

# YINHAWANGKA ABORIGINAL CORPORATION RNTBC

## NEWSLETTER

Issue • October 2024



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### Our acknowledgement

We pay our respects to the past, present and emerging custodians of Yinhawangka country. We acknowledge the Yinhawangka people as the rightful landowners and recognise the hardship of all Aboriginal peoples. We are committed to protecting and caring for our country, history, heritage and culture. We send our deepest condolences to our members and community that have lost a loved one and send comfort for those that are still grieving.

# Message from the Chair



Dear Yinhawangka members

I hope this message finds you all well.

## CEO recruitment

Firstly, I would like to provide an update on the CEO recruitment process here at YAC. Due to circumstances outside our control have made the decision to re-advertise the CEO position in order to ensure we find the most suitable candidate to lead Yinhawangka Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC (YAC). You may notice the new advertisement on Seek this week. We appreciate your patience and understanding as we continue this search.

## Acting CEO

In the meantime, Madelaine Fisher, our Governance and Operations Manager, has stepped into the role of Acting CEO, providing steady leadership until the recruitment process is finalised and new CEO is appointed. We have full confidence in Madelaine's leadership during this transition.

## 2024 AGM

I am pleased to share that our Annual General Meeting (AGM) is fast approaching and will be held 13 November 2024 at Red Earth Arts Precinct in Karratha. This is an important opportunity for all members to come together, hear updates on the corporation's activities, and have your voice heard. There is quite a lot on the agenda at this AGM and the notice will be posted out on 15 October 2024, so keep an eye out for it. We encourage all members to attend the AGM and participate in shaping the future of YAC.

## Independent director recruitment

YAC is also in the process of recruiting for the Independent Director role. Independent Director Frank Parriman's term ends in December 2024 and the YAC directors are following the rule book process to re-advertise and appoint the role. We thank Frank for his significant contribution to our board and organisation. Franks service commenced at the end of the administration period and has been a stabilising and consistent force over the last four years.



Lorraine Injie  
YAC Chairperson

## Living Cultures & the Steering Committee

One of the agenda items at the upcoming AGM is for Yinhawangka apical groups to nominate their Living Cultures Steering Committee representatives. This committee will be integral to overseeing the direction and evaluation of the Living Cultures project. YAC is getting the project governance set up internally and YAC members can expect consultations in March and April 2025 to advance the Living Cultures project and design the work plans.

## Karijini native title

I am also pleased to share that with the support of the YAC Cultural Heritage and Language Committee (CHLC), YAC has commenced preparations for a native title claim over parts of Karijini under Section 47C of the Native Title Act. This process will require the consent of the WA Government in addition to our cooperation with Banjima and Eastern Guruma. This is an exciting opportunity for us all to have our deep historical and cultural connections to Karijini recognised under native title law and achieving the best possible outcomes for the future protection and management of Karijini. We look forward to providing you with more of an update at the upcoming AGM.

Thank you for your continued support and dedication to Yinhawangka's future. Take care of yourselves and each other. I look forward to seeing you at the AGM and continuing our journey together.

Lorraine Injie  
Chair

# Message from the Acting CEO



## Dear members

My name is Madelaine and I am the Governance and Operations Manager here at YAC. My role is to provide operational leadership at YAC on a day to day basis, help drive important projects forward and implement good governance practices in YACs every day going-ons. This is a dynamic role which requires me to be across a lot of different things.

Recently, the board of directors appointed me as Acting CEO while it completes the CEO recruitment process. It is a privilege to serve in this role during transition period, and I look forward to providing strong strategic, operational and governance backbone to keep YAC progressing on important projects until our next CEO arrives.

There is a lot happening at YAC at the moment, and we have entered a very busy time of year where the demands increase across our heritage, native title, and member services teams.

## Heritage

I would like to acknowledge the consistent efforts of the YAC heritage survey team and CHLC during this year. Heritage surveys are part of YACs core business as prescribed body corporate. Heritage surveys are vital to ensuring that Yinhawangaka cultural heritage is identified, preserved and protected. Surveys are also important employment opportunities for Yinhawangka People to spend time on country while earning an income. Most of our heritage work comes from Rio Tinto. We also have some heritage activities with Fortescue .

