

Wilman Dryandra People Corporation Limited (WPDCL)

October 2024 -September 2025

ANNUAL REPORT

Acknowledgement

WPDCL acknowledges and pay respects to the Wilman people of the Noongar Nation. We acknowledge their connections to Country, Culture and People. We understand the disruption to their Boodja, their way of life and their families. We respect their journey to a better future.

Our mission

To promote, protect and advance the law, land, culture and heritage of the Wilman Noongar people in the Dryandra area.

Our vision

Our vibrant culture is being restored through our traditional and cultural responsibilities and as Elders and Koolungas, by being strong, walking together, talking together and sharing our knowledge, culture and stories.

Our history

The Corporation was established in 2022 and has a volunteer Board of Directors. The journey to establish the Corporation began in 2020 with the approval of a research project funded by the Australian Research Council (ARC) and administered by Curtin University, named as the Healing Land Healing People project. Three Universities signed a partnership agreement to research aspects of culture, history and biodiversity as they relate to the Dryandra Woodlands, with a view to investigating biodiversity sustainability and how Nyungar cultural ideas can support this.

Our Wilman Dryandra Elders began in 2020 to work with Curtin University, the University of Western Australia and Deakin University and on the project. The Dryandra Woodlands was recently designated as a National Park in January 2022.

The Elders working with personnel from the universities (Professors Hopper and Haebich) documented the stories of the Elders that related to Dryandra Booja and identified important cultural and historical sites. To enable the protection of these sites the Elders agreed in late 2021 to set up a new corporation to implement its Constitutional purpose and objects relating to culture and heritage. The Elders also agreed to develop a Healthy Country Plan with Consultant Paula Deegan through funding provided by the ARC.

Now in our third year of operations, the Corporation has proven to be a vital structure to help implement the new Healthy Country Plan and to enable Elders to have a key role in the 'joint management framework' involving Gnaala Karla Booja Regional Corporation (GKB) and the Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions (DBCA).

Wilman Dryandra Elders understood the opportunities resulting from the DBCA Plan and the Native Title Settlement. To position the Wilman people to engage in joint management of Dryandra National Park, three plans were completed and endorsed by the Wilman Elders during 2023 including a:

- Wilman Healthy Country Plan with 500 copies printed and many circulated.
- Wilman Business Plan and Strategic Plan charting course for 5-10 years.

The **Healthy Country Plan** enables families to have time on country, care for people, teach their culture and record stories; and positively lift the spiritual wellbeing of the Wilman people.

The **Business Plan** outlines five elements that together gives structure to the Corporation business: Governance; Staffing; Financial needs; Operations of programs and services. Commercialisation.

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SECTION 1: AN OVERVIEW OF WPDCL

ABOUT US

WPDCL is an Aboriginal corporation dedicated to leading cultural heritage management for the Dryandra Woodland National Park and surrounding areas. Our team of experts specialises in preserving and protecting the rich cultural legacy of the region, ensuring that the Indigenous history and traditions are honoured and celebrated.

Our cultural authority and community support as custodians of Dryandra Country gives the Corporation a strong position.

OUR PEOPLE

Board of Directors

Horace (Brett) Hill – Chair (Oct 2022~)

Darryl Kickett – Director (Oct 2022~)

Mervyn (Nick) Abraham - Director (Oct 2022~)

Raylene Storey – Director (Oct 2022~)

Lara Rosenblum – Director (Mar 2024~), Secretary (Jun 2024~)

Members

Travis Abraham

Jessica Abraham

Francis Bolton

Horace (Brett) Hill

Raylene Story

Darryl Kickett

Mervyn (Nick) Abraham

Basil Kickett

Natalie Hill

Volunteers

Anna Haebich

Paula Deegan

DeKarla-Marie Kickett

Cassandra Abraham

SECTION 2: GOVERNANCE

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Firstly, I would like to pay my respects to our Elders past and present, remember the sacrifices they made, and acknowledge all of our people who passed on.

This has been a year of building partnerships with like-minded people and organisations, and strategic efforts to identify priorities and plan next steps in alignment with the Wilman Healthy Country Plan 2023 (HCP), our blueprint for the future.

Over the last year, WPDCL has been building upon both existing and new relationships towards future collaborations, including Gnaala Karla Booja, Peel Harvey Catchment Council, Millenium Kids, DBCA, DPLH, and the Shires of Wandering, Williams, Narrogin, Boddington and Pingelly. We are also seeking opportunities to share kaartdijin particularly with young people and recently conducted a Welcome to Country at Clontarf Foundation.

