring, organizing, preparation, results and venue management.

Community Summer Basketball Competition – run by Jaru.

Arts and Media Projects

Hip Hop dance and music projects with guest artists.
4 x 2 weeks vacation projects. CD produced, concerts, dance performances
2 x 2 week Graffiti art workshops. Community art projects.
WETT/PAW media projects – 16 completed films

Leadership/Representation

Jaru members formally represented the Program in Yuendumu, Nyirrpi, Willowra, Alice Springs, Balgo, Lajamanu, Ali Curung, Yirrkala, Santa Teresa, Darwin, Perth and Sydney.

Mt Theo Committee quarterly meetings.

Jaru representation and overview presentations

Mentoring

Mentoring comprises perhaps the most important and critical work done by Jaru members. This year it has grown from a natural expression of leadership in the community into a methodical and coordinated approach. In the second half of this year, to support the effective work of Jaru mentors, we launched the Warra-Warra Kanyi Counselling and Mentoring Service.

While WWK team now coordinates the Mt Theo Program response to substance abuse, domestic and/or family violence, suicidal ideation and general personal difficulties, mentoring from senior Jaru Pirrjirdi members remains an essential element of this casework. Jaru mentors are selected from the Senior Jaru group according to important local and cultural factors such as gender, family group and skin name. This ensures the greater success of any casework and mentoring and more importantly that the individual at risk is in constant contact with individuals who can support them.

In the first half of this year, 79% of clients were supported by a Jaru mentor. Since January 2009, when WKK integrated additional mentoring support, 67% clients remained supported by senior Jaru mentors, who undertook 283 contacts.



'Graduation': Future Pathways

Once Jaru members are deemed 'Senior Jaru' they are considered to have 'graduated' from the program. This graduation is a measure of their personal capacity, achievement and development during their participation in the program. This personal development and strength, overcoming of significant personal issues, ability to help others and community leadership, is the ultimate outcome of the Jaru Pirrjirdi program.

This year, in addition to their significant personal development, 26 senior Jaru members have taken up positions of employment, leadership or training at other community organizations. This represents a further measure of the progress in personal capacity of these young individuals and the empowerment of the Jaru Pirrjirdi process.

The creation of career pathways also serves to build local capacity and achieve true community development. Moreover, it creates space within the program for young adults to keep entering and moving through the elements of the program.

Key partnerships created to assist Jaru build meaningful futures:

1. Warlpiri Rangers: Ranger program run by CLC, which aims at caring for country, tracking flora and fauna and using indigenous land and cultural knowledge. 16 Jaru trainees. Paid by CLC at hourly rates.
2. Yuendumu Swimming Pool: Managed by Mt Theo Program. Fully trained lifeguards to be supplied by the Jaru Pirrjirdi membership. 10 fully qualified lifeguards, 10 in training.
3. Yuendumu Diesel Mechanic Workshop: Managed by Mt Theo Program. 2 senior and 2 junior trainees, 6 on community work orders.

The Jaru Pirrjirdi Program was funded by the Office of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health (OATSIH), and the Health Strategies Branch.

Warra-Warra Kanyi Counselling and Mentoring Service

This year Mt Theo Program launched Warra-Warra Kanyi, a Warlpiri specific counselling program built on the successful Jaru Pirrjirdi mentoring project.

In the Warlpiri language, WARRA-WARRA KANYI translates to mean 'caring for people'. It describes the kind of care that is appropriate for young Warlpiri adults; that is, watching over them quietly, 'worrying' for them, supporting them, and being there to help them when they encounter difficulty. It describes the kind of respectful, supportive care young people give each other through the mentoring process, as well as the approach taken by community elders, family members and staff members within this project.



The service is built on six primary elements:

1. Prevention and Education. As well as providing ongoing/aftercare support to at-risk clients, this element also has an early intervention focus, targeting young people who may be at risk of developing problems with substance misuse, suicide/self harm, criminal behaviour, relationship problems, and a range of other issues. This takes on a variety of forms such as daytrips out bush with elders and mentors; educational nights involving mentors and experts such as health workers; or regular, informal 'hanging out' as a forum for discussing youth issues and responding to requests/needs. Warra-Warra Kanyi staff, mentors and participants regularly plan and undertake the production of appropriate, Warlpiri-language resources to support this preventative and educative work in Warlpiri communities and beyond.

2. Early Intervention. Staff aim to identify and resolve issues at an early stage, potentially preventing higher degrees of risk, harm, incarceration and crisis among Warlpiri youth. Given our unique position of closeness with Warlpiri communities, Warra-Warra Kanyi staff are able to access community knowledge and concerns, and facilitate early referrals to a client's family, or to external agencies such as police or clinic. Early Intervention services are successful in resolving many client issues before they reach a critical stage, thus reducing the burden on police and correctional services, as well as reducing rates of harm experienced by Warlpiri youth.



