

Kapululangu News

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

SEPTEMBER 2009

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- This is our first quarterly news-letter. Enjoy!
- Kapululangu celebrated its 10th birthday in August 2009.
- You can join the adventure by making a donation or becoming a volunteer.

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Kapululangu Strong for Women's Law

Kapululangu Women's Law and Culture Centre is going from strength to strength.

Kapululangu deserves its reputation as a vibrant Women's Law and Culture Centre in Kimberley, Kapululangu supports the Elders in their responsibilities as Senior Law Women & Healers.

The Elders run a series of activities through their organization aimed at empowering women and raising resilient youth and kids.

Cultural activities include:

- Tjilimi Women's Law House
- Women's Law Ceremonies
- Tjarrtjurra Women's Healing
- Women's Law Camps
- Dreaming Track Trips
- Community Corroborees

- Young Women's Camps
- Culture Classes for Kids
- Trips to Country
- Hunting and Bush Foods



OUR VISION

is of
a vibrant and cohesive
community which
honours its elders,
protects its women
and children,
and empowers all its residents
to live fulfilling and productive
lives immersed in respect for
self, kin, land and
Tjukurrpa/Dreaming.

Katimalkuya Yawulyu kamu kulintjurratjiitjilu makarrmanulkutjananya.

They will hold onto their Women's Law and teach their children and make them strong.

Balgo Women's Law Camp



The Balgo Women's Law Camp was a highlight of Kapululangu's past year. It was held from 27 May to 2 June.

This was the third Law Camp since 2007. Over 80 women from across the Kimberley and around Australia attended.

The women elders protected

and guided everyone through many powerful ceremonies.

The Elders invited non-Indigenous women for the first time. They enjoyed being Tilitja (Culture Workers) helping out.

The women elders have decided to run another one next year. If we can raise the money for it.



Dreaming Track Trip 2009



Last April, Kapululangu went on a Dreaming Track Trip into the depth of the Great Sandy Desert.

Seventy-eight women and men travelled in 10 vehicles, hundreds of km south of Balgo, following the Nakarra Nakarra Dreaming Track.

The women performed ceremonies at several sacred sites.

The participants came from Balgo, Mulan, Billiluna, Fitzroy Crossing and Broome. They were young as well as elders.

We went to Yakka Yakka, Piparr, Lumanparnta, Nakarra Nakarra, Kunakurlu, and Nantalarra. These are places that are not on White maps.

The Elders led rituals, corroboree, sand-story and painted a big canvas.

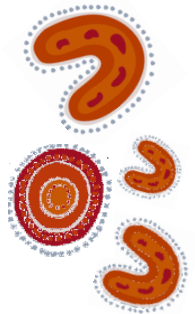
The trip was financed in part by the Yiriman Women's Project of the Kimberley Aboriginal Law and Culture Centre; Quaker Service Australia, and Smyl Community Services.

Pilbara and Kimberley Abo-

iginal Media were invited by the women elder to make a film about the Trip.

The Trip was a chance for Traditional Owners to visit their Country, but many more people went as well,

Everyone returned to Balgo feeling proud and stronger for Law.



Long as we got old people, we can tell those kids culture. Take them to the place of the Tjukurrpa. They can dance, with all the old people. So they can know Dreamtime culture. They gotta know singing for every soak-water, every place. They gotta know the Dreamtime.

From Our Diary

Since July, the Elders have been very busy doing Law and Culture. They have...

held a *Tjarrtjorra* Women's Healing Ceremony.

attended a Women's Law Camp hosted by a neighbouring community.

taken children on a picnic to Lake Gregory cooking marlu/kangaroo tails.

danced at the 25th anniversary

of the local Luurnpa Catholic School; and

gone on a trip to Lajamanu in the Northern Territory.

They are now getting ready to attend the Tanami Downs Open Day Corroboree.

During the school holidays they will run another Young Women's Sleep Over at the Tjilimi Women's Law House.

Margaret Anjule has been

driving around the community on her mobility scooter ... being a free and independent woman once again.

Our coordinator, Zohl de Ishtar is going on a three week speaking tour of the eastern states to raise awareness about Kapululangu . Organised by women in Maleny.

The garden is becoming a miracle of life... growing on solid desert rock!

Outstanding Aboriginal Group

Kapululangu Elders were delighted recently to learn that they had been nominated to the East Kimberley Aboriginal Achievement Awards 2009.

The award is managed by the Wunan Foundation of Kununurra.

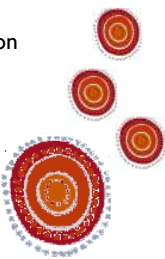
Kapululangu has been shortlisted for the **Outstanding Project or Program that Encourages Aboriginal Participation ...**

for its Circles of Cultural Learning Pathways.

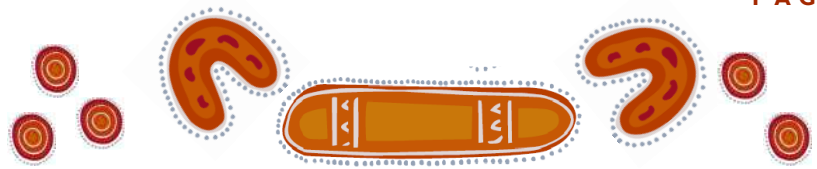
It has also been nominated for the Outstanding Community Group or Partnership Contributing to the Aboriginal Community.

These awards recognize the Elders' vision and their commitment to the spiritual and psychological wellbeing of their families.