## Native Title

YAC has some important native title projects underway. The negotiations with WA Iron and API continue. We also have some “right to negotiate” matters with smaller proponents that have come about after updates to the WA heritage legislation. Our CHLC provides cultural advice to the YAC board on these matters.



Madelaine Fisher  
Governance and  
Operations  
Manager  
Acting CEO

## AMod consultations

Our biggest native title project right now is agreements modernisation (AMod) with Rio Tinto. This has been going on since 2021. The AMod Negotiations Committee has two more meetings with Rio Tinto planned in 2024 to secure in principal agreement on business, compensation and Rocklea station. A detailed update will be provided to the members at the AGM. There are consultation meetings coming up in Karratha, Hedland and Paraburdoo so please join if you are available so you can have input into AMod matters.

## Looking ahead

The high level of activity across heritage, native title and member services is set to stay or even increase in 2025, especially with the ramping up of the Living Cultures project and Rocklea Station cultural values mapping. It is essential we look to work smarter not harder as a collective and be very well organised to ensure our Yinhawangka traditional owners are able to meet the demands and take advantage of the opportunities available in a sustainable way. YAC has already commenced its 2025 planning.

As Lorraine has mentioned above, we are also in the early stages of preparing a native title claim over Karijini national park. This is exciting. It will require an authorisation meeting with Yinhawangka common law holders and we will be required to work cooperatively with Banjima and Eastern Guruma in 2025.

I would like to acknowledge the hard work of our YAC staff, heritage teams, Yinhawangka directors and committee members. The demands on YAC are significant and we are fortunate to have passionate and hard working team members right across our organisation.

I look forward to working closely with you.

Madelaine Fisher  
Acting CEO



# Ranger and Lands



## Pilbara Ranger Network (PRN) Carawine Gorge Water Forum 2024

Rangers Frankie, Allissa and Renee recently went on a trip to Carawine Gorge, backed by the WA Government Aboriginal Ranger Program. The trip involved setting up fauna cameras to keep an eye on the local wildlife and was a great opportunity for the YAC rangers to use Fulcrum in the field with Renee.

The team slept out under the stars and had a great time hanging out and working with the other Aboriginal rangers and DBCA.

"Carrawine trip was good, we got to meet all the rangers, 2 ranger groups came from the Kimberleys, showed us how they work and what they do. We had fun, was good to learn other things from other ranger groups in terms of looking after country, waterholes and protecting secret sites. On behalf of the Yinhawangka rangers i'd like to thank the Nyamal rangers for inviting us on country and hope to work together again sometime in the future."- Frankie Benning Jnr, YAC Ranger

"As rangers, we all follow a Healthy Country Plan, regardless of the region we come from. Our focus areas include water, fire, flora, fauna, and sometimes threatened species. I always look forward to spending a week at Karyuwayinya, particularly for PRN. It's great to catch up with fellow rangers and share experiences.

The purpose of this trip was to deepen our understanding of riparian ecology. We also recognized that redclaws pose a significant threat to our waterways. During the trip, representatives from NRT – North Regional TAFE were on hand to provide valuable insights into Conservation and Ecosystem Management, as well as other related courses."  
- Allissa Limerick, YAC Ranger

"I had a fantastic time on the Carawine Gorge camping trip. Being out on country with Allissa, Frankie Junior, and the other ranger groups was truly refreshing. Some of my favorite moments included the welcome to country by Nyamal, swimming at Running Waters, and our nightly campfires."  
- Renee Manser, YAC GIS Officer



Photos from the Carawine Gorge Water forum.



# Agreements modernisation (AMod)

## Implementation funding agreed between YAC and Rio Tinto



YAC and Rio Tinto have successfully entered into a three-year funding agreement. This funding is for implementation of the Participation Agreement to ensure YAC is properly resourced to meet Rio Tinto's demands.

