



# **The story of the development of the Goŋ-Dāl Aboriginal Corporation.**

**A report on a project of the Indigenous Governance and  
Leadership Development project 2014**

**DRAFT**

Yolngu Leaders: Gawura Wanambi, Yangipuy Wanambi, Davis Muwara, Watha Wunungŋmura, Mickey Wunungmurra, Peter Murkiltja Guyula, Burrumbirr Wunungmurra, Dhukaniny Wunungmura, Margie Lewis, Harry Wunungmurra, [REDACTED] Warŋgarrkŋa Ganambarr

Facilitators: Juli Cathcart and Trevor van Weeren

# Background story

The NT Governemnt funded the Northern Institute from Chalres Darwin Universty to do Governance and Leadership work in five communities including Gapuwiyak.

The project planned to

- Better understand Aboriginal and Western governance systems and arrangements
- Develop new ways of supporting and growing knowledge and skills in governance and leadership
- Find better ways for Aboriginal and Western

governance systems and arrangements to work together



After meetings with individuals and groups we agreed one of the projects we would start working on was looking at Governance through the process of exploring the idea of developing a Corporation for Gapuwiyak. As we talked about the project, leaders in Gapuwiyak saw it as an opportunity to “clean up our own backyards”, and also get prepared for determining the future for their families, clans and community.

At an open community meeting in May there was a positive response to the ideas behind the project as a whole and a Corporation in particular.

Leading up to May we had a number of smaller focus group meetings and meetings with Individuals to find the road to travel to reach our destination of establishing a new Corporation. On the 13th May we had a larger meeting with a Corporation working group attending this meeting were,

- Peter Murkiltja Guyula
- Gawura Wanambi
- Burrumbirr Wunurmurra
- Watha Wunurmurra
- Yangipuy Wanambi
- Dhukaniny Wunurmurra
- Margie Lewis
- Mickey Wunurmurra
- Harry Wunurmurra
- [REDACTED]
- Davis Ganambarr





- Warngarrkja Ganambarr
- Trevor van Weeren
- Juli Cathcart

During this meeting we restated what we had learnt about the process of establishing a new corporation and the steps we needed to take to get there.



The group decided the following people would be the Steering Committee Members for the corporation project.

- Ron Dhukaniny Wunurmurra
- Gawura Wanambi
- [REDACTED]
- Mickey Dhambara Wunurmurra
- Peter Murrkiltja Guyula
- Alfred Yangipuy Wanambi
- Dorothy Warngarrkja Ganambarr
- Davis Mowarra Marrawungu
- Harry Rranydjir Wunurmurra
- Bruce Burrumbirr Wunurmurra

We agreed to meet again in June to travel further down the road toward the establishment of a Corporation for Gapuwiyak.

## Workshop 1 June 2014

### Workshop planning

In early June, Gawura, Juli and Trevor did some planning for a workshop to be held on the 10 and 11th June. We developed a set of Workshop Goals/Aims and a program.



### Workshop Goals/Aims

- To be clear and happy about what we are doing
- To be clear about the process of developing a corporation
- To understand the meaning of keywords
- To build the Corporation on the strengths of Yolngu culture and history of Gapuwiyak
- To draft the vision, principles/values, preamble, objectives and name of the new corporation
- To agree on next steps and a timeline

### Workshop Program

1. Review what we did last meeting
2. Introduce workshop program
3. Talk about process for developing the Rule Book
4. LOOKING BACK... Presentation about Baman'puy Dhäwu Gapuwiyakpuy (Gawura)
5. Draft Name, Vision, Preamble Principles, Objectives



## What happened in the June Workshop

We started the workshop by reviewing our progress so far and looked again at the steps we were following to get a corporation established. At this point on our journey we are up to Step 4. Step 4 is about working on the Rule Book for the Corporation.

As well as developing the Rule Book, we wanted to look back to the very beginning of Gapuwiyak and share some of the stories about how and why Gapuwiyak was established.

