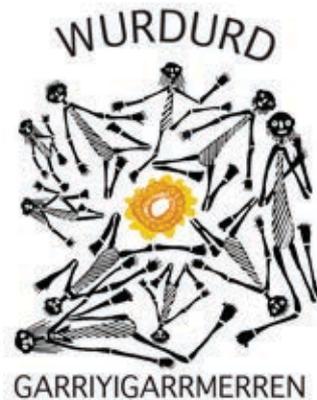


CHILDREN'S GROUND KAKADU WEST ARNHEM

COMMUNITY REPORT

April 2015





ROXANNE NABORLHBORLH

‘Ngage ngal-Gangila. Nga-ngeiyo Roxanne.
Nga-durrkmirri gore/ Wurdurd Garriyigarrmerren.
‘My skin name is Ngal-gangila. My name is Roxanne.
I work at Children’s Ground.’

My name is Roxanne Naborlhborlh, my clan name is Burdoh and my country is Manmoyi. My role at Children’s Ground is Coordinator Family Engagement and Media. I also work with all of the programs that Children’s Ground operates.

This is our second Community Report and I am excited to tell you that Children’s Ground is growing and getting stronger.

It has been a great year. Bininj (Aboriginal people) have led the way in bringing about positive change. We are all working together and the future is looking really good.

I have again worked with Dominic O’Brien to interview people from our community for this report.

Some of this report is in one of the First Languages of this region, Gundjeihmi.



CONTENTS

- 02 THE STORY SO FAR
- 04 OUR PRINCIPLES
- 05 COMMUNITY CHANGES
- 08 WURDURD LEARNING
- 18 HEALTH AND WELLBEING
- 20 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
- 22 CREATIVE ARTS
- 24 BUILDING A LOCAL WORKFORCE
- 26 CELEBRATIONS
- 28 THE STAFF



PHOTOGRAPHY BY DOMINIC O'BRIEN
WURDURD GARRIYGARRMERREN LOGO BY TIM DJANDJOMERR
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COVER IMAGE: BOB AT THE COMMUNITY CENTRE



KEITH, KAYLESS, SHELTON AND JAVAN POSING AT MADJINBARDI



MAHALIA, JIMMY, SHELTON, FRANK AND KEITH LEARNING TO COUNT

‘Bedda bedberre
Mayali, dja gadberre
gun-mayali.’

‘For their future,
for all our futures.’

Annie Ngalmirama

The story so far

Yvonne Margarula, Senior Traditional Owner says,
*‘We Mirarr are strong and we will use the opportunities
to create a better future.’*

Children’s Ground Kakadu West Arnhem is the first organisation of its kind in Australia. It was born out of need, generosity and vision. The Mirarr People saw that our community had problems and they wanted change. They were really worried about education and health and concerned that our culture was being lost. The Gundjeihmi Aboriginal Corporation (GAC) set up the Kakadu West Arnhem Social Trust (KWASt) in 2012 to support all Bininj of the region. GAC Chairperson Annie Ngalmirama said, *‘We care about our country and we know we are in the right place when we are in our country. We want all our kids to learn that way. For their future, for all our futures.’*

In 2012, Jane Vadeloo and I started talking about Children’s Ground’s 25 year plan and what we are going to do for this community. Jane said we needed to talk to all Bininj to explain Children’s Ground to hear what they wanted. I said, *‘Let’s do this thing and make this Children’s Ground happen’*. We started walking and talking with everyone. May Nango and Mark Djandjomerr from Madjinbardi told us that we should take this Bininj knowledge, put it in the front and follow that path together. They said that the wurdurd (children) need a strong path going forward.

We came up with a plan that uses 60,000 years of cultural knowledge and wisdom and builds a strong future for this community. In August 2013 an agreement was signed with KWASt and Children’s Ground started. Mirarr traditional owner Nida Mangarnbarr said, *‘Make it good’*.



BOB LISTENS TO MARK DJANDJOMERR SING AT BININJ GUNBORRK (TRADITIONAL SINGING AND DANCING) AT MANABURDUMA. IN THE BACKGROUND ARE ABLE NABORLHBORLH, RITCHIE NABARLAMBARL AND DAVID CAMERON

We opened our doors in October of that year and have been steadily rolling out programs that cater for the wurdurd (children), yauk yauk and yawurrinj (teenage girls and boys), bininj (men) and daluk daluk (women). We have employed many Bininj, helped the practice of traditional culture and begun the education of many wurdurd. For each child we have an individual plan to support their education, health and culture. These plans are made with family. We believe that teaching our kids the old ways and the new ways will make them strong.

We work across the whole of Kakadu West Arnhem. We are based at the Jabiru Community Centre and cover the region with our mobile program. We have taken our families as far as Cobourg Peninsula for the holiday program. We have an office in Jabiru shopping plaza and a shared office in Melbourne.

We are very proud of Children’s Ground and the progress we are making in our community.

We thank the Traditional Owners for allowing us on to their country and for their teaching.

We particularly thank the Mirarr People for their inspiration and generosity.



DAVID WARD FROM THE KAKADU WEST ARNHAM SOCIAL TRUST RECIEVES A PRINT FROM CHRISTINE ALANGALE AT OUR FIRST BIRTHDAY PARTY



KEINA AND TYLAR



JIMMY, PADDY, TIM DJANDJOMERR, KEITH, KAYLESS, FRANK AND JAVAN ENJOY BININJ GUNBORRK AT MADJINBARDI

Our principles

Translated to Gundjeihmi

Garri-yigarrmerren wurdurd gadberre.
Start early with the little ones.

Ngarrben-bukkan wurdurd, dja ngad mak ngarrben-bidyigarrme ba gabirri-djordmen.
Stay with them and grow with them until they are big.

Garri-djarrkurrkmirri gadberre.
Work with everyone.

Yi-karmen bininj gun-bolk, gun-malal yi-bebgemen dja gun-dulgarre.
Use and celebrate people's ability and strength.

An-garre yi-manmang.
Connect everything – health, learning, culture, work.

Garri-burrbun bu man-garre bu manekke.
Always think about old ways and new ways of doing things.

Garri-marrgebun.
Expect and deliver the best.

Bininj ngurri-dokmen.
Support community to lead the way.

Community changes

I have seen great changes in the community over the past year. The community centre is a safe place for us to come together. I am happy about the learning at the centre, the early years and the mobile program. I feel happy about the arts at the centre. Our artists are painting and weaving and carving and the wurdurd are watching and learning.

It is exciting to see so many activities. Before there was nothing. Mothers were at home and kids weren't going to school. The centre was empty but now it's full of life. I love to see Bininj Gunborrk, watching the wurdurd learning to dance, listening to the songs, seeing the community coming together.

