

PUUTU KUNTI KURRAMA & PINIKURA PEOPLE

# PKKP AC NEWSLETTER

APRIL - JUNE 2026

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We acknowledge our PKKP Community, especially our Elders, both past, present and emerging.

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**ON THE COVER  
AND NEXT PAGE**  
*Ashburton River at Nanutarra  
Homestead - Photo Logan  
Simpson*

## Hi Members,

### Well, what a year it is shaping up to be!

Another big agreement ticked off the list in June with Fortescue, and it was a long time in the making. We have started up our new construction business, and we had members attend Parliament House.

With a full Community team in action, we love seeing our members kicking goals and taking part in outreach events for their health and wellbeing and our Rangers and Language teams shared some time together in amongst their busy schedules, and you will love to read about what they got up to.





# GENERAL NEWS



# General News

## FMG Agreement Roadshow and signing day

What a day for the PKKP members and community! After more than 3 years of hard work and commitment from Members, committees, external consultants and PKKP staff, we finally signed another landmark agreement to help us protect country and culture. With almost 100 members in attendance, the REAP in Karratha was the venue for our historic agreement signing with Fortescue Metals Group, just over 1 year to the day from when we signed our first agreement of this kind with Rio Tinto.

After another series of community consultation sessions all over the state, our team was able to talk to more than half of the membership group, detailing the benefits of the agreement and answering lots of good questions about the details and what it means for the future of the PKKP Community. We held 4 face to face, on location sessions and 1 online session during May to make sure all our members had the chance to ask questions before we sealed the deal on June 11 in Karratha. These sessions proved again to be vital in the process of getting the agreement right for us. They served as a great reminder of how important all our members voices are and provided a much better level of understanding about the agreement through connection and engagement.

Of course, when we met on June 11 there were still some questions that needed to be answered and with a freak rainstorm delaying the arrival of the Fortescue team, we eventually got everyone together to sign the agreement.

But, as with the Rio Tinto agreement, this is the start of a new beginning for our relationship with Fortescue, and our team will continue to evolve the agreements to ensure accountability and responsibility is in place for all mining proponents on country.

[See the news article here.](#)



## Member Representation at Parliament House

PKKP recently supported Joan Ashburton in attending an important meeting at Parliament House following an invitation to meet with the French Minister Delegate for Foreign Trade and Economic Attractiveness. PKKP assisted with transport arrangements to ensure Joan could attend and represent our community at this significant event.

Representing the Puutu Kunti Kurrama group, Joan Ashburton and Peter Jeffries, who represented the Pinikura group, and PKKP legal representative Gary Dean. Their participation ensured that the voices and interests of both Traditional Owner groups were present during discussions and engagement opportunities.

Supporting members to participate in important forums such as this reflects PKKP's commitment to strong representation and ensuring our people have a voice in conversations that may influence future opportunities, partnerships, and outcomes for our community.

This opportunity highlighted the value of member leadership and the importance of supporting our representatives to engage in meaningful discussions on behalf of current and future generations.

## Important Dates (July - Sept 2026)

|                                       |                 |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------|
| NAIDOC WEEK                           | July 5-12       |
| Public Holiday – Karratha             | Aug 3           |
| Board Meeting                         | Aug 20-21       |
| Puutu Kunti Kurrama Return to Country | Aug 28 – Sept 1 |
| Pinikura Return to Country (TBC)      | Sept 21-25      |
| Public Holiday - Perth                | Sept 28         |



Joan Ashburton, Peter Jeffries and Gary Dean with Hon Alanna Clohesy MLC, President of the Legislative Council, Hon Stephen Price MLA, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly and PKKP Board member Ray Loh.

## New Beginnings - PKKP Construction is a go

In April this year PKKPAC registered a new business, PKKP Construction. We also employed a new staff member to run it, Ben Evens. Now some of you may be thinking, why did we start a new business in construction. Well we are glad you asked. PKKP Construction will be in charge of:

- Building and Maintenance for all our properties
- The Nhamarribala Master plan and any construction and building that takes place as part of that plan
- The creation of employment for members

Outsourcing the Nhamarribala Master plan alone was going to cost us way too much and so that's when a plan was hatched to bring it in-house and take charge of this project for ourselves.





## Welcome to the PKKP Aboriginal Corporation

We are grateful and pay our respects to our Elders past, present, and emerging for sharing their stories, values, and beliefs, and for fighting for our native title rights.

[MORE ABOUT US »](#)

### New Pages on the PKKP website

Good news for members, we have added a few new pages to the website. You will see the full story on our Recommended Contractors page later in the newsletter but in addition to this we have some added pages and updates to a few pages as well.

There is a new Members hub page, with a calendar of events and some details about hours and what you can do in the Members Hub.

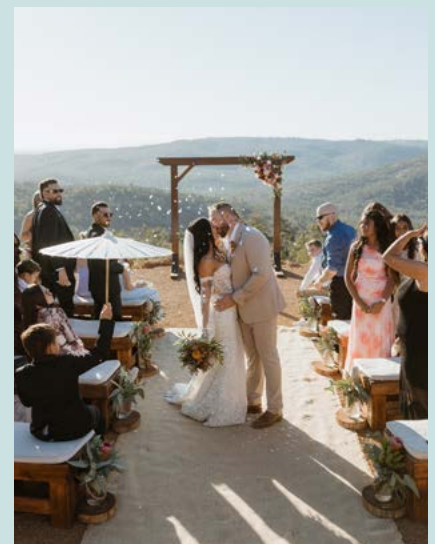
We also have a new Jobs page that sits in the about us section where we will post jobs for members.