3. Individual Counselling and Mentoring. A client whose issues cannot be resolved through early intervention measures will progress to Case Management Client status. A typical care plan for a Case Management Client who is considered to be highly at risk will include daily counselling/mentoring contact with Warra-Warra Kanyi staff and peer mentors. As a client's level of risk reduces, so too will the frequency of these interactions, eventually moving out to a weekly contact between counsellor and client, supported by interactions with Warra-Warra Kanyi and trainee mentors. This contact allows the client to work through their issues in conversation with their peer mentors, supported by a qualified counsellor. These interactions rarely take place in a conventional therapeutic setting but may occur (according to the client's wishes) on a short drive in/around the community; during a peer activity; over a cup of tea at a family home; or, most preferably, 'out bush' where Warlpiri youth have demonstrated that they are most comfortable to engage in this therapeutic mode. Overnight bush trips, or trips to the Mt Theo Outstation, have proven to be particularly helpful.

All of these interactions have a strengths-based focus, and aim to effect behavioural change and implement coping strategies in the young person at risk. At all times, the reduction of negative client behaviour is closely linked with the simultaneous development of positive behaviour and pathways, largely through re-engagement with Jaru Pirjirdi (see below). Further, clients whose issues are critical or recurring may be referred to the Mt Theo Outstation for respite and intensive cultural rehabilitation.

4. Community and Family Engagement. Family and community mentors/elders play an important part in this therapeutic contact. Although less 'hands-on' and constant than the care provided by staff, elders have the capacity to re-engage a young Warlpiri person with a sense of their culture and identity. They are able to exert cultural authority and respect, complementing the peer mentorship provided by staff members and trainees. In our experience, re-engaging with this cultural strength is a critical element for Warlpiri youth moving through crisis and difficulty; it is also crucial in the longer-term goal of developing strong, healthy Warlpiri youth who are secure and proud in their Warlpiri identity.

5. Case Management. In addition to therapeutic contact, there is a significant case management aspect to the work done by Warra-Warra Kanyi (for example, assisting a young person to find work, gain a drivers license or manage their financial affairs). This is highly appropriate for our therapeutic context for two main reasons: a) recent research suggests that this kind of practical support contributes greatly to therapeutic rapport with Indigenous youth, and b) this work is in keeping with our community development context and commitment to structural change for Warlpiri communities.

6. Re-engagement with the Jaru Pirjirdi Project. Finally, the goal of all counselling and mentoring work through Warra-Warra Kanyi is re-engagement with the Jaru Pirjirdi project and the youth development/positive future pathway opportunities it offers for young people in Yuendumu. Involvement with Jaru Pirjirdi – be it involvement as a worker in the youth program, participation in bush trips, or engagement with a career pathway – coexists with counselling and mentoring services as a complementary therapeutic service, and a structure in which clients can continue to be supported and developed when their need for counselling and mentoring services is no longer perceived to be critical.



Warra-Warra Kanyi Staff

The staff of Warra-Warra Kanyi is constituted of a Senior Cultural Advisor, Male & Female Mentors and Program Counsellor.

Napanangka Brown is the Senior Cultural Advisor. Jean has fifteen years of experience in working with at-risk Warlpiri youth at the Mt Theo Outstation, through her role as a Senior Client Carer. She has also worked extensively with young people experiencing difficulty in Yuendumu. She is a respected senior community member, and is a councillor with the Central Desert Shire. Jean is a current member of the Youth Justice Advisory Committee for the Northern Territory, informing government on youth justice issues. Jean has also traveled to Canada to share and expand upon her experience of Indigenous rehabilitation models. Of particular note is the paper by Jean and former employee Karissa Preuss in Drug and Alcohol Review, Volume 25, Issue 3, 2006.

Sherman Spencer is the Warra-Warra Kanyi Male Mentor. Sherman is a 25 year old Warlpiri man who has several years of experience mentoring young at-risk Warlpiri men.

The Male Mentor conducts much of the hands-on mentoring work with young male clients of Warra-Warra Kanyi. Supported by the formally trained Program Counsellor, and advised by Warlpiri elders, Sherman's role involves actively formulating and implementing client care plans, through such measures as daily visits to youth at risk, and liaison with family and the broader community. Sherman conducts weekly men's trips which provide an excellent forum for young men to discuss their issues in an appropriate, supported environment, and runs young men's activities such as the summer football competition and health education nights.



Ruth Bignell is the Warra-Warra Kanyi Counsellor. Ruth is a qualified Counsellor (B.A., Grad. Dip Counselling) who has been living in Warlpiri communities since April 2006. She has gained significant experience working with at-risk Warlpiri youth through her extensive involvement with the Mt Theo Outstation, and the youth program at Yuendumu.

The Warra-Warra Kanyi Counsellor works closely with the Youth Mentor and Senior Cultural Advisor to provide appropriate, valuable counselling support to individual clients. This role also involves the provision of formal therapeutic support to the team of Jaru Pirjirdi mentors, family members involved in client care, and with the broader Yuendumu community. This includes the development of preventative and educative interventions and resources.