What makes me happy is when I am out with yauk yauk. I have been worried about them and the yawurrinj. We are working with them to get them back on track.

We laugh when we have the community meetings. We do the serious business but we have fun. We share our highlights of the week and chuck ideas in the middle.

'Ngaye nga-djare bu nungгах, gun-dulgarre ga-mang ba ga-godjgurlugerrenghmen bu ga-djare.'

'I want him to have the choices in life that education can give.'

Roxanne Naborlhborlh

Families' going on camp together makes me happy. Going back out to country, learning, making sure our next generation understand and respect our culture and our old people.

I am just happy that my son Wamud is changing. Before, when he was at school, he was having lots of trouble. I never heard one sentence from the teachers saying that he was getting better. He was lost in education. Children's Ground has helped my son. He is now learning. I want him to have the choices in life that education can give.

When I think about what is happening, there is so much. There is so much change. Before Bininj were lost, we didn't have anything. Now we are making our future better.



MARK DJANDJOMERR AND MAY NANGO AT GUNLOM

Mark and May

May Nango and Mark Djandjomerr are Co-directors of Children's Ground.

May's skin name is Ngal-wamud. She is from the Mirarr clan in Kakadu. Mark's skin name is Na-bangardi. He is a member of the Bolmo clan from Malgawo.

Their leadership and advice is very important to Children's Ground.

'We are working in Children's Ground to show wurdurd the right way not the wrong way. We have to think about our life and what we are doing. Before Children's Ground we didn't have any programs and there was nothing for the wurdurd. Jane brought the idea of Children's Ground to us and we talked about it and worked out how to make the programs. We like working together with the Balanda (non-Aboriginal) showing the wurdurd the Balanda way and the Bininj way. When they grow up they will have both ways. Children's Ground is getting better step-by-step. This year we have taken the programs to more outstations and the wurdurd have been going on lots of trips. Children's Ground is always changing. Sometimes they go turtle hunting. We say yoh gamak, great; they're doing something for the wurdurd. They are having a good time that's what we want.

The camp to Gunlom was really great. We want to do more like that. We were welcomed to that country in a ceremony where we had water poured on our heads. It is a way of telling the spirits of the old people who the visitors are. When we left we said goodbye to them.

We are doing Bininj Gunborrk at Madjinbardi, Manaburduma and now at the community centre. It's really important to show our children that we still have the traditional songs. We want the wurdurd to see all the clans' different styles. It's important for us Bininj people that we pass this on to our children. They are learning, they listen, they dance and they are using the clapping sticks. They are using the didgeridoo. Every song has a story. When they sit down after dancing they tell stories and laugh and joke. Dancing is good for Bininj and it's good to hear our own music. In the old days Bininj Gunborrk would bring young and old people together. They shared that music and danced. The Mimi told the Bininj to go first and dance and the spirits would come and join them. When I start singing today I can feel wind coming and so I know the Mimi are there, everywhere.

At the centre we teach the wurdurd Balanda learning and we take them out on country to learn Bininj way. It's really good that the kids at the centre have that comfortable feeling like they get at home. Children's Ground is getting stronger and it is helping the kids. We have meetings and talk about ways of helping each other. There is less argument now. We are all working together for the wurdurd.

It is gamak rowk, everything is all right. We are showing them the right track. We are helping the parents teach the wurdurd the right way.

This year we want to take the kids out and show them the rock art paintings. The wurdurd might recognise some of the paintings and call out the names. We need to talk to the wurdurd about the old time stories. We can show the wurdurd how to cook bush tucker in a ground oven. They will watch and learn our Bininj lifestyle. This year we will be doing a walk from Madjinbardi to Dakdjam. We will show the things that we used in the old days. For instance Paperbark can be used for carrying water, for carrying babies, for making shelter, for ground ovens, for a sitting mat or a plate for food. This Bininj Manbolh (peoples' walk) will be good for everyone.

We want Children's Ground to be here for a long time. The wurdurd are really enjoying it. Our Bininj kids are learning the Balanda way too. We want them to be strong in both ways and grow up to be good parents and teach their children the right way. We want them to know in their mind and in their heart who they are.'



PADDY AND KAYLENE DJANDJOMERR

'Ngaye nga-djare bu nungguh, gun-dulgarre ga-mang ba ga-godjgurlugerrenghmen bu ga-djare.'

'We want them to know in their mind and in their heart who they are.'

Mark Djandjomerr



CECILY DJANDJOMERR, MAY NANGO AND GEORGINA NAMARNYILK WEAVING AT THE COMMUNITY CENTRE



MARLENE BADWANA CONDUCTS AN EARLY YEARS CLASS IN ENGLISH AND KUNWINJKU WITH BILL

‘Mahni man-garre,
man-gare gabirri-
mulewan gun-wok
gabirri-garrme gun-
murrngayek.’

‘This traditional story
telling in language
keeps them strong.’

Marlene Badwana



TYLAR

Wurdurd learning

We want our wurdurd to grow strong both ways. We want them to know their culture and have a Western education. Children’s Ground makes sure the stories and traditions are passed on by employing Bininj teachers. Some, like Cecily Djandjomerr and Georgina Namarnyilk teach on country and others like Marlene Badwana and Sarah Billis teach in the classroom. By using Kunwinjku and English we help wurdurd understand Balanda teaching. At the centre we have areas for young kids and older kids.

EARLY YEARS LEARNING

We want to make sure our wurdya (babies) and wurdurd get the best start in life.

Belinda Morton, Head of Learning says, ‘Early years are the most critical for learning of any of the life stages. So much happens in the first few years of life. In many ways those experiences lay the foundation for much of our later learning. Our early years programs are designed to place Bininj relationships, culture, language and identity in the centre of what we do. Bininj staff lead a cultural curriculum that involves two days a week learning on country and promotes learning in first languages.’

We have multigenerational learning spaces that incorporate teaching opportunities from Bininj and Balanda teachers. We are increasing the skills of our staff, 12 of our early years staff have signed up to complete a Certificate II in Early Education and Care at Batchelor Institute.’

Montessori teacher Jill Vizec works with Bininj staff to run the early years program at the centre. She says, ‘The learning experience helps young ones establish a personal foundation for future learning. They develop a good attitude toward learning and a base framework into which new learning can be integrated’.