Coming soon, you will see a Health and Wellbeing page with loads of information and contacts for local providers, a new Governance page with a calendar and an easy way for you to get forms and documents sent to you plus a page we are sure will be a favourite page for many, a Rangers page.

Keep an eye out for updates which will be sent to you on email when each page is live.

### Wow, double wedding weekend!

This is a story of 2 girls, new colleagues, getting married on the same weekend, in the same city, without knowing about it until after it all happened. Nat Fern and Christine Zaccheus married on the same weekend, Nat on the 25th and Christine on the 26th of April 2026. And not until the two of them were in the office the week after, chatting about the weekend did they realise what had happened. Congratulations ladies!



# WE ARE HIRING

## JUNIOR OFFICER

### COMMUNICATIONS & CONTENT

**WE ARE LOOKING FOR  
SOMEONE WHO:**

- Is eager to learn
- Enjoys connecting with people
- Is interested in photography, videography and digital story telling
- Wants to explore a career in communications and digital media

If this sounds like you, send us your CV or scan and apply on our website.



[christine.zaccheus@pkkp.org.au](mailto:christine.zaccheus@pkkp.org.au)

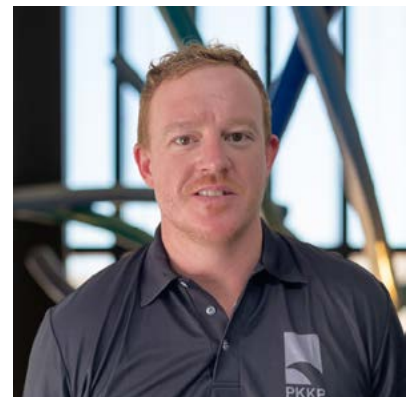


# New starters at PKKP AC

## Ben Evans MARCH 2026

**Project Manager, Building and Maintenance, Karratha**

Ben is a qualified builder and comes with a wealth of experience in the building industry and in project management, having owned his own business and also working on mine sites in remote South Australia. Ben hails from the Riverland in South Australia, is married and loves his fishing and camping. Ben is passionate about restoration and heritage and sees the redevelopment of Nanutarra with the community as a once in a lifetime opportunity. Ben has worked closely with our CEO, Grant on building projects in South Australia and is highly qualified to lead PKKPAC's newly established construction company.

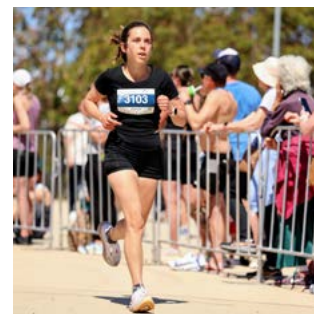


## Jessie Gallagher MARCH 2026

**IT Specialist, Perth**

Also just missing the last newsletter, Jessie joined us on the last day of March this year as an ICT and Projects Specialist. She is very excited to be at PKKP and keen to get to know everyone. Jessie was born and raised in Perth and come from a mixed heritage background, including Italian and Australian roots, as well as family connected to the Stolen Generations. Growing up with these influences has shaped how she sees the world and strengthened her appreciation for culture, community, and diverse perspectives.

In Jessie's role, she will be supporting and improving the team's technology stack to keep everything running smoothly. Jessie loves solving problems and making things work better, and speaking of running loves doing a bit of long distance running, no surprises working closely with David!



## Rasmila Kapali APRIL 2026

*Accountant, Perth*

With a background in finance and accounting, Rasmila has a strong interest in financial processes, accuracy in reporting, and supporting efficient and well-organised financial operations that help the wider organisation function effectively. She is excited to learn more about the community and culture while contributing positively to the finance team and the wider corporation.

Coming from the culturally rich Newar community in the heart of Kathmandu, Nepal, Rasmila understands the importance of language, culture, and strong community connections. She is looking forward to growing alongside the PKKP community and learning from the people around her. Outside of work, Rasmila enjoys trekking and watching movies, and she sometimes feels like she could be a good movie critic. Rasmila also loves listening to stories and genuinely enjoys hearing about people's day and experiences, as she finds it meaningful to connect through conversations and shared moments. She loves exploring different stories, cultures, and experiences, whether through travel, movies, or connecting with people.



## Chad Callaway MAY 2026

*Cultural Heritage Specialist, Perth*

Chad Callaway is a Cultural Heritage Professional with nearly ten years' experience working across Western Australia in cultural heritage management and archaeology. Born and raised in southwestern Colorado, Chad moved to the Seattle area for high school and first came to Australia in 1993 as a Rotary exchange student in Year 11, returning again after completing Year 12. He married his wife, Katie, in 2005, and in 2007 they moved to the United States, where Chad studied at the University of Washington (Seattle), completing a degree in Anthropology with a specialisation in Archaeological Science. Since returning to Australia, Chad has continued building his career in cultural heritage work across Western Australia.

Chad's interest in cultural heritage developed through his studies in anthropology and archaeology, where he became increasingly drawn to the relationships between people, place, and living cultural landscapes. Early fieldwork shaped his belief that heritage work is about much more than sites and processes, it is about listening, building trust, and supporting culture in ways that reflect community priorities.

Outside of work, Chad coaches his wife's women's gridiron team and enjoys participating in baseball and softball, an approach that mirrors how he works professionally, through teamwork, shared goals, and strong connections.



## Carly Lynch MAY 2026

### *Archives and Data Management Specialist, Perth*

Carly is a cultural heritage professional with experience across arts, local history, and museum teams in local and state government. She worked at the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage for 4.5 years, most recently as Museum Curator at the Revolutions Transport Museum. Holding qualifications from Curtin University and the Australian Society of Archivists, Carly is passionate about the care of collections, archives, and data, and the vital role they play in preserving knowledge and fostering connection to Country and culture.

