



BIDYADANGA

Aboriginal Community
La Grange Inc.

Est 1975

**Annual Report
2021**

ACKNOWLEDGING COUNTRY

Bidyadanga Aboriginal Community La Grange Inc acknowledges the Karajarri people as traditional owners of the land on which we live and work. We appreciate the welcome from past Karajarri Elders for the Nyangumarta, Juwaliny, Mangala and Yulparija people to settle on this land and create the community of Bidyadanga. We pay respect to all Elders, past, present, and emerging.

ABOUT US

Bidyadanga Aboriginal Community (La Grange) is located on the Kimberley coast in Western Australia, 1590 kilometres from the capital city of Perth and 180 kilometres from Broome.

The recognised traditional owners of the land are the Karajarri people.

Bidyadanga is the largest remote Aboriginal community in Western Australia with a population of approximately 850 residents and is home to the Karajarri, Juwalinny, Mangala, Nyungamarta, and Yulpartja language groups.

Rich in history, art, and culture and with a developing economy, Bidyadanga has many community facilities and infrastructure to support community's people.

The word Bidyadanga comes from a word for "emu watering hole" (pijarta or bidyada).

Bidyadanga Aboriginal Community La Grange Inc (BACLG) was incorporated in 1975 as a not-for-profit organisation to administer government-funded programs such as the Day-care service, Municipal Services, and agencies of Centrelink and Australia Post, for the community. A Council of community representatives governs the organisation.

The Council is comprised of two members of each of the five language groups that reside in Bidyadanga. Council elections are held every three years.



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COUNCIL REPORT

The Council is pleased to present this Annual Report to members for the 2020/2021 financial year.

Council elections were held in October 2020. While there were some changes in representatives for the language groups, the Chairperson was re-elected unopposed.

We would like to acknowledge the contribution of those council members who retired after the elections. The work of the council is challenging and rewarding as well. While council members are elected by their language groups, the decisions are made for the whole community.

NAME	GROUP	ELIGIBLE MEETINGS	ATTENDED
MAJELLA NARDADA – Retired	JUWALINY	3	3
BIBIANNA TUMBLER – Retired	JUWALINY	3	3
KATHLEEN BANGU	JUWALINY	8	7
WILLIAM BANGU	JUWALINY	8	6
BARBARA WHITE	KARAJARRI	11	10
MOSES JAMES	KARAJARRI	11	11
MAUREEN YANAWANA	MANGALA	11	10
AGNES WALBIDI	MANGALA	11	10
NATALIE HUNTER	NYANGUMARTA	11	6
ERIC HUNTER	NYANGUMARTA	11	8
CAROL BILLYCAN – Retired	YULPARIJA	3	3
ANDREW MINYARDIE	YULAPRIJA	8	4
THUNDER BILLYCAN	YULPARIJA	8	6
SUE MANDIJALU	YULPARIJA	6	6
GREGORY BILLYCAN	YULPARIJA	11	10



There were many significant issues that the Council worked on during the 2020-2021 year. Some of these issues have been discussions that have been taking place over several years.

We have been working with Karajarri Traditional Lands Association (KTLA) and the State government on the Bidyadanga Land Activation Project (BLAP). This started with an MOU between Bidyadanga Community and KTLA, to prepare for future discussions. The MOU also showed how we can work together for the best interests of all people living in Bidyadanga now and in the future.

The discussions have continued and will result a vision for the future of Bidyadanga that will support our people and families to develop and succeed.

With the negotiations going ahead with BLAP, we are also working with the state government on the upgrade of internal roads, municipal services, and infrastructure upgrades for the community. Again, these discussions have been taking place over many years, so it is satisfying that real progress will be taking place.

Main Roads will be undertaking the upgrade of internal roads commencing in 2022, over a 3-year period. Employment opportunities will be available for Bidyadanga residents with this project. These opportunities will allow people to take the skills they learn to other projects, giving career pathways as well.

The infrastructure upgrades include water upgrade and as a result of discussions between Dept of Communities and Council about the charges for water being passed on to residents already experiencing significant financial stress, a Cost-of-Living survey was conducted in March this year. This is the first of its kind in Australia, with Bidyadanga being one of three other Aboriginal communities included. This survey will give government the information required to address the challenges faced by our members and ensure that no

further burden is added while receiving the upgrade in water quality.

We are continuing to work with Kimberley Aboriginal Medical Services (KAMS) on the transition to community control of the Bidyadanga Health Service. This transition will take place over 3 years and involves developing strong governance and management protocols to take on the responsibility of managing the health and well-being of the residents of Bidyadanga.

