



Wunan Foundation

Pathways to a stronger future in the East Kimberley



Annual Report 2003/04



Tom Birch – Chairperson

Tom lives in Wyndham and has traditional ties with the Bunaba people and the Balangarra people. Currently, Tom is also Chairman of the Kimberley Land Council.

A Vision for the Future

Chairperson's Report

I am delighted to present this 2003/04 Annual Report of the Wunan Foundation.

During the 2003/04 period, the Foundation continued to advance its economic development strategy. While it has been a very challenging period for Aboriginal people with the abolition of ATSIC/ ATSI and uncertainty surrounding the 'mainstreaming' of Indigenous services, it is pleasing to see the Foundation continue to build real and lasting benefits for Aboriginal people in the East Kimberley. It is also pleasing that many of the Foundation's activities now operate largely independent of government funding.

Long-term and sustainable economic independence is vital to improving outcomes for Aboriginal people. The development of a commercially sound economic base by the Foundation is helping to deliver important benefits for Aboriginal people of the East Kimberley.

Regarding our investment in Kimberley Wilderness Adventures, we are very excited to be breaking new ground through the partnership with the experienced team from Australian Pacific Touring (APT). This joint venture will help to further develop the KWA business and we look forward to the new opportunities for Indigenous participation in tourism through this arrangement.

Kimberley Wilderness Adventures is the only major tour operator in the region that works in partnership with local Indigenous communities. We are very grateful to the Traditional Owners at Imintji, Marunbabidi and Kandiwal (Mitchell Falls) communities for their continuing support for the KWA Wilderness Camps.

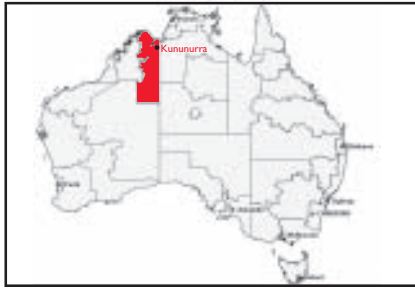
We are looking forward to the imminent completion of our new investment in partnership with Indigenous Business Australia. This new and innovative project led by IBA will represent a significant advance in the maturity of Indigenous economic development, and we anticipate a growing strategic relationship with them.

In addition to its commercial activities, the Foundation has continued to contribute to the socio-economic well-being of Aboriginal people in the region through a range of projects and partnerships.

The Committee is particularly delighted with the benefits flowing from Wunan Foundation's employment and training alliance with Kimberley Group Training (KGT). The Foundation's financial and corporate support has helped KGT to expand significantly during the year.



KGT trainees at Argyle Diamond Mine.



The Wunan Region.



ATSIC Regional Councillors visit Wunan House.

KGT is managing 134 Indigenous Trainees and Apprentices across a number of industries and skill areas. These outcomes being achieved are a credit to KGT's Committee and staff, and to the aspiring young Aboriginal people who have taken responsibility for their futures.

The Foundation's total expenditure on Aboriginal employees, through our Employment & Training and other activities, was \$675,000. Additionally, KGT's broader Aboriginal Employment & Training activities generated further direct employment income to local Aboriginal people of \$730,000.

Of course, such a contribution to the economic well-being of these young Aboriginal people would not be possible without the important support of KGT and Wunan's many employment and training partners. Particularly, we acknowledge the Department of Employment & Workplace Relations, Argyle Diamonds, the WA Department of Education and Training, and the Kimberley College of TAFE.

With support from the WA Department of Housing & Works and Aboriginal Hostels Limited, the Foundation completed the establishment of Wunan House as the first and only hostel in the region for Indigenous Trainees and Apprentices. This has been a significant initiative during 2003/04 with Wunan House now an important resource for the region to help young Indigenous people achieve their training and employment goals.

The Foundation has initiated a number of other projects and activities during the year, including the new Wunan House Scholarships and the new Indigenous Business Cadetship program to help develop strategic business and leadership skills. I congratulate the various recipients of the Scholarships at Wunan House and Charmaine Johnson as the inaugural Management Cadet at Wunan Foundation.

We are also working to improve the accessibility and transparency of the Foundation's activities. Specifically, we have established new web sites for all Group entities, and we will implement "Wunan

Pathways" as a regular publication to keep stakeholders abreast of our activities and to highlight key issues impacting Indigenous economic development.

For 2005 and beyond, we are looking to set new growth objectives for the Foundation's commercial portfolio and to play an even greater role in improving Aboriginal participation in the regional economy.

We will enhance our involvement in targeted socio-economic projects and are excited about the potential role of the Foundation as a source of innovation in the region, which we will seek to advance through partnerships with the Government and Private sectors.

The Foundation will maintain and develop its corporate and governance capacity through continued professional development for Committee Members and through the recruitment of additional independent Members to complement existing strengths. Over time, we will seek to extend the benefit of our core competency in corporate and financial management by providing effective and tailored solutions for other Aboriginal organisations.

It has been an exciting year of development and consolidation for the Foundation. My fellow members of the Management Committee and I are proud to be involved in this progressive organisation that is helping to achieve real and sustainable outcomes for Indigenous people in our region. Wunan Foundation continues to demonstrate the benefits of a commercially driven economic development strategy in building pathways to a better future for Aboriginal people.

I thank my fellow Committee Members for the time and effort they give so generously, and the management and staff of Wunan Foundation for the achievements made during the 2003/04 year.

Tom Birch, Honorary Chairperson

Delivering Sustainable Benefits

A Message From The Chief Executive

In 2003/04, Wunan Foundation achieved very solid results and contributed to significant socio-economic outcomes for Aboriginal people in the East Kimberley.