Trainee Mentors form the fourth integral element of our formal staffing arrangement. These mentors are participants of the Jaru Pirjirdi project who are trained and supported to strengthen the skills and support they need to mentor their at-risk peers. It is hoped that some may eventually 'graduate' to become senior mentors at the level of the Warra-Warra Kanyi Male and Female Mentors. Usually, these mentors have struggled with and successfully resolved issues in their own lives which are similar to the issues faced by Warra-Warra Kanyi clients. Hence, their mentorship is particularly relevant, effective and appropriate. Importantly, these Jaru mentors are able to provide close and constant support for young people at risk, thus ensuring greater success of casework/counselling and rapid crisis responses.

Despite only formally launching the service in January 2009, the statistics provided at the end of this report show extremely strong outcomes.

WWK is fully funded by FAHCSIA, Mental Health Branch, through the Personal Helpers and Mentors Strategy.





Yuendumu Community Swimming Pool

The opening of the swimming pool was an absolute highlight of our year. The pool was officially opened on 27th October, 2008 by Federal Minister for Indigenous Affairs Jenny Macklin, Member for Stuart Karl Hampton, Thomas Jangala Rice (Chairperson), Jean Napanangka Brown (Chairperson), members of the Kantor family and the Jaru Pirrjirdi Lifeguards.

Since opening the pool has operated consistently. Over a 3 month period the pool was open a total of 54 days, providing 160 hours of cool enjoyment for 3,969 swimmers. The pool day provides specific times for Childcare, Playgroup and School, and there are plans to provide for early morning lap swimming. There is no doubt the "yes school, yes pool" policy had a major impact on school attendance during the summer.

Ten Jaru Pirrjirdi men and women, and 3 Mt Theo youth workers, attained their bronze medallions and lifeguard qualifications through RLSS, and work on a roster system. Ongoing training of Jaru and community members will ensure the safety of swimmers at all times, and the ability to operate consistently. Darren Talbot, Pool Manager, has worked tirelessly to ensure the safety of pool users through supervision and constant monitoring of pool chemical levels and machinery maintenance.

In March 2009, we held our first inter-community School Swimming Carnival with Nyirrpi, a huge hit for all concerned, especially when Yuendumu and Nyirrpi schools tied as winners!

Landscaping and the installation of shade shelters and play equipment will commence in July 2009.

You may recall our Jaru Pirrjirdi trainees made national headlines when evicted from an Alice Springs hostel, less than 30 minutes after check-in, for being Aboriginal. The complaint, lodged with the Anti-Discrimination Commissioner, is still being reviewed.

The Pool construction was funded by the Commonwealth and Northern Territory Governments, Yuendumu Community members, the Poola Foundation (Kantor family), the Ian Potter Foundation, Warlukurlangu Artists and Yuendumu Mining Store. Statewide Pools, SA and ProBuild, Alice Springs, built the pool and amenities block. Newmont Asia Pacific and the Mt Theo Program provided operational funding.



Diesel Mechanics Training Workshop

A major focus for the Mt Theo Jaru Pirrjirdi Project is to assist young people to develop meaningful futures as an alternative to substance misuse and anti-social or criminal behaviour. Many young Yuendumu men expressed interest in pursuing employment in diesel mechanics both here and at Newmont Mines.

The Workshop is a diversionary activity for young men, an alternative to incarceration, real training for real jobs in the mechanics field, formal apprenticeships, a partnership with Newmont mines, and jobs on completion of training. Four young men are now training at the Workshop.

The Workshop is meeting all expectations. One of the four current trainees started on a Community Work order with Mt Theo Program, rather than go to prison. Pre-vocational mechanical training is popular and limited only by resources. Despite all the government representatives who have visited the Program and praised our efforts, we remain unfunded.

With our trainees working on Mt Theo vehicles here in the community, we have halved our annual vehicle repairs and maintenance budget. This saving has helped to offset some of the workshop expenses, and in this financial year we saw a modest profit of \$27,000. We have also attracted mechanical work for other agencies in Yuendumu and surrounding Warlpiri communities, which ensures both regular work for trainees and a consistent income. This enabled us to improve resources at the Workshop, and seek to employ a part-time administration officer.



Melbourne's Warlpiri Warrior

This article is written by Martin Flanagan and was originally published in *The Age*, on February 3, 2009.

His tribal lands in Central Australia are a world away from the MCG and English is not his first language.

There hasn't been a story like Liam Jurrah in the AFL before. The closest story is that of Tiwi David Kantilla, who crossed the continent in 1961, played in a South Adelaide premiership, represented South Australia and was named posthumously in the Indigenous Team of the Century.

Liam Jurrah is from Yuendumu, 300 kilometres north-west of Alice Springs. I went there for a football carnival in 1987.