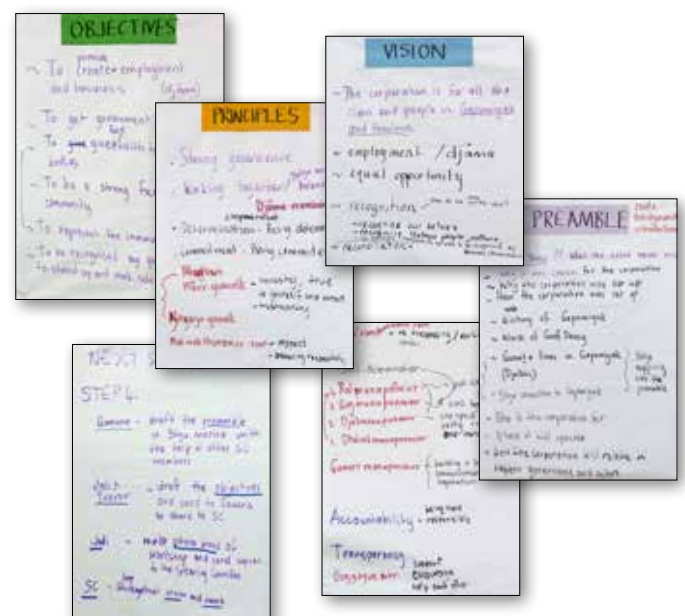
We had to change our workshop plan as some people had other obligations and responsibilities. It's important to be flexible and adapt to changes.

After the review of where we had come from and where we were going with our corporation work, we had a look at some of the resources that have been made available through the Indigenous Governance Toolkit.

In particular we had a look at some of the video stories of other Indigenous groups who had started a Corporation. We looked at videos that told the

story of what people thought was important for their organisations, and looked at some of the lessons they had learned. This provided an introduction for us to start thinking about establishing the Rule Book for a Gapuwiyak Corporation.

For the the rest of the day we worked through the foundation and purposes for the Corporation. We drafted Objectives, a Vision, a Preamble and Principles, for the new Corporation's Rule Book.





# Baman'puy Dhäwu Gapuwiyakpuy



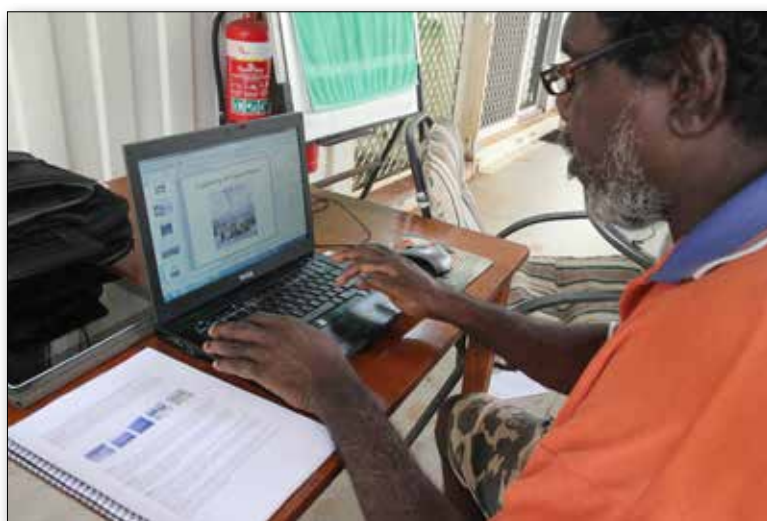
## Making a Corporation for Gapuwiyak

**Step 1** Tilling and clearing the ground – Rewal’yun. Some people talking about a corporation.

**Step 2** Planting the Seed – Meeting and making a decision to start a new corporation.

**Step 3** Finding the farmers who will look after and grow the seed. – Forming the Steering Committee

**Step 4** Growing and shaping the seed into a young plant – making the Rule book: Vision, Preamble, Principles, Objectives, Name, Members, Directors, Structure...