Marlene Badwana is from the Barrbinj clan and her country is Gudjahdoro. ‘I work with Jill Vizec teaching kids in the Early Years. I help kids to learn more about culture and language. Bininj kids need to learn both Balanda and Bininj. Some kids need more practice speaking Kunwinjku. We use picture cards with Kunwinjku and English words to do this. It’s important for kids to be strong in their First Language. This way they can share stories with each other. My nephews Keith and Kayless always ask me to tell family stories. They say “Nana, tell me story about long time ago!”. They love it when I tell them stories of when their mums were little. Sometimes they sit with my daughter Ruby and ask me questions. This traditional story telling in language keeps them strong. I want to see more kids strong in Kunwinjku so maybe they can teach Balanda kids.’

I am really happy working with Children’s Ground, it has changed me. I started last year when I didn’t have anything to do. I was really bored at home, doing nothing. Sitting down. I was hoping one day I would find a job. Now I am really proud of myself and excited about my work. I am a single mum looking after my two girls and my two grandsons. I am a strong woman. The community around me is getting stronger bit by bit.’

‘Wurdurd Garriygarrmerren
bedberre garri-mirndemornamerren
garrben-bukkan.’

‘It is great that Children’s Ground
brings us together so we can share
the knowledge.’

Kamahl Hunter

Kamahl Hunter from the Burdoh clan works with the Morle Boys.

‘It is great that Children’s Ground brings us together so we can share the knowledge. Children’s Ground has been good for my one year old son Tylar. He can count up to four now and loves to draw. I want him to be strong in his culture and have a good Balanda education.’



AILENA, MAKAYLA, JILL VIZEC AND JANEISHA



MARK DJANDJOMERR AND KEITH AT MULA



RHONDA HENRY WITH MARTEL AT A MAMUKALA MOBILE PLAYGROUP



BELINDA MORTON AND NERISHA NABLUDWAD WITH HER SONS HARRY AND AUGUSTINE AT A MOBILE PLAYGROUP AT PATONGA



JOSEPH AT MAMAKARLA



MENA AND KEZIA WITH BELINDA MORTON AT MADJINBARDI

‘Ngurri-marnburrimen ba ngurri-borlbme.’ ‘You mob ready for school?’

Rhonda Henry

MOBILE

The mobile team travel out across Kakadu West Arnhem to connect with wurdurd who can't make it into the centre. Kids at outstations need playgroups to begin their learning.

Rhonda Henry talks about her time with the team.

‘My clan is Limilngan. I work in the Mobile Outreach program. We travel to outstations around Kakadu West Arnhem and conduct playgroups for children of different ages. For the little ones we have blocks and toys to help develop their motor skills. We read stories, sing songs like the alphabet song and do counting exercises. The structure of our sessions allows the kids to learn. Sometimes I take out materials for painting. When I drive in I see the kids waiting for me. They look forward to my visits and really enjoy the time we spend together. It’s nice when they say “Nana Rhonda’s here!” and I say, “You mob ready for school?”

I like my job because it’s about caring and sharing and the respect that I get. It’s a nice thing when family come to me and ask how the kids are going. I get good feedback about Children’s Ground. People are saying we are doing good things for our community, for our people. I have worked in other jobs, but I find this work more satisfying. We don’t just sit around in the office, we go out into the field and help young families become confident in education. I want to encourage other families to become part of Children’s Ground.’



KIARA, LIZ NEWELL, KAYLESS, MAHALIA AND KEITH

PRIMARY YEARS

The primary years are very important. The wurdurd must have the skills to get a good job. We are teaching our kids to write properly in English. They should be able to put sentences together and express themselves well. In the future they need to be able to stand up for themselves in a respectful way. We want people to respect and understand them.

Liz Newell and Sarah Billis run the Primary Class for wurdurd aged five to eight years old at the centre. Sonya Nango supports Bininj kids at the local school and we have guided reading classes in our Extended Hours program.

Liz was an Assistant Principal in Sydney for many years and is TESOL trained. Sarah worked as a teacher in Manmoyi before coming to Children’s Ground. They are both very patient with the kids and always make sure they are understanding the ideas. The children are learning Balanda numeracy and literacy as well as art, health and physical education. Liz and Sarah use iPads and computers to help in their lessons. The class joins the early years group to go out on country on Tuesdays and Thursdays. It’s great to see my little boy Kayless and my nephew Keith enjoy learning. They have learned the alphabet and are beginning to write words. They are also progressing well with numbers. At Children’s Ground they are with family and feel confident.



LIZ NEWELL WITH KIARA AND SARAH BILLIS



MAKAYLA, JOEWINA, KEITH, KAYLESS AND MAHALIA



CECILY DJANDJOMERR



JOEWINA, HENDRIKA AND DIONDRE WITH RED APPLES AT COOINDA



JIMMY AND MALIQUE WITH A BARRAMUNDI AT MULA



LORETTA DJANDJOMERR, JANEISHA, MALIQUE AND GWENDOLYN DJANDJOMERR TURTLE HUNTING AT MAMUKALA



DOUGLAS AND KEITH PICK ANDJURRKUMALBA. THE SWEET RED-BLACK BERRIES ARE READY TO EAT IN GUDJWEG (MONSOON SEASON)

‘Gibirrih-nan bedman
ga-borledme gun-waral.’
‘They can see themselves
in the cycles of life.’

Roxanne Naborlhborlh

ON COUNTRY

We take the wurdurd out On Country twice a week to teach them about Bininj culture. They learn about the seasons, the plants, the animals, bush medicine and bush tucker. We show them how to keep their eyes open for things like sugarcane, turtle and long yam. On Country the kids can understand their kinship and how they are connected to the land. They can see themselves in the cycles of life. It is the right place to learn about their Gun-goymud (Element) that was handed down from their grandmothers. We can tell them that they are Gunak (Fire), Gabor (Green Ant), Gun-warde (Rock), Gun-dung (Sun), Gukku (Water) or Nabiwo (Honey Bee).



VIOLET LAWSON LEADS ZORA, ROBBY AND FELIX GOODMAN ON A WALK TO WARRADJAN



AMANDA WATCHES SUSAN INGAWALA PREPARE MAGPIE GOOSE AT MULA

Cecily Djandjomerr is one of our Elders and an artist. *‘It’s all good at Children’s Ground. It’s very good the way we all work together.’* Cecily has been going out bush with the *yauk yauk* (young girls) and *wurdurd* to collect pandanus and colour to make baskets and Dilly bags. *‘We find the colour for the brown dye in the roots of the Anwirndilk plant and the yellow from the Andjurdum. We clean the roots, dry them out and grind them. We then add them to pandanus that we have pulled into strips and boil them till the colour goes in. We dry the strips in the sun and then it’s ready to make the basket. We get the white colour by boiling the stripped pandanus in fresh water until the all green has gone.’* Cecily teaches how to do weaving in the traditional way. The kids learn by sitting down and watching. *‘It is very important that we show the young girls how to weave and the men show the young boys how to paint so they can know and keep the tradition going.’*

Our learning doesn’t stop when school stops. We teach our kids during the day, at night and on holidays.



