



**Waanyi**

NATIVE TITLE ABORIGINAL CORPORATION RNTBC

**Newsletter 5**

ICN 7448 (under special administration)

## Message from the Special Administrator

**Dear members, traditional owners and other interested people.**

People will be aware the special administration was due to end on Friday 31 January 2025. However, the decision was made not to proceed with the Chief Executive Officer's employment beyond the probationary period.

Since the CEO's employment ended with effect from Friday 31 January, leave has been granted by the Office of the Registrar of Indigenous Corporations (ORIC) to extend the special administration for one month, to enable the special administrator to recruit and appoint a permanent or interim CEO.

The recruitment of a CEO has commenced.

It is my aim to ensure the directors designate and staff are satisfied with the plans put in place to manage the corporation in this interim period. Trent McKenzie has been appointed as Acting CEO during the recruitment phase. I will end the special administration as soon as these plans are fully in place which will likely be prior to the end of the one-month extension.

### Future Waanyi PBC directors

The following people have consented to being directors at the end of the special administration:

Member directors

- Hayley Isles
- Kay Langtree
- Everyl Johnny
- Warren Smith
- Anthony Saltmere

Non member specialist independent directors

- Sheryl Hedges
- Brett Ingram

My thanks to all the former corporation advisory group members for your advice and knowledge provided to me during the special administration. Waanyi PBC has a strong future and is well placed to provide ongoing support to the Waanyi common law holders and its members.

I wish the directors, staff members and common law holders all the very best for the future.

Yours sincerely,

**Peter McQuoid**

# Adoption of a New Rulebook

We are pleased to announce that the Waanyi Rulebook has been updated and sent to ORIC to be registered. This new version incorporates important changes to strengthen our governance and decision-making processes. You can view the updated Rulebook on the ORIC website.

## Summary of Major Changes to the Rulebook:

### 1. Director Eligibility Criteria

- Directors must now demonstrate knowledge and experience in business, governance, or other relevant areas.
- Individuals who served as Directors between 1 April 2023 and 15 April 2024 are ineligible for reappointment for two years following the end of Special Administration (February 2025).
- Directors must provide a Director Identification Number and a current National Police Certificate. Failure to comply results in termination.

### 2. Appointment and Term of Directors

- Directors will serve a two-year term with but can be re-elected by the members.
- A rotational election system is introduced to ensure board continuity, with half of the Directors' terms expiring each year.
- Specific procedures for nominating and electing Directors have been formalised, including

requirements for attending AGMs in person or via video conference.

### 3. Specialist Independent Directors

- Up to three non-member specialist independent Directors may be appointed for their expertise in financial management, governance, law, or related fields.
- These Directors will serve two-year terms and have voting rights but cannot hold the position of Chair.

### 4. Membership Criteria and Application Process

- A more detailed process for evaluating membership applications, including input from knowledgeable Elders.
- Members rejected by the Board can appeal at a Community Meeting for a final decision.

### 6. Remuneration of Directors

- Directors may now be paid salaries or sitting fees, with rates decided by members at AGMs or General Meetings.
- Directors may also be reimbursed for travel and other expenses related to Corporation business.

### 7. General and Directors' Meetings

- Incorporation of technology for holding General Meetings and Directors' Meetings.
- Provisions for voting, use of proxies, and quorum requirements have been updated.

Director Spotlight:

## Anthony Saltmere

We're proud to highlight Anthony Saltmere, a dedicated Waanyi man with extensive board experience. Anthony's leadership and vision have been instrumental in various initiatives, and his passion for Waanyi culture shines through his contributions to the Cairns Art Gallery, where his hunting pieces and didgeridoos are featured.

Anthony is a current Director of Indjalandji-Dhidhanu Aboriginal Corporation in Camooweal and is self-employed as an Indigenous artist. He has over 10 years of experience in Youth Support and has held roles such as Cultural Heritage Officer, Caretaker/Groundsman, and Machine Operator with the Mornington Shire Council.



His qualifications include an NRL Community Coaching Certificate and a First Aid Certificate. Growing up in the Gulf, particularly on Mornington Island, Anthony learned cultural practices from Elders and has developed strong family connections and cultural ties throughout the Gulf and Waanyi Country.

As a current and former Director in multiple Indigenous organisations, Anthony is well-versed in governance, policy implementation, budget oversight, and advocating for safe and culturally appropriate practices.

He brings a wealth of knowledge and skills to guide and support the Waanyi PBC.



## Queensland Museum Repatriation Discussion

The Queensland Museum has initiated discussions with the Waanyi community regarding the repatriation of culturally significant items. We have had our first meeting on this topic, focusing on how best to handle the return of these items and the long-term preservation of our cultural heritage.

### The Museum has expressed its willingness to assist the Waanyi community with:

- Developing a keeping place or secure storage facility for repatriated items.
- Digitising research materials and artifacts for long-term preservation and community access.
- Ensuring items are stored securely and culturally appropriately if the community opts for continued custodianship.

## Request to Rename Boodajamulla National Park

The Waanyi PBC's Corporation Advisory Group (CAG) has directed us to formally request, on behalf of the Waanyi people, that the traditional language name Miyumba be incorporated into the name of the World Heritage listing for the Australian Fossil Mammal Sites at Riversleigh.