This marks a significant change for Yinhawangka as it substantially reduces the operational funding of YAC from the Yinhawangka trusts. The agreement was signed with a handover on 29th June 2024 between Lorraine Injie, Chair and Eloise Hoffman at Rio Tinto.

YAC is the first PBC to negotiate this type of funding arrangement with a major mining company and it is a good outcome for AMod.

## Negotiations with Rio Tinto

The Yinhawangka negotiations committee been meeting with Rio Tinto on the Yinhawangka Core Matters:

1. transfer of Rocklea Station into Yinhawangka ownership
2. business opportunities from Rio Tintos activities in and around Yinhawangka country
3. resolution of legacy issues arising from lack of mining benefits payments or other compensation (historical compensation and formula uplift)

YAC and Rio Tinto have made some progress on revised outcomes for Rocklea Station and business development matters. These are to be progressed in the coming weeks in negotiation meetings.

There are two more negotiation meetings between now and before the 2024 AGM. A full update will be provided to members at the AGM.

## New trust split for Rio Tinto mining benefit payments

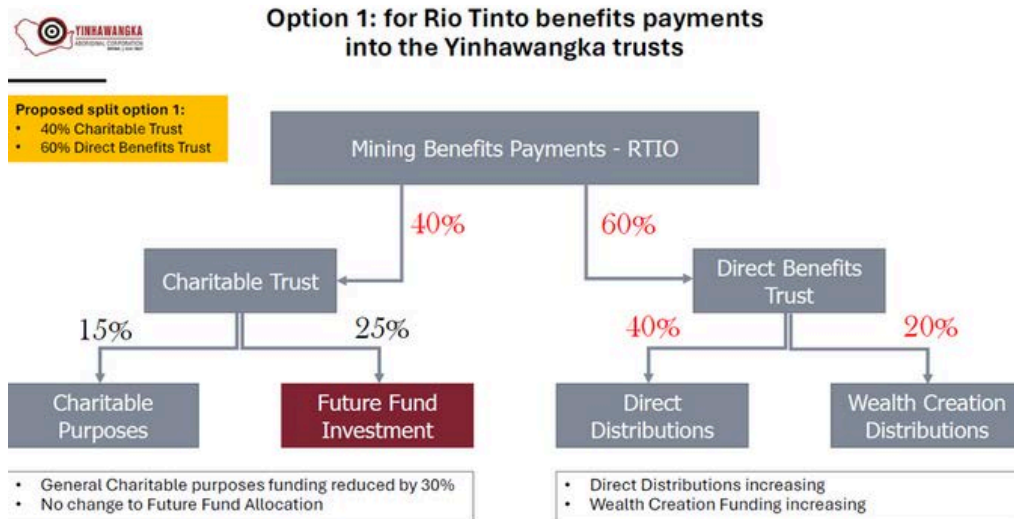
A community consultation was held in Paraburdoo with the Yinhawangka common law holders on 19 July 2024 with three trust split options presented for consideration. 100% of common law holders present were in favour of a change to current trust split of 70% Charitable/30% Direct Distributions to either:

- 40% Charitable/60% Direct Distributions (Option 1), or
- 50% Charitable/50% Direct Distributions (Option 2)

The majority of common law holders determined preference for Option 1 (see the image below).

Rio Tinto and YAC have now executed an agreement to vary the trust split to the preferred option: 60% Direct Benefits Trust and 40% Charitable Trust. The Yinhawangka Council has also implemented this into future payments.

The changes will take effect for Mining Benefits Payments received by the trusts for Q2 2024. Mutual Trust will send out a communication to all Yinhawangka beneficiaries with more information once they have met with the DMC and Council.



# Heritage

## Heritage Surveys

YAC is conducting Aboriginal heritage survey every month with Yinhawangka People and YAC's preferred heritage consultants.

The type of surveys are ethnographic or archaeological surveys:

- **Ethnographic surveys** involve Yinhawangka knowledge holders going on to country to record Ethnographic Aboriginal sites and providing further information about Archaeological sites.
- **Ethnographic Aboriginal sites** are places known to the Yinhawangka People and are mostly mythological or ceremonial sites such as waterways and lore grounds.