There is also a link with this and the BLAP as discussions about construction of a new clinic building are prioritised.

We have entered into a partnership with Shamrock Gardens that will provide essential employment opportunities for our people. This is a very exciting project as the farm will grow produce that will be sold all around the state, nation and potentially internationally as well. The new entity is called Pijarta Produce trading as Bidyadanga Fresh Food, a name that will become known as the crops are sold to supermarkets around the country.

These employment opportunities will also provide a range of career pathways in the agriculture industry. And the location of the farm allows people to continue to live in Bidyadanga, commuting each day.



We have been in discussions with the Minderoo Foundation over the last few years about the Early Years Initiative (EYI). This is a long-term project that aims to help communities target issues that are important in early childhood development.

The vision is a future where every child has the opportunity and confidence to flourish. The mission is learning together with communities to design and implement solutions that improve development, health and learning of children up to the age of 4 and create lasting change.

Children, families, and communities are the focus and listening to the wisdom, strengths and knowledge that exists within these groups, will direct efforts to achieve outcomes.

We are fortunate that our Community Capacity Building Officer – Francis Fernandez, has significant experience in Bidyadanga from his previous role teaching at the school. His understanding and relationships with children and families will mean that the EYI in Bidyadanga has the best foundation for success that we could hope for.

We will have employment opportunities as part of this project as well, with community connectors working with children and families.

This has been a long process, but this project is finally ready to commence in the coming months.

Minderoo Foundation is also working with us on another exciting project – the Indigenous Communities Project. This is an international project that uses documentary film making to share how indigenous families in South America, North America, and Australia bring-up children.

The aim is to support families in indigenous communities by developing a computer application that will help parents and children learn from each other. Bidyadanga is the Australian representative.

Minderoo Foundation and the Australian Literacy and Numeracy Foundation are working with us to develop an online language platform, promoting the five language groups in Bidyadanga.

We are fortunate that our Community Services Manager – Clare McLean has worked on recording Yawuru language in Broome, and Councillor Maureen Yanawana has been teaching language in her role at the school for many years, so we have a wealth of experience within our organisation to see this project through in the coming years.

Finally, with the COVID-19 Pandemic still causing a great deal of concern for us, we appreciate the work that KAMS, state and commonwealth governments are doing to roll-out vaccination drives that are the only real protection from this life-threatening disease.

Education to counter the misinformation and vaccine hesitancy, is necessary to protect our vulnerable population. Unlike the wider Australian population, our people have a higher rate of chronic disease, which means that COVID-19 will have higher mortality and we will lose too many family members to this devastating disease.

On a positive note, reports are showing that our vaccination rates are climbing slowly.

We look forward to reporting the successes and updates to come in the next year.

CEO'S REPORT

The 2020-2021 year included many challenges, not the least of which is the threat posed by the COVID-19 virus.

In March 2020, the community instigated additional restrictions from those issued by WA Police and locked-down the community. This hard lock-down lasted until May 2020.

Since then, there have been meetings and discussions about vaccinations to ensure our community is prepared for COVID-19 to find its way into Bidyadanga. While we have been fortunate that no confirmed cases in the region have resulted in further hard lockdowns, this will not always be possible.

Our vulnerable population means that we need to be proactive in protecting ourselves. Vaccinations, along with masks, social distancing and sanitising are going to continue to be a fact of life for us in the future.

This Annual Report highlights the achievements made during the 2020/2021 financial year.

I would like to acknowledge our hard-working, dedicated staff who contribute to the successful outcomes that took place in this year. In particular, I would like to thank Clare (Louise) McLean, our Community Services Manager, Faye Dean our HACC/Community Care Coordinator, and Julia and Scott Dyball our Store Managers for their leadership and support in their areas of responsibility.



BUSINESS AND INVESTMENTS

Bidyadanga Store

With Broome, the closest town 360kms there and back, the Bidyadanga Store ensures that there is a wide range of grocery and household items for sale. While we are a small business, pricing on healthy foods like fresh fruit and vegetables, bottled water, bread and milk is comparable to Broome pricing.

The Takeaway food sells a variety of healthy and fast food and is open 7 days a week. Janelle Mussared has been the Takeaway Coordinator since 2015, and along with another long-serving staff member – Sharna Bumba, they make sure the community is well-fed.

