

# Wilman Dryandra People Corporation Limited (WPDCL)

November 2023-October 2024  
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 second 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 specializes 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

**SECTION 2: GOVERNANCE****CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

Firstly, I pay my respects to our Elders past and present and remember the sacrifices they made. Elder Joan Hill (nee Kickett) who passed during 2023 is remembered for her caring of family and her stories about living in Dryandra as she was growing up. We acknowledge all of our people who passed on.

The research work by Professors Hopper and Haebich of UWA and Curtin University with Nyungar Wilman Elders has been critical for families associated with Dryandra country. The stories gathered and cultural sites on country form the basis for the ways the different families identify with the Dryandra country. The 2023 Wilman Healthy Country Plan was completed during 2023 by Paula Deagan, working with Elders and their families.

The Corporation was set up to assist Elders and Leaders to implement the Healthy Country Plan (HCP) out on Booja. Women, Youth and Men groups all have a role to play in making the Plan work. One of the key resources needed to implement the HCP is of course Aboriginal Rangers, the Corporation strives to win funding for the setting up of a Ranger program, employing Female, Male and youth in Ranger teams to care for country and for culture. Paula Deegan Consultant continues to support the Corporation with advice and submission writing as a volunteer.

The Parks and reserves and conservation areas are vested in the Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions (DBCA). Gnaala Karla Booja Regional Corporation (GKB) is working with DBCA to help design their Joint Management initiatives.

The WDPCL is maintaining a working relationship with Peel Harvey Catchment Council thru a MOU on restoration work around Pumphreys Bridge and Hotham River area to 2025. The Shire of Wandering is involved to make the damaged old bridge area safe, The Department of Planning, Land and Heritage assisted with funds.

Elders met with DPLH during the year to discuss the burial site at Geeralying near Narrogin. It is hoped that appropriate Elders can be supported to achieve aspirations for the area. DPLH worked with WPDCL in July on a project at the burial site, led by Travis Abraham (Wilman Elder); Travis arranged for a team to work on removing overgrown vegetation from the site in readiness for a community meeting with GKB. The meeting discussed plans for the site, after ground scans showed indicated mass burial grave sites and many individual graves.

To date Company Directors have been regularly volunteering to attend meetings for the Board and with partners like PHCC. The Corporation received business development support from IPS Bunbury in 2023. We are very thankful for the timely support given to the Corporation from Outback Academy Australia. The OAA assisted with an application to the NIAA Ranger program in February 2024. Notice is yet to be received as the application's success. We continue to work with OAA to build our business base. OAA has also supported with accounting capability and building our governance capacity to ensure legal compliance.

The Corporation has been taking steps to improve the governance compliance of the Corporation with Board Secretaries during the year including Anina first and now Lara. They have both made strong contributions to strengthening governance performance.

Corporation Directors held meetings with the Winjan and the Putjur associations to explore future working relationships. New funding applications will be pursued to enable the Corporation to operate. An important priority for the 2025 year will be to seek funding to:

- assist Wilman families to return to country at Dryandra for family gatherings and family tree workshops
- continue to achieve bridge restoration outcomes at Pumphreys Bridge working with Peel Harvey Catchment Council and Shire of Wandering.
- further develop a working relationship with Millennium Kids Inc for the ongoing development of a youth program on country
- employ female and male Rangers to assist with achieving Healthy Country Plan objectives. I

Thank you all for your ongoing support,



**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.*

- Worked closely with experienced governance professional Anina Findlay in her capacity as Acting Company Secretary until July 2024. Lara Rosenblum (MBA, graduate of Emerging Leaders In Governance Program) joined the Board as Director in March, and Secretary in June.
- Cloud-based document management system has been established.
- Secured grant funding from Department of Planning, Land and Heritage.
- Geeraling cultural restoration project and Wilman Kids on Country Program (Science Week project) successfully delivered,
- 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.*

- Secured grant funding from Department of Planning, Land and Heritage for restoration of heritage site at Pumphreys Bridge.
- Geeraling cultural restoration project and Wilman Kids on Country Program
- Millenium Kids Science Week project successfully delivered, 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, early stages of liaising with Lotterywest to discuss a grant funding proposal.

*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.*

- Grant funding application to NIAA for a Rangers program is pending results as of time of writing (5/11/2024).
- Working on establishing a Cultural Committee
- Millennium Kids Inc event supported Wilman Dryandra families to spend time together on Booja and maintain family knowledge.

Planned activities for 2025 include:

- Securing funding progressing with the Healthy Country Plan
- Pending NIAA funding, establishing a Ranger's Program
- Engaging with Millenium Kids to explore 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).

## FINANCIAL REPORTS

Please note financial reporting is for 1 July 2023 - 30 June 2024.

# Profit and Loss

Wilman (Dryandra) People Corporation Ltd  
For the year ended 30 June 2024

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### Trading Income

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Donations

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Grant

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Sales

---

Total Trading Income

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### Gross Profit

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### Operating Expenses

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Bank Fees

---

Geeralying Project

---

Subscriptions

---

Total Operating Expenses

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### Net Profit

## Wilman (Dryandra) People Corporation Ltd

### As at 30 June 2024

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#### Assets

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##### Bank

Wilman Dryandra People Corporation Ltd

**Total Bank**

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**Total Assets**

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#### Liabilities

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##### Current Liabilities

GST

**Total Current Liabilities**

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##### Non-current Liabilities

ATO ICA

Loan - Darryl Kickett

**Total Non-current Liabilities**

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**Total Liabilities**

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#### Net Assets

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#### Equity

Current Year Earnings

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**Total Equity**

# Geeralying Project Transactions

Wilman (Dryandra) People Corporation Ltd  
For the period 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024

DATE	SOURCE	DESCRIPTION	REFERENCE	DEBIT	CREDIT	RUNNING BALANCE	GROSS	GST
<b>Geeralying Project</b>								
22 Apr 2024	Spend Money	Travis Abraham		858.40	-	858.40	858.40	-
24 Apr 2024	Spend Money	Sabrina Bolton		400.00	-	1,258.40	400.00	-
24 Apr 2024	Spend Money	Crystal Bolton		400.00	-	1,658.40	400.00	-
24 Apr 2024	Spend Money	Jaydan Abraham		400.00	-	2,058.40	400.00	-
24 Apr 2024	Spend Money	Athol Ugle		400.00	-	2,458.40	400.00	-
24 Apr 2024	Spend Money	Clive Abraham		200.00	-	2,658.40	200.00	-
24 Apr 2024	Spend Money	Travis Abraham		258.40	-	2,916.80	258.40	-
24 Apr 2024	Spend Money	Lloyd Abraham		400.00	-	3,316.80	400.00	-
26 Apr 2024	Receive Money	Athol Ugle		-	400.00	2,916.80	(400.00)	-
7 May 2024	Spend Money	Athol Ugle		400.00	-	3,316.80	400.00	-
<b>Total Geeralying Project</b>				<b>3,716.80</b>	<b>400.00</b>	<b>3,316.80</b>	<b>3,316.80</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total</b>				<b>3,716.80</b>	<b>400.00</b>	<b>3,316.80</b>	<b>3,316.80</b>	<b>-</b>

**SECTION 4: OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION****ACKNOWLEDGMENTS & THANK YOU**

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

**Donors**

- Matthew Tonts (outgoing Chair of the EPA) – towards Healthy Country Plan implementation
- Darryl Kickett – towards managerial insurance for the Corporation

**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 and Deakin University
- Paula Deegan Consultant
- Millenium Kids
- Peel Harvey Catchment Council
- Shire of Wandering
- Department of Planning, Land and Heritage

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