

# NGARLAWANGGA NEWSLETTER

Ngarlawangga Aboriginal Corporation



Quarter 1 - 2026

*The Ngarlawangga Aboriginal Corporation Directors and Members respectfully acknowledge our Ngarlawangga Elders past, present and emerging.*

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## **Back to Country Trip – 13-16 April 2026**

Planning is currently underway for the first Back to Country trip for 2026. If you are keen to come along, please contact the office directly to express your interest. There is an Expression of Interest form at the end of this newsletter.

We will have some fun activities both in camp and some visits to places on Country. Some of our supporters will be coming along to teach us how to speak Ngarlawangga language and other exciting ways to engage with Ngarlawangga country. If you are interested in coming, please complete the form at the end of this newsletter and send it in by **20 March 2026**.



Ngarlawangga Country. Image Credit: José Kalpers, YMAC



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## ➤ **PRN Forum 2025**

The Pilbara Ranger Network Forum was held in Karratha at The Tambrey from 11th—13th November and was attended by Damien Hubert, Lloyd Hubert and Kendra Melissen. The event included presentations by all ranger groups, including Ngarlawangga where everyone showed nerves of steel and got up on the big stage to update everyone on where we are up-to with the program.

There were lots of presentations by government departments and other conservation partners on how rangers can make a difference in caring for Country. DWER presented some of the *baba* (water) management projects happening across the Pilbara, and DBCA provided maps to show how old vegetation was across Native Title determination areas to help groups work out which areas needed to be burned to help prevent catastrophic *gala* (fires) from wiping out important plants and animals.

The event also included a half day trip out to Roebourne where the Men and Women split off into two groups. The Men made some artefacts and shared some story-time, while the Women made bush medicine soap and kicked up their heels with some boot scooting!

We are excited to see the Ngarlawangga Ranger program develop over the next year and encourage all Ngarlawangga people to get involved and send in an expression of interest for the Ranger pool.



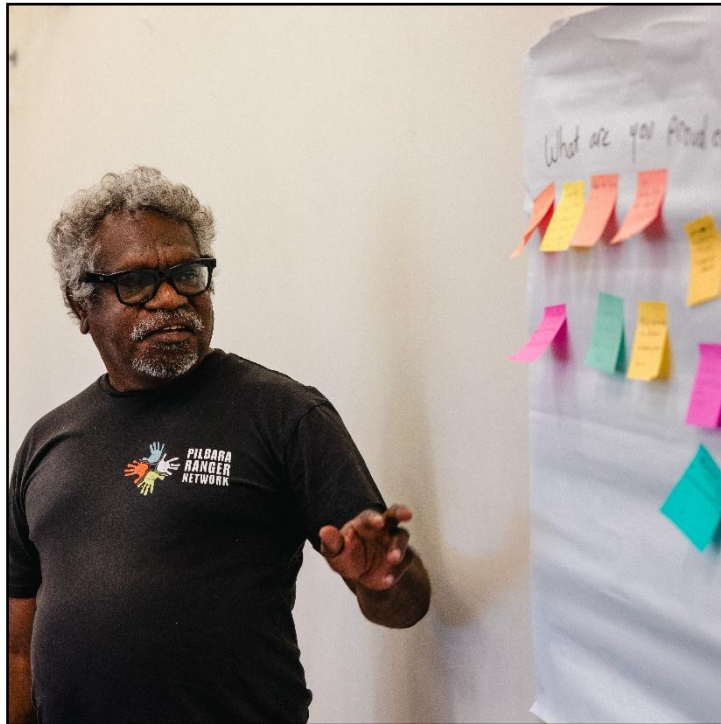
Lloyd Hubert & Damien Hubert presenting an update on the NAC Ranger project. Image Credit: Pilbara Ranger Network Forum 2025

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*Damien Hubert sharing at the Ranger Coordinator workshop. Image Credit: Pilbara Ranger Network Forum 2025*