EMILY PETERSSON WITH NATE AND ASHANTI AT AN AFTER HOURS ART SESSION

EXTENDED HOURS

Andy Ralph, Emily Pettersson and Rachel Price are running our extended hours program. It runs Monday to Friday and we have around 15 to 20 wurdurd each night, aged five to eight years. We deliver the program in and around Jabiru and use the community centre for educational activities like guided reading and art classes.

Andy speaks about the program 'The after hours program fills a massive void for young Aboriginal children in Kakadu. There is little to engage and stimulate young children in the region, and the program aims to offer a range of activities that both entertain and educate. Specialist staff, along with Traditional Owners offer cultural, sporting and educational programs to suit a range of ages.'

Emily is from the Murumburr clan and her country is the central and southern parts of Kakadu including Spring Peak and Cooida. 'We pick up students from Jabiru Area School each weekday to do a variety of activities. We usually have around 20 kids but have had up to 30. Often their older siblings come along too. We take them to play T-Ball, do arts and crafts and go on excursions.'

'Recently we've done the walk to Bowali with Mark and May and have walked around the lake. The kids have enjoyed movie nights and a disco, but their favourite is going to the pool. They really enjoy the program because they are around family. It's really important for the kids to have something to do after school. They look forward to it. There are not many activities for kids of this age in Jabiru. This is my first job and I really love it. The kids have such a great energy and it's just cool to be with them. It makes me feel happy to see them having fun. The program only started in February this year and it is very popular. We are always planning and organising new things for the children to do. The challenge is to come up with a variety of activities that target kids of different age groups.'



NIDA, SAMARA AND DAMIEN KAMHOLTZ AT AN AFTER HOURS ART SESSION



ZORA AND TYSON PLAY CRICKET AT AN EXTENDED HOURS SESSION



JOEL AND ALFIE NABORLHBORLH AT A BININJ GUNBORRK AT MANABURDUMA

BININJ GUNBORRK

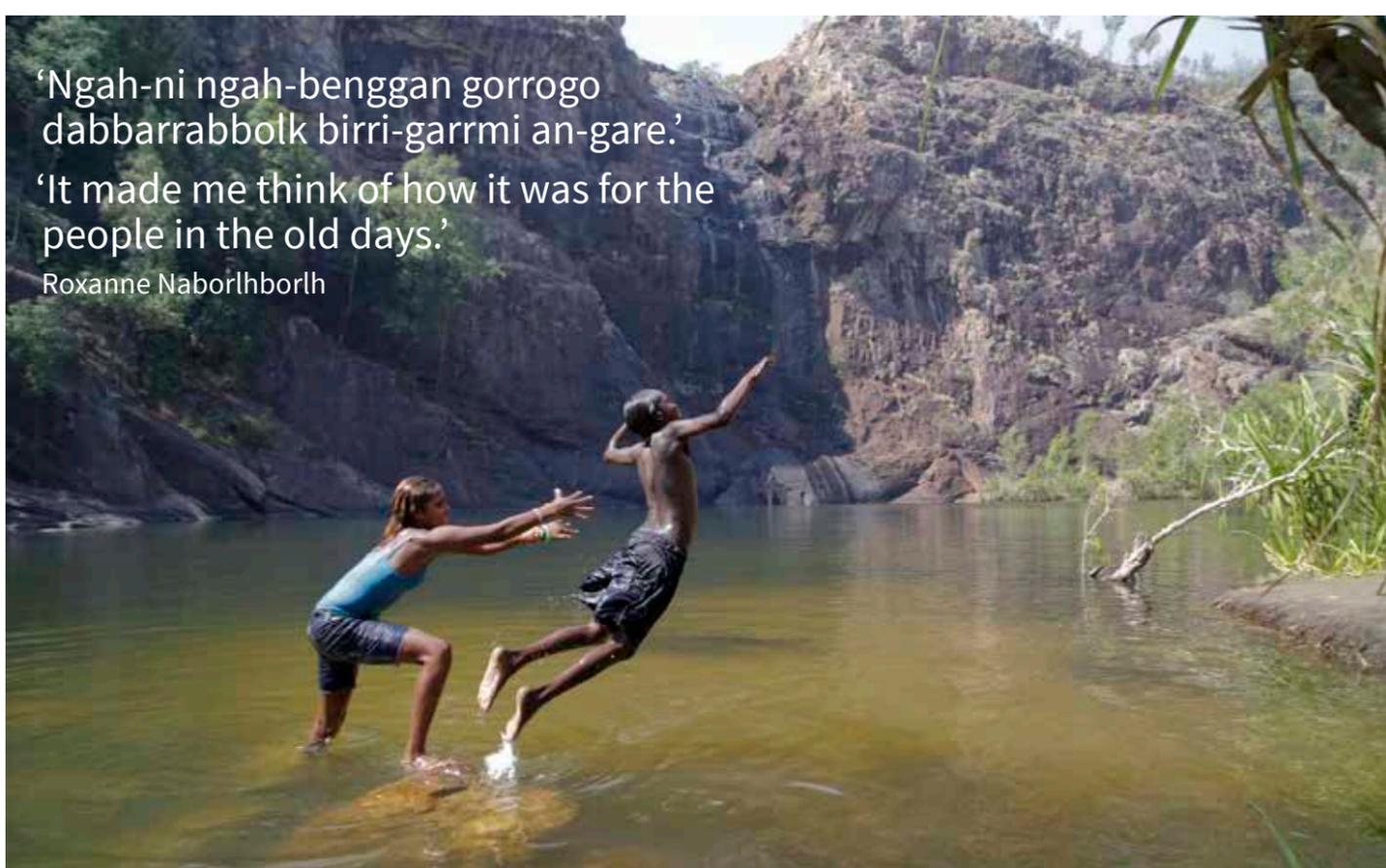
Last year we saw the start of weekly Bininj Gunborrk. Sometimes we do it up to three times a week at different locations. People said they hadn't heard traditional singing and dancing for many years. It is great that this part of the wurdurd learning is happening again. It's very important that the kids learn traditional culture from the Elders. You can see their eyes light up when they hear the Morle (didgeridoo) and Gunbirlinj (clapsticks). Each song has a story and its own dance. The songs teach wurdurd the stories of their country and they love learning the dances.