That was the year the grand final got aborted mid-way through the first quarter since the word went through the crowd that the kadatji man was moving among them. No one knows who the kadatji man is, only that he brings the possibility of death to those who have transgressed what Aboriginal people call the Law. That year, the Pitjinjatjara were initiating their young men in the dreaming paths and where the dreaming paths crossed desert roads, it was the roads that closed.

Liam Jungarrayi Jurrah is an initiated Warlpiri man. He stands in the Law. At 20, he is also a mentor to young men in the community as part of the Jaru Pirrjirdi (Strong Voices) group. "He lives with that same grace you see on the football field," says Yuendumu counsellor Brett Japaljarri Badger. He's known Liam since his teens.

Liam's father, Leo Japaljarri Jurrah, is a Yuendumu football

legend. In Yuendumu, they say Leo Jurrah is the best footballer to have come out of remote Central Australia. They say Leo was a better player than Liam is. There's even a view that Liam is doing his father's business in coming to Melbourne, pursuing the opportunity his father never got.

One salient fact about the Yuendumu football team is that it has no best and fairest.

"It's been hard for Liam to adjust to the fact that whitefellas keep piling individual awards on him," says Badger. "It's not how people think about the game in Yuendumu."

Yuendumu was the place I was first told about the connection between Aboriginal football and Aboriginal men's dancing. It's also where I saw one punch thrown in a game result in two clans facing one another on the ground, weapons in hand.

"Liam knows football intimately," says Badger. "It's part of his culture and he knows it like the Law.

Football is now the format by which the warrior men of the tribe express themselves. "When Liam tells young men to eat better food or not sniff petrol or treat their wives more kindly, it has more weight than if someone like Nathan Buckley said it."

Melbourne took Liam as their No. 1 pick in the preseason draft. That means he was numbered about 90 in the national draft system overall.

Collingwood — particularly a coterie called the Industrial Magpies — has a lot to do with where Liam Jurrah is today.



The Industrial Magpies, about whom a student of sports history will one day surely write a thesis, have forged a link between the Yuendumu Magpies and the Collingwood Magpies.

One part of this was bringing three young Warlpiri men to Melbourne in 2007, one of whom was Liam Jurrah. I interviewed them. What had they noticed about Melbourne, I asked.

Not as much sky down here, they replied. They pointed to the buildings blocking out the horizon.

I showed them the scarred tree at the MCG, the big one on the skyline midway between the stadium and Punt Road. When they went back to Yuendumu they did an interview in Warlpiri for the community media organisation. A member of the Industrial Magpies sent me a translation. In it, one of them had mentioned the tree. "We saw that old tree in Melbourne . . . Yapa (Aboriginal people) from all over got dreaming, it is still there. But we still living our dreaming."

In Melbourne, Liam lives with Bruce and Ria Hearn Mackinnon. To say that Bruce Hearn Mackinnon has mixed feelings about Liam ending up at Melbourne is an understatement. He is, after all, a Collingwood supporter. But his commitment to Jurrah transcends club loyalties. "He's a terrific bloke," he says. Brett Badger says Jurrah is shy "even by Yuendumu standards".

Hearn Mackinnon says: "He's very quiet but that's his nature. You ask him a question and he'll give you an answer an hour later, two hours later, maybe a day later, but that's because he's been thinking about it. He's a very gentle person everywhere except on the football field." Brett Badger says Liam is unchanged by his time in the city. "When he rings home, the conversation is all about family or people we worked with and how they're doing."

Liam played four games for Collingwood in the VFL last year, then went home because a close friend was dying. With help from the Industrial Magpies, Liam then returned to Melbourne with his friend, who wanted to see Collingwood play before he died.

Collingwood didn't pursue Liam through the national draft and his AFL story might have ended there had it not been for former Collingwood player Rupert Betheras. It is hardly sufficient to describe Rupert as out there. A former graffiti artist who came to AFL football by a circuitous route, he arrived at Collingwood in 1999 with an immense ambition and, in the opinion of some, no great talent.

The same has been said about his art, in which he favours

naked self-expression over aesthetic values.

As a footballer, he proved his worth in the 2002 grand final and his exhibition last year at Alcaston gallery was the work of an artist who is seriously on his way. Other people's opinions have never deterred Rupert.

After finishing with Collingwood in 2004, in addition to doing other things such as going to Brazil and writing an essay comparing AFL football to native initiation rites, Rupert worked in Alice Springs with the Clontarf Academy and saw a young footballer from the Tanami desert called Liam Jurrah. Rupert believed he had seen Australian football's next frontier — young desert footballers "who play like Adam Goodes".

When Liam Jurrah was not taken by Collingwood, Rupert nominated him online for the pre-season draft.

Without Liam's signature, the application could not proceed. When Rupert somehow got a piece of paper with Liam's signature on it, the AFL accepted the nomination. Melbourne, having followed Liam's progress, decided to take a chance on him.