*Kendra Melissen, Lloyd Hubert, Damien Hubert and Christie Mayers at the PRN Ranger forum. Image Credit: Pilbara Ranger Network Forum 2025*

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*PRN Members at the Tambrey, Karratha. Image Credit: Pilbara Ranger Network Forum 2025*



*PRN members melting bases for soap-making exercise. Image Credit: Christie Mayers*



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## **Ranger Program**

We began 2026 with the first ever Ranger pilot program. This program was designed to start capturing information about the health of Country. With *baba* being so important, we are focusing our efforts on cleaning up the waterways along Limestone Creek in the Bulloo Downs pastoral lease southeast of Turee Creek / Prairie Downs Road turn-off from Great Northern Highway. We documented plants and animals seen around the springs and waterholes and made some observations about the health of *baba* too.

Although the *baba* levels were low and dead animals in and around the *baba* can make the environment sick, the *baba* was generally clear but not safe to drink. There is a lot of animal waste around the springs as well as some rubbish from visitors that we cleaned up and took away. You can help the aspiring Ranger team out when you are out on Country by taking your rubbish with you when you leave.

There is still lots of work to be done, lots of places to visit to document, and some discussions with the Pastoralist. If you would like to take part in the future of the Ranger program, make sure you tell us by sending in the Expression of Interest form attached or by contacting the office and we will get one to you.



*Dry creek bed where we installed one camera trap. This area is an important baba source for local wildlife with evidence of baba just below the surface that kangaroos had dug up. Image Credit: Tate Wilson / Damien Hubert*

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*View west across Limestone Spring. Despite the colour, baba was clean and clear although not safe for drinking. Image Credit: Christie Mayers*



*Water sample showing healthy water with Damien Hubert. Image Credit: Christie Mayers*

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*One of the permanent pools in Limestone Creek bed south of Djadabunna Trapyard. Limited rainfall means it has not been flushed out in some months. Image Credit: Christie Mayers*



*View north across Djadabunna Trapyard with Tate Wilson. Image Credit: Christie Mayers*



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## ***Ngarlawangga Language Workshops***

### ➤ **First Nations Language Workshop 2025**

In October, Glenys Dhu and Damien Hubert attended a two-day First Language Workshop in Geraldton at Bundiyarra Irra Wangga Language Centre. Throughout the workshop, we worked on developing priorities for the revitalisation of the Ngarlawangga language using the *Jinyirri* framework. The results of these priorities are to **increase speaker numbers** and **increase language use**.

The group was joined by Peter Limerick on Day 2 where the broader group discussed what resources are available to First Nations people to help with improving language speaker numbers, as well as how the supporting organisations (like First Languages Australia as the National body) can assist communities in this process.

### ➤ **Ngarlawangga Language Workshop**

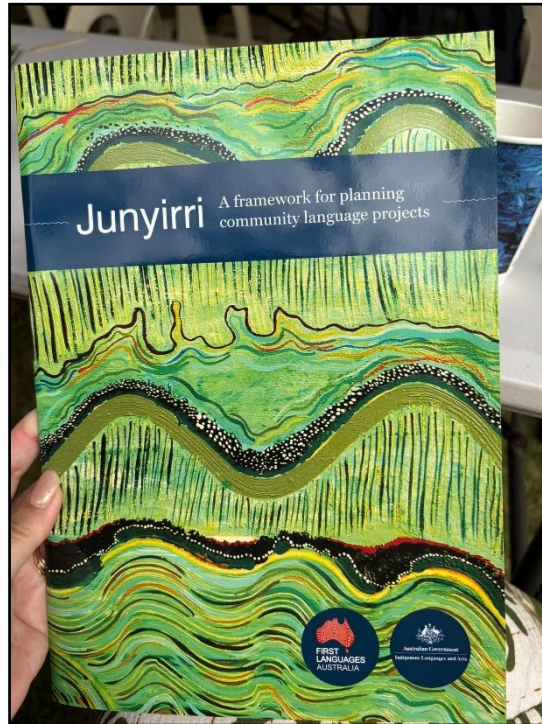
In December, Damien Hubert and Nerissa Hubert were joined by linguists Annelise Jansen and Bernie Jones from Bundiyarra Irra Wangga Language Centre in Karratha. During this three-day workshop, team members worked through Ngarlawangga pronouns, conversational phrases and other survival phrases for use on flash cards, and other training material being developed for use by community.