Some noteworthy accomplishments this year include progressing on the restoration of Pumphrey's Bridge; launching the WPDCL website (with the generous volunteer support of Cassandra Abraham); entering into several Memorandums of Understanding (with Winjan Aboriginal Corporation, Harvey Aboriginal Corporation and Waroona Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Corporation; Putjar Farm and OAA; and PHCC and Shire of Wandering). We are also delighted to have secured administrative support from Outback Academy Australia (OAA) to build the foundations WPDCL needs to be able to unlock the potential of our organisation to work to our unique strengths, driving the outcomes that are important to the Wilman community.

OAA's much-valued assistance has spanned business development, governance support, accounting services and support with funding applications. We specifically acknowledge OAA's support in engagement of consultant Rob Thomas to support our strategic work in project planning for the future, and Jo Ludbrook's governance support (including supporting Darryl Kickett as Acting Company Secretary for several months).

I also acknowledge De-Karla-Marie Kickett's engagement with Outback Academy Australia on behalf of the Corporation, sharing her powerful and insightful voice as a young Wilman woman. With this year's NAIDOC theme, "The Next Generation: Strength, Vision & Legacy", it brings me great joy to see the younger generation of Wilman mob walking towards the future.

I note that the Healthy Country Plan was developed to provide a Wilman voice to government on the aspirations of the Wilman families who attended sessions to develop the HCP, and must be considered as representing Nyungar Wilman views in any land management plan going forward. The HCP was an important outcome of the research work conducted by the Curtin University in partnership with University of Western Australia and Deakin University.

We acknowledge the Australian Research Council, Curtin University, Deakin University and the University of Western Australia for their response to requests from the Nyungar Wilman Elders (Nan Joan Hill and Pop Merv Abraham) to address issues they raised for the Dryandra Woodlands National Park. The research not only identified new botanical

species but also mapped ancient Wilman cultural sites and Wilman stories. The mapping of these sites and stories is important for Wilman history within the context of land management at DNP and the need to acknowledge and protect the species and cultural heritage assets. Some valuable outcomes have included adding species of plants to the list of plants registered within the Dryandra National Park zone; and documenting Aboriginal sites that perhaps DPLH and GKB and DBCA will need to make assessments about, in close alliance with appropriate Nyungar Wilman Elders, when circumstances allow this follow-up action.

I also acknowledge the Wilman Elders and families who worked with the university Professors and Farmers to bring the stories together and to help collaboration effort with our people and our partners.

We continue to highlight the need for funding support in order to fully unlock the value of our Elders' knowledge and capabilities, to take their culturally rightful place in leading, guiding and sharing with Wilman community. Too much is being left on the table, and time is of the essence. We are a volunteer-led organisation, with a Board also comprised of volunteers; without the funding for a manager or an office, we are limited in the extent to which we can drive impact for community and promote the roll-out of the Healthy Country Plan; as well as the priorities, history and culture of our people.

We have submitted two (unfortunately unsuccessful) funding applications for Ranger programs accompanied by Letters of Support from PHCC, GKB and DBCA; another (Consortium) funding application is currently pending, and if successful this will enable us to work collaboratively with other Indigenous organisations on a program that we believe will bring great benefits to our community and bear the fruits of the Corporation's hard work to date.

Thank you all for your ongoing support,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Horace Brett Hill', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Horace Brett Hill
Chair

OUR OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

By 2027....

The Corporation has a high standard of governance, a reputation for reliable delivery of quality outcomes, and a viable financial base.

- Wilman Dryandra website has been launched.
- Cloud-based record management system has been established.
- Building on our reputation for reliable delivery of quality outcomes, have received very positive feedback from Peel Harvey Catchment Council, Outback Academy Australia and Gnaala Karla Boodja.
- During FY24, worked closely with experienced governance professional Anina Findlay in her capacity as Acting Company Secretary; Lara Rosenblum (MBA, graduate of Emerging Leaders In Governance Program) joined the Board as Director and Secretary in late FY24.
- Secured grant funding from Department of Planning, Land and Heritage.
- Further development of stakeholder relationships, particularly through collaboration agreement with Winjan Aboriginal Corporation, Harvey Aboriginal Corporation and Waroona Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Corporation.
- Geeraling cultural restoration project and Wilman Kids on Country Program (Science Week project) successfully delivered in 2024.
- Business development support in 2023 from IPS Bunbury.

The cultural heritage of Wilman Dryandra Noongars is being protected and passed on through family structure and is more widely known within the broad community.