- **Archaeological surveys** involved Yinhawangka traditional owners going on to country with Archaeologists to walk transects over country and record archaeological sites which are places where evidence of the past activities of Yinhawangka People have been preserved.
- **Archaeological survey** involves a lot of walking so the Yinhawangka People and heritage consultants involved need to be fit to go on these surveys.

Sometimes proponents organise helicopters as the survey areas have no road access into them.

Examples of archaeological sites are artefacts, engravings, rock shelters, scar trees and grinding patches.

If you want to know more about surveys, please call Patricia 0438 757 274 or email to [heritage@yinhawangka.com.au](mailto:heritage@yinhawangka.com.au) with your name, mobile number, what town you live in and availability.



Photo of Scar tree



Chert flakes



Grinding stones



Wooden artefact



Helicopter Survey: Survey participants: (from left) Benjamin Limerick, Dane McHutchison (Fortescue), Eugene Lyndon, Lucia Clayton (Snappy Gum Heritage) and Sam Jones (Heliwest).



Helicopter Survey: Survey participants: (from left) Dwayne Sampi, Elly Anderson (SGH), Tyler Bennell (Fortescue), Yvette Wheatcroft (Snappy Gum Heritage), Kenneth Ingie Junior, Samuel Lyndon, Eugene Lyndon

## Yinhawangka Information Management System (YIMS)

The YIMS system is live and running. It holds information regarding work on country, by the ranger team and community members. The more information stored in the system, the more robust the system will be for all members.

The system is set up and designed for the benefit of all Yinhawangka members. Stories can be uploaded, photos, videos and audio for safe keeping for future generations. All Yinhawangka members are invited to create a user account.

To do so, please go to:

<https://yinhawangka.essolutions.com.au/>



The screenshot shows the login page for the Yinhawangka Information Management System. The URL is <https://yinhawangka.essolutions.com.au>. The page features a logo with a map of Western Australia and a target icon. Below the logo, there is a section titled "System access" with a warning: "Never share your access details with others and keep your sensitive content safe." There are input fields for "Username" and "Password", followed by a "Login" button. At the bottom, there are links for "Forgot password?", "New user?", and "Public access".

Select "New User" at the bottom and fill out the form.



## Yinhawangka Community Workshops

YAC is currently planning for a series of consultations for each apical group in March/April 2025. This is an opportunity for members to say what programs and activities they want or need from the Living Cultures project and the ethnographic architecture of the Hamersley Ranges.

These programs must fall within the eight identified priority areas of the partnership agreement:

- Community engagement
- Songlines
- Women's business
- Language
- Creative art and culture
- Cultural awareness training and education
- Social emotional wellbeing
- History and living heritage.

## Recording history and living heritage

Recording trips and interviews with Yinhawangka elders and senior knowledgeholders is a priority for Living Cultures. To become involved in history and living heritage, have knowledge recorded or to nominate your Elders and Knowledge holder for interviews, and to offer to support to them in this most important work, please contact Hilton.



## Partnership Coordinator roles

This position has been revised and we are now seeking to engage one part-time or casual position for a senior Yinhawangka Knowledge Holder from each apical group for this most important role. The people appointed will guide the project in culturally sensitive and appropriate way on a day-to-day basis. More information about the position is available from the YAC website, Facebook page or contact the LC Project Manager Hilton for more information 0429 066 510.



## EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

### Living Cultures Partnership Coordinator

Yinhawangka Aboriginal Corporation are taking expressions of interest for **3 Part-time Living Cultures Partnership Coordinators**. The role will work closely with the living cultures manager to implement the living cultures project including engagement with Yinhawangka Elders, key knowledge holders, Yinhawangka community, other Traditional Owner groups, and living culture partners, Rio Tinto.