# Workshop 2 August 2014

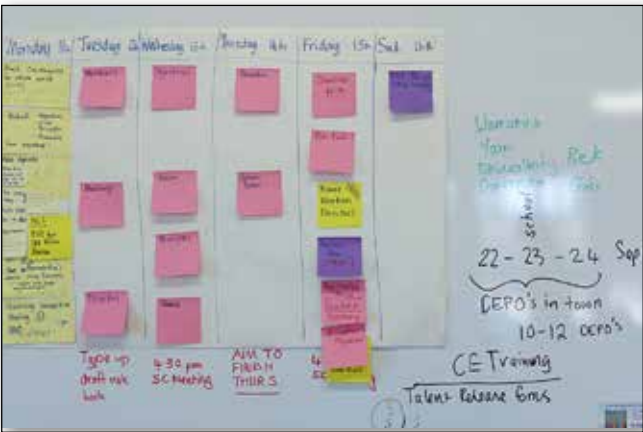
In early August the Steering Committee and Trevor and Juli, prepared for the second Gapuwiyak Aboriginal Corporation Steering Committee workshop.



We started our work with a review of our previous work what we had finished and what we were still working on. We had a looking at a draft of the June Workshop part of the story.



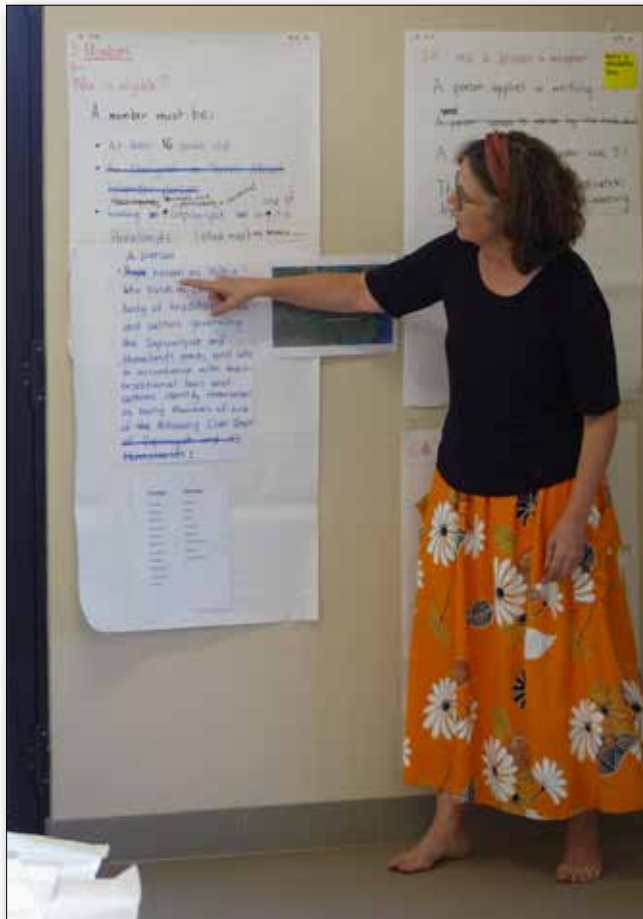
We made a table of the IGLD projects we are working on and the specific jobs that are being done for each project area. We did this so we could get an overview of what we were doing and discuss where our priorities were.



We also developed a calendar of activities for the visit and used this as a Workshop plan.

We decided the focus for this workshop would be to get complete the steps to finalise the registration of the Corporation.

For this workshop we managed to secure the use of the Court House. For nine days we ran an open workshop that included focus sessions, information sharing sessions, formal meetings and shared meals. The steering group held focus sessions to finalise the various sections sections of the Rule Book; Preamble, Vision, Objectives, Guiding Principles, Membership, Directors etc. The information sharing sessions were held at various times with interested community members, often in the afternoons and evenings so people who worked could attend, hear about and give approval and feedback to the work being done. We also included three formal meetings of the steering group that included a barbeque. One of these meetings was a community meeting where all the formal aspects of the registration process where completed, eg signing up members, electing directors etc.











