

Kapululangu News

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 2

DECEMBER 2009

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- **Kapululangu wishes everyone a Happy and Productive New Year.**
- **Kapululangu ran 83 Cultural Activities in 2008-09, with 2461 attendances**
- **But we still need more funding! Read how you can help.**

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70 Years of Strong Culture

Saturday October 31 was big day in Balgo's history. It was 70 years ago since, in October 1939, the first missionaries arrived in the Balgo area.

Kapululangu held a big Corroboree with 250 people to celebrate that Balgo people had kept their Law and Culture strong over all those years. They also celebrated the friendship and good things shared between Kartiya and Puntu.

The women elders painted stories of the first contact on a big canvas. Then they painted up the girls with ochre, while the men painted up the boys. The girls danced first, then the boys. They were great dancers.

Then there was an enactment of the First Meeting between the Aboriginals and Whites, a Catholic Mass, and more stories.

We finished off with a big feast of *marlu* (kangaroo) and lots of delicious food.



[Kids at Culture Class]

70 Years of Strong Culture Statement

Today we celebrate 70 Years of Strong Culture because we are proud that Balgo people enjoy strong Law and Culture

We celebrate 70 years of friendship between Aboriginal and Kartiya in Balgo.

We remember all the old people who went before us. They held the culture strong.

We want to keep the Law strong for the children and the coming generations.

(Balgo, 31 October 2009)

Katimalkuya Yawulyu kamu kulintjurratjiitjilu makarrmanulkutjananya.

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

Kapululangu in 2008-09



Kapululangu's motto is: "Revitalising Women's Culture—Caring for Women and Community". Kapululangu women teach Indigenous Law and Culture. Its activities include Ceremonies, *Tjarrtjorra* Healing Rituals, Corroborees, Culture Classes and Trips to Country, Dreaming Track Trips and Women's Law Camps.

Last year (2008-09) Kapululangu ran 83 different Law and Cultural activities and events.

Compared to the 50 activities of 2007-08 that was an increase of 66%.

There were 2461 attendances at these 2008-09 events.

Compared to the earlier year of

593 attendances, that is was an increase of 315%.

This was for Balgo's population of 360 residents, but included Indigenous and non-Indigenous women from across the Kimberley and around Australia.



[Marie Nakarra Mudgebell]

We want the Healing Foundation to know that we are Tjarrtjurra Women Healers in Balgo.

We are worried for our grannies and great grannies.

We want our kids to grow up Strong for Law, Strong for Culture.

Women heal our men and women, children and little babies too. We paint them — red ochre.

We dance for them. We sing them.

We got Maparn Men Healers here in Balgo too.



[Payi Payi Sunfly Napangarti]

Filming the Nakarra Nakarra

Kapululangu is making a film of the Nakarra Nakarra Dreaming Track Trip we did in April 09.

Kapululangu women have been working with the Pilbara and Kimberley Aboriginal Media (PAKAM) on this project.

In November-December we held six editing meetings. PAKAM sent an all-women film crew including two Aboriginal women to join us.

PAKAM's Anna Cadden ran a film-making training

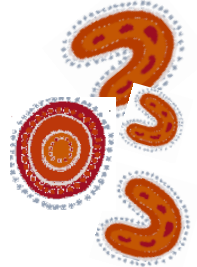
program for young women, which saw them heading out bush to film under the full moon, and staging an informal performance at the Old Warehouse.

The highlight was when the PAKAM crew filmed 11 of Kapululangu's Board of Elders and Directors and its members talking about why Kapululangu is important to them. Their answer: "Law!"

They said that they believed that it was important for Balgo people to stay proud of their Law and Culture – so

that they would stay strong and healthy.

Kapululangu is hoping that PAKAM will be able to send the all-women crew back to Balgo in June for a few weeks so that we can finish the film.



From Our Diary

The Elders have painted two more paintings for Kapululangu. The first one was *Nakarra Nakarra Dreaming*, but the two new ones are: *70 Years of Strong Culture*, and more recently *The Warlawarlara Way*. They are all very strong paintings.

Kapululangu was nominated for the Australian Human Rights Award.

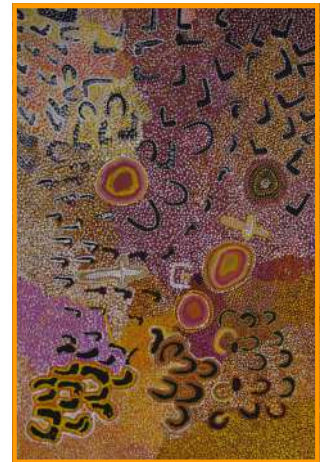
Kapululangu Women wrote a

letter about their important work as Tjarrtjurra Women Healers. It was put in the *Voices from the Campfire* Report of the Aboriginal Healing Foundation.

Kapululangu women have held three Tjarrtjurra Rituals since September.

They have also run Language Classes for Kartiya.

(Right: Painting *70 Years of Strong Culture*)



Kapululangu's Christmas

Kapululangu women had a brilliant Christmas Party! On Christmas Day, twenty women and kids had fun together at Kapululangu House.

Some of Kapululangu's Middle-Generation and Young women took over the kitchen. Tjiliwa Helen Nagomara, Eva Nagomara, Cathy Lee, Nakarra Marie Mudgebell, Bertha Kalion and Cynthia Bumblebee were great cooks.