Originally from Dunsborough in the south-west of WA, Carly is a keen swimmer and enjoys camping, hiking and fishing whenever she gets the chance to get out into the great outdoors.



## Shane Stevens MAY 2026

### *Manager Environment, Karratha*

Shane is an environmental scientist with land management experience across various mining and resources sectors, including manganese, iron ore, gas and lithium operations. During this time, he has supported environmental projects from exploration, approvals, operations, and closure activities. Most recently, Shane supported the environmental and land management activities across Robe River Kuruma Native Title lands, working with proponents and other stakeholders to deliver practical on-ground outcomes and improved management solutions.

Growing up in southern Queensland and having spent many years living and working with Traditional Owners across Northern Australia, including Groote Eylandt, Darwin and the Kimberley, Shane relocated to Western Australia in 2022. Now based in Dampier, and on the weekends, you'll usually find him out with his two sons, camping, fishing and exploring the Pilbara.



## Jessica Walford MAY 2026

*Housing Officer, Karratha*

Jessica (Jess) is a mum of three, a dreamer with a curious and playful mind. Jessica loves art, the ocean, reading, cooking, and spending time with her family. Jess loves art so much she is a professional artist and the founder/owner of local business Three Birds Creative since 2016 working within the community.

Originally from NSW, Jess moved to Karratha 16 years ago and had their first child not long after moving, then the other two quickly after and mostly worked casual or part-time rolls around her family needs. Jess was also part of the team for at Karratha Community House for 4 years as a community program facilitator, fully trained in Holyoak DRUMBEAT & Parent Child Mother Goose programs.

She genuinely enjoys connecting with people from all walks of life and believes kindness and creativity have the ability to change how we experience the world. Jessica is really excited to be starting this new chapter, getting to know everyone, and becoming part of the PKKP team.





# COMMUNITY, CORPORATE & GOVERNANCE



# Community Services and Engagement

It's been a busy few months for the team in Community Services and Engagement. With new team members our Outreach program is ramping up. Lots of community events and support for members and it will continue to grow.

## Outreach

We have been out and about across multiple regions, engaging with members in multiple locations and for the first time we visited members in Darwin and Broome.

Our deepest thanks go to our members for welcoming us into their communities and providing the valuable feedback and aspirations that guide our work.

These outreach initiatives also enable us to collaborate with key local stakeholders, establishing stronger networks to ensure our members access essential support and opportunities. During this reporting period, we successfully conducted 18 trips, spending a total of 28 days in the community.

## Engagement data (Apr 26 - Jun 26)

**247**

office visits

**52**

home visits

**1114**

phone calls + text message + emails



*Helen Chubby and Angie Cox with Ingrid and Claudia in Carnarvon*



*Outreach in Carnarvon:  
Helen Chubby with Ingrid, Gaye, and Claudia*



*Outreach in Onslow:  
Xavier Eaton with Kayser and Claudia*



*Outreach in Darwin: Ethan (Skye) Ashburton; Timothy Ashburton, Anastasia Ashburton with Chanel, Rebecca, Claudia and Prince*



*Outreach in Newman:  
Panashe and Ingrid*



*Outreach in Onslow: Rondha Hughes, Teresa Hughes and her partner with Claudia and Kayser*



*Outreach in Onslow:  
Belinda Hubert and Travers Hubert with Kayser and Claudia*