According to Bruce Hearn McKinnon, the Demons have been "great". "Chris Connolly (Melbourne's general manager of football) came around to see us. He wanted to know all about Liam and Yuendumu. He said Melbourne would have to send some players up there." Melbourne coach Dean Bailey says Liam is another pre-season away from challenging for senior selection. Bailey pats his chest to indicate they've got to get more upper body strength into him.

Maybe it says something about Liam's leap — Bailey says he has what basketballers call "hang time" — that different people list Liam as having different heights. Hearn Mackinnon insists he's only 189 centimetres (some reports say 193 centimetres). "He was only 73 kilos when he first came down here," says Hearn Mackinnon. "We've got him up to 81 kilos now."

Liam's manager, Nigel Carmody, played with Liam at Collingwood last year. How good is he, I ask. "He's got the potential to do anything really."



Carmody says Liam's skills close to the ground are of the same exquisite level as other indigenous players but he combines it with a vertical leap and marking ability. "He could become a player who's extremely hard to match-up on."

Carmody says Liam's first two VFL games were as good a debut as he saw in 11 years in the VFL.

Not everyone in the football world believes Liam Jurrah can make it. The cultural span he has to cross is huge. English is not his first language (he speaks four Aboriginal languages). When he first went to Collingwood's Lexus Centre, it was also his first time in a gym. The treadmill startled him. The world shifted beneath his feet.

And he had to be cajoled out of a car when the team went for its routine early morning dip in Port Phillip Bay. "He may have seen the ocean before," says Hearn Mackinnon, "but he certainly hadn't been in it." But Brett Badger says a commitment has been made, not only by Liam, but by the Warlpiri elders, to Liam's AFL career.

"The whole community understands that Liam's in Melbourne on Warlpiri business, and that's where his obligation lies. No one will be pressuring him to return." Clearly, Liam will need to have the right people around him, but he hasn't done badly in that regard so far. Melbourne has six indigenous players and a captain, James McDonald, who is deeply in tune with his club and where it's going.

McDonald, who has spent time in the Northern Territory with Aboriginal teammate Aaron Davey, enjoyed hearing the story of how I asked to interview Liam.

At the appointed moment, not one but three Melbourne footballers — Aaron Davey, Liam and Tiwi islander Austin Wonaeamirri — stood before me like kids summoned to the headmaster's office.

They weren't having Liam go through his first press interview alone.

I asked Liam how it was going. "Good," he said. That was more or less the interview. And so a man of history comes to the club of history in its 151st year.



Talking Story

Mt Theo Committee is dedicated to sharing the success story of Mt Theo Program, and inspiring communities to take strong action in strengthening their young people. We are not always able to respond to the numerous requests for information and interviews, and where appropriate promote our website as a first source.

Examples of representation by Mt Theo Program staff, Committee and Jaru Pirrjirdi members during 2008 – 2009 (not including 232 Management related meetings):

Yirrkala and Lajamanu communities

NTER and Central Desert Shire executive officers

NTER Review

Commonwealth Government:
Department of Health & Aging, Office of Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Health, Mental Health Workforce Division, Drug Strategies, Family & Community Services & Indigenous Affairs, Mental Health Branch, Department of Education, Employment & Workplace Relations, Indigenous Coordination Centre, Attorney General's Department, Central Australian Petrol Sniffing Strategy Unit

Northern Territory Government:
Department of Health and Community Services, Office of Sport & Recreation, Family & Children's Services, Community Corrections, Central Australian Mental Health Association, Department of Employment, Education & Training, Alcohol & Drug Services of Central Australia

School of Art History, Cinema, Classics and Archaeology, Melbourne University

Suicide Prevention Workshop, Central Australian Mental Health Association

Kurra Aboriginal Corporation, CLC – WETT Project Mt Evelyn Christian College, Melbourne

Senator Trish Crossin, Chief Justice Brian Martin, Karl Hampton MLA

Burdon & Torzillo, Consultants, Tanami Regional Partnership Agreement

Youth Challenge Australia, volunteer tutors.

Yuendumu Police, Clinic, Childcare, Women's Centre, School, Central Desert Shire, WynHealth staff

This year's annual report was again designed by our regular graphic designer, Anthony Dinham. Mt Theo thanks him for his great work for another year!