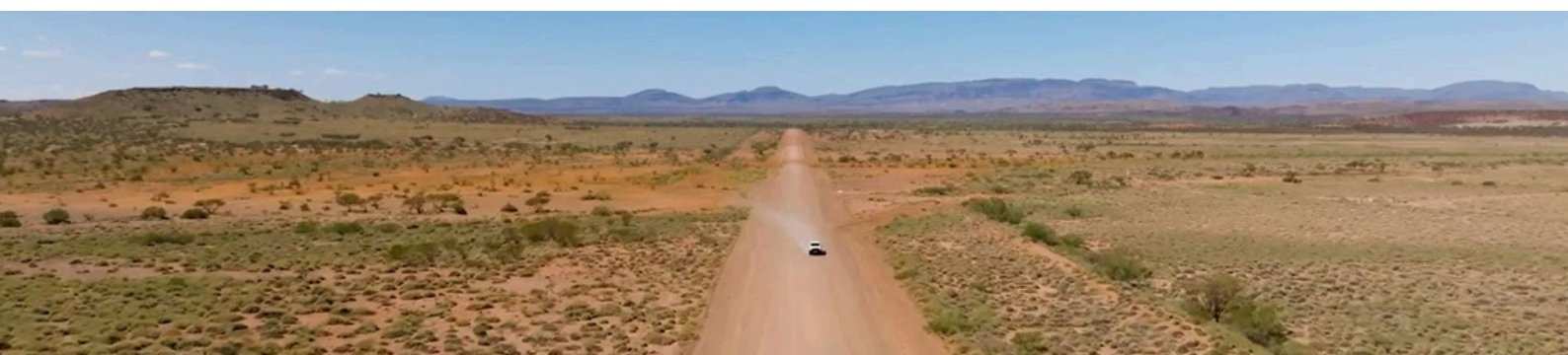
- Are you an Indigenous Australian with knowledge and experience of Yinhawangka people and country?
- Do you have a strong background in community engagement and development?
- Are you seeking to preserve and maintain the Yinhawangka people's living history?
- Do you have experience within Aboriginal Community Control Organisations and/or programs?

Interested? Email [recruitment@yinhawangka.com.au](mailto:recruitment@yinhawangka.com.au) for more details.



If you want to know more about Living Cultures, please call Hilton on 0429 066 510 or email [hilton.gruis@yinhawangka.com.au](mailto:hilton.gruis@yinhawangka.com.au)

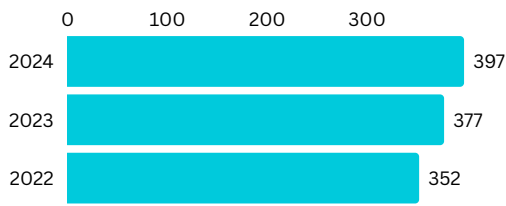
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# Member Services & Community

## Membership Growth Timeline by Calendar Year



### YAC Information Sessions

The member services team has been visiting Port Hedland, Karratha, Perth, Bellary Springs, and Wakuthuni communities to assist members with memberships, trust applications, and general information. If you have any questions, please visit one of our upcoming team visits to your area or call 08 9189 5110. For more details, refer to the calendar of dates or follow YAC's Facebook page. The team look forward to seeing you all soon!



### Waterbottle Clean Up Project

Devina Ranger, Frankie Benning Jnr, Allissa Limerick, Zatalia Galby, Hayley Wickham and Hilton Gruis supported the Community Water Bottle Cleanup Project in the Bellary and Wakathuni communities. Over 2,000 units were removed from both areas. The AAC project team successfully recycled 10 bales, which were then transported to Auski Village for processing. This involved cutting off the tops and bottoms of the bottles, breaking them down, and preparing them for recycling. Additionally, two full skip bins of units that were too contaminated for recycling were also removed. A big thank you to everyone involved for their hard work!

## New - Home Ownership Policy (1st Home Owners)

The Yinhawangka DMC & Council have approved a **one-off** Home Ownership Policy. This is available for members who do not already own a property.



The policy covers a **deposit of up to \$125,000 or 20% of the property price whichever is the lesser amount, for 20 members.**

Full details of this Policy are contained in the **Home Ownership Policy Guide**, along with the process steps. The application form to be completed by the beneficiary can also be found on the YAC websites.