They worked really well together to make a

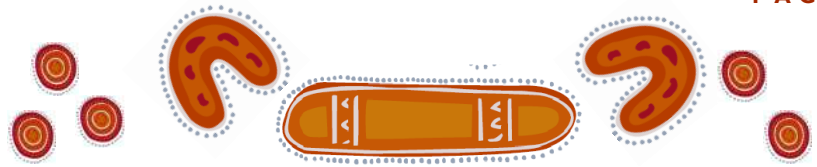
There was so much food that lots more people got to eat yummy food that day when the women took home heaps of "take away"!

We had a lovely Christmas tree. There were lots of presents under the tree – one for each of the women and kids.

Everyone was really happy to have Christmas together.



Money Matters



[Law Women's House]

Kapululangu now has funding partnerships with five grantors.

They are: the Commonwealth Department of Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA), Quaker Service Australia, Mercy Works, the

Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal, and the Granites Mine Affected Area Aboriginal Corporation (which includes residents of Balgo). A big thank you to our friends!

There's growing interest in Kapululangu's Law and Culture work. We have several grant applications pending at the moment. We'll tell you about them when they are successful.

We have been able to share our new *Kapululangu Development Plan 2009* with them. They were all very impressed with the work

that Kapululangu Elders and Directors are doing in Balgo. The Plan is on our website: www.kapululangu.org

The Western Australian Department of Indigenous Affairs which funded the making of the Plan has said that they are so happy with the Plan that they are going to help us find more funding. This is good news!

So, what we have to do now is find the funds to keep us going into the next financial year ... and the one after that!



[Women's Planning Meeting]

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 to: admin@kapululangu.org

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.

OUR BANK DETAILS ARE

Commonwealth Bank Kununurra
BSB:066 530 AC: 10107707
Contact admin@kapululangu.org

VOLUNTEER!

Kapululangu needs volunteers with skills and attitude. If you are a woman who would like to stay with Kapululangu in Balgo for a month, please get in touch with us. We need your skills at Kapululangu.

You can get more information at our website: www.kapululangu.org
Or email admin@kapululangu.org

We Tjarrtjurra know Tjukurrpa.

Our kids need Tjukurrpa, Law.

They need Country.

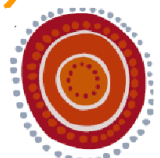
They need Tjarrtjurra and Maparn.

They will get lost if they have no Culture.

We want our kids to be strong.

We want them to live.

Kapululangu's New Friends



In October, Dr Zohl de Ishtar, Kapululangu's Coordinator and Chief Executive Officer, went to Sydney, Brisbane, Maleny and Perth. She was meeting people and organizations who might help Kapululangu with funding in the future.

In Sydney she met with women attending a lunch organized by Kristi Mansfield of the Greenstone

Group Philanthropy Advisors. She told the Kapululangu story at Patrick Dodson's Indigenous Policy and Dialogue Research Unit at the University of New South Wales.

In Brisbane she spoke with friends at the Australian Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies at the University of Queensland. And at a public meeting organized by the Women's International League for

Peace and Freedom.

There were a lot of meetings in Maleny, organized by the Kapululangu Support Group there.

In Perth she met with the Department of Indigenous Affairs, the Department of Premier and Cabinet, the Telethon Institute for Child Health Research, and LotteryWest. All were very interested to hear about Kapululangu.



[Kids at Balgo Dam]



Kapululangu

Aboriginal Women's Association

Private Mail Bag 116 Balgo
Via Halls Creek
Western Australia 6770
Australia

Phone/Fax: 08 91688 848

E-mail: admin@kapululangu.org

Bank Details for Direct Transfer:
Commonwealth Bank Kununurra
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 Some of our Women

Ruby Darkie Nangala

A Djaru woman, she is a boss for Wirrimanu and Luurnpa / Kingfisher Dreaming. She is Kapululangu's current Chairwoman.

Yintjurru Margaret Anjule (Bumblebee) Napurrula

A core Founder of the Kapululangu Women's Law and Culture Centre and long-time Chairwoman (2005-2008). A Ngarti woman she is recognised as one of Balgo's most prominent Song Women and Tjarrtjurra Healers. She was named "East Kimberley Elder of the Year 2008" by the Wunan Foundation's Aboriginal Achievement Award. She is a boss for Mungurrupa (Tanami Downs, NT).

Manaya Sarah Daniels Napanangka

An important Song Woman and Dancer, Manaya is recognised as one of the most powerful Law Women of Balgo. A Luritja woman

who had first contact with White society in the mid 1960s, she is a world-renown artist.

Payi Payi Sunfly Napangarti

A Kukatja woman, she is an important Song Woman, story-teller, teacher and healer, and a world-renown artist.

Mungkina Dora Rockman Napaltjarri

One of Australia's ten remaining Ngarti, she is a very powerful

Tjarrtjurra Healer. She is a founding caretaker of the Kapululangu Law Women's House.

Maudie Mandigalli Napanangka

A Djaru woman, she is a founding caretaker of the Kapululangu Law Women's House and an important Law woman.

Photo: (l-r) Maudie Mandigalli, Dora Rockman, Sarah Daniels, Ruby Darkie