LENNY WOOD, MARK DJANDJOMERR AND DAVID CAMERON AT A MADJINBARDI BININJ GUNBORRK



A BININJ GUNBORRK AT MADJINBARDI



HAZEL AND SAM AT GUNLOM

GUNLOM
 Last dry season, in August 2014, we had a big camp at Gunlom. Ryan Baruwei from the Jawoyn Association welcomed us with a traditional ceremony and we thanked the Traditional Owners for letting us stay on their country. Eighty members of the Children's Ground family enjoyed a wonderful four days. Gunlom is one of the most beautiful places in Kakadu. There is an amazing waterfall and great swimming spots with no ginga (crocodile).

We climbed up to the pool at the top of the falls where we swam and looked at the incredible view. During the day we did workshops on history, culture and art. At night we had Bininj Gunborrk. It was a magical scene with the dancers kicking up dust and the music echoing off the cliffs. It made me think of how it was for the people in the old days. It was great for the whole community to get out of town and share this cultural family time together.



BININJ GUNBORRK AT GUNLOM



RUBY, JINEATA, JIMMY AND SHIRLEY BROWN SWIM AT GUNLOM



CLIVE LANE DANCES AT GUNLOM



CAMPFIRE ON THE BEACH AT COBOURG

COBOURG PENINSULA
 We conducted a camp at Wurwi on the Cobourg Peninsula in the July 2014 School Holidays. We gathered our group of 45 and drove four hours to Darlene Thorn's country where we were welcomed by Uncle Kenny and Aunty Rosie. We thanked them for letting us visit their beautiful country. We set up camp by the seashore and spent three fun filled days fishing and living off the land. Darlene showed the wurdurd how to collect long bums (sea snails), mud mussels, mangrove worms, oysters and pippies. Each night we had a seafood feast. Everyone enjoyed the chance to spend time with their families in one of the country's most beautiful and bountiful places.



PERLIN AND KIDS LOOK FOR OYSTERS AND MANGROVE WORMS ON THE BEACH AT COBOURG



FLINT DJANDJOMERR AND EZERIAH HEAD OFF TO SPEAR FISH



FLINT JR



DOUGLAS, JANEISHA AND KEITH EAT FRUIT ON A BIG DAY OUT



DARLENE SHOWS THE KIDS HOW TO FISH



CORRIANNE, URIAH AND BESSINA REHEARSE IN A YAUK YAUK SESSION



FELICITY DOUGLAS HELPS HAZEL WRITE SONG LYRICS AT A YAUK YAUK SESSION

‘Ngad ngarri-djare wurdurd gabirri-djordmen gabirri-murrngrayekmen.’

‘We need our kids to grow strong and healthy.’

Darlene Thorn

Health and Wellbeing

In the old days Bininj had a good, long, healthy life. Now Bininj people are passing away too early. We need Bininj to have strong spirits, strong bodies and strong minds. We are helping people understand the way to get their health back. We know people will have good health when they combine nutrition, happiness and medical knowledge.

We also focus on Traditional healing that includes bush manme (food), bush medicine and people being strong in their culture. Mangung Nabiwo or native beehive is one of our favourites. We also call this Sugarbag. The Mangung honey is delicious and very good for you. When made into a tea it relieves asthma. The Manyum part is a bush medicine for treating your skin. Our ancestors would always carry Mangung when they travelled. Stringy bark is also a bush medicine. The lining can be used in a bath to treat sores and a tea can be made to treat breathlessness.



MANYUM, THE MEDICINAL PART OF THE NABIWO



SARAH BILLIS WITH THE NABIWO SHE FOUND

NUTRITION

Darlene Thorn is from the Murin clan on Croker Island and the Cobourg Peninsula.

Darlene works in the health, nutrition and wellbeing team with Perlin Simon, Loretta Djandjomerr and Rhonda Williams. She also is involved in the community development, research and leadership programs. The team serves around 330 meals per week. Healthy breakfasts and lunches during the week and dinners when there are after hours activities like Bininj Gunborrk.

‘We produce meals for the kids and community following the nutrition guidelines of the department of health. We provide fresh fruit and vegetables daily and aim for half bush tucker and half shop food. We only use multigrain or wholemeal bread. We need our kids to grow strong and healthy. It is important that our Elders and the rest of the community eat healthily. Everything starts from the inside. We want to improve the overall wellbeing in the community and share nutritional knowledge with mums whose kids attend Children’s Ground. I enjoy doing what I love most and that is cooking. We have a great and supportive team.’

COUNSELLING AND FAMILY HEALTH PLANS

Sometimes Bininj people suffer too much. They hold anger and pain inside. Bininj need to talk and clear their mind when they are upset or worried. Counsellor Felicity Douglas says, ‘Counselling can help work through grief, trauma and emotional pain and find ways to make a better story for the future. It can also help us explore the good things about ourselves and strengthen our identity.’

At Children’s Ground we want to help people think more about their health. Health specialist Bram Morton and Alfred Rotumah will travel throughout the region and talk with families. They will listen to Bininj and help create family plans for better health. They will work with the clinic and families to improve maternal and early childhood health. Bram and Alfred can stand by peoples’ side and help them understand medical terms. They are planning to conduct health camps for bininj and yawurrinj this year.

YAUK YAUK AND YAWURRINJ

I have organised a yauk yauk program for the teenage girls. We want them to be strong and happy. We don’t want them to go down the wrong path. We go out bush with Felicity Douglas.

While fishing or walking we talk about their health and what they want for their future. For some of these girls it’s the first time they have spoken about themselves and their worries. I tell them my story and they feel comfortable sharing their stories with me. Sometimes we chat with social media. The girls also write and sing songs with Felicity and Damien Kamholtz our Arts Coordinator. This dry season we are planning to take the girls on walks and camps to places like Malababandju, Jim Jim Falls, Twin Falls and Nourlangie Rock.

Damien has been getting the yawurrinj (teenage boys) involved in arts projects and music. They have collected wood and helped renovate the work bench. Justin Raabe has been showing the boys how to carve Morles with homemade tools. The yawurrinj will also be going on walks and spending time with the Morle Boys.

We have been supporting yauk yauk and yawurrinj to get back to school.



JAYDEN, DAMIEN KAMHOLTZ AND PETER PREPARE A FENCE FIGURE FOR HANGING



ROXANNE NABORLHBORLH AND MEMBERS OF THE LEADERSHIP GROUP SHARI ALUNI, KESTIANNA DJANDJOMERR, LORETTA DJANDJOMERR AND CHRISTIANNA DJANDJOMERR



LEE NABARLAMBARL AND KEZIA



KAMAHL HUNTER CUTTING BARK



KAYLESS, EZERIAH, ABLE NABORLHBORLH AND KEITH WITH RITCHIE NABARLAMBARL AT A MORNING BININJ GUNBORRK AT THE COMMUNITY CENTRE

Community Development

For wurdurd to be strong we need family and community to be strong. At Children's Ground we try to build up our community in different ways.