These applications will be reviewed by the DMC & Council prior to an approval being issued.

Offers to purchase a property must be subject to the Applicant being approved for finance to complete purchase of a property within the current financial year OR subject to the applicant having sufficient funds to complete settlement within current financial year, and they can demonstrate this by way of Wealth Creation funds, Wealth Creation assignments (gifting from other beneficiaries) and/or savings.

### Any questions?

Contact the member services team on (08) 9189 5110 or email [admin@yinhawangka.com.au](mailto:admin@yinhawangka.com.au)

**Matariki** – during the winter months, at the time when the Matariki star cluster also known as the 7 sisters, is most visible, is the sign of the Māori new year. The Paraburdoo Māori community invite local Yinhawangka families every year to join in on the festivities. This is the third year running and is always a time to come together to remember and celebrate family past and present.



Joyce Drummond, Hayley Wickham, Roma Butcher, Elly Lukale, Hilton Gruis, Paul Butcher, Frankie Benning Jnr, David Coffin

## Reconciliation Week

During the week local residents participated in the nation-wide virtual panel breakfast and 100+ copies of the book, *The girl is looking for her little brother* (Gurri watharrigu magaragu) written by the late June Injie were handed out to local children. Little Joyce Injie did a wonderful job helping read the book to her Paraburdoo Primary school mates. The week ended with a cultural showcase sundowner which included Devina Ranger's artwork, Polly Farmer kids' artwork, arts and crafts and film screenings. Brendon Cook opened both the breakfast and sundowner with a welcome to country.



Photos of Reconciliation Week Paraburdoo



# Member Services & Community continued...

## YAC website is getting a makeover!

We're excited to announce that our website is getting a fresh new look! Stay tuned for a sleek design, improved navigation, and a host of new features. Keep an eye out for our launch date and get ready to explore! [www.yinhawangka.com.au](http://www.yinhawangka.com.au)

## YAC Bus update

Apologies! Our bus is broken and we are working hard to get it fixed. It's undergoing repairs as we speak. We're hoping for an update soon.



## BIG hART

### Skate of Mind @ Wakuthuni Community

The Skate of Mind team is a collective of world renown skateboarders who run events within regional communities. Their promotion of physical activity and engaging with community has been successful across Australia. The team of skateboard pros put their skills to work, by teaching, experimenting and creating a space of play and fun for the local Wakuthuni kids. The kids had a blast and so did the skateboarders!



## YAC is building a member app!

**What:** We are adopting a user-friendly app to deliver programs and services more efficiently, automate manual tasks, and enhance your overall satisfaction.

**Why:** The new app, powered by CTMS, will eliminate manual processing, improve operational efficiency, enhance your experience, and support additional services.

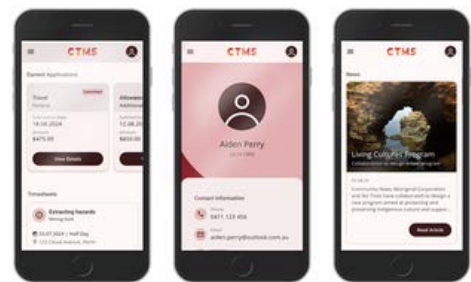
**How:** We will roll out CTMS by first assessing needs and designing the app. Both staff and selected members will test it, with comprehensive training provided to ensure everyone can use the new app effectively.

Overall, the new YAC Member App is designed to streamline your experience by offering a centralised platform where you can manage your applications, stay updated with news feeds, and make changes to your personal details.

The Member App will reduce manual tasks, enabling the YAC team to engage more effectively with you.

**ATMS is evolving with a new name and identity, CTMS: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Corporation and Trust Management System.**

There will be an announcement about the member app for mobile in October 2024, stay tuned.