Last year (2008), Kapululangu's founder and chairwoman Yintjurrur Margaret Anjule (Bumblebee) Napurrula was awarded East Kimberley Elder of the Year. This was in recognition to her Law and Culture work.



Money Matters



Celebrating its tenth birthday this year (3 August 2009) Kapululangu was finally successful in achieving a direct Federal Dept of Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA) grant. This was the first time in ten years! It isn't adequate, but it has made it possible to keep going for another year.

Quaker Service Australia funded the "Teaching Culture Healing People" program for the second time. This is our only funding for cultural activities.

The local committee of the Granite Mine Affected Areas Aboriginal Corporation has recently come to our aid by filling the gap in operational funds. It is great to see local men and women using their own money to keep Kapululangu going.

But we still don't have enough money to cover everything we need.

Our coordinator receives a minimal wage. Our administrator's salary comes out of "Living Water" (reserve) funds. And our Project Officer is supported by the Indigenous Community Volunteers organization.

Much of the coordinator's time is taken up writing grant applications, trying to get enough money to keep Kapululangu running its dynamic cultural programs.

Our administrator is keeping a tight watch on the "money story".

Our Project Officer is looking into income-generating projects.



Young women want to go out bush and learn Culture. We don't want to forget. If we forget then we'll have problems — for all the generations.

Become a Supporter



JOIN THE 500 X \$500 CLUB

Kapululangu Elders invite individuals, organizations and corporations to join the 500 X \$500 Club.

Kapululangu is looking for 500 people to pledge \$500 per year for as many years as possible.

Pledges are not binding. Payments can be made annually or monthly.

Make a \$500 donation to our bank account & email the details.

MAKE A DONATION

Residents of Maleny Qld have started depositing \$10 or more per month into Kapululangu's bank account. Follow their example. More than \$2 is tax-deductible.

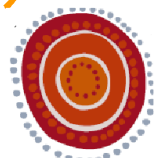
FORM A SUPPORT GROUP

Register with Kapululangu to set up a support group to raise awareness and money. Interested? Contact admin@kapululangu.org

VOLUNTEER!

Kapululangu needs volunteers with skills and attitude. You can stay at home and lend us your skills. Or if you are a woman you can apply to spend a month with us in Balgo. With the support of Indigenous Community Volunteers we can cover some travel, food, and accommodation. We need your skills at Kapululangu. For info: admin@kapululangu.org

Women's Law Troopie Back on the Road



Well, it has finally happened! The Kapululangu Women's Troopie is finally fixed and back on the road.

The Troopie is now doing what it does best ... carrying women around helping them do all the things that make their lives among the busiest in Australia.

Kapululangu first got the Women's Troopie in May 2000: as the result of a Lotteries Commission grant.

Lotteries told Kapululangu that we had to raise enough money to keep the Troopie on the road for three years before they would buy it for us.

We did it! With the help of women and men all over Australia we raised \$75,000 for fuel and other costs. And so Lotteries gave us the Troopie. We were happy.

Women kept their Troopie on the

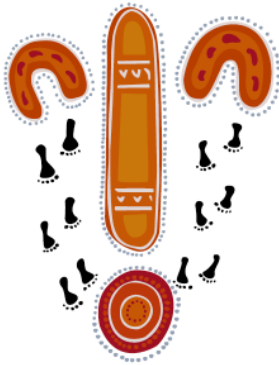
road until November 2006, when it was taken by some men and wrecked.

It was April 2008 before we had enough money to start fixing it ... slowly.

By 16 August 2009 when the Troopie got back on the road the women had kept it for 9 year!

It proves that Kapululangu's Elders can do anything!





Kapululangu

Aboriginal Women's Association

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BSS 066 530 Account: 10107707



The Kapululangu Women's Law and Culture Centre:

- ◆ is one of Australia's most remote women's centres—and Aboriginal!
- ◆ the only women's centre in the Kutjungka/Tjurabalan region of the south-east Kimberley
- ◆ the only Law and Culture organization in Balgo
- ◆ a key provider of Aboriginal Law and Culture opportunities in the Kimberley
- ◆ was established in 1999, but traces its history back to 1983
- ◆ is mandated by its founding women elders to revitalize Women's Law and to care for Women and Community.



Meet Our Team

Kapululangu's team ensures it is a dynamic part of cultural life in Balgo and the south-east Kimberley.

Elders and Directors

The Women Elders are Kapululangu's driving force. They are among the last Indigenous Australians to have been born and raised in the desert before the arrival of Whites in their ancestral lands.

We have two Chairwomen:

Yintjurru Margaret Anjule (Bumblebee) and Ruby Darkie. Other Directors are Manaya Sarah Daniels, Payi Payi Sunfly, Maudie Mandigalli, Mungkina Dora Rockman, Nellie Njamme, Marie Mudgedell, Patsy Mudgedell, Patricia Milner and Eva Nagomara.

Nothing that happens at Kapululangu could happen without the Elders.

Our Staff

Our founding Coordinator is Nobel Peace Prize nominee (2005) Dr Zohl de Ishtar. She has been involved with Balgo since 1993 and has lived with the elders since 1999. She was the coordinator in 1999-2001 and returned in 2005. She is the author of *Holding Yawulyu: White Culture and Black Women's Law* (Spinifex Press, 2005).

Our Administrator is Maggie Gleeson, a counselor with a background in small business management.

Our Project Officer and Men's Culture Worker is Joah Peter Gleeson.

Kapululangu is supported by volunteers working behind the scenes.