By the end of this very successful workshop we had carefully worked through all the steps required to prepare and complete the Rule Book. The newly appointed Directors held an informal meeting after the workshop was completed. At this meeting the final signatures were added to the rule book, documents were collected and packaged into the final submission for registration that was

then forwarded to ORIC. We also discussed an Expression of Interest section 19 application to send to the NLC and reflected on the workshop.

Almost a month later the directors received confirmation from ORIC that the application for registration for the Goŋ-Däl Aboriginal Corporation was successful.





*Members and Directors signing documents for the Gorj-Däl Aboriginal Corporation*





# Workshop 3 September - October 2014

On 25 September Juli and Trevor travelled to Gapuwiyak to spend a week working with Gonj Däl Directors to take the next steps for the Corporation. Because people are busy, and some were heading to ceremony, we decided to have a brainstorming/workshop session on Friday night (26 September 2014) to plan for the next week.

## Making an Agenda

We started by developing an agenda list of things we want to look at and things we wanted to achieve in the next week.

- Election of two directors and appointment of an advisor to Board
- Indigenous Advancement Strategy (IAS) application
- Appointment of Office Bearers
- Discuss Corporation Members
- Apply for an Australian Business Number
- Look at Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) status and registration as a charity
- Start a Bank Account
- Make a Plan for the week
- Share the ALPA story
- Develop a Strategy plan & Business plan

- Follow up on the Expression of Interest (EOI) for Lot 172 with Northern Land Council (NLC)
- Keep an eye on Aboriginal Benefits Account grant opportunity
- Decide on a Logo
- Develop a one page Prospectus to share the story of Gonj Däl
- Keep an eye on Philanthropic opportunities

## Brainstorm

We decided on a priority for the Agenda list. Everyone agreed we should start with sharing the ALPA story. Juli, Trevor and Yangipuy talked about what they had found out from ALPA during a teleconference and Micky (ALPA Board member) shared what he knew.

Juli started drawing a brainstorm with Gonj Däl in the middle and opportunities around the outside. The drawing helped us see how Gonj Däl, ALPA and other possible partners could work together. As people thought of other ideas, Juli added these to the brainstorm. After working for an hour we had a good picture of some of the possibilities for Gonj Däl. We made another priority list of jobs to tackle in the next week.

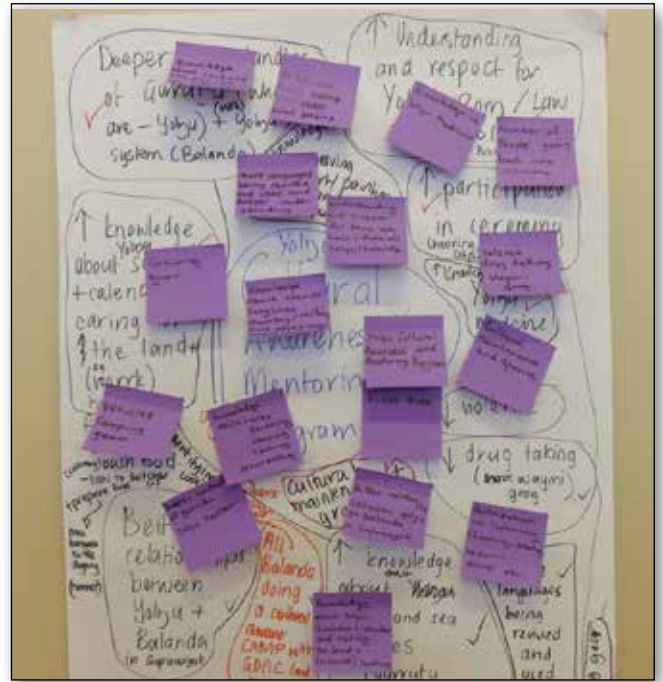
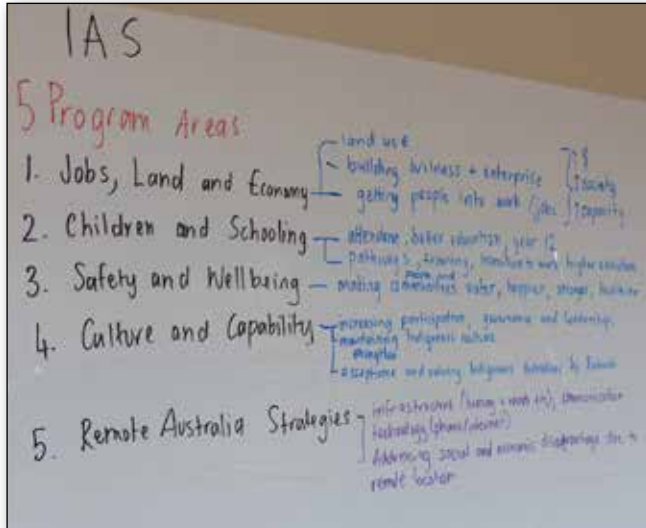