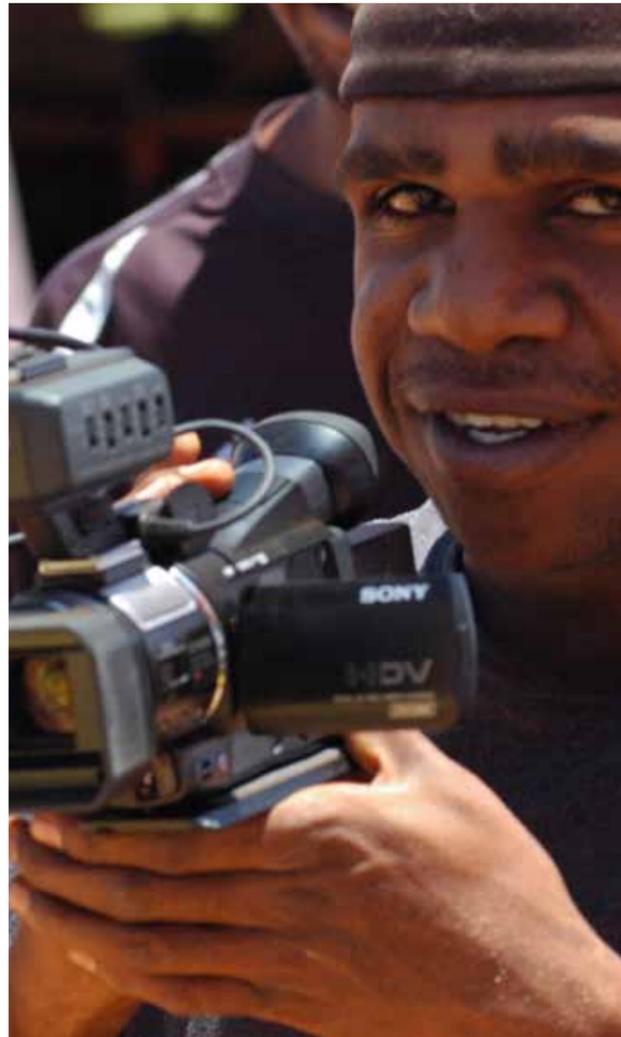
You can see more of Anthony's work at www.dinham.com.au.

Media

The Program has been featured regularly in the media this year. As a nationally recognised and respected community program we are often used as a source for 'expert comment' in features and in-depth reviews of Aboriginal substance abuse issues, or programs focussing on young people. Mt Theo staff, Committee and Jaru Pirrjirdi members are interviewed, on average, once a week. Main media topics included the Anti-Discrimination incident, the opening of the Yuendumu Swimming Pool, the Commonwealth Petrol Sniffing Inquiry, and suicide prevention for a total of 45 radio, TV and print interviews, 2 TV feature stories, and 1 major magazine feature.

www.mttheo.org

The increase of activities this year made it difficult to keep the website updated as often as we would have liked. However, we were able to implement online donation facilities, which has had a significant impact on donations received.



Partners

In 2007-2008 Mt Theo Program received funding from:

Commonwealth:

Department of Health & Aging
Office of Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Health
Health Strategies Branch
Drug Strategies Branch
National Illicit Drug Strategy
Community Partnerships Initiative
Department of Housing, Families, Community Services
& Indigenous Affairs
The Office of Indigenous Policy Coordination
Central Australian Petrol Sniffing Strategy Unit
Stronger Families & Communities Strategy
Emergency Relief
Mental Health Branch
Department of Education, Employment
& Workplace Relations
After School and Vacation Care
Attorney General's Department

Territory:

Department of Health & Families Services
Arts NT
Central Desert Shire

Independent:

AER Foundation
Central Australian Youth LinkUp Service (CAYLUS)
Collingwood Industrial Magpies Coterie Group, Victoria
The Ian Potter Foundation
Kurra Aboriginal Corporation
Newmont Asia Pacific
The Poola Foundation

Private donors:

Mt Theo gratefully acknowledges those private individuals and groups in the broader community who donate regularly. As these donations are not encumbered with project-specific funding conditions, they allow us to respond to community concerns as they arise. Such funds provide invaluable operational flexibility.

In-kind and professional support:

Bruce and Rhea Hearn-McKinnon
Canberra Doctors Association
John Lewin
Karl Hampton, MLA
Newmont Asia Pacific
Professor Sherry Siggers and Anne Stearne

Community Partnerships:

Bush Mob, Alice Springs
Central Australian Aboriginal Family Legal Unit
Central Australian Aboriginal Legal Aid Services
Central Australian Youth LinkUp Service (CAYLUS),
Alice Springs
Central Desert Shire
Central Land Council
Community Corrections, Alice Springs
Family & Children's Services (FACS), Alice Springs
InCite Youth Arts, Alice Springs
Lajamanu School
Lajamanu Store
Life Promotion, Alice Springs
Newmont Asia Pacific
Nyirrpi School
Nyirrpi Clinic
PAW Media
Remote Mental Health, Alice Springs
Royal Life Saving Society
Warlukurlangu Artists
Willowra School
Willowra Clinic
World Vision Early Childhood Project
Worrawa College, Melbourne
WynHealth
Youth Challenge Australia
Yuendumu CDEP
Yuendumu Childcare
Yuendumu churches
Yuendumu Clinic
Yuendumu Law and Justice Committee
Yuendumu Men's and Women's Night Patrols
Yuendumu Mining Store
Yuendumu Police
Yuendumu School
Yuendumu Social Club
Yuendumu Women's Centre
Kormilda College, Darwin