*Outreach in Perth:  
Zaphire Meyer with Nat*



*Outreach in Hedland:  
Selina Stewart with Ingrid and Panashe*

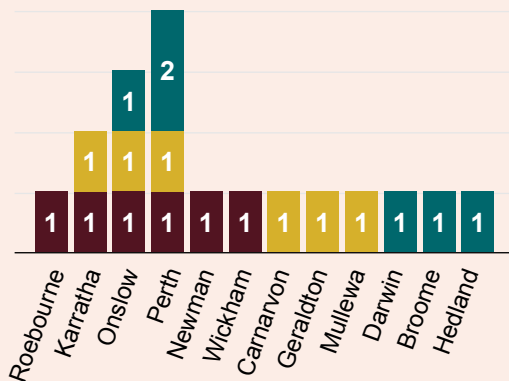


*Outreach in Onslow:  
Angie Cox, Lesley Hayes with Claudia and Kayser*

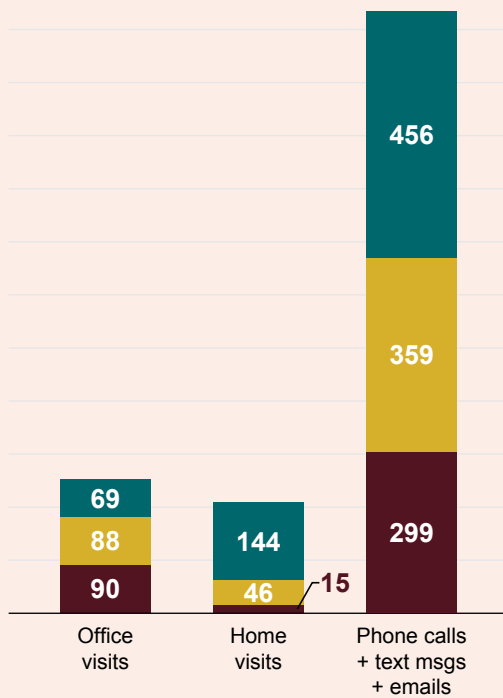


*Outreach in Perth:  
Juhani Ashburton and Kiarn Asburton with Gaye*

## Number of Outreach visits

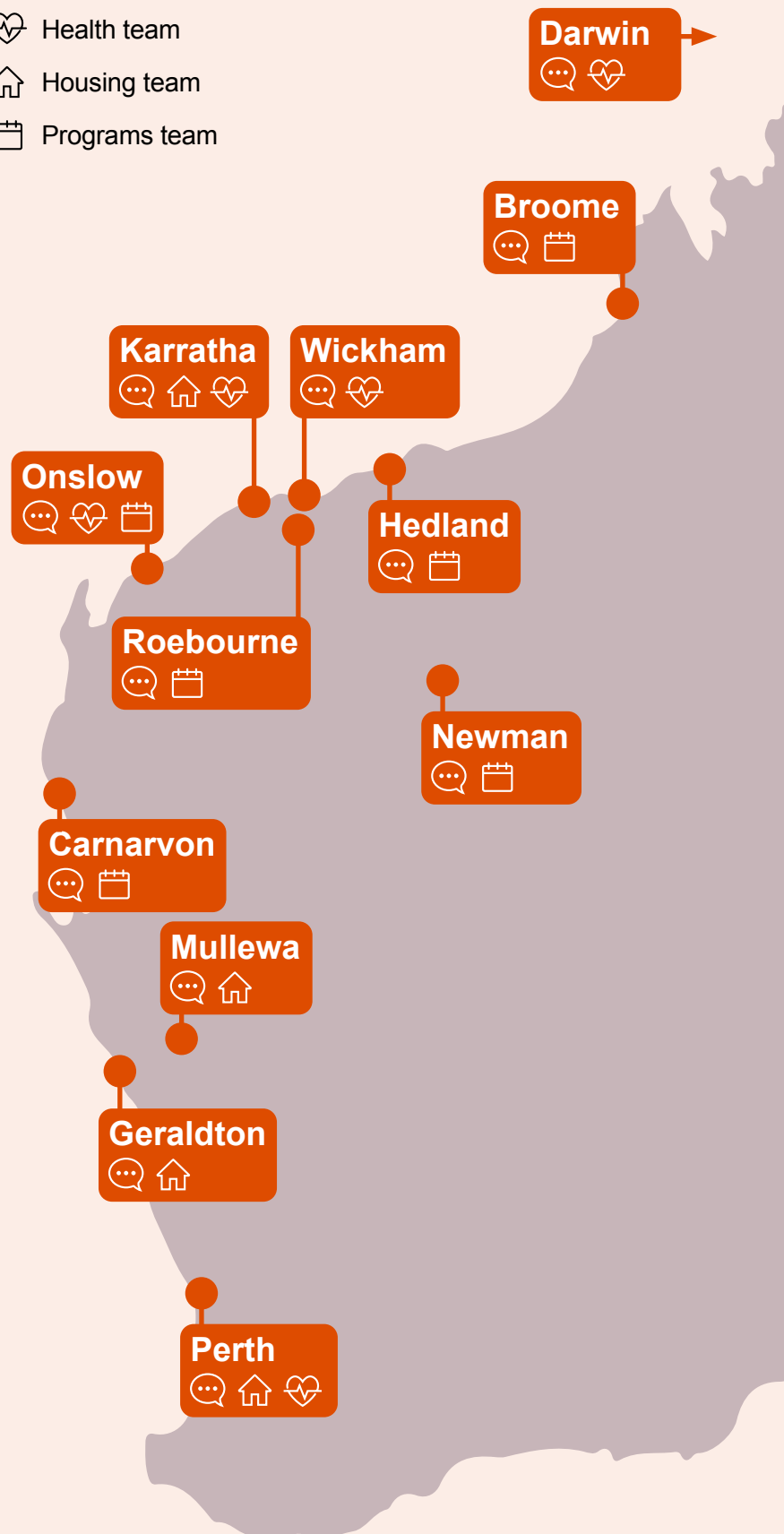


## Engagement data



## Team visits

- Engagement team
- Health team
- Housing team
- Programs team



## Fuel support payment

Do you know that the Government of WA is providing a fuel support payment in response to recent increases in cost of living pressures?

Check out all the details below and if you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact us.

# \$100 Fuel Support Payment



### WHAT IS IT

The WA Government is providing a one-off \$100 Fuel Support Payment to help with living costs.

### ELIGIBILITY

- You must have a WA residential address
- An Australian Bank account
- A valid WA licence (including P & L platens)

### CONTACT US

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us:  
[community@pkkp.org.au](mailto:community@pkkp.org.au).

### HOW TO CLAIM

The fastest and most convenient way to claim is through the ServiceWA App using your Digital ID.

If you are unable to use the app Fill out an online e-form or paper form.

**Limited to  
one claim  
per person**

**13 33 92 (13 33 WA)**  
**Available 24/7**

[support@digital.wa.gov.au](mailto:support@digital.wa.gov.au)

[www.wa.gov.au/organisation/servicewa/servicewa-app/servicewa-app-fuel-support-payment](http://www.wa.gov.au/organisation/servicewa/servicewa-app/servicewa-app-fuel-support-payment)

## End of Financial Year support

The Community Engagement Team is here to support PKKP Members. Whether you need help with Trust applications, accessing available services and support, or finding the right information, we're here to assist.

This quarter, we're also featuring one of the Trust's financial support programs. Check out the attached flyer to learn more and see if it's right for you.

### CT : FINANCIAL ADVICE & IMPLEMENTATION FUND

# NAGIVATING YOUR TAX RETURN

It is time to prepare to lodge your tax return, you can access your financial advice & implementation funds to do so. If you wish to, and need a contact for a service providers, we can help you. Reach out!

