



Kapululangu News

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 1

APRIL 2010

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Kapululangu Women Dance for Minister Hames on Women's Law Ground.
- Women's Cultural Learning Camp to be held August 2010.
- Help us raise \$600,000.

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Women Dance for Minister Hames



When Minister Hames, Western Australia's Minister for Indigenous Affairs, visited Balgo community on 10 February 2010 Kapululangu Women welcomed him and friends onto their Women's Law Ground. Painted up with ochres they sung and danced him onto Country.

Chairwoman Ruby Darkie presented the Minister with a necklace of ininti beads as a reminder of the strength of Balgo women.

They presented him with a letter and asked him to help them raise the funds they needed to keep on operating their organisation, and to help them secure the future of their efforts to teach Law and Culture to their grandchildren and great-grannies.

The Minister said that he felt very honoured by their welcome and promised that he would do his best to assist them.

More Photos from Minister's Visit



Top: L-R: Payi Payi Sunfly, Ningi Nanala, Nan Watson, Margaret Anjule, Ruby Darkie, Minister Hames, Nellie Njamme, Lizzy Gordon, Maudie Mandigalli, and Sarah Daniels. Left: Minister with Vice-Chair Margaret Anjule and her award for East Kimberley Elder of the Year (Female) 2009.

Photos: WA Department of Indigenous Affairs



Chairwoman Ruby Darkie gives Minister Hames an Ininti-bead necklace during visit..

KAPULULANGU WOMEN'S LETTER TO MINISTER

Dear Minister Hames

We have danced you onto our Country, knowing that our ancestors are watching us – and you.

We invite DIA into a partnership that has the capacity to turn Balgo's history around.

We respectfully ask you to give us as women of Balgo a chance to make our contribution to our own community, to prove the healing power of our Law and Culture.

To achieve our vision Kapululangu needs \$600,000 per year guaranteed over five years.

Minister, you have the ability to make the seemingly impossible possible. Please help us to keep Kapululangu strong.

Kapululangu
Elders & Directors





Maudie Mandigalli
and her Grandchild

Those old ladies teach us culture. Culture is where people learn so they can carry it on to the next generation.

You learn culture through elders when they take you bush and paint ochre on your body.

The design they put on your body tells the story about the people before. They tell you that story when they paint you up. And they sing you. Dreamtime.

If you are a young person and those old people going to die, who's going to take it on? So they elders have to learn other people about it.

It is still alive today, but if they will be gone, who's going to take it on?

Young Balgo Woman

Women's Cultural Learning Camp

Kapululangu Women are inviting 15 women to attend a Women's Cultural Learning Camp in the last week of August 2010. Interested?

This will be 7 days living with the women elders on the Balgo Women's Law Ground. You will participate in ceremonies with the Elders, visit Country, and learn a little about life in one of Australia's most remote Aboriginal communities. Plus there'll be daily Cultural Awakening workshops, Breaking the Silence Circles, as well as opportunities to visit other agencies in Balgo.

The Cultural Learning program promises to be dynamic and invaluable. Especially for women who want a greater understanding of themselves in relationship with Indigenous Australia, and want to assist in improving the relationship between Indigenous and Non-Indigenous Australians.

This is an income-generating venture for Kapululangu. The fee pays the Women Elders as your cultural teachers, and covers workshop expenses (including food). It also provides a small contribution to Kapululangu to help the

Elders run their community programs where they pass their cultural knowledge to their younger generations. You get the added bonus of knowing that by attending you will be helping your hosts keep their Law and Culture alive.

For more info & to Register go to www.kapululangu.org

From Our Diary

Kapululangu's Board met with Dr Kim Hames, Deputy Premier WA, Minister for Indigenous Affairs & Health.

Kapululangu's Drop-In Centre was really busy. Both women and men called into Kapululangu House daily.

Kapululangu ran a Young Women's Sleepover. Twenty-nine women and girls stayed on the Women's Law Ground together and had fun.

Lots of women stayed at the Women's Law Ground during February. As always they had a good time living together.

Maggie and other women washed down the walls of the Women's Law House. They are preparing to paint inside.

Joah has been working with the male elders starting to develop a "Boomerang Shed" for men and boys.

The garden is doing really

well. The trees are growing.

Zohl is in Brisbane still doing her Coordinator work. She went to Cherbourg Aboriginal community in Queensland with the Kapululangu Support Group in Maleny near Brisbane. She gave the Cherbourg women elders a copy of Kapululangu's book *Holding Yawulyu: White Culture and Black Women's Law* as a gift from Kapululangu women.

Culture is Busy Business

January through March was a very busy time for Kapululangu. Actually it was remarkably busy!

There were **988 participants in three months!** That's remarkable because Balgo only has 410 residents, and only 350 of them are Indigenous.

Three-quarters of the participants were local Indigenous females - that's 729, particularly the Women Elders who made up half of that number (373).

Kapululangu is continuing its support for the Men's Side with 239 male participants accessing the Centre.