Mt Theo Team

(as at 30 June 2009)

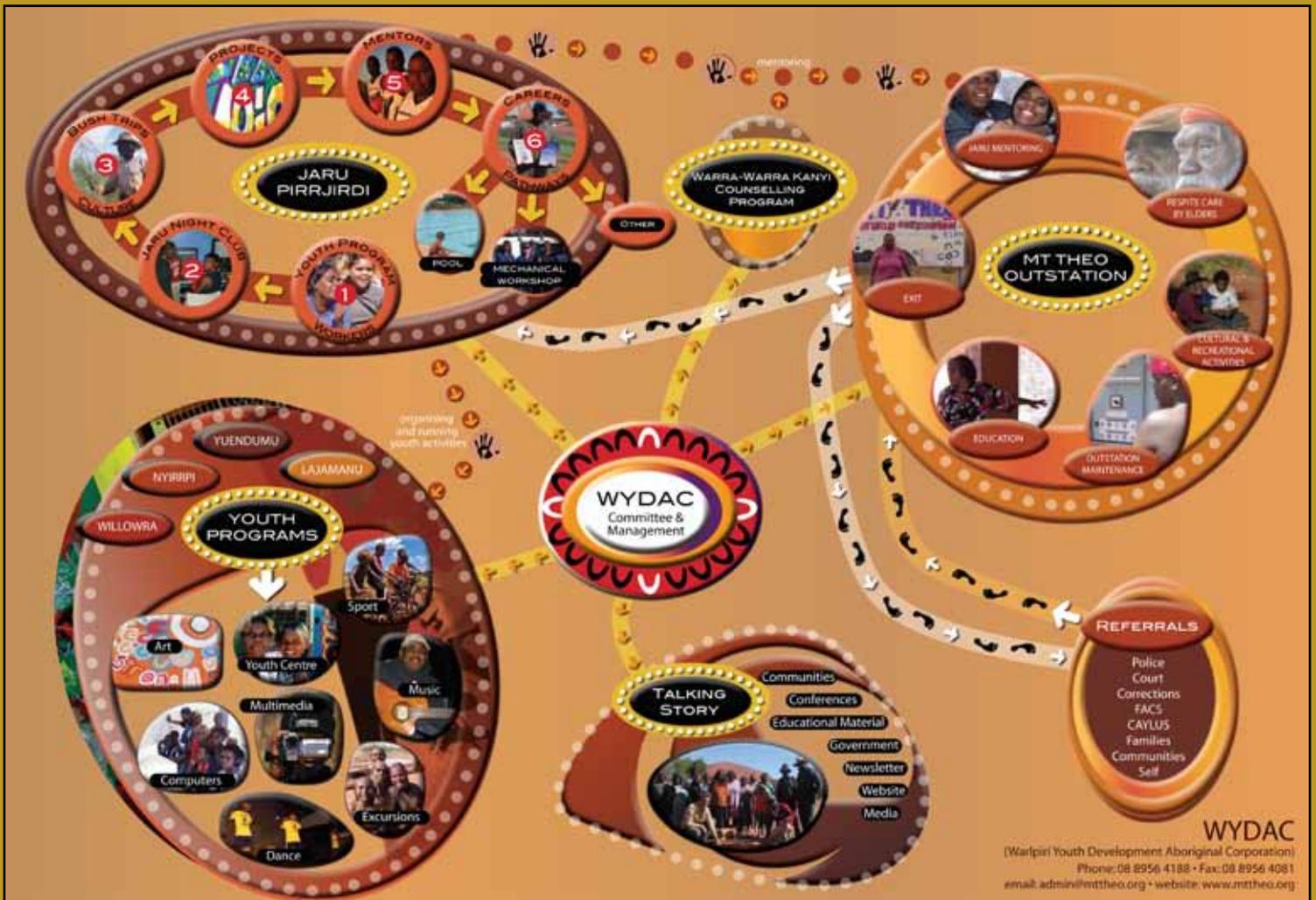
Susie Low, Chief Executive Officer
Brett Badger, Operations Manager
Alex Cadden, Executive Assistant
Peggy Brown, Cultural Supervisor
Johnny Miller, Cultural Supervisor
Thomas Rice, Cultural Supervisor
Riley Oldfield, Cultural Mentor
Emma Stubbs, Administration Officer
Hannah Morrison, Relief Administration Officer
Ruth Bignell, Warra-Warra Kanyi (WWK) Counsellor
Jean Brown, WWK Senior Cultural Advisor
Sherman Spencer, WWK Male Mentor
Talitha Low, Jaru Pirrjirdi & Youth Coordinator
J Nungarrayi Egan, Jaru Pirrjirdi Project Worker
Kate Webb, Relief Worker
Jason Shilton, Youth & Community Worker
Amelia Watson, Outstation Coordinator
Steven Marshall, Mt Theo Supervisor
Glenys Brown, Mt Theo Supervisor
Evans Sims, Mt Theo Supervisor
Scotty Brown, Mt Theo Supervisor
Audrey Brown, Mt Theo Supervisor
Steven Brown, Mt Theo Supervisor
Carson Brown, Mt Theo Supervisor
Sue Lovett, Outreach Coordinator
Amy Hardy, Senior Youth Worker, Lajamanu
Kyle Jarvie, Senior Youth Worker, Lajamanu
Steve Patrick, Cultural Mentor, Lajamanu
Ali Satour, Youth Worker, Nyiripi
Cecily Blakeman, Youth Worker, Nyiripi
David Waugh, Youth Worker, Willowra
Rachel Waugh, Youth Worker, Willowra
Michael Rohrlach, Mechanical Workshop Coordinator
Darren Talbot, Yuendumu Pool Manager
Liam Campbell, Consultant
Craig san Roque, Consultant Psychologist