**Benefit:**  
**\$3,000 per year**

#### Payment Methods:

- ✓ Direct to supplier
- ✓ Vasco Card



**Contact us, we can refer you to the Service Providers**  
**community@pkkp.org.au    08 9185 5000**

## Community Engagement Unit

*Get in touch with the team for more help and information.*



**Julie Almeras**  
Manager Community  
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**Claudia Acevedo**  
Community  
Engagement Specialist  
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**Panashe Murape**  
Community  
Engagement Officer  
panashe.murape@pkkp.org.au



**Gaye Eacott**  
Community  
Engagement Officer  
gaye.eacott@pkkp.org.au



**Rachel Passmore**  
Community  
Engagement Officer  
rachel.passmore@pkkp.org.au

# Community Housing

Our refreshed Housing team has been busy behind the scenes, supporting members with a wide range of housing needs.

From assisting with general enquiries and housing matters, to working with contractors, supporting applications, and helping members with renovation projects, the team continues to work towards our goal of providing strong and responsive housing support for members.

We've welcomed a new team member this quarter, Jessica, strengthening our capacity to support members and deliver on our housing goals.

Be sure to check out our updated website pages, which are now live and provide more information about our housing services and support available.

## Engagement data (Apr 26 - Jun 26)



0

settlements



45

renovation applications



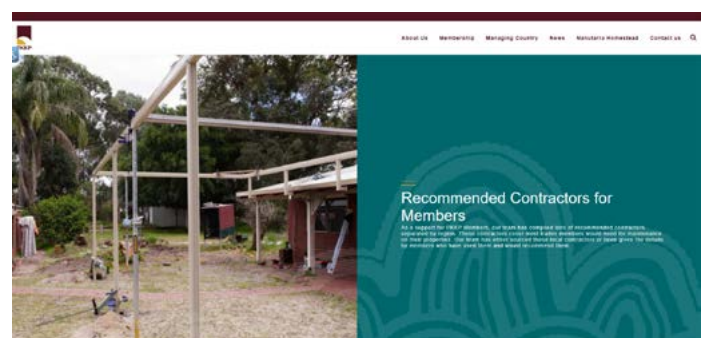
Contractor lists

**All complete**

## Housing Maintenance Lists are now Live on pkkp.org.au!

Over the past few years there has been many, many times when members need support finding good, reputable and reliable trades people to help them with maintenance and repairs to their properties. A lot of members live in areas where finding just one trades person, let alone one who does a good job, is tough. But our team has managed to pull together a comprehensive list of suppliers that is split by town/region including Electrical, Building, Plumbing, Pest Control, Windows and Glass, Cleaners and other general maintenance or handyman type contractors.

All of these contractors are recommended but the list can always grow and change. That will come down to you, the members. If you have a great experience with a local trades person, we want to add them to our



list. So at the bottom of the web page there is a form you can complete to provide feedback on new trades people or if you have a bad experience with one. As always you can call the team and provide the feedback in person over the phone or send us an email.

**[Check out the page here.](#)**

## Save bucketloads with these easy **water saving tips**

### Stick to your *rostered watering days*



Watering just one extra day a week wastes **348** buckets a month

### Keep showers to *4 minutes or less*



One extra minute can waste over  1 bucket wasted a day

### Find and fix leaks early



A leak can waste over **2,000** buckets a year



That's **36** buckets a month

### Cover your pool



An uncovered pool can lose over **27** buckets a day to evaporation

### Turn off the tap while brushing your teeth



Every minute you leave the tap running wastes over **1** bucket of water

## Got housing questions? We've got answers!

Drop by the Member Hub every Tuesday from 9am to 4pm and chat with us about all things housing.

Whether you're looking for advice, need a helping hand, or just want to know what options are available, we're here to help make finding answers a little easier.

Come say hello to the housing Team.

## Community Housing Unit

*Get in touch with the team for more help and information.*



**Jessica Walford**

Community Housing Officer

[jessica.walford@pkkp.org.au](mailto:jessica.walford@pkkp.org.au)



**Natika Orchard**

Property Coordination Officer

[natika.orchard@pkkp.org.au](mailto:natika.orchard@pkkp.org.au)

# Community Health

Kayser and Prince have been travelling across the state to get out and meet lots of members and support them with all sorts of health and wellbeing programs and support.

We have held a few community events and it is so good to see so many members getting involved and taking care of themselves, putting a little time aside to get immunised or just have a yarn about how they are doing. Keep it up team!

## St. Johns Karratha Wellbeing Walkabout Health Day 31st March 2026

St John WA, alongside the City of Karratha held a Karratha Wellbeing Walkabout Health Day at the Frank Butler Community Centre. The health literacy day was organised for primary school students and invited local allied health and community partners to host a short, interactive station to help students stay

healthy and active. The Health and Programs team hosted a station to promote healthy habits including safe hand-washing practices and exercise-based activities. It was a great opportunity to engage with students, meet stakeholders and strengthen our presence within the community.



Kayser and Ingrid from PKKP along with other stall holders

## Update: Diphtheria outbreak

Diphtheria cases in WA have increased over the last few months.

Be aware of the signs & symptoms and pop into your local Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (ACCHO) or chemist to ensure your vaccine is up to date.

# Diphtheria

(diff-there-e-uh)



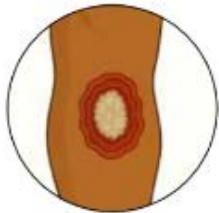
**Diphtheria is contagious infection** caused by bacteria (germs) that produce a toxin (poison) that can make you very sick.

**There are two types of infections:**



**Throat (respiratory) diphtheria** – a toxin infection in the throat and is very serious.

- Hard to swallow and breathe
- Sore throat, fever and chills
- Grey - white coating on throat and tonsils
- Tiredness, not feeling hungry



**Skin (cutaneous) diphtheria** – causes skin infections.

- Sores and ulcers that take a long time to heal.