With management and oversight of day-to-day operations provided through staff employed by BACLG, there have been some improvements in 20/21. New fuel bowsers were installed, and fuel tanks have been cleaned out and swapped over to reflect changes in customer requirements.

Broome Investment Property

The community benefits from ownership of several residential and commercial properties in Broome. This investment portfolio underpins the financial stability of the organisation to ensure that future generations will have access to the services that are provided by BACLG Inc.

The property market in Broome was fairly stable during 20/21, however a shortage of residential rental properties will see rental income rise after a decline in the last 5 years. Commercial properties with long-term tenants, have been performing well.



**COMMUNITY
SERVICES**



COMMUNITY SERVICES

Municipal Services

The Municipal Services program is an essential service the success of which is largely about what we don't see.

We receive compliments all year from visitors who comment on how tidy and well maintained our community is. This is due to the efforts of the staff working in our Municipal Services program. Collection of rubbish, maintenance of roads and equipment, maintenance of the airstrip and maintenance some of the gardens and lawns, are included in the duties of this team. When this program works well, the community works well.

This program has been one of the core services provided by BACLG and our team have acquired skills over the years that will ensure we are well placed to continue this program into the future.

Our MUNS team work outdoors in all weather conditions. The work is hard and dirty, but they do their best to make the community better. Graham Lynn, Adam Billycan, Moses Nardada, Ashley Balbal, Graydon Bangu, Gabriel Yanawana and Regino Santos are the core team whose efforts are on show every day. They are an inspiration to the whole community.

HACC/Community Care

Meals On Wheels service provided meals over 1500 meals for pensioners for 20/21 year. The Community Care Centre supports members in the community and aims to provide a safe, engaging environment for the community members who use it.

Services the Community Care Centre provided this year are:

- Day Centre Activities-Sudoku, Memory Games, Painting, Music and TV
- Outings - Camping, Transport To Town, Fishing, Bark Collection
- Laundry
- Gardening
- Social Support
- Personal Care
- Shopping
- Transport





We have also provided:

- Dementia Training For Groups And Families
- Elder Abuse Education
- Historical Photo Session
- Fishing Excursion To One Arm Point
- Hosted Visitors From Beagle Bay

The Community Care Centre is supported by several stakeholders including:

- Community Support Workers from Kimberley Aged Care Services (KACS) 1 x month
- Remote Care Coordination from KACS 1 x month
- Continence Nurse

Community Resource Centre

The CRC provides access to computers and printers for community members to access government services, banking, and other online services.

The centre hosts Broome Circle services that provide support for community members in financial stress in areas such as accessing superannuation, negotiating on overdue bills, and budgeting. This vital service also acts to advocate and represent individuals with lending institutions, private and government.

Centrelink Agency

Centrelink Agency provides a locally based Centrelink Officer allowing community members to obtain support in dealing with services in Bidyadanga. Paula Grey is our long-serving staff member, who has been supporting community members with their Centrelink enquiries and obligations for many, many years.

Our Agency averaged 227 customers per month in 20/21, with the highest month being accessed by 519 in October to the lowest of 147 in September.

After School Program

Breakfast Club continues to be a worthwhile, vital activity. Children can stop at the Admin Office on the way to school for a healthy breakfast Monday to Friday during school term. Numbers of attendees are steady with between 15-20 children each day.

Other Youth Activities included collaborations with Kimberley Aboriginal Medical Services, Kullarri Regional Indigenous Communities, Police, Royal Life Saving WA, Department of Communities, Garnduwa and La Grange Remote Community School.

Some of the highlights include:

- Beach Activities
- Pool Activities
- Healthy Food Promotion
- Basketball Competitions
- Discos/Pool Parties
- Development Of The Youth Hub
- Solid Fit Activities

Mentoring, Educate, and Training (MET) Project

The intent is to deliver a range of support services to families in Bidyadanga with school aged children that will aim to improve attendance, improve retention of students at high school level and support individuals to transition from schooling to employment. There is also a Family Support element to the project. This involves a series of workshops and mentoring programs around empowerment, life skills and parenting, family and domestic violence, young mums support and leadership.

The Women's Centre is used as an ideal venue to deliver a range of activities and support, particularly now that we have Ingrid Elmitt as the Coordinator. Ingrid is responsible for the rejuvenation of the centre and the high rates of attendance to events and activities shows.

Women's Centre Activities

The Women's Centre in collaboration with Kullarri Regional Communities Indigenous Corporation has been a hive of activity this year. The Women's Centre is an outlet for arts and craft production (small business development), promote community cohesion and engagement after Covid-19, education, leadership, and family support.