This team comprises 19 Aboriginal and 15 non-Aboriginal members.
Jaru Pirrjirdi casual workers

Adam Gallagher	Levania Watson
Aiden Marshall	Linton White
Alan Dickson Jnr	Lisa Watson
Alison Lechleitner	Louanna Williams
Alistair Morton Long	Louise Dickson
Alvin Williams	Malcolm Dickson
Ashton Gibson	Mark Wilson
Astina Egan	Mel Langdon
Athena Granites	Methuselah Nelson
Azaria Robertson	Michael Wayne
Bayden Walker	Micheline Wilson
Bethany Langdon	Moses Nelson
Brendan Woods	Narelle Nelson
Brendan Palmer	Nathan Brown
Brian Brokus	Nathaniel Dickson
Bruno Wilson	Neil White
Charles Kennedy	Nicholas Robertson
Charro Watson	Nikkita Sampson
Cherylyn Granites	Owen Williams
Chris Walker	Pauline Singleton
Christosh Wayne	Philomena White
Clayton Sampson	Polly-Anne Dixon
Cooper Walker	Randall Brown
Courtney Singleton	Ritasha Watson
Delvene Langdon	Robert Lechleitner
Dennis Nelson	Robin Brown
Dion Brown	Rochelle Nelson
Elijah Brown	Rosena Dickson
Elton Collins	Roxella Marshall
Esau Marshall	Samara Dickson
Eugene Forrest	Sandy Brokus
Francis Forrest	Sarah Singleton
Geoffrey Wilson	Sean Wilson
Gina Spencer	Sebastian Wilson
Gisella Dickson	Senita Granites
Gregson Collins	Shadrach Williams
Isaiah Collins	Shane Kennedy
Jamie Nelson	Sharelle Dickson
Jason Woods	Sherelle Shannon
Jeanelle Nelson	Shaun Brown
Jerome Spencer	Shaun Wilson
Jessica Hargraves	Shimera Sampson
Jocelyn Watson	Simon Fisher Jnr
Josiah Fry	Stuart Robertson
Joy Michael	Tasha Collins
Kirsten Egan	Terrence Wilson
Kirsten Spencer	Travis Collins
Larissa Granites	Vicky Sims
Leah Sampson	Warrick Dickson
Leekira Oldfield	Waylan Hudson
Lekeesha Walker	Willow Langdon
Leo Michaels	Zachariah Long
Leon Penhall	Zacheas Williams
Leslie Walker	

Income and Expenditure 2008-2009

Ordinary Income/Expense	Jul '08 - Jun 09	Jul '07 - Jun 08	\$ Change	% Change
Income				
130 Grants Received	4,801,929.73	2,881,420.48	1,920,509.25	66.65%
140 Other income	1,278,914.62	1,844,862.81	-565,948.19	-30.68%
160 Grant Surplus Funds	761,208.15	854,645.75	-93,437.60	-10.93%
Total Income	6,842,052.50	5,580,929.04	1,261,123.46	22.6%
Gross Profit	6,842,052.50	5,580,929.04	1,261,123.46	22.6%
Expense				
200 Salaries	1,557,082.64	1,086,309.72	470,772.92	43.34%
400 Depreciation & Amortisation	209,923.00	116,226.00	93,697.00	80.62%
500 Services	1,066,616.01	1,795,012.57	-728,396.56	-40.58%
700 Motor Vehicles	466,669.34	272,474.34	194,195.00	71.27%
800 Repairs & Maintenance	57,358.69	12,565.95	44,792.74	356.46%
Total Expense	3,357,649.68	3,282,588.58	75,061.10	2.29%
Net Income	3,484,402.82	2,298,340.46	1,186,062.36	51.61%



Warlpiri Youth Development Aboriginal Corporation
Mt Theo Program

post LPO Yuendumu via Alice Springs NT 0872
 email admin@mttheo.org
 tel 08 8956 4188
 fax 08 8956 4081
 web www.mttheo.org