COMMUNITY CENTRE

The community centre is the heart of Children's Ground. It has become a great place where all people are welcome. Our Bininj kids learn by playing. We have toys and activities that help the wurdurd learn Balanda skills. It is a place for teaching, learning and understanding. It is a resource centre that helps the community to grow. We offer a safe place where the children are educated, where artists can practice and where people can come for advice. It is also a place where we can come together, sit down, have a cup of tea, lunch and a laugh.

DECISION MAKING AND LEADERSHIP

At Children's Ground we make decisions by talking with the community. Each week we have a community meeting at the centre where we talk about ideas and the day-to-day management of Wurdurd Garri-yigarrmerren. We admire the way the Bininj board of the Gundjeihmi Aboriginal Corporation make decisions. We make sure everyone has a chance to speak and always listen to the old people first. We respect them because they have the knowledge and experience.

Our leadership group is made up of people from all of the programs. We meet and talk about the things that we will bring to the community meeting. It is a good way of getting people involved in decision making. When we decide to do an activity on country we always speak with the Traditional Owners.

We make the rules for Children's Ground together. Our rules (policies and procedures) are about what we see as being true (the Kunwinjku word for true is woybukkih). We discuss and decide our policies at the community meetings so everyone can have input and understand.

It's important to talk about how we make sure Children's Ground is physically safe and culturally correct. One of our principles is to 'expect and deliver the best'. Woybukkih help us to do this.



GRAHAM ROSTROM AT A COMMUNITY MEETING

'Ngad ga-mak garri-bekkarren garri-re garri-wokdi gobohbanj werkk garben-gurrme gabirri-dokme.'

'We make sure everyone has a chance to speak and always listen to the old people first.'

Roxanne Naborlhborth

'Ngad Morle yawurrinj ngarri-danginj ngarri-durrkmirri guhri guhri dja ngarri-yigarrmerren gure gaddum ganjdji, ngarri-nahnarren warridj.'

'We Morle Boys are all brothers who work side-by-side. We support each other through the ups and downs and take care of each other.'

Richie Nabarlambarl

MORLE BOYS

The Morle Boys are a team of men who work across Children's Ground. Morle means didgeridoo in Gundjeihmi. They want to see a difference in their lives and the lives of the wurdurd. It's a good opportunity for these men, they are young and they will be passing on what they learn to future generations.

We are proud of the Morle Boys. The wurdurd look up to them. Cultural activities are central to their role. They run our Bininj Gunborrk sessions and spend time with the wurdurd in the centre and on country. They also maintain the community centre and staff houses and look after the vehicles.

Last year the Morle Boys got to know each other and became a strong team. They also learned how to be more responsible and reliable in the working world.

Richie Nabarlambarl from the Burdoh clan says, 'I work in the Morle Boys, we look after the centre and keep it tidy. It makes us proud to look at what we have achieved. Twice a week we go out and take the wurdurd on bush trips. Culture trips with the Morle Boys, the daluk daluk (women) and the young ones.

Recently we've been doing bark cutting with the little ones. We use it for the shelter we are rebuilding at the centre. We have made the shelter to show the wurdurd what the old people used to do out

bush. Mark Djandjomerr is guiding us every step of the way. When it's built Mark wants the Elders to decorate the inside of the shade and paint it in the traditional way. We want to keep teaching this tradition to future generations.

We Morle Boys are all brothers who work side-by-side. We support each other through the ups and downs and take care of each other. It gets young men from the community involved, instead of staying home all day doing nothing.

Last year's highlight was getting the old People involved: Mark, Johnny, Able, David, Lenny, Neville, Tim and Graham. That was important because they show us the very important culture so we can learn. We are still young and still waiting for more knowledge from them. We respect these old men. They look after us, we look after them.

This year I want to see more young boys get involved. More training and activity in the community. More community involvement.'



GRAHAM ROSTRON WORKS ON A BARK PAINTING



TYLAR AND DAMIEN KAMHOLTZ



MARLENE BADWANA STRIPS PANDANUS FOR WEAVING



MENA PAINTS AS JOY NABEGEYO PREPARES PANDANUS FOR WEAVING



ARTISTS ABLE NABORLHORLH, LEE NABARLAMBARL, GRAHAM ROSTRON AND MARK DJANDJOMERR



MAKAYLA, JANEISHA, PADDY, AMANDA, JOEWINA AND CHARLIE WEARING THE COSTUMES MADE BY MONICA O'BRIEN AT A CIRCUS REHEARSAL



DWAYNE DAKGALAWUY DANCES WITH THE SALT BOYS MARK BUKULATJPI, PAUL DHAMARRANDJI AND NIGEL YUNUPINGU AT A DANCE WORKSHOP



‘Ngaye nga-djare ngaben-bukkan bedda ba namekke rarrk gabirri-yidjordmen.’

‘I want to teach them so when I get a little bit old they will keep going with the painting.’

Able Naborlhorlh

ARTS ENTERPRISE BININJ GUNWARAL

Our talented artists are working together to build an arts enterprise called Bininj Gunwaral (Our Spirit). Damien Kamholtz says, ‘The project aims to help artists perfect their skills and show their works in the broader art market. We want to create a sustainable economic platform that will support artists and their families. We have met with consultants Andrew Blake and Liesl Rockchild and the artists are very enthusiastic.’ Some works have already been sold. The Manmalih Sisters beautiful sculpture of the hooked sticks that are used to gather pandanus has been chosen for the 32nd Telstra National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Award exhibition. The work is called ‘I am Little but Munmalih is Tall’.

Able Naborlhorlh from the Burdoh clan, is an artist and teacher. ‘I enjoy working at Children’s Ground. I paint here and I teach. I show the Morle Boys how to choose the right tree not the wrong tree and how to cut the bark. I show them how to find the red ochre, the white ochre, the black ochre and the yellow one.’ Able likes it when the kids watch him work. ‘I want to teach them so when I get a little bit old they will keep going with the painting. When they get married they will be able to teach their children. I learned from my uncle Joshua Bangarr at Gulungul outstation. When I was 16 he gave me a cardboard box to paint and then a small bark.’ Able kept working at it and is now one of our most respected artists.

CREATIVE ARTS

Bininj people have always used the arts to teach. Our culture is the oldest teaching practice on earth. Through painting, story telling, music and dance we pass on the stories from the old people. We are happy and our community is healthy when we practice our culture.

Arts Coordinator Damien Kamholtz has brought energy and direction to our arts space. With Graham Rostron’s help we now have many artists practicing their art each day. They include musicians, singers, dancers, painters, sculptures and weavers from all different age groups. It is wonderful to see the wurdurd surrounded by this creativity. You can see the Elders love to teach the young ones.