**If you have a bad sore throat or skin sore that is not healing, go straight to the Clinic or Hospital.**

**If not treated quickly, respiratory diphtheria can lead to:**

- Long stays in hospital with breathing trouble
- Damage to the heart
- Damage to nerves causing weakness, choking and trouble breathing
- Death (severe cases)

### STOP the spread:



Get a Diphtheria vaccine booster if needed.



Cough or sneeze into your elbow



Keep sores clean and covered



Clean household items and surfaces

**If you have symptoms or want to check whether your diphtheria vaccinations are up to date, visit your local Clinic or Hospital for advice and care.**

For more information, please contact AHCSA or learn more via SA Health: <https://bit.ly/4eEn9oT>

Adapted from the Kimberly Population Health Unit

## World Immunisation Day Event 29th April 2026

PKKP hosted its first Health Awareness Day of the year. The Health team organised an Immunisation Awareness Day, which included a Community BBQ, a vaccination drive for flu and Covid-19 vaccines delivered by 777 Pharmacy and a raffle prize. Eighteen community members attended, and nine received vaccinations. We also had WACHS attend on the day to share information on nationally funded vaccines, locally available vaccination centres, and to help clarify common myths.



*Terry Drage, WACHS, 777 Pharmacy and PKKPAC Staff*



*Suzette Baumgarten, Keith Baumgarten, and Claudia Acevedo*



*Kayser Garshasbi, Prince Kuthial and raffle winner - Keith Baumgarten*



*Ronnelle Edwards & Hayley Mead*

## Kidney Health Day

### 25th May 2026

The health team hosted another Health Awareness Day highlighting the importance of Kidney Health. Sonia, a Dialysis nurse practitioner from WACHS conducted kidney health risk assessments on the day. Fourteen community members joined us, and we distributed six blood pressure machines.



Ronnelle Edwards, Patsy Chubby, Benjamin Chubby, Claudia, Kayser and Rachel



Rachel, Kayser, Claudia, Burchell Hayes, Lesley Hayes and Ky Hayes, Kathy and Sonia.



## Healthy habits to keep your kidneys strong

### Drink plenty of water

8-10 cups of water a day



### Be physically active



8,000 - 10,000 steps per day

### Look after your blood pressure

Less than 1 teaspoon of salt per day



### Avoid sugary drinks

1 bottle of coke has 16 teaspoons of sugar



### Avoid smoking



Smoking increases the risk of kidney disease by 3 times

### Eat real foods

Ultra-processed foods can increase the risk of kidney disease by up to 74%



## Mens' Health Day

### 16th June 2026

PKKP celebrated Men's Health Week by hosting its first men's health-focused community BBQ in Karratha, providing an opportunity for men to access information and support on important but often overlooked health topics. The event featured a Men's Sexual Health Counsellor and an Alcohol and Other Drugs (AOD) Counsellor from Mawarnkarra Health Service, who shared resources and information on sexual health, prostate cancer awareness, and AOD concerns.

A couple of Physiotherapists from Pilbara Therapy Services also attended to raise awareness of men's pelvic health and the specialised pelvic and sexual health programs. A total of 12 community members including 9 PKKP members joined us on the day. Adding a fun and competitive element to the day, participants also took part in a tug-of-war competition, helping to promote connection, teamwork, and overall wellbeing while increasing awareness of local support services.



Prince and raffle winner – Kwame Eaton



Kayser, raffle winner - Jess Drage and Prince

## Community Health Unit

*Get in touch with the team for more help and information.*



**Hayley Mead**

Manager of Health and Programs

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**Prince Kuthial**

Community Health and Wellbeing Officer (Male)

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**Kayser Garshasbi**

Community Health and Wellbeing Officer (Female)

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# Community Programs

Our new members hub has already seen some great PKKP or Partner-run events organised by our Programs team. You can jump on to the website and check out all the events coming up for the next few months. And don't forget to keep an eye out for the programs supporting job seekers, providing excellent skills and training for free.

## Beyond the Brush – Art Program

The Beyond the Brush Art Program has gained quite some traction, with members receiving their art kits and being able to create pieces that they're proud of. We've even received some paintings to decorate the Members' Hub with! If you would like to participate in the program and receive a kit with art materials, please contact Ingrid.



Candice Ashburton

## Digital Skills Training Program

We've been very lucky to host the Pilbara Kimberley University Centre (PKUC) at the Members' Hub to run the Digital Skills Training Program. The program focuses on developing and extending skills regarding the various Microsoft software's (Word, Excel, PowerPoint etc.). We use these systems in the workplace, regularly, which is why it has been so useful for employment seekers. Everyone works through the sessions at their own pace.



Jess Drage, Jacinta and Shan from Pilbara Kimberley University Centres, Caydon Drummond, Suzette Jilba, Maddison Jilba.

## Career counselling

Shan, from Pilbara Kimberley University Centre (PKUC) has been coming into the Members' Hub once a month to talk to members about their interests and how those interests can translate into their careers. It's not always easy to figure out what kind of job you would want, and these conversations help streamline your passions. We have had members come in and leave knowing they would like to go into journalism, mining, or administration, for example.

## Employment success story

A huge congratulations to Griffen Todd, who started his new role at Paulsen's Gold Mine with Black Cat Syndicate (BC8). With the support of Ingrid, Community Health & Programs Specialist, they worked through employment opportunities and found one that fit Griffen's career aspirations. Feedback from Griffen has been positive, who is enjoying his time on-site and learning new skills.

There are currently 12 members being supported through the Employment Program, all at different stages in their journeys. If you'd like to talk to someone regarding your career path, please reach out to Ingrid!