Some of our highlights are:

- Camera Story
- Nina's Visit For Product Development And Social Support
- Leadership Programs Including Collaboration With Garnduwa
- Waardi - Building Babies Brains
- Solid Fit/Football Training-Tackling Indigenous Smoking, Leadership, Weekly Event, 30 Participants.
- Palya Mayi
- Market Nights
- Art And Craft Nights
- Christmas Dinner Event
- Breast Cancer Awareness Workshop
- Ru OK Day
- Community Christmas Party
- Harmony Day
- Easter Craft Day
- Naidoc Week

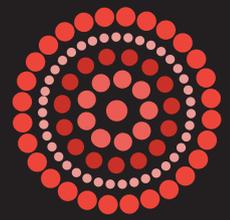
Camera Story

Camera Story has completed four workshops in Bidyadanga. The workshops were focused on building capacity and confidence amongst the women. Covering basic camera functions; photographic techniques; portrait photography; documentary photography and visual storytelling techniques; studio photography and lighting; colour grading/basic editing of photos for print. When the project is complete there will be large format prints, outdoor prints, and smaller ones for sale for an exhibition.

Broome Fringe Festival

There were 70 artworks and 30 artists from Bidyadanga, at this event. Attending the Broome Fringe Festival was an opportunity for our artist to:

- Meet other artists and network
- Market and promote their artwork
- Interact with customers
- Attend workshops



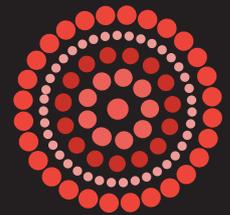
Leadership with Garnduwa

A Garnduwa Women's Football workshop was conducted with the high school students.

This was a follow up from the Women's leadership program covering themes such as confidence building, teamwork, improving self-esteem, effective communication, strategizing for the game and life, goal orientation, regular attendance, leading the team, social media protocol, bullying and harassment, jealousy, balancing family obligations and organisational skills, reliability, and time management.

Building Babies Brains With Waardi

Building Babies Brains Is a culturally sensitive parenting program designed in the Kimberley for Kimberley families, based on current research, statistics, and community input. The program builds participant's awareness around what is necessary to build a supportive environment for healthy, happy children. It provides entertaining processes that describe early brain development, early relationships, and oral language development: encompassed with social, emotional and wellbeing strategies for parents of children.



Naidoc Week With La Grange Remote Community School

The celebration of NAIDOC week was in collaboration with La Grange Remote Community School. The Women's Centre supported the school through assisting in painting a mural at the school and participating in the NAIDOC celebrations.

Art Centre

The Art Centre has been a great place for people to develop and extend their art production. The year has seen an increase in activity at the Centre with some young and emerging artist showing their talent.

Covid lockdown has not slowed the production or sales of our art and through promotion and marketing at events and on social media we have seen an increase in art sales.

Some of the high lights of the year are:

- Art Centre open night
- Broome Fringe Festival
- Broome Circle Christmas markets
- Worn Art
- Royal Life Saving Society WA-art works as merchandise for RLSSWA



Open Night

During Covid 19 there was a resurgence on Art Production and following on from the work from Nina and the small business development program, we spent some time rearranging and marketing the new artwork. There were many paintings and other items sold on the Open Night event.

Benevolent Relief and Cultural Support

Provision of funding to assist families with funerals and sorry camp.

Provision of funding to assist families experiencing financial hardship by assisting the purchase of power and fuel; Provision of assets and resources for community members to attend funerals in other communities and the provision of food hampers for travelling and hardship.

In the 20/21 financial year, we provided support on more than **1200** occasions for fuel, power, and emergency food relief hampers. Cultural support is provided with producing funeral booklets.