# The IAS application

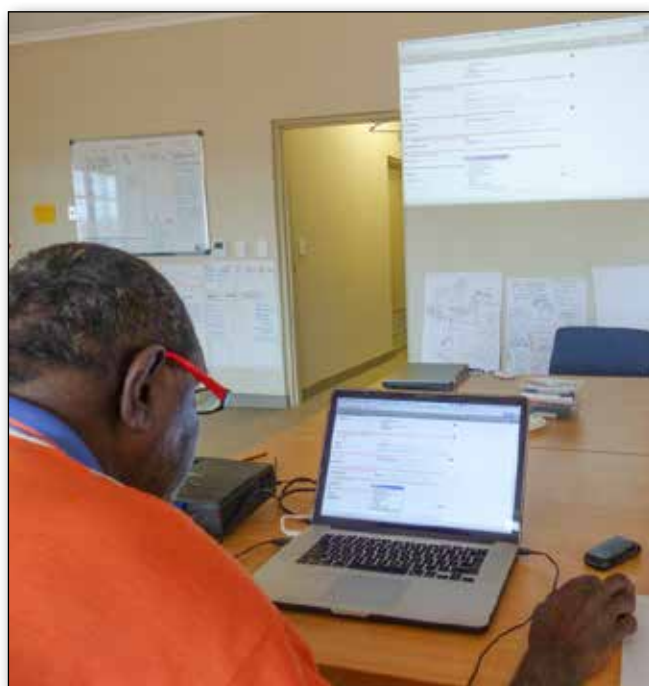
The IAS application was the main focus for this workshop. The Australian Government has made some big changes to Indigenous affairs and we have only this visit to prepare an application. Juli introduced the IAS and explained how it worked and wrote down the 5 main Program Areas under which projects would be funded.



It was very hard work trying to understand the specialised language of Government. Juli had developed a template to make the process simpler to understand. We did some brainstorming for three projects and then mapped our results onto the template.