## Coming soon... A new Service Register

The Community Programs Unit has also been developing a Service Register, bringing together a directory of local services across PKKP's core locations. This resource will be available on our new website soon.

In the meantime, if you're looking for a local service or provider, please get in touch with the team, we're happy to help connect you with the support you need.

## Community Programs Unit

*Get in touch with the team for more help and information.*



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# COUNTRY, CULTURE & PARTNERSHIPS



# Country, Culture and Partnerships

It's been another busy quarter for the team with our members proudly representing us at university symposiums, conferences, taking part on Language workshops and the ranger team is continuing to forge ahead with learning, collaborating and travelling, all with one thing in mind, being the best they can be for our members, our country and our culture.

## UWA Symposium a great success

On Thursday the 25th of June, PKKP representatives Burchell Hayes, Terry Drage and Merle Ashburton as well as PKKPAC staff Jordan Ralph, Denis Coutant, Zheela Vokes and Carly Lynch attended a whole day symposium at UWA on focusing on extractive industries and the protection and preservation of indigenous heritage. The event was hosted by the Centre for Rock Art Research and Management and the Institute of Advanced Studies (UWA).

At this event, the PKKP Presentation focused on the Co-management model of engaging with proponents and was delivered by Denis in front of 170 attendees from other ACs, proponents, consultants, government agencies, native title legal, peak bodies, PKKP's other research partners, as well as UWA students. Other keynote speakers included: Marie Forget and Melanie Deval from Savoie Mont Blanc University, France

The range of presentations included international examples (France, Chile, Argentina, South Africa) as well as comparative examples across WA (Kimberley, Pilbara, Esperance, Goldfields, Peele region etc).



Talks covered different approaches taken to protecting heritage; topics included Archaeology, Anthropology, Social Development Goals (SDGs) and Environmental Law, decolonising methods to research and more.

All in all, the day was very successful, with much positive feedback from attendees on the day as well as afterwards where it was suggested to have another one focusing on renewables. Well done team.

## AIATSIS event

The AIATSIS Summit provides a unique forum for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elders, leaders, and youth along with Academics, Native Title stakeholders, legal experts, GLAM (Galleries, Libraries, Archives and Museums) sector and government representatives to come together and collaborate on the issues that matter most to First Nations peoples.

As one of the largest conferences of its kind, the Summit also provides opportunities to support and strengthen Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures, knowledge and governance and provides a forum to network and establish new relationships.

The 2026 theme Our Truth. Our Power. Our Future pays tribute to, and acknowledges, the lived experience, strength, solidarity, and resilience of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. By owning our truths and stepping into our power, we actively build a more just, inclusive and hopeful future.

This year we sent a group from PKKP including Gavin Ashurton, Burchell Hayes, Terry Drage, Tony Akuila, Jordan Ralph, Nisha Keetels, Gary Dean, lone Griffiths, Zheela Vokes and Logan Simpson. Terry and Gavin represented us well on a panel in a break-out session on “Increasing Indigenous participation and leadership in mine closure – approaches from the Latrobe Valley and the Pilbara”. The event grows each year, this year was the biggest, and it is a vital part of our annual event calendar for staff and members to attend.

A week long, full of great presentations and discussions and each year a different location. This year it was held on the country of the Danggan Balun (Fiver Rivers) peoples country and their Native Title claim stretches from the Macpherson ranges to the Sea on the Gold Coast. Although it was a little cool for our team from the Pilbara, they still enjoyed the week and got to help Gary celebrate his birthday as well.



## Signed sealed and delivered, June 11 was a big day for agreements

On the same day our co-management agreement was signed with Fortescue, the PKKP community also authorised a couple of other very important agreements...

PKKPAC are modernising our agreements with all proponents who work on PKKP country.

On 11 June, the PKKP community authorised agreements with Rio Tinto and API. These agreements reflect PKKPAC's ongoing commitment to modernisation and achieving best-practice for the community. PKKPAC are committed to working with both Rio Tinto and API on this journey.



# Language Update

The Language Team has had a very busy and exciting few months, with several major workshops and projects bringing together Elders, Rangers, and Community Language Officers (CLOs) to strengthen cultural knowledge, language, and connections to Country.

## What we've been up to

After months of preparation, we held our Indigenous Language and Arts Program (ILA) Ecological Workshops at Nanutarra Homestead during the week of 25 May with the PKKP Rangers and Elders. We hosted two sets of workshops: one with Kurrama Elders, CLOs and Rangers, and another with Pinikura Elders, CLOs and Rangers.

Over three days, each group worked closely with the Language Team and ethnobotanist Arpad, who guided participants in collecting, identifying, tagging and describing plants found in and around the homestead. These workshops provided a valuable opportunity for Elders and Rangers to spend time together on Country, sharing knowledge and strengthening connections. Elders were able to pass language and cultural knowledge on to the Rangers, while Rangers gained a deeper understanding of traditional plants and their uses, helping them build knowledge that supports their work on Country.







The workshops were an overwhelming success, and everyone left in great spirits. Arpad is now putting together a field herbarium, or plant library, which will become an ongoing resource for the Language and Ranger teams. Rangers will also learn how to add to and maintain the collection themselves, allowing them to continue identifying and documenting plants both at Nanutarra and across the wider areas where they work.

Beginning on 13 June, we held our third set of workshops over two days. These workshops focused on bringing the Rangers together to reflect on what they had learned during the earlier ecological workshops and to discuss how they would like to preserve and share that knowledge. Through a series of brainstorming sessions, the Rangers explored a range of ideas and ultimately decided that they would like to create an Aboriginal cookbook.