Our interim CEO, Trent McKenzie, will be writing to Ministers Leanne Linard (Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef) and Tanya Plibersek (Federal Minister for the Environment and Water) in the coming weeks to advocate for this important recognition.

This change reflects our ongoing commitment to preserving and honoring Waanyi culture and heritage within the broader Australian landscape.

# Acting CEO Report

As we step into 2025, we reflect on the progress made over the past year and look ahead with optimism. The Waanyi PBC has achieved significant milestones, strengthening both our governance structures and community initiatives.

Firstly, we extend thanks you to Peter McQuoid for his work and support during his time as Special Administrator. We look forward to continuing in an open and transparent manner.

## Financial Update:

The Waanyi Executive have reported its half-year performance against our first 12-month budget. The financial processes now embedded within the organisation are robust, and our financial position is sound. We have received all major grant monies due and continue to track ahead of budget which will see a small surplus which we intend to build on. This surplus allows us to meet all financial obligations promptly, including creditor payments and ATO commitments. Our forecast indicates we will sustain this positive financial position throughout the year.

## Operational Highlights:

- The Century Mining Training Grant expired in December 2024, but we remain in contact with the mining company and anticipate new tender opportunities in the near future.
- Meetings with Burke Council and the Department of Natural Resources have been held to discuss the improvement of facilities and access for Bidunggu.
- Collaboration with Carpentaria Land Council continues to improve communication and operational planning for the Rangers Program



- Tenders have been received for the rebuilding of the Boodjamulla offices, with an award expected soon.
- Initial discussions have started for a possible neighbourhood centre in Doomadgee to enhance community facilities.
- Century Mine has agreed to repair damaged signage within the region.

## Governance and Compliance:

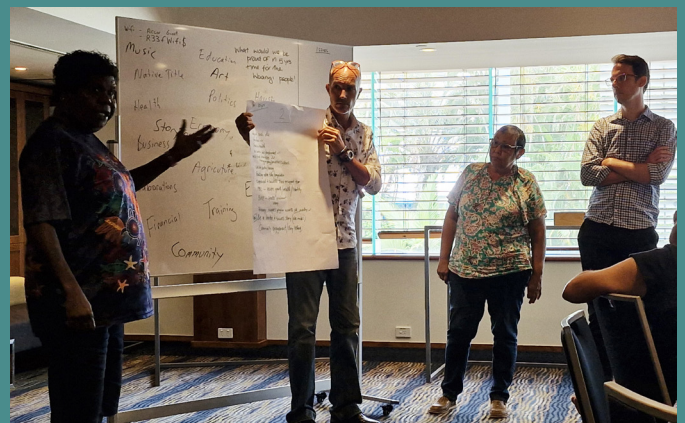
- A Stakeholder Day for miners and petroleum exploration companies is planned for April 2025 as we plan a co-ordinated approach to this year's exploration activities to ensure respectful and appropriate processes for accessing Waanyi Country. The intention is also to discuss training and job opportunities to be made available to Waanyi.
- A recent NIAA end of calendar year audit acknowledged the improvements in Waanyi's governance and financial reporting systems, highlighting our commitment to transparency and accountability.
- We look forward to building on these achievements in the coming year and thank the entire Waanyi community for their continued support.

**Trent McKenzie – Acting CEO**

# Review of the Waanyi Strategic Plan

Through a collaborative, team-based exercise, we established core values that will guide our work moving forward: Trust, Respect, Accountability, Cultural Knowledge, and Strategic Thinking (TRACS).

These values will be our core bedrock of everything we do, and you will see them reflected in our initiatives and decision-making processes.



Every Board member has committed to upholding these principles to serve the Waanyi people with integrity and purpose.

As the current Waanyi Strategic Plan approaches its conclusion in 2025, we have commenced a comprehensive review to chart our path for the next five years. While many activities from the previous plan have been completed, challenges such as flooding and the transition into Special Administration have left some goals unmet.

The new 2025-2030 Strategic Plan is scheduled for development by 30 June 2025. We began this process by revisiting and refining the Values of the Corporation with the members of the Corporation Advisory Group.



## CMC Update on Boodjamulla National Park

A face to face meeting was held on 23 January in Cairns with some joining via Teams. It was a great opportunity for CMC members to continue to learn from each other. Key stakeholders, including Waanyi representatives, Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) members, and project officers, gathered to discuss critical issues affecting Boodjamulla National Park.

One of the significant outcomes was the approval of the 50% Detailed Design Plan for the Day Use Area Project at Lawn Hill Creek. The plan includes an all-abilities pathway, improvements to the canoe launch area at Indarri Falls, and discussions around re-establishing accommodation for Waanyi people and staff on Country.

The partial reopening of Lawn Hill Gorge is planned for July 1, 2025, focusing on day-use activities while ensuring public safety and environmental conservation.

Further discussions addressed the Environmental Recovery Project for pest and weed management at Lawn Hill Gorge, with plans to engage bush regeneration

contractors and involve Ngumari Waanyi Rangers in cultural inductions and site-specific projects. The CMC continues to prioritise Waanyi-led initiatives, ensuring that traditional knowledge and cultural heritage are integrated into the park's management and development plans.