*FLA workshop at Bundiyarra, Geraldton. L-R: Kevin Phillips, Peter Limerick, Damien Hubert and Glenys Dhu. Image Credit: Christie Mayers*



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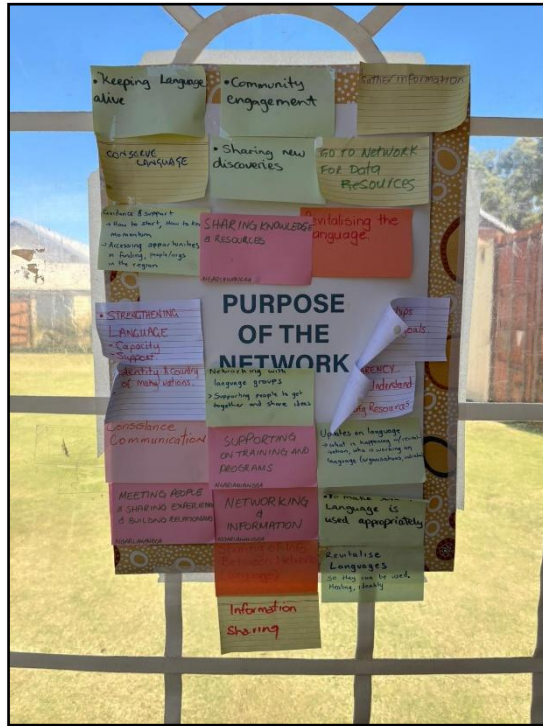
Junyirri workbook that we used as a framework throughout the workshop. Image Credit: Christie Mayers



We worked through who were the supporting organisations, and what role they each played in progressing language revitalization in the Yamatji and central Pilbara regions. Image Credit: Christie Mayers



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As a collective group, we discussed the purpose of First Languages Australia as a supportive body. Image Credit:



December Language workshop in Karratha. L-R: Christie Mayers, Damien Hubert, Nerissa Hubert, with Bernie Jones and Annelise Jansen from Bundiyarra. Image Credit: Annelise Jansen



## ***Call for Language Junior Champions***

If you are interested in learning the Ngarlawangga language and want to help others learn too, then we want to hear from you! Access to email and phone is a must and as some travel may be required, all potential junior champions must be over 18.

Please contact Christie Mayers, NAC Project Coordinator on 0457 158 536 or at [cmayers@ngarlawangga.com.au](mailto:cmayers@ngarlawangga.com.au) for more information.

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## ***Language Corner***

Welcome to the all-new Language Corner where we will learn a new word in Ngarlawangga language in each new issue.



**JIRNDU** (*jirn-du*)

**Meaning:** Sun

**You say:** 'jeern-doo'.

**Example Sentence:** "jirndu is up. Let's go!"

**Challenge:** Try using "**jirndu**" in a conversation or social media post this week.

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## ***Member Spotlight***

Nerissa Hubert is working through her Cert IV in Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Primary Health Care Practice through Marr Mooditj Training Inc. As part of this training, Nerissa travels to Perth for in-class *mirnuthumba* (learning) as well as practical, hands-on training at hospitals. Nerissa is hoping to use what she learns to improve on her current work as an Aboriginal Liaison Officer, to be able to provide direct care to her patients.