This year we want to strengthen the program and spend more time engaging teenagers and young adults. There is great interest in the music room.

Throughout the year we have had many talented visitors who have brought their skills and experience to share with us. At Children’s Ground we give our wurdurd and families access to great activities all year round. In the last year: The Salt Boys got us dancing Yolgnu style, The Chooky Dancers amazed us, Jess Ford and Maddy Towler Lovell expanded our dancing skills, Jimblah gave us some hip hop tips, Monica O’Brien explored fabrics and sewing with us, Andrew and Dianne Blake continued their printmaking workshops and Kindred Circus got us tumbling, rolling and laughing.



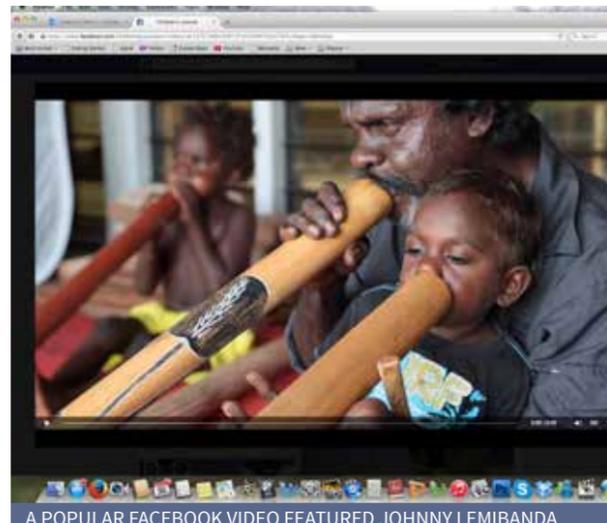
ABLE NABORLHORLH CONDUCTS A PAINTING CLASS WITH MAHALIA AND KEITH



I AM LITTLE BUT MUNMALIH IS TALL



NEVILLE NAMARNYILK CONDUCTS A KUNWINJKU LESSON



A POPULAR FACEBOOK VIDEO FEATURED JOHNNY LEMIBANDA TEACHING THE MORLE TO KEITH AND BOB



FELICITY DOUGLAS GETS INTO HER FOUR WHEEL DRIVE TRAINING

‘Ga-mak ngad gun-mayali ngarrih-mang ba bu ngarrben-won wurdurd ngadberre-gih.’

‘It’s good for us to learn these things so we can teach our children.’

Kestianna Djandjomerr.

Building a local workforce

Children’s Ground provides help for Bininj to reach their full potential. Shari Aluni works with Kestianna Djandjomerr to support people into employment and provide training to increase skills. Shari says, ‘Training provides knowledge and knowledge is power. Staff development through training and workshops increases their confidence. The best thing has been engaging with the 71 Bininj who came into Children’s Ground and said that they wanted to work since we opened our doors.’

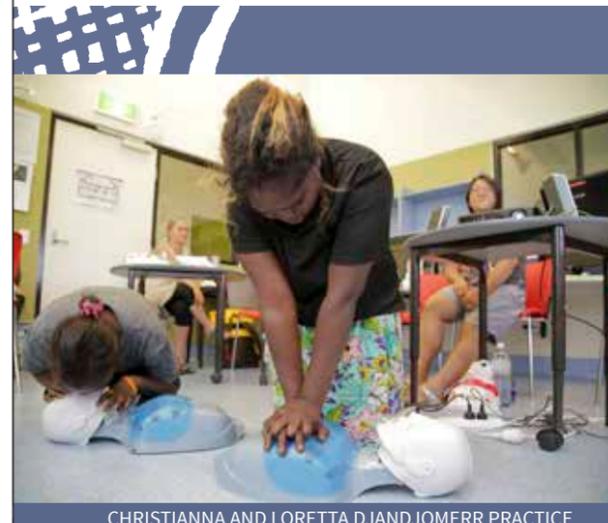
Kestianna Djandjomerr is from the Bolmo clan and her country is Malgawa.

‘I work in staff and training at Children’s Ground. We help people when they join us to work. We organise training workshops to give people new skills. We have run many workshops including water safety awareness, White Card construction certificates, chainsaw training, first aid and four wheel drive training. We are organising people to go to the Early Education and Care course at the Batchelor Institute. It’s really important for us to keep learning. It helps us with our work with the kids at Children’s Ground and gives us skills to keep working in the future.’

Some of our training this year will be in Bininj culture way. We will go out with the Elders and learn about country. We will learn about bush tucker, bush medicine and the names for everything. We will also learn about kinship and the ways of the old people. It’s good for us to learn these things so we can teach our children. They can keep it in their mind for their future.’

Here is a list of the training we have run in the last year:

- Drivers licence and permits
- Fire extinguisher
- Language workshop
- Mandatory reporting
- Certificate 4 in training and assessment
- Australian early development index
- Legal aid
- Girls Academy mentoring
- Young indigenous leadership team
- Indigenous early years
- Safe talk suicide prevention
- Kunwinjku lessons
- Senior first aid
- Four wheel drive training
- Bronze medallion life saving
- Cert 4 Conservation Land Management unit
- White Card construction certificate
- Chainsaw training.



CHRISTIANNA AND LORETTA DJANDJOMERR PRACTICE RESUSCITATION DURING THEIR FIRST AID TRAINING



THE CHILDREN’S GROUND FAMILY IN THEIR UNIFORMS



RESEARCH AND EVALUATION TEAM MEMBERS RICHIE NABARLAMBARL, JACQUI STEWART AND ROBBIE GOODMAN WORK ON A POPULATION MAP

UNIFORMS

In October last year we had uniforms made for the whole team. It made people feel happy and proud to be seen walking this path together.

Our logo shows a family at a campfire together and Wurdurd Garryigarmmerren means we walk with the children together.

When we give the uniform to someone we ask them to sign an agreement. I want people to behave in a respectful way when wearing the uniform. When they sign they agree to not have any arguments and show respect for the Traditional Owners, Children’s Ground and the community.

RESEARCH AND EVALUATION

We have a team working on Research and Evaluation at Children’s Ground. Research is about studying the concerns that are important to community. Evaluation is about finding out how much of a difference we are making.

Our Bininj researchers are leading the way in this work. They include: Darlene Thorn, Richie Nabarlambarl, Robbie Goodman, Christine Alangale, Shirley Brown, Kamalh Hunter, Lee Nabarlambarl, Sonya Nango and Rhonda Henry. Jacqui Stewart works with the team on projects like community mapping. This allows us to find out how many people we can reach and what we can do for them. Together we are finding new ways of doing research and evaluation.