# Photo Gallery



Water bottle clean up - Bellary Springs and Wakuthuni communities



Skate of Mind - BIG hART initiative - Wakuthuni Community



Reconciliation Week - Joyce Injie and Hayley Wickham



NAIDOC 2024 - Saskia McDermott, Devina Ranger, Emily Lockyer, Zatalia Galby



Skate of Mind - BIG hART initiative - Wakuthuni Community



## Employment Opportunities

### CEO

Reporting to the Board, the Chief Executive Officer will lead the organisation, managing a team of five direct reports and a total of 19 FTE plus casual staff, based in one of two locations: Perth and Paraburdoo. Additionally, the Chief Executive Officer will manage the organisation's financial resources and develop and maintain key stakeholder networks, drive a positive, resilient and collaborative workplace culture, professional partnerships, and collaborative relationships to support the success of the organisation.

**How to apply: contact Emily Bulloch on 0427 582 402 or [ebulloch@beilbydt.com.au](mailto:ebulloch@beilbydt.com.au)**

### Independent Director

YAC is seeking an Independent Director to join the board and provide strategic guidance and independent oversight to help YAC achieve its objectives. This is a critical role, requiring a person who can bring expertise in corporate governance and guide the board in making informed decisions that benefit the Yinhawangka community.

**How to apply: contact Emily Bulloch on 0427 582 402 or [ebulloch@beilbydt.com.au](mailto:ebulloch@beilbydt.com.au)**

### Native Title and Heritage Project Manager

The Native Title and Heritage Project Manager's primary responsibility is to work with the Yinhawangka Traditional Owners to facilitate cultural heritage, social surroundings surveys and assist with Native Title Negotiations. The role also involves ensuring compliance with legislative requirements, providing accurate reports and managing the daily activities.

**How to apply: please email us at [recruitment@yinhawangka.com.au](mailto:recruitment@yinhawangka.com.au)**

### Living Cultures Partnership Coordinator

YAC are taking expressions of interest for 3 Part-time Living Cultures Partnership Coordinators. The role will work closely with the living cultures manager to implement the living cultures project including engagement with Yinhawangka Elders, key knowledge holders, Yinhawangka community, other Traditional Owner groups, and living culture partner Rio Tinto.

**How to apply: please email us at [recruitment@yinhawangka.com.au](mailto:recruitment@yinhawangka.com.au)**

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# KEY DATES

These dates may be subject to change.

## OCTOBER 2024

### YAC AMod consultation meetings

Mon 21 Oct – Karratha

Tue 22 Oct – South Hedland

Wed 30 Oct – Paraburdoo

Fri 25 Oct – Joint DMC & YAC directors meeting

Sat 26 Oct – YAC directors meeting

## NOVEMBER 2024

Thu 7 Nov – Relief of poverty payment

Fri 8 Nov – YAC directors meeting

Mon 11 Nov – DMC & Council meeting

Tue 12 Nov – Beneficiaries meeting

Wed 13 Nov – YAC 2024 AGM

(Venue: Red Earth Arts Precinct Karratha)

## DECEMBER 2024

Fri 6 Dec – YAC directors meeting

Christmas & New Year office closure  
23 Dec to 5 Jan 2025

Merry  
Christmas

## JANUARY 2025

Office Re-opens

Mon 6 Jan

Happy  
New Year!



## Yinhawangka Members Direct Distribution Dates 2024/2025 Financial Year

Date	Source 1	Source 2
19 Sep 2024	BHP IBN MAC	RTIO WTS S17
13 Dec 2024	BHP	RTIO (Non-WTS S17)
28 Dec 2024	BHP IBN MAC	RTIO WTS S17
27 Mar 2025	BHP IBN MAC	RTIO WTS S17
19 Jun 2025	BHP	RTIO (Non-WTS S17)
26 Jun 2025	RTIO WTS S17	-



**YINHAWANGKA**  
ABORIGINAL CORPORATION  
RNTBC | ICN 7837

# YINHAWANGKA ABORIGINAL CORPORATION AGM

## SAVE THE DATE !

Notice will be sent out 15 October 2024

### AGM

**When:** Wednesday, 13 Nov 2024

**Time:** Registration opens at 8am

**Venue:** Red Earth Arts Precinct, Karratha

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For more info please contact:  
[admin@yinhawangka.com.au](mailto:admin@yinhawangka.com.au)  
or call 08 9189 5110