- We completed the establishment of an exciting partnership with Australian Pacific Touring to cement our position as the leading provider of wilderness travel experiences in the Kimberley. This partnership has delivered immediate benefits in product distribution and business profitability.
- Significant capital improvements were completed at the Commonwealth Building to ensure that it remains the premier commercial property in Kununurra.
- We have progressed to pre-settlement on a significant new property investment through an innovative Indigenous partnership led by Indigenous Business Australia.
- The establishment of Wunan House as hostel accommodation for young Aboriginal people has been successfully achieved. Wunan House is now providing a cost-effective, supportive home environment for up to 18 young Aboriginal people as they aspire to improve their working futures.
- Our long-term Aboriginal Employment & Training alliance with Kimberley Group Training has continued to deliver excellent benefits.
- We have developed innovative programs to nurture the development of young Aboriginal staff as the leaders of the future. This includes the Aboriginal Management Cadetship program and the “future leaders” discussion group, both of which encourage our young staff to stretch their career horizons.
- The role of our Board and our general governance model has been a continuing focus for improvement. We are progressing a clear plan to develop the Board’s capacity and function, and have implemented a strategic planning process that will shape the next phase of development for the Foundation.

When the Wunan ATSI Regional Council established the Foundation in 1997, they envisaged an organisation that would stand the test of time and build a capacity to make a sustainable contribution to the economic future of Aboriginal people in the region.

In addition to this vision, clear and simple “founding” objectives were provided.

- Build a new and focused organisation based on strong governance and business practices.
- Create a capacity for independence and innovation by building a capital base of \$10m by 2005.

As we approach the target date, the Foundation has achieved strong recognition for its governance and stability and has demonstrated an ability to deliver real outcomes.

At the end of 2003/04 the Foundation’s portfolio of assets has a gross value of \$6.5m. With the imminent completion of our co-investment with Indigenous Business Australia and other planned projects, we expect to achieve both initial objectives on time and according to plan.

Looking forward, it is clear that Aboriginal people in our region face immense and growing socio-economic challenges. The recent report by the Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research (Taylor 2003) presents a clear case for increased urgency from Aboriginal people and all tiers of government in addressing these challenges.

If history is any guide, the challenges in the East Kimberley will only be overcome through cooperation between Aboriginal people, non-government organisations, government and the private sector.

Wunan Foundation is unique in the way it brings together Aboriginal people with private sector interests, under the umbrella of an independent and capable non-government organisation.

With a continuing focus on delivering sustainable outcomes, Wunan Foundation looks forward to an expanding role in meeting the shared challenges of the region.



Ralph Addis, Chief Executive

2003/04 Overview

Wunan Foundation

Key initiatives by Wunan Foundation during the 2003/04 year include:

- Initiated major new property investment in partnership with Indigenous Business Australia.
- Introduced new Management Cadetship program and Wunan House Scholarships program.
- Commenced feasibility study into an East Kimberley Skills Centre with support from Telstra Foundation.
- Launched Wunan Foundation and KGT websites.
- Partnership involvement with Parsons Brinckerhoff in the Remote Area Essential Services Program (RAESP).
- Gained Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) and Public Benevolent Institution (PBI) status from the Australian Taxation Office to help foster new external partnerships.

A key feature of Wunan Foundation is the strategic and financial support that it provides to Kimberley Group Training, Kimberley Wilderness Adventures and Wunan House, which has in turn helped these organisations deliver significant outcomes during 2003/04:

Kimberley Group Training

- As at 30 June 2004, KGT employed 160 apprentices and trainees, including 134 Indigenous people.
- Facilitated Year 10 work readiness programs at Halls Creek, Kununurra and Broome.
- Facilitated over 50 Aboriginal school-based trainees with mainstream employers.
- Provided pre-employment safety and occupational health training and subsidised driver training.
- Coordinated boat-building course and sailing training for disadvantaged youth.
- Established New Apprenticeships program from a new Broome office.

Kimberley Wilderness Adventures

- Commenced new joint venture arrangement with Australia's largest privately-owned tour operator, Australian Pacific Touring.
- Agreed new lease arrangements with Traditional Owner communities for Ungolan, Marunbabidi and Imintji Wilderness Camps.
- Upgraded accommodation and other facilities at Ungolan, Marunbabidi and Imintji Wilderness Camps, including environmentally friendly toilets.
- Preparing for major new investment and upgrade of accommodation facilities at the World Heritage listed Purnululu National Park.
- Commissioned two new Isuzu 4WD tour vehicles with capacity for up to 22 passengers each.

Wunan House

- Commenced operations of the hostel late 2003 and by June 2004 were achieving target 70% occupancy levels.
- Hosted some special guests, including Olympic and Commonwealth Games Gold Medalist, Nova Peris.

Independently audited financial statements and Directors' details for Wunan Foundation Inc are available to potential funding bodies on request.



Left: Signing ceremony for the new KWA Ungolan Wilderness Camp lease.

Below: Wunan Foundation inaugural Management Cadet, Charmaine Johnson, with Business Services Manager, Ian Warrenner.



Above: Olympic and Commonwealth Games Gold Medalist Nova Peris visits Wunan House.

Right: KGT Trainee, Koharna Ross, with the Driver Training car outside the Commonwealth Building in Kununurra.



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The activities of Wunan Foundation are supported by the Commonwealth Government primarily through the Department of Employment & Workplace Relations, Aboriginal Hostels Limited and the Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Commission (ATSIC).

Wunan Foundation also enjoys strong strategic partnerships with Kimberley Group Training, APT Kimberley Wilderness Adventures, Wunan House, Argyle Diamond Mine and Parsons Brinckerhoff.