Work has already begun on this exciting project, and the Language Team will continue working alongside the Rangers throughout the remainder of the year. Together, we will integrate language, traditional knowledge, recipes and cultural information into a resource that celebrates PKKP knowledge and food traditions while helping to preserve and share this important information for future generations.

## Farewell to Albert

At the end of June, we said goodbye to our Database Specialist and Linguist, Albert, who has chosen to retire after decades of dedicated work supporting Indigenous languages across Australia.

We were fortunate that Albert was able to join us for one final trip to Nanutarra. The team greatly enjoyed spending time with him and learning from him, including an unforgettable evening camping at the homestead where he shared his knowledge through a fascinating constellation presentation under the night sky. Albert has made an enormous contribution to language documentation and preservation over many years, and his knowledge, experience and good humour will be greatly missed. We thank him for everything he has contributed and wish him all the best for a happy and well-deserved retirement. workshops and to discuss how they would like to preserve and share that knowledge. Through a series of brainstorming sessions, the Rangers explored a range of ideas and ultimately decided that they would like to create an Aboriginal cookbook.

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## Looking Ahead

As we move into the second half of the year, the Language Team continues its work across a range of projects and activities. We will be working more closely with the Ranger Team to build on the momentum created through the ecological workshops and the cookbook project. We also have some very exciting initiatives planned for later this year and into early next year.

## Contact us!

As always, if you have any questions about our work or would like to get involved, feel free to get in touch! You can drop in and see us at the office, email us at [language@pkkp.org.au](mailto:language@pkkp.org.au), or call Logan (0497 071 668) or Brea (0427 347 187).

# Ranger Update

We just love watching our ranger team grow and thrive. Between completing some very exciting training, welcoming new team members and travelling all over the country, sharing experience and knowledge, getting out on country and to Nhamarribala, where do they find time to even take a photo! Here are a few highlights from the last few months...with photos.

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## March

We welcomed the newest member to the ranger team. Great to have you onboard Juhani Ashburton!

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## April

First up, we had training on Chainsaw operations with Caydon Drummond, Chanice Daulbin-Satrick, Colin Mack, Kobie Tittums and Ash Chitty. All fingers and toes are accounted for.

Then we hosted PRN Fire training at Nhamarribala, with Yinhawangka and Murujuga (MAC) Rangers. This allowed us to conduct crew member burns with DBCA, as well as ourselves on Country. The teams conducted some small, permitted burns in the tip on the spinifex and we observed a burn with DBCA. The team included Alicia Drage, Chanice Daulbin-Satrick, Ash Chitty, Jess Drage, Juhani Ashburton.



## May

We had a big month in May! Starting with a visit by Kingsley Murray, Amy Nike, Ash Chitty, Caydon Drummond and Jess Drage to Lakes Entrance Victoria for the National Indigenous Resilience Gathering (NIRG) held at the GunaiKurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation. Here we heard from Indigenous leaders and Rangers from VIC, NSW and QLD sharing lessons learned and proactive land management initiatives. On our last day we were able to spend time with the GunaiKurnai Ranger team and learn about their joint-management initiatives they have with Parks Victoria, and how they have been a part of fire management and deployment during bushfires, working on protecting heritage sites across the East Gippsland area.

Then off to complete the TAFE chemical handling units which will help the rangers with another method of controlling weeds on Country.

Then we joined the two ILA workshops held at Nhamarribala for both language groups, spending time with the team knowledge sharing, and yarning with the ethnobotanist and language team.

Last but not least, the Ranger uniforms arrived and we think we look pretty good now!



## Want to join the PKKP Ranger team?

If you or a member you know is interested in becoming a PKKP Ranger, then scan the code or [go to this link](#) and fill in the Expression of interest for our next intake in September 2026.



Join the Rangers and play an important role in caring for Country for future generations.



Scan the QR code to submit your interest





## June

The Rangers also attended the two ILA language workshop in Perth. Now the Rangers are working on what they have learnt with the Elders workshop held in May, on a project in language delivered to the community.

By far one of the highlights for our ranger team this quarter was the Ranger Exchange to Laura, Qld. Zeke Stewart, Tony Stewart, Madi Jilba, Summah Papertalk, Juhani Ashburton, Ash Chitty, Amy Nike, Kingsley Murray and Jordan Ralph all went over east from June 15-19. With support from the PRN Ranger Exchange funding, we participated in a week-long cultural and land management exchange with the Laura and Balnggarawarra (Melsonby) Rangers. The exchange began with a Welcome to Country by local Elders, who shared cultural knowledge and conducted a smoking ceremony to protect the group during their travels on Quinkan Country.

Throughout the week, PKKP Rangers gained valuable insights into Indigenous-led land and heritage management across the South Cape York catchment. Highlights included visiting significant

rock art and cultural heritage sites, learning how cultural sites are digitally recorded and mapped, participating in the Laura Rangers' sawfish monitoring program, and observing water quality monitoring work undertaken. Time with the Melsonby Rangers provided an opportunity to learn about feral pig management, fencing programs protecting cultural sites and sensitive habitats, and innovative erosion control projects restoring Country and protecting important waterholes.

Beyond the practical learning, the exchange strengthened relationships, encouraged knowledge sharing, and highlighted the common challenges faced by ranger groups across different environments. The experience reinforced the importance of cultural heritage protection, caring for Country, and the value of Indigenous ranger programs in delivering positive outcomes for people, culture, and the environment. We learned how we can adapt and strengthen these outcomes to bring back to PKKP Country.

If you've got a story,  
share it with the PKKPAC  
team next time you see them,  
or send it through by email.  
We'd love to hear all about it.

[communications@pkkp.org.au](mailto:communications@pkkp.org.au)

[www.pkkp.org.au](http://www.pkkp.org.au)