We have a new computer system that we use to keep track of what we do each day. It is important that we record what we do and who joined in. That way we can plan the best activities for the future. In July every year the researchers will sit down with community members and find out what they think of Children’s Ground. We will also look at information from other places like the school, the clinic and the police. We want a complete picture of what is happening with education, health and community safety.

This year we plan to do a research project where we go out and speak with the old people. We want to know what it was like for Bininj before mining came to this country.

TELLING OUR STORY

In the past year I have travelled to Melbourne, Sydney, Canberra and Darwin. I have met politicians, business people and philanthropists and spread the word about Children’s Ground. Dominic O’Brien, Ferdi Hepworth and I have been telling our story on our Website, Facebook and various publications. Our updates, photos and videos are very popular. We get great feedback from around the country and one of our posts reached 205,000 people. This year we were profiled in Oxfam’s Close the Gap campaign. It is important that we share Children’s Ground’s message and achievements with our funders and friends. We thank our translation team: Kestianna Djandjomerr, Shannon Nango, Robbie Goodman, Belinda Djandjomerr, Christianna Djandjomerr and Murray Garde.



RALPH WITH GLOW STICKS AT DJIRRBİYUK



THE SUNSET AT THE CHILDREN'S GROUND FIRST BIRTHDAY PARTY



THE BININJ GUNBORRK DANCERS PERFORM AT MAHBİLİL

Celebrations



JANE VADIVELLO IS JOINED BY THE CHILDREN'S GROUND FAMILY IN CUTTING THE CAKE AT OUR FIRST BIRTHDAY PARTY

It's important for us to come together as a community and celebrate the progress we are making. We have had so much to celebrate over the past year. Our nutrition team makes beautiful cakes to celebrate peoples' birthdays and big occasions like Children's Ground's first birthday and Christmas.



CHILDREN'S GROUND CELEBRATED IT'S EARLY YEARS PROGRAM'S FIRST BIRTHDAY ON MONDAY OCTOBER 20 AT THE JABIRU COMMUNITY CENTRE. BLOWING OUT THE CANDLES ARE JIMMY, KAYLESS, KAYLENE, KEITH, MAKAYLA, AILENA, RHONDA, JOSEPH AND BILLY



PHILLIPPA DOUGLAS, HENRY, NONIKA HARDY, MALCOLM JR AND VALERIE BALMOORE CELEBRATE TIA'S FIRST BIRTHDAY AT DJIRRBİYUK



WOMEN DANCE AT MAHBİLİL

MAHBİLİL FESTIVAL

The Children's Ground Bininj Gunborrk dancers starred at last year's Mahbilil Festival. It was the first time they had performed at the festival and in front of so many people. When we watched we were very proud of being part of Children's Ground. The dancers had painted themselves in the traditional way and wore gorrk (traditional clothing) but they were dancing today. It showed we were keeping our culture alive. We also had a kids activity centre and did body painting. Our artists put on displays of painting, spear making, and weaving.



KIDS DO A CIRCUS PERFORMANCE AT MAHBİLİL



ABLE NABORLHBORLH PAINTS AT MAHBİLİL



ANNIE CAMERON WEAVING



PERLIN SIMON PAINTS BODY ART

The staff



ABLE NABORLBORLH



ALPHIE NABORLBORLH



ANDY RALPH



ANNA DEMPSEY



ANNIE CAMERON



BELINDA DJANDJOMERR



BELINDA MORTON



BRAM MORTON



CADELL GOODMAN



CECILY DJANDJOMERR



CHRISTIANNA DJANDJOMERR



CHRISTINE ALANGALE



CLIVE LANE



DAMIEN KAMHOLTZ



DARIUS CAMERON



DARLENE THORN



DARREN MARIMOWA



DAVID CAMERON



DWAYNE DAKGALAWUY



ELIZABETH PETERSSON



EMILY PETERSSON



EVA PETERSSON



ENOCH NANGO



FELICITY DOUGLAS



GEORGINA NAMARNYILK



GRAHAM ROSTROM



GWENDALYN DJANDJOMERR



HAROLD GOODMAN



IAN DJANDJOMERR



JACQUI STEWART



JANE VADIVEELO



JASMINE NABOBOBOB



JILL VIZEC



JO PERRY



JODI GAWULURU



JOHN DODD



JOHNNY LEMIBANDA



JOSABELLA CAMERON



JOY NABEGEYO



JULIE DJANDJUL



KAMAHL HUNTER



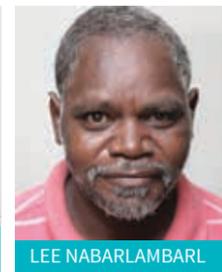
KAYLEEN DJANDJOMERR



KESTIANNA DJANDJOMERR



KIMBERLY NAMARNYILK



LEE NABARLAMBARL



LENNY WOOD



LEONIE SHEEDY



LIZ NEWELL



LORETTA DJANDJOMERR



MARK DJANDJOMERR



MAY NANGO



MARLENE BADWANA



NERISHA NABULWAD



NEVILLE NAMARNYILK



NICOLE ALANGALE



PATSY RAGLAR



PEACE WURRKIDJ



PERLIN SIMON



PETER DJANDJOMERR



RACHEL PRICE



RAELENE DJANDJUL



REBEKKA ATZ



RHONDA HENRY



RHONDA WILLIAMS



RITCHIE NABARLAMBARL



ROXANNE NABORLBORLH



SANDRA DJANDJUL



SARAH BILLIS



SHANICE LOOKER



SHANNON NANGO



SHARI ALUNI



SHIRLEY BROWN



SONYA NANGO



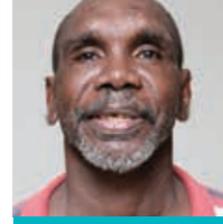
STEPHANIE DJANDJUL



SUE HAINES



SUSAN INGAWALA



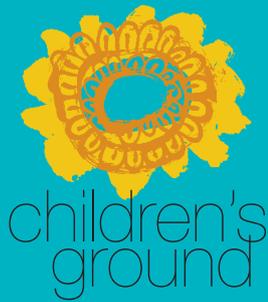
TIM DJANDJOMERR



VIENNA WOOD



VIOLET LAWSON



‘Bolkki gondah garrih-ni garrih-garmerren na-gudji na-mud gadberre.’
‘Through all this we have stood together as one family.’

Roxanne Naborlhborlh

Closing

Since we began some people have been born, some people have passed away and some have gone down the wrong track. A lot of people are doing really great things. Through all this we have stood together as one family. We have celebrated the joy, shared the pain and helped the people in trouble. Children’s Ground has brought us together and strengthened our community. We have shown that we can make big changes. Bininj are ready to take on the challenges that the future will bring us.

Children’s Ground

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