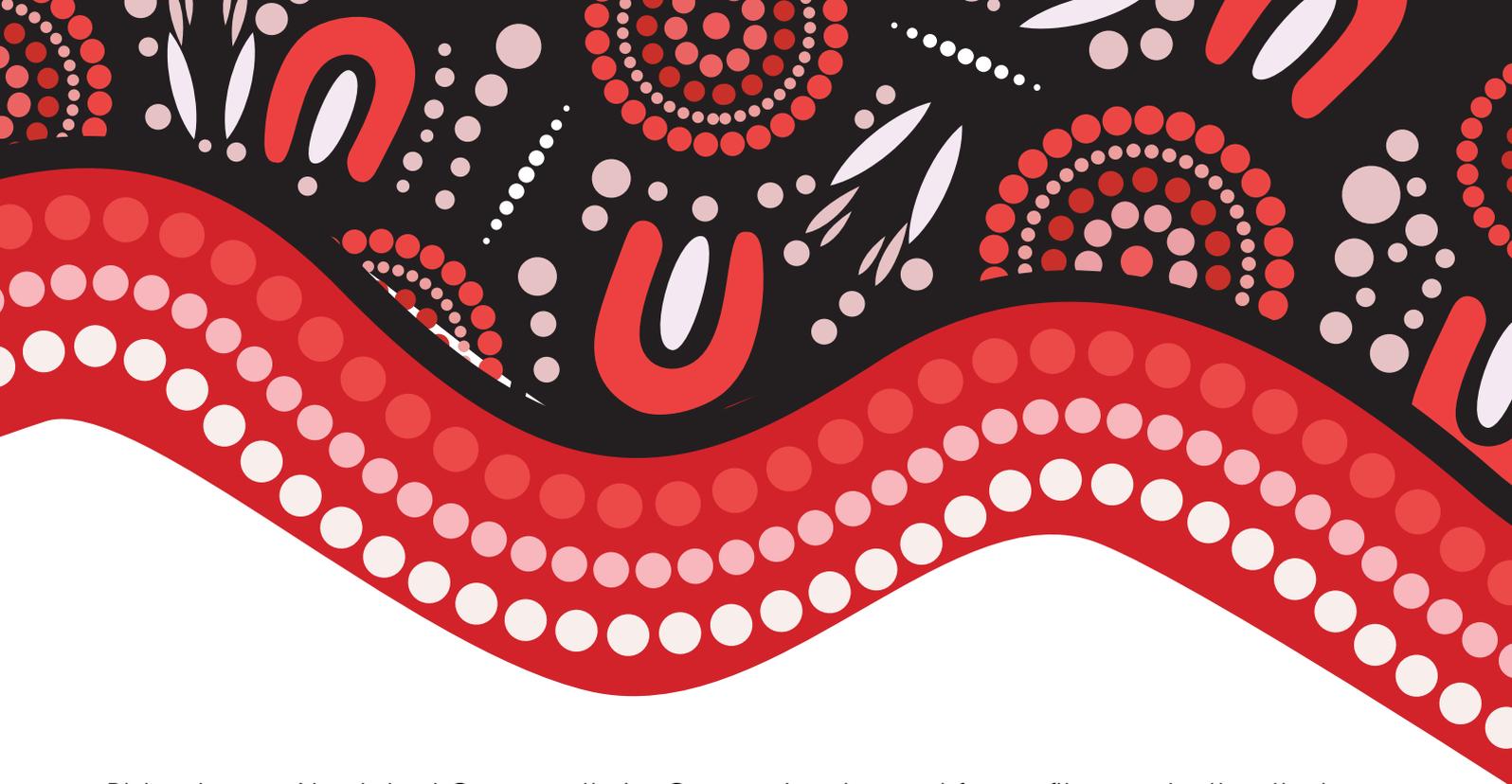
PROJECTS COMING IN 2021/2022



In partnership with Minderoo Foundation, the EARLY YEARS PROJECT will commence in the second half of the 21/22 year.

MEN'S OUTREACH in Broome, will be delivering their Change 'Em Ways program, a successful program that supports men and families to build strong, healthy relationships.

ORANGE SKY is commencing a laundry service, placing a trailer with heavy duty washing machines and driers for community members to use without cost.



Bidyadanga Aboriginal Community La Grange Inc. is a not-for-profit organisation that operates a range of community development, employment and housing related services for Aboriginal people living in Bidyadanga Community.

Specific roles of the Bidyadanga Aboriginal Community La Grange Inc (BACLG Inc) included:

Administration and Financial Management	Community Representation to State and Commonwealth Government Agencies	Formal decision making body for Bidyadanga Community
Municipal Services - Planning, Development, Project Management, Infrastructure Maintenance	Community Services - Community Resource Centre, Library; Meals on Wheels and Home & Community Care Centre	Government Services Management - Centrelink Agency
Management Project Support - Assistance in various Government funded Projects and/or Programs	Benevolent Relief - Transport, Funeral Assistance and Emergency Relief Provisions	Commercial Enterprise - Bidyadanga General Store



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La Grange Inc.

Est 1975

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