- Working with Peel Harvey Catchment Council to progress restoration of Pumphreys Bridge heritage site (funded by DPLH).
- Geeraling cultural restoration project and Wilman Kids on Country Program.
- Millennium Kids Science Week project successfully delivered in 2024, acted as an opportunity to share Wilman knowledge from Elders to Koolungas.

By June 2023, the Healthy Country Plan is completed and by 2027 progress can be demonstrated on the 5 year goals.

- Plan has been completed, working with Outback Academy Australia and key stakeholders to scope several projects for which we will seek funding.

Wilman Dryandra Noongars are Joint Managers of Dryandra Woodlands National Park and associated State Forests.

- Still in progress, meeting regularly with GKB and DLPH.

Wilman Noongar families are experiencing improved well-being overall, through enhanced cultural, educational and employment opportunities.

- Consortium application for NIAA grant funding (currently pending results) for a collaborative river restoration project grounded in community involvement, capacity building and cultural practice.
- Working on establishing a Cultural Committee.
- Millennium Kids Inc event in 2024 supported Wilman Dryandra families to spend time together on Booja and maintain family knowledge.

Planned activities for 2026 include:

- Securing funding progressing with the Healthy Country Plan

- Pending NIAA funding, working collaboratively with several Aboriginal Corporations on river restoration project
- Engaging with key stakeholders (including but not limited to Millenium Kids, Peel Harvey Catchment Council, Outback Academy Australia, Gnaala Karla Boodja, DBCA, DPLH) to explore and progress collaboration opportunities
- Progressing the Pumphrey's Bridge restoration project

STRUCTURE AND MANAGEMENT

WPDCL is registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC).

SECTION 3: OUR FINANCES

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Please note financial reporting is for 1 July 2024 - 30 June 2025.

Balance Sheet

Wilman (Dryandra) People Corporation Ltd
As at 30 June 2025

	30 JUNE 2025	30 JUNE 2024
Assets		
Bank		
Wilman Dryandra People Corporation Ltd	27,737.62	50,224.94
Total Bank	27,737.62	50,224.94
Total Assets	27,737.62	50,224.94
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
GST	(0.13)	(0.73)
Total Current Liabilities	(0.13)	(0.73)
Non-current Liabilities		
ATO ICA	(25.00)	(2.00)
Total Non-current Liabilities	(25.00)	(2.00)
Total Liabilities	(25.13)	(2.73)
Net Assets	27,762.75	50,227.67
Equity		
Current Year Earnings	(22,464.92)	50,227.67
Retained Earnings	50,227.67	-
Total Equity	27,762.75	50,227.67

Profit and Loss

Wilman (Dryandra) People Corporation Ltd For the year ended 30 June 2025

	2025	2024
Trading Income		
Donations	3,318.43	250.00
Grant	-	50,000.00
Sales	8,918.75	3,364.24
Total Trading Income	12,237.18	53,614.24
Gross Profit		
	12,237.18	53,614.24
Operating Expenses		
Bank Fees	-	2.50
Geeralying Project	3,491.60	3,316.80
Insurance	5,109.38	-
Millennium Kids Program	1,500.00	-
PHCC	22,241.00	-
Subscriptions	541.38	67.27
Superannuation	187.58	-
Wages and Salaries	1,631.16	-
Total Operating Expenses	34,702.10	3,386.57
Net Profit		
	(22,464.92)	50,227.67

SECTION 4: OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS & THANK YOU

WPDCL would like to acknowledge and thank the following people and organisations.

Donors

- Darryl Kickett – towards insurances for the Corporation
- Nick Abraham – towards wilmandryandra.com.au website costs

Grants and funding

- \$50,000 of funding provided by Department of Planning, Land and Heritage towards the restoration of Pumphrey's Bridge

Partners and supporters

- Curtin University
- University of Western Australia
- Deakin University
- Gnaala Karla Booja
- Paula Deegan (Consultant)
- Rob Thomas (Consultant)
- Outback Academy Australia
- Jo Ludbrook (Outback Academy Australia)
- Millenium Kids
- Peel Harvey Catchment Council
- Shires of Wandering, Williams, Narrogin, Boddington and Pingelly
- Department of Planning, Land and Heritage
- Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions

We would like to acknowledge and thank all Directors, members, Elders, Koolungas and Wilman mob who participated in the Wilman Kids on Country Program in 2024. A total of 57 Wilman people attended (31 Koolungas) as well as representatives of Curtin University and Narrogin Senior High School.