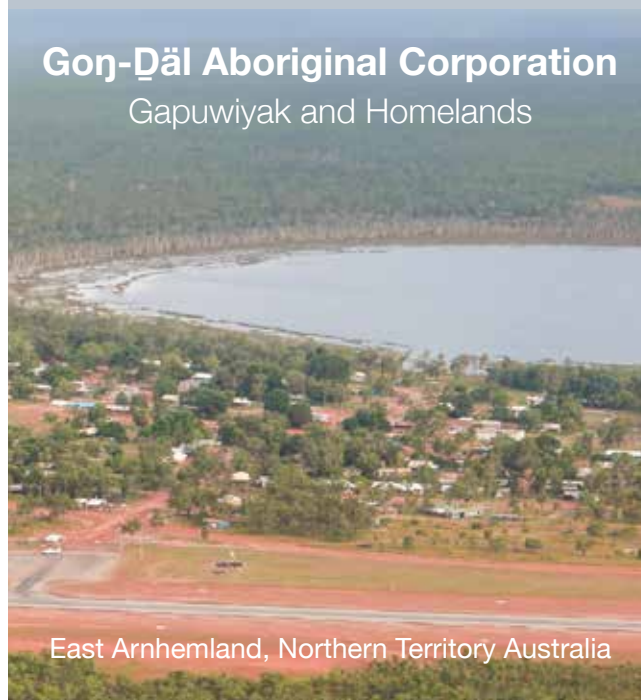


Juli tool the bare bones of the IAS application and started typing them into the application form. In the meantime we applied for an Australian Business Number, we opened a Business account for the Corporation at the local branch of the Territory Credit Union. We also finalised the Logo design and created a Prospectus document for the Corporation.

**OUR VISION** To provide and support local employment, enterprise development, services, education and training for all the Yolŋu clans and people living in Gapuwiyak and it's Homelands, so that we can work together to determine our own future, manage our own affairs and be self-sufficient.



**Gon-Däl Aboriginal Corporation**  
Gapuwiyak and Homelands



East Arnhemland, Northern Territory Australia

# Innagural Directors Meeting

On Sturday the 4th Ocober four of the Directors met for the Innagural Directos meeting. The agenda was

1. Bank account and signatories
2. Election of Office Bearers
3. Discuss and approve IAS Application
4. Endorse GDAC Capability Statement
5. Approve letter to ALPA
6. Decide logo
7. Membership drive
8. Formal opening
9. Land options for GDAC
10. RJCP
11. Any other business

The first two agenda items were dealt with quickly. The third item, to discuss and approve the IAS application, took quite a few hours to work though, at one point it was decided by the Directors to approve the application and leave Juli and Trevor to finalise its completion and submission. The final agenda items were delat with and the meeting was closed.

Gon-Dai Aboriginal Corporation Directors Meeting		
Minutes		
<b>Date:</b>	Saturday 4 October 2014	
<b>Venue:</b>	Room 4, Police Accommodation	
<b>Attendees:</b>	Gawura Wanambi, Jeffrey Bādul, Mickey Wunungmurra, Watha Wunungmurra Juli Cathcart (CDU), Trevor van Weeren (CDU)	
<b>Apologies:</b>		
<b>Agenda:</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Bank account and signatories</li> <li>2. Election of Office Bearers</li> <li>3. Discuss and approve IAS Application</li> <li>4. Endorse GDAC Capability Statement</li> <li>5. Approve letter to ALPA</li> <li>6. Decide logo</li> <li>7. Membership drive</li> <li>8. Formal opening</li> <li>9. Land options for GDAC</li> <li>10. RJCP</li> <li>11. AOB</li> </ol>	
<b>Meeting Chair:</b>	Gawura Wanambi	
<b>Minutes:</b>	Juli and Trevor scribed onto flip chart for the Board	
<b>Start time:</b>	11:00am	
<b>Closing time:</b>	3:30pm	
The Chair declared the meeting open at 11:00am		
Item	Discussion	Action
1. Bank account and signatories	<p>Decided to open a TCU S25 (medium sized Business Account in Gapuwiyak. Gawura Wanambi and Bādul Dhagapan are the signatories.</p> <p><i>Moved: Mickey Wunungmurra</i></p> <p><i>Seconded: Watha Wunungmurra</i></p> <p><i>For: Gawura Wanambi, Jeffrey Bādul, Mickey Wunungmurra, Watha Wunungmurra</i></p> <p><i>Against: Nil</i></p> <p><i>Motion carried</i></p>	Gawura will follow up with TCU and finalise this on Monday 6 October 2014
2. Election of Office Bearers	Yangipuy is still in Nhulunbuy	Move this to the next Director's Meeting

GDAC Minutes – Directors' Meeting – 4 October 2014

1