There was 18 Cultural Activities. This included 4 Tjarrtjurra Healing Ceremonies, 5 Trips to

Country, 1 Sleep-over at the Women's Law House for young girls to learn culture from the Elders, 3 Painting Up Story and 3 Documenting Song and Story sessions.

Kapululangu kept up its Tjilimi Activities with women elders living together on the Women's Law Ground creating a safe cultural space for all women and girls. Over 34 days there was 202 incidences of participants living together.

Kapululangu's Drop-In Centre had 455 participants: 312 females & 134 males.

The highlight was the visit to Kapululangu by Minister Hames. Everyone was happy!

Money Matters



Got a Brilliant Idea?

Kapululangu Needs

\$600,000 pa X 5 Years!

Kapululangu is keen to hear your ideas of how to raise \$600,000 per annum guaranteed for the next five years. If anyone has any idea of how to do that please just email your idea to us. It could help!

And if you have the time and inclination you might even like to help make it happen.

Even if you have an idea of how to make \$10, \$100, \$1000—it helps!

Kapululangu Celebrates New Partner Lottery West WA!

Lottery West has become a new funding Partner for Kapululangu. This carries on an old tradition. LotteryWest, once called Lotteries Commission, purchased our Women’s Troopie in 2000 and partially funded Kapululangu House, one of our two houses. This year they have provided funds for salaries and project costs. This means that Kapululangu has a more secure future. Thank you Lottery West!



Kapululangu Women’s Law House

Kapululangu has put in a grant application to renovate the Women’s Law House. This includes building an accessible toilet, shower and ramps. Lots of plans. No money yet!

Become a Supporter

VOLUNTEER!

Kapululangu is looking for skilled women for:

- Administrative Assistant
- Grant Writer
- Women’s House Caretaker
- Young Women Project Manager

Are you interested?

You can get more information at our website: www.kapululangu.org

JOIN THE 500 X \$500 CLUB

The Kapululangu Board invites you 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 (see back cover) & email your name, the date of deposit, the amount to: admin@kapululangu.org



Kapululangu Board of Elders and Directors and members at Annual General Meeting.

In the Footsteps of the Walawalarra

Kapululangu Women painted a beautiful painting of the ancestor **Walawalarra—the Two Invisible Women**. As they painted, they sung, danced and told the story of the Two Sisters’ travels in Country, telling how the sisters grew themselves up Strong for Law, Strong for Culture.

The painting was the story of Kapululangu’s Two-Way governance: **The Way of the Walawalarra**. The Kapululangu Board of Elders and Directors wanted

the government (and others) to understand that they follow their own Indigenous governance Law handed to them by their Ancestors, and at the same time abide by the Australian law for Indigenous Corporations.

Kapululangu’s commitment to operate by Two-Way governance results in the Kapululangu Board operating as **Marlpa Tutju**— a Circle of Women Companions amongst whom are the **Nintipuka**

Tutju—the Women Custodians of Knowledge. These are the elders who initiated Kapululangu’s and are its Law leaders. Together these women represent the **Walytja Tutju**, the Family of Women: all the members of Kapululangu. And together with them they live and reside within the Balgo’s wider **Circle of Community**. All of these Indigenous women who govern, direct, oversee, guide, run, teach, heal, protect and participate in Kapululangu are assisted by **Tilitja**, Culture Workers, their staff.



“Walawalarra, the Two Invisible Women. Ancestor Women. They told us everything. We learn from them. They Kapululangu. We do Kapululangu because they Walawalarra told us. We follow them. We hold Yawulyu [Women’s Law] strong. For those Walawalarra. For those kids. If they got no Law, those kids, they will get sick. We got ‘im still that Law!”



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.

Tell me more about Kapululangu?

What is Kapululangu?

Kapululangu Aboriginal Women's Association (KAWA) is a Women's Law and Culture Centre in one of Australia's most remote Aboriginal communities. It is the only women's organization in the south-east Kimberley region known locally as the Kutjungka.

Where is Kapululangu?

KAWA is in Balgo, aka Wirrimanu: the Dreaming of the Ancestral Kingfisher Bird Luurn. In the Kutjungka region of south-east Kimberley, up against the NT border, Balgo lies on the northern edge of WA's Great Sandy Desert. It is 840km n-w of Alice Springs, and 3400km n-e of Perth.

Why does Kapululangu exist?

Balgo women elders made KAWA because they wanted to enjoy their cultural ceremonies and customs. And because they wanted to pass their stories, dances, songs and skills to their younger generations.

When was Kapululangu formed?

KAWA celebrated its 10th birthday on 12 April 2009. It became incorporated on 3 August 2009.

Why is Kapululangu important?

KAWA is an initiative of the women elders of Balgo. They were concerned that their people were "losing their Culture" and that this was resulting in social problems in their families, especially the young.

How does Kapululangu operate?

KAWA is run by a Board of Elders and Directors who determine its

vision, direction and policy.

Middle generation women facilitate the organization's cultural activities. Its staff provide administration, logistics and support to the Board and people of Balgo.

Who is Kapululangu for?

KAWA is a women's organization that provides Law and Culture activities to females of all ages and supports the work of the male elders.