*If you are interested in studying, reach out to the Trust who may be able assist with the cost of study.*

\* If you have a good news story that you would like to share with your fellow Ngarlawangga members, send it through to the office at [admin@ngarlawangga.com.au](mailto:admin@ngarlawangga.com.au) for consideration. Please include name and contact information in case we need to call you for more details.

Make sure you ask permission if the story is about a friend or family member!



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*Nerissa Hubert dressed and ready for practical hands-on training. Image Credit: Nerissa Hubert (supplied)*

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## ***Looking for Ngarlawangga Materials!***

Do you have an important recording, photo, or newspaper story about Ngarlawangga people or country? NAC is looking for materials like: VHS tapes, cassette tapes, CDs, DVDs, newsletters, newspapers, and photos. We want to make sure these cultural items stay safe and usable into the future. If you have any of these materials, please contact Clare at [cbrereton@ngarlawangga.com.au](mailto:cbrereton@ngarlawangga.com.au) or call 0458 100 060.

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## Job / Training Opportunities

- ❖ Ngarlawangga Aboriginal Corporation have two exciting new job opportunities!

### Project Officer

- **Location:** Karratha, Port Hedland, Pilbara Region
- **Employment Type:** Full-time, part-time or casual
- **What does a Project Officer do?**
  - Assist in the coordination and delivery of country, culture and heritage projects and activities, including support with logistics and attendance at field-based activities and events.
  - Participate in heritage and environment surveys and monitoring activities as a NAC Project Officer or Cultural Advisor as required.
  - Create and maintain accurate records of projects and other activities.
  - Assist with maintaining databases, cultural mapping data and cultural heritage records in both physical and electronic form.
  - Reporting on outcomes from projects and activities.
  - Build respectful and positive relationships to support country, culture and heritage projects and activities.
- **How to Apply** – Visit the <https://ngarlawangga.com.au/careers> website for more information. **Applications close 27/03/2026.**

### Business Development Officer

- **Location:** Karratha, Port Hedland, Pilbara Region or Perth
- **Employment Type:** Full-time

Contributing to NAC's strategic direction, the Business Development Officer works collaboratively with the NAC team and Traditional Owners to identify, evaluate, develop and implement business opportunities that build capacity and economic independence, and deliver positive outcomes for Ngarlawangga People through training and development, and employment opportunities.

- **How to Apply** – Visit the <https://ngarlawangga.com.au/careers> website for more information and apply through [Seek](#). **Applications close 27/03/2026.**

- ❖ Rio Tinto have announced the launch of the **2026 Indigenous Scholarship Program**, which is now open for applications.

### Scholarship details:

- Up to **\$16,500 annually** for the duration of the undergraduate degree
- Open to students in **any year of study** (bachelor degree)
- Applications close **15 March 2026**
- Priority is given to students from Rio Tinto Traditional Owner groups, particularly those within the Regional Framework Deed.

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## How to Apply

Visit the Rio Tinto website or scan the QR code. **Applications close 15 March 2026**

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### Trust Enquiries

Please direct any trust enquiries to the Fordham Executive Office team, at the contact details below:

Phone: 1800 159 054

Email: [ngarlawangga@fordhamgroup.com.au](mailto:ngarlawangga@fordhamgroup.com.au)



## EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

### BACK TO COUNTRY – LIMESTONE SPRING 13-16 APRIL 2026

Our Back to Country trip to Limestone Spring is going ahead! We need to work out how many people are coming to help us plan.

Please confirm if you, your children or other family members are coming by **20 March 2026**.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Who else are you bringing (full name, age, relation to you, e.g. own child, niece, nephew, carer, friend, aunt, uncle, brother, sister, no relation)?

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Are you driving yourself (fuel reimbursed)? YES NO

Do you need NAC's help to get there? YES NO

Please return your completed form to NAC to [cmayers@ngariawangga.com.au](mailto:cmayers@ngariawangga.com.au) OR via post to Level 8, 12 The Esplanade, Perth, WA 6000.

Please call Christie (Project Coordinator) on 0457 158 536 if you